

Summer Day Camps FAQ

When can I register?

We will begin registrations on **Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** for Woodbury County Conservation Foundation (WCCF) members. Non-members can begin registering one week later on **Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** See the registration tab for more details and registration form. We will accept registration by mail or in person in the order received. Please do not mail registrations early; we will accept them starting with postmark date of April 6th as the earliest date.

May I register for more than one camp?

We ask that you only register each child for one camp to start with. If openings are still available after May 15th you may register for additional sessions.

What is the camper to staff ration?

Our camper to staff ratio is 14 to 20 campers to 2 staff members. The younger the children the fewer campers per staff members. This doesn't include additional camp volunteers that assist with each camp. The number of campers is limited to ensure a fun, safe and memorable experience for all.

Who are the camp staff?

Theresa Kruid is a full-time staff naturalist and started the camp program in 1997. She has more than 20 years of experience working with children and leading them in outdoor nature activities and experiences.

Jim Henning is a full-time staff resource naturalist with over six years of experience and will assist with the camps and sharing his knowledge and experience with outdoor skills.

Dawn Snyder is the Education Director and will also assist with camps when needed. She has over 27 years' experience in the field.

We hire **summer naturalists** that are college students or graduates interested in the environmental education field. We carefully screen applicants and interview those who have experience working with kids (previous camp experience, student teaching, volunteering, etc.). We also look for people who have that certain spark that makes them kid magnets. The seasonal staff participates in at least one week of training, have passed background checks and work closely with the full-time staff.

What about volunteers?

The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center has a wonderful group of junior and adult volunteers. We have many junior volunteers that assist with our camp program, most of which are former campers themselves. Junior volunteers must be at least 12 to help with our camp program. For more information on the volunteer program, contact Betty West, Volunteer Coordinator at 712-258-0838 or bwest@sioux-city.org.

May I attend camp with my child?

Yes, for our Caterpillars camp. This is designed for an adult to attend with a child ages 3-5. For all other camps, we're sorry, but these are designed for the appropriate ages and allow time to bond with children their own age.

What about Safety?

All full-time and part-time Woodbury County staff are certified in CPR and First Aid. All staff,

are qualified and trained to handle safety issues with children outdoors. However, nature is unpredictable and occasionally injuries occur. Bee stings, falls off steps, tripping on the trails and other minor injuries may happen. We also ask that children be active participants in their own safety by not wandering from the group, asking for clarification if they don't understand directions and responding immediately to instructions. If you feel your child cannot handle these situations please think twice about sending them to nature camp. Thank you.

What about extreme weather?

If the weather is extremely hot, we take frequent breaks indoors to cool off and get drinks of water. If the weather turns rainy, we'll still head outdoors in light rain. If the rain turns heavy, we hear thunder, see lightning, or receive a weather warning staff are instructed to head indoors immediately. See Weather Procedures under the Policies tab for more details.

What if my child needs medication?

The policy of Woodbury County Conservation Day Camps is to only give emergency, life-saving medications such as epi-pens or rescue inhalers. If your child has other medication needs, we ask that you administer them before or after the camp day. Camp staff is not permitted to administer daily medications. If you need to bring emergency medication, please bring the necessary instructions and discuss this with Theresa Kruid as well as other camp staff before the camp begins.

What if my child has special needs?

Woodbury County Conservation Day Camps strives to accommodate all interested children. Please understand that our camps are very active with multiple transitions and sensory changes throughout the day. All campers are expected to follow directions and the safety rules. If you have specific concerns, please call to discuss your child's particular needs. We will do our best to work with you and your child.

Are snacks and water provided?

We provide one snack with a drink (water or lemonade) to each group daily. We also take several breaks at the water fountains throughout the day. Campers may bring their own reusable water bottle if they like. If your child has food allergies please note this information on their camper information form.

Is lunch provided? When and where do campers eat?

Campers that are 9 years and older must bring their own sack lunch with drink (please no red drinks). Lunches are NOT refrigerated and there is not access to a microwave for campers. Please try to provide a healthy lunch in reusable containers. Campers typically eat between 11:30 a.m. and Noon at the picnic tables or amphitheater outside. If the weather is stormy, campers will eat inside the classroom.

Are sunscreen and bug repellent provided?

Due to allergies and sensitivity of some children's skin, we ask that you apply these things at home BEFORE arriving to camp. Your campers may bring their own to camp for reapplication.

What do I need to wear and bring?

Campers should dress for the weather and in clothes that can get dirty as we will be outdoors much of the time and occasionally use paint with craft activities. Sturdy walking shoes are required, **no open toe shoes allowed**. Campers may bring a water bottle, hat, raincoat or jacket, camera, binoculars, sunscreen, bug repellent. Each child is responsible for their own belongings. Please **do not** send video games, cell phones, or ipods, etc. Items such as pocket

knives or other weapons are NOT allowed.

May my child bring a cell phone or other stuff with them?

We discourage campers from bringing cell phones, iPods, toys, trading card, video games and the like, which are disruptive and distractions at nature camp. Woodbury County Conservation takes no responsibility for lost items. Any items we do find (including lunch boxes, rain jackets, etc.) are put in lost and found and kept until one week after the end of each camp season.

What are your restroom policies?

All campers must be toilet trained. Campers use the Nature Center bathrooms or outhouses for some camps. Campers should inform their instructors if the need arises and they will be guided to the nearest restroom.

Are the activities age appropriate?

Our camps are divided into age groups just for this reason. We try hard to provide activities that are oriented to your child's age.

When do we receive our camp T-shirt?

We hand these out on the first day of camp. We try to all wear them on the last day of camp.

If you still have more questions call 712-258-0838 or email Theresa Kruid at camps@sioux-city.org