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Wildwood Outdoor Education Center

Est. in 1980, Wildwood Outdoor Education Center is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization



Wildwood Mission Statement

We bring kids outside to learn and grow together, transforming summer into a season of learning, youth development, and outdoor adventure for low-income Kansas City area youth.

Wildwood Programs

Summer Resident Camp, ages 7 to 17
Outdoor School and Field Trips, ages 5 to 18
Special Events, all ages
Facility Rental, all ages

Wildwood Facilities

Originally called Allendale-by-Jingo and operated by Bob and Marjorie Powell Allen, the Wildwood property consists of 150 beautiful acres of forests, meadows, and ponds just south of Louisburg, Kansas. Amenities include five cabins with indoor bathrooms/showers, covered pavilion, multipurpose learning center, and a full-service dining hall. Activities include swimming, canoeing, fishing, high & low ropes courses, nature study, archery and hiking.

Wildwood Staff

Robyn Ratcliff, Executive Director
Laura Jernigan, Director, Camp Operations
Jim Judd, Director, Maintenance and Facilities
Cindy Hileman, Office Manager

Wildwood Financial Information

The 2018 annual budget for Wildwood is \$690,450. Funding comes from two main sources: 40% is earned



revenue from program fees and facility rental. 60% is philanthropic revenue from foundations, corporations, and individual donors.

Wildwood Summer Campers

Summer resident campers come from a variety of backgrounds. We hosted 499 resident campers in 2017, up from 440 in 2016. 80% of our campers are unable to afford a summer camp experience without financial assistance, though all families contribute at least a portion of the costs.

Camper Race and Ethnicity

Black	39%
White	37%
Hispanic	18%
Multiple	5%
Asian	1%

Camper Residence

Kansas City, MO	42%
Kansas City, KS	25%
Johnson County, KS	18%
Other	10%
Miami County, KS	5%

We partner with schools and agencies to connect with camper families and promote Wildwood participation. Our partners include: Rosedale Development Association; Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City; Migrant Farm Workers' Assistance Fund; Kids TLC; CASA of Jackson County; Bethel Neighborhood Center; The Learning Club of KCK; Big Brothers Big Sisters; KidZone in USD 500 and many other schools, churches, and community organizations.

Outdoor School and Facility Rentals bring an additional 4,000 individuals to Wildwood throughout the year. In 2017, this includes students from Barstow, Acadmie Lafayette, Shawnee Mission, Blue Valley and Olathe Schools, Pembroke Hill, and, during 2016, more than 800 children from schools in low-income communities who attended Outdoor School through the support of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

Camper Outcomes

Wildwood programs are designed to deliver four key learning experiences:

- Overcoming challenges
- Applying science
- Building Community
- Learning Together

These learning experiences accelerate camper growth and development in academic and youth development outcomes:

- Increased independence, teamwork, and problem-solving confidence
- Increased affinity for nature and interest in exploration
- Improved feelings of connectedness to peers and adults, friendship skills, and family citizenship
- Improved attitudes about learning, reading, and STEM

Every season, over 75% of participants report positive increases in each area. Children who experience these outcomes are more likely to become economically self-sufficient, environmentally literate contributors to society.

