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Welcome!

Camp Dates & Locations

Screech Owl Camp

Location: TBD

MT ThF

Session 1: July 7-18

Session 2: July 21-August 1

Kestrel Camp

Location: TBD

MT ThF

Session 1: July 7-18

Session 2: July 21-August 1

Raven Camp

Location: Clove Valley Land, [600 Clove Valley Rd, High Falls, NY 12440](https://www.wildearth.org/locations/clove-valley-land)

MT ThF

Session 1: July 7-18

Session 2: July 21-August 1

Red Tailed Hawk Leadership Camp

Location: Clove Valley Land, [600 Clove Valley Rd, High Falls, NY 12440](https://www.wildearth.org/locations/clove-valley-land)

MT ThF

Session 1: July 7- Thursday July 31

Overnight: Monday-Tuesday, July 28- July 29

Earth Art Camp

Location: TBD

MTWThF

Session 1: August 4-8.

Leadership & Contacts

Wild Earth Office (845) 256-9830

Site Director: Stone Mountain Farm

Jessie Lotrecchiano: (919) 389-6443

Program Director

Site Director: Clove Valley Land

Elaine Blanck (646) 831-3790

Associate Director

On the land: What does camp look like?

Wild Earth Summer Camp we spend all our days entirely outside in celebration of the natural world.

Stewardship is at the heart of our programs and as stewards we strive to minimize our impact on the land. We use tarp shelters and fire pits to create safe, warm spaces during rainy weather and gather in groups seated in stump circles and often on the forest floor to eat.

We are often walking across the land and walking is a natural part of our camp.

Campers are encouraged to pee in the woods while at camp and a porta potty is always available for "number 2s" and comfort. **Might require a 5-10min walk depending on age and activity.

Campers will have the option to change into bathing suits if going to the stream, sprinkler, or a muddy activity. They change their clothes in changing tents to give them privacy.

Campers have the option to wear their bathing suit under their clothes. Everyone should have a dry set of clothes to change into after water play.

Camp Group Structure and Staff Ratios

Each camper will be assigned to a small group. This will be their family while at camp. The maximum ratio of these small groups is 13 campers to 2 instructors.

There are quite a few times during the day that the entire camp will gather as a group to share stories, gratitude, announcements, or celebrate with one another.

As campers age they have the opportunity to participate in choices based activities in the afternoon. This is an opportunity to spend time with campers from other small groups and meet others that have the same interests.

Daily Schedule

Arrival & Welcoming – We will be checking children to confirm that they have appropriate gear for the day.

Morning Circle – Acknowledge our place in the world and share gratitude, lifting our voices in song.

Small Group Adventuring – Children will connect in small age based groups for games, crafts near a fire and adventures.

Lunch and Story Share – We return to our larger-group central fire to share the stories of the morning and to nourish ourselves with lunch.

More Small Group Adventuring – Activities vary from high-energy games, to fireside crafting, carving, tea making, tracking, and more! Older kids may have a choice between 2-3 activities.

Closing Circle – We come together with our original song and harvest some of our most exciting memories of the day.

End of Day Games & Pick up

Pick up and Drop off

At Wild Earth we have rolling drop off and pick up. This means you have a ½ hour window to arrive.

Drop off: 9:00-9:30am

Pick up: 3:00- 3:30pm

Cars line up and are greeted by a Wild Earth staff member (most often the Program Coordinator). This is an opportunity for the staff to do a wellness and gear check in with the camper and family.

We ask for families to stay in the cars to ensure the safety and efficiency of this time. If you need to get out of the car to help with gear, insect repellent, sunscreen, please let the staff know and they will direct you where to park

Please follow speed limits and look for staff to direct you for drop off. Drive slowly and stay alert for the safety of our participants and staff and to ensure good relations with landowners and neighbors.



Communication

Med form & MMR records

NY state requires all campers and staff to submit proof of the MMR vaccine to participate in summer camp. Please request a copy of your campers vaccination records or schedule a titre to have a physical record.

Program Coordinator Calls

We have a philosophy of collaborative communication with the families of our campers. In an effort to introduce, orient, and have insight into the campers experience, the program coordinators of each camp will schedule a call with new families prior to camp.

This style of communication continues during camp as well, where program coordinators and staff will reach out if needed to inform and utilize your insights into your camper. The purpose of these calls is to collaborate on any strategies and approaches to ensure the best and safest experience for your camper.

Absences

Please text or email your program coordinator if your camper plans or needs to be absent for any reason. It is important for the staff to have an accurate headcount for the day.

Lateness or Early Pick Up

For the integrity and safety of our program, it is preferred if campers arrive and leave during designated times. However, we understand that life is unpredictable. Please text the Site Director if you are running late.

Any accommodations for late drop off or early pick up need to be done in advance with your program coordinator.

How do I know what my kid is doing at camp?

We know all too well that it is sometimes difficult to get a full picture of what your camper is busy doing all day. You will be receiving an email summarizing and capturing stories of your camp's session.

This will include a link to a flickr photo album with pages of photos to look at!

How do I say "thank you?"

We have an amazing group of instructors who come back year after year. Often families want to say thank you!

This can be in the form of food, a treat, a handmade thank you from your camper, positive feedback, or any other show of gratitude.



Expectations

Group Expectations

Most of our programming is done in a group format; this community based approach creates space for participants to balance individual wants and needs with that of the group. This group based learning allows space for creativity and inspiration while learning teamwork, flexibility and communication.

We recognize each participant comes to Wild Earth on their own individual journey with different life experiences, skill sets, and needs. Each group will work in collaboration with instructors to create group agreements that uplift a safe and inclusive space that fosters community and respects individuals.

Instructors facilitate developmentally appropriate conversations with the youth to understand what it means to keep ourselves, each other and the land safe and respected. Our agreements typically fall under the following headings:

- Respect- treating ourselves, others, and nature thoughtfully so that everyone feels safe and cared for.
- Safety- following boundaries for activities, telling instructors where you are going, staying with the group, listening to one another

- Fun!- If we can be respectful and listen and stay safe we can do so many fun activities!

Screech Owl Expectations (4-7 year olds)

Is your camper ready for Screech Owl?

We want your child's time at camp to be successful, safe and fun! Your camper must be able to do the following before the start of camp.

- Use the bathroom independently: a porta potty will be on site as well as the option to use the bathroom in the woods.
- Change clothes independently, including taking shoes on and off.
- Sit and learn amongst others.
- Drink water and/or eat when asked.
- Stay with their group.
- Be able to wear required gear when prompted by an instructor. Rain jacket, warm weather layers, appropriate shoes.
- Communicate needs with instructor (ex. bathroom, injuries, discomfort)

Some of these things may be useful to practice with your camper, reach out if you need any support or clarification.

Participant Expectations

Wild Earth is a land oriented program that based on the land and how we interact with it creates some amazing opportunities for our participants.

Due to the terrain of the land and nature of our program participants are required to:

- To move across the land comfortably and safely.
- To stay with the group.
- Listen to the guidance of the instructors and staff.
- Eat and drink without assistance.
- Awareness of body temperature

These are key aspects to staying safe on the land and we need to rely that participants will be able to care for themselves in these areas with the reminders and supervision of the staff.

If your child doesn't fulfill all the requirements above you may consider sending your participant with a 1:1 aid. This can be a family friend, a professional aid, or college student.

Please reach out to your program director/coordinator to discuss what is possible for your child.



Outside in All Weather

Weather Safety at Camp

At Wild Earth we celebrate the opportunity to connect with the elements. We cherish the opportunity to use effective strategies for keeping everyone warm and safe but in order to keep participants comfortable, appropriate gear is a must.

This looks like wearing rain gear all day and staff facilitating campfire hangouts, tarp villages, natural shelters and cozy cookouts.

Cancellations

WE may cancel programs to inclement weather, especially if there is an active travel advisory/ hazardous traveling conditions.

Some of the weather conditions that may result in a cancellation are extreme rain, snow, high winds, severe temperatures, poor air quality, and extreme drought/burn bans.

We will contact families via text and email by 7:00 am of the program day with information about cancellations.

Air Quality

When Wild Earth is conducting programs that are exclusively outdoors, we will cancel program if the and the air quality index for the program site is 151 or above, as determined by [Airnow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov)..

If conditions are between 101-151 we will run the program, but limit strenuous activities, avoid all fire related activities and provide masks to those in need. If air quality worsens throughout the day, we may arrange early pick up.

We will contact families via text and email by 7:00 am of the program day with information about cancellations.

We understand that levels can and will fluctuate over the span of a day. We will do our best to make decisions with safety as our primary consideration. In situations when the morning AQI is below 151, but likely to worsen throughout the day, we may preemptively cancel the program.

Each family and individual will need to make the best decision to protect their health and well being.

It's all about the gear!

Gear is essential to your campers experience at Wild Earth Summer Camp! It is a key piece to their safety and can shift their experience for the better when fully prepared.

We suggest going through the backpack with your camper. That way they know all the gear they are coming with and can feel more comfortable and assured when we inevitably get caught in the unexpected rain, get our clothes wet in the stream, didn't anticipate the morning chill, or didn't come to camp wearing socks, etc.

Your camper should come everyday to camp with the following:

- Comfortable, sturdy backpack
- Shoes that cover toes. *No crocs or flip flops, please.
- Full water bottle- at least 32 oz.
 - If this is too cumbersome for 4-6 year old campers to carry, a smaller water bottle is ok. But will be necessary for older kids who venture further away from our water refill stations.
- Nutritious lunch and snacks
- Extra change of underwear, socks, and pants in ziplock bag in backpack.
- Raincoat or poncho
- 1-2 non-cotton insulating top layer in ziplock bag in backpack.

You will receive an additional thorough gear list enclosed in the welcome letter.



During Camp

Lunch & Snack

Your camper needs to show up everyday to camp with a lunch and snack. We eat while seated on stump circles or the forest floor. We are often eating with our lunch in our laps or next to us. *Our youngest groups might have a small wood stump to use as a table at their group site.

There are no trash cans on the land, everything will be packed out in the containers and lunch box they came in.

Due to allergies and personal preferences we DO NOT allow food sharing at Wild Earth.

Tick checks

Ticks are taken seriously and are removed immediately and a tick card will be filled out and will be sent home with your camper.

You and/or your camper should be conducting a thorough Tick Check every day when they get home. They will be conducting tick checks periodically in their small groups, but nothing substitutes what can be done at home.

Backpack

Your camper should have a comfortable and sturdy backpack that holds all their gear, lunch, snacks, and water bottle, or they should clip to their bags. We are often moving across the land and it is important for kiddos to have their hands free.

Hydrating

Hydration is one of the most important ways we stay safe at camp. At minimum your camper should be drinking 32 oz of water a day. On hot and humid days we may increase that requirement to a minimum of 2 water bottles, especially for the older campers.

During our rest days and the day before camp, be sure your camper is hydrating.

Insect Repellent

Insect repellent is something that is best applied before arriving at camp. If you are particularly concerned about insects and insect bites, your camper can bring repellent in a ziploc bag in their backpack. This is to be only applied at designated areas and times indicated by their instructor.



Wild Earth Community

Support w/ gear

At Wild Earth we totally understand that getting gear can be a barrier and feel overwhelming as your camper grows out of things year after year.

Please reach out if you are experiencing any challenges and need gear support. We have a limited amount of cycled gear available that has been donated by families.

We can also provide you with a list of suggested, inexpensive gear that is purchasable on amazon or comparable dealers.

Getting to camp

At Wild Earth we want families to have the most sustainable experience possible. We know getting your campers to camp is a huge part of this. Please take advantage of the carpool list.

If you have campers at both of our locations, please communicate with your Program Coordinator or Site Directors so we can best support you.

My kid has never spent extended time outside

At Wild Earth we understand that this could be some campers first time spending the whole day outside. We are so excited to support them and your family through this experience.

We suggest practicing all the first time experiences they may encounter, putting on their gear, using the bathroom outside, talking through a bug plan, etc. That way your camper can feel prepared and confident going into the first days at camp.

Please be in touch with your Program Coordinator so they can inform the instructors so we all can properly support your camper. We look forward to making this a fun and healthy first time experience for your camper.

Checking out the program ahead of time

Experiencing what Wild Earth is like is a great idea for first time campers. We suggest signing up for Spring Break Camp. This 3-day program is a great, accessible way to have your camper connect with the program and experience what it is like.

Wild Earth Pathways-

We are so excited that your family and camper are joining us at Wild Earth!

There are so many ways they can grow with Wild Earth at different developmental stages of their and all of our lives. Our summer camp program runs from ages 5-18 years old, starting with Screech Owl, then Kestrel, Raven, and finally our Red Tailed Hawk Leadership Camp for teens.

We currently provide year-round adolescent and teen programming. These programs (Artemis, Atlatl, and Ropes) meet once a month for the duration of the school year and include overnights and opportunities to get a deeper understanding of the land, our skills, and our own resilience through all the seasons.

Once campers complete 1 year of Red Tailed Hawk camp, or complete a year of Ropes (our year-round teen program) campers will be eligible to apply for our fully paid summer CIT (Counselor In Training) program. Once graduated from our CIT program they are then eligible to apply to be on our staff.

We also provide adult and family programming for continued engagement of the entire family as campers are growing. This can also be a way for grown campers to stay in touch with their skills and the Wild Earth community at a different stage of their lives.

Please explore our website for all the programs available! www.wildearth.org

Community Party

At Wild Earth our community is central to the work and programming that we provide and we celebrate this fact by hosting a community party every summer.

This is an opportunity for families to connect, campers to play with another, and all of us to gather in celebration of all the beautiful work, experiences, and growth we get to share through Wild Earth.

Join a focus group!

Are you interested in getting more involved with Wild Earth and potentially informing our programming?? Please consider joining one of our focus groups.

These are places where we get to gather with other invested community members and talk through the aspects that make Wild Earth unique and valuable.

Please email: elaine@wildearth.org for more information.