



2024 Orientation Packet

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Download the Parent Information Packet from our website for information on:

- Our Mission, Goals, and Objectives
- Check In and Check Out Procedures
- Health and Wellness Procedures
- Supplies to Bring
- Camp Policies
- Refund Policy

For Questions Contact:

EYCC@MyFWC.com



General Information

Camp Background

EYCC was built in the late 1960's and 70's by public interest groups looking to create a place for youth to learn outdoor skills. Today, it is owned and operated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN). FYCCN has four conservation centers including EYCC that operate as year-round education facilities/training centers during the Fall – Spring and as Camps in the summertime. FYCCN also has community partners across the state of Florida that utilize FYCCN as a resource for training and equipment to offer recreation/wildlife-based programs. FYCCN's goal is to spread youth participation in four areas: paddle sports, shooting sports, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

EYCC Programs and Eligibility

EYCC offers programs covering a wide range of outdoor recreation skills such as: wildlife viewing, fishing, paddle sports, camping, shooting sports, hunting, and archery. Program eligibility is according to grade level completed in the current Fall - Spring academic year ranging from 3rd - 8th grade.

Accredited Through The American Camp Association

The American Camp Association (ACA) is a prominent organization dedicated to maintaining high standards in the camp industry. Established in 1910, ACA serves as an advocate and educational resource for camps nationwide. Its accreditation process evaluates camps against over 300 standards covering safety, quality, and operations. Achieving ACA accreditation showcases a commitment to excellence, ensuring a safe and enriching experience for campers. This process encourages ongoing improvement and innovation. ACA accreditation signifies a camp's quality and provides families with confidence in their choice for a positive camp experience.

EYCC's Year-Round Team



Camp Director
Devyn Hamann



Assistant Director
Caylee Sarff



Office Manager
Dawn Herron



Facilities Manager
Dennis Yacino

FYCCN's Four Pillars



The Florida Youth Conservation Center's Network (FYCCN) promotes educational programming for youth in four areas: paddle sports, shooting sports, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Let's take a look at these programs in action at EYCC.

Paddle Sports



At EYCC, each program group follows a schedule that includes program-specific and rotational activities. Most program groups, excluding a few offsite programs, spend one hour at each rotational activity, which focuses on skill development. Our rotational activities feature paddle sports like kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding, as well as swimming, fishing, and archery. The Mariner's program offers an exciting kayaking experience to Munion Island, starting from John D. Macarthur Beach State Park.

FYCCN's Four Pillars



Shooting Sports



Archery is a popular rotational activity that involves all campers. Our archery program utilizes universal compound bows, specially designed for beginners, as shown in the top center picture. For those passionate about archery, we offer the Outdoor Archers program, providing more time on the range and access to advanced equipment and topics, as illustrated in the bottom left picture. One of our highly sought-after programs is the Pathfinders program, where campers receive comprehensive instruction in FWC's hunter safety curriculum and gain valuable shooting experience in shotgun, rifle, and muzzle loader disciplines. All shooting takes place at our onsite shotgun and rifle ranges.

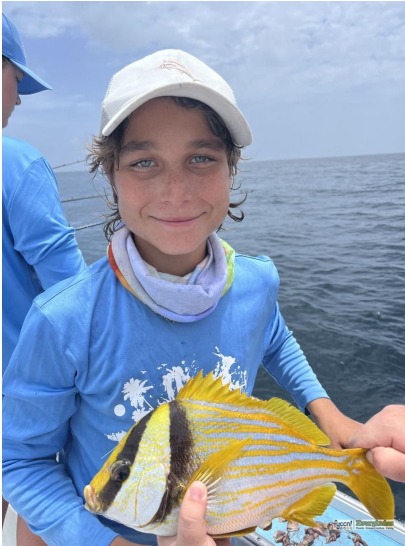
FYCCN's Four Pillars



Everglades

Youth Conservation Camp

Fishing



Fishing holds such appeal at EYCC that we offer three programs: Anglers, Anglers Plus, and Seafarers. Anglers and Anglers Plus focus on freshwater fishing, with each program featuring additional skills such as Jon Boat operation and Bowfishing, respectively. Our Seafarers program is tailored for saltwater fishing enthusiasts and includes exciting off site excursions, with the charter boat experience (pictured in the top left) being a major highlight. Furthermore, fishing is a key rotational activity at our camp, ensuring that no matter the program your child is enrolled in, they will dedicate at least one hour daily to mastering fundamental fishing skills.

FYCCN's Four Pillars



Everglades

Youth Conservation Camp

Wildlife Viewing



There are many ways to get out and explore Florida's wildlife and natural areas. Our Wildlife Adventurers and Wetland Wanderers programs provides hands on education through activities like dip netting (top left), hikes, and interactive games. The Mariners program (Top Center) explores marine ecology through snorkeling, kayaking, and coastal assessments. Finally, there's no better way to immerse yourself in nature than camping. Our explorers program teaches camping skills such as fire building and knot tying culminating in a one night camping trip in EYCC's hardwood hammock.

Programs and Cost

Anglers (3rd - 4th Grade) \$395

Our Summer Camp Anglers Program offers an exciting opportunity for campers to delve into the world of freshwater fishing. With a focus on learning the basics of fishing techniques, participants get hands-on experience while utilizing jon boats equipped with trolling motors. This program provides a unique blend of education and adventure, allowing campers to develop valuable fishing skills while enjoying the serene waterways of the camp's surroundings.

Wildlife Adventurers (3rd - 5th Grade) \$395

Embark on a captivating journey through Florida's wildlife domain. Young explorers dive into the realm of terrestrial creatures and native birds, embracing hands-on activities and habitat exploration. By wielding trail cameras to capture wildlife moments and partaking in bird-focused pursuits like owl pellet dissections, campers uncover the intricacies of adaptation and human interactions. Ideal for energetic children with a passion for wildlife, this program promises an enriching adventure.

Wetland Wanderers (3rd - 5th Grade) \$395

Designed for young adventurers with a penchant for off-trail explorations, aquatic pursuits, and a passion for capturing critters, the Wetland Wanderers Program beckons. This program unveils the history, significance, and ecological intricacies of Florida's wetlands. Through immersive activities like dip netting, marsh hikes, and even supervised freshwater snorkeling in our swimming pond, campers forge a deep connection with these captivating ecosystems.

Anglers Plus (5th - 6th Grade) \$425

Anglers Plus offers the next step for intermediate anglers and those who've completed the introductory Anglers program. Build on your expertise with advanced freshwater techniques, honing knots and rigs. Explore the unique sport of bowfishing and enjoy off-site trips to a local fishing site. Join us for a practical and exciting angling experience that takes you further in your fishing journey. While we recommend the program for intermediate level anglers, beginner anglers also do well in this program.

Explorers (5th - 6th Grade) \$395

The Explorers program is tailor-made for young adventurers who relish camping and the thrill of embracing the outdoors. Participants will acquire fundamental camping skills, culminating in a memorable one-night camping excursion to our renowned Explorers Island. Situated within a lush hardwood hammock, the island is a 15-minute hike through the marsh from camp, offering an unforgettable wilderness experience.

Outdoor Archers (6th - 8th Grade) \$395

Experience advanced archery with our Outdoor Archers program! This program uses advanced compound bows with adjustable sights and release aids, designed to kindle a passion for advanced archery and offer a gateway to various recreational pursuits. Join us for an exciting archery adventure, with lessons, 3-D range shooting, and an introduction to bow hunting. Note: campers of any archery experience level do well in this program. To participate in this program campers should be able to pull back 35 lbs with one arm.

Programs and Cost

Pathfinders (6th - 8th Grade) \$395

Pathfinders is a comprehensive hunter safety program designed to instill responsible firearm handling practices, hunting skills, and ethical principles in participants. Campers benefit from hands-on range practice with shotguns, rifles, and muzzle loaders, fostering a deep understanding of firearm safety. This program is invaluable for all children, whether interested in hunting or not, as it imparts crucial knowledge about the safe use of firearms, ultimately preventing accidents and promoting responsible gun ownership. Join us for an important and educational experience at EYCC's Pathfinders program.

Seafarers (7th - 8th Grade) \$530

The Seafarers program offers an exciting immersion into the world of saltwater fishing. Campers engage in comprehensive lessons on saltwater fishing techniques and enjoy thrilling off site excursions. The crowning jewel of the program is the unforgettable fishing charter on the final day, creating lasting memories and making it the highlight of many campers' experiences. Dive into Seafarers for an oceanic adventure filled with angling excitement and skill-building. Note: campers must be competent swimmers to participate in this program.

Mariners (7th - 8th Grade) \$430

EYCC's Mariner's program offers an engaging exploration of marine ecology and conservation. Campers embark on captivating kayaking and snorkeling expeditions to discover marine sites throughout Palm Beach County. With a strong emphasis on understanding and preserving our marine ecosystems, Mariner's provides campers with a unique opportunity to connect with the ocean, fostering a profound appreciation for marine life and the importance of conservation efforts. Dive into the Mariner's program for an enriching journey through Palm Beach County's coastal wonders. Note: Campers must be strong swimmers to participate in this program.

Leadership Camp (9th - 12th Grade) \$395

The Leadership camp program is not open to general registration and is invitation only. Campers for this program are selected through a rigorous application process. Many EYCC campers look forward to applying for the leadership camp program. Program participants receive 80 hours of service learning credits and training in leadership through the summer camp setting. The goal of this program is to train up the next generation of EYCC staff and future leaders in the fields of outdoor recreation and conservation.

Notice: Program prices are subject to change prior to February 1st. Check the website regularly for updates.

For Questions Contact
EYCC@MyFWC.com

Registration

Policies

- Parents may register their child for up to 2 weeks of camp. The weeks cannot be consecutive.
- Program eligibility is determined by the child's completed grade in the current school year.
- Registrations are processed in the order they are received.
- EYCC cannot guarantee that campers will be placed in the same week, cabin, or program as a friend or large group such as a sports team. Strategies for how parents can register to increase these chances will be discussed later on.

Things To Consider Before You Register

How Long It Takes: It can take up to 3 weeks after you register for EYCC to update your status from Pending to Approved, Denied, or Waitlisted.

Program Selection: Prior to registration be sure to review the program descriptions with your child and pay attention to the eligibility requirements specified in the "Programs and Cost" section.

Planning Around Events: We recommend against choosing weeks immediately following family vacations, other camps, or strenuous sports tournaments. Our camp entails extended hours of outdoor activities in the sun, demanding significant physical exertion. By engaging in these activities just before attending camp, campers may inadvertently introduce communicable diseases or arrive less physically prepared to fully participate in our program. We encourage parents to schedule a week of rest and rejuvenation for their children prior to their arrival at EYCC, ensuring they are in prime condition for an enriching camp experience.

The Number of Weeks: For first-time campers or for campers with a history of homesickness, we recommend registering them for one week initially. Some campers may find a sleepaway camp like EYCC isn't the best fit for them. If your child wishes to return for more weeks later on, you can inquire about availability. Please note, refunds after June 1st only receive a 50% refund.

Planning to Register With Friends? Campers typically thrive when attending camp independently, as bringing a friend can sometimes lead to unexpected challenges. We've observed instances where campers arriving with a friend anticipate constant togetherness, only to find their friend exploring new friendships, causing distress. Friend groups can occasionally introduce heightened drama, potentially creating a less positive cabin environment. Moreover, some campers may bring friends who aren't always positive influences. In summary, we recommend careful consideration before sending your child to camp with a friend, as it can have unforeseen consequences on their camp experience.

Friends and Program Placement: While EYCC cannot guarantee that friends or friend groups will be placed in the same week, program, or cabin we have some tips that can help: 1) Make sure you register at the same time, 2) Be open to other program placements that are in a different program, but the same cabin. This can be helpful especially for friend groups. Programs that share the same cabin are:

Wildlife Adventurers
Wetland Wanderers
Anglers

Anglers Plus
Explorers

Outdoor Archers
Pathfinders

Mariners
Seafarers

Registration

EYCC receives many registrations at the time of opening. Your patience is greatly appreciated!

How To Register

- **Before Registration Opens:** Create your account on our online registration portal. Once logged in to your account, select “Add New Camper” and input your camper information for each child attending camp.
- **Once Registration Opens:** Log on to your account and select “New Registration” and register your child for camp. Follow the prompts until registration is submitted.
- **Important Note:** After submitting your registration, your status will be "Pending," not "Approved." All registrations must undergo a review by EYCC before they can be either approved or denied. Submitting your registration does not automatically imply approval. It can take up to three weeks for EYCC to update the status of your registration.
- **Payment:** You will be emailed payment instructions once your registration is Approved.

Registration Status and Updates

After you submit your registration: You will receive an auto generated email with information including: requested week, program, and registration status (Pending or Waitlisted). After review, EYCC will update your status. A summary of registration statuses and their meanings are below.

Pending: Your registration has been successfully submitted, and we are currently reviewing your requested week and program. It's important to note that this does not guarantee you've secured the space you requested. Please keep a close eye on your email for updates, as EYCC typically processes these within three weeks.

Approved: We're pleased to inform you that your requested program and week have been approved and your invoice is available through the camp portal . EYCC Administration will be in touch via direct email, providing you with additional paperwork and instructions. To secure your reservation, please make sure to respond within the specified deadlines.

Waitlisted: You were waitlisted due to limited space in your requested program. EYCC administration will email you within three weeks to discuss the possibility of finding an available spot in another program during the same week or exploring program availability in other weeks. Your patience is appreciated.

Denied or Canceled: EYCC Administration makes multiple attempts to contact parents via email and by phone regarding updates to their registration status. In cases where you do not respond to our attempts to contact you, EYCC will Deny or Cancel your registration. This update can only be seen when you log in to your account. In such cases, please submit another registration request based on current availability shown in the registration portal and wait for us to process your request within three weeks.

Response Deadlines: Be sure to check your email including your spam and junk mail for status updates daily. Respond promptly to direct emails from EYCC administration. To help with efficiency, EYCC administration typically sets a 24 - 48 hr deadline for parents to respond to emails providing alternative weeks or program options for campers who were waitlisted, canceled, or denied.

Don't Hoard Registrations: Some individuals might think that registering their child for two weeks, with the intention of canceling one if approved, could enhance their chances of getting their preferred program or week. Unfortunately, this practice unintentionally complicates and lengthens the registration process for all participants and can create a false perception of spot unavailability. To maintain an efficient registration process, we kindly request that you register for the precise number of weeks your child will genuinely attend camp. Your cooperation plays a vital role in ensuring a smoother experience for all.

Registration

Registration Status Example Emails

Pending Status

Subject: Summer Camp Registration Submission for [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your interest in [REDACTED] attending Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network camp this summer! Your registration request was successfully submitted. Once staff reviews your request and ensure there is space in the program, they will contact you directly for final registration instructions. We hope to see you and your camper soon!

For your reference, your registration number is REG-10853.

Event Title	Summer Camp Program	Registration Status	Start Date	End Date	Allowed Grade	Allowed Age
Everglades - Week 7 - Wetland Wanderers - \$375	Wetland Wanderers	Pending	07/16/2023	07/21/2023	3rd, 4th, 5th	-

Thank you! We look forward to serving your family this summer.
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission & Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network.

Waitlisted Status

Subject: Summer Camp Registration Submission for [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your interest in [REDACTED] attending Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network camp this summer! Your registration request was successfully submitted. Once staff reviews your request and ensure there is space in the program, they will contact you directly for final registration instructions. We hope to see you and your camper soon!

For your reference, your registration number is REG-10837.

Event Title	Summer Camp Program	Registration Status	Start Date	End Date	Allowed Grade	Allowed Age
Everglades - Week 4 - Pathfinders - \$375	Pathfinders	Waitlisted	06/25/2023	06/30/2023	6th, 7th, 8th	-

Thank you! We look forward to serving your family this summer.
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission & Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network.

Approved Status

Subject: Summer Camp Approval for [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for registering for FWC Summer Camp! This email is to confirm that your registration for 'Everglades - Week 1 - Wetland Wanderers - \$375' has been approved. With approval, it is now time to pay your camp fee(s). Please log back onto the camp portal and pay your invoice. Camp portal: <https://fw.com/fyccn>

Everglades Youth Conservation Camp staff will contact you soon with final details.

We look forward to serving you and your family this summer!

Thank you,
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) & Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN)

Camp Operations

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

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.

Health

- 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.
- More information on health is covered in our parent information packet available on our website.

Staff

- All EYCC staff and volunteers are required to pass a level 2 background screening.
- Staff are provided position specific training throughout the month of May and an intensive all staff training the last week of May as required by ACA accreditation standards.

Facility

Cabins



Our campers are accommodated in comfortable, air-conditioned bunkhouse-style cabins, each supervised by two to three dedicated staff members and two leadership campers. Campers are placed in cabins according to program. These cabins are designed to comfortably house up to 20 people, ensuring a cozy and enjoyable stay for all.

Bathrooms



We have two distinct bathhouses on our camp property, each equipped with seven private stalls for campers to comfortably shower and use restroom facilities. These bathhouses are strategically located on opposite sides of the camp, ensuring a clear separation between boys and girls during shower times, thereby enhancing privacy and convenience for all campers.

Facility

Classroom and Dining Hall



Our camp provides two key indoor gathering spaces for campers: the classroom (on the left) and the dining hall (on the right). These spaces serve as central hubs for meal times and indoor activities during inclement weather. The classroom is primarily utilized by our Wetland Wanderers and Wildlife Adventurers, offering a dedicated space for their educational experiences and explorations.

Pavilion and Campfire Island



Our pavilion offers a dependable and shaded refuge where campers can gather before embarking on their activities, providing respite from the sun. Embracing a cherished summer camp tradition, our campfire nights take place at the heart of our pond on Campfire Island. Every camper has the opportunity to participate in at least one of these enchanting evenings, featuring songs and s'mores, making it an integral and memorable part of their camp experience.