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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.clovevalleyland.com/600-Clove-Valley-Rd-High-Falls-NY-12440)

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.clovevalleyland.com/600-Clove-Valley-Rd-High-Falls-NY-12440)

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 on stumps and often on the forest floor for circle times and meals.

We often explore and walk across the land as part of camp activities.

### **Camp Group Structure and Staff Ratios**

Each camper will be assigned to a small group to share meals and engage in team building activities throughout camp. The maximum ratio of these small groups is 13 campers to 2 instructors to support safety and positive relationship building.

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

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

### **Daily Schedule**

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

**Morning Circle** – Acknowledge land 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 from the morning, 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 times. 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.

## Busing

Yes! Wild Earth provides busing from one drop off location in Kingston and one in New Paltz for an additional fee of \$100 per 2-week session.

Our drop off and pick up times as well as bus stop locations will be confirmed prior to camp.

Approximate drop off and pick up times are below:

New Paltz	Kingston
Drop Off: 8:45	Drop Off: 8:15
Pick Up: 3:15	Pick Up: 3:45

Please sign up for busing from your preferred location during registration.

Busing spots are first come first serve and maybe limited.

So if you are already registered and would like to add busing please email, [hello@wildearth.org](mailto:hello@wildearth.org) or call the office (845) 256 -9830 to inquire about availability.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Bussing will not be provided during our 1-week Art Camp.\*\***



## 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 titer (blood test showing immunity) to have a physical record.

### Medications at Camp

As needed medications like inhalers and EPI pens can be carried by campers while at camp. Please note on your medical form the prescription/dosage and make a plan for administering with your Program Coordinator.

We do not allow instructor or camper administration of other medications (Prescription, pain, allergy, etc.). If your child needs other medications during the camp day please contact your Program Coordinator ahead of time so we can create a support plan together.

### Program Coordinator Calls

We value collaborative communication with the families of our campers. In an effort to introduce, orient, and gain 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, when program coordinators and staff will reach out if needed to let you know how your child is doing, and to hear your insights as to how we can best support them. 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**

Please understand that a late or early pick up requires an instructor to escort the camper, which means they are removed from their regular responsibilities at camp. Therefore for the integrity and safety of our program, it is preferred that campers arrive and leave during designated times. However, we understand that this is not always possible. 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 interests and needs with that of the group. This group based learning allows space for creativity and inspiration while promoting 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 individuality.

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 pee in the woods.
- Change clothes independently, including taking shoes on and off.
- Sit and learn amongst others.
- Drink water and/or eat with the group.
- 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 place based program that supports participants to develop their own relationship with the land. Our emergent approach allows for some amazing opportunities and interactions with nature.

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

- Walk safely across uneven, wooded terrain throughout the day.
- Stay with the group.
- Listen and follow instructor directions for safety
- Eat and drink without assistance.
- Notice and regulate their body temperature with support.

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

If you are unsure whether your child will meet the readiness requirements listed above before this summer, please reach out to your program director/coordinator to discuss potential individual accommodations or to develop a plan for additional support.



## **Outside in All Weather**

### **Weather Safety at Camp**

At Wild Earth we celebrate the opportunity to connect with the elements. We prioritize effective strategies to keep everyone warm and safe, recognizing that appropriate gear is essential for participant comfort.

During inclement weather we wear rain gear throughout the day and enjoy campfire gatherings, tarp villages, natural shelters, and cozy crafts and cookouts.



## **Cancellations**

WE may cancel programs due 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 air quality index for the program site is 151 or above, as determined by [Airnow.gov](http://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 as a protective option.. 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 camper's experience at Wild Earth Summer Camp! It is a key aspect of safety and can shift their experience for the better when fully prepared.

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

Your camper should come to camp everyday 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. 32 oz is 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.

### **Bathroom & Changing**

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.

## Tick checks

Ticks are a very real hazard when spending time outside in the Hudson Valley. We encounter moving and attached ticks regularly at Wild Earth. Together, we can minimize encounters with ticks.

At Wild Earth, our instructors facilitate two tick checks at every program day. During these group tick checks participants check themselves in visible places: neck, arms, legs, and scalp. Ticks are removed by staff and a tick card will be filled out and sent home with your camper indicating the location of the bite. If possible, the tick will be saved and taped to the tick card

What you do at home to protect your child from ticks is as important as what we do in the woods. At home, we ask every family to be responsible for the following:

- Teach your child how to carefully and thoroughly check for ticks.
- Practice thorough tick checks with children so they are familiar with doing them.
- If you want your child to use a repellent, please make sure it is applied before you arrive at Wild Earth.
- And most importantly: do an ultra-thorough tick check with your children when they arrive home from Wild Earth.

We cannot stress how important a thorough full body tick check is when participants get home. Minimizing the risk associated with tick bites requires quick detection!

In addition to quick detection, many families are adopting preventative tactics such as:

- Treat clothing with natural or synthetic repellents
- Shower soon after being outdoors (ideally within two hours)
- Wear closed toe shoes, socks, pants, long sleeved shirts
- Place all clothing into a hot dryer for 10+ minutes after potential tick exposure

Consider how your family will treat tick bites should they occur:

- Use tweezers or other tick removal tool to remove tick
- Clean tick bite area
- Monitor the tick bite location and look for potential flu like symptoms
- Consult with your healthcare provider about other recommendations

Please be sure your family has a clear tick plan in place before camp starts!

For more about tick bite prevention, removal, and bite treatments, please visit our tick resource page: <https://wildearth.org/ticks>.

## 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 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 to protect wildlife and individuals with sensitivities.



## **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 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 consider taking 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 child 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 such as 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 their first days at camp.

Please be in touch with your Program Coordinator regarding any individual needs so we can properly support your camper. We look forward to making this a fun and healthy first time experience for your child.

### **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 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, earth living skills, and our own resilience through all the seasons.

Once campers complete 1 year of Red Tailed Hawk camp, or 1 year of Ropes (our year-round teen program) they 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.. This can also be a way for grown campers to stay in touch with their earth living 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](http://www.wildearth.org)

## **Community Party**

At Wild Earth our community is central to the work and programming that we provide, and we look forward to celebrating our camp families with 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 program planning?? 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](mailto:elaine@wildearth.org) for more information.