



MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES

S U M M E R D A Y C A M P

2022 Family Handbook

Welcome to Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp! This camp is made possible through the continued support of WAMY Community Action, Inc., Watauga County Schools, and other various donors & foundations.

We are excited for you to be here and look forward to an incredible summer. Please take the time to read the details pertaining to the camp and get in touch with us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Please read even if your child is a returning camper, as some policies have changed.

OPERATING HOURS

Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp will operate Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp participants may be dropped off at the Valle Crucis Elementary School from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Any child dropped off past 9:00am will not be able to participate in morning field trips and will be assigned a different group for the morning. Please make sure your child is on time so that they can be a part of all activities!

When campers are being dropped off in the mornings and picked up in the afternoons, there will be a variety of activities for them to participate in while we wait for the arrival of other campers. Free breakfast will be served ONLY from 8:00-8:30am. If you arrive after 8:30am, please make sure your camper has had breakfast.

Activities, field trips, & programs will begin at 9:00am and end by 4:30pm each day. If we are on a field trip and running behind schedule, parents will be contacted by camp staff. Please do not try to pick up your child from their field trip unless it is approved prior to the day of by the camp director. Picking up children without prearrangement throughout the day makes it harder for camp staff to keep a role on track throughout the day.

Participants may be picked up only by those on the pick-up list from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. IDs will be checked until staff becomes familiar with family members designated to pick up your camper.

You will be given a four digit code to sign out your student. Every person on the pick up list will have their own code. If you forget your code or if someone does not know their code, we will check ID and help with sign in/out.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp is designed to ensure that the whole child is provided with tools to reach his or her full potential. Your camper will enjoy all the fun learning opportunities that are planned for the duration of the summer. The program strives to make learning more fun and experiential! We appreciate your input and support for the program and hope you will take the time to participate in some of the activities and workshops offered.

Mountain Adventures will also have the opportunity to participate in physical fitness activities, group games, creative projects, and team building initiatives. If you participate or volunteer in ANY activities with the program please be sure to sign in as a parent-volunteer on that day. Your camp counselor will have the appropriate sign in sheets.

BEHAVIOR AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Your camper/campers are expected to adhere to all rules and regulations, follow the code of conduct and follow directions from staff, volunteers, and program leaders. If behavior, personal safety, or the safety of others becomes an issue, you will be notified to pick up your child immediately. The acting summer camp counselor will review a report with you concerning the incident. Staff will ask you to sign the report saying that you understand what happened and the consequences for the behavior. *A detailed description of our behavior policy can be found in this packet.*

PARENT CONDUCT

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to ask the summer camp counselor or call the Camp Director at: Emily Neff 828-264-2421 or 828-773-9986.

We are striving to create a safe and fun environment for campers, staff, and parents. In order to ensure a secure place for your camper, camper's parents/guardians must also adhere to all rules and regulations. These rules apply in any setting where campers are in attendance whether on school grounds or field trip settings. If a parent's behavior is considered threatening or unsafe by the camp director, your camper's services may be suspended or terminated if deemed necessary. Parents/ guardians should refrain from any verbal or physical altercation with any staff member, camper(s), or other adults. The camp staff have received instructions to contact the proper authorities to ensure everyone's safety. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide any item(s) needed by their youth in order to participate in the Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp activities. If there is an issue with this, please speak to the camp director.

CAMPER PICK UP

ONLY the individual(s) listed on the camper/campers pick-up list may pick up your camper/campers. No individual that is a registered sex offenders will be allowed to pick up camper(s). If you need to add someone to your pick-up list, please have a camp counselor write the new name and phone number in your students packet. If there is an existing legal custody document, please send a copy with your registration packet. As legal custody changes, please send updated information. If you arrive later than 6:00 pm, late fees will apply. Late fees are \$1.00 per camper for every minute late. This payment will be given to the staff member that had to stay late with your camper.

THINGS TO LEAVE AT HOME

We are striving to create a fun, safe, learning environment for our campers. In order to ensure safety, DO NOT BRING: cell phones, ipads, phone watches, radios, jewelry, CDs, MP3's, CD players, bicycles, pagers, video games, magazines, ipods, laptops, roller/wheel shoes, skate boards, knives, cigarette lighters, tobacco, drugs, non-prescription drugs, alcohol, guns (including play guns and water guns), fireworks, weapons, gum, pets, large sums of money, or anything of great value. ***Should your camper bring one or more of these items, it will be held by the camp director and your camper could face suspension from the program. If any money, personal belongings, or electronics are lost/stolen/broken, it is not the responsibility of the camp.***

DRESS CODE

Campers are expected to follow the dress code set forth by Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp and WAMY Community Action, Inc. There are days that campers are required to wear comfortable closed-toe shoes for hiking or doing other physical activities. Campers may leave tennis shoes or other hiking appropriate shoes in their locker as long as the shoes go home on the weekends. If your camper does not have the appropriate attire for an activity, they will not be allowed to participate. The Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp Program respects the camper's right to choose his or her own style of dress or appearance. However, campers are expected to adhere to standards of dress that are compatible with the requirement of a good camp environment. If a camper's dress is such that constitutes a threat to health or safety, the director or director's designee may require the camper and the camper's parents or guardians to take appropriate action to remedy the situation. In addition, if a camper's dress or appearance is so unusual, inappropriate, or lacking cleanliness that it clearly disrupts the camp or its learning activities, the camper may be required to change his or her dress or appearance. The director or director's designee shall handle camper violations of this policy. The first violation of this policy may result in a verbal or written warning in addition to requiring that the camper change their dress or appearance. A second violation of this policy may result in suspension from camp, not to exceed one day. A third violation of this policy will result in immediate removal from camp and an indefinite suspension from the camp. The director will maintain guidelines to assist campers in determining appropriate dress and appearance for camp, and copies will be made available for parents and campers. Items listed below shall be included in all guidelines and shall apply to all campers. Reasonable accommodations will be made by the director or director's designee for those campers who, because of sincerely held religious belief, cultural or medical reason, request a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance.

- Clothing must not be disruptive to the camp environment and cannot be provocative, revealing, indecent, vulgar, obscene, or profane.
- Excessively short shorts are not allowed at camp. This includes, but is not limited to, dresses, skirts, jeans, pants, shorts, skorts, and slacks. These articles of clothing may not expose underwear or skin, nor may they be see-through.
- Bathing suits must be 1 piece or cover the midriff area (ex. tankini). If a camper is wearing a 2 piece bikini, they must wear a cover up shirt. Swimming trunks are acceptable for male campers but a t-shirt or rash guard shirt must be worn as well. *Please make sure that your camper has their bathing suit with them at camp EVERY DAY; as our plans do sometimes change due to the weather.*
- Undergarments may not be visible.
- Footwear: Please make sure your camper wears/brings closed toed shoes every day. Chacos or other hiking footwear is acceptable. Flip flops and non-hiking sandals are not recommended at camp.
- Clothing that promotes gang affiliation, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, the use of a controlled substance, depicts violence, is of a sexual nature, or is of a disruptive nature is prohibited.
- Camp will have a lost and found bin that will be emptied at the end of each month and donated to a local thrift store. Please check the lost and found daily to ensure that your camper has not lost any items.
- A good tip for your campers clothing, water bottle, lunch box, etc... is to label with their name or initials so camp staff can easily identify who items belong to and get them back to you safely.

LUNCH AND SNACKS

- Mountain Adventures will provide all youth with a healthy snack in the morning and afternoon.
- Breakfast & Lunch will be provided to all youth each day at no extra cost. Students can pack their lunch as well but are encouraged to take advantage of the camp meals.
- Mountain Adventures will accommodate youth with special dietary needs upon written request from the child's doctor. Please let the camp director know if your child has specific needs at the beginning of camp.

CLEANING/MAINTENANCE

It is the responsibility of the Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp staff on duty to clean and sanitize all areas utilized at their site at the conclusion of each day. Camp staff will sanitize and clean all surfaces throughout the day and at the end of camp daily.

MEDICAL INFORMATION/RELEASE FORM

The Medical Information/Release Form must be fully completed and returned to the site director. Please make sure you indicate a doctor, the doctor's phone number, and a hospital preference. Additionally, let us know of any special medical condition and all allergies. If your camper has an inhaler, we need to have access to one at the site at all times. Action Plan forms are available if your camper has diabetes, asthma, seizures, or food allergies. If your camper requires medication during the camp hours of 8am-5pm, you and your doctor must provide prescription information, and a completed medication permission form. All medical information will be kept strictly confidential.

SUNSCREEN

The Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp is happy to provide sunscreen for your camper; 30 - 50 SPF is provided on hot sunny days and will be reapplied as needed. Please remind your camper(s) that using sunscreen helps protect their skin. Your camper may also bring their own sunscreen if needed.

SIGN IN/OUT

Each day your camper(s) must be signed in and out by an adult/parent/guardian that is listed in the camper's pick up list. Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp will not release any camper(s) unless the person picking them up is on the pick-up list. In order to ensure each camper's safety, you must physically come into the building and sign your camper(s) in and out of the program on a daily basis. No other camper will be allowed to sign out another camper, including themselves or other siblings under any circumstances. Siblings over 16 years old are allowed to pick up children as long as they are listed on the pick-up list.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE PROGRAM

Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp has a cell phone that will direct you straight to the front desk at camp. Please feel free to contact the camp staff on the camp cell phone if you have an emergency. However, due to supervision being the number one priority, you might have to leave a message or try calling the WAMY office if you cannot get through. Phones will be on from 7:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. daily.

CAMP CELL PHONE: 828-773-6085

WAMY BOONE OFFICE: (828) 264-2421

Valle Crucis Elementary School: (828) 963-4712

Camp Director Cell Phone- (828)773-9986

Please remember that the Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp is not the responsibility of Watauga County Schools. If you have a concern or would like an issue addressed, please call (828)264-2421 and ask for the Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp Program Director. Please only use the Cove Creek school phone number if it is an emergency and you have tried all other phone numbers listed above. The Program Director will be available by calling (828)773-9986, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. If you are unable to reach them, please leave a message as they are often within the program or chaperoning field trips.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE CAMPERS

We want your camper to be actively involved in setting up individual goals and participating in activities. We want your camper to have a part in watching his or her progress throughout the summer. We expect your camper to obey the rules established by the behavior policy and the code of conduct policy. Failure to do so could mean temporary suspension or permanent suspension from the program. We have many campers we are serving and need to ensure a safe and secure environment for all involved.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE PROGRAM

1. We will work to engage each camper and make camp fun and enriching.
2. We will listen to concerns and work to address them in the best possible way.
3. We will do our best to work collaboratively with you and your camper.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE POLICIES

At Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp, we do our very best to work with and encourage all the campers. Below is the discipline and behavior management policy. It is important that staff maintain good order and discipline in all programs. Top objectives are safety and a positive atmosphere for learning and developing social skills. We make every effort to help children understand clear definitions of acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

Mountain Adventures does not condone and will not permit:

1. Corporal punishment
2. Ridiculing, threatening, using and inappropriate loud voice
3. Leaving children unsupervised
4. Use of profanity.

A child's behavior is expected to be consistent with the following:

1. Use appropriate language at all times
2. Cooperate with staff and follow directions.
3. Respect other children and staff, equipment and facilities, and yourself.
4. Maintain a positive attitude
5. Stay in program areas — running away is not acceptable
6. Participate successfully within the program's staff-child ratio specific for each program.

Mountain Adventures Discipline Policy

1. If a child is unable to comply with the behavior expectations after many warnings and parent notifications, a conference will be held by the program director with the child.
2. If after the above meeting the child is still unable to comply with the behavior expectations, a behavior contract will be established and signed by the parent(s)/guardian and the program director.
3. If the child's behavior continues to be disruptive and/or unsafe, the child will be subject to suspension or dismissal.

First offense: Warning/written notification to parents/guardians

Second offense: 1 day suspension

Third offense: Multiple day suspension

Fourth offense: Withdrawal from the program at Camp Director's discretion

Behavior which may result in immediate suspension or dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- Any action that could threaten or pose a direct threat to the physical/emotional safety of the child, other children or staff. Prohibited conduct may include, but is not limited to, abusive jokes, insults, slurs, threats, name calling, bullying, physical abuse, racial comments, sexual comments, or intimidation.
- Fighting
- Possession of a weapon of any kinds
- Vandalism, destruction, or theft of Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp property or property of others
- Sexual misconduct
- Possession of or use of alcohol.
- Possession of or use of controlled substances unless under the prescription of a doctor
- Running away
- Biting

In addition, camp staff will have incident and behavior reports that they fill out if a camper's behavior is repeatedly inappropriate or unmanageable or if a camper is injured. Please keep an open line of communication with staff members regarding your camper's efforts, improvements, behaviors, achievements, and areas of growth. We do our best to meet each camper at his or her individual level and want each one to be active, positive, and excited to be in Mountain Adventures. At times, we must also face very hard decisions about keeping campers in the program for a variety of reasons. We find that it helps immensely if guardians can encourage their campers to do well in Mountain Adventures and if they keep an open line of communication with the site staff.

Abuse/Neglect – If Mountain Adventures Summer Day Camp staff suspect and/or witness incidents of child abuse or neglect, a report will be made immediately to the Department of Social Services by the staff person who suspects/witnesses the abuse/neglect.

Each day your camper should bring the following items to camp:

1. Swim suit or clothes to get wet
2. Extra pair of clothes
3. Tennis shoes & socks (or other hiking related shoes)
4. Towel
5. Sunscreen (unless using camp sunscreen)