



DENISON PEQUOTSEPOS / COOGAN FARM  
NATURE & HERITAGE CENTER

## Summer Nature Camp FAQs

### **What if my child has a special need?**

The Nature Center can be a great place for children with special needs and we will always try to accommodate all children; however each situation is unique. Please call the camp director to discuss your child's needs at 860-536-1216 ext. 204.

### **What and how should I pack for lunch?**

Non-perishable items are a must. Lunches cannot be refrigerated. Put as much as possible in containers that can be re-used and closed tightly, because we pack out what we bring in. Make sure your child has a large water bottle, and enough food for lunch and snacks. Go for non-perishable (not ice-packs) since your child will be carrying their lunch.

### **Can I drop off or pick up my child late?**

No. We do not allow early drop-offs or late pick-ups. For a small fee Pre- and After-camp are available on a weekly basis. You must purchase the full week of before or after camp care, no single days are available. We will charge a late fee for every minute you are late picking up your child after the close of after-camp at 5:30 p.m.

### **Why is my child (and her clothes) so dirty?**

Our campers spend the entire day outside. Eating on rocks, in trees, on beaches, playing games in the woods, burying themselves in leaves or sand, or slogging up to their knees in mud trying to catch an elusive frog - your child will come home dirty! Not just a little dirty, but with mud and dirt between toes, under nails and ground into clothes. Please realize with no suitable changing areas children may keep their wet, damp and dirty bathing suits/clothes on all day!

### **Can my child bring electronics or other stuff with them?**

No — unless it is a comfort item for our youngest campers. Electronics, toys, trading cards and the like are disruptive distractions and not allowed at camp. Summer camp is screen free, except for the occasional educational video provided by staff. The Nature Center takes no responsibility for lost items. Any items we do find (including lunch boxes, hiking boots, rain jackets, etc.) are put in lost and found until one week after the end of camp.

### **What are your bathroom policies?**

All campers (including Ducklings) must be toilet trained. When campers are at the Nature Center or the Preschool building they use bathrooms or outhouses. Campers ages 5 and up, after checking with their instructor, are allowed to walk to the bathroom by themselves from the various meeting areas including the tree house and picnic tables. Teachers do not accompany campers into the bathroom. On fieldtrips, campers use public bathrooms or outhouses. Where no facilities are available, campers use the woods.

### **Who are the camp teachers?**

Camp teachers and assistants come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are year round instructors at the Nature Center, others are school teachers, naturalists, and masters and bachelor degree students in environmental studies or education. Many instructors return to DPNC year after year. Our ratio is 13 campers to 2 staff for all camps except Ducklings, which are 10 to 2 staff. Each group has at least one instructor trained in CPR and First Aid.

**What about safety?**

Our teachers are qualified and trained to be with children outdoors; however, nature is unpredictable. Injuries can occur at any time. Bee stings, falls off rocks and ledges, becoming lost, tripping over roots, snake or other animal bites and slipping in the water are all risks to which your child will be exposed. Our teachers are ever vigilant of danger; however, we count on the children to be active participants in their own safety - not wandering from the group, asking for clarification if they don't understand instructions and responding immediately to instructions of freeze or run. If you feel your child cannot handle these situations, please think twice about sending them to nature camp.

**Where does my child entering first grade belong?**

Every child entering the first grade is unique. If your child has never done full day activities and is tired in the afternoon, try a half day camp. We do not have nap time in our full day camps, so if your child needs a rest in the afternoon, a half-day camp is definitely the right choice.

**What if my child needs medication?**

The primary policy of the Nature Center is to only give emergency, life-saving medications such as epi-pens or rescue inhalers. If your child has other medication needs, such as antibiotics, we ask you administer it before or after the camp day. If you do need to bring an emergency medication to camp you are responsible for all paperwork, including medication forms signed by the doctor, and having medications in their original containers. If you do not bring in the properly signed paperwork according to CT state law the teachers cannot accept it. Any requests to accommodate exceptions to this policy should be brought to the attention of the camp director.