

Woodbury County Conservation Summer Day Camps

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I register?

We will begin registrations on Wednesday, April 6 2010 at 9:00 a.m. for Woodbury County Conservation Foundation (WCCF) members. Non-members can begin registering one week later on Wednesday, April 13 at 9:00 a.m. See the registration information tab for more details and registration form.

Can I register for more than one camp?

We ask that you only register each child for one camp to start with. If openings are still available after May 15, 2011 you may register for additional sessions.

What is the camper to staff ration?

Our camper to staff ratio is 14 to 20 campers to 2 staff members. The younger the children the fewer campers per staff members. This doesn't include additional camp volunteers that assist with each camp.

Who are the staff and what are their qualifications?

Theresa Kruid is a full-time staff naturalist and started the camp program in 1997. She has more than 18 years experience working with children in day camps. She loves experiencing nature with others.

Jim Henning is a full-time staff resource naturalist and will assist with the camps and sharing his knowledge and experience with outdoor skills.

Dawn Snyder is the Education Director and will also assist with camps when needed. She has over 20 years experience in the field.

We will hire **four summer naturalists** that are college students or graduates interested in the environmental education field. We carefully screen applicants and interview those who have experience working with kids (previous camp experience, student teaching, volunteering, etc.). We also look for people who have that certain spark that makes them kid magnets. These seasonal staff participate in at least one week of training, have passed background checks and work closely with the full-time staff.

What about volunteers?

The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center has a wonderful group of junior and adult volunteers. We have many junior volunteers that assist with our camp program, most of which are former campers themselves. Junior volunteers must be at least 12 to help with camp program. All camp assistants go through a training before camps start. For more information on the volunteer program, contact Betty West, Volunteer Coordinator at 712-258-0838 or bwest@sioux-city.org.

Are the activities age appropriate?

Our camps are divided into age groups just for this reason. We try hard to provide activities that are oriented to your child's age.

When do we receive our camp T-shirt?

We hand these out on the first day of camp. We try to all wear them on the last day of camp also.

What about Safety?

All full-time and part-time Woodbury County staff are certified in CPR and First Aid. First Aid kits are carried with the groups on the trails and larger kits are placed throughout the building. All staff, including seasonal staff are qualified and trained to handle safety issues with children.

We do our best to prevent injuries, however nature is unpredictable and occasionally they do occur. Bee stings, falls off steps, tripping on the trails and other minor injuries may happen. We also ask that children be active participants in their own safety by not wandering from the group, asking for clarification if they don't understand directions and responding immediately if asked to by staff.

What about extreme weather?

If the weather is extremely hot, we take frequent breaks indoors to cool off and get drinks of water. If the weather turns rainy, we'll still head outdoors in light rain. When we hear thunder or see lightning, staff are instructed to head indoors immediately. See Weather Procedures under the Policies tab for more details.

What if my child needs medication?

The policy of Woodbury County Conservation Day Camps is to only give emergency, life-saving medications such as epi-pens or rescue inhalers. If your child has other medication needs, we ask that you administer them before or after the camp day. Camp staff is not permitted to administer daily medications. If you need to bring emergency medication, please bring the necessary instructions and discuss this with Theresa Kruid or Dawn Snyder as well as other camp staff before the camp begins.

What if my child has special needs?

Woodbury County Conservation Day Camps strives to accommodate all interested children. Please understand that our camps are very active with multiple transitions and sensory changes throughout the day. All campers are expected to follow directions and the safety rules. If you have specific concerns, please call to discuss your child's particular needs. We will do our best to work with you and your child.

Are snacks and water provided?

We provide one snack with a drink (water or lemonade) to each group daily. We also take several breaks at the water fountains throughout the day. Campers may also bring their own water bottle if they like. If your child has food allergies please mark this on their camper information form and talk with staff to ensure we do not give them foods that will make them ill.

Is lunch provided? When and where do campers eat?

Campers that are 9 years and older must bring their own sack lunch with drink (please no red drinks). Lunches are NOT refrigerated and there is not access to a microwave for campers. Please try to provide a healthy lunch in reusable containers instead of pre-packaged meals, like 'Lunchables'. Campers typically eat between 11:30 a.m. and Noon at the picnic tables or amphitheater outside. If the weather is stormy, campers will eat inside the classroom.

Are sunscreen and bug repellent provided?

Due to allergies and sensitivity of some children's skin, we ask that you apply these things at home BEFORE arriving to camp. Your campers may bring their own to camp for reapplication.

What do I need to wear and bring?

Campers should dress for the weather and in clothes that can get dirty as we will be outdoors much of the time and occasionally use paint with craft activities. Sturdy walking shoes are required, **no sandals or open toe shoes**. Campers may bring a water bottle, hat, raincoat or jacket, camera, binoculars, sunscreen, bug repellent. Each child is responsible for their own belongings. Please **do not** send video games, cell phones, or ipods, etc.

What are your bathroom policies?

All campers must be toilet trained. Campers use the Nature Center bathrooms or outhouses for some camps. After checking with instructors, campers may be allowed to walk to the bathroom themselves or a volunteer may walk with them. Staff and volunteers do not accompany campers into the bathrooms.

If you still have more questions call 712-258-0838 or email Theresa Kruid at camps@sioux-city.org