



## Delaware Nature Society Summer Camp Parent Information Guide

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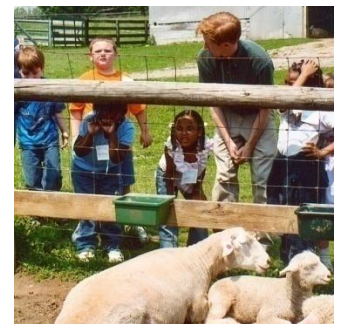
### About DNS:



The Delaware Nature Society, a non-profit membership organization fosters understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural world through education, preserves ecologically significant areas, and advocates stewardship and conservation of natural resources

Committed to providing a high-quality, safe, educational experience, we offer a low student-teacher ratio and the finest indoor and outdoor facilities in the area. Our week-long programs are very popular and fill up quickly!

All programs are open to both Nature Society members and the general public (note price differences). We welcome new members and believe that becoming a member offers special benefits far beyond the membership fee. See our website for more information about membership.





### Directions to our sites:

The majority of programs meet at Ashland Nature Center. Other program sites include Coverdale Farm, DuPont Environmental Education Center (DEEC), Cooch-Dayett Mills, Girl Scout Country Center, Mortenson Property, Flint Woods Preserve, Burrows Run Preserve and the Bucktoe Creek Preserve. You can refer to our website: [www.delawarenaturesociety.org](http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org) or call (302) 239-2334.

### Sign In/Sign Out:

PLEASE drop-off and pick-up your child on time. ALL campers MUST be signed in and out DAILY by a parent/adult guardian. For camps held at the Ashland Nature Center, a table will be set up in the camp meeting area next to the parking lot with the sign-in sheets for all camps running during that week. The attendant will then direct children to the appropriate meeting spot for the camp. For camps held at other locations, the camp instructor will have the sign-in sheets.

A note is required from the parent to authorize any other individuals to pick up the camper.

On the first day of camp, all parents/adult guardians will need to meet with the camp instructor to verify emergency phone numbers and medical information.

When picking up your child after camp, you must sign-out directly with the camp instructor or extended care personnel.

Any drop-offs earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of the camp will be charged a \$15 before-care fee. Similarly, children will be put in after-care if a parent is late in picking up. The \$15 day rate will be charged for late pick-ups.



### What to Bring to Camp

Below describes what to bring that would apply to most camps. For more specific items including overnights and specialized camps, you should receive an e-mail or letter one week before the start of the camp with a more detailed list of items.

- **Snacks and lunches:** One snack is provided daily. Participants in full day programs should bring a lunch and beverage.
- **Water bottle:** Much of your child's time will be spent outdoors. Please make sure they have a water bottle to keep hydrated. Bottles can be refilled at camp.
- **Dress for the weather:** Camps will be held rain or shine. Expect your child to be outdoors even in wet weather so please dress your child appropriately. In the event of severe weather, which would constitute a danger to campers, activities will be held indoors.

- **Dress for the outdoors:** Dress your child in clothes that can get dirty. Make sure they have comfortable walking shoes that can get wet or muddy. No flip-flops, please. Children under 8 years old in full day programs will engage in water play each afternoon. Please pack a bathing suit for your child.
- **Sun and Insect Protection:** If you choose for your child to use sunscreen and/or insect repellent, please apply it prior to the program. As most of our activities are outdoors, we do recommend that you check your child for ticks at the end of each day.
- **Medications:** If your child is bringing medicine to camp, please make sure that it is labeled. Hand medication to the instructor when dropping off your child. Since we are not permitted to dispense medication, the child must be able to self-medicate. Please contact us if this is an issue.



### **Camper Expectations:**

The Nature Society staff strives to make camp safe, fun, friendly, respectful and educational for all campers. All children are expected to treat staff and each other with respect.

If a child's behavior is disruptive to the program or to the experience of others, appropriate actions will be taken. Disruptive behavior is defined as behavior that adversely affects the activities of the camp group. This can include but is not limited to: bullying, threatening words or actions that are intended to provoke fear, repeated refusal to work cohesively with the group and destruction of property.

### **Behavior Action Steps:**

1. Discussion of disruptive behavior with the camper. Camper may be put in a "time-out" situation if needed.
2. Parent is called and assists in problem solving to result in a positive situation.
3. After a parent-camper conference, a behavior agreement will be drafted by the camp director and signed by all parties, if necessary.
4. The camper will be dismissed if the disruptive behavior continues. No refund for the camp will be given.

### **Refunds and Cancellations:**

Requests for withdrawal 10 business days or more prior to the scheduled program date will be honored. Refunds for withdrawal less than 10 business days prior to the scheduled program date will be issued only if the slot is filled. A \$35 administrative fee will be withheld for each program withdrawal regardless of withdrawal date.

### **Transferring to a Different Camp:**

Every effort to accommodate transfers to a different camp will be made. Transfers will be subject to the \$35 administration fee if the slot must be filled from a wait list.

### **Extended Day Service:**

Additional nature activities are available both for before-camp and after-camp hours. Hours and pricing are as follows:

Before-camp hours: Daily from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at \$40 per week

After-camp hours: Daily from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at \$50 per week

Extended day service is not available at locations other than Ashland Nature Center unless otherwise noted. Drop-in or daily service is available for \$15 per session/day. Before-camp and After-camp are charged separately.



### **Lost and Found**

All personal belongings should be marked with the child's name. You may check with the Visitor Services Center for any found items that could not be matched with an owner. After the summer camp session has ended, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

### **Emergencies:**

You will be contacted immediately should there be any emergency involving your child or if your child becomes ill during camp. For this reason, it is important that we have all your emergency contact information at the start of the camp. You will be asked to verify the phone numbers that we have on the first day of camp.

### **Summer Camp T-shirts/Souvenirs**

Custom-designed T-shirts for children and adults will be available for purchase (\$8-\$10) at the Ashland Nature Center reception desk at the Visitor Services Center. Small gift items are available as well for purchase such as pencils, magnifying glasses, plastic reptiles/amphibians/insects.

### **Photographs/Video**

Delaware Nature Society reserves the right to use any photos/video of our campers to promote our programs unless otherwise notified in writing by the parents.