

WELCOME TO WILDECAMP!

The Wilds

Dear WildeCamper, Friends, and Family,

Thank you for choosing WildeCamp at The Wilds, one of the most unique summer camp opportunities in the country. Your camper will explore the outdoors while learning about conservation efforts involving local and global species. It is going to be a ***wild*** experience!

This packet is designed to help prepare you and your camper for their summer experience at The Wilds. **Please read the entire packet carefully.**

CAMPDOCS ONLINE MEDICAL FORMS

We use an online medical form system, CampDocs. Prior to your week at camp, you will receive an email from "Columbus Zoo and The Wilds via Camp Doc." This email will provide you with a link to access your camper's medical forms. Please complete these forms with as much detail as possible so we can prepare for your child's camp experience. This is especially important if your child has dietary needs, as our kitchen will be required to place a special food order to accommodate those requests. **This form must be filled out completely for your camper to participate.**

DROP OFF PROCEDURE

Campers will receive an email the week before they arrive at camp detailing the drop-off procedures. The Wilds will provide campers with a specific drop off time, which will be between 2:00 and 3:30 PM.

Upon arrival, inform the parking attendant that you are dropping off a camper. You will be directed by staff to the Administration Building, located on The Wilds property.

When families arrive at the drop-off location, **one guardian** will be permitted to accompany the camper as they check-in to WildeCamp. **Staff will collect medications and gift shop money at this time.** Campers will undergo a lice check (see lice policy). Luggage may be dropped off at the designated bus. Dinner for your camper's first day is provided by The Wilds. You may leave after your camper is checked in with our staff.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kati Delbert at **740-638-5030 ext. 2286** *or email* **kdelbert@thewilds.org.**

WildeCamp at The Wilds is proudly accredited by the American Camp Association.



SUGGESTED PACKING LIST



SUGGESTED TO BRING:

❑ **Sleeping bag, pillow and sleeping pad (for potential outdoor sleeping)**
Sleeping yurts have bunk beds with twin size mattresses. The Wilds does not provide pillows, sheets, or blankets.
❑ **Backpack**
❑ **Long pants for hiking**
❑ **Shorts**
❑ **Shirts (long and short sleeved)**
❑ **Jackets/sweatshirts**
❑ **Rain jacket**
❑ **Swimsuit**
❑ **Hiking boots/sneakers for hikes (multiple pairs)**
❑ **Closed-toed water shoes**
❑ **Plenty of socks**
❑ **Underwear**
❑ **Pajamas**
❑ **Shower supplies**
❑ **Portable shower caddy**
❑ **Toiletries** *(deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush, etc.)*
❑ **Reusable water bottle**
❑ **Towels** (bath and beach)
❑ **Sunblock**
❑ **Insect repellant** *(20% DEET to repel ticks)*
❑ **Hat and sunglasses**
❑ **Medications** *(Place labeled containers in a sealed plastic zip-lock bag with written directions. Staff will collect these medications at check-in.)*
❑ **Laundry bag for dirty clothes**

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

❑ **Masks (not currently required)**
❑ **Clip-on battery operated fan for use in bunk bed and extra batteries** (*charging will not be available*)
❑ **Field guides**
❑ **Binoculars**
❑ **Disposable camera**
❑ **Money for Gift Market** (*hand in for safe keeping at check-in.*)
❑ **Books**
❑ **Writing journal**
❑ **Fishing gear** *(The Wilds also has gear available.)*

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- **Electronics such as, but not limited to, cellphones, iPads, and games**
- **Weapons (including pocket knives)**
- **Alcoholic beverages**
- **Illegal drugs**
- **Immodest clothing**
- **Tobacco products**
- **Snacks**

PLEASE NOTE: ANY ITEM FOUND FROM THIS LIST WILL BE CONFISCATED UNTIL THE END OF CAMP.

It is the camper's responsibility to keep track of their belongings. All personal belongings must be labeled with your child's name. The Wilds is not responsible for lost or stolen items. **All lost and found items will be held for claim for 30 days. Items left behind can be mailed back for the cost of postage. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.**



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PICK UP PROCEDURE

Please arrive for pickup by 9:30 AM through the pipe gate off Zion Ridge Road and follow signs to WildeCamp. A staff member will be present to help answer questions and serve as a landmark for where to enter. Follow signs all the way down for WildeCamp. You will meet a counselor at The Wetland Trail and be assisted with parking near the Fishing Pond. You will unload your camper's belongings from the Education bus into your vehicle. All parents/guardians will then load onto an Education bus and head to WildeCamp.

Once at camp, families will debark, tour camp with their camper, and attend the closing ceremony. After the closing ceremony, you will load back on the buses with your camper and head back down towards the Fishing Lake to load into your vehicle. You will then follow a Camp Counselor in a vehicle out to Zion Ridge Rd.

CAMP RULES

Every camper is expected to obey all rules set by The Wilds. Any camper with an activity restriction noted in their registration form is expected to understand and abide by their restrictions.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency you may contact The Wilds at the following numbers:

- Camp Coordinator, **Kati Delbert, 740-638-5030 ext. 2286**
- Director of Conservation Education and Engagement, **Danny Lough, 740-638-5030 ext. 2232**
- **The Wilds Admission, 740-638-5030 ext. 2232** (only during operating hours)
- If after hours, please contact the **Nomad Ridge Concierge, 740-638-5030 ext. 2002**

CELL PHONE POLICY

No cell phones. Cell phones have become an integral part of today's society, but they can inhibit campers from building relationships with new friends and connecting with the outdoors. The temptation of using applications on a cell phone can distract campers from getting the most out of the camp experience. In addition, communication with those back home has been documented to cause and increase homesickness. We know it is difficult to transfer primary care of your child to someone else, but our trained staff is well prepared to take great care of your child while they are at camp. We will contact you if your child experiences any problems while they are with us at The Wilds.

Legal guardians are provided with the phone number of WildeCamp, contact information of the Director, and The Wilds Conservation Education and Engagement Department email to contact their campers. Legal guardian information for up to four emergency contacts are stored on CampDoc and reviewed at the time of drop-off by both legal guardians and camp staff. All other personal electronics (e.g. hand-held video games, music players, etc.) are not allowed at WildeCamp.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Weather is monitored throughout The Wilds property using weather radios and staff transmissions. If severe weather is imminent, campers will evacuate to our shower house at camp (a brick building with no windows). Camp activities will continue at these locations.



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CONTACT YOUR CAMPER

To email your camper, send the email to education@thewilds.org and write **"WildeCamper [camper's name]"** in the subject line. Emails to the campers will be printed and distributed daily. ***Please note: campers will not be able to respond to email they receive.***

HEAD LICE POLICY

It is the guardian's responsibility to make sure their campers are free of lice before arrival. All campers will be checked for head lice at camp check-in. Any camper suspected of having lice will not be allowed to participate and will be sent home without a refund. If families wish to seek treatment from Lice Centers of Ohio so their child may return to camp, they will need to present proof of treatment from this organization. It is encouraged that you check your camper for lice before arriving for camp. We will allow campers to reschedule to a later date if there is availability.

Once at camp, families will debark, tour camp with their camper, and attend the closing ceremony. After the closing ceremony, you will load back on the buses with your camper and head back down towards the Fishing Lake to load into your vehicle. You will then follow a Camp Counselor in a vehicle out to Zion Ridge Rd.

VIOLENCE AND BULLYING

The Wilds has a zero tolerance policy regarding violence and bullying. Campers exhibiting these behaviors will be sent home without a refund.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations must be made at least four weeks in advance of the first day of camp to receive a full refund. Cancellations made at least two weeks prior to the first day of camp will receive an 80% refund. (If less than a two-week notice is given, no refund will be issued.) Refunds cannot be issued for children who become sick and unable to participate in part of or all of a program. **There will be no make-up days for any reason.**

ANIMALS

As an AZA-Accredited facility, all pets (both with the camper and the legal guardians) are strictly prohibited from the premises due to the risk of zoonotic diseases (this includes emotional support animals). Licensed Service Dogs are permitted to be with the camper during their time at camp and with a legal guardian. If the Licensed Service Dog is the camper's, documentation must be provided to the camp and a copy is scanned to the Director of Conservation Medicine to keep for their files.



PERSONAL PROPERTY POLICIES

PERSONAL ITEMS

Non-electronic and non-sport items may be kept with the camper at the discretion of camp staff. These items may include books, cards, and craft supplies. Electronic items should be left at home unless used for camper health and safety (e.g. an insulin pump, reader app on a phone).

Sports equipment (e.g. fishing rods, baseball, frisbees, etc.) may be brought to WildeCamp and be used by the camper. The equipment will be stored at the Staff Yurt and be taken in and out of the Staff Yurt by a WildeCamp Staff member. If the camper does not use the sports equipment properly or it is violating our behavior policies, camp staff may withhold the equipment until camp pick-up.

Money for the gift shop will be taken upon check-in of the campers. The money will be counted and stored in an individual envelope with the camper's name and yurt. All money envelopes will be stored in a lockbox and stored in a locked cabinet at WildeCamp until campers go to the giftshop. If a camper is found with money outside of the gift shop, the money will be recorded with the camper's name and yurt and stored in the lockbox. During gift shop times, a limited number of campers will go and make purchases under the guidance of the On-site Programs Coordinator or WildeCamp Lead. Any extra money left from purchases will go back into the lockbox and be given to parents at pick-up.

WEAPONS

Personal weapons (firearms, bows/arrows, pocket knives, etc.) are strictly prohibited from WildeCamp. Pocket knives, bows/arrows, and sharp tools will be confiscated from the camper and held in the Director's office until camp pick-up where it will be given directly to a legal guardian. Possession of a personal firearm is grounds for immediate dismissal from WildeCamp. In the event a personal firearm is found in the possession of a camper, the firearm will be turned over to security to be placed in the gun cabinet located at the OPs building until parents arrive. Depending on the severity of the situation, local law enforcement may be called in to write a formal citation.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Alcohol is strictly prohibited for both campers, guests, and staff at WildeCamp. If alcohol is seen in the possession of any of these parties, it may be grounds for dismissal from the program.

All medications (both prescription and over the counter) whether campers, guests, or staff must be registered with the camp nurse and stored in the First Aid cabinets in the staff yurt. All over the counter medications must be in their original packaging. Epi-pens may stay with the camper, guest, or with a staff member in case of emergency and after registration with the nurse. All medications whether brought with the camper/staff member or given by the camp will be logged into CampDoc.

The Wilds is a smoke-free facility and as such all forms of tobacco and marijuana products are strictly banned from WildeCamp property. This is also extended to vapes at WildeCamp for campers, guests, and staff. If tobacco, marijuana, or vapes are seen in the possession of any of these parties, it may be grounds for dismissal from the program

VEHICLES

All campers, regardless of age, MUST be dropped off and picked up by a legal guardian. The legal guardian MUST accompany them through the check-in process, including reviewing medications, emergency contact information, and health concerns. Campers cannot have their personal vehicles on-site during WildeCamp except for pick-up and drop-off. Campers and guests are NEVER to drive Wilds-owned vehicles.



TICK AWARENESS

As with any outdoor exposure, it is possible for campers to be exposed to ticks. Ticks are arachnids that may carry transmittable diseases, the most common of which is Lyme Disease. The Wilds Education team will make every effort to alert campers of ticks, but the best line of defense is for your camper to be prepared prior to arrival. Talk with your child about the following tips so they know how to prevent tick issues. Also, be sure to thoroughly check your child for ticks when they return home.

TIPS

- Wear light colored clothing.
- Cover wrists and ankles. Tuck pants into socks and opt for long sleeves.
- Wear clothing made with Insect Shield technology.
- Spray your clothes with Permethrin, which kills ticks on contact. **Never spray it on skin!**
- Wear insect repellant with at least 20% DEET.
- Shower after being outdoors to wash off ticks.
- When you return home, put your clothing in the dryer on high heat for 15 minutes.

BODY CHECK

- Check for ticks after being outdoors, and be sure to do one final check before going to bed.
- Check sides of body
- Groin area
- Back of knee
- Under armpit
- Back of neck
- Belt area, watch strap, underneath hairline

WHAT TO DO

If your child finds a tick which has attached to them, tell them to notify a WildeCamp staff member immediately. However, if you find a tick at home, do the following:

- Remove tick immediately.
- Use pointy tip tweezers.
- Grab the tick close to the skin and use a slow, steady motion to pull the tick upward and away from the skin.
- Do not twist, jerk, or agitate the tick while removing.
- After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and wash your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
- Identify the tick
- Save or flush down the toilet.
- Consider having the tick tested for harmful diseases.

LYME DISEASE SYMPTOMS

- Flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, sweats, muscle aches, fatigue, nausea, and joint pain)
- Headaches or stiff neck
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Poor memory or inability to concentrate
- Bell's palsy (facial paralysis)
- Rash shaped like a bullseye (sometimes rash is different or no rash at all)
- Heart palpitations

CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF:

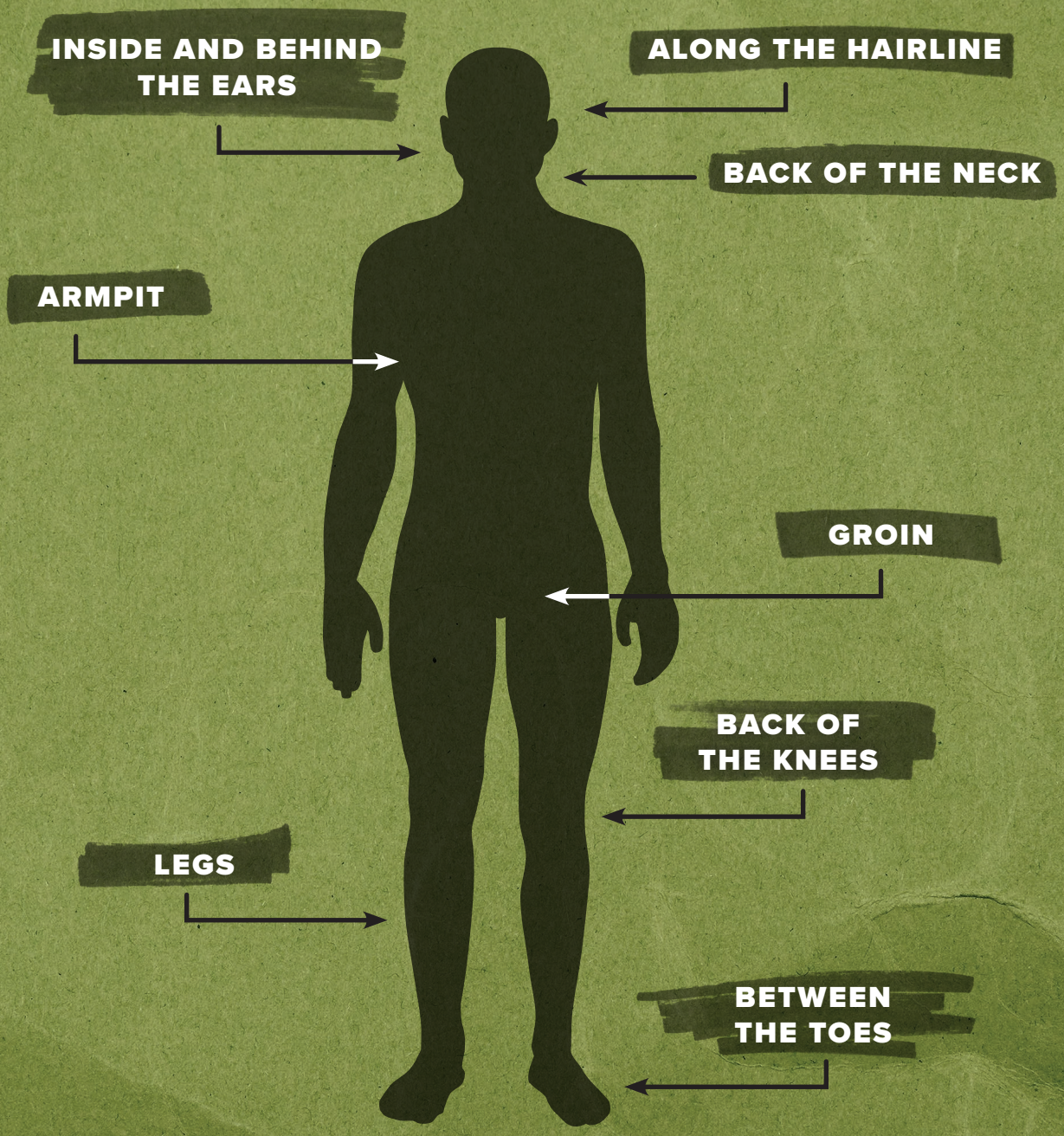
- A tick has been attached for more than 24 hours (transmission time is debatable so use your best judgment).
- You are unable to remove the tick.
- You develop flu-like symptoms.
- You are undergoing Lyme Disease treatment

Patients treated with appropriate antibiotics promptly after being bitten usually recover rapidly and completely. ***Left untreated the disease can progress and symptoms can become debilitating and difficult to treat.***

IS THERE A TICK ON YOU?

DO A TICK CHECK!

HERE IS WHERE TO LOOK:



TICKS ARE TINY, SO LOOK FOR ANY NEW 'FRECKLES.' THESE ARE ACTUAL SIZE:

