

PROGRAM GOALS AND DESCRIPTION

Please read before signing permission forms

The purpose of the BCWS summer program is to educate our campers about the natural world, and to nurture in them respect and sensitivity for organisms and the complex ecological web in which we are all a part. The campers' personal growth is an integral part of this process.

Campers gain basic and specific knowledge about several areas of natural history, develop greater understanding about an aspect of nature through a project of his/her choosing, are encouraged to behave in a manner that has minimal impact on the environment, and is healthy for themselves and others. They take recreational and reflective time outdoors (alone and in groups), and live as a community with other campers and staff.

Activities include direct interaction with the natural world at all times of day. Campers will be handling plants and animals, hiking in daylight and nighttime, will be physically active in games and workshops, are likely to get wet and dirty, and accumulate insect bites. They will camp out a few times, under the sky or a tarp, and will have daily opportunities to swim in a freshwater pond or river. Senior Session campers will have the option of climbing 60 feet up a tree and onto a canopy walkway. Senior Session campers may also have the option of backpacking for three days in an area with little to no cell phone coverage. The creative, spontaneous nature of the program and vagaries of weather preclude an exact list of the planned activities for any session: this statement is only intended to provide a rough sketch.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS FOR CAMPER BEHAVIOR

We will have an orientation immediately after lunch on the first day, which will include specific rules. The guidelines that follow are meant to help campers know general expectations, so parents are encouraged to share this section with campers. Our standards are intended to protect the physical and emotional well being of the campers, staff and the wildlife sanctuary.

Campers and staff treat one another with kindness. We do not tolerate abusive behavior or language.

BCWS community members must respect the honor, dignity and privacy of others, and the intellectual property of others and BCWS at all times. Without first obtaining written permission of all those involved, campers and staff may not publish identifiable names and photos, personal information of other BCWS participants or any BCWS proprietary information, including photos of BCWS on any public media including that of the internet.

We all take responsibility for our own belongings and share in cleaning duties.

In our behavior, we seek to disturb the sanctuary as little as possible, and campers may handle wildlife only as guided by the staff. We conserve resources in any way we can.

We function in groups of all sizes, and also have time alone, but campers are limited in how far and how long they can range without supervision.

We have regular meals and snacks, but no one keeps food outside of the kitchen, or medications (even over-the-counter medications) outside of the infirmary.

The use or possession of firearms, tobacco, alcohol or other controlled substances is prohibited, and defiance of this rule is grounds for dismissal.