Kids in the Woods
Summer Day Camps
at
Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve

PARENT/GUARDIAN & CAMPER HANDBOOK
Summer 2023

Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve
93 Honorine Drive
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 683-5959
summercamps@reinsteinwoods.org
WELCOME TO THE “KIDS IN THE WOODS” SUMMER DAY CAMP!

We are excited to provide your child with a high-quality, enjoyable experience exploring nature this summer. To ensure a safe and fun camp experience for all, please read the following information carefully. If you have any questions, contact the camp director. PLEASE READ THIS HANDBOOK CAREFULLY AS THERE ARE MANY UPDATES FOR 2023.

CAMP INFORMATION

Camp Director: Korah Witherell  
(716) 683-5959 x204  
campdirector@reinsteinwoods.org

Education Center Director: Meaghan Boice-Green  
(716) 683-5959 x206  
(518) 414-0244 (cell)

DROP-OFF/PICK UP:

Camp days will start and end in the lawn in front of the log cabin (please see map on the next page). In case of inclement weather, camp will be moved indoors. Please park in the main parking lot and follow the signs to the check-in table.

In the event of a rain day, camp will be moved inside the Education Center, including the drop-off and pick-up location. There will be signage in the main parking lot directing you. A decision will be made prior to the start of camp that day by the camp director, and you will be notified by email.

You must sign your child in and out of camp. Your child will only be released to the custody and supervision of parents/guardians and those authorized on your child’s information form. Authorized individuals, including parents, must bring identification for pickup.

Please try not to be late for drop-off or pick-up. It is to your child’s advantage to be able to fully participate in the program. We recommend putting our phone number 716-683-5959 into your cell phone so that you can notify us in case of traffic delays etc. Extended care options, if needed, are described below.

EXTENDED CARE POLICY

Extended care is a flat rate of $15.00 per day, per camper. You must register and pay for extended care in advance. Please note that extended care is not extra camp time, but a courtesy to our patrons’ schedules. We offer care as follows:

Little Sprouts: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
All other Camps: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If your schedule changes and you suddenly need extended care, you must give the camp at least 24-hour notice. We will do our best to accommodate but cannot guarantee that extended care will be available in that situation.
CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

Friends of Reinstein will provide a full refund if a camp is cancelled by Friends of Reinstein. If an individual cancels at least 14 days before camp begins, Friends of Reinstein will issue a full refund minus a $25 processing fee. A 75% refund will be given if a parent/guardian cancels less than two weeks but more than one week before camp, minus a $25 processing fee. A 50% refund will be given if a parent/guardian cancels one week or less before camp, minus a $25 processing fee. There are no refunds for: early dismissal from camp due to homesickness, behavioral misconduct, medical reasons, or cancellations of camp days due to COVID-19 related issues or severe weather.

WHAT TO WEAR

Masks are not required but are welcome. All camp activities will take place outside, so we recommend light-colored pants and lightweight, light-colored shirts. Light colors make it easier to see ticks on clothing, and we will perform tick checks multiple times each day. Socks and sturdy sneakers or hiking boots are a must (no flip-flops or sandals!). For pond day, bring old sneakers, water shoes or rubber boots. A change of clothes is highly recommended as well. Hats are allowed. Rain gear is also a good idea if it is in the forecast for that day. Please apply sunscreen and bug spray to your child before bringing them to camp each day. This helps decrease preparation time before camp activities.
WHAT TO BRING

Please provide your camper with a filled water bottle, snack and a packed lunch. **Food will not be provided by the camp.** Please do not pack food that needs to be prepared (i.e., cooking, microwaving), refrigerated, or that requires silverware (if necessary, please pack your own). Simple foods – sandwiches, fruit, granola bars, etc. – are best. Lunches will be stored in a cooler until lunchtime; please provide an ice pack for your child’s lunch, or pack food that does not need to be refrigerated. Filled water jugs will be provided to refill water bottles. NOTE: If your camper is enrolled in Little Sprouts, a lunch is not required, however it is encouraged if your camper will be staying late in extended care.

Other items that may be brought to camp include: a small daypack, binoculars, insect repellent, bug jars and nets, and cameras. Please leave cell phones, electronics (mp3 players, gaming consoles, etc.), and all other valuables at home. Items that are not to be brought to camp also include knives, lighters, or weapon of any kind. Friends of Reinstein Woods is not responsible for any lost or broken items. If you need to contact your child at camp, please call 683-5959.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

We strive to provide and encourage a fun-filled, active, and safe environment for our campers. Please review the following behavior expectations with your camper:

- Students are expected to be focused and listen during all activities. Children should not be wandering around doing other things, talking to each other, or playing when the instructor is teaching.
- Children are expected to respect each other, the staff, and Reinstein Woods materials.
- In the event that a child should misbehave during a program (i.e., physically or verbally aggressive or disrespectful behavior, use of profanities, continuously disruptive behavior, or defiance of authority), the staff will take action immediately with a verbal warning.
- If the behavior persists, the student may be instructed to take some cool-down time by sitting out of the next activity.
- If further disruptive behavior occurs seasonal staff will inform the Camp Director, who will meet with the child and the staff.

Every effort will be made to keep all campers at camp to gain a fun and positive experience. This policy is to be used only when campers are demonstrating extremely disruptive or unsafe behavior. If the behavior persists, a parent or guardian will be called and will be asked to speak with their camper about the behavior issue. If a second phone call must be made, a conference will be held with the parent and may result in withdrawal from the week **without a refund.**
A NOTE ON SAFETY

The camp is staffed by well-qualified counselors who are trained to follow a safety plan. All camp staff are certified in CPR/First Aid/AED. You will be notified of any incident/treatment involving your child. While staff make reasonable efforts to minimize hazards, accidents may happen (i.e., scrapes, bee stings, bug bites, etc.). By participating in the KITW Camp, campers and their parents/guardians assume these risks. If you have any concerns, please contact the camp director.

Ticks are present in the woods. Please check your child for ticks every day at home. For more information about ticks, visit: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

If your child is sick in any way, please call 716-683-5959 and inform camp staff prior to start of camp that day. Please leave a message if no one answers the phone.

Families should follow NYS Guidance regarding when to quarantine your child or require them to wear a mask following exposure to someone with COVID-19. Please familiarize yourself with this guidance, and if you have any questions, please contact the Camp Director before bringing a child to camp following an exposure.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about procedures we will use to ensure healthy campers, please contact the camp director.
Camp Preparation Checklist

Before you come to camp each day:

Dress in:

✓ Light-colored pants & shirt
✓ Socks and sturdy sneakers/ hiking boots
✓ Rain gear if there’s rain in the forecast (we will be outside all day)!
✓ Hats and sunglasses are encouraged!
✓ Masks are NOT required but are welcome!

Put on:

✓ Sunscreen
✓ Bug spray- preferably with DEET or Picaridin (label may say KBR 3023)

Pack:

✓ lunch (for full-day camp) and a snack (all camps)
  o Lunches will be stored in a cooler, please provide an ice pack for your child’s lunch, or pack food that does not need to be refrigerated
✓ water bottle
✓ Optional items:
  o Small backpack, binoculars, bug jars, insect net, camera, insect repellent, hand sanitizer.

Leave at home:

✓ Cell phone
✓ electronics
✓ knives
✓ Any other valuables

Additional information such as camp itinerary will be provided in the week leading up to your camp. Please watch your email for more information!