



Alice Ferguson Foundation

Summer Adventure Camps

Parent Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What if my child wants to sign up for more than one week - will he/she repeat the same activities?**
 - a. We appreciate your interest in multiple weeks of camp. However, each week will be relatively the same in terms of activities. The timing and schedule may be changed due to outside circumstances, but the general camp outline will stay the same.

- 2. Are your staff certified?**
 - a. A registered nurse remains on call in case of any emergencies during camp.
 - b. All staff goes through training that covers a wide variety of topics and skills to ensure our staff are prepared to adequately serve, teach, guide, and care for each camper. Topics such as risk management, bullying, and homesickness are covered, in addition to training topics specific to the policies and procedures for specific activities and programs.

- 3. What is your staff to camper ratio?**
 - a. Staff to camper ratio is 1:15 during the bulk of camp activities. The ratio is smaller during certain activities such as Canoeing and Archery.
 - b. At no point will a staff member be in a 1:1 ratio with a camper.
 - c. Campers will always be under adult supervision.

- 4. What are the sleeping accommodations? What is the supervision at night?**
 - a. Campers will be divided by gender into two bunkhouses. Two staff members will be in the bunkhouses at night. Each bunkhouse has 18 bunk beds with guard rails on each upper bed. There are bathrooms in each bunkhouse and staff will sleep nearest to the exit door.

- 5. What if my child gets sick?**
 - a. We will communicate to you as the guardian if your child isn't doing well at camp. While we will not call you when there is a brief challenge, any sustained concerns will promptly result in guardian contact from a camp director. The types of concerns that may warrant a phone call to you include extreme homesickness, injury or illness that removes your child from his or her normal camp activities (including anything that would require medical attention from outside of camp), extreme behavioral issues, or concerns related to pre-existing special needs/concerns with your child.
 - b. If a child becomes ill or injured they will be taken to our health care space with air conditioning, beds so children can rest away from other campers, and a telephone for communications with parents or outside medical professionals as needed. In the event of a camper (or staff member) requiring medical care beyond the scope of care that our staff can provide, Fort Washington Medical Center is approximately 15 minutes away.



6. Do you have a nurse?

- a. A registered nurse remains on call in case of any situations an instructor is not able to handle during camp.

7. How far away is the nearest hospital?

- a. The nearby hospital is Fort Washington Medical located at 11711 Livingston Rd, Fort Washington, MD. Phone number is: (301) 292-7000.

8. Do you have a child protection policy?

- a. All staff are required to undergo child abuse and child safety training provided through Prince George's County Safe Schools.
- b. Criminal Background checks are run for all staff through the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) and updated annually.

9. What if my child gets homesick?

- a. We will communicate to you as the parent if your child isn't doing well at camp. While we will not call you when there is a brief challenge, any sustained concerns will result in parental contact from a camp director. The types of concerns that may warrant a phone call to you include extreme homesickness, injury or illness that removes your child from his or her normal camp activities (including anything that would require medical attention from outside of camp), extreme behavioral issues, or concerns related to pre-existing special needs/concerns with your child.

10. How can I contact my child or how can my child contact me?

- a. We do not allow campers to have cell phones (or other electronics) with them during camp. We ask that those be left at home. Cell phones cause unnecessary distractions from camp life and, more importantly, cause safety concerns for our campers. Of course, old-fashioned, hand-written letters are still very popular and very much appreciated by our campers as well!
- b. Our staff will be taking photos throughout the program and will be uploading them daily. These photos can be seen through a password-protected website, the url will be sent to parents after registration.
- c. You may also leave a note or postcard for your child at check-in. Instructors will deliver it to them later in the week.

11. This is my child's first time away from home, how will you help him/her?

- a. We encourage parents to prepare their child as much as possible for what to expect for their first time away from home. Help your child be as prepared as they can for how things will go at camp: review the camp schedule, the website, the packing list, and if and how you will be communicating with them while at camp. Don't forget to speak with them about living in a cabin with other children.

12. What do you do for children who are picky eaters?

- a. Our meals are prepared by our food certified staff or will come from restaurants from around the area. We encourage all campers to try something new that they may have



never had before. If a camper is refusing multiple meals we will contact parents to work out a plan to make sure no camper is hungry during camp.

- b. Camp life is busy and often times strenuous, so we have to ensure additional snack times to help campers stay energized! Every evening we provide some sort of light, healthy snack to ensure campers don't go to bed on an empty stomach.
- c. You will be asked to inform our staff in the pre-camp paperwork if there are any confirmed food allergies.

13. What if my child doesn't like an activity or doesn't want to participate?

- a. We encourage all campers to step outside of their comfort zones and try something new at camp. We understand some children may leave what we call a "challenge zone" and go into a "panic zone" when this occurs we will be careful to handle the situation properly.

14. Discipline

- a. On Opening Day, campers will discuss the camper code of conduct and rules for their time at camp. These rules are strictly enforced to promote the security and happiness of every camper or participant coming to campus. If there is an ongoing behavioral problem with a camper, the first step will be a discussion with the camper about their improper behavior and how to fix it. A verbal agreement of better behavior will be made between instructors and the camper.
- b. If the behavior continues, a written contract addressing the behavior of the camper and the consequences of their actions will be signed. After the written contract staff will contact parents/guardians to make them aware that there is an issue.
- c. If the improper behavior is not fixed, the camper will be sent home. Early dismissal from camp for behavioral issues will not warrant a refund. The same will be true of voluntary early departures. We have a zero-tolerance policy against physical abuse, verbal abuse or any kind of harassment.
- d. Any participant that engages in any form of harassment, aggressive physical contact or word use may be removed immediately from camp without other warnings.

15. Weather Related Emergency

- a. AFF staff keep a close watch on any weather systems affecting the area. While we will go out in the rain, we always have special indoor activities planned if the weather is deemed unfit for outdoor activities. If the canoeing dates are postponed, we will do our best to reschedule the trip during the week.

16. What is your refund policy?

- a. In the case of serious accident, illness, or other extenuating circumstances, refunds may be provided at the discretion of the Camp Director. No refunds or reductions are made for late arrival or early departure from camp. Any camper whose behavior disrupts the camp program or is harmful to him or herself will be dismissed with no refund. Campers found possessing or using tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or weapons will be dismissed from camp with no refund of fees. Please see further information regarding Discipline and campers being dismissed
- b. For cancellations made *before* May 1, all fees may be refunded, less a \$200 processing fee. For cancellations made *after* May 1, the total registration fee is forfeited.



17. What if I don't want my child spend the night?

- a. Students can join for breakfast at 7:30 AM. Children should arrive before 7:30AM for a timely start.
- b. We encourage all children who are to be picked up to remain through the evening activities. Evening pickup is at 9:00 PM.
- c. Costs will be the same whether the child stays overnight, for a full day, or a partial day.

18. What sort of schedule of activities might my kids have?

Sample General Residential Camp Schedule

Sample Day 1		Sample Day 2	
7:00AM	Wake Up	7:00AM	Wake Up
7:30AM	Breakfast	7:30AM	Breakfast
8:00AM	Milking the Cow	8:00AM	Collecting Chicken Eggs
9:00AM	Canoeing	9:00AM	Orienteering Introduction
11:30AM	Lunch	11:30AM	Lunch
12:15PM	Bunk Time	12:15PM	Bunk Time
1:00PM	Nature Hike	1:00PM	Orienteering Scavenger Hunt
3:30PM	Pool Time	3:30PM	Pool Time
5:30PM	Dinner	5:30PM	Dinner
6:15PM	Learning Activity	6:15PM	Nature Journaling
7:00PM	Campfire & S'mores	7:00PM	Capture the Flag
9:00PM	Bunk Time/Cabin Chats	9:00PM	Bunk Time/Cabin Chats
9:30PM	Lights Out	9:30PM	Lights Out