



144 Oenoke Ridge  
 New Canaan, CT 06840  
 (203) 966-9577 [www.NewCanaanNature.org](http://www.NewCanaanNature.org)



**REQUIRED CAMP FORMS**

**Campers may not attend camp without necessary completed forms** on file prior to the start of camp. **NO EXCEPTIONS** can be afforded as this is state law.

All camp forms are available at the Visitor Center Front Desk (open 9am – 4pm, Mon – Sat) & online at <https://newcanaannature.org/coming-to-camp/>

**1. CAMPER HEALTH EXAM/RECORD FORM (1 page)**

- Camper must have had a Physical Exam within the past 3 years.
- **New Canaan Nature Center Preschool:** If enrolled through this past May, we will automatically pull your Health Exam/Record Form from the preschool files as long as the form is current.

**2. NCNC Participant Release/Waiver(1 page)**

**ALLERGIES and MEDICATIONS**

**MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION FORM (2 pages – front to back)**

- **REQUIRED for ALL PRESCRIPTION and NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**
- Must be **signed by both prescriber and parent/guardian.**
- State regulations require one separate form for each medication that will be held at camp (*e.g. If you have an EpiPen & Benadryl, you must complete two (2) separate forms*).

▪ **All medication(s) must be in original container/packaging and clearly labeled with:**

a) Child's name	d) Name of the medication
b) Prescription (Rx) number	e) Directions for proper administration
c) Date of prescription (Rx)	

- Applies to all medications to be administered by NCNC staff or self-administered by camper.
- Medication can be dropped off in advance at the Visitor Center front desk (Mon-Fri from 9am-4pm)
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**SPECIAL NOTICE FOR YOUNGER CAMPERS**

All campers must turn 3 by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, all campers need to be fully toilet trained and able to use the bathroom independently prior to their first day of camp. Please dress younger campers in clothes that are easy to get on/off by themselves to help prevent accidents and send a change of clothes just in case. We will keep parents informed and appropriately assist as we're able in case of any accidents.

**CAMP CONTACTS & REPORTING ABSENCES and DELAYS**

If your child is out sick, you are running late for pick-up, have a general message for the directors or counselors, etc. please contact one of the following. Email is the most convenient.

Summer Camp Director – Anna Zielinski  
 (203) 966-9577 x1028  
[camp@NewCanaanNature.org](mailto:camp@NewCanaanNature.org)

Summer Camp Field Director – Meredith Ahlberg  
 (203) 966-9577 x1040  
[camp@NewCanaanNature.org](mailto:camp@NewCanaanNature.org)

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AIDES & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

It is our goal to work with every camper to have the best time possible at summer camp. If your camper requires any special accommodation (e.g. major allergy, aides, medical conditions, etc.), the Camp Director must be **contacted at least 2-4 weeks in advance**, so that support can be provided for each camper and his/her respective camp group. This includes support in the form of CEIT, a 1-on-1 aide through your school or other agency, or medical assistance (e.g. diabetes monitoring). Please be forthcoming with information to help us ensure a positive and successful experience for all.



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**MISSED DAYS & CANCELLATION POLICY**

As noted on the Camp Registration Form, cancellations made more than 30 calendar days from the start date of the session will be charged a 25% administrative fee and the remaining 75% balance will be refunded. Refunds will not be given for cancellations made 30 days or less prior to the start date of the session. In cases of cancellation due to major illness and/or family emergency, refunds will be granted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Camp Director.

Refunds and/or credits will not be granted if camper misses just a day or two due to being sick or a conflict arising in family schedule. If more than two days in any given week are missed or expected to be missed, please contact the Summer Camp Director. Any refund or rescheduling of camp session(s) will remain at the discretion of the Summer Camp Director.

If you need to transfer session(s) after original registration is processed, a fee of \$25 per camper per session transferred will be assessed and due prior to the start of new session date.

**SNACK and LUNCH**

The New Canaan Nature Center is a **PEANUT and TREE NUT Aware Campus**.  
*Please do not include any products containing peanuts or tree nuts.*

*If your child has a severe food allergy, we ask that you provide your own snack, otherwise snack is provided by NCNC.*

**For campers attending FULL DAY camp or Lunch Bunch**

Families need to provide one nutritious lunch and a beverage. Please do not include any foods that require heating via a microwave as many lunches will occur picnic-style outdoors, plus resources are limited and not available in all classrooms.

**CAMP TIMES & MEETING SPACES**

Camp Directors and Director of First Aid, will be setup near the parking lot at the Animal Care Amphitheater. They will help direct you where to go and are available to receive all medication and paperwork for camp. Be sure to **stop here** first if you have any **outstanding camper paperwork and/or medications**.

Additional signs will be posted to help direct you to your appropriate camp groups.

All campers will meet in their assigned meeting space for check-in / check-out. Meeting spaces will serve as “base camp” for beginning and ending each day as well as other activities requiring indoor space. For returning campers who attend multiple weeks, it is our intent to keep campers in the same group as much as possible

*\*\*Please note: All Age 3 campers do not meet on Fridays for camp sessions and lunch bunch \*\**

Camper Age Group	Session Time	Building
Age 3	9:00am-12:00pm ( <b>no camp on Fri</b> )	Education Annex – lower level
Age 3 Lunch Bunch	12:00pm-1:15pm ( <b>no camp on Fri</b> )	Outside of Education Annex
Age 4 -5 Half Day	9:00am-12:00pm (Mon-Fri)	Education Building – lower level
Age 4-5 Lunch Bunch	12:00pm-1:15pm	Education Building – lower level
Age 4 -5 Full Day	9:00am-3:30pm (Mon-Fri)	Education Building – upper level
Age 6-7	9:00am-3:30pm (Mon-Fri)	Education Building – upper level
Age 8-10 (Apprentice Adventurers)	9:00am-3:30pm (Mon-Fri) with extended Thursday until 6 pm	Greenhouse
Age 10-12 (Journeyman Adventurers)	9:00am-3:30pm (Mon-Fri) with overnight campout on Thursday	Behind Visitor Center
Age 12-15 (Master Adventurers)	Monday (9:00am – 3:30pm), then leave Tuesday for multiday expedition	Behind Visitor Center

**CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE**

- Doors open for drop off at 9:00am sharp
- Check-in/check-out sheets will be located in each respective classroom. Please SIGN your whole name
- If you have any concerns regarding your child’s experience at camp and/or helpful information to relay please feel free to speak with your child’s counselors at Check-in/check-out. If you are unable to connect with the counselors or have something further to address, please contact the Camp Director or Field Director.
- For the safety of your child **only adults listed on the Camper Information Form will be authorized to pick-up your child from camp.** If you need to make additions to the carpool list, fill out a Carpool Authorization form located in each classroom and submit directly to your child’s counselors.



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## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CAMP

After gathering in their respective Camp Meeting Spaces, camper groups will head in a variety of directions around the New Canaan Nature Center trails and grounds to explore the woods and fields, wander around ponds and wetlands, and have fun! Our instructors lead activities that will directly involve campers in learning basic concepts of ecology and the environment in which they live. It is our goal to **be outdoors at least 80% of the time**. In cases of inclement/severe weather campers will remain in indoor Meeting Spaces.

Depending on camper interests or weather, the general daily structure is subject to change. The times listed are approximate.

### Half Day (9:00- 12:00)

9:00 – kids arrive  
9:00- 9:15- settle in, free play inside  
9:15- first activity outside  
9:45- second activity outside  
10:30- snack  
10:45- third activity  
11:40- song circle  
12:00- departure

### Lunch Bunch (optional)

12:00 – prep for lunch & wash up  
12:10 – lunch with friends  
12:40 – special LB activity, story, game or animal encounter  
1:15– departure (Age 3/Age 4-5)

### Full Day (9:00-3:30)

9:00 – kids arrive  
9:00- 9:15- settle in, free play inside  
9:15- first activity outside  
9:45- second activity outside  
10:30- snack  
10:45- third activity  
11:30- song circle  
12:00- lunch  
12:45- fourth activity  
1:30- fifth activity  
2:30- snack  
3:10- closing activity/ song circle  
3:30- departure

Activities vary daily depending on ages and are aligned with weekly camp-wide themes. Below are some typical activities that can be expected from camp groups.

**Ages 3-10:** woods hike, large motor games, pond stomping, bug searches, natural art, story time and animal presentations, gardening, forest exploration, natural art activities, bird watching, silly group games, building shelters, natural tie dye, scavenger hunts

## SONG CIRCLE & SPECIAL ALL CAMP ACTIVITIES

Throughout the summer there will be daily and weekly festivities for all campers to enjoy. Examples of these fun and entertaining activities include the following:

- SONG CIRCLE – starts around 11:40am for half day groups and 3:10pm for full day groups
- WACKY WEDNESDAY THEME DAYS (e.g. Beach Day, Superhero Day, etc.) – TBD throughout the summer (we'll send out invites)

During Song Circle we encourage parents and caregivers to sit with campers. Parents are invited to song circle daily, but especially on Fridays. If you have more than one child at camp and they are not in the same group, we ask that you pick one child to sit with during the event so the camp groups remain together.

To ensure the safety of all campers, please ensure that you follow our standard check-out procedure following Song Circle and sign-out your child before leaving the premises with him/her. You are welcome to either walk with the group back to the classroom or meet the group at the classroom.



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**CAMPER HEALTH, SAFETY & BEHAVIOR**

According to CT Department of Public Health, campers appearing to have a contagious disease must be quarantined and sent home. If you know your child has a contagious condition, please contact the Camp Director as soon as possible.

We expect the best from all campers who attend our camp. Our staff are here to work with all campers to create a safe, positive, and cooperative camp community for all who participate in our summer programs. NCNC practices a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR HITTING and reserves the right to restrict enrollment/participation, in the event that participation in camp is deemed unsafe/unsuitable for a child by NCNC staff, either for the safety/experience of the child or for the safety/experience of the staff/other campers. This could include being sent home early for the day and/or asked not to return for future days. No refunds will be given in the event of dismissal from camp due to behavior.

**WHAT TO BRING / WEAR TO CAMP**

We want all campers to have a fun and enjoyable time while at camp. Please review the lists below and come prepared for many days of fun in the sun at the New Canaan Nature Center! Campers will have cubby areas in which they can store their camp gear. **Please label all clothing with name & phone number.**

Summer Camp at the New Canaan Nature Center is Nature Camp, so please have your child prepared to be outdoors exploring nature. This includes rainy days, so plan accordingly, and bring boots and rain gear on days that forecast rain. Campers should dress in clothes and shoes that can get dirty. We recommend supplying a change of clothes that can be kept in your child's cubby. Hip hip hooray for messy summer fun!

**Daily Camp Checklist - Items to bring/wear to camp each day**

**For General Exploring & Fun**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle (refillable)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat or visor        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack   | <input type="checkbox"/> A change of clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch (no peanuts or tree nuts) for<br>FULL DAY & LUNCH BUNCH only | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun block           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sneakers or boots  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bug spray/repellant |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear           |

**For Water Fun & Pond Exploring**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber boots  | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim suit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closed-toe sandals with heel strap<br>(no flip-flops) | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothes (especially socks)                  |                                    |

**What Not To Bring To Camp**

- Any electronic devices
- Anything you would be upset about if it got lost, broken, dirty, or wet

***Please remember to apply bug repellant and sun block BEFORE camp.  
 Application of these items by NCNC camp staff is only allowed when accompanied by an Authorization form.***

**Adventure Camp Gear List**

More detailed gear lists will be provided as we get closer to the start of camp. Campers will need to provide their own sleeping bag, sleeping pad, backpack, stuff sack(s), clothes, and rain gear (outerwear). The Nature Center Adventure Camp team will provide tents, all cooking equipment and supplies, canoes, paddles, PFDs, and other activity gear.

Thank you so much for your help and cooperation in ensuring your child have a safe and happy summer!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

*Cheers and happy trails,  
 Anna, Meredith and  
 the NCNC Summer & Adventure Camp crew*