



# 2024 Parent Information Packet

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Download our Orientation Packet From Our Website for information on:

- Facility Background
- Registration policies and procedures
- Registration Do's and Don'ts
- Facility Features
- Program Offerings
- Program Costs
- Photos of the Facility

For Questions Contact:

[EYCC@MyFWC.com](mailto:EYCC@MyFWC.com)



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 policies 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.<sup>2</sup>

# Camp Culture

## Camper Conduct, Prohibited Items, and Respect for Others

### Camper Code Conduct

**Camper Code of Conduct:** The camper code of conduct is a summary of policies found throughout the parent information packet. Specifically, the code references policies related to safety, behavior, and prohibited items. Parents are required to read and sign off on the code of conduct during online registration.

**Dismissal From Camp:** We prioritize a positive experience for all campers. If behavioral issues persist despite interventions and parental consultation, a camper may be sent home without refund. Immediate dismissal may occur for severe behaviors like stealing, violence, threats, or harassment. The camp director has final discretion on dismissals. Campers dismissed from EYCC are ineligible for future attendance at EYCC or any other FYCCN camps.

### No Electronic Devices



To ensure a focused and immersive experience, we have a strict policy against bringing electronic devices to camp. For our purposes, an electronic device is anything that uses electricity and technology to do things like talk to people, read, show videos, or search the internet. **This includes but is not limited to: smartphones, tablets, laptops, e-readers, gaming consoles, digital cameras, and smart watches.** If any camper is found with an electronic device, it will be confiscated and safely stored until the end of the camp session.

### Other Prohibited Items

- Weapons/Flammables/Explosives
- Tobacco/Alcohol/ Drugs/Vaping devices
- Items that can be used for practical jokes: shaving cream, extra toothpaste, stink bombs, etc.
- Make-Up/Hair Dryers

### The Rights and Dignity of Others Statement

EYCC fosters a camp environment where everyone's rights and dignity are respected. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of evaluating others by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin, we treat each individual as unique, irrespective of immutable traits, and uphold equality regardless of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, or disability. We create a neutral zone, emphasizing common humanity over differences as outlined in our neutral zone policy.

### Neutral Zone Policy

EYCC is proud to welcome campers from diverse backgrounds. Our goal is to create an environment where kids can bond, focusing on what unites us rather than what sets us apart. To achieve this, we kindly request your help in making camp a space where kids can just be kids, learning about outdoor recreation and conservation education. To maintain this focus and create a positive environment, discussions about Religion, Sexuality, Gender, Race, and Politics are best suited for home. Let's encourage our campers to explore common hobbies, dreams, and talents. Your support in fostering a memorable and enriching camp experience is deeply appreciated.

# 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 at least 18 years old.



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



For the safety of our staff, please do not bring pets to check in or check out.

**Helpful Tip:** use the restroom prior to getting in the car line for pick up or drop off. There are two plaza's on the way to EYCC that make perfect rest stops. Speed limit is 10 mph 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.

## Lightning Alert Procedures

**Dangers of Lightning:** Lightning poses serious risks, striking unexpectedly and causing harm or death. Parents have the choice to check in or check out during a lightning alert, but please know that by doing so, you assume all risks. EYCC staff won't be outdoors or escort during a lightning alert. Review our procedures below.

**Check In Procedures during Lightning Alert:** Upon receiving a lightning alert, EYCC will temporarily suspend check in process to send notifications to parents and allow staff to prepare for check-in procedures in rainy and lightning prone conditions. Once resumed, parents will have the option to remain in their vehicle or proceed with check-in according to the schedule. When under a lightning alert, please bring your luggage with you to the check in line.

**Check out Procedures During Lightning Alert:** When a lightning alert is issued, EYCC will temporarily suspend the check-out process to send notifications to parents and to allow our staff to prepare for check-out procedures in rainy and lightning-prone conditions. Once resumed, Parents have two options: (1) Remain in Vehicles: Parents may choose to stay in their cars and wait for notification from EYCC personnel when the lightning alert is lifted. (2) Alternatively, parents can park in the front parking lot and proceed to the front walkway of the dining hall. EYCC personnel will be stationed there to facilitate the check-out process. Please ensure you have your ID on hand. Upon arrival at the front walkway of the dining hall, EYCC personnel will be present to check your ID and facilitate the medication check-out process. An EYCC staff member will escort you into the dining hall to retrieve your child. After retrieving your child from the dining hall, you may proceed to the pavilion to collect your luggage.



# Check-In: Sundays

**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.

## 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.

## Schedule

- 2:30 p.m.** Leadership Campers
- 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 Wanderers, Anglers

If you are dropping off campers enrolled in two different programs, you can complete the check-in process during the check-in time of the program that occurs first.

# Check-Out: Fridays

## 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 arrive earlier than 2:30 pm.
- Remain behind the designated boundary until check out begins. Entering early and parking causes traffic congestion.
- No late check out. Please plan accordingly.
- Only individuals who are authorized by the parents in writing will be allowed to pick up campers.

**We appreciate your patience and cooperation!**



## Camp Health and Illness Management Policy

- **Health Care:** EYCC has a registered nurse onsite daily to oversee medication administration and healthcare for the camp community.
- **Pre-Camp Health Guidelines:**
  - During the Summer 2023 camp season, it became clear that campers often fell ill due to exposures in the week before their arrival.
  - **Activities to Avoid The Week Before Arrival:** sports tournaments, travel, attending other sleep-away camps, and any strenuous activities.
  - We encourage parents to prioritize their child's wellbeing by ensuring they arrive at camp well-rested, nourished, and properly hydrated. We foster a healthier camp community when everyone follows these guidelines.
- **Respiratory Illness:**
  - Mild Cold or Allergies: Campers with mild cold symptoms like a runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, or occasional coughing can typically continue their camp activities.
  - Campers showing signs and symptoms of Strep Throat, Flue, or Covid-19 will be sent home for appropriate medical care.
- **Fever:** Campers with a fever will be sent home for further evaluation and rest.
- **Gastrointestinal Symptoms:** Campers showing signs and symptoms of Rotavirus or Norovirus (Persistent Vomiting and Diarrhea) will be sent home for appropriate medical care.
- **Prevention of Transmission:**
  - EYCC teaches frequent hand washing, especially before and after meals.
  - Campers and Staff are advised to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - Campers and Staff are reminded to cover their coughs and sneezes.
  - EYCC implements daily sanitization of high contact surfaces.
- **Parents will be notified by phone by the Camp Director or designee if their child is:**
  - Seriously injured or is showing signs and symptoms of a life-threatening illness. (Parents will be notified after Emergency Personnel have been contacted).
  - Showing signs and symptoms of communicable disease.
- **Parents will be notified by email if their child is:**
  - In a group where at least 2 or more campers are showing signs and symptoms of Common Cold, Covid-19, Flue, Strep Throat, Norovirus, Rotavirus, or any other communicable disease.
  - Being provided regular treatment for a non – pathologic illness or a minor injury.

**Check your phone and emails daily!**

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



# 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 medications are in their original containers.
- Campers will go to the Nurse to receive their medications. We recommend that if your child has ADHD medication, they should take it during camp.

## 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.

## 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
- 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

## General Mental Health Considerations

- **Starting New Psychiatric Medications Before Camp:** Consult your child's doctor on whether it is safe for your child to go to summer camp if they are starting a new psychiatric medication within one week of attending camp. Let us know if your child is at risk for suicide or other harmful behaviors.
- **Recent Major Life Changes:** Please let camp administration know if your household has experienced any major changes that may affect your child's behavior or mood at camp.
- **Parent Engagement in Identity Matters:** EYCC firmly believes in prioritizing parental notification and consent regarding names and pronoun usage in campers. Less than 1% of our campers identify as gender non-binary or transgender. In such cases, EYCC has respected the wishes of the parents in accordance with our established policies. EYCC strongly recommend parents have conversations with their child about the camp's policies and their expectations regarding gender identity. For any concerns contact EYCC administration.

## 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 contact parents 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.

## Procedures 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 assess 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.



# 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: Disney  
Week 3: Pirate  
Week 4: Under the Sea  
Week 5: America  
Week 6: Wildlife  
Week 7: Intergalactic  
Week 8: Country Western



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 outfit adheres <sup>9</sup> to our dress code.

# Camp Life

## Clothing Recommendations

**Extra Underwear and Socks:** We recommend packing extra pairs of underwear and socks. Camp days are full of excitement and exploration, and it's always handy to have fresh essentials.

**Durable Attire:** Please avoid sending expensive or delicate clothing to camp. Our activities involve outdoor adventures, and clothes might get dirty or wet. Sturdy, easily washable attire is the way to go. We do not recommend “slip on” water shoes.

**Quick-Dry Clothing:** Given the active nature of our camp, quick-drying clothing is a great choice. These materials wick moisture away from the body, keeping campers comfortable throughout the day.

**Loose-Fitted Shorts:** Loose-fitted shorts are ideal for providing comfort and flexibility during various activities. They allow for easy movement and help prevent chafing that can occur with skin-tight shorts.

**Labeling Clothes:** We encourage you to label your child's clothes with their name. This helps us ensure that any unclaimed items find their way back to the right camper.

**Multiple Changes of Clothes:** Pack at least three changes of clothes for each camp day. Campers will be active and engaged in a variety of activities, and having extra outfits ensures they stay fresh and comfortable.

**Long Sleeve Shirt and Pants:** For campfire nights, please include one long-sleeve shirt and a pair of pants. These items will shield campers from mosquitos during evening activities.

## Dress Code

**Appropriate Tops:** Campers are required to wear tops that cover their shoulders and torso adequately. This means no halters, tanks, sleeveless shirts, or crop tops.

**Respectful Attire:** Please avoid clothing with inappropriate statements, symbols, or images that are profane, obscene, political, controversial, or make references to drugs or alcohol. We aim to create a respectful and inclusive environment for all campers.

**Bottoms:** Shorts must be of an appropriate length, covering private areas completely. Additionally, shorts must be loose-fitted to ensure comfort and proper coverage. Leggings are not permitted.

**Swimwear:** Swimwear is essential for water-based activities. Please ensure that swimwear includes a swimsuit, swim shorts, and a swim shirt. This combination offers protection from the sun and environmental elements.

**Footwear:** All campers must wear closed-toe and closed-heel shoes to ensure foot safety during various activities. Campers are required to have wet shoes, dry shoes, and an extra pair of shoes for changing conditions. Boots and crocs are not permitted.

# Packing List

**Note: please take the time to review our clothing recommendations and DRESS CODE !**

## Clothing

- 8 - 10 pairs of shorts
- 8 - 10 pairs of t-Shirts
- 1 - 2 pairs of long pants
- 1 - 2 long sleeve shirts
- 6-8 pairs of underclothing
- 6 - 8 pairs of socks
- 2 pairs of dry shoes
- 1 pair of shoes for wethikes
- 1 pair of shower shoes
- Raincoat or Poncho
- Hat and Sunglasses (polarized)
- 2 bathing suits
- 2 dry wick swim shirts
- Swim shorts

## Bedding, Towels, & Toiletries

- Twin bed sheets and blanket or sleeping bag
- Pillow with pillow case
- Hand towel and washcloth
- 2-3 bath towels
- Toiletry bag
- Deodorant
- Soap, Shampoo, & conditioner
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Shaving equipment (No electric razors)
- Sunscreen
- Laundry Bag

## Equipment

**Important Notice:** Certain programs require extra equipment. If your child's program isn't specifically mentioned, refer only to the general equipment list.

### General Equipment

- WATER BOTTLE REQUIRED!**
- Flash Light
- Backpack

### Outdoor Archers Program

EYCC supplies all equipment for Outdoor Archers. Program participants can bring their own bow and arrows (field tips only) but must inform camp administration in advance. Securely bring the equipment in a case during check-in; our RSO will store it securely for camp use.

### Explorers Program

- Sleeping Bag
- Camping Pillow
- Dry Bag (≥ 40L )
- Mess Kit and Eating Utensils

### Mariners Program

- Dive booties
- Durable Water Shoes (thick sole)
- Mask, Snorkel, & Fins

# 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.



Campers will be given their camp store balance at checkout.

# Camp Photos

## Access Our Free Online Gallery

EYCC uploads camp pictures to waldophotos.com where parents can view all the photos taken throughout the summer for free. Our gallery is available here: [www.waldophotos.com/galleries](http://www.waldophotos.com/galleries) . Access the gallery with our join code: eycc24

## Waldo's Auto-Tagging Option

Waldo provides a convenient AI facial recognition service through a paid subscription, enabling parents to easily identify and access photos of their child. This innovative technology recognizes your child's face and directly delivers corresponding photos to your account. **50% of every subscription goes to camper scholarships.** To enroll, you have two options:

1. Text "eycc24" to 735-343.
2. Visit <https://waldophotos.com>, select "Find Event," and enter "eycc24" for quick access.

## Waldo Photos Ownership and Support

We want to emphasize that Waldo Photos is a privately owned company, separate from EYCC. The website gallery and subscription service are not owned by EYCC, and therefore, we are unable to address parent complaints or process refund requests related to Waldo subscriptions. For any issues or inquiries concerning technical matters or subscription options, please refer to Waldo's official support at: <https://waldophotos.com/contact/>

## Revised Gallery Posting Schedule

Starting in Summer 2024, we're shifting to a new photo posting schedule, with pictures available every Friday instead of daily updates.

# EYCC Refund Policy

Payment is due 14 days after approval by the camp director. Each camp registration will include a non-refundable \$25 deposit. Parents are eligible for a 50% refund for cancellations more than 2 weeks before their camper's week of camp. Refund requests will be denied for cancellations less than 2 weeks before the start of that camper's week of camp. Refund requests will not be considered in cases where the child is sent home due to disciplinary problems or homesickness.

### **EYCC Refund Policy for Campers Sent Home Early Due to Illness:**

Please note that the common causes of campers falling ill during camp are activities leading up to camp such as travel, sports tournaments, or attending another sleepaway camp. We recommend a week of relaxation and recuperation before your child's arrival to minimize this risk. Parents may request a 50% refund if their child leaves camp due to illness between Sunday and before 12:30 pm on Wednesday. The refund will exclude the \$25 deposit and any activity fees.





## **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.