York County Parks

Nature Discovery Programs
Registration Packet

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I. Welcome

Welcome to York County Parks. We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for summer programs. Summer is for fun, new friends, exciting adventures and making memories. During NDP, your child will explore, experience, discover and (don't tell them) learn while having fun.

A. Our Curriculum

York County Park summer programs provide environmental education learning experiences based on the Constructivist Learning Theory. This honors background experiences and provides discovery-learning opportunities. One of the most important goals of our curriculum is to encourage students to become lifelong learners, discovering the amazing wonders of nature.

Our programs are formed around the following learning styles:

- Linguistic: reading, writing, story telling
- Logical/Mathematical: experiments, problem solving, reasoning/logic
- Spatial: drawing, building, designing, puzzles, using their imagination
- Musical: singing, instruments, sounds, rhythm
- Kinesthetic: moving around, games, dance, sports, body language
- Interpersonal: group/teamwork, communicating, sharing, cooperating
- Intrapersonal: journaling, individual work, working in an independent self-pace instruction
- Naturalistic: discriminate among living things as well as sensitivity to the natural world features.

Learning is play. Learning is fun. Play is learning…

B. Nature Discovery Program Emphasis

Small Wonders: Ages 3-4 with an adult
Small Wonders is just the beginning of your child's lifelong learning adventure. Park staff will build on the student's energetic nature and their natural awe and wonder with new experiences using hands-on sensory exploration to learn about their world. Park staff will direct and instruct lessons while parents guide and learn alongside their child as they grow to become nature enthusiasts.

NDP 1: Ages 5-6
Nature Discovery Program 1 utilizes the student's new ability to focus by honing the student's observation, exploration, and discovery skills. Throughout the week, children will engage directly with nature through outdoor walks, games, and activities. Park staff will lead students on quests to make exciting discoveries about the fascinating world outside while learning respect for animals and nature.

NDP 2: Ages 7-8
Nature Discovery Program 2 draws on the student's capacity to make connections to study the needs of plants and animals. Students will discover the ins and outs of nature through hands-on discovery learning, reading and journaling. Park staff will lead hikes, lessons, games, and crafts while helping students to develop a sense of wonder about the place we live.

NDP 3: Ages 9-10
Nature Discovery Program 3 will delve into the cool, the bizarre, and the yucky sides of nature. Park staff will guide students as they explore, experiment and engage directly with nature. Students will partake in excursions, games and activities while learning to be environmental stewards.

NDP 4: Ages 11-13
Nature Discovery Program 4 is filled with high energy outdoor recreation activities to launch students into lifelong leisure pursuits. Students will make personal connections to nature while engaging in fun-filled educational adventures.

Nature Academy: Ages 14-15
In a small group setting students will engage with peers, professional staff and guest scientists to explore in depth natural history and science topics. Field trips to other centers and natural areas will help build skills and support a more rounded understanding of the environment for any student.

Archaeology Week I and II: Ages 9-12
Co-sponsored with the York County Heritage Trust, this week of hard work, fun and education will get right down to earth! Students learn the concepts of doing archaeology by conducting actual excavations. Students will learn how to take notes, catalog artifacts and build displays. Interwoven between excavations, the class tours selected YCHT sites show how archeology ties into historical interpretation.

C. Staff

We believe strongly in positive, enthusiastic, energetic role models for your children. Experienced full time staff and seasonal staff use their skills to create fun and educational programs. Prior to summer programs, seasonal programming staff participates in training and orientation in order to better meet your child’s needs. All paid staff are CPR and First Aid certified. All York County employees receive background checks before hiring.

Park staff is available to share information concerning your child on a daily basis. We welcome your input, as you are the foremost expert on your child’s needs. Call or email us any time prior to the start of your child's program to discuss any special circumstances or accommodations that would help us to provide a better experience for your child.

D. Contact Information

Nixon County Park Nature Center: 717- 428-0356 or nixoncountypark@york-county.org
Amber Carothers, Park Naturalist: 717-428-0356 or alcarothers@york-county.org
Summer Seasonal Cell Phone: 717-324-5618 or 717-324-5620
Park Headquarters at Rudy County Park: 717-840-7440

II. Policies

A. Registration

- Spaces are limited and reserved only with full payment.
- To register by mail: Print out the Registration and Health Form from www.yorkcountyparks.org. Mail completed forms along with full payment to **York County Parks, 400 Mundis Race Road, York, PA 17406.**
- To register by phone: Call York County Parks at (717) 840-7440 during regular business hours to register by phone. Staff will complete the registration form. Print out Health Form from www.yorkcountyparks.org. Mail completed health form along with full payment to the above address within 2 weeks.
- York County Parks accepts checks, money orders or credit cards. All credit card transactions are subject to a 4% service fee.
- Registration begins the second Monday of January for Park Members.
- Registration begins the first Monday of February for Non-members.

B. Before Care /After Care

Before Care: 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m.	Cost: $25 per week
After Care: 2- 4 p.m.*	Cost: $70 per week
3-4 p.m.*	Cost: $45 per week

Students attending **FULL** day programs can participate in before and/or after care. Registration is required. During before/after care children will play games, hike and explore the outdoors.

*Parents MUST pick up their children no later than 4 p.m. Failure to do so results in a late fee of $1 per minute beginning at 4 p.m. This late fee must be paid on Friday afternoon when the child is picked up.

C. Pick Up/Drop Off

A sign in/sign out sheet must be signed by an authorized person listed in the child's files when the child is dropped off and again when the child is picked up. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to leave or pick up the child and to ensure that seasonal staff has been made aware of the fact that their child has arrived or left. If someone other than the child's parent or guardian is to pick up the child, a Pick up Authorization Form must be filled out and given to park staff. If an emergency situation should arise, verbal notification is sufficient.

D. Absences/Tardiness

If a child will not be attending due to illness or other reason, it is the parent or guardian's responsibility to inform the staff. Please call Nixon County Park at 717-428-0356 as soon as possible to inform us of such occasions. If your child is going to be tardy please call so that we can make arrangements for your child to meet up with the group if possible.

E. How to Come Prepared

Please label all of your child's clothing, lunch box, water bottle, and any other items that are brought with his or her name.
What to wear to the program:

- Comfortable, appropriate, and layered clothing to accommodate changing weather conditions.
- Solid shoes. No open-toed shoes, backless shoes, flip flops or sandals.
- A hat for sun protection.
- Sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Raincoat as needed.

What to bring to the program:

- Full-day program students need to bring a lunch, snack and water. Half-day program students need to bring a snack and water.
- A full, reusable water bottle is highly recommended.
- We encourage use of low waste lunches with recyclable or reusable containers.
- A complete change of clothes and towel for those just in case moments to be stored on site for the week.
- Medicine along with the medication form if needed.
- Pick up Authorization Form if needed.

What not to bring to the program:

- Electronics (iPods, cell phones, games, etc,)
- Toys
- Pocket knives
- Matches or lighters

F. Behavior Expectations

- Students are expected to be focused and listening during all activities. Children should not be wandering around doing other things, talking to each other or playing when the instructor is teaching.
- Children are expected to respect each other, the staff and York County Parks materials.
- In the event that a child should misbehave during a program (i.e., physically or verbally aggressive or disrespectful behavior, use of profanities, continuously disruptive behavior, or defiance of authority), the staff will take action immediately.
- If the behavior persists, the student may be instructed to take some cool down time by sitting out of the next activity.
- If further disruptive behavior occurs seasonal staff will inform the supervisor, who will meet with the child and the seasonal staff.
- If the behavior persists, a conference will be held with the parent and may result in possible withdrawal from the week without a refund.

G. Lost Child

Staff members are required to perform head counts throughout all of our programs. With our small student to staff ratio, it is unlikely that we may be faced with a lost or missing child. However, it is very important for you to know that we do have a procedure and policy should this unfortunate circumstance arise.

H. Medication Administration

York County Park staff **will not administer** medication to a child (**over the counter or prescribed**) unless accompanied by a Doctor's written notice. Medication forms can be found in your packet of information to be filled out and returned to York County Parks. The medication prescribed must be in the original container bearing the original pharmacy label, which shows the prescription number, date filled, doctor's name, directions for use, method of administration and frequency and the child's name. Medication is kept in storage, out of reach of children, when not being used. When no longer needed, or when expired, medications are returned to the parents. Parents will be asked to sign a medication slip

for each medication given, noting the time to be given, dose, frequency, method, and number of days to be given.

I. Weather

The majority of programs take place in an outdoor setting. In the event of severe weather (i.e.: storms or extreme heat), activities will be altered as needed.

J. Cancellations and Refunds

Full refunds will be given when the cancellation occurs at least 30 days prior to the start of the programs. If cancellation occurs within 30 days of the program a refund will be issued only if your child's spot is filled by another participant.

K. Evaluation

We are open to and embrace any and all feedback. Please feel free to give us feedback at any time of the summer. You may schedule an appointment with a staff member at any time to discuss your family's needs. Parents/ guardians along with their child will be asked to fill out an evaluation at the end of the program. Your feedback is vitally important to us and helps us to constantly improve and provide quality programs. Please take the time to tell us how you feel we are doing and provide any suggestions or comments about your expectations of York County Parks.

III. Forms

A. Registration
B. Health Form
C. Medication Form
D. Pick Up Authorization Form

2012 NATURE DISCOVERY PROGRAMS REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail full payment with the completed registration and health form **to York County Parks, 400 Mundis Race Road, York, PA 17406**. Make checks payable to York County Parks. You may also register over the telephone if paying with a Visa, Discover or MasterCard (a service charge of 4% will be added), completed health forms are due to our office by May 1st. **Call (717) 840-7440 between 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.** Your registration is not official until full payment has been received.

For specific questions concerning a session(s), please contact Amber Carothers, York County Park Naturalist at (717) 428-1961 or alcarothers@york-county.org. Do not use this telephone number or email for registration. ***The age limit on all sessions is strictly enforced, no exceptions. Please, one child per form!***

Students Name_____ Nickname_____ Sex: M or F

Birth Date and Location: _____ Age:_____(as of class date)

Parent/Guardian Name_____

Address_____ City _____

State_____ Zip_____ Phone_____ Email Address_____

I would like to enter my child for the following session(s):

_____Small Wonders	June 11-15	Ages 3-4	10–11:30 a.m.	$ 35.00
_____ NDP 1	June 18 - 22	Ages 5-6	9-11:30 a.m.	$ 65.00
_____ NDP 1: Reptile Week	July 2,3,5,6	Ages 5-6	9-11:30 a.m.	$ 65.00
_____ NDP 2	June 25-29	Ages 7-8	9-2:00 p.m.	$ 85.00
_____ NDP 3	July 23-27	Ages 9-10	9-3 p.m.	$120.00
_____ NDP 4	August 13-17	Ages 11-13	9-3 p.m.	$145.00
_____ Archeology Week 1*	July 9– 13	Ages 9-12	9-3 p.m.	$125.00
_____Archeology Week 2	August 6 – 10	Ages 9-12	9-3 p.m.	$150.00
_____ Nature Academy	July 30-August 3	Ages 14-15	9-3:30 p.m.	$160.00

New this year for FULL (Except Nature Academy) day programs: Before Care and After Care

_____ Before Care: 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m. Cost: $25 per week * Before Care not Available for Archeology Week 1
_____ After Care: 2-4 p.m. Cost: $75 per week or 3-4 p.m. Cost: $45 per week

Total Enclosed $_____

I am using (circle one) VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER
Name on Card_____
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

HEALTH INFORMATION FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH REGISTRATION)

_____

Students Name **Date of Birth** **Age (as of class date)**

Class Enrolled In: _____ Small Wonders ____ NDP 1 _____ NDP 1: Reptile Week

_____ NDP 2 _____ NDP 3 _____ NDP 4 _____ Archeology Week 1

_____ Archeology Week 2 _____ Nature Academy _____Before Care _____ After Care

Emergency Contacts: The following adults are authorized to be contacted and/or pick this student up in the event of an emergency (please list at least 2 individuals):

_____

Name Relationship to Student Phone

_____

Name Relationship to Student Phone

_____

Name Relationship to Student Phone

Physician's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Any special needs or accommodations? If so, please explain: _____

_____

Any medical conditions? If so, please explain: _____

_____

Any special medication for a health issue? If so, I understand I fill out the Medication Form: _____
Your Initials

Any allergies to any items, foods, bees, medicine, etc? If so, please explain: _____

_____

RELEASE WAVIER: As the parent or guardian of the enrolled student, I grant my permission to the York County Department of Parks and Recreation, for the child to participate in all of the scheduled activities for the session(s). For special exceptions, I have made arrangements through the Parks Department to accommodate the student. I also give my permission to the Parks staff to administer emergency First Aid to the enrolled student as needed. The Parks staff will immediately telephone the emergency contact person following a serious incident.

_____
PARENT OR GUARDIAN

_____
DATE

MEDICATION FORM
(One form per medication)

York County Park staff **will not administer** medication to a child (**over the counter or prescribed**) unless accompanied by a Doctor's written notice. For a prescription and nonprescription medication, a labeled container with a doctor's name, the child's name, the medication type, dosage, frequency, method of application, and an expiration date is also required.

To be complete by the child's health care provider with prescriptive authority:

Child: _____ Birth date: _____

Medication:
_____

Dosage: _____ Route: _____

Time of day medication is to be given: _____

Special Instructions: _____

Purpose of Medication:
_____

Possible Side Effects: _____

Start Date: _____ End Date:
_____

_____ _____ _____
Signature of Person with Prescriptive Authority Phone Date

Print Name: _____

To Be Completed by the Parent or Guardian

I hereby give my permission for _____ to take the above medication as ordered by the
(Child's Name)

Health care provider. I understand that it is my responsibility to furnish this medication.

_____ _____
Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

Note: The medication is to be brought in the original container, which clearly states the child's name, the health care provider, the name of the medication, date, time and dosage. This form must be filled out completely in order for the medication to be given.

PICK UP AUTHORIZATION FORM

A sign in/sign out sheet must be signed by an authorized person listed in the child's files when the child is dropped off and again when the child is picked up. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to leave or pick up the child and to ensure that staff has been made aware of the fact that their child has arrived or left. If someone other than the child's parent or guardian is to pick up the child, a Pick up Authorization Form must be filled out and given to park staff.

I hereby give my permission for the following individuals to pick up my child _____ during the
(Child's Name)
week-long summer program through York County Parks.

_____ _____
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Individuals authorized to pick up (other than parent/guardian)

_____
Name Relationship to Student Phone

_____
Name Relationship to Student Phone

_____
Name Relationship to Student Phone