



Information Handbook

Welcome!

We are so excited that your camper will be joining us for the first-ever Camp ROAM at Homeplace on Green River! Homeplace is a non-profit organization with a mission to *utilize education, conservation, and agritourism to preserve and promote rural American culture while exploring the sustainability of agriculture in our natural ecosystem.*

Camp ROAM's Vision

At Homeplace, we seek to connect people to history, to the land, and to each other! We are proud to carry the title of Kentucky's Outdoor Classroom and believe that Camp ROAM will bring the heart of our vision into its clearest focus.

Camp ROAM stands for **Rural Outdoors, Art, and Movement**. We have created this program to give children of our community an opportunity to slow down, unplug, and reconnect with the world around them. We believe that outdoor programming exposing children to nature has never been more important. We live in an age of wonderful technology, and children and adults today have access to incredible amounts of information and new ways of learning. While the technology we fuse into our lives is wonderful in many ways, our society is simultaneously experiencing a collective disconnect with the natural world.

Countless studies have been done, concluding that our society's movement away from the natural world is directly resulting in a myriad of negative outcomes. "Nature Deficit Disorder" is a term coined by journalist and author Richard Louv and describes people's

alienation from nature. In his blog, Louv states: “Since 2005, the number of studies of the impact of nature experience on human development has grown from a handful to nearly one thousand. This expanding body of scientific evidence suggests that **nature-deficit disorder contributes to a diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, conditions of obesity, and higher rates of emotional and physical illnesses.** Research also suggests that the nature deficit weakens ecological literacy and stewardship of the natural world. These problems are linked more broadly to what health care experts call the “epidemic of inactivity” and to a devaluing of independent play.”

<http://richardlouv.com/blog/what-is-nature-deficit-disorder>

Our camp program has three basic learning experience elements which focus broadly on agriculture, active lifestyles, and the arts respectively. These themes may seem unconnected, but we believe there is an important thread that runs through them. Each one involves hands-on physical activity and experiencing the natural world. Each morning and afternoon, campers will rotate through three learning stations, each focusing on one of the aforementioned elements.

“Life on The Farm”

Despite the rich agricultural history of South Central Kentucky, many students lack the opportunity to learn about the world of food production and experience the agricultural industry that sustains them. Each day Campers will be shown different types of live domestic animals. They will see how chickens lay eggs, have a chance to milk a cow or goat, and make butter. Campers will discuss topics like sustainability, regenerative farming, and subsistence farming. They will learn about the role livestock animals and agriculture practices play not just in our diets but in our ecosystem.

“Life in Movement”

Countless studies have shown that a range of physical and behavioral health challenges in children can be mitigated through the application of kinesthetics. Instilling a love of moving the body can lead to a lifetime of healthy hearts and balanced minds. These sessions will focus on physical games that are fun, challenging, and get the body moving! Campers will also be led on scavenger hunts around the campus and on the trail in these sessions to learn more about the plants and animals we share our world with.

“Life in Art”

One of the biggest predictors of future success for children is whether they have regular exposure to the arts. Art is literally everywhere and can be made of anything. Historically, art has always been a vehicle for people to explore our connection with nature, with each other, and with ourselves. In these sessions, campers will make a variety of art projects from both traditional and non-traditional materials. Campers will create and

perform a short play and create 2 artworks based on the work of outdoor installation artist Andy Goldsworthy and children’s author and artist Eric Carle.

Each learning station will be led by an experienced adult, including the program Director, retired teachers, and experienced farmers and livestock raisers from our Board of Directors and partners. We will also have sessions led by the teens of the Taylor County 4H livestock club with guidance from one of our adult team members.

As the human population grows, so does the need to innovate in agriculture and conservation. The agricultural industry already relies on the multidisciplinary efforts of dedicated and highly skilled individuals to develop new techniques and technologies to produce food in harmony with the ecosystem. We believe that the Camp ROAM experience will impact our campers in a meaningful way and help them grow into healthy adults who will appreciate the natural world and be good stewards of it for the next generations to come.

Camp Objectives

- To create a safe environment where each camper has fun!
- To provide an “analog” learning experience for campers where they do not use an interactive screen for the full camp day.
- To develop a love of healthy habits, including regular play-based exercise.
- To introduce campers to a variety of new experiences and skills.
- To develop the camper’s confidence and leadership skills through child-led and group activities.
- To develop in the camper an appreciation of the beauty, dignity, study, and mystery of nature, humanity, and the arts.

Daily Schedule: All in Eastern Standard Time

- 8:30 am - Arrival
- 9:00-9:15 Morning Announcements
- 9:15-10:05 - Session 1
- 10:05 - 10:15 - Snack
- 10:15-11:05 - Session 2
- 11:05-11:55 - Session 3
- Lunch/Recess 11:55-1:15
- 1:15-2:05 - Session 4
- 2:05 - 2:55 - Session 5
- 2:55-3:05 - Snack
- 3:05 - 3:55 - Session 6
- 3:55-5:15 Aftercare

Camp Cost: (for all four days)

Members (at the household level or higher): \$70.00 per camper

Non-Members: \$80.00

Camp fees are non-refundable unless the full Camp week is canceled or at the discretion of the Director.

Aftercare:

Parents can sign their child up for daily aftercare, which will run from 4:00 to 5:15 for an additional \$20. Parents may add aftercare services at the start of a camp day for an additional \$5 daily.

Camp Procedures and Guidelines**Drop-Off and Pick-Up:**

ALL CAMPERS MUST BE SIGNED IN AND OUT DAILY BY THEIR DESIGNATED GROWNUP. Grown-ups are asked to write legibly on the form under the witness of staff, so we have a record. For safety, each camper must be signed in at the morning meeting space (likely the bank barn) each day. Camp begins at 9:00 AM daily. Please make every effort to be on time. In the event a camper is running late, they must be signed in, and a staff person will take them to their group.

Morning Routine:

As campers arrive, they will mingle and play in morning meeting space. They can play games, get to know one another, draw, and get to know the art camp assistants who will be accompanying each camper group to sessions. After all campers have arrived we will start the morning with icebreaker games designed to build camp unity and friendships. Our Director and/or Art Camp Assistants will always be with the campers in the morning.

Camper Age Qualifications:

We will accept campers who have completed a year of kindergarten through campers entering the 6th grade. Some children take a second year of kindergarten, and that's perfectly fine, but they MUST have completed at least one year so that they are accustomed to the routine of following non-parent adult instruction and a daily schedule. No exceptions for younger children will be made. Homeschool children qualify, of course!

Camper Groups:

We will accept a maximum of 45 campers and will divide them into three class groups of approximately 15 campers based on age. The approximate grade levels will be 1st and 2nd graders, 3rd and 4th graders, and 5th and 6th graders. Sessions will be the same learning

concepts for each group, with modifications for developmental levels regarding projects and activities. Because we can't control the number of each age group to register, there may not be precisely 14 campers in a group, and ages may deviate slightly from the goal.

Instructors will have a roster of names for each group, and will take attendance at the beginning of *each* class as campers are moved from learning station to learning station.

What to Bring:

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING BELONGING TO YOUR CAMPER!

Lunch

Campers need to bring a bagged lunch that does not require heat or refrigeration.

Snack

Homeplace will provide a snack of fresh, uncut fruit like apples or clementines or pre-packaged snacks such as corn chips or pretzels. If your child has specific dietary needs or preferences, please give them 2 snacks for the day as well. We are not allowed to prepare food for campers, including cutting fruit, under our current permit, so please make sure all their packed foods are ready to eat and include any necessary cutlery.

Waterbottle

Each camper will be asked to keep a water bottle with them at all times. This is an outdoor/rustic spaces camp in June in Kentucky. Hydration is going to be a big part of our safety procedures.

Project Bag

A paper grocery bag or cloth shopping bag is perfect for storing camper projects over the week. Bags need to be clearly labeled and will stay in the morning meeting space all week to collect projects to go home on Thursday.

Daily Bag

A bookbag or duffle to keep lunches, snacks, sunscreens etc. (Labeled!)

What to Wear:

Camp Clothes!

This is a DIRTY camp! We will be outside all day and around dirt, mud, animals, and messy art supplies. Please dress your camper in clothing that can get dirty/stained rather than relying on smocks and covers that can get lost or cause overheating. We will also be using water periodically for cool-downs and games. We may ask campers to wear swim suits under their clothes or clothing that can get wet and stay wet for a while!

Long, lightweight pants are recommended to protect against ticks and pricklers.

Boots/tennis shoes, preferably with ankle protection. **ABSOLUTELY NO SANDALS OR FLIP FLOPS**

Sunscreen

We mean it! Please apply sunscreen in the morning before camp and include a lotion-style sunscreen of choice in your camper's bag. Please do not send aerosol sunscreens, as they can cause allergic reactions.

Bug Repellent

Like the sunscreen, please apply it to skin or clothes in the morning and include the repellent of your choice in the camper's daily bag.

Hat

Hats are optional but encouraged!

What NOT To Bring:

NO Digital Devices. Campers may not bring cell phones, game consoles, or tablets to Summer Art Camp.

NO Card games such as Pokémon or Magic.

NO weapons of any kind.

NO Toy weapons of any kind.

Campers *may* bring real books and non-electric toys to use after lunch if approved by the Director. Homeplace on Green River employees are not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact The Director director@homeplacefarmky.org. Campers can bring other toys, but please talk with your child about the rules for home-brought toys, which are they can only play with them during free times, never in class, and during class, they have to put them away for safekeeping. Items can get damaged or lost if left out.

Weather

Rain

We will proceed with a camp day if rain is predicted, so a rain jacket is recommended. We have plenty of covered spaces to use for sessions in the event of rain.

Heat Advisory

The only space we have that is airconditioned will be the main office. Campers are expected to be in the ambient air temperatures for the entire day. June can get pretty hot, and we will be watching the weather closely. We will have regular “cool down” activities where we will use hoses and sprinklers to help keep our campers cooled off. However, in the event that the forecast is calling for a level of heat we feel will be unsafe for campers, we may cancel camp for the day or end at noon. Please be prepared for that contingency. We use the guidelines provided by the “Child Care Weather Watch”:<https://www.c-uphd.org/documents/wellness/weatherwatch.pdf> The bottom line is that if the forecast calls for temperatures to rise above 93 degrees F with a relative humidity of 70% or higher, it is likely we will cancel camp for the day.

Storms/Tornados

If our area is under a tornado watch or severe thunderstorms are expected, we may cancel camp. If our area is under a tornado warning, we will cancel camp.

*If we have to cancel 2 or more days of camp, refunds may be issued.

Absences

Please call Homeplace each day before your camper’s session begins if your child will not be coming to camp. Homeplace WILL NOT give refunds for missed days.

Illness

If a child reports he/she does not feel well and/or has a fever of 99.0 degrees or higher, the child will be removed from the class session, and staff will contact a parent or designated emergency contact. A child should be kept at home if he/she shows any signs of illness (fever, sore throat, vomiting, green nasal discharge, or severe cough) and not return to camp until he/she has been free of fever without fever-reducing drugs for at least 24 hours.

Medicine

Please do not send medication with your camper unless absolutely necessary. Prescription medication must be clearly labeled in its original container and accompanied by a statement signed and dated by the doctor explaining the dosages. Medicines other than epi-pens or inhalers will be kept in the office and administered when directed.

Over-the-counter medication may be dispensed with signed permission from the parent/guardian. Children are not allowed to be in possession of any prescription or non-prescription medication. Any camper needing the use of an inhaler or epi-pen must provide a note from the doctor stating the reason and directions for use.

Poison Ivy/Outdoor Allergies/Tick and mosquitos

Insect repellent is important, and we will be spending some time on the trail. If your child is allergic to poison ivy or any other outdoor things like sumac or wasps and carries an Epi-pen, the assistant for your camper's group will carry the Epi-pen for your child so it is always close at hand. Please make sure the device and carrying case are well-labeled.

Specific Needs Accommodations

Each child has unique needs. While many children do not require specific accommodations for safety, comfort, or participation, others may benefit from such assistive measures. If your camper has a physical, developmental, or behavioral difference that you feel could be reasonably accommodated so that he or she can safely enjoy our camp, please speak with Lyn Stanton, the Program Director, to determine how we can make camp our camp experience accessible to your child. Please note that due to the rustic outdoor nature of this program, we may not be able to accommodate all children; however, it is ALWAYS worth having a conversation to investigate options!

Calling Home Policy

A camper can be sent home for extreme behavioral disturbances or illness. Additionally, if a camper requests to call their parents due to feeling ill or emotionally upset, we will call home. It doesn't necessarily mean that the camper will go home, as that is to be decided by the parent and/or Director/staff, but we will call and check-in.

Camper Behavior Policy

One of the biggest challenges an instructor will face is maintaining a well-behaved group. Campers are expected to behave appropriately and follow the agreements of the camp. Disrespectful behavior toward other campers, instructors, or assistants will also not be tolerated. Violence on the part of a camper may be grounds for excusal from camp. If a camper is dismissed from camp, a refund will not be issued. We will enforce a zero-tolerance policy for bullying or violent behavior. Less severe behavior challenges will be addressed by the Director or other main staff and may result in time-out sessions.

Camp Agreements

We will go over the agreements of Camp Monday morning with all the campers and review them periodically throughout the week. Campers may add to the list as the week progresses. We call them "agreements" in place of the word "rules" because it helps to instruct campers what TO do, as opposed to just what NOT to do. This is what your camper can expect to hear:

1. Safety First
2. ALWAYS stay with your group and where a grown up can see you (except the potty!)
3. Be a good listener
4. Use your eyes and ears before using your body, or your voice
5. Begin with the end in mind
6. It's always okay to make a mess, it's never okay to leave one
7. Practice kindness
8. It's always okay to ask for help
9. Respect people's space
10. Be a sharer - But don't share food-possible allergies!
11. Be a Peacemaker

12. Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!

We are so excited about our first summer camp at Homeplace on Green River and grateful that your camper will be joining us for this unique journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Program Director!

Lyn Stanton

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