

Frequently asked questions

What should we bring to camp? When you register you will receive an email with all the camp information and all the forms you need to complete.

Can we meet the instructors before camp starts? We have seasonal staff each year and there isn't really an opportunity to do that.

Do you do background checks on your staff and how do you avoid sexual misconduct? By law all youth camp staff must have an FBI, Maryland State, and Child Protective Services background checks. Our campers will never be one on one with the staff, there are always a minimum of 2 staff with one camper or multiple campers with a staff person.

Do we have a buddy system? We travel as a group everywhere, however we also have a buddy system in place and often do buddy checks.

How many kids are in a camp? Each week varies on how many campers attend. We will not exceed a ration of 15:2 or 8:1 campers- staff at any time.

Do you have female staff at camp? Generally we have at least one female staff person for the overnight camps.

Do any females participate in the camps, and how many attend? Our camps are attended by all genders. The ratios are unknown until a day or two before camps begin.

Where do the kids sleep? All campers bring their own tent or are welcome to share a tent with a friend or a camper they bond with. We have limited tents available for rental if you don't have a tent.

Do you have a bathroom? We have access to a bathroom during our camps and we do many bathroom breaks throughout the day. Since we do go on wanders far from camp central, on occasion campers or staff need to relieve themselves in the forest. We teach safe and responsible techniques for doing so.

Do you provide food for the campers? We provide three healthy meals a day that the campers help prepare and cook on an open fire. We offer both meat and veggie meals based on the campers preferences. We try to take all the different food allergies into consideration when planning meals, however if your child has multiple allergies they may want to bring supplemental foods for us to cook

What happens if my child gets hurt or has an allergic reaction to something? All of our staff has been trained in CPR/First Aid just in case anything happens and have camping first aid experience. Serious injuries we call 911 and notify the parents.

Does my child need a knife for camp? Yes. We teach all sorts of wilderness skills that involve carving. We teach proper knife safety techniques before we allow the kids to use a knife.

Can I buy a knife from Ancestral Knowledge? Yes knives are available at the check in table each morning. They range from \$15 - \$20. We only accept checks or cash for items that are for sale.

My child is very outdoorsy or is in the scouts, can they skip to an advanced camp? The skills that that will be experienced the first week a camper attends are beyond that of the scouts. As we work with the kids we become aware of their skill level and tailor activities to the individual.

Should my child come back to future camps? Didn't they learn everything once they have attended? It is impossible to do it all or learn it all when it comes to nature awareness, wilderness skills, and tracking. Our camps are unique in that each weeks experience is different and so are the skills offered. We are focused on forming deep nature connections while exposing campers natural passions and curiosities. As a child develops and hones their skills we add challenges and more advanced skills to their experience, so coming several weeks a year for several years is actually a more effective way to mentor kids in nature awareness, wilderness skills, and tracking.