

Kate Svitek Summer Camps at LACAWAC



Lacawac Summer Day Camp Policies & Procedures

1. Camp Overview & Structure

- **Philosophy & Setting**

Nestled on 550 acres of lakes, forests, wetlands, and trails, Lacawac provides a living laboratory for campers to explore, create, and learn about the natural world. Our programs emphasize hands-on learning, curiosity, and respect for the environment.

- **Camp Themes & Age Groups**

- **Creature Feature** (ages 5–6): Introduction to animals and nature through games, crafts, and exploration.
- **Exploring Nature** (ages 7–8): Investigate ecosystems and environmental science with hands-on activities.
- **Eco Investigators** (ages 9–10): Scientific problem-solving, experiments, and environmental inquiry.
- **Wilderness Adventure** (ages 11–12): Team-building, outdoor survival skills, and water activities.
- **Art Camps:**

- *Art in Nature (ages 8-12): Offers campers to learn about the connection between art & nature through meaningful projects along with a week long landscape project*

- **Staff & Supervision**

- Small camper-to-counselor ratios (1:8) ensure individualized attention.
- All staff participate in **Restorative Justice Training**, equipping them to respond to conflicts constructively and support emotional growth.
- Staff are also trained in **First Aid & CPR**, and all undergo background checks for camper safety.

- **Typical Day**

Activities include guided hikes, science and art projects, outdoor exploration, and structured recreation, balanced with rest and social time. Camp runs **8:45 AM to 4:00 PM**, Monday through Friday.

2. Required Forms

Before your camper can join us on our summer adventures, we kindly ask that you complete the necessary forms during registration:

- **Medical Form** – Details any health concerns, medications, or allergies along with up to date health physical
- **Pick-Up & Drop-Off Form** – Lists authorized individuals for camper pick-up and emergency contacts.
- **Release/Waiver Form** – Provides consent for participation in camp activities.

These forms are essential to ensure the safety, well-being, and best care of your child while at Lacawac Sanctuary.

3. What to Bring

Our camps involve hands-on exploration of forests, meadows, and water habitats. Campers will get dirty, and daily craft projects may include paint, glue, or other messy materials. To keep your child comfortable and safe, please send them with:

- Healthy snack

- Refillable water bottle
- Lunch (zero-waste encouraged; recycling and compost bins available)
- Backpack
- Play clothes that can get dirty
- A bag with a change of clothes and shoes
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (no flip-flops or Crocs)
- Sunscreen and bug spray applied **before** arriving at camp

Additional for Younger Campers (ages 5–6):

- A towel or blanket for extra rest time (please choose one that can get dirty)
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4. Registration, Fees & Refunds

- **Tuition:** \$175 per week, which includes a Lacawac Camp T-shirt.
 - **Refund Policy:**
 - Cancellations before May 1 receive a 50% refund.
 - After May 1, no refund is available except for medical reasons with a doctor's note.
 - **Scholarships:** Available for children aged 5–12; applications are accepted from Feb 9 to May 29 and are awarded based on need and session availability.
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5. Safety & Emergencies

- **Medical Preparedness**
 - Staff trained in First Aid and CPR are present at all times.
 - Minor injuries are treated on-site and reported to parents.
 - Serious emergencies trigger immediate parental contact and emergency services if needed.
- **Weather Safety**

- Camp operates rain or shine; activities are adjusted safely in the event of inclement weather.
 - **Emergency Communication**
 - Parents are informed promptly of any significant incidents or changes to camp activities.
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6. Behavior & Restorative Approaches

- **Expectations for Campers**
 - Show respect for peers, staff, and the natural environment.
 - Participate actively and safely in camp activities.
 - Use restorative problem-solving skills to resolve conflicts.
 - **Restorative Practices**
 - Staff trained in **Restorative Justice** guide campers to reflect on their actions, repair harm, and rebuild relationships when conflicts arise.
 - Minor misbehavior is addressed through conversation, reflection, and guidance rather than punishment.
 - Parents are included as partners in addressing repeated or significant behavioral issues.
 - **Escalated Situations**
 - In rare cases where safety is at risk, a camper may be sent home early. Staff will work with parents to determine next steps while maintaining a supportive, learning-focused approach.
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7. Parent Partnership & Communication

- **Before Camp**
 - Families receive detailed information about schedules, required gear, and session expectations.
 - Parents provide emergency contacts, health information, and any special accommodations.

- **During Camp**

- Daily or weekly updates may include highlights, camper progress, and any incidents.
- Staff work collaboratively with parents to support campers’ emotional and social development.

- **After Camp**

- Families are invited to participate in showcases for art and camp programs.
- Feedback is encouraged to strengthen the camp experience for future sessions.

8. Summary Table

Area	Highlight
Philosophy	Restorative, nature-based, hands-on learning with emotional growth focus
Ages & Programs	Creature Feature (5–6), Exploring Nature (7–8), Eco Investigators (9–10), Wilderness Adventure (11–12), plus Art camps
Staff	Background-checked, Restorative Justice trained, First Aid & CPR certified
Behavior Management	Restorative approaches, reflection, parent collaboration, early dismissal if safety is at risk
Safety & Emergencies	Staff trained in first aid/CPR, parental notification, weather protocols
Communication	Proactive pre-camp, ongoing updates, showcases, parent partnership
Fees & Scholarships	\$175/week, scholarship options, clear refund policy

Area**Highlight****Forms & Gear**

Completed medical, pick-up/drop-off, and waiver forms; appropriate clothing and supplies listed above