DUNWOODY NATURE CENTER

SPRING BREAK CAMP









DATE
APRIL 6 - 10

PLACE
ISLAND FORD

PARENT'S GUIDE

Visit our webpage!

Dunwoody Nature Center's summer camp program has spanned over 30 years! We have grown from one week of camp back in 1994 to 13 weeks of camp at two locations for summer and school break camps throughout the year. We are happy to have your family as part of our camp family!

Class Organization

Our camp classes are divided by age. We group the children according to their birthdates - not necessarily their grade in school. Our Island Ford Campus hosts campers that are ages 9 years old - 13 years old. We are required to keep the minimum age for our full day campers to 5 years old by the rules set by DECAL (Georgia Department of Early Childcare and Learning) for summer camp programs that are not hosted in child care facilities. At our island ford campus our ratio of staff to camper is 1:10.

Activities

Each camp week has a different theme. The activities and crafts are planned around the theme of the week.. All camp classes have outdoor hikes on our trails, a creek exploration play time, indoor camp crafts time, outdoor activities and games. Lunch and snack time might be indoors or outdoors depending on the weather. River play and float time is dependent on the weather and water quality conditions. Updates are sent the week of camp regarding weather and water conditions.

Directions

- Best for GPS: 8800 Roberts Drive, Sandy Springs GA 30350.
  - Visit this website for more information.
- Visitors Center: 1978 Island Ford Parkway, Sandy Springs GA 30350

Drop off and Pick Up Procedure

- Our Drop-off and Pick-up location is the traffic circle at the main building/visitor's center (which looks like a log cabin).
  - CARPOOL ONLY - NO WALK-UPS
- Drop off begins at 9:30 am.
  - NO EARLY DROP OFFS: we will not be ready to supervise your camper until 9:30 a.m.
- Educators and Junior Counselors will be on hand to check in your camper each day. Parents must stay in the vehicle - do not park and walk your camper up.
- Pick up is at 3:30 pm.
  - NO LATE PICK UPS: we do not have an aftercare program at Island Ford.

Late Check-In and Early Check-Out and Absences

If you need to check in late or check out early, please email the camp director, camp@dunwoodynature.org we will do our best to arrange with the camp counselors where to meet you and your camper.

If your child is absent from the camp day, please notify the office at your earliest convenience. There are no refunds for camp absences. See our refund policy for details.

What to Bring



Lunch & Snacks

Please bring:

- lunch in a lunch box or bag
- a refillable water bottle
- plus a snack

Campers are able to refill their water bottles throughout the day as it can get hot! Make sure your child has a reusable water bottle with them. We will keep them hydrated!

There is no refrigeration available for camp lunches, but they are kept indoors.

Our Environmental Impact

We are teaching the kids about the R's (reduce, reuse, and recycle) so please keep this in mind when packing lunches and snacks. Our goal is to have zero waste from lunches. We will have a recycle bin available for recyclable products and a compost bin for leftover food.

Please pack your child's food in reusable containers and refillable water bottles. Any packaging that is not recyclable will be sent back home in the lunch boxes.

Sunscreen and Bug Spray

- Please apply sunscreen and bug spray PRIOR to your child's arrival.
- Do not put on bug spray and sunscreen in the carpool line.
  - If needed, you may pull over into one of our parking spots and apply there.

You may send extra sunscreen and bug spray with your child and it can be reapplied during the day if needed, but we want to make sure that each camper arrives to camp protected and ready to go.

Phones, Smart Watches and Other Electronic Devices



No Electronics – this is nature!

Our goal is to have your child connected to nature and not electronics during camp. No phones or handheld devices, smart watches etc. These devices distract us and other campers from being out in nature!

If your child has these at camp they will be asked to put them away in their backpacks and you will be contacted and asked for those items to be left at home.



Clothing and Shoes

Please come prepared for a lot of outdoor fun, creek play, and getting very dirty. This is Nature Camp - we will go outside even if it is raining!

- Weather appropriate clothing.
  - Sunny days = shorts, t-shirts, bathing suit, hiking shoes, etc.
  - Rainy days = rain jackets, waterproof shoes, hat, etc.
- Sneakers or hiking shoes
- Water shoes
  - We do not allow flip-flops, crocs, or in general open-toed shoes.*
- Change of clothes in a reusable (or plastic) bag.
- A towel for creek days

Please label everything your child will bring to camp (clothes, towels, water bottles, etc.).

River and Creek Play Days

Each camp week we visit the creek and the river. We hope to have the opportunity to use canoes or rafts depending on temperatures and water quality for the week.

Anytime we are at the pond or the river we wear PFDs (personal floatation devices or life jackets).

Campers can wear clothes in the creek or bathing suits. They must bring a change of clothes and shoes.

*Shoes in the creek must stay on well. We find that crocs are too slippery and fall off. Old tennis shoes, teva, chaco, natives or other water style sandals/shoes are best. Rain boots tend to get filled up with sand and water and are not good for navigating rocks.







Health & Safety

Cough, Fever, or Runny Nose

If your child...

- Has been sick, they must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to camp.
- Has an active cough or runny nose, we ask that you keep your child home until they are feeling better.
- Manifests symptoms of illness at camp, we will give you a call and ask that you pick up your child.

We have the children wash their hands prior to eating lunch or snacks and after bathroom breaks. We also wipe the camp tables down each day with disinfectant.

Allergies

Please make us aware of any food or other allergies that your child has with detailed instructions. You can send those instructions to the camp director via email.

We will alert the staff and class families if we need to enforce any restrictions. We will keep your EpiPens or other allergy medications with the camp teacher or in our camp office per your instructions.

Other Medications

While our staff is First Aid/AED trained, there is not a nurse on staff. We cannot be responsible for dispensing medication to your child.

If you have medications that need to be taken during the day, you will need to make arrangements to come to Island Ford to dispense the medications to your child.

Campers with Special Needs

We would like every child to be able to enjoy nature camp! Please help us accommodate your camper to the best of our abilities.

If your child has any of the following:

- special needs (either behavior or physical in nature)
- medications for behavior or medical reasons
- has an IEP in their school for behavior or other reasons
- have an aide in their classroom

We ask that you contact the camp director prior to registration so we can determine how to make camp a great experience for them: camp@dunwoodynature.org.

Behavior

Please review the Nature Center's Behavior Policy with your child and sign the **Behavior Form**.

We expect each child to abide by our Camper Code of Conduct. The camp teacher will review this with the campers on the first day of camp.

If a camper has problems keeping to the agreement:

- 1st occurrence
  - they will be reminded of the agreement
- 2nd occurrence
  - they will be asked to speak with a camp director
  - the parent will be notified via email or phone call of the first two incidents
- 3rd occurrence
  - child will be sent to the camp director's office
  - we will give the parent a call to speak with the child over the phone
- 4th occurrence
  - the parent will be asked to pick up the child and dismissed from camp
  - no refunds will be issued due to behavior problems

Refund and Cancellation Policy

If you cancel more than 2 weeks from the start date, we refund 80% of the camp or program fee. You will need to email the camp director with your request. camp@dunwoodynature.org

There are NO refunds or credits given during the two weeks before your camp starts.

Absences

If your child misses camp for any reason please email us to keep us informed of the absences. There are no refunds or transfers for absences.

Transfers

You may transfer your camp to another week in the same calendar year if there is availability, there is no refund in this situation for prorating. For example, if you want to transfer a 5 day week for a 3 day week at another time, you will not be refunded the difference. A transfer must take place in one transaction.

Communication

Camp communication will come to you via email. A camp letter will come to you a week prior to your camp week. A camp newsletter will come to you on the last day of the camp week. If you do not receive these publications and have checked your spam or junk folders, please reach out to the camp director. camp@dunwoodynature.org