



285 Hungry Hollow Road  
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977  
Phone: (845) 356-6477  
Fax: (845) 356-2932  
[www.thenatureplace.com](http://www.thenatureplace.com)

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May 21, 2008

Dear Parent(s) and Camper(s),

Camp will soon be here! We are ready for and excited about our 23<sup>rd</sup> season at Green Meadow Waldorf School. This May Letter gives you some specifics about the upcoming summer. Our June Letter will have information on trip dates, activities, overnights, camper groupings, special events, etc.

#### 1. DATES and TIMES

Camp starts on Monday, June 30, and continues every weekday until Friday, August 8. We will be closed for Independence Day on Friday, July 4, 2008.

The official camp hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### 2. ARRIVAL and DISMISSAL

Morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up procedures will be described in our June letter.

If your child is to be picked up at dismissal time by a person other than you, the parent or guardian, the camp must have on file the "**Permission to Dismiss Camper to Person Other Than Parent**" form. It must be completely filled out (including the name of the person picking up your child) and signed. This applies to everyone, including carpools. Forms are available on our website [www.thenatureplace.com](http://www.thenatureplace.com).

#### 3. TELEPHONES

The camp winter number is (845) 356-6477. You can reach us at the winter number until June 19<sup>th</sup>. During the summer the direct phone line to camp is (845) 356-1234. If you call in the summer and that phone line is already being used, our voice mail system will take your message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Our summer fax number is (845) 356-9676. The direct summer line to our camp nurse is (845) 356-0233. Please call (845) 356-1234 to let us know if your child will be absent.

#### 4. BUSES

If you have chosen the daily bus transportation you will receive a separate letter in June describing routes and times. All campers will use buses for trips away from camp. All buses, unless otherwise noted, are school buses and are equipped with seat belts.

Please share the following Bus Safety Rules with your child(ren).

## **BUS SAFETY RULES**

To keep our trips safe and fun, please follow these rules when riding the bus.

### **PLEASE.....**

1. Observe the same conduct on the bus as in the camp.
2. Be courteous and use appropriate language.
3. Keep the bus clean.
4. Cooperate with the bus driver.
5. Do not throw anything.
6. Respect other campers' belongings and the inside of the bus.
7. Stay in your seat.
8. Keep your head, hands and feet inside the bus.
9. Remember, the bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
10. Always wear your seat belt.

Thanks for your cooperation!

### **5. LUNCH**

Please provide an ample, nutritious lunch, with drink, for your child each day. Make sure the lunch is in a clearly labeled bag, lunch box or other container. All "brown bag" lunches will be kept chilled at camp. Please include a "cool pack" if your child's lunch is in a lunch box or insulated lunch bag.

We operate The Nature Place in earth-friendly ways. We do not believe in the concept of "away", as in throwing something "away". When something is thrown "away" it is somewhere on, under or above the earth. We also want to make your child's lunch time an opportunity for practicing environmental awareness. Therefore, we:

\*Provide a complete recycling program.

\*Want parents and campers to consider alternatives to box drinks, throw-"away" items, plastic wrap, aluminum foil and unhealthy snacks.

\*Provide a compost bucket at lunchtime for leftover food scraps.

If your child is scheduled for a trip, please pack a lunch that is less perishable and includes two drinks. Please do not bring a hard lunch box on a hike. Freezing drinks and refrigerating the lunch the night before the trip will help keep everything cool in our backpacks during our pre-lunch hiking time.

### **6. SNACKS**

Daily snacks are provided both at camp and away from camp on day hikes and overnight camping trips. We provide water, ice cream, fresh fruits and vegetables, popcorn, frozen fruit bars, trail mix, granola bars, cookies, pretzels, crackers, peanut butter, salsa with chips, hummus with pita bread and more. We are not peanut-free but are peanut-aware.

## 7. T-SHIRTS and WATER BOTTLES

Each camper will receive a camp T-shirt and water bottle.

## 8. OUTDOOR CONCERNS

Welcome to the great outdoors! Because most of the activities at The Nature Place are outdoors, including numerous hikes and overnight camping trips, we are especially sensitive to and are concerned about ticks, sun, mosquitoes and more. We will be happy to share with you our safety management plans for any area of camp, i.e. playground, hikes, mosquitoes, ticks, swim, etc.

We acknowledge that there are certain risks and safety concerns inherent in the operation of a summer day camp. We continue to address these areas in a proactive, clear and efficient way through education (of staff, campers and parents) and implementation of risk management procedures.

**Rabies** - while outdoors we avoid potential rabies-carrying wild animals (dead or alive) at camp or away from camp on day hikes and camping trips.

**Mosquitoes** - We will apply an appropriate mosquito repellent to campers if we believe the conditions warrant it. Please tell us if you **do not** want us to use mosquito repellent on your child or children. Our June letter will have the names of the repellents we use as well as their ingredients.

**Sun** - We ask that parents apply a liberal amount of sun-block (#15 or higher) to their camper's exposed skin areas before camp each day and /or make sure your camper is dressed for sun protection, i.e. hat with brim. The camp also has a supply of sun block to use when needed. Please let the nurse know if your child is especially sensitive to the sun.

**Ticks** - At camp we educate everyone about the tick situation; minimize off-trail hiking; strongly recommend the appropriate tick clothing for day hikes and camping trips (see clothing section following); establish a tick check system for campers and staff; and follow other tick-related safety procedures and practices. Parents are encouraged to spray their camper's clothing with an appropriate tick spray before leaving for camp in the morning. Check with your doctor before doing this. Parents are advised to have their camper (or parent, if the camper is young) check clothes and all body areas after each camp day. The evening bath or shower is a good time for this. The camp will apply an appropriate tick spray on a camper's pants and footwear if we believe the conditions warrant it, especially on day hikes and overnight camping trips. Please tell us if you **do not** want us to spray.

**Information regarding Ticks, Rabies, Mosquitoes, and Children's Camps in New York State is available on our website ([www.thenatureplace.com](http://www.thenatureplace.com)). Please read! If you would like information mailed to you, please contact the camp office.**

## 9. CLOTHING

Most campers attend The Nature Place in shorts, T-shirt and sneakers. The recommended tick/mosquito clothing for day hikes and camping trips is: light-weight, light-colored long pants; light-weight, light-colored long sleeve shirt tucked into pants; pants tucked into socks; hat with brim. We may modify the recommended clothing if the weather is such that wearing of the tick/mosquito clothes may bring about heat-related distress or illness.

Sneakers are fine for general camp footwear, day hikes and most camping trips. Some backpacking trips, especially for those ages 12 and up, may require hiking boots. We recommend

that campers of this age buy and wear light-weight hiking boots now, well before camp starts, so that the boots are comfortable and broken in before the first extended trip.

On the first day of camp bring in a complete change of clothes (including an old pair of sneakers). This spare set of clothes, to be left at camp, should be in a clearly labeled bag. Some of our outdoor education activities can get a bit messy and wet.

A swimsuit and towel should be brought every day in a separate reusable plastic bag. Rain gear, in the form of a raincoat or poncho, is a must for rainy days.

#### **10. OVERNIGHT CAMPING TRIPS**

A separate clothing list will be given to all those groups going on an overnight. A sleeping bag is required. We have a limited quantity of adjustable frame backpacks for loan. Our packing lists are available online at [www.thenatureplace.com](http://www.thenatureplace.com).

#### **11. BEFORE/AFTER CAMP CARE**

We provide organized before-camp (7:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.) and after-camp (4:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.) programs with snacks, games, outdoor/indoor activities and quiet times. If you did not already indicate your interest/need on the Enrollment Contract, please contact the office to reserve a place for your child(ren). In addition, if you have not pre-paid for before/after-camp care, the fee will be collected on a daily basis by the staff.

#### **12. MEDICAL and OTHER FORMS**

**All medical forms (including the Individual Medication Orders Form) are due now.** This form must be completed and **signed by your doctor**, if you want us to administer, on an as-needed basis, any of the listed Over The Counter (OTC) medications which are shown on the form. A parent's signature is not sufficient. **IF THERE ARE OR WILL BE ANY CHANGES (MEDICAL OR OTHERWISE) SINCE THE DATE OF YOUR CHILD'S LAST PHYSICAL, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO LET THE CAMP KNOW OF THESE CHANGES BOTH NOW AND THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER CAMP SEASON!** The Camper Information Sheet is due as soon as possible. Copies of forms are available on our website [www.thenatureplace.com](http://www.thenatureplace.com).

#### **13. Weekly Themes**

**Our weekly themes are a means to weave together, in fun and educational ways, many of the diverse activities at The Nature Place.**

**Week #1: Taking Care Week** - join us as we learn to take care of ourselves, our group, our camp and our planet.

**Week #2: Gravity-don't let it get you down Week**

**Week # 3: Thinking Green/Being Green Week**

**Be cool**

**Be green**

**Be seen**

**Week #4: Threads, Webs and Circles Week**

**Week #5: Animal Week - come to The Nature Place fair, the birds and the beasts will be here.**

**Week #6: Earth, Wind, Fire and Water Week -meet each of these elements, sometimes all at once!**

Ed Bieber  
Owner/Director

Maureen Regan  
Director

And it was summer -  
warm, beautiful summer.

Hans Christian Andersen

P.S. - All enrolled camp families are eligible to become members of the Threefold Pond (our camp swimming facility)! If you would like to be part of a swim community where there are no radios, no smoking, no crowds on weekends, but where you'll find plenty of kids, shade and sun, more nature than concrete, and like-minded families, then call Bonnie Johnson, Pond Manager, at 845-371-9711 for more information and an application form.