



Audubon Discovery Camp Parent Information 2010

Camp Director

Returning as camp director is Ellen Murphy who is also the Youth Education Director for the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. She has ten years experience in directing resident and day camps. If you have questions about camp programs,

procedures, or just need more information, you may call her at 304-676-8739.

Staff

Our staff members are generally college students or recent graduates with an interest in environmental education and/or outdoor skills. They spend a week before the campers arrive in intensive training and program development. All staff members are certified in First Aid and CPR and are subject to a criminal background check.

Junior Staff are high school age students who work under the direction of the paid staff.

Daily Schedule

Arrival is between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m. **Please do not drop off your child early as the staff is preparing activities for the day and will not be available to provide child care.** All campers must be picked up promptly at 3:00 pm. Camp leaders have other commitments that do not allow for extended waiting time. **Parents should check in with your child's counselor when dropping off and before leaving with their child.** We require a list of people authorized to pick up your child. (Found on the registration form.) Everyone who picks up children must be prepared to show photo ID every day.

Facilities at Yankauer Preserve

The Audubon Discovery Camp is what some call "rustic!" We have an open air pavilion with ceiling fans in addition to 2 miles of hiking trails and port-a-potties, but no running water. We do provide a 5 gallon cooler of water as an extra supply for campers. Our port-a-potties are cleaned each week.

Facilities at CraftWorks at Cool Spring

The Audubon Discovery Camp is what some call "rustic!" At CraftWorks, we will be using a rustic open-air barn. There will be a port-a-potty, but no running water. We do

provide a 5 gallon cooler of water as an extra supply for campers. The port-a-potty is cleaned each week.

An Invitation to Parents

On Friday, parents are invited to bring lunch and join us for closing activities. At 12:00 noon, each unit will share a bit of what they have done during the week. After the presentations (about 12:45), enjoy lunch with your camper. After lunch, campers have the opportunity to show their parents around the preserve before leaving.

T-Shirts Were Pre-Ordered By May 15

Camp T-Shirts were pre-ordered this year and if you did not order one or registered after May 1, we cannot guarantee that we have one for your camper. We have a very few extras that you may purchase on a first-come, first-served basis. Shirts are \$10 each in sizes Youth XS-XL and Adult S-XL.



Cancellation Policy

Staff members are hired and supplies are purchased based on camper registrations. For this reason, once your child is confirmed in a session, the \$50 deposit is not refundable. **Should you need to cancel, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer your spot to someone on the waiting list.** If a camper is forced to cancel their reservation at the last minute due to injury or illness, a prorated refund of the registration fee will be given. There is no refund for "no shows" or for campers who do not complete the full week session. We do reserve the right to cancel a camp due to low enrollment or emergency conditions. In such cases, a full refund is issued.

Weather

Camp will be held rain or shine, unless severe weather, such as a hurricane, is expected. In these rare cases, the director may cancel the day's activities. Children should come prepared for the weather daily, including a raincoat or poncho. (Umbrellas are not a good choice as they can attract lightening.) Our pavilion provides shelter in the event of heavy rain and we have "rainy day" activities always ready to use if needed.

Lost and Found

Every week, we end up with a box full of water bottles, T-shirts, jackets, shoes, sunglasses, lunch boxes, and personal items that campers forget! The lost and found box is at the pavilion so parents may want to check it every morning. By putting your name on everything, your child can more easily retrieve the correct item. After camp,

we hold on to items for a few weeks, but if they are not claimed, they are donated to agencies such as Goodwill.

Water

Since we do not have running water at Yankauer Preserve, every camper should bring extra water. Campers are encouraged to drink water frequently to prevent heat-related health problems, Juice drinks or 6 oz. water bottles are not sufficient! Large, 20 oz. bottles are great. Campers are encouraged to use reusable bottles. Don't forget to mark it with your camper's name!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Campers are encouraged to bring lunches that are environmentally friendly (with less packaging to be thrown away) in a reusable lunch box. (*Lunch-ables* are convenient, but create lots of trash!) We do have a recycling bin at camp for plastic and aluminum cans. We compost leftover fruits and vegetables. Campers will bring lunch trash home with them, so please let your child know that this is normal at camp. [Each year, we have campers who are convinced that their parents will not let them bring lunch trash home!]

Waiting Lists

We maintain waiting lists for all sessions requested once they are at capacity. When vacancies occur, we notify campers in the order that they registered for the waiting list. Vacancies do occur in sessions, but sometimes they are very close to the beginning of a camp. If you make other plans for a week you are on the waiting list, let us know so that we can remove your name and move someone else up.

What To Bring - Most campers bring everything in a daypack

- Bug spray/lotion. Ticks are found at the Yankauer Preserve, so this is highly recommended. (Be sure to choose one that is appropriate for children's tolerance.)
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Snack, Lunch, Drink (non-caffeinated)
- Extra water bottle (or two since we have limited water on the campsite!)
- Rain jacket or poncho (if forecast)
- Hiking or sturdy shoes (closed toes are best)
- Long pants recommended, but not required
- Socks are not required, but they will help protect ankles

Please do NOT bring:

- iPod, MP3 players, etc, or any electronics/electronic games
- Card games such as Magic, Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh, etc.

- Cell Phones (Staff will have a cell phone for emergencies: 304-676-8739)
- Anything valuable that you do not want to risk being lost or damaged.

Directions to Yankauer Nature Preserve

If you are using a GPS, Yankauer Preserve is across the road from 455 Whiting's Neck Road.

From Martinsburg

Go north on Rt. 11. One mile past the Berkeley Plaza, turn right on Berkeley Station Rd. Go 6.3 miles (after 3 miles the road becomes Scrabble Rd.) then turn left on Whiting's Neck Road. You will see a Wildlife Viewing sign at the turn. The Preserve is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on the right.

From I-81:

Take Exit 20 (Spring Mills Exit) and follow signs to Rt. 11. Turn South on Rt. 11, then left on Bedington Rd. and go through the town of Bedington. When you come to a "T" intersection, turn left onto Scrabble Road and continue another 3 miles. Turn left on Whiting's Neck Road. You will see a Wildlife Viewing sign at the turn. The preserve is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on your right.

From Shepherdstown

From the 4-way stop at Route 45 and 480, take 480 N towards Sharpsburg, MD. Go $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and turn left on to Shepherd Grade Rd (across from the Shepherd stadium). Drive 1.7 miles and bear left onto Scrabble Rd. then continue 4 miles (the road will make a sharp turn to the left at one point, then take you through the community of Scrabble). Turn right onto Whiting's Neck Road. You will see a Wildlife Viewing sign at the turn. The Preserve is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on the right.

Directions to CraftWorks at Cool Spring

If you are using a GPS, Cool Spring Farm's address is 1735 Lloyd Road, but older units (and Mapquest) may call it Haines Rd. Do NOT turn into the main gate.

From Kearneysville, Charles Town

From the intersection of Route 340 and Route 9, continue south on 340/9 toward Berryville and Leesburg (about 6 miles). The 4 lane highway ends and it becomes a two lane road. Soon you'll pass a diner on the right, a produce stand on the left and you'll make a right hand turn immediately after the diner onto Wheatland Road (WV Rd 340/2). Follow to the end of Wheatland Road and turn right onto Lloyd Rd. Continue down Lloyd Rd. The first house on the left is Mrs. Thornton's Cottage. The area we are

using for camp is just before this house. You can turn around at the cottage but watch for traffic!

From Route 51 (Inwood, Gerrardstown) area

Take Leetown Rd toward Summit Point, then turn left onto Summit Point Rd. Continue on Summit Point Rd and turn right onto Lloyd Rd. The first entrance is Cool Spring Farm (has a sign) and the next house on the right is *Mrs. Thornton's Cottage*. The area we are using for camp is just beyond this house.

For more information, call 304-676-8739 or e-mail pvasprograms@comcast.net
To learn more about PVAS and the Yankauer Nature Preserve,
see our website at www.potomacaudubon.org