



# Teatown Natural Science Summer Day Camp

## Parent Information

### Camp Program

- Each week has a natural science or environmental theme.
- Groups explore different habitats (pond, field, marsh, stream, and woodland) and participate in activities/games/crafts based on the theme of the week. Campers at Clifffdale Farm participate in typical Teatown activities along with field investigations, citizen science projects, and leadership development.
- Education specials supplement each session.
- Typical day: Camp day begins with the campers gathering at their respective tables for an introduction to the day's activities. The counselors will often have an object on the table to stimulate the groups' interest in the topic of the day. After a short period indoors groups go outside to begin their daily exploration. Some groups, mostly older campers may choose to spend the entire day away from the building and bring their lunch and any equipment necessary along with them. Younger groups typically plan for a short hike, games, a craft or story to complement the weekly theme.

### Pick-up & drop-off

- **Park and escort** your child to their assigned room and table (see group area below).
- **Do not** drop off children on Spring Valley Road, in front of Teatown's buildings, or in the driveway across from Teatown.
- Carpooling is suggested.
- A note written and signed by a parent/guardian and given to your child's counselor is required for release of your child to another person.
- Campers are not admitted to the building any earlier than 10 minutes before camp begins. No campers should arrive at camp before their scheduled time.
- Clifffdale campers will be bused to Clifffdale from an off-site location. A letter detailing transportation procedures for Clifffdale campers will be mailed separately.

### Group Areas

- Discoverers (4 & 5 yr. olds) meet in reception area of the nature center.
- Trekkers (6 & 7 yr. olds) meet in the Moose Room of the nature center.
- Bushmasters & Junior Naturalists (8-12 yr. olds) meet in the Carriage House.
- Explorers (13 & 14 yr. olds) meet at either the blue tent on the lawn or on the stage behind the Carriage House.



- Cliffdale Nature Girls and Earth Stewards are based at the Cliffdale Farm shelter on Teatown Rd. All Cliffdale campers must take the mini-bus to Cliffdale Farm.

### **Staffing**

- Discoverers & Trekkers: 2 counselors/10 campers (1:5 ratio)
- Bushmasters, Cliffdale Nature Girls, Earth Stewards & Jr. Naturalists: 1 counselor/8 campers (1:8 ratio)
- Explorers: 2 counselors/14 campers (1:7)
  - State Law for Day Camps: 1 counselor/12 campers (1:12)

Sr. Instructors: 18 yrs. old & up.

Jr. Counselors: 16 yrs. old & up.

CIT's must be 15 and have previous camp experience

All staff participate in a mandatory training week. Topics covered in training include:

- Group Dynamics
- Emergency Procedures
- First Aid
- Teaching Techniques
- Animal Handling
- Fire Safety
- Lightning Safety
- Lost Camper Procedure
- Child Abuse

\* Tipping counselors is at the parents' discretion.

### **Camper's attire**

- Footwear
  - Hiking/Work boots or old sneakers work best. Rain boots are fine but tend to be heavy and lack support.
  - No sandals please.
  - Socks should be worn everyday. They will help eliminate blisters!
  - Two pairs of sneakers/boots are recommended for the camp season: one to wear, one for the next day – allows for drying time!
- Clothing
  - Lightweight and light color clothing works best during the hot summer.
  - Shorts are acceptable, but keep in mind that most groups travel off trails and ticks and scratches are a possibility.
  - Groups do explore/hike in the rain: dress appropriately for the weather. (No umbrellas)
  - Label any extra clothing with the camper's name and place in a daypack.
  - Lightweight hats are good for keeping the sun off the camper's face and neck.



### **Animal Policy**

- Teatown has an extensive animal collection and all children are encouraged but not required to touch and handle our non-native exhibit animals.
- No pets/animals from home are allowed in camp without the permission of the camp director. Visiting animals must be brought to camp in a secure container.

### **Health & Safety**

- Teatown has a doctor-on-call to answer questions and provide health care information to camp staff.
- Health Directors and Sr. Counselors are certified in CPR and First Aid.
  - A full-time EMT on summer camp staff acts as the camp nurse
  - 4 staff are certified as health directors
  - Explorer's senior counselor is a certified health director
  - All directors and senior counselors are trained in Epi-Pen use
- If your child requires medications while at camp we must have: the medication in the original container with doctors' orders (i.e. administration and dosage). This includes Epi-pens!
- **Lyme** - All camper's shoes and socks are sprayed with an appropriate insect/tick repellent before going out each day. For more thorough coverage we suggest that you spray your child's clothing with an appropriate insect/tick repellent before coming to camp. Thorough tick checks should be done at home every evening.
- **Rabies** – Campers and staff are instructed to avoid potential rabies carrying animals (dead or alive) while hiking.
- **In the event of a regional emergency** - As directed by Westchester County Office of Emergency Management, if evacuation of camp is necessary, children will be transported by county buses to H.C. Crittenden Middle School, Armonk.
- **KI** – Potassium iodide (KI) is stocked by Teatown to dispense to campers as a protective measure, only in the event of an emergency as advised by the Westchester County Department of Health. A signed waiver must be on file at Teatown for us to provide your child with KI.
- **Medical Forms** All campers are required to have a current health history on record at Teatown, signed by the camper's physician, before attending camp.

### **Lunch & snacks**

- Daily snacks are provided for all campers. All snacks provided by Teatown are checked to be peanut-free.
- Snacks brought to camp by parents for a group to share may not contain peanut products.
- All full day campers should bring an ample, nutritious lunch and drink every day. All lunch bags, containers should have the camper's name legibly marked on the exterior. Many groups spend the entire day in the field and lunch bags should have adequate "cool packs" to ensure that the lunch is kept fresh.



- Water bottles marked with the campers name are required for all campers.

#### **Extended Day**

- Children registered for extended care should be dropped off at the reception desk in the morning. A counselor will be assigned to the group each session.
- Children in afternoon extended care can be picked up in the picnic area behind the building or in the Discovery Room in the main building if it is raining.
- Extended care activities include quiet games, crafts, books and other passive activities.

#### **What to leave home**

- We want camp to be a place where children come to connect with friends, counselors and nature. We ask that cell phones, hand-held electronic games, and music players be left at home.
- Sunscreen and insect repellent should be applied at home. Please do not send children to camp with these items as they often get “shared” unintentionally with other campers.
- For your child’s safety and as well as the safety of other campers pocket knives are **not** allowed in camp. Daily snacks are provided for all campers. All snacks provided by Teatown are checked.

One thing is guaranteed - your camper will come home tired, happy, often wet and sometimes muddy! Be Prepared!