



Environmental Education on the Potomac

Summer Adventure Camp at Hard Bargain Farm

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What are the primary activities that my child will engage in during camp?

This is an outdoor camp where children will have the opportunity to explore the forest, fields, wetlands, and riverbank. Campers will learn about habitats, nearby animals and plants while enjoying outdoor activities, crafts and games. Children will be outdoors all day (weather permitting!). What kind of activities will my child engage in?

Campers will go hiking, look for frogs, tadpoles and macroinvertebrates. We will watch for the eagles, learn about pollinators, go seining for fish and learn to use a compass. We will offer a canoe adventure and archery experience. Campers will have a special day at the pool and an extended day to stay late and have a campfire.

What if my child wants to sign up for more than one week - will he/she repeat the same activities?

Each of the weeks of camp will have similar activities but may have a slightly different schedule. Campers are welcome to come more than one week but the general activities will be the same.

What if my child doesn't like an activity or doesn't want to participate?

We encourage all campers to step outside of their comfort zones and try something new at camp. But we understand that all of us have limits and we will respect everyone's limits.

Will AFF provide lunch?

Campers bring their own lunch and 2 snacks along with a reusable water bottle. Try to provide a 'trash free' lunch and snacks. Place items in reusable containers and reduce the amount of disposable plastic.

Will AFF provide food to my child?

AFF will periodically provide a snack, such as crackers, popsicles, and s'mores. Staff will ensure that no child receives food they are allergic to.



What if my child has food allergies or other health concerns?

You will be asked to inform our staff in pre-camp paperwork about health issues. Staff will work with parents to ensure a safe environment for your child.

Are your staff certified?

All staff are First Aid and CPR certified. The staff is trained on a variety of topics and skills to ensure they are prepared to adequately serve, teach, guide, and care for each camper. Topics such as risk management, bullying, and homesickness are covered, in addition to training topics specific to the policies and procedures for specific activities and programs.

What is your staff to camper ratio?

Staff to camper ratio is 1:10 during the bulk of camp activities. The ratio is smaller during certain activities such as Canoeing and Archery

At no point will a staff member be in a 1:1 ratio with a camper. Campers will always be under adult supervision.

How far away is the nearest hospital?

The nearby hospital is Fort Washington Medical located at 11711 Livingston Rd, Fort Washington, MD. Phone number is: (301) 292-7000.

What are your policies regarding COVID 19?

The summer camp will follow the Prince George's County School guidelines for COVID protocol. At this time (March 2022), masks are required indoors but not outdoors. [Updated Quarantine Guidelines \(pgcps.org\)](https://www.pgcps.org/Updated-Quarantine-Guidelines)

Per the current policy, campers and staff will not be required to wear masks when outdoors. When indoors to go to the bathroom, refill water bottles or in case of inclement weather, the requirements established by Prince George's county schools for indoor spaces will be followed. At this time requires masks to be worn inside. The camp will primarily take place outdoors.



What if my child gets sick?

If a child exhibits 2 or more of the symptoms typical of COVID 19 [Updated Quarantine Guidelines \(pgcps.org\)](https://www.pgcps.org/Updated-Quarantine-Guidelines) then the child will be separated from the group and still accompanied by an adult in a public space while the camp staff calls the parents/guardian so that the child can be picked up.

We will communicate with you in the case of sickness or injury.

If a child becomes ill (not COVID 19) or injured they will be taken to our health care space with air conditioning to provide first aid and contact the parents as needed. In the event of a camper (or staff member) requiring medical care beyond the scope of care that our staff can provide, Fort Washington Medical Center is approximately 15 minutes away.

Do you have a child protection policy?

All staff are required to undergo child abuse and child safety training provided through Prince George's County Safe Schools. Criminal Background checks are run for all staff through the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS).

How can I contact my child or how can my child contact me?

We do not allow campers to have cell phones (or other electronics) with them during camp. We ask that those be left at home. In an emergency, you will be given the phone number of the staff in charge and you can always contact them if needed.

Can you work with children who have special needs? How do you provide an equal experience for these children?

We will work closely with you as the guardian to determine what needs your child has and determine how we can provide an equal experience.

Discipline

On Opening Day, campers will discuss the camper code of conduct and rules for their time at camp. Campers are expected to treat each other and adults with respect. Campers are expected to listen and follow instructions so that everyone is safe and can have an enjoyable time. If there are behavior problems, parents will be notified and camp staff can decide to send the child home or request that they not return if necessary. Early dismissal from camp for behavioral issues will not warrant a refund. The same will be true



of voluntary early departures. We have a zero-tolerance policy against physical abuse, verbal abuse or any kind of harassment.

Weather Related Emergency

AFF staff keep a close watch on any weather systems affecting the area. While we will go out in the rain, we always have special indoor activities planned if the weather is deemed unfit for outdoor activities. If the canoeing dates are postponed, we will do our best to reschedule the trip during the week.

What if I am running late to pick up my child?

Please call the camp staff if you are running late.

If you have any additional questions, contact us at education@fergusonfoundation.org or (301) 292-5665 and we will be happy to help you!

Example Camp Activities

Canoeing

Using metal canoes campers will paddle along scenic Piscataway Creek where Great Blue Herons and Osprey fly and hunt along the shorelines. Campers will learn basic paddle skills and how to navigate the creek.

Fish Seining and Fish Identification

Explore the fish living in our waterways. Campers will use a long seining net to catch fish and put their identification skills to the test to identify the species they find.

Explore the Wetlands

Observe the sights and sounds of nature while taking a stroll through our wetlands.

Creek Exploration

The water may look clean, but in creek exploration, campers will find and identify the animals living in various creeks, rivers, and ponds to determine water quality.

Archery

Campers will challenge their marksmanship as they attempt to hit the bullseye in the archery class.



Fun on the Farm

Meet our farm animals and experience what life on the farm looks like by lending a hand with some farm chores.

Crafts

Using nature as a foundation for art, campers will let their imaginations and creativity blossom through a variety of crafts.

Team Building

Come together as a group to work through multiple elements and obstacles to become a cohesive camp team.

Scavenger Hunts

There's a lot to be found in the great outdoors! Campers will be challenged to find certain critters, plants, and much more as they explore our vast 330-acre property.

Orienteering

Think your camper is a master navigator? Or can they not tell the difference between a compass rose and a flower? All levels of navigators are challenged to use their map and compass to navigate our orienteering course.

Example Camp Schedule

9:00 am	Campers Arrive
9:15	Team Building Activity
10:00	Morning Activity (<i>Example: Creek Exploration</i>)
11:00	Craft/Game (<i>Example: Build A Sea Monster!</i>)
11:30	Half-Day Campers Depart
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:45	Afternoon Activity #1 (<i>Example: Scavenger Hunt on the Farm</i>)
2:00	Afternoon Activity #2 (<i>Example: Orienteering</i>)
3:00	Campers Depart