

## The Howard County Conservancy Parents Guide to Camp

We are so happy you will be joining us for a great summer at the Howard County Conservancy!

The mission of The Howard County Conservancy's Summer Nature Camp is to inspire an appreciation and respect for the natural world, to increase awareness of environmental issues and to instill a sense of stewardship.

### To help you prepare for camp

#### **What to Wear:**

- ✓ Comfortable clothing that can get dirty and wet
- ✓ Sneakers or boots and socks - open toed shoes and flip flops are NOT allowed
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Hat

#### **What to Bring:**

- ✓ Extra set of clothing
- ✓ Water shoes, sport sandals or crocs with ankle straps
- ✓ Sunscreen – we will remind campers to reapply after lunch
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Lunch – 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 is available.
- ✓ Snack – packed with lunch if your child is staying for after care.

#### **What to Leave at Home:**

- ✓ Anything breakable or valuable
- ✓ All electronics
- ✓ 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. Be sure to pack a rain jacket, extra shoes and clothes. If there is thunder and/or lightening storms we will not be outside, however will have alternative indoor activities planned. On code red heat days campers will also spend time inside.

**Labeling:** All personal items need to be labeled including backpacks, 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 on Fridays.

**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 discourage the use of disposable packaging, such as prepackaged foods, plastic bags, juice bags and pouches, paper napkins, and disposable utensils. We will take a trash count for the entire camp daily, if it is lower than the previous day prizes will be awarded to everyone.

**Drop Off and Pick Up:** Drop off and pick up for regular camp hours (9am and 3:30pm) will be at the picnic area by the parking lot. If there is inclement weather we will be inside the Nature Center (the lower level of the building). Drop off for Before Care will also be at the picnic area. After Care and Extended After Care pick up will always be in the Nature Center.

**First Day of Camp:** Please be prepared to show ID and stay a few minutes to meet with the counselors on the first day of each session. You or a designated person is required to sign your child in and out with a staff member daily.

**Pick Up Protection:** For your child's safety, only the individual(s) designated on the registration form can pick up your child. The person that completed the health form is the only one who can add or delete individuals with pick-up authority.

**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 by scheduled time, payable on the following day at morning arrival.

**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.

**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.

**Snacks:** The Howard County Conservancy will not provide a snack. You may provide a snack for your child that can be eaten during the day. This is recommended if your camper is staying for After Care. If food is ever provided as a special treat, a note will be sent home the day before with a list of ingredients. If your child has any allergies you can send an alternative snack.

## Day to Day

Campers hike and explore the landscape on a daily basis. Campers are expected to participate meaningfully in nature games, activities and study. Schedules will be posted on the back of the kiosk in the parking lot and in the Nature Center on the first Monday of each session. We encourage a sense of wonder for the natural world and campers are expected to treat all living things with respect. All campers must abide by the camper code of conduct.

The “Bee’s” of Camp:



- Be Nice
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

Contact Laura Seiple, Camp Director, at 410-465-8877 or email [laura.seiple@hconservancy.org](mailto:laura.seiple@hconservancy.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to seeing you at camp!