



Summer Camp Guidelines 2023



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 online at <https://newcanaannature.org/coming-to-camp/>

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.

ALLERGIES & MEDICATIONS

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION FORM & ACTION CARE PLAN

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) or on the first day of your child's camp at the check-in table at the animal care porch.

POTTY-TRAINING

All campers must turn 3 by June 1st. Additionally, we prefer all campers 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.

COMMUNICATION & CONTACTS

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.

E-mail: camp@newcanaannature.org

Emily Kerchoff Camp Director at (203) 966-9577 x1041

Aidan Murphey, Assistant Camp Director at (203) 966-9577 x1043

REFUND POLICY

Refund/Cancellation Policy: Withdrawal from Camp: A 75% refund will be issued for cancellations before the first day of camp on Tuesday May 30th . No refunds will be issued Tuesday May 30th or after. Please allow up to 14 days for refunds to process.

Administration fee of \$25 for changes or swaps in camp weeks.

Illness/Emergency: In case of cancellation due to a major illness/family emergency, refunds will be granted on a case-by-case basis. Misc. Refunds: All other refunds will be issued at the discretion of the New Canaan Nature Center Summer Camp Director.

SNACK & 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.

CHECK-IN

Camp Director & Assistant Director, 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 on **Monday mornings to check-in.**

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

DROP-OFF PROCEDURE

1. Doors open for drop off at 9:00am sharp
2. Check-in/check-out sheets will be located in each respective classroom.
3. 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 Assistant Camp Director.
4. 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.

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 most 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 – drop-off

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

1:00– departure (Age 3/Age 4/Pre-K/K)

Full Day (9:00-3:30)

9:00 – drop-off

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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 11:30am for half day groups and 3:00pm for full day groups
- WACKY WEDNESDAY THEME DAYS (e.g. Beach Day, Superhero Day, etc.) – TBD throughout the summer (we'll send out invites)

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.

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.

PACKING FOR 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

For General Exploring & Fun

- Water Bottle
- Backpack
- Lunch (no peanuts or tree nuts) for FULL DAY & LUNCH BUNCH only
- Sneakers or boots
- Hat or visor
- A change of clothes
- Sun block
- Bug spray/repellant
- Rain gear

For Water Fun & Pond Exploring

- Rubber boots
- Closed-toe sandals with heel strap (no flip-flops)
- Change of clothes (especially socks)
- Swimsuit
- Towel

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

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 at camp@newcanaannature.org.

***Cheers and happy trails,
Emily, Aidan & the NCNC Summer & Adventure Camp crew.***