



NATURE DAY CAMP 2023

If you have questions regarding any of the information or policies in this packet, please contact PEEC's Summer Camp Manager, Susie Chamberlain at SChamberlain@peec.org or 570-828-2310 ext. 223 or the Education Director, Stephanie Sherman, via camp@peec.org.

General Information

About PEEC

PEEC advances environmental education, sustainable living, and appreciation for nature through hands-on experience in a national park. We are a non-profit educational partner of the DEWA.

A Day at Camp

Your child will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of land, water, and adventure activities. Camp staff plan age-appropriate activities, which include hiking, crafts, sports, orienteering, campfires, team building, canoeing, and much more. A suggested packing list is included at the end of this document.

Sample Activity Schedule	
8:45-9:15	Arrival/ Check-in
9:30-12:00	Activity Periods
12:00-12:45	Lunch
1:00-3:40	Activity Periods
3:45-4:00	Dismissal



Who is with your child?

Our staff have all gone through mandatory staff training, as well as mandatory background checks. All PEEC staff have undergone mandatory Child Abuse prevention training, and behavior and risk management.

Off-Site Field Trips: Swimming & Park Excursions

Off-site field trips will take place. Masking will be at discretion of PEEC with current COVID levels. Parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with PEEC staff about concerns and additional needs. Booster seats are provided for Tadpoles and Polliwogs age groups in vans.

Swimming at Akenac Park will be on Wednesdays for Senior Naturalists and Tadpoles, Thursdays for Junior Naturalists and Polliwogs, and Fridays for Wet & Slimy. Tadpoles & Polliwogs are required to wear life jackets in the water, which PEEC will provide. Junior Naturalists and Senior Naturalists may swim in the deep section only after passing a swim test that entails swimming one lap and treading water.

Thursday - Junior Naturalist Late Nights

Each week, Junior Naturalists have a late-night program on Thursday evenings that includes cooking dinner over a fire. Pickup for Junior Naturalists on Thursday evenings is 8pm. PEEC does not provide van

service for late night activities. Some examples of meals are: hot dogs, walking tacos, quesadillas, pizza mountain pies.

Thursday - Senior Naturalist Overnights

Each week, Senior Naturalists will have the option to spend the night in cabins, yurts, or tents after making dinner over a campfire. Meals are provided during the campers' stay (Thursday dinner, Friday breakfast and lunch). Please make sure you have communicated any food restrictions (vegetarian, allergies, etc.) on your registration form. PEEC will provide the evening dinner and lodging; campers should pack an overnight bag with warm clothing, a sleeping bag/pillow, and any toiletries they might need. Counselors stay in lodging and supervise campers at all times.

Family All Camps

For our 2023 season, we welcome families to join us on **Friday July 28th and August 18th** from 2:00pm to 3:30pm for our All Camp. Activities may include Counselor Hunts, guest speakers, animal presenters and campfire.

Pick-up, Drop-off, and Transportation

Camper Drop-off

Camper drop-off is from 8:45am to 9:10am at the pavilion. Drive down the main campus road, past the large lodges on the left, and down the hill to the pavilion. We will do a "rolling drop-off" as a counselor will greet you at your car for sign-in with proper photo identification. Campers will then be supervised from the vehicle to their designated group area. If you must park, we ask that you park in designated locations next to the Yurts or pavilion.

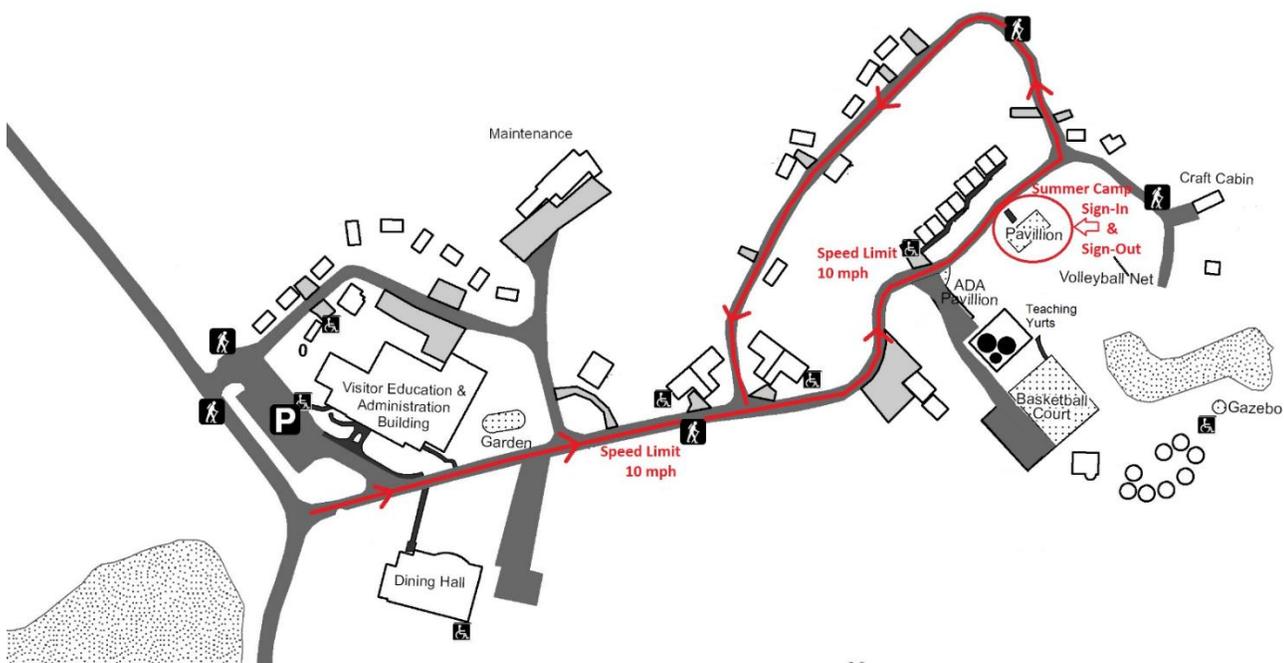
Camper Pick-up

Pick-up is from 3:30 to 4:00pm. Photo identification is required each time you sign out your camper. Campers not picked up past 4:10 will be moved to After Care and a \$15 charge will be assessed.

Only authorized persons (as stated on the registration form) will be allowed to sign out and pick-up any camper. If you need someone to pick up your child who is not on the authorized list, please submit in writing (paper or e-mail) that person's name and contact information to the Camp Director.

Our campus speed limit is 10 mph. For everyone's safety, please adhere to this and be aware that our roads are shared by cars, pedestrians, hikers, and bicycles.

Please review the Drop-Off/ Pick-Up areas and the flow of campus traffic for safety.



Before and After Camp

Before and after camp will be available at PEEC from 8am to 9am and 4pm to 5pm. Campers enrolled may be dropped off at the Pavilion starting at 8am, and picked up by 5pm. Craft supplies and games will be available during this time.

Before Camp is \$15 per camper and After Camp is \$15 per camper for the Monday through Friday service. Payment for before/after care is valid for the Monday through Friday of the week registered and cannot rollover into subsequent weeks.

Transportation – Milford Health and Wellness Center

Transportation to/from Milford is available at 8:30am and 4:30pm at the Milford Health and Wellness Center, located at 111 East Catherine Street. PEEC staff will do their best to contact you using the information provided; if a camper is not present by 8:45 the van will leave in order to minimize delays.

Health and Safety

Please Review PEEC’s COVID-19 Action Plan Online prior to Camp. Masks may be required in transportation regardless of vaccination status. Indoor masking and social distancing will occur based on the National Park’s masking requirements. This information can be found [here](#).

Health Form

The best way for PEEC to provide a safe and healthy atmosphere to our camp communities is for families to partner with us to share any specific physical, emotional, or behavioral needs. Campers with incomplete health or immunization information will not be allowed to attend camp. Those without COVID-19 immunization in addition to other vaccines required for camp will be required to fill out a Vaccination Waiver. If your child needs support or accommodation, please contact us.



Meals & Snacks

PEEC provides a daily afternoon snack for campers at 3:30pm before afternoon pick-up. Bagged Lunches are available as an add-on service for \$50 each week. Bagged lunches include a sandwich/wrap, chips/popcorn, hand fruit and granola bar. Please be sure to provide specifics on any dietary concerns or considerations 2 weeks before camp begins. We encourage parents to connect with us if you need additional meal information for your camper’s wellbeing.

Allergies

If your child has allergies, please specify the allergen and severity on the registration form, including how it is triggered: airborne, touch/contact, ingestion, etc. PEEC can accommodate many allergies. All camp snacks are tree nut and peanut free. We can also provide snacks to accommodate gluten-free, dairy-free, or other food sensitivities.

PEEC cannot control lunches brought in by other campers, such as peanut butter or other potential allergens. Upon request, we can provide a separate “nut free” space.

Medications and Medical Care

No camper is permitted to keep medication of any kind on his/her person. If your child has an Epi-Pen or inhaler, PEEC must have a letter on file from the child’s doctor that states his or her need to carry this medicine. For the safety of all other campers these items must be carried by staff.

All over-the-counter medicine, prescription medicine, and vitamins must be turned in during check-in. Prescription medicine must be in the original bottle with the doctor’s name, dosage, and usage instructions on the bottle. Please put properly labeled medicine containers in a clear plastic baggie with your child’s name. Trained camp staff will dispense all necessary medications as needed.

PEEC has CPR/First Aid trained staff members and a manager on duty 24/7 during the camp week. Should an accident or injury become untreatable at camp, we will make every effort to contact you and the camper's emergency contacts before taking the child off-site for treatment.

The Great Outdoors

During their time here, campers have the opportunity to participate in hiking, games, and other outdoor activities. PEEC practices a Leave No Trace philosophy in respect for the environment throughout all our programs and with all participants.

As in any non-urban area, while at camp there is a risk of insect bites, including mosquito and tick bites, which can result in diseases such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, and other illnesses. Send your child to camp with insect repellent. We will use every reasonable effort to assist your child in the application of repellent. Due to humidity, perspiration and other naturally recurring events, as well as the nature of insect behavior, camp cannot guarantee that your child will not be bitten and/or stung by an insect.

For your child's protection, staff members are not permitted to inspect campers for the presence of ticks or other bites. Upon returning home, examine your child for ticks and other evidence of insect bites or stings and take any necessary medical precautions. For additional information concerning insect borne illnesses, please consult The American Lyme Disease Foundations' website at <http://www.aldf.com/lyme.shtml>, and the US Government Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Behavioral Management

Our rules are based on respect for the safety and well-being of the entire PEEC community. PEEC staff members will review these rules with campers on the first day:

- PEEC has a zero tolerance policy on bullying or discrimination. Campers will not undertake extreme or continued disrespect of others. This includes qualities such as appearance, nationality, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, religion, learning style, ability, family structure, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.
- Campers will not physically or emotionally endanger themselves, other campers, staff members, or any other persons.
- Campers will not steal, harm or destroy campers, staff, or PEEC property or facilities.
- Campers will not leave assigned areas without permission or engage in age-inappropriate activities. Campers found to possess weapons, drugs, alcohol or tobacco products will be dismissed from the program.

Violation of these rules will result in an immediate call home and possible removal from the program. **If dismissal is necessary, it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to make arrangements for their child to be picked up immediately. A refund will not be given.**

Clothing and Equipment Valuables

All personal items brought to camp should have your child's name or initials clearly printed on them. PEEC is not responsible for lost or damaged items. Children are responsible to manage their belongings. Please check the lost and found area at checkout to make sure you go home with everything you

Essentials:

- Ready-to-eat lunch (food that does not require refrigeration or a microwave)
- Clothing suitable for hiking, playing outside, and getting paint or dirt on it
- Rainwear (poncho or rain jacket, boots)
- Sweatshirt or sweater (if cold day)
- Reusable water bottle
- Backpack to carry gear during the day
- Sturdy shoes - sneakers or boots. **No flip flops or Crocs!**

Optional:

- Camera (not a cell phone)
- Watch
- Insect Repellent (recommended)
- Something to tie-dye!

PROHIBITED ITEMS – DO NOT BRING

- Cell phones, tablets, or other electronics (See policy below)
 - Pocket knives
 - Matches or lighters
 - Firearms
 - Valuables
- Campers found to possess weapons, drugs, alcohol or tobacco products will be dismissed from the program.

Electronics Policy

PEEC's camp program has a no electronics policy that extends to cell phones, mp3 players, tablets, hand-held gaming platforms, etc. The youngest generation is amidst a unique situation where they are growing up while constantly connected to vast arrays of information, games, and communication methods. We would like our campers to take a break from a screen and look at the natural world around them. Our camp has so many exciting experiences to offer campers, and electronics distract and detract from that experience.

One of the great benefits of camp is that it is a safe environment where campers can learn independence. This can often be a difficult experience for parents. Your comfort level may feel challenged by not being able to call or text your child. If this is your first time being separated from your child, this might be a difficult week for you. You may be tempted to help your child "sneak" a cell phone into camp. I urge you not to do this.

While we have a no electronics policy we ask that if a cell phone must be brought to camp that it stays put away in backpacks. This helps encourage the campers to unplug as much as possible and not be disruptive or distracting during activities.