



Everglades

Youth Conservation Camp

2023 Parent Information Packet

Table of Contents

Mission, Goals, and Objectives.....	2
Check-in and Check-out.....	3 - 4
Health.....	5 - 6
Mental Health.....	7 - 8
Behavioral Expectations.....	9
Camp Life.....	10 - 13
Cabin Policies.....	10
Food Service and Dance Night.....	10
Clothing Policies.....	11
Packing List.....	12
Daily Schedule and Camp Store.....	13
Photo Packages.....	14
FWC Discrimination Policy.....	16

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Everglades
Youth Conservation Camp

Campers will learn how to respect and take care of living things and the environment by:

1. Incorporation of knowledge about south Florida's ecosystems and conservation in all EYCC programs.
2. Participation in sustainable practices such as recycling, water conservation, and leave no trace.



Our mission is to foster awareness, appreciation, and concern for Florida's wildlife and environment through outdoor recreation and conservation education.

Campers will gain "Life Skills" that include communication, teamwork, responsibility, respect, and friendship-building by:

1. Adhering to our policy's on the rights and dignity of others and our Neutral Zone Policy.
2. Living in a cabin with other campers and helping to maintain their communal living space.
3. Ensuring that they are a productive member of the group by following instructions, participating in activities, and assisting others.

Campers will become confident in paddle sports, shooting sports, fishing, and wildlife discovery by:

1. Participation in paddle sports, archery, and fishing daily.
2. Ensuring all activities are skills based and are taught by certified instructors.
3. Participating in free time called *Campers Choice* so campers can enhance their skill with more practice.

Check In and Check Out

General Policies and Procedures



You (or your designee) are responsible for transportation to and from the facility.



The person dropping off and picking up your child **must** be 18 years old.



Unexpected emergencies do arise, so please be prepared to have another responsible adult available to pick-up your child from camp.



Please do not bring pets to check in or check out.

Please make sure you use the restroom prior to getting in the car line for pick up or drop off. There are two Publix's on the way to EYCC that make perfect rest stops. Speed limit is 10mph when you enter camp.

Directions To Camp

FROM I-95: Exit at Northlake Blvd. Go west to Seminole Pratt Whitney Road blinking light...will take about 20 minutes). Turn right and go three miles to J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (last two miles is a dirt road with no buildings). Turn left into J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. After check station you will see a wooden fence on the right, follow that fence line to the entrance of the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp.

FROM NORTHLAKE BLVD: Go west to Seminole Pratt Whitney Road. Turn right and go three miles to J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (last two miles is a dirt road with no buildings). Turn left into J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. After passing the check station you will see a wooden fence on the right, follow that fence line to the entrance of the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp.

FROM OKEECHOBEE BLVD OR SOUTHERN BLVD: Go west to Seminole Pratt Whitney Road. Turn right and go North. Continue to Seminole Pratt Whitney past Northlake Blvd. (blinking light) and go three miles to J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (last two miles is a dirt road with no buildings). Turn left into J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. After passing the check station you will see a wooden fence on the right, follow that fence line to the entrance of the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp.

Check In Schedule

2:30 p.m. Leadership Campers and siblings

3:00 p.m. Mariners and Seafarers


3:30 p.m. Pathfinders and Outdoor Archers

4:00 p.m. Explorers and Anglers Plus

4:30 p.m. Wildlife Adventurers, Wetland Wanders, Anglers

Check-In

What to Bring

Missing Forms, Medications, Luggage, Camp, Store Money (cash only), Your Camper(s) 

Check in Stations

1. Sign In
2. Health Screening
3. Nurse (Medication Drop off)
4. Camper Info. Confirmation
5. Camp Store
6. Instructor Meet and Greet
7. Group Leader Meet and Greet in their Cabin

Check in Policies

- No early drop off unless your child has a sibling checking in at an earlier time.
- No late drop off. Please plan accordingly.
- Campers can be accompanied by two adults maximum.

Check-Out

Schedule

Friday 3:00pm – 5:00pm



Photo Identification is required at check out.

Check out Stations

1. Car Line
2. ID Confirmation/Medication Pickup/Camp Store refunds
3. Camper Pick Up

Check out Policies

- Please remain in your car for your safety.
- Please do not come earlier than 2:30 pm.
- Remain behind the designated boundary until check out opens. Coming in early and parking causes traffic congestion.
- No late check out. A late fee of \$10/10 minutes late will be enforced.
- Only individuals who are authorized by the parents will be allowed to pick up campers.



Health



Disease Prevention

Please contact us if your child has any condition that may affect them while at camp.



Campers and Staff will wash their hands before and after meals.



Campers and Staff will avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.



Campers and Staff will cover their coughs and sneezes.



Staff will clean high contact surfaces twice a day.

Disease Prevention Policies

The Camp STRONGLY Recommends that parents consult their family physician about the communicable disease risks associated with the summer camp setting.



Campers showing signs and symptoms of illness will not be admitted to camp.



Campers showing signs and symptoms of illness during camp will, unfortunately, be sent home.



If the camp is notified that a staff member or camper has tested positive for COVID-19, parents of exposed campers will be notified. (This will most likely mean all parents in that child's cabin and program).



A camper will be given a mask to wear if they are showing signs and symptoms of illness.

First Aid



All EYCC Staff who supervise campers are First Aid, CPR, AED certified.



The Staff or Camp Nurse will treat minor injuries on site.



Campers with life threatening injuries or conditions will be taken to the ER of Westlake or Palms West Hospital.



Health



Medications

- Medications will be kept secure in the Health Center.
- All medications including vitamins and other supplements and over the counter medications must be given to the camp Nurse during check in. Please make sure they are in their original containers.
- Campers will go to the Nurse to receive their medications.
- Staff and The Nurse will ensure that your child takes their medications at the appropriate time.
- We recommend that if your child has ADHD medication, they should take it during camp.

Evacuation Procedures

- In the event of an emergency evacuation (i.e., hurricane, fire, etc.) of the camp facility, campers will be taken to:
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Regional Office
8535 North Lake Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33412
- This location and additional information on where to locate your child will be recorded on the EYCC's answering machine and will also be available at our FWC Regional Office in West Palm Beach and our headquarters in Tallahassee.
- Please keep these emergency contact numbers for your records:

EYCC Office	(561) 624-6929
WPB Regional Office	(561) 625-5122
Tallahassee	(850) 404-6125

The camp provides secondary, minor health and accident insurance during summer camp. The parent or guardian's policy is considered primary. Please provide a COPY of the parent or guardian's health insurance policy to cover the camper while at summer camp. Only if the camper is uninsured would the camp's policy become primary.

Mental Health

Homesickness

What is Homesickness? Homesickness is the behavioral manifestation of **anxiety** caused by being in a new environment away from home.

Meeting new people, Change in routine, Trying new things outside of one's comfort zone, Fear of failure, Change in living environment, New boundaries and expectations, Strong attachment to parents or other family members, Concern over their family's or a family member's wellbeing, and attachment to technology are common causes of homesickness in children.

Homesickness Prevention

Prepare your child for what to expect at camp. (sleeping arrangements, rules, and schedule). **DON'T** tell your child that you can't bear to be away from them and that you won't survive without them. **Pre-write letters** for your child and hand them in at check in so that your child can get mail from you every day. **Slowly reduce** your child's time on their phones, tablets, and video games at least two weeks prior to camp.

Our policy is to always let the parents know if their child is suffering from homesickness, but we **strongly discourage** allowing parents to talk to their child on the phone. This frequently leads to the child going home. We will always keep parents up to date on their child's wellbeing.

Mental Health

General Mental Health Considerations

Consult your child's doctor on whether it is safe for your child to go to summer camp if they are starting a new medication to treat depression, anxiety, or other mental disorders 10 days prior to their first day of camp.

Please let us know if your child is at risk for suicide or other harmful behaviors.

Please let camp administration know if your household has experienced any major changes that may affect your child's behavior or mood at camp.

As of summer 2022, less than 1% of our campers identified as gender nonbinary or transgender. EYCC will consult the parent on how to best serve these campers. EYCC administration will always contact parents if a child requests to go by a name or pronouns that were not pre-approved by the parent. Please contact EYCC administration if you have any questions or concerns prior to camp.

Procedure for Mental Health Emergencies

- In the event of a mental health emergency in which a child expresses the intent to harm themselves or others, EYCC staff is directed to bring the child to the camp director immediately.
- If the camp director deems the threat credible, then local law enforcement will be contacted to access the child.
- Law enforcement will take over from that point and will be responsible for contacting the parent or guardian.
- The Camp will communicate to the parent or guardian according to instructions from law enforcement.

Behavioral Expectations

The Rights and Dignity of Others

EYCC believes in creating a camp environment in which everyone's rights and dignity are upheld. At EYCC we:

1. View everyone as an individual and assume nothing (good or bad) about anyone based on immutable characteristics.
2. Respect everyone equally regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability.
3. Foster a neutral zone (defined in our neutral zone policy) where we focus on our similarities rather than our differences, thus recognizing our common humanity.

Neutral Zone Policy

EYCC has campers coming from different cultural, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We strongly believe that camp is a great environment for people from different backgrounds to interact and embrace the similarities that make us all human. To achieve such an environment, our campers must communicate in a way that promotes finding common ground.

Help us to foster an environment where children can focus on their commonalities rather than their differences by making sure your child understands that the following topics are not appropriate for camp: Religion, Sexuality, Gender, Race, and Politics.

While EYCC believes that these are important topics, we do not feel that they are appropriate for the summer camp setting. Discussions on such topics should be between the parents and the child at home. Instead, we can focus on other aspects of our lives that have influenced us such as: our family, places we've been, hobbies and other interests, hopes and dreams, memorable experiences, accomplishments, favorite music or books, our talents, and so on. Thank you for helping us to promote a positive camp environment.

General Policies

Campers who continue to misbehave even after staff interventions and parent consultation will be sent home no later than Tuesday. In this case you will not be eligible for a refund. Some behaviors will warrant dismissal without warning such as stealing, violence, or threats of violence, and harassment.

No Weapons/Flammables/Explosives

No Tobacco/Alcohol/ Drugs/Vaping devices

No items that can be used for practical jokes: shaving cream,
extra toothpaste, stink bombs, etc.

No Make-Up/Hair Dryers

No Electronic Devices

Please carefully read and review our "CAMPER'S CODE OF CONDUCT" document (sent via email with your registration confirmation and invoice) and stress with your child the importance of adhering to these guidelines for the well-being of ALL our campers and staff.

Camp Life

Cabin General Policies



No food or drinks are allowed in the cabin. Please do not pack your child snacks or drinks.



Pack belongings in a suitcase or sturdy container no higher than 12 inches. Suitcases and containers must fit under the beds. We do not recommend sending your child with a trunk.



Personal sports equipment (including fishing poles, archery equipment, or guns). Exception for Outdoor Archers program. See supply list pg. 12



Campers are allotted 5 minutes in the shower and 5 minutes to brush their teeth and get dressed. Campers are required to wear shower shoes.



FWC will not be liable for the loss, theft, or damage of camper items. Please respect the property of others.



Campers will be placed in cabins according to their biological sex, grade level, and program.

Campers sleep in air-conditioned cabins that accommodate 14 - 16 campers in bunk beds. We recommend you pack twin sheets with a blanket or sleeping bag.

Food Service

- The camp menu is written with the assistance of a certified professional food manager.
- Three meals are served per day. Snacks are available throughout the day.
- We can accommodate most dietary restrictions.
- If your child is on a strict diet, please contact the Administrative Assistant, Dawn Herron, prior to arrival.
- If your child has dietary restrictions. You will be sent to meet with the kitchen staff during check in.

Thursday Night Dance

Dance Themes By Week

Week 1: 70's Disco
Week 2: Shrek
Week 3: Disney
Week 4: Under the Sea
Week 5: America
Week 6: Winter in July
Week 7: Wildlife
Week 8: Country
(Florida Style)



Each week we end our session with a Camp Dance. We encourage campers to bring an outfit to go with the theme for the camp dance. Please make sure that the outfit¹⁰ adheres to our dress code.

Camp Life

Clothing Recommendations

- Pack extra underwear and socks.
- Don't send expensive attire with your child to camp.
- We are wet most of the day so quick dry clothing are the best type.
- Loose fitted shorts are best. Skin-tight shorts cause chafing.
- Label your child's clothes so we can make sure unclaimed items get back to your child.
- Pack three changes of clothes for each day of camp. Pack one long sleeve shirt and one pair of pants for campfire.

Clothing Policies

- No halters, tanks, sleeveless shirts, or crop tops.
 - No inappropriate statements or symbols.
 - No spandex, tights, or yoga pants.
 - Shorts must be long enough to cover private areas. Shorts must be loose enough that private areas are concealed.
 - Swim wear must include swimsuit, swim shorts, and swim shirt
 - All shoes must be closed toe and closed heel. Campers must have a pair of wet shoes, dry shoes, and a pair of extra shoes. No boots or crocks.
- Our policies are designed to protect your child from the sun and other environmental hazards while also ensuring your child is comfortable at camp.

Supply List

Clothing - All Programs

- ☐ 8 - 10 pairs of shorts (3-to-5-inch inseam minimum)
- ☐ 8 – 10 pairs of t-shirts (No halters or minis/ T-shirts with inappropriate print advertising alcohol, tobacco products, profanity or sex are not permitted)
- ☐ 1 - 2 pairs of jeans or long pants (low slung/tight jeans are not recommended)
- ☐ 1 - 2 long sleeve shirts
- ☐ Underclothing (6 - 8 pairs)
- ☐ Raincoat or poncho



Swimwear

- ☐ 2 bathing suits
- ☐ Short or long sleeve rash guard or dri-wick shirt
- ☐ Nylon or board shorts (3-to-5-inch inseam for girls to wear over bathing suit bottom.)

Footwear

- ☐ 2 - 3 pair Tie-on Sneakers (all old- one to get wet)
- ☐ Water shoes (for swimming, paddle sports, showering)
- ☐ 10 or more pairs of socks (at least ankle high)

CROCS, Rain Boots, Flip Flops, Sandals, and Cowboy boots are not appropriate footwear for our summer camp.

Headgear

- ☐ Hat – Strongly recommended!
- ☐ Sunglasses w/retainers (to keep sunglasses from ending up in the pond) – Inexpensive pair

Bedding and Towels

- ☐ Twin bed sheets and blanket and/or sleeping bag
- ☐ Pillow with pillowcase
- ☐ Hand towel and washcloth
- ☐ 2 - 3 large beach or bath towels

Toiletries

- ☐ Toiletry bag for bathroom
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Shampoo / soap
- ☐ Toothbrush (in holder) and toothpaste
- ☐ Feminine hygiene products (if necessary)
- ☐ Insect repellent (non-aerosol)
- ☐ Lip balm
- ☐ Sunscreen (30+ UVB and UVA protection recommended; face stick and spray are easiest to apply and reapply)

Other gear

- ☐ Laundry bag
- ☐ **Water bottle (required)**

Optional

- ☐ Writing paper/envelopes/stamps
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Books/Magazines (camp appropriate)
- ☐ Flashlight

Attention Campers in Outdoor Archers Program

EYCC will provide bows for the Outdoor Archers program, but Campers in the program may bring their own bow and arrows to camp (field tips only). Parents need to notify EYCC administration if their child will be bringing their own archery equipment. The equipment must be brought to camp in a secure case and handed in to camp administration during check in. The RSO will store the equipment in a secure location for the camper's use.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ITEMS FOR SOME CAMP PROGRAMS

Explorers Campers

- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Mess kit with silverware
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Backpack



Wetland Wanderers campers

New-Snorkel set (mask and snorkel)



Mariner Campers

- ☐ Extra Sunscreen
- ☐ Dive booties or sneakers (something w/ thick sole)
- ☐ Snorkel equipment (**mask, snorkel, and fins required**)



Camp Life

Daily Schedule

7:00 am	Wake up / Bathroom
7:30 am	Flag Ceremony
7:35 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	Activity Sessions
12:30 pm	Lunch / Camp Store / Cabin Time
2:30 pm	Activity Sessions
5:30 p.m.	Campers' Choice Activity
6:30 p.m.	Return to Cabin and Clean-up for Dinner
6:50 pm	Dinner / Camp Store
7:30 pm	Evening Program
9:00 pm	Start Showers
10:30 pm	Lights Out for Cabins 3, 4, 7, 8
11:00 p.m.	Lights Out for Cabins 2, 5, 9, 10

Camp Store

ITEM	PRICE
Camp T-shirt	\$5
Short sleeve dri-wick shirt	\$10
Long Sleeve dri-wick shirt	\$10
Candy	\$2
Soda/Gatorade	\$2
Slushy	\$1
Toiletry Items	\$1
EYCC Water Bottle	\$4
Bandanas	\$2
EYCC Buff	\$5
Hats (ball caps, Outback, Bucket)	\$4
Sunglasses	\$2
Playing Cards	\$1
Friendship Bracelets	\$1
Word Search with Pencil	\$1
Individual Stickers/ Sticker Sheet	\$1/\$2
Flashlight	\$5
Poncho	\$2

Camp Store Cards

- Camp store cards are purchased during check in (cash only).
- Parents can purchase cards worth \$5, \$10, or \$20.
- Campers can use their store card to purchase items during store hours.



Parent's will be given their camp store balance at check out.

Photo Packages

We are excited to announce we are once again partnering with **Waldo Photos** to power our photo delivery this summer!

Waldo offers an optional service that uses facial recognition to find all the photos your camper is in, and sends them straight to your phone via the Waldo app. No more digging for hours to find the photos you want! You even get notifications when new photos are found.

To Enroll

Go to <https://waldophotos.com/> or text eycc23 to 735-343 and follow the prompts.

50% of your purchase goes towards funding camper scholarships!

With your paid subscription, you will have all your camper's photos delivered to you and have access to view and download the rest of the camp's photos from that session. You can even invite 6 other family members to also receive your camper's photos for free!

Waldo also offers a Gallery to scroll through and view all the photos for free, available here: www.waldophotos.com/galleries. Enter Join Code: eycc23

In both the Waldo App, and the Gallery, you can download photos, purchase prints, and share photos to Facebook

Need help? Email campsupport@waldophotos.com

Tip: for Uploading Your Child's Picture

Take a facial picture of your child just before coming to camp to upload into the Waldo system.

Make sure your child is not wearing a hat, sunglasses, or anything that blocks his/her face.

Upload a picture with just one child in the photo.

Refund Policy

- All refund requests must be made in writing and must arrive **no later than one week prior** to your child's first day of camp.
- A **refund application** (emailed upon request) must be completed by the parent and submitted to the camp's director within one week of requesting a refund.
- Refund requests received after August 1st ,2023 will be denied.
- If the request for refund is received prior to June 1, 2022, a **\$50 fee will be assessed** for each week your child was registered. (Camp tuition is \$375 per week so you will be refunded \$325 per week.)
- All refund requests **after June 1,2023** will be subject to an automatic 50% refund only.
- A refund request made after June 1st due to a **family emergency** or illness will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- If you request a refund for a **medical reason**, it must be accompanied by medical documentation.
- Refunds are not made when campers are sent home for **disciplinary reasons** or if a camper or parent chooses to leave for reasons other than illness.
- Refunds are provided from the FWC office in Tallahassee and **may take several weeks** to be processed.



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. If you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility of this agency which receives Federal financial assistance, you should contact/write to :

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission,
Office of Human Resources, 620 South Meridian
Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600; Telephone 850-
488-6411 or contact/write to: Office of Diversity,
Inclusion and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the
Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.