

Nature Camps - Parent Information

Thank you for registering for a Park District nature camp! We are glad you chose a nature-based camp as one of your child's summer activities. Our goal is to provide hands-on experience that help campers better understand and appreciate the natural world.

Just a few notes we need to highlight before we start...

Camper Drop-off/Pick-up and Check-In Procedures

1. Parents/caregivers should pull into the parking lot and drop off at the picnic shelter at Churchill Park. Churchill Park is located at **271 St. Charles Road**. If you haven't been here before, the entrance can be difficult to find. The driveway to the parking lot is on the south side of St. Charles Road across from Kenilworth Avenue, about 1/4 mile east of Bloomingdale Road and 1/3 mile west of Western Avenue. (This is not *Churchill Woods Forest Preserve*.) **Drop-off is at 9:00am.** (For afternoon camps, **1:00pm.**)
2. Camp staff will greet participants and parents/caregivers. They will also have a name badge to say HELLO!
3. Parents/caregivers are asked to sign in your camper. Please speak with the camp instructor to make sure they and your camper have everything they need.
4. After check-in, please exit the park/parking lot.
5. There will be two counselors with each group of campers.
6. Pick-up process will follow the same instructions as drop-off; caregivers are asked to sign each camper out as they are picked up. **(Check the specific pick-up time for your camp.)**
 - Please inform staff if any person other than the drop-off person is picking your child up that day so they can note it on the check-in form.

What to Wear

1. **Pants recommended** – we realize it may be hot, but we will be exploring areas off-trail and mosquitoes may be active in the woods. Insect bites and scratched legs can be avoided. Some children may also prefer a long-sleeved shirt for sun and bug protection.
2. **Closed toe shoes** – preferably gym shoes. Keen and Croc-type shoes are fine. Please no flip-flops or sandals.
3. **Hat** – We will be in the sun for part of each morning.

What to Bring to Camp Each Day

1. **Small backpack** - We will be walking on the trails and stopping at different parts of the park.
2. **Water bottle**
3. **Snack**
4. We will let you know the day before "water day." **Water shoes and clothes that can get muddy** will be needed for walking at the edges of ponds or in shallow creeks. Crocs, water sandals, old gym shoes, or rubber boots work well. Please have kids wear socks with the boots and gym shoes to avoid blisters.
5. **Medication sheet** – if needed (epi-pens, inhalers, etc.)

General Camp Information

1. Camper Behavior: All campers must comply with the established behavior code of conduct and be devoid of behavior necessitating physical intervention. All campers must be independent in managing personal care (toileting, personal hygiene, etc.) and managing all personal belongings.
2. A key theme for the week is respect. We will explain the need to respect each other, to respect the guidance of the instructors, and to respect the park's plants and animals. If we feel your child is being disrespectful, we will take them aside and explain the issue at hand. If the behavior continues, we will have your child sit-out for a portion of the activity and notify the adult/guardian at pick-up. If the situation warrants, we will contact you during camp hours to discuss how to best handle the matter.

3. Restrooms: Although one is coming soon, this park does not yet have a permanent bathroom. A portable unit is available, and we will have hand wipes and sanitizer to use.

Outdoor Safety

1. Campers should have applied sunscreen and insect repellent prior to arriving at camp.
2. We are outside at all times. If it is raining with no lightning, we will station under the pavilion. Please have your child bring a poncho or rain jacket, as we will most likely head out for a rainy-day hike.
3. If there are thunderstorms, this camp will be cancelled, and families will be notified as soon as possible of the cancellation. Please check the Rainout Line after 8:30am for updates: <https://gepark.org/rainout-line/>. We will wait until 8 – 8:15am to make the decision based on hourly forecast predictions and current radar maps.
4. If storms pop up after we have already started camp, we will shelter in the house (recently purchased by the Park District) next to the park, while waiting for adults to pick up campers.

Illness, Medical Concerns and Dispensing Medication:

1. If your camper is not feeling well, please keep them home from camp.
2. Staff wear gloves when dispensing medication.
3. Staff will document any medication that is being dispensed during camp hours.
4. Medication that is to be dispensed is noted on the Medication Dispensing Form in ePact. All medication must be in its original container with the child's name and specific instructions as to the dose and time to be given.
5. Be sure to complete the Medication Dispensing Form if your child needs to have medication at camp, including epi-pens, inhalers, etc.

Inclusion Support:

Glen Ellyn Park District works cooperatively with WDSRA to provide inclusion support for participants who register and meet the Participation Guidelines. If your child requires an aide for camp, please contact the supervisor ASAP so we can confirm with WDSRA that one has been assigned for the week of camp.

We want to provide a fun and exciting summer camp opportunity for your child, but we also want to make sure we do it as safely as possible. Please review any expectations you think your child might have questions about prior to the start of camp so they can have the best experience possible!

I am happy to address any questions or concerns. I can be reached at (630) 942-7273 or by e-mail at lbellmar@gepark.org. For urgent matters, my cell phone is (708) 833-5453. You may also contact Chris Gutmann, Manager of Natural Areas and Outdoor Education, at (630) 520-5939. We look forward to meeting your child and a great week of learning and nature exploration. **Thank you!**

**If you need to contact camp staff for any reason,
please call or text Laurie Bellmar at: 708-833-5453**

