



Wild Wonderful World

Parent Guide to Summer Nature Camp

Howard County Conservancy Day Camps 2020

June 22 — August 21, 2020

Mt. Pleasant

June 29 - August 21, 2020

Belmont

camp@howardnature.org

www.howardnature.org/camp/

Dear Camp Families,

Welcome to Camp! We are excited to share our land, animals, activities and love of nature with you this summer. We know that you have many options for summer camp and we are excited that you have chosen to spend part of your summer with The Conservancy, at one of our two great summer camp locations.

To help prepare you and your camper for your summer camp adventures with us, please read this Camp Guide including the COVID 19 information and FAQs. Our camps are certified through the Maryland Department of Health and we are following their COVID 19 guidelines. Please review and complete the [medication forms](#) on the parent dashboard. If you still have any questions, or if you need to ***change your registration***, please contact us via email at camp@howardnature.org.

See you this summer!



Quick Reference Guide

Camp location and hours	page 3
Drop off/Pick up info.	pages 3 - 4
Before Care	page 4
Late Pick up	page 4
Rules at Camp/Code of Conduct	page 4 - 5
What to Bring	page 6
What to Wear	page 6
What to Leave at Home	page 6
Inclement Weather	page 7
Labeling	page 7
Waste-Free Lunches & Snack	page 7
Tick Checks	page 7- 8
Sunscreen	page 8
Day to Day	page 8
Camp weeks/Address & Contact Info.	page 9
COVID 19	pages 10 - 12
FAQs	page 13 - 15

Mission of Summer Nature Camp

The Conservancy's camps are designed to nurture respect for the natural world, increase awareness of environmental issues and instill a sense of stewardship. Campers will hike, explore the landscape, play nature games, and create earth friendly arts and crafts, among many other themed activities. Each week, we invite campers to discover the wild, wonderful world in which we live.

Where is Camp?

The Conservancy offers nine weeks of full-day nature camps in one-week sessions at both our nature center locations for children ages 5 -12. Our locations are at Belmont Manor and Historic Park at 6553 Belmont Woods Road in Elkridge and Mt. Pleasant 10520 Old Frederick Road in Woodstock. Please confirm that you are going to the correct location based on camp registration and share the location with emergency contact and authorized people to pick up camper.

Hours of Camp

The regular camp hours are Monday—Friday, 9:00 am-3:30 pm.

Drop off and Pick up at Camp

This year we are utilizing a drop off and pick up line to minimize interaction among campers. Camper safety is our first priority and we will require that all campers are **signed in and out** with a staff member daily on our attendance log. **A health screening and temperature check of each camper will be done at drop-off.** *see additional COVID 19 info on pages 10 & 11

During pick up, only the individual(s) designated on the registration form will be provided Conservancy pick-up cards to use when you pick up your child. Please have your photo ID available at pick up.

Locations of drop off at each site (NEW Procedures for 2020)

Mt. Pleasant: Morning drop off line (8:45 am – 9:00 am) and afternoon pick up line (3:30 pm -3:45 pm) will be near the main building. Please pull forward to the marked area, parents will remain in the vehicle (unless the camper needs assistance with a car seat). Campers will remain in the vehicle until camp staffers complete a health history and temperature check. You and your child must wear a mask at drop off.

Belmont: Morning drop off line (8:45 am – 9:00 am) and afternoon pick up line (3:30 pm -3:45 pm) will be on the lower driveway in front of the Manor House. Please pull forward to the marked area, parents will remain in the vehicle (unless the camper needs assistance with the car seat). Campers will remain in the vehicle until camp staffers complete a health history and temperature check. You and your child must wear a mask at drop off.

Before Care

Before Care is offered from 8am to 9am for an additional fee of \$30. The same procedures for drop off and health screenings will apply during before care. We will not be offering after care in 2020 to allow for time for extra sanitizing.

Late Pick up

A charge of \$10 for the first fifteen minutes and \$15 for each additional fifteen minutes will be charged to parents for campers not picked up on time.

Rules at Camp

Our camp rules require respect for oneself, each other and the environment. Specific COVID-19 procedures are described in detail later in this guide. Out of respect for our natural areas, we follow Leave No Trace ethics which includes not climbing in trees, removing wild animals or

destroying wetland habitats. Campers will help us preserve our historic land and buildings by not defacing or destroying Conservancy property.

Behavior/ Camper Code of Conduct

Summer Nature Camps at the Howard County Conservancy are safe places for all campers. Please read these guidelines with your camper to help them fully understand the expectations and behave appropriately at camp.

- Show respect to other participants and treat them with courtesy
- Show respect to staff and cooperate with their instructions
- Know and follow behavior guidelines and camp rules
- Use program equipment, natural areas and facilities properly
- Respect the property of others
- Work out disagreements in a non-violent manner with the help of staff
- Communicate appropriately. Foul language or gestures, teasing or harsh words shall not be used.
- Respect the health and safety of other campers and staff, understanding that pushing, kicking, hitting, bullying or fighting are not acceptable and will not be tolerated

Camp is a special place where we prioritize all campers' right to physical and emotional safety. All campers deserve to try new things, make new friends, explore and have fun in a safe environment. Conservancy staff will work with each camper individually to resolve minor behavior issues and will seek positive parental support when necessary. The Conservancy reserves the right to dismiss a camper who exhibits unsafe behavior or endangers other campers. No refunds are provided if a camper is dismissed due to behavioral problems.

[Download a copy of the Code of Conduct](#)

What to Wear:

- Comfortable clothing that can get dirty and wet
- Sneakers or boots and socks - **NO open-toed shoes/flip flops**
- Sunscreen
- Hat or bandana to keep ticks and sun off head

What to Bring (labeled with campers name):

- Extra set of clothing
- Mask in labeled ziplock bag**
- Pencil Box with pencils, crayons, scissors, glue stick, 2 dry erase markers, colored pencils, washable markers and eraser,
- Favorite book for reading time
- Beach Towel for eating lunch and activities outside
- Closed toed water shoes, sport sandals/crocs with ankle straps- for streams/water activities
- Rain gear if the weather calls for it
- Sunscreen – we will remind campers to reapply after lunch
- Water bottle - easy open, wide mouthed bottle for easy refilling preferred
- Lunch and snack – send a hearty, non-perishable lunch with your camper each day; keep in mind that the Conservancy DOES NOT provide refrigeration. *We encourage trash-free lunches to promote environmental stewardship. Recycling and composting are used daily.*
- A backpack in which to store your campers' items

What to Leave at Home:

- Anything breakable or valuable
- All electronics
- Gum or excessive candy (a piece or two in the lunch is fine; a bag becomes a problem)
- Animal habitats or carriers
- Cell phones are not permitted during camp hours

Inclement Weather

Camp is outdoors unless there is severe weather. On rainy days, please prepare your camper for outdoor exploration by packing a rain jacket, extra shoes and clothes. If there is thunder, high winds and/or lightning storms we will not be outside and will have alternative indoor activities planned. On code red heat days campers will also spend time inside. Weather will be monitored by camp administration using emergency weather radios and local weather reports. **In response to COVID 19 social distancing guidelines, should there be a forecast for extended inclement weather Conservancy camps will close for the day. This may include extreme heat and humidity or a forecast for prolonged rain or severe storms. Refunds will not be issued unless the closure extends beyond one day in a one week session.*

Labeling

All personal items need to be labeled including backpacks, masks, water bottles, lunches and clothes. The Howard County Conservancy is not responsible for any lost/stolen personal items. The Lost and Found basket will be out during pick up.

Waste-Free Lunches

Much of the trash we generate comes from the packaging on the food we buy, and lunch foods are no exception. Our waste-free lunch program favors the use of reusable food containers, drink containers, utensils, and napkins. We provide recycling and composting. For ideas for waste-free lunches, visit <http://www.wastefreelunches.org/parents.html>.

Tick Checks

The staff will remind campers and conduct tick checks 2-3 times a day. It is also very important that you check your camper at home thoroughly after

each camp day. For more information on stopping ticks, please see the [CDC's fact sheet](#).

Sunscreen

We do not provide or apply sunscreen; however, we encourage that you apply sunscreen before camp. If you provide sunscreen we will remind campers to reapply at lunchtime or after getting wet. All sunscreen is FDA controlled and must be in its original container with your child's name on the outside.

Day to Day

This summer, we are exploring our wild, wonderful world! Armed with boundless creativity and curiosity, our campers will explore habitats and connect to nature through immersive games, hikes, craft and STEM challenges while maintaining safe social distance. Our outdoor classrooms will encourage integration of technology and traditional outdoor skills. What will your child discover in our wild wonderful world?

Each week, campers will work with a STEAM challenge (traditional STEM programs that creatively integrate the arts). We have modified the activities listed on our [STEM@Camp page](#) to align with social distancing guidelines.

All campers hike and explore the landscape on a daily basis. We will spend almost the entire day outside if weather allows, rain or shine. Campers are expected to participate meaningfully in nature games, activity and study. Every week, campers will take part in age appropriate activities, stories, games and crafts with their units.

Wild Wonderful World

Howard County Conservancy- Summer Nature Camps 2020

Week 1: June 22 - 26 Green STEM Camp
Week 2: June 29 - July 2 Talons and Teeth
Week 3: July 6 - 10 Aquatic Odyssey
Week 4: July 13 - 17 Earth Day, Every Day
Week 5: July 20 - 24 Extreme Animals
Week 6: July 27 - 31 Expedition: Base Camp
Week 7: August 3 - 7 Water Wizards
Week 8: August 10 - 14 Pollinators Paradise
Week 9: August 17 - 21 Tracks and Trails

Mt. Pleasant

Camp/Mailing Address: 10520 Old Frederick Rd, Woodstock, MD 21163

Phone: 410.465.8877 / Fax: 410.379.1924

Email: camp@howardnature.org

Belmont

The Carriage House

Camp/Mailing Address: 6553 Belmont Woods Rd, Elkridge, MD 21075

Phone: 410.465.8337 / Fax: 410.379.1924

Email: belmont@howardnature.org



Howard County Conservancy Summer Camp 2020

COVID-19 Procedures

Conservancy Camps are certified by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). Our policies and procedures for operation of camps during the COVID-19 virus follow MDH guidelines.

Unit sizes

Group sizes have been reduced to eight campers and two staff per unit. Camp units will be kept separate to minimize contact between campers.

Cleaning

All surfaces commonly touched by campers will be sanitized with a CDC approved solution three times a day (10 am, 1 pm and at the close of camp when all campers have departed). These surfaces include but are not limited to doorknobs, faucets, tables and camp materials.

Hand washing

Hand washing stations will be available throughout the day. Campers will wash hands during a morning break, before lunch and during an afternoon break. Hand sanitizer will also be available in the lobby and with camp counselors.

Masks

Campers will be required to bring masks in a labeled bag. Camp will be outside for the majority of time with occasional indoor time for inclement weather, extreme heat and some camp activities. While outside masks will not be required unless physical distancing is not possible, or at the discretion of camp staff based on other factors. When the camp group is indoors, campers and counselors will be required to wear masks. ***For the safety of all campers and camp staff, campers must be able to put on***

and remove their own mask and follow physical distancing instructions in order to attend Conservancy camps.

Drop off and Pick up

We will utilize a car drop-off and pick-up line for campers to minimize family members interacting with other campers. At pick up, parents will be required to display a pick-up card provided to them.

Health Screenings

A health screening and temperature check of each camper will be done at drop-off each day. Details on the health screening can be found in camp registration materials. Staff members will also complete a daily health screening and temperature check prior to the start of each camp day.

Inclement Weather

Camp will be outside for the majority of time with occasional indoor time for inclement weather, extreme heat and some camp activities. Staff will monitor forecasts and current conditions regularly. Should there be a forecast for extended inclement weather Conservancy camps may close for the day or a portion of the day. This may include extreme heat and humidity, code red days, or a forecast for prolonged rain or severe storms. Parents must maintain access to camp communications during the camp session. Refunds will not be issued unless the closure extends beyond one day in a one week session.

If child or staff becomes ill:

If someone has any symptoms during the camp day that appear to be related to COVID-19, the Conservancy will take the following steps: (1)

safely isolate the person (if they are still on site) and place a mask on them (2) clean and disinfect the facility as recommended by the CDC; (3) notify parents and staff that someone became ill and if symptoms appear to be due to COVID-19, and encourage daily monitoring for symptoms; (4) discuss with the camp health supervisor/local health department/MDH closure based on level of contact and potential exposure to persons in the building.

If positive case:

If a person working in or attending camp has a confirmed case of COVID-19, the Conservancy will follow CDC's guidance: (1) contact the local health department and camp health supervisor immediately, (2) dismiss children and staff at the affected location for 2-5 days while determining long term course which may include closure for 14 days or more, (3) communicate with staff and parents regarding the confirmed case and exposure, (4) wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure; open outside doors and windows to increase circulation; clean and disinfect the facility as recommended by the CDC, and (5) determine duration of program closure based on guidance from the local health department/MDH.

We will always maintain camper health confidentiality.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ'S) 2020

How much is a session of summer camp?

*Each 5-day session of camp is \$270. *week 2 is \$220*

How much and when is Before and After Care?

Before Care starts at 8:00 am and is \$30 for the week. Due to COVID19, we will not be offering after care in 2020 to allow for time for sanitizing.

What are the regular hours of camp?

Camp runs from 9:00 - 3:30 daily. Morning drop off is from 8:45 am – 9:00 am. Afternoon pickup is from 3:30 pm -3:45 pm. If your camper is arriving late or being picked up early, please inform our staff so that we can make arrangements to meet you at your car.

Can my camper be in a unit with his/her friend?

We will try to accommodate requests, however because of the smaller unit size due to COVID 19, we may not be able to honor your request. If you do have a request, we need to know at least one week prior to the camp start. You may include this information in "Health History and Grouping Information" on the application or email the camp director.

How do you break up units at camp?

Generally, we will have a unit for campers ages 5-7, a second unit for campers ages 7-9, and a third unit for campers ages 9-12. The age breakdown is determined by the age of registrants and may change depending on the session.

If I need to cancel, can I get a refund?

Full Refunds are permitted up to 10 days prior to the start of camp.

**No refunds after 10 days prior to the start of camp session unless the camper suffers a medical emergency, attested to by a physician, which keeps the child from attending. Refunds are not given for absence, sick days or if a camper is dismissed due to behavioral problems. In the event of a COVID-19 related closure, refunds will be given appropriately.*

Do you serve food at camp?

No. Campers should bring a filling, waste-free lunch and snack. There is no refrigeration for lunches; include a freezer pack if needed.

What do I need to pack for my child?

*Please pack the following: water bottle; sunscreen; waste-free, filling lunch; sturdy closed-toe shoes for running around; water shoes; change of clothes; rain gear if the weather calls for it; a beach towel, book to read, a backpack in which to store your campers' items. Special request for **2020, please send a pencil box containing crayons, pencils, colored pencils, washable markers, scissors, glue stick and one or two dry erase markers.** Please make sure that your child has a labelled mask placed in a zip lock bag.*

Can the Conservancy staff administer medications?

No. Children who must take medications while at camp must be able to take their own medications under supervision of Conservancy staff. To do this, we must have parent authorization for over-the-counter medicines and a physician's authorization for prescription medications. A Medication Form must be filled out for each medication the camper is taking while at camp, including regular prescriptions and emergency medications. The Medication Form may be found on our camp webpage, <http://www.hcconservancy.org/camp/>.

My child is young. Will you put sunscreen on them?

No. Sunscreen is considered to be a topical medication by the Maryland Department of Health and we are not allowed to help apply it.

My child has special needs. Can they attend camp?

If your child is able to participate in normal daily camp activities, they are welcome to join us. However, we are unable to provide one-on-one assistance for camps. Please give us as much information as possible to allow camp staff to most appropriately assist your camper.

Something came up! I need someone to pick up my camper who is not on the authorization list. What do I do?

Email the director (camp@howardnature.org or belmont@howardnature.org).

You should call as well to let us know about the changes, but we need to see the name in writing so we can check it against the driver's license.

How can I contact you during the day?

For important issues while camp is in session, please use the following methods to contact us:

Mt. Pleasant Office Phone (during business hours) 410-465-8877

Belmont Office Phone (during business hours) 410-465-8337

Our Camp Directors may not be at their desks while camp is in session. Please allow 24 hours for an email reply or call our office for immediate assistance.