



WILDERNESS
AWARENESS
SCHOOL

425-788-1301

registrar@wildernessawareness.org

2020 Nature Explorer Half Day Camp

Schedule: **Drop-off:** Please arrive between **8:50 and 9:00 AM** for sign-in. Camp starts at 9:00 AM.

Pick-up: Please arrive to pick up and *sign out* at **1:00 PM**.

Friday Closing Circle: Please consider joining us at 12:30 PM for an optional closing circle with campers, parents and staff. Sign out on Friday will be 1:00 PM.

Sign-In and Sign-Out:

Campers must be signed in every morning and signed out every afternoon by an adult authorized by the parent. We will check identification at pickup until we recognize you, and this ID must match the name of an authorized adult. Please make a note at sign in if your child is going home with someone else not previously listed as authorized. Sign in each morning will be at the camp director's table. Sign out each afternoon will be with your child's instructor.

No Early Arrival or Late Pickup: Although our staff are on site before and after sign in and after sign out, this time is used for program planning and debrief and it is critical to providing a great camp experience. We know that this is challenging for working parents and appreciate your understanding.

What Your Child Should Wear:

- Comfortable clothes that can get very dirty and are appropriate for the weather. *If it is cold or raining, please avoid cotton clothing.* Cotton is great for beautiful sunny summer days. Fleece, wool or synthetic fibers stay warm when wet.
- Sturdy closed toe shoes that can get wet and very dirty
- Raingear or poncho if significant rain is in the forecast

What to Pack in your Child's Backpack: Please send the following items in a small backpack with two shoulder straps. They will need to carry their pack throughout the day.

- Lunch (*We do not allow sharing of food due to allergy risks.*)
- Mid-morning snack
- Full water bottle or hydration pack (20 oz. minimum, larger kids may need 1 liter)
- Sun protection or Sunblock – apply before camp
- Bug repellent if desired (herbal based, as opposed to DEET-based, is encouraged)
- Extra layers or rain gear for cold, damp weather. Synthetic or wool is better than cotton.

What NOT to Pack:

- Electronic devices, games, and screen based gadgets
- Knives. We do not teach knife safety or use knives at this camp. **Do not** send your child to this camp with a knife, *even to "leave in their backpack."*

- Excess extra clothes – *extra layers/raingear are fine if necessary* but please **do not** pack a change of clothes for after camp in their backpack. Keep these (or blanket / towel for your muddy child to sit on) in your car.
- Extra weight. We will be hiking each day, and heavy backpacks become a challenge for all. Bring only what you need.

What to Expect at Camp:

Monday Morning:

Please arrive between 8:50 and 9:00 to sign your child in. The camp director of your child's camp will greet you at the sign-in table. Please keep your child with you until after sign in. At that point your child will be given a camp t-shirt and a name tag, and then invited to join the rest of the group in a game or explore our hands-on "nature museum". This is a good time to check in with the camp director if you have any questions or concerns. The camp director can pass along any important information to your child's instructor once the initial arrival phase has passed.

Daily Schedule:

Each morning there will be a game that campers can join as they arrive and a nature museum area for those who prefer a quieter or more stationary activity to start off their day. This is followed by one of the staff sharing a story that introduces a general theme or focus for the day. After the story, campers join their small groups called "clans" for the majority of the day exploring the park.

Groupings:

At camp, students are placed into small groups called "clans." If you requested that your child be placed with a friend at registration, we do our best to honor that request and sometimes we are not able to meet every request. Requests for students of significantly different ages to be grouped together will not be accommodated.

Coyote Mentoring and Nature Connection:

We call our natural flow style of teaching "Coyote Mentoring." Our goal is not only to teach kids about nature but more importantly to help them develop deeper connection to nature, their friends, and themselves while having wild fun outside. You can learn more on the [about us](#) and [about Summer Camps](#) sections of our website or by checking out our book *Coyote's Guide to Connecting to Nature*.

If you have any questions, please email us at registrar@wildernessawareness.org. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

With Gratitude,

Dan Corcoran
Program Director

Jared Archbold
Summer Program Manager