



Whippoorwill
FARM DAY CAMP

Parent Handbook

Summer 2021

updated on 1/21/2021

Message from the Executive Director

Hello Camp Families,

We are so excited to share Whippoorwill with your campers this summer. Camp continues to be needed more than ever this year and can be a beacon of light during this hard time. We have continued to work tirelessly to create a safe program that everyone can enjoy again this summer.

For those who have enjoyed summers with us in the past, things will be different this year. And for new families, thank you for trusting us with your campers.

We created this handbook to share our new policies and procedures that relate to COVID-19 and how we plan to keep everyone safe. As we all know, the world is living with this virus and though we had hoped to be back to normal in

2021, we know, we aren't there yet. However, after running a successful program in 2020, we feel we have taken all the steps recommended by the Health department, the CDC and the American Camp Association to keep that risk low and run again!

Read through this handbook carefully so that you feel comfortable with our plans and what we will be asking of everyone this summer.

We look forward to spending time with your camper this year and for years to come.

Happy Camping!
Shanelle Rauh

Where We Get Our Guidance

Whippoorwill is an American Camp Association (ACA) accredited camp, which means we meet over 100 ACA standards for program quality and safety.

In response to the Covid-19 virus, ACA has developed a Camp Operations Field Guide with the help of specialists in pediatric medicine, epidemiology, infectious disease management, biological safety, and industrial hygiene. We are following the recommendations of this Guide.

We are also working with the Williamson County Health Department, our camp physician, and our camp RNs to implement policies and procedures to keep your campers and our staff safe this summer.

In deciding whether to open camp, and what capacities to use, we rely on Governor Lee's Tennessee Pledge and the Williamson County Health Department.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

The ACA Camp Operations Guide goes into great detail about which products to use and how frequently to clean high-touch (and low-touch) areas of camp. The Guide also includes step-by-step instructions on how to clean and disinfect various surfaces.

At Whippoorwill we will:

- Use EPA cleaning products approved for Covid-19
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and common spaces multiple times daily

- Clean and disinfect shared items between each use
- Clean and disinfect activity areas between groups
- Provide hand-washing stations, hand sanitizer, sani-wipes, and cleaning and disinfecting wipes throughout camp
- Post signs and give reminders about washing hands



Transportation: Getting to and from Camp

Transportation is an area we will continue to keep a close eye on! You have two general options this summer:

Option 1: Whippoorwill bus. Our bus drivers are experienced School bus drivers who have multiple years of experience. Each bus will be cleaned and disinfected before picking up campers and before leaving camp in the afternoon. Drivers, campers, and counselors will wear masks (camper must provide their own, but camp will have extras in case). Campers will be assigned a seat on the bus. No more than two campers per row and buses will run at 3/4 capacity. Siblings will sit together. We plan to keep this process in place all summer despite what phase the state or county may be in.

Option 2: Driving to camp. You are welcome to drive your camper to and from camp. We are grateful that Fernvale Community Church will let us use their parking lot for a screening area for campers in the morning. Families may arrive at the church lot at 8:30 am. Campers will be screened and then ride a hay less hayride onto property each morning! Families will receive an email with additional details and directions before their session. Masks will be required on the hay wagon, and campers will be spread out.

We ask to designate one parent/guardian to pick up and drop off campers every day. Individuals who are at higher-risk for severe illness per CDC guidance should not drop off or pickup campers.

Temperature Checks, Health Screenings

Part of the continued new normal for Summer 2021 will be temperature checks and health screenings for all campers and staff. This will happen at bus stops in the morning or, if you drive your camper to camp, when you arrive at camp. We will use infrared forehead thermometers and our staff taking temperatures will be trained by our camp RNs.

A camper with a temperature of over 100.4 degrees will not be able to attend camp for 24 hours after the fever has broken. A camper must stay home for 48 hours if they have any of the following:

- A temperature over 100.4
- A sore throat, cough, or runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Shortness of breath or difficult breathing
- Fatigue or headache

It has been recommended that only campers who live in the immediate middle Tennessee area be allowed to attend camp. We are encouraging that families do not fly in an airplane within two weeks of their session. This is best practice from the CDC and agreed upon by our Camp doctor. If you are traveling out of state, we ask that you drive only and be aware of social distancing and mask wearing guidelines.

In light of the current pandemic, we are recommending that campers with preexisting health conditions wait until next year to come to camp. Likewise, if a camper is living with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is medically fragile, that they wait until next summer to attend.

Fevers or Symptoms While at Camp

If while at camp, a camper has a fever of 100.4 or above, or other Covid-19 symptoms, our on-site RN will isolate the camper in our isolation tent and have that camp masked. A staff member with appropriate PPE will stay with your camper until you can drive out to camp and pick up your camper. It is asked that you

pick up your camper within an hour of being notified.

We will notify the Williamson County Health Department and ask for guidance about whether the camper should be tested for Covid-19 and if members of the camper's Den should be tested.

General Health Information

All campers are required to fill out an updated health history form each summer. A doctor's signature is not required.

We generally have 3-5 nurses rotate throughout the summer. They are Registered Nurses with a background in School Health or Emergency Care. They come to us with current certifications and go through training sessions on site to learn our procedures. Our healthcare policies are reviewed annually by a local pediatrician and meet all ACA standards.

If your child needs to take prescription or non-prescription

medication while at camp, please download the Medication Form at whippoorwill.com/health. A nurse will contact you before your summer session to go over the medication instructions.

At this time, we will not require the COVID-19 vaccine for campers as it is still not widely available. We do encourage our families to participate in the vaccination if you are able. That helps everyone stay protected.





Small Groups and Social Distancing

Like previous camp seasons, your camper will be part of a small group, which we call a Den. Each den will have 6-9 campers and 1-2 counselors.

As of now, we plan to keep what worked in 2020 in place for 2021. Your camper will stay with their Den all week. This is because CDC guidelines say staying in the same small group will reduce the spread of infections and will allow for more rapid identification of suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19.

Dens will use social distancing when around other groups of campers and counselors. Whippoorwill's 44 acres give us plenty

of elbow room! Campers will work with their den mates throughout the week to pick their favorite activities and create schedules that everyone will enjoy!

While we follow the CDC guidelines for small groups and social distancing, we're also planning ways to add fun and connection to the camp day. We will not lose the magic and fun of camp while following the guidelines. We are exploring ways to broaden our Den groups so that some of the free-choice aspect of camp can be brought back this summer.

Interest Activity Groups

Whippoorwill has always been about free choice, with campers choosing their interest groups during sign-ups.

This summer will still offer activity choices, but in a different way. Instead of sign-ups for activities, your camper's counselor will offer a selection of activities to the entire Den. Then, as a group, the Den will decide which activities to choose. The entire Den will participate in activities together while keeping a social distance from other Dens. Campers will participate in 4-5 activities daily.

We understand that some campers are more energetic about expressing their opinions. Whippoorwill's counselors are trained to help quieter campers get their voices heard. If you have concerns that your camper's choices are getting lost in the crowd, please email or call the office.

Shared items will be cleaned and disinfected before another group uses them. Certain activities, like the climbing tower and swimming, will have specialist counselors. These counselors will wear masks and gloves if they are within 6 feet of your camper.

What to Bring to Camp

Each camper should bring as little as possible! Items have a way of losing their owner at camp. Please label everything and, if it is not labeled, we will not be able to return the item. A lunch, water bottle, sunscreen and bug spray are all that is mandatory. Please don't bring any favorite items from home as they tend to get lost.

Campers will get dirty and wet throughout the day. Shoes that can get wet are best (no crocs) and properly secured shoes are mandatory for rope activities. A swimsuit and towel are great if your child goes to the pool or splashpad.

Recycling and composting are an important part of camp; please consider this when packing a lunch.

Visiting Camp

We love it when parents visit camp and see their kids in action! We also love it when our new families visit camp and see what everyone is talking about.

This summer, though, we ask parents to only come to camp if you are dropping off your camper or picking up your camper. We are still trying to limit the number of outside visitors.

We are excited to host our annual May Open House. This will be held on May 15, 2021. We are working on arrangements for a timed entry so we can best accommodate those who want to still visit property while still providing a safe environment. More details will be on the website this spring.

