



144 Oenoke Ridge
New Canaan, CT 06840
Tel (203) 966-9577 Fax (203) 966-6536
www.NewCanaanNature.org

Greetings 2011 Summer Camp Families!

On behalf of the entire staff of New Canaan Nature Center, welcome to Summer Camp 2011. We are thrilled that you have chosen NCNC for a summer filled with fun and learning in the great outdoors! We look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting many new friends this summer.



My name is Geoff McCann and I am returning for my second year as Summer Camp Director. During the school year I also serve as the Nature Center's Education Program Manager. My nickname is "Geo" and I am an avid outdoorsman. I have lived and worked in Alaska, and bring over nine years of summer camp management experience to our program.

My name is Anna Zielinski and I am returning for my second year as Summer Camp Field Director. I am also an Environmental Educator and preschool teacher at NCNC with nine years of camp experience. If I'm not playing and learning outside with kids, you can find me hiking, crocheting or traveling to a new destination.



Together we both look forward to working with our staff of full-time naturalists, early childhood educators, and experienced summer camp counselors to provide a summer experience that will captivate, inspire and dazzle your child!

Please review the enclosed contents of this Welcome Packet carefully to ensure that everything is in order before the start of camp. Please use the enclosed envelope to return all camp forms or just drop them off at the Visitor Center front desk.

Contents include the following:

- ✓ Camp Overview & Guidelines
- ✓ Camper Information Form (**must complete one for each camper**)
- ✓ Camper Health Exam/Record Form (**must be signed by physician AND parent/guardian**)
- ✓ Confirmation Letter
- ✓ Return Envelope (for ALL Camp Forms)

Please use the enclosed envelope to return ALL forms to the Nature Center at least two(2) weeks prior to your child's first day of camp

Due to strict Connecticut state licensing regulations, we **must have all paperwork (Health Exam Form, Camper Info Form, and applicable Medication Administration Forms)** on file no later than two weeks before your child attends camp. ***Your child will not be considered fully registered unless we have received her/his forms.*** This means that you must give us the Health Exam Form, signed by a physician and parent/guardian, before you may leave your child in our care. NO EXCEPTIONS can be afforded. This is a serious matter of state licensing regulations, so please **Return ALL Forms** to help us maintain licensing standards and provide a worry-free check-in process once camp begins.

All forms, including the Health Exam/Record Form, may be downloaded from our website at <http://www.newcanaannature.org/programs/camp/registration2011.php>

Cheers and happy trails,

Geoff McCann
Summer Camp Director
(203) 966-9577 x38
camp@newcanaannature.org

Anna Zielinski
Summer Camp Field Director



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CAMP FORMS

We are required by law to have camper emergency information and a valid health form on file before your child(ren) attend(s) camp.

Your child(ren) may not begin camp until we have these forms on file. NO EXCEPTIONS can be afforded. Return all forms no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of camp.

Forms can also be found on our website at
<http://www.newcanaannature.org/programs/camp/registration2011.php>

1. CAMPER HEALTH EXAM/RECORD FORM

- Health Exam/Record Forms must be **signed each year by a physician.**
- Camper must have had a Physical Exam within the past 3 years.
- **REQUIRED for ALL CAMPERS.**
- Physician must sign our form (but can also attach medical exam / history info).
- **For 2010-11 New Canaan Nature Center Preschool:** We will automatically pull your Health Record Form from the 2010-11 preschool files; however, we will still need a Camper Information Form.

2. CAMPER INFORMATION FORM

- **REQUIRED for ALL CAMPERS even if they attended camp last year.**
- Must be **signed by parent/guardian** each year.
- This form provides important up-to-date Emergency Contact & Emergency Release information along with current authorized persons to pick-up child(ren) from camp.

3. MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FORM

- **REQUIRED for ALL PRESCRIPTION and NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**
- Must be **signed by both physician and parent/guardian.**
- Applies to all medications to be administered by NCNC staff or self-administered by camper.
- Form can be found online at www.newcanaannature.org/programs/camp/registration2011.php

ALLERGIES and MEDICATIONS

The New Canaan Nature Center is a PEANUT and TREE NUT Aware Campus!

- DO NOT send peanut or tree nut products with your child.
- For Adventure Camp trips, some peanut products may be allowed after assessing any camper allergies. You will be advised of these plans prior to the trip.
- **If your child is coming to camp with medication (prescription or non-prescription), we must have a MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FORM** (found on NCNC website or Visitor Center front desk).
- All of our summer camp staff are trained in CPR, First Aid and Medical/Epi-pen Administration.
- **MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FORM must be signed by a doctor and a parent or your child cannot attend camp with medications.**
- All Medications, including Epi-pens, must each have their own form and **must be**
 - **In original packaging**
 - **With the prescription on the box/container, if applicable.**

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR YOUNGER CAMPERS

Your child must be potty trained by the time of arrival at camp. We are licensed as a summer camp and this means it is illegal for us to change diapers or clothes for campers. Please dress the very youngest campers in clothes that are easy to get on and off by themselves to help prevent accidents and send a change of clothes just in case. We will do our best to appropriately assist as we're able in the case of accidents.



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WHAT TO EXPECT UPON ARRIVAL AT CAMP

CAMP TIMES & CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

AM Half Day – 9:00am to 12:00pm	Lunch Bunch – 12:00pm to 1:00pm
PM Half Day – 1:00pm to 3:30pm	Mommy, Me, & Nature – time vary
Full Day – 9:00am to 3:30pm	

Please note: All Age 3 camp sessions and lunch bunch do not meet on Wednesdays

All campers will meet in their assigned classroom space for check-in / check-out. Signs and staff will be posted to help direct you to each camp classroom. Classrooms have been arranged according to certain specifications, including maintaining a safe camper to staff ratio, and will serve as “base camp” for beginning and ending each day as well as other activities requiring indoor space. Classrooms are subject to change; however, it is our intent to keep the meeting spaces the same throughout the summer. We will notify all parents at check-in / check-out time of any changes.

Camper Age Group	Session Time	Classroom Meeting Space	Building
Mommy, Me, & Nature	Varies	Discovery Room	Visitors Center
Age 3	AM ½ day (9:00am – 12:00pm)	Salamander Room	Education Annex
Age 4 -5 Morning Group 1	AM ½ day (9:00am – 12:00pm)	Forest Room	Education Building
Age 4 -5 Morning Group 2	AM ½ day (9:00am – 12:00pm)	Meadow Room	Education Annex
Age 4 -5 Afternoon	PM ½ day (1:00pm – 3:30pm)	Forest Room	Education Building
Age 4 -5 Full Day	Full Day (9:00am – 3:30pm)	Tree Room	Education Building
Age 6-7	Full Day (9:00am – 3:30pm)	River Room	Education Building
Age 8-10	Full Day (9:00am – 3:30pm)	Lake Room	Education Building
Age 10-12 (Adventure Camp)	Full Day (9:00am – 3:30pm), except for overnight trips	Green Room	Greenhouse
Age 11-14 (Adventure Camp)	Full Day (9:00am – 3:30pm), except for overnight trips	Green Room	Greenhouse

CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE

1. Doors open for drop off at 9:00am sharp (1:00pm for PM ½ day). Please be on time for camp. Your punctuality helps us make the most of every moment we have with your child(ren) and ensures proper camp safety protocols.
2. All campers must be checked-in before they can be dropped off to camp. Check-in sheets will be located in each respective classroom. Please SIGN your whole name legibly (no initials) along with the time of check-in.
3. Attendance is taken every morning to ensure proper safety. If for some reason you need to keep your child home from camp, please contact the Summer Camp Director at 203-966-9577 x 38 or e-mail camp@newcanaannature.org.
4. If you will not be picking up your child(ren) at the end of camp, please ensure whomever is picking up your child(ren) is listed on the Camper Information Form. For the safety of your child(ren) **only adults listed on the Camper Information Form will be authorized to pick-up your child(ren) from camp.** If you need to make additions to the carpool list, please contact the Camp Director.
5. Check-out will take place at each respective Classroom at 12:00pm for AM ½ day groups and 3:30pm for all other groups. Lunch Bunch check-out will take place in the Salamander Room and/or Salamander Courtyard. Please SIGN your whole name legibly (no initials) and the time of check-out.
6. If you have questions for the Camp Director or need to check on registration/payment status, please check-in your child(ren) first and then proceed to meet with camp administrators.



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WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CAMP

After meeting in their respective Camp Classrooms, camper groups will head in a variety of directions around the New Canaan Nature Center trails and grounds to explore the woods and fields, wander around ponds and wetlands, and have fun! Students move from place to place onsite while Adventure Campers travel offsite for some days as well as overnight camping trips. Our instructors lead activities that will directly involve campers in learning basic concepts of ecology and the environment in which they live. Campers will also learn about stewardship while participating in service projects at camp. It is our goal to **be outdoors 80% of the time** in order to allow children to enjoy their summer and to stir their natural curiosities to learn more about the natural world. In cases of inclement/severe weather campers will remain in their Camp Classrooms.

The New Canaan Nature Center is a **PEANUT and TREE NUT Aware Campus.**

SNACK / LUNCH

Students will be very active during their time at camp. We will provide a healthy snack and refreshment for each camper daily during their respective camp program. We are a peanut and tree nut free camp. Our snacks are planned and provided accordingly. If your child has another type of food allergy, we ask that you provide your own snack.

For campers attending FULL DAY (9:00am-3:30pm) camp & Lunch Bunch (12:00pm-1:00pm)

Please do not include any products containing peanuts or tree nuts.

Families need to provide one nutritious sack lunch and a beverage. We suggest a sandwich, fruit juice or water, crackers and cheese, carrots or other vegetable, fruit and other similar fare. Please do not include any foods that require heating via a microwave as many lunches will occur picnic-style outdoors, plus resources are limited and not available in all classrooms. If lunches are comprised primarily of candy, pastries, and soda pop, etc. we will contact parents to request more nutritious food for children enrolled in our programs.

Lunch Bunch campers will be picked-up in the Salamander Room and/or Salamander Courtyard.

Please note any change from your regular drop-off location.

SONG CIRCLE & SPECIAL ALL CAMP ACTIVITIES

Throughout the summer there will be numerous opportunities for parents and caregivers to join in the festivities of summer camp at New Canaan Nature Center. We encourage participation in these special events and hope to see you around camp more often (not just at check-in and check-out). Examples of these fun and entertaining activities include the following:

- SONG CIRCLE – end of day, every day
- CLOSING CEREMONY SONG CIRCLE – last Friday of each session
- SPECIAL THEME PARTY (eg. Beach Day, Superhero Day, etc.) – TBD throughout the summer (we'll send out invites)

During these special events we encourage parents and caregivers to sit with campers. Parents are invited to song circle on the last Friday of each session. If you have more than one child at camp and they are not in the same group, we ask that you pick one child to sit with during the event so the camp groups remain together.

Many special events occur at the end of the day. To ensure the safety of the children, please ensure that you follow our standard check-out procedure and sign your child(ren) out before leaving the premises with him/her. If the program is the final activity of the day, you are welcome to either walk with the group back to the classroom or meet the group at the classroom.



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WHAT TO BRING / WEAR TO CAMP

We want all campers to have a fun and enjoyable time while at camp. Please review the lists below and come prepared for many days of fun in the sun at New Canaan Nature Center! Campers will have cubby areas in which they can store their camp gear. **Please label all clothing with name & phone number.**

Summer Camp at New Canaan Nature Center is Nature Camp, so please have your child(ren) prepared to be outdoors exploring nature. This includes rainy days so please plan accordingly and bring boots and rain gear on days that we have rain. Campers should dress in clothes and shoes that can get dirty. We recommend supplying a change of clothes that can be kept in their cubby. Hip hip hooray for messy summer fun!

Daily Camp Checklist - Items to bring/wear to camp each day

For General Exploring & Fun

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle (refillable) | <input type="checkbox"/> A change of clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun block |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch (no peanuts or tree nuts) for
FULL DAY & LUNCH BUNCH only | <input type="checkbox"/> Bug spray/repellant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sneakers or hiking shoes/boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear and/or poncho |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hat or visor | <input type="checkbox"/> A good attitude |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Adventurous spirit |

For Water Fun & Pond Exploring

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim suit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closed-toe sandals with heel strap
(no flip-flops) | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothes (especially socks) | |

What Not To Bring To Camp

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MP3 players | <input type="checkbox"/> Anything else you would be upset if it got
lost, broken, dirty, or wet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video games | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other electronic devices | |

**Please remember to apply bug repellant and sun block BEFORE camp.
Application of these items is only allowed when accompanied by a Medication Administration form.**

Adventure Camp Gear List

More detailed gear lists will be provided as we get closer to the start of camp. Campers will need to provide their own sleeping bag, sleeping pad, backpack, stuff sack(s), clothes, and rain gear (outerwear). NCNC will provide tents, all cooking equipment and supplies, canoes, paddles, PFDs, and other activity gear.

Thank you so much for your help and cooperation in helping your child(ren) have a safe and happy summer!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us!
(203) 966-9577 x38
camp@newcanaannature.org

Cheers and happy trails,

Geoff, Anna and the 2011 NCNC Summer Camp Crew