



Summer Camp 2020

What to expect this summer.

Updated 7/9/20

Woodcock Nature Center is uniquely positioned to provide outdoor experiences for our children during what will be an unprecedented summer. While camp will look quite different, we are committed to serving our community through nature this summer. Our dedicated staff has been working hard to adapt our camp programs and create high-level protocols that meet the guidelines and recommendations laid out by the CDC, CT Office of Early Childhood and American Camp Association. The following outlines the many modifications we plan to make. While we know that there is no guarantee that our protocols will eliminate the risk of COVID-19, we will continue to adjust to mitigate risks wherever possible.

We cannot wait to share the outdoors with your child at Woodcock this summer!

** Please read the following information carefully. **

Please also be sure to read:

[COVID-19 Camp FAQs](#)

[2020 Refund & Camp Policies](#)

Letters to camp families: [May 5](#) and [May 29](#)

Should you have additional questions please email us at wnc@woodcocknaturecenter.org.

Our Shared Commitment We are committed to keeping your child and our staff safe at camp this summer and have spent an incredible amount of time planning accordingly. As you can imagine, planning camp under these conditions is no small feat. More than ever, we're counting on your partnership to help protect our staff, camp families and community. Please consider the behaviors of your family when not at camp and follow the guidelines provided by our state and local authorities this summer. Monitor the health of all family members and please understand any difficult decisions we may have to make regarding camp attendance.

Setting Expectations If your camper has attended before, they might notice that camp looks a little different this summer: we may skip a favorite activity or friends may be missing from camp. Please talk to your camper! Let them know that flexibility is key (and sometimes fun!), things will be different (and that's ok!), and that we need their help to keep everyone safe (listening to your counselors is crucial!). Please also talk to your camper about social distancing and why it's important. This [Forbes article](#) is a great resource and includes links to videos you can watch together with your child.

Dates/Hours Camp will run from 9:30 am to 3 pm each day. Drop off will begin no earlier than 9:15 am. If you must pick your camper up early, please notify the office by [email](#) or phone at (203) 762-7280. It may take us longer than normal to bring your camper to your car once you arrive, so please plan accordingly.

Our Program To reduce contact among campers and limit the sharing of spaces and equipment, our program activities will be modified. Camp staff are working hard to maintain a quality camp experience under these new circumstances. For example, we know we'll be canoeing, stream scooping, and campfire cooking, but we may not be able to have a typical "lower dam day" or have all campers wading every day. We know that 3rd/4th will NOT be wading this summer but will still explore the streams and are encouraged to bring extra water shoes or rain boots. 5/6th and 7/8th will be wading and issued their own individual pair of waders for the week. Please know that we'll be experimenting and making changes as the summer progresses, taking input from campers and counselors along the way.

Access to Camp Our administrative offices, the nature center, and playground will be closed to the public all summer. Public access to the preserve will be limited during camp hours.

Group Size & Distancing We have limited camp this summer to those campers entering grades 3-8 (See our [May 5](#) and [May 29](#) emails to families). We feel that our staff will be able to provide a quality program while adhering to our new safety protocols with this age group, thereby limiting the risks for everyone. Camp groups will be limited to 3 groups of 10 campers with 3 dedicated counselors per group (30 campers total per week). Each group will have its own outdoor "home base" and will be kept socially distant (6ft.) from other groups at all times. Indoor time will be limited to bathroom use and weather emergencies. Children within each group of 10 will be kept socially distant whenever possible. Only our Director of First Aid will interact with all groups and only when medically necessary. Counselors and staff will not rotate among the groups.

Drop-off Parents and siblings must remain in the car at all times. Parents will pull up to the designated drop-off point. Parents must wear a mask (unless a medical exception applies) as staff may need to approach the vehicle. The camper(s) will exit the vehicle and temperature will be taken with a no-touch thermometer by their designated group counselor. Campers with temperatures 100 degrees or greater will not be admitted to camp. No exceptions. Parents will be asked to roll down the window and respond to a set of standard health questions and attest to camper health. (Staff will go through a similar screening process each morning.) Healthy campers will be directed to their group "home base" where they will immediately wash hands or apply sanitizer. Bug sprays and sunscreen must be applied at home. Please do not ask high-risk caregivers or family members to transport your children to and from camp. When possible, the same adult should be the designated drop-off/pickup parent for the week. More information will also be provided as your camp week approaches.

Pick-up Parents and siblings must remain in the car at all times. Parents will pull up to a designated pick-up point and provide their camper(s) name to their designated group counselor. Parents must wear a mask (unless a medical exception applies) as staff will need to approach the vehicle. Parents will be asked in advance to provide license plate numbers of approved adults designated to retrieve their child(ren). Children will need to be able to open car doors independently – *please practice with your child*. Parents wishing/needing to speak at length with camp staff will be directed to a parking spot and contacted via cell phone. More information will also be provided as your camp week approaches.

Masks All camp staff will wear masks throughout the camp day. We ask that all campers come with a mask and we ask that parents encourage them to be worn throughout the day. For campers wearing masks, designated “mask breaks” will be taken throughout the day while practicing social distancing. In the event that we must shelter indoors due to weather (see also Weather), all campers must wear a mask inside (any camper without one will be provided with a disposable mask.) Please speak with your camper about this possibility.

Camp Cleanliness High-touch surfaces and bathrooms will be disinfected multiple times per day per [CDC guidelines](#). Shared items will be disinfected after use or designated for one group’s use only. Each group will have access to designated hand sanitizer and its own water cooler for refilling water bottles. Group designated outdoor handwashing stations will also be available. Dedicated handwashing breaks will be scheduled throughout the day. Campers are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to camp daily.

Equipment To the extent possible, supplies and equipment will be designated for use by only one group or camper for the week. If you wish to send your child with their own net, life jacket, etc. you may do so (items must be left at camp all week). 5/6th and 7/8th will be wading and issued their own individual pair of waders for the week.

Personal Hygiene Campers are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to camp daily. Hand-washing is always a regular part of the camp day but will be increased this summer. Counselors will require campers to wash before and after sneezing or coughing, snack and lunch, after using the restroom, after touching animals, and throughout the day as necessary. Campers will keep their belongings separate and in their designated “home base” tent. No personal items or food are to be shared.

Lunch & Snack Please send your child with food items that they can open and eat independently. The State requires all lunch boxes to be kept in cold storage. Each group’s lunch boxes will be kept in a separate cooler, with each lunchbox in its own compartment or plastic bag. We request that families clean and wash lunchboxes (inside and out) daily. We are a nut-free camp.

Illness at Camp A designated indoor area will be reserved for any camper exhibiting [symptoms of COVID-19](#) or other illness. We reserve the right to send your camper home if there are any concerns related to COVID-19 or other contagious diseases. We ask that all caregivers plan to stay within a 30-mile radius of camp in case an emergency pickup is necessary. Should a camper or staff become ill with COVID-19 or report exposure, we will notify the CTDPH and the local health department and follow their guidance for quarantine or closure, as appropriate.

High Risk Campers The decision to send your child to camp is a personal one. We realize this decision has become even more difficult this summer. If your child is at higher risk for infection or has other issues which may prevent them from complying with safety protocols, we recommend that you not send them to camp. Please review the [CDC's recommendations](#) on people who need to take extra precautions during this time.

Medication Any camper requiring medication at camp (for allergies and asthma or other conditions) must indicate this on medical forms. Medications will be accepted on the first day of camp and will be kept at camp for the week and returned at Friday drop-off. Read more about the required forms and waivers [here](#).

Sunblock and Bug Spray Bug sprays and sunscreen **must be applied at home** and not during drop-off. You may send your camper with their own bug spray and sunblock but they must be able to apply them independently and responsibly.

Health Forms & Waivers All camp paperwork **must be received by Woodcock no later than noon of the Thursday prior to the start of your camp week. No exceptions.** Campers will not be admitted to camp without completed health forms and waivers. **No paperwork can be accepted at pick-up or drop-off.** Please note that health and immunization records on file prior to the declared state of emergency which expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable. Read more about the required forms and waivers [here](#).

Weather As always, we'll be outside as much as possible. Indoor time will be limited to bathroom and emergency use only. We will be more likely to cancel a day of camp if the weather could force us to go inside for long periods of time or if heat index levels would make it unsafe for staff or campers to wear masks throughout the day. There will be no refunds for camp days cancelled due to weather concerns. We will not be able to make up any camp days lost due to weather.

Playground Playground use will be very limited this summer. To reduce the potential for any viral transmission, each camp group will only use the playground on one designed day per week. This will allow for 24 hours between uses; stainless steel/high touch surfaces will also be cleaned. Inclement weather may prevent campers from utilizing the playground entirely.

Behavior Good behavior is expected at camp. We reserve right to remove any camper whose behavior may pose a danger to the health or safety of others. Setting expectations with your camper can make a big difference. Please refer to *Setting Expectations* above.

Scholarships If your family is experiencing financial need, please complete our scholarship application and/or contact us at wnc@woodcocknaturecenter.org

Refunds/Exchanges Please refer to our updated [camp policies](#) page.

Camp Shirts We regret that we will not be able to provide summer camp t-shirts to campers this year. Unfortunately, all available financial resources are being directed toward meeting health and safety requirements.

Communications We will keep in close contact with all registered families regarding any camp-related developments. Camp Director Sarah Breznen can be reached beginning June 29 and during camp hours at (203) 731-9832 or sbreznen@woodcocknaturecenter.org.

Disclaimer This remains an evolving situation. All protocols, procedures and policies are subject to change.

Our Advisors

Camp Doctor: Wendy Maki, MD (Pediatrician, ProHealth Physicians)

Medical Advisor & Board Member:

Jaimie Meyer, MD, MS, FACP (Infectious Disease Specialist, Yale Medicine)

COVID-19 Resources

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Connecticut Office of Early Childhood \(OEC\)](#)

[American Camp Association COVID-19 Resource Center \(ACA\)](#)

[Talking to you kids about coronavirus and social distancing \(Forbes\)](#)