



RAPPAHANNOCK NATURE CAMP 2024 Pre-Enrollment Guidelines

- **Camp hours are 9-3 daily. We and expect prompt arrival and pickup, and do not provide care before 9 or after 3.** Camp is located on private property off Woodward Road in Sperryville at a place we call "Singing Creek". Directions to camp will be sent separately to registered campers.
- **Session 1 (June 10-14) will be for 12–16-year-olds,** and includes a campout on Thursday, June 13.*
- **Sessions 2, 3, & 4, for ages 8-16, (weekly June 17-July 5) are day camp only.**
- **All sessions conclude with an Open House for family and friends from 1-3 pm on Friday.**

* **NEW THIS YEAR: Session 1 (June 10-14)** is limited to 12–16-year-olds. This session is designed for returning and older Campers. We will engage in deeper exploration, collaborative creative endeavors, and take longer hikes to new and exciting destinations. Camp runs daily Monday-Wednesday from 9-3. Thursday drop-off will be 9 AM as usual, and we will camp out on Thursday night (June 13). Families should arrive at 1 PM on Friday for the end of camp Open House. Campout details and what to bring TBA; we will expect campers to help plan and they may contribute food and other items for the campout.

Please also note:

- No two weeks are alike, and we hope you will consider signing up for more than one!
- Each week will include a different visiting instructor who is an expert in their field.
- Application must include full payment of \$225 for each one-week session per camper. To encourage enrollment in multiple sessions, we offer a discount to Campers attending additional sessions at \$200 each. (Camp fee is \$225 per camper for one session, \$425 for 2 sessions, \$625 for 3 sessions, or \$825 for 4 sessions.)
- Scholarships: Contact Camp at rappnaturecamp@gmail.com, or call/text Director Rachel Bynum at 540-252-6308 before enrolling regarding tuition assistance. It's easy to apply, and nobody should miss Camp due to financial need. We appreciate the many donors who make this possible!
- We have a Medic on staff who is a certified EMT. We will take appropriate measures consistent with Public Health guidelines to keep campers safe and healthy.
- Camp sessions are expected to fill quickly and early application is encouraged. After full enrollment of 20 campers per session, we will notify you and maintain a waiting list in case of cancellations.
- Applicants will receive notice of acceptance, directions to the camp site, and future reminders and notices of any changes.
- Local residence is not required for registration.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO APPLY:

1. Complete online registration and payment for each camper (we include a processing fee with online registrations) via the link on our website, <http://www.rapnaturecamp.org>.
- OR**
2. Download, print, and mail the completed 3-page enrollment application. Complete one form per camper. Include a check for full tuition made out to Rapp Nature Camp, and Mail to us at Rappahannock Nature Camp, P.O. Box 145, Sperryville, VA 22740
- **Questions?** Contact Administrative Director Rob Bannister at rappnaturecamp@gmail.com, or call or text Camp Director Rachel Bynum at 540-252-6308.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Our activities are aimed at nature observation, discovery, and community building. Activities at camp are all outdoors, with an open barn, screened pavilion, garage and canopies available as shelters when needed. We explore gardens and trails, catch and release insects and amphibians, spend time at our own individual Quiet Spots, and observe all kinds of plants and animals at every opportunity. Parents of first-time campers who are not familiar with camp activities can read a copy of our camper-produced newsletter, *News from Singing Creek*, available on our website or in print by request or at the Rappahannock County Library.
- We expect to spend some time near the end of each camp day in the shallow Hazel River. There will be an opportunity to change clothes. We will have time for snack and lunch, which campers should bring every day.
- Family and friends will be invited to attend our Open House at 1:00 on the Friday of each session when campers will present a program and their projects.

WHAT TO WEAR EVERY DAY:

- Wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting wet. Long pants that can be rolled up are a good choice. Some may choose to wear bathing suits under other clothes.
- Good walking shoes are a must. Campers will be able to change shoes for water activities but any kind of boots or sneakers that you don't mind getting wet will suffice. Sandals are discouraged. For safety, no bare feet are allowed at any time.
- A brimmed hat will help to keep bugs away from your face, and is a good idea for protection from rain and sun.

WHAT TO BRING EVERY DAY:

- A complete change of clothes if you need to change out of wet/muddy clothes during the day at camp is a good idea. Each camper will have an individual storage space.
- Bring a clean towel too.
- A water bottle that can be refilled, or bottled water. We will have drinking water available, but bottles are to be refilled only by a counselor or our nurse on staff.
- A good healthy lunch and snack in reusable containers when possible. Lunches can be stored in our refrigerator. No sodas or "energy" drinks are allowed. We will remind our campers: no food sharing, to limit the spread of any sickness!
- You may bring a clean mask in a small paper bag to have available if needed.
- Many choose to bring sunscreen and a good natural insect repellent. Treating Camp clothing with Permethrin can help keep ticks
- If you have a small acoustic instrument to use during music time, let us know the first day.

DO NOT BRING:

- Pets, captive animals, comic books, cameras, or electronic devices. Don't wear valuable or delicate jewelry. Travel light—you'll be glad you did!
- Note: cell phones will not work at camp. A landline is available for camper use if necessary.

HEALTH NOTES to limit spread of any sickness:

- We will have a Camp Medic on staff to administer appropriate public health measures. These may include health screening upon arrival.
- Our activities are all outdoors or in open barn or other shelter. We do hike in light rain without thunder. We have emergency indoor shelter available.

- We will not permit any sharing of food or water and campers may not refill their own water bottles. Staff will refill bottles when necessary.
- We will have separate individual storage areas or containers for each camper and staff member.
- We will have a “sick camper” plan in place, which may include masking. We will be prepared for contact tracing if that is ever necessary.
- Parents/guardians must keep sick campers at home and notify our Camp Director.