Dear Parent,

We are so excited that your child is participating in Ijams Nature Adventure Camp! The following information will help you prepare your child for his/her time at camp.

**CAMP LOCATION AND HOURS**

**Location:** Drop-off and Pick-up are at the **Main Ijams Adventure Camp area**, which is located at the southeast corner of the Mead’s Quarry parking lot...NOT the main **Visitor Center**. For those of you unfamiliar with this location, it is approximately 0.25 miles to the southeast of the main entrance to Ijams on Island Home Avenue.

**Hours:** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, each day

NOTE: Please **make arrangements** to have your child at camp **no earlier than 8:50 am** and to have your child picked up **no later than 4:10 pm**, UNLESS you have registered for the Extended Care Package OR intend to pay extra for extended care.

Early arrival and/or late pick-up outside of these times will result in additional fees charged. You will be billed $25 per day for each child in our care during extended care hours and $10 for every 10 minutes a child is in our care after 5:00 pm. Please inform camp staff in advance if you will be dropping your child off early or picking him/her up late and you have not already purchased the Extended Care Package.

Before Care is available from 8:00 – 9:00 am; we do not allow drop off prior to 8:00 am.

After Care is available from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.

Please escort your child to the check-in table upon arrival and from the check-out table upon departure. A parent or other authorized guardian is required to sign your child in and out each day. In the event that you will be late to drop-off or pick-up, or to arrange for an early or emergency pick-up during camp, use the Emergency Camp Number to CALL or TEXT the Camp Director, Tyler Edmondson, at(865) 414-4152. He can also be reached at his office at (865) 577-4717 ext. 114 or by email at tedmondson@ijams.org.

**Camp Preparation Checklist** (NOTE: YOUR CHILD(REN) WILL LIKELY GET WET EACH DAY!)

**WHAT TO WEAR:**

- Weather appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes/boots, to allow most of each day to be spent outside

**WHAT TO PACK** (EACH LABELLED WITH CHILD’S NAME):

- Daypack (NO DRAWSTRING BACKPACKS, PLEASE)
- A complete change of clothing for EACH DAY, including an extra pair of CLOSED-TOE SHOES that can get wet and one pair of LONG PANTS for rock scrambling and/or bouldering
- Rain Jacket or Poncho
- Lunch with drink
- Two additional snacks for morning and afternoon snack time
☐ Refillable Water Bottle
☐ Sunscreen (a hat and/or sunglasses are also recommended)
☐ Bug Repellent

NOTE: Please leave at home any toys, games, mobile phones, computer games, MP3/CD players, or any other device that will distract campers from a natural experience.

NOTE: Read on for Staff Bios and Camp Policies and Procedures for Campers and Parents
Introducing the Ijams Nature Adventure Camp Staff

Tyler Edmondson, Camp Director
Born and raised in Hershey, PA Tyler grew up exploring local rivers of chocolate and eastern deciduous forests near his home. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from Eastern University in 2003, the call west was too loud for him to ignore, so he promptly moved to Custer State Park in South Dakota, where he began his adventures as an outdoor educator. Over the course of the last 15 years, this pursuit has taken Tyler from the Outer Banks of North Carolina to the redwoods of Northern California and a number of places in between. During this time, Tyler was the director of multiple summer camps and environmental education programs, including Gates Camp with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, Catholic Charities/CYO Teen Camp, and most recently, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Summer Nature Camps. In 2017, he returned east to marry his best friend from college, who is a long-time resident of Knoxville. And, with one year under his belt at Ijams, he is excited to continue growing Nature Adventure Camps. Tyler has extensive personal experience with wilderness travel; he has completed a month-long Outdoor Educator course with National Outdoor Leadership School; and, he is a Leave No Trace Master Educator, Certified Interpretive Guide, and Wilderness First responder.

Amanda Abercrombie, Camp Coordinator
Amanda, aka PANDA, grew up in McMinnville, TN and loves the great outdoors! She has a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies from the University of Tennessee and a lifetime of camping experience with the Girl Scouts. Since graduating from UTK, Amanda has worked with a variety of organizations, particularly in roles that have involved planning and implementing programs and camps for children. During the school year, she works as a preschool teacher for 2- and 3-year-olds. She and her husband, Tom, were married in 2012, and they have 3 cats named Jynx, Loki, and Bartleby. Her favorite camp activities are canoeing/kayaking, arts and crafts, and creek stomping.

Lauren Van Fleet, Activities Lead
Lauren was born and raised in southern Kentucky. She grew up spending her summers visiting family in Knoxville, TN, where she enjoyed hiking, exploring caves, kayaking, and rock climbing. After graduating from DePauw University in Indiana where Lauren earned her B.A. in Environmental Geoscience, she hopped in her car and drove across the country to California! There, she served as an Outreach and Education intern for Lava Beds National Monument and later moved to Oregon to work and live in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument as an Outdoor Science Instructor. While out West, Lauren became a Wilderness First Responder, school bus driver, and Swiftwater Rescue Technician. Lauren currently serves as a Teaching Assistant at Gresham Middle School during the school year and recently started a Master's program in Elementary Education. She is excited to return to Ijams for a second summer as the Activities and Waterfront Lead at Ijams Nature Center and to make new summer camp memories!

Jennifer Billman, Lead Counselor
Jennifer recently settled in Knoxville after living in Alabama, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. She has an Elementary Education degree from Taylor University and has used it in a variety of teaching roles. Through her recent involvement with Ijams' Field Trips and as a substitute teacher at Knox Forest School, she has discovered that her favorite environment to work with children is the great outdoors. She is looking forward to spending the summer exploring Ijams with the campers and staff!
Jessica Nichols, Lead Counselor
Jessica grew up on 35 acres in east Tennessee and has always loved being outdoors. She is very much looking forward to the opportunity to spark a love of nature and the curiosity it brings to younger generations. Helping teach kids about wildlife conservation and helping to foster safe, responsible nature-lovers through fun, immersive experiences is what pulled her toward this position! Jessica has 10+ years of experience leading/teaching groups and has a keen ability to connect to her audience and deliver information in ways that are fun, interesting and well-received. Her experience has not been limited to any single specific audience, as she has worked with groups of all ages and with a variety of subject matter. She is super stoked about making new friends who are as much in love with nature and its conservation as she is!

Isabel Richter, Lead Counselor
Isabel is a senior UTC studying psychology, and will be graduating in December. She is a Knoxville native and a long-time lover of Ijams. When not working at the best job in the world, Isabel enjoys listen to music, trying new local places, and traveling around the world, most recently to China. Isabel has previously worked at camp Tanasi, and this is her second year at Ijams. She loves working with kids, and her favorite things are making connections and seeing campers grow into themselves throughout the week. A camp song lover and a friendship bracelet pro, Isabel is most looking forward to the love, laughter, an ever-worsening Chaco tan, and the adventure this summer is going to be full of!

Sammi Stoklosa, Lead Counselor
Sammi is a birder, yogi, runner, painter, and climber, all hobbies cultivated over years of spending time outdoors. She is originally from Pickerington, Ohio and received a B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the Ohio State University. Sammi spent three years working in outdoor education, first at Glen Helen Nature Preserve and then for two years at Ijams Nature Center as an AmeriCorps member. Her favorite part of each job included working with the raptors and doing stream studies with kids! She then went on to spend two years working for the Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley, which further fed her passion for working with kids. Sammi is overjoyed to be joining the Ijams team again because of her passion for education, as well as the Ijams community. She is currently finishing up her Masters at the University of Tennessee in Middle Grades Math and Science Education. This will be her last summer in Knoxville, as she is moving to Chattanooga in the fall to be a 6th grade math teacher.

James Weimer, Lead Counselor
James is an earth-centric adventurer who attempts to spend as much time immersed in nature as possible. He has a degree in Psychology and a minor in Sociology from the University of Tennessee. His education and related experiences have tailored his approach in life to helping people enjoy the benefits of their planet responsibly. James grew up in Florida and has always been running around outdoors, saving and being fascinated by all creatures. James and his fiancée run their house as a personal rescue zoo currently hosting and loving 8 animals. His ultimate career goal is to use animal-assisted therapy to help people cope and recover, while living sustainably off grid. In the meantime, he strives to teach and lead youth and adults in exploring their planet and the wondrous environments contained within it.

Ashley Dojcsak, Camp Counselor
Ashley just finished her first year of medical school at Lincoln Memorial University, working toward her life goal of becoming a pediatrician. She is originally from southeast Michigan and received her B.S. degree in Biology and Chemistry from Eastern Michigan University. She then moved to Chicago to complete her M.S.
degree in Infectious Disease and Immunology at Loyola University Chicago. She currently lives with her husband, whom she married this past December. Ashley has worked and volunteered in a variety of settings with kids including day care centers, Vacation Bible School, children’s hospitals, and park districts, and she is looking forward to this new experience of teaching kids to love the outdoors!

Reid Guthrie, Camp Counselor
Reid is a Tennessee native and recent graduate of the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. As he finishes out his last few months in Knoxville, he will join the Ijams team for what he’s sure will be a great summer. Reid enjoys reading, hiking, and watching movies in his spare time. Originally from Crossville TN, Reid was a raised on a small farm. Reid plans to apply to Teach for America next year and is hoping the experience gained from working with students this summer will help prepare him for the classroom. Reid is an avid follower of politics and enjoys volunteering for campaigns when he has the time.

Lilly Hackler, Camp Counselor
Lilly grew up in Knoxville TN, spending the majority of her childhood outdoors with her brother and friends. Lilly has always grown up with an appreciation for nature and its beauty. Lilly’s favorite color is yellow because it is happy, and her favorite animal is an elephant. Lilly is now a junior at UTC and is majoring in psychology, while minoring in sociology. Lilly loves the outdoors and working with children and wants to be a recreational/adventure therapist when she graduates. Lilly is beyond excited to spend her summer with children in nature!

Haley Meyer, Camp Counselor
Haley is from New Albany, Indiana where she stayed until going to college at the University of Tennessee. She just graduated with a bachelor’s in Audiology and Speech Pathology from UT and will be going to graduate school for speech therapy this fall in Louisville, KY. Haley is a camp counselor this year at Ijams and loves any type of outdoor activity! She spent the summer of 2018 working in the Rocky Mountains as a craft and design instructor but also enjoys running, kayaking, hiking, and camping!

Ethan Rickman, Camp Counselor
Ethan grew up in Knoxville, where he enjoyed playing sports and spending time outdoors. He just finished his associate’s degree at Pellissippi State, and he hopes to earn a bachelor’s degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. In his free time, Ethan enjoys reading, playing guitar and bass, and learning about the natural world and how to conserve it. He is very excited to help make Ijams Nature Adventure Camp a great experience!

Paisley Rogers, Summer Intern
Paisley will be interning this summer at Ijams Nature Center in order to finish her degree in Forest Management with a concentration in Wildlife Management from Horry Georgetown Technical College in South Carolina. Paisley was born and raised in Conway, SC, and she grew up spending her summers visiting family in New Market, TN, where she enjoyed hiking, kayaking, and swimming. Some of her favorite hobbies include riding four-wheelers, swimming, kayaking, and hunting. She is excited to be a part of Ijams Nature Center!
CAMP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
A copy of current Ijams Day Camp Policies and Procedures is below for your review. By allowing your child to attend camp at Ijams Nature Center, you are indicating your intent to comply with them.

ENROLLMENT
Parents now have the option to pay for camp fees in installments. The schedule of installment payments is as follows:

Parents who register more than 6 weeks prior to the start of camp:
- 25% deposit due at the time of registration
- 50% of the remaining balance is due 6 weeks prior to the start of camp
- Remaining balance is due 2 weeks prior to the start of camp

Parents who register more than 2 weeks but less than 6 weeks prior to the start of camp:
- 25% deposit + 50% of the remaining balance due at the time of registration
- Remaining balance is due 2 weeks prior to the start of camp

Parents who register less than 2 weeks prior to the start of camp are not eligible to enroll in the installment plan. In this case, full camp fees are required at the time of registration.

In all instances, all fees must be paid by 11:59 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the start of the camp session. No enrollments are permitted after this time.

CANCELLATIONS
1. If you cancel with more than 30 days prior to the first day of your selected week of camp, you will be eligible for a full refund (minus a $35 administrative fee) or the opportunity to transfer your registration to a different session (subject to availability and minus a $35 administrative fee).
2. If you cancel between 15-30 days prior to the camp start date, you will be eligible for refund equal to 50% of the full camp tuition for that week.
3. Participants absent at the time of camp or cancelling two weeks or less prior to camp will not receive a refund of fees paid, and fees are not transferable to another week of camp.

Ijams reserves the right to cancel camp sessions with insufficient registration. A full refund will be given for camps cancelled by Ijams.

FRIEND/GROUP REQUESTS
During Ijams Day Camps, we strive to keep like ages together, so that we can tailor our programming and teaching styles to different age groups and keep experiences fresh for campers as they return to our camps over the years. Because of this progression and the developmental stages of children, we try not to move campers to groups outside of their age/grade range. Further, when considering placement within groups, we consider the boy to girl ratio, how many weeks the camper is coming, and other group dynamic variables.

In addition to these considerations, we believe that camp is a great place to develop new friendships, and our staff members are trained to assist campers in this goal by welcoming new campers each Monday and working to be sure everyone feels included. Due to the way our program is structured, with small group sizes and the
flexibility of weekly enrollment, there are limitations in trying to honor friend requests. As a result, we ask that you recognize these limitations and help us prepare for your child's summer by following our friend request policy.

**Friend Request Policy:** Friends requesting to be together must be in the same grade/age/level, and the request must be reciprocal, meaning that both parties must request each other. *Only one friend request is allowed,* and multiple requests will not be honored. Please understand that although we work to honor the reciprocal requests that we receive, FRIEND REQUESTS ARE NEVER GUARANTEED.

**ABSENCES**
We do not issue tuition refunds for late arrival, early withdrawal, missed days, illness, accident, or dismissal during any of our camps due to the high demand for our camp programs. Camper transportation due to early withdrawal/dismissal is the responsibility of the parent(s).

**MEDICAL INFORMATION**
Ijams Nature Center requires complete medical information for each child attending camp. This information is gathered as part of the registration process. In the event that the child's health or medical condition changes between the time of registration and the start of camp, it is the parents'/guardians’ responsibility to notify Ijams Nature Center in writing. The camp director must be notified immediately of any changes to the camper’s health that may affect their time spent in camp (including, but not limited to medications, allergies, injuries, and headaches).

**ADMINISTERING MEDICATIONS**
Ijams Nature Center DOES NOT ADMINISTER MEDICATIONS during any of its day camp programs. Ijams requests that all necessary medications be administered to the child at home (before or after the camp session) when possible. When this is not possible, we will work with the caregiver to create a plan to address the needs of that child. Children may not bring or administer their own medications during camp, unless they are emergency medications and a situation warrants use of them.

**EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS**
Emergency medications are permitted if they are required to be with the participant. Emergency medications are only those used in the prevention and treatment of life-threatening emergency medical situations. Examples may include inhalers, EpiPens, and diabetes medications. During registration, please indicate whether emergency medications will need to be present with the participant during camp. If so, an additional form will need to be completed by a parent/guardian AND a physician prior to participation in camp. This form can be accessed online at [http://ijams.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Emergency-Medication-Form.pdf](http://ijams.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Emergency-Medication-Form.pdf).

**DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP**
To maintain camper safety, each parent will be required to provide a complete list of adults that are approved to drop off and pick up their child. Approved adults are required to sign each camper in and out every day. **Photo ID is required to verify identity.**
ARRIVAL
For your child’s benefit, please arrive on time. It is often difficult for late campers to adjust to the camp day, and it is also disruptive for all of the campers in the group. If you arrive at camp after the designated start time and no staff members are present at the Quarry drop-off/pick-up area, bring your child to the Visitor Center. A staff member will be called to escort late campers to their group. We will make every effort to get campers into camp in a timely manner; however, late arrivals may experience delays. The best part about Ijams Nature Center Day Camp is that it takes place over 300 acres of wild space. As a result, it is not always easy to make arrangements for late arrivals to join their camp group. Late arrivals may have to wait at the Visitor Center until the rest of their group returns.

EARLY PICK-UP/LATE DROP-OFF
If early pick-up or late drop-off is necessary, please make every effort to do so during the lunch period between 12:30 and 1:00 pm.

Also, if you need to pick your child up before 4:00 p.m., please leave a written note with the Camp Coordinator or another camp staff member at morning drop-off. We will then have your child ready for pick-up at the Visitor Center or at the Main Camp Area at the specified time. To avoid interrupting camp activities, please plan to only pick up your child early for mandatory situations such as doctor’s appointments, tutoring, athletic competitions, etc. If you call during the day with an early pick-up request, please allow us at least 45 minutes to locate your child’s group, gather his/her belongings, and walk him/her to the pick-up location.

EXTENDED CARE
Please make arrangements to have your child at camp no earlier than 8:50 am unless you have registered for the Extended Care Package. Before Care is available from 8:00 – 9:00 am. We do not allow drop off prior to 8:00 am.

Camp ends at 4:00 pm. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up no later than 4:10 pm unless you have registered for the Extended Care Package. After Care is available from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.

Extended care sessions will consist of both structured and self-guided activities.

If you need extended care hours during the week, please be sure to purchase the Extended Care Package when you register for camp. The Extended Care Package is $60 for the entire week. If you do not purchase the extended care package prior to the start of camp, you will be billed $25 per day for any late pick-ups or early drop-offs.

In addition to Extended Care charges, any parent picking up after 5pm will incur additional fees. For every 10 minutes after 5:00 pm, an additional $10 will be billed. See examples below:

Example: pick up at 5:15pm (NOT registered for Extended Care)
+$25 (one day fee for Extended Care)
+$10 (first 10 minutes, no prorating)
+$10 (second 10 minutes, no prorating)
=$45 total for the day
Example: pick up at 5:15pm (REGISTERED for Extended Care)
+$10 (first 10 minutes, no prorating)
+$10 (second 10 minutes, no prorating)
=$20 total for the day

PERSONAL INFORMATION
Ijams Nature Center requests that parents share information about learning difficulties, ADHD, Autism, behavioral or health concerns, or significant changes in a child’s life. All of these are factors that affect how campers will handle camp experiences, and having the information helps staff to treat each camper with the necessary compassion and patience.

Ijams Nature Center will not divulge personal or medical information to anyone outside the Center, in an effort to protect the privacy of our participants.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE
Ijams Nature Center follows Knox County Schools’ recommendations for contagious disease. Please refrain from sending your child to camp with a contagious or infectious disease, including fever, ringworm, conjunctivitis (pink eye), and lice. If campers show signs or symptoms of these diseases, parents will be called immediately to pick up the child. Children are prohibited from returning to camp until all symptoms of the disease have passed, or until the camper has been on medication for at least 24 hours. **Campers with lice must be completely nit free before returning to camp.** Parents are required to provide a doctor’s note or proof of medication. No refunds will be issued for a camper’s absence due to illness. It is the responsibility of the parents to inform Ijams Nature Center of any contagious disease your child may be experiencing and take appropriate measures to treat your own child for the given condition.

EMERGENCY PLAN
Your camper’s safety is of the utmost importance to us! Ijams Nature Center maintains a current emergency preparedness plan and adheres to all safety guidelines set forth in those policies. Each of our Day Camp staffers receive training in these areas annually to ensure that your campers can focus on fun, while you can experience peace of mind. You are welcome to reference the detailed policies upon request.

**NOTE:** In the event of a critical incident, all parents are to meet at a staging area, which will be located nearby, but off of Ijams’ property. The exact location will be disclosed at the time of an incident and an alert is sent to parents. Please do not attempt to locate and/or retrieve your camper until you have been notified by Ijams staff to do so. Once Ijams has been deemed secure by the supervising law enforcement agency, parents will be notified via the phone number listed in their file. Please be sure to keep all contact information current.

SAFETY AND FIRST AID
In order to maintain a safe camp experience, all full-time counselors are required to have current First Aid and CPR Certification. A complete first aid kit is kept with each group, each leadership staff member, and at each aquatics activity area. Additional part-time and volunteer camp counselors are trained in basic safety guidelines for indoor and outdoor activities.
INSURANCE
The parent/guardian is responsible for any medical expenses or transportation costs related to a camper’s illness, accident, or departure from the program. In addition, Ijams Nature Center is not responsible for theft, loss or damage to personal property.

BEHAVIOR
Safety is of paramount importance to Ijams Nature Center. In order to maintain our excellent safety record, it is important that campers adhere to all safety guidelines established by camp staff. Disruptive behavior, physical aggression, violence of any sort, inappropriate language, or disrespect of others or their property will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the program. Parents will be responsible for providing transportation, and no refunds will be issued for dismissal that results from inappropriate behavior.

In order to be successful in Ijams Nature Center’s Day Camps, campers must be able to adhere to the following behavioral guidelines with minimal to no supervision (See Essential Eligibility Criteria for a comprehensive list):

- Line up independently
- Sit in a circle independently
- Be able to dress oneself
- Follow directions with minimal supervision
- Transition between activities
- Participate in all group activities, or sit quietly near the group
- Complete art projects with minimal assistance

If camp staff observe repeated instances of failure or inability to adhere to behavioral guidelines, or if any individual camper requires excessive one-on-one attention, Ijams reserves the right to dismiss the camper from camp. There are no refunds for dismissal from camp for behavioral reasons. In the event that a camper requires additional assistance, it may be necessary to provide a helper to stay with the child throughout the day. However, this will need to be worked out with the Camp Director in advance.

DISCIPLINE
In order to maintain a safe and fun camp experience, negative behaviors may require disciplinary measures. Counselors are trained to use Positive and Proactive Disciplinary techniques. An example of how repeated disciplinary issues may be handled includes the following:

- Discussing with the child the problem and possible solutions
- “Time Out” from the group, ranging from 2-5 minutes, depending on the situation
- Temporary removal from camp, where the camper is removed from the camp space and remains with another Ijams staff member for a short period of time

If a camper continues to break the rules, it may be necessary to arrange a meeting with the camper, parents, and Camp Director to discuss the situation and brainstorm possible solutions. Depending on the incident, and the subsequent behavior of the child, parents may be called to pick the student up for the rest of the day.

If problems persist, or if behavior involves physical or emotional harm to a fellow camper, the camper may be dismissed from camp. There are no refunds for dismissal from camp for disciplinary reasons.
WEATHER
While camps are in session, Ijams staff closely monitors forecasts and observations of current weather conditions. In the event of inclement weather conditions, staff and campers will follow the 30/30 rule:

When thunder is first heard, or forecasts or conditions suggest that a storm is imminent, groups will seek shelter inside fully-enclosed buildings, making every attempt to be in a safe location by the time between seeing lightning and hearing thunder is less than 30 seconds. Groups will then remain indoors until 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard and the storm has definitively passed.

If the campers are out on the trails when weather conditions decline, the group will attempt to return immediately to the Visitor Center. However, if this is not possible, staff and campers will seek shelter in vehicles or remain in low areas near lower, uniform stands of trees. During inclement weather, groups will avoid tall and/or isolated objects, hills and ridgelines, open fields or clearings, caves, and aquatic activities.

NOTE: Inclement weather may require the adjustment of camp schedules, and appropriate indoor activities will be substituted.

CAMPER TO STAFF RATIO
In accordance with American Camp Association recommendations, Ijams Nature Center maintains or exceeds the following camper to counselor ratio:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camper Age</th>
<th># of Staff</th>
<th># of Campers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6–8 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–12 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All full-time staff and camp counselors are trained in CPR and first aid. At no time are counselors alone with children out of the view of other camp staff.

ACTIVITIES
Part of what makes camp at Ijams so unique is our combination of outdoor recreation and nature exploration. All campers will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of onsite activities such as hiking, paddling, and rock scrambling. Whenever possible, we will follow each weekly schedule as closely as possible. Occasionally, unpredictable weather conditions, group dynamics, or other circumstances necessitate itinerary modifications. Ijams Nature Center reserves the right to alter activities when necessary and provide appropriate substitute activities.

EQUIPMENT
Ijams Nature Center provides all activity equipment unless indicated otherwise on the “Camp Preparation Checklist” for a particular camp. This checklist will be included in confirmation emails sent prior to the start of camp. Campers are asked to provide personal gear such as a water bottle, sunscreen, bug repellent, and appropriate outerwear for the weather conditions. Campers failing to bring/wear appropriate gear may be restricted from participating in certain activities.
CLOTHING
Ijams recommends that campers wear comfortable pants (or shorts, if weather permits), a long-sleeved top with a t-shirt underneath, and closed-toe shoes. Due to the nature of our outdoor activities, skirts and dresses are not appropriate attire. Campers will get wet or dirty during camp activities, and it is recommended that campers bring a change of clothes each day. **Flip-flops, sandals, and Crocs are not appropriate footwear for our camp programming.** It is also recommended that children bring ponchos or jackets in the event of rain.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONICS
**Camper cell phones are not permitted during Ijams Summer Camps.** Additionally, electronics such as mp3 players, game systems, and other valuable items can be lost or damaged; please do not allow campers to bring these items to camp. **Ijams Nature Center is not responsible if any electronics are damaged or lost.** Other items that are not permitted at camp include weapons, trading cards, and toys.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS
It is highly recommended that you label all items (clothing, towels, water bottles, etc.) with your child’s name. We make every effort to keep all campers’ belongings in their backpack or on their person. Please perform a quick check of your child’s backpack at the end of the camp day before leaving. Lost items are much easier to recover on the same day they are lost. We do not recommend sending your child to camp with expensive or irreplaceable items. Although we do try to encourage campers to keep track of their belongings, we cannot guarantee the safekeeping of any item brought to camp. Ijams Nature Center is not responsible for the loss or damage of these items.

GAMES
Throughout the camp week, we will often lead campers in outdoor games. We ask that campers be good sports and display good attitudes during games. Temper tantrums or aggressive behavior during games will not be tolerated and the camper will be asked to sit out if behavior continues. Also, we ask that campers not reference violence during indoor and outdoor games.

FOOD
**Food is NOT provided as part of Ijams Nature Center’s camp program.** Campers must bring lunch and are encouraged to bring 2 snacks daily (one for the morning and one for the afternoon). Due to the prevalence of food allergies and sensitivities, campers should not trade food with other campers. Occasionally, food crafts or snacks will be part of the camp schedule.

INSECT REPELLENT AND SUNSCREEN
If you would like for your child to apply insect repellent or sunscreen during the day, please be sure to pack those items with your child, labelled with his/her name. We also ask that campers not share these items. We feel that each parent should choose the type of products that they are comfortable with, based on the ingredients. Children can display a wide range of sensitivity to certain chemicals and it is best if each camper has his or her own products.

As a back-up measure, Ijams maintains a limited supply of bug repellent (with no more than 10% Deet or 20% Picaridin as active ingredients) and Children’s sunscreen with an SPF of 50. In the event that your child’s
bug repellent or sunscreen is not available, staff will only provide these items on-hand at Ijams ONLY if given consent to do so during registration.

**POISON IVY, BEES, WASPS AND TICKS**

Students will spend a majority of their time outdoors, and may come in contact with ticks, wasps, or poison ivy. Camp staff will educate children on what poison ivy looks like, and will make every attempt to keep children clear of areas where there is a great deal of poison ivy present. Most of our popular visitor areas, as well as our trails, are largely free of poison ivy. We will also avoid off-trail areas where there is a great deal of the plant present. Although staff will educate participants on what poison ivy looks like and make every attempt to keep them clear of it, participants may come in contact with poison ivy. In the event that this occurs (or contact is suspected), Ijams staff will assist campers with washing the affected area with Tecnu. Tecnu is an over-the-counter skin cleanser that is intended for use by humans after topical exposure to urushiol, the active ingredient in poison ivy. Tecnu's effectiveness for post-exposure treatment has been confirmed in a non-randomized study. Staff will only utilize Tecnu if given consent to do so during registration.

If a child is stung by a bee or wasp, we will monitor the sting and provide first aid treatment. If the child is allergic and the parent has provided medication, Ijams staff will use proper techniques and notify the parent/guardian.

Parents/guardians should make sure to check children regularly for ticks, rashes, and stings and we recommend that parents notify their doctor immediately if there is cause for concern. Further, we recommend that participants bathe/scrub vigorously after each day of camp.

**PROMOTIONAL RELEASE**

Upon enrolling in an Ijams Nature Center program, the parent/guardian authorizes Ijams Nature Center to use photos, quotes or video footage from camp programs for the purpose of marketing. In the event that you do NOT want images of your child publicized, you MUST indicate this in your registration materials prior to the start of camp.

**ANIMAL PROGRAMS**

All Ijams Nature Center Day Camp programs include live animal presentations. Ijams Nature Center maintains the policy that program participants are not permitted to touch or handle any education animals. Only trained camp staff handle the animals, and all appropriate safety equipment is worn. All education animals receive annual veterinary examinations to ensure that they maintain the best possible health and remain free from contagious disease and parasites. Please do not bring personal pets or outside animals to camp or inside the Nature Center to prevent the possible spread of disease among the animals.

**FAMILY PARTICIPATION**

Parents, grandparents, cousins, siblings, etc. are NOT permitted to stay with campers throughout the day. This is for the safety of all those registered to participate at camp. Every staff member or volunteer who interacts with the campers have been through training and a background check.
QUESTIONS?
Please contact Ijams Nature Center’s Camp Director, Tyler Edmondson.

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