

Wildwood Day Camp at Unity Village



Ensuring a successful camp experience for your child
2021 Parent Handbook

Wildwood Outdoor Education Center

phone: 913.757.4500 fax: 913.757.2624

www.wildwoodctr.org

Day Camp Address:

1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, MO 64065

THANK YOU for choosing Wildwood for your child this summer! Please review this handbook carefully to prepare both you and your child for your summer day camp adventure with us.



Wildwood Values:

Wildwood is where kids grow better outside. We celebrate **learning** and recognize that we are all constantly learning from each other and from nature.

We commit to **stewardship**, living thoughtfully on the land and in community with each other. We use resources wisely.

And, we are committed to equity and **diversity**. Wildwood campers and staff come from many geographic, racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds. We reduce barriers to participation so children have equal access to our programs. We create space that is safe for all. We intentionally design our program so all staff and campers can be their best and whole self at Wildwood.

Wildwood continues to proudly serve our mission of providing children with experiences of living and learning in the outdoors. We have done so since our founding in 1980.

We thank you for sharing a part of your summer with us!

Benefits from Camp Parents love Wildwood because kids get outside and stay engaged in learning over the summer. Campers benefit from new friends and feelings of connectedness. They also get a boost in problem solving confidence and teamwork experience. Our goal is to give kids the tools they need for healthy habits and bright futures!

Wildwood is also working with the local, state and federal health departments to ensure safety for the campers and staff while at camp. This means that camp programs will be run differently than before, much like most things have changed in our lives. As guidelines are constantly changing we are keeping families up to date on our COVID-19 plans through this dedicated web page: <https://wildwoodctr.org/covid-19-information/>. Please check that web page frequently for the most current information.

Camp Life A session at Wildwood Day Camp at Unity Village increases kids' feelings of connection to others, affinity for nature, interest in exploration, problem solving confidence, teamwork and friendship skills!

All campers will create schedules with their camp group by choosing which activities they would like to sign up for each day. Some of the activities they can choose include: engaging in **STEM exploration** activities, **art, reading, improv, hikes, sports and games**, and **fishing**. The activities are endless, and the camp staff enjoy coming up with new activities throughout the summer.

Prior to arrival at Camp

1. If you have this handbook, **your camper's completed registration form should already be on file with Wildwood**. If it is not, please visit <https://wildwoodctr.org/campers/> to register for your desired camp session.
2. **Full payment of your camper's tuition is expected two (2) weeks prior to your camper's arrival at camp.** Payments may be made online using the registration site or by cash, check, money order by contacting the office. Experiencing economic hardship? Please contact our Office at 913-757-4500 to discuss scholarship and payment options.
3. A couple of weeks before the start of your camp week, **all families will receive a call from a Wildwood staff member** to go over updates and answer any questions. This is also the time to give us any changes to medication, updates on expectations due to COVID-19 protocols, and information that will be helpful for us to know about your camper.

Drop Off Monday through Friday - Morning

Please arrive at Wildwood Day Camp at Unity Village for check in from **8:00am-9:00am**.
1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, MO 64065

When arriving, please have all medication in a labeled ziploc bag separate from the camper's day pack. Please remain in your vehicles with your camper. Parents will line up in their vehicles to drop off their camper. Please wear face masks while interacting with the camp staff.

A staff member will approach the vehicle, take the camper's temperature, and conduct a short questionnaire. Once the camper is cleared for activities, staff will escort the camper to their camp leader. No parents will get out of their cars. To reduce the risk of unnecessary exposure, please do not bring additional people for drop off; additionally, the same person should drop off and pick up campers each day. Pets are not permitted on camp property. Please leave them at home.

All Campers: If your child is unable to attend camp, **please contact us as soon as you are able**. After check in is completed, we will call the families of any campers who are absent to verify if they are coming for the session.

Pick Up Monday through Friday - Afternoon

Pick up for Wildwood Day Camp is between **4:00pm- 5:00pm**. Please remain in your vehicle and line up the same as for drop-off. A staff member will bring your camper to you.

Lunches

Wildwood Day Camp will provide lunches for all day campers. The lunches are healthy, kid friendly food to fuel their busy day. Food options are always available for kids who are vegetarian, lactose intolerant or who have food allergies. Please let us know about all special dietary needs on your child's health history form. Camp may not be able to accommodate strict Kosher or other extreme diets.

Lost and Found Policy

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wildwood is limiting items held in lost and found after each camp session ends. We want to be mindful of safe storage space and how to prevent exposure of staff and campers from potentially contaminated items, week to week.

As such, camp will only hold the following specific list of items:

- a. Jackets / Sweatshirts
- b. Sleeping Bags, Blankets, Pillows
- c. Prescription glasses, durable medical equipment, prescription medication
- d. Shoes (not water shoes or sandals)
- e. Backpacks

Camp will keep these items for no longer than 30 days from the end of the session. After this time, these items will be donated or thrown away. Please note that these items will be held at the discretion of camp staff. Items that are soiled, damaged, or otherwise deemed not able to be safely stored will be disposed of.

Daily cleanup helps campers maintain their belongings and helps staff identify misplaced items during the camp session. We highly encourage parents to label all items with their camper's name to help our staff identify items during the camp session. Many items look similar and it can be confusing for both staff and campers.

As a reminder, please do not send your camper with anything that is highly valuable or irreplaceable. Things like jewelry or favorite stuffed animals can be easily lost or damaged. Electronics, including phones, are not permitted at camp. **Phones may not be used at camp and will be confiscated** and returned to families at the end of the day. Camp is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen items – including confiscated phones.

After the camp session ends, if one of the listed items is missing, please contact Wildwood at the following address to arrange a pickup of your items: laura@wildwoodctr.org

T-Shirts T-shirts purchased online will be given to the camper to take home on the last day of camp.

Visitors/ Telephone Our Wildwood Summer Camp program is designed to foster independence and personal growth. An integral part in achieving this in our campers is the experience away from home. Our staff is available to answer questions from parents while their child is at camp.

We ask that campers leave cellular telephones at home. If a cell phone is found, it will be removed and kept in the office until departure day.

Updates from Campers We will update our Facebook page (Wildwood Outdoor Education Center) throughout the week to keep parents up to date on camp activities.

Severe Weather Procedures Our camp staff is well trained on procedures for severe weather. With training through frequent drills, the staff is directed to focus their attention on keeping kids calm and safe. Many times, calls to the camp during severe weather situations are routed to the camp's voicemail as the staff are with campers. The leadership team will return your calls as soon as possible when they are safely able to do so.

Camp is for the Camper All programs at Wildwood offer opportunities to learn and have fun. It is our sincere desire to offer a day full of nature study, outdoor skills, recreation, art while also recognizing the special interests of each of our campers. Our staff bring a variety of skills and talents to share with every camper and every camper will participate in structured camp activities.

We know that you put great trust in us in order to help your child grow and learn with us at Wildwood and because of this we place immense value on creating the safest camp environment possible. We intensively screen each of our employees and provide each of our employees with extensive training on topics including: child safety, first aid/CPR, childhood development, healthy forms of communication and much more.

Connected Response At Wildwood each camper is placed with a camp group with two camp leaders. Those leaders work towards building a connection and mutual trust with each camper. When a camper is overwhelmed, or having a tough time at camp the camp leader will use connected-reponses to help that camper. That can include, providing a quiet space to sit together, talking with, teaching coping methods, and working towards a solution together to better support the camper. It can also include calling and talking with a family member to help the camp staff better understand and provide care for the camper.

Ensuring a successful camp experience Is your camper still a little unsure about leaving home for a week and enrolling in summer camp? Please call our office to talk about it. We have staff on site year round to discuss the positive camp experiences Wildwood provides!

Healthcare Prescriptions/ over the counter medications All prescriptions and over the counter medication brought into camp MUST be in the original container. This includes all prescription medications, inhalers, vitamins, creams, lotions, aspirins, etc.

- All medication will be checked in with the Health Manager during registration. The Health Manager will dispense medication at proper times and in the proper amounts.
- If the dosage information on the medication container is not correct, please have written orders signed by the prescribing physician authorizing the revised dosage instruction.
- Please put all medications in a ziploc bag with your child's full name. Because our Health Manager will store all medications in a secure location we ask that you not pack medication or forms in your camper's luggage.
- Parents are encouraged to visit with the camp professional staff or summer counselor about any individual health or medical matter concerning your camper.
- Campers with inhalers or epipens are encouraged to bring a backup of each. Inhalers or epipens will stay with the camper's group at all times and the backup will be kept in the health center.

Living Outdoors In recent years Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus have received considerable attention and it is important for Wildwood to inform parents that ticks and mosquitoes are native to the Wildwood Day Camp at Unity Village environment. Wildwood adheres to recommendations by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment and the Center for Disease Control regarding effective methods of deterring bites (and therefore risk of infection), from mosquitoes and ticks. Parents are recommended to provide insect repellent containing at least 10% DEET and to encourage your child to use insect repellent daily. In the event that a tick is removed from your child by Wildwood staff you will be notified in writing when your child returns home.

Insurance/ Illness Information In the event of a serious illness or accident, parents and/or guardians will be notified at once. In the event of a serious illness or accident requiring medical attention we will contact family to determine if EMS is needed to transport your camper to Saint Luke's East Hospital, 100 NE Saint Luke's Blvd, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. If it is not an emergency, we will contact the family to determine if they wish to come pick up their camper.

Each morning campers and staff will receive a temperature check and will be asked about any new symptoms. Campers and staff will also be educated on early communication if they start feeling sick. If a camper starts to feel ill, they will immediately report to the Health Supervisor. Based on their symptoms, our medical professionals will determine if the camper needs to be isolated or not. Our goal will be to remove campers or staff with Covid-19 symptoms from camp as soon as possible, rather than to isolate them for long periods of time. We will not perform or take campers to testing due to turn-around time for results. Parents will be notified if there was a confirmed COVID-19 case at camp, and the CDC will be involved in contact tracing.

Any medical expenses incurred due to illnesses or injuries at camp are the responsibility of the camper family. Wildwood carries sickness and accident insurance on campers that may cover some out of pocket expenses for covered accidents and illnesses that happen at camp. This is secondary to family insurance. The family's insurance is primary and must be applied first. Remaining out-of-pocket costs may then be submitted to Wildwood's insurance plan for possible payment up to the limit of the Wildwood coverage (currently \$3,000).

Refund Policies The total of your camp fee is due two weeks prior to opening day of your camper's session.

- Transfers from one camp session to another are allowed but depend on availability. We ask that you please make your transfer requests at least three weeks prior to your camper's session.
- If you cancel your session 2 weeks or less before the start date of camp or do not show up for camp, you forfeit your deposit as well as any other payments made to Wildwood.
- Cancellations due to illness will be refunded in full. Submit your request in writing with a note from your child's physician.

Who to call?

With questions about registration, fees and payment, cancellations or refunds:

Office Manager, 9137574500 or cindy@wildwoodctr.org

With questions about staff, camp programs, individual camper needs, or activities:

Camp Director, 9137574500 or Laura@wildwoodctr.org

Suggested Packing List for Wildwood Day Camp Please note: We do not provide laundry services to our campers unless it is an emergency.

Please pack all items in a backpack or bag. We encourage you to mark all of your items with your camper's initials.

- extra clothes (shirt, shorts, underwear, and socks)
- 1 pair of closed toe shoes
- a light jacket, or sweatshirt
- rain jacket/poncho
- bug spray
- sunscreen
- Face mask (we will have face masks available at camp as well)

If you are having difficulty providing any items for your camper, please contact us. We can help!

PLEASE do not bring: Cell phones, electronics, books or magazines containing adult content, money, candy, food or drinks, gum, knives/ weapons, fireworks, personal sports equipment, jewelry/ valuables, irreplaceable items, alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. Campers who bring drugs, weapons, alcohol or tobacco will be immediately dismissed without refund. Other prohibited items will be kept in the office until the end of the session.