



Nature School

at Camel's Hump Farm on the Johnston Estate

Where kids learn naturally

**Camel's Hump Farm
Nature Education Center
Summer Camp Handbook**

**1311 Santee Mill Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017
484-241-6117**

Thefriendsofjohnston.org

Message from Camel's Hump Farm Camp Staff

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Camel's Hump Farm Summer Camp where kids learn naturally! Our camp staff is very excited to once again hear the sounds of happy children on the farm! We have a wonder-filled summer planned that blends engaging educational adventures with plain old kid fun!

We have developed this handbook to provide you with all the information you should need regarding your child's upcoming camp experience. Please read over all of the enclosed information about the camp policies and procedures; contact us if you have any further questions or if you need any further assistance.

Looking forward to a wonderful summer!

Camel's Hump Farm Mission

The Preservation, restoration, and sustainable reuse of the Johnston Estate to meet the needs of our community as a Nature Education Center

Purpose of the Camp

To provide a safe caring and wonder-filled experience for our Campers while they learn about the farm's history, ecosystems, and inhabitants and how to care for the animals, and the earth and develop hands-on practical skills

About the Camp

The camp takes place on the 47-acres of Camel's Hump Farm and the Archibald Johnston Preserve owned and operated by the Friends of Johnston, a 501c3 charitable nonprofit and Pennsylvania Land Trust. The camp is developed to provide creative, educational nature-based activities for children of all ages, abilities, races, and orientations. Our low camper-to-staff ratio allows us to adjust the curriculum to meet the interests and needs of the children we serve.

Parent-Staff Communication

We are committed to providing a wonderful camp experience for all of our campers. Please let us know of any questions, suggestions, and special needs so that we can ensure your child will have a successful camp experience. You can contact the camp director by calling Victoria at 484-241-6117.

Staff Leadership

Our Camp Counselors have been carefully selected for their experience, creativity, special talents, personality, and ability to connect with the children they serve. Our Counselors go through a complete background and criminal history check and are certified in CPR, AED and basic first aid. The counselors receive on-site training

Our lead Camp Counselors work with our assistant counselors and Counselors in Training (CITs) to provide a safe, engaging environment while ensuring the well-being of the campers. Our assistant counselors are high school and college-age. Our CITs grow from our campers and Scouts. They are energetic and experienced campers who have shown a dedication to sharing their talents and working with children. Our counselors work closely with the Camp Director to design activities that can be tailored specifically to the needs of the campers in their group. The staff-to-camper ratio is approximately 1:5 varying with camper age and ability.

The Camp Counselors are professionals and college students who are responsible for the development and delivery of activities that are safe, fun, educational and age-appropriate. The activities reflect the camp's commitment to teaching about and stewardship of the natural environment.

The Camp Director and lead educators have extensive experience in formal and informal education and work together closely to provide the best experience possible for the campers. They are responsible for the health, safety, and engagement of campers and camp employees through the safe operation of the camp.

Hours of Operation

Regular Camp Hours

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Drop Off Schedule

8:30am- Special Needs and CIT's

8:40 Ages 9 and above

8:50 Ages 8 and under

- Families with multiple aged children should arrive together at the older sibling's time

Pick Up Schedule

Full-day camper pickup 3:00-3:15 PM.

Extended Care / Pre-Post Camp

Before Care: 8:00- 9:00 AM

Aftercare 3:00-5:00 PM

We offer extended care hours to fit caregivers' work schedules. The cost for extended care is \$40/week. Please be sure to sign up for extended care when you register for the camp session.

Late pick-up charges

Pick-up after 12:15 PM for the morning session or 3:15 for the full-day session for families that have not registered for the extended care program will result in a \$5.00 late charge for every 15-minute increment.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures

Regular Camp Hours

When dropping off or picking up your child during regular drop-off and pick-up hours, please follow the staff direction and enter at the Camel's Hump Farm sign and exit between the guest house and barn. The camper loading area is at the barnyard gate. Please do not get out of your vehicle- a camp staff person will be there to check your camper in and escort your child to and from the car. **Please bring a photo ID with you to help us ensure the safety of all campers during the dismissal process.**

Extended Camp Hours

Before and after care will be available. When dropping off and/or picking up your child during these times (8:00-9:00 AM and 3:00- 5:00PM), please drop off and pick up at the barnyard gate between the Guest House and Barnyard. A camp staff person will be present to assist you with the sign-in/sign-out process. **Please bring a photo ID with you to help us ensure the safety of all campers during the dismissal process.**

What to Bring to Camp

PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON ALL ITEMS THEY BRING TO CAMP

Snacks and Lunch: DUE TO CAMPER ALLERGIES- WE ARE PEANUT FREE

Our active campers work up an appetite! **More food is better!** Campers must bring a morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack with drink in a refillable water bottle that does not need refrigeration. No refrigeration is available. **Please Label Lunch Boxes, Water Bottles and Backpacks with Child's Name.**

Camp Clothing Please dress your children in clothes that you do not mind getting dirty. Your children will get muddy and wet most days. The campers should wear shorts under their overalls for quick changes and leave their labeled overalls, muck boots, and extra bag of clothes in their assigned spot for the week of camp to decrease the amount of muck being taken home in the car. **Please Label All Clothing!**

Facemasks We follow CDC guidelines to ensure everyone's safety. We are currently facemask free! **Please Label Face Masks if needed.**

Camp suggested uniform Lightweight overalls with the camp T-shirt, shorts underneath, long socks, and muck boots. This outfit both protects the children from scrapes and insects, but also allows them to remove the overalls for going inside, for water play, or dismissal.

Shoes: Muck Boots, sneakers, and close-toed water shoes with tall socks. No crocks or open-toed sandals are allowed. We will be doing a lot of walking, hiking, and climbing around the park. **Tall socks protect the camper's legs from blisters and bites!** Be sure to label all shoes and socks!

Backpack: small and lightweight, but large enough for a lunch box and a small notebook with an exterior pocket for a water bottle with the child's name on it. Campers will be responsible for carrying their own food, water, and art supplies. **Please Label Backpacks with Child's Name**

Skin Protection: Sunscreen, Hat, Sunglasses, and Insect Repellant that are **Please label all items with child's name.**

Bag of Extra Clothes- with a complete change of clothes including extra undergarments and socks, **Please label bag and all contents with name.**

Please do not bring any toys or things of value to camp. The Camp is not responsible for any items that are misplaced, damaged, and/or stolen.

Lost and found box- will be placed in the loading area for campers to retrieve

Camper Illnesses

We are relying on you to ensure that your child is not ill, nor has come in contact with anyone who has an infectious disease including Covid-19, and may be infectious. If your child is running a fever of 100.5 degrees or is not feeling well, please keep them home for their safety and the safety of the other campers and staff members. If your child becomes ill during camp, we will contact the parent/guardian listed on the HEALTH/PERMISSION FORM (completed as part of camp registration) followed by those listed as emergency contacts.

Medication from home that need to be administered to a child should:

- Be brought directly to the Camp Director-Victoria 484-241-6117 by the parent or caregiver in the original medicine container and with specific directions for dispensing the medication
- Be accompanied by a written note containing permission for the staff to administer the medication, dosage information, time, and dates to be given to the child, parent's name, phone number, and physician's name and phone number for reference.

Absences

If your child is not attending camp on a specific day due to illness or for other reasons, please contact the Camp Director -Victoria 484-241-6117. If you get the voicemail system, please leave a message.

Emergency Information

In the event of an emergency, every effort will be made to reach you or other contacts on the camper's registration form. If we are unable to reach any of the persons listed, we will take the necessary actions for the health of your child.

Should there be any changes in the emergency contact information, please notify Camel's Hump Farm in writing so that we may update your child's file.

Rainy /Heat Days

Our goal is for your child to have as much outdoor time as possible and that means in all weather conditions except those that are hazardous- electrical storms, high humidity and

heat, and/or poor air quality. Although the camp will be held rain or shine, the Camp Director reserves the right to cancel camp for hazardous conditions. The Camp will not refund for cancellations due to hazardous conditions. The buildings or tents may be utilized in unexpected inclement weather to keep the campers safe, engaged, happy, and cool.

Registration and Tuition Payment

All registration, health, and waiver forms must be completed and returned for each child 1 week before the start of camp. The registration and tuition balance is due one month before the start of camp.

Refunds

Please understand that we work hard to ensure that we have the appropriate staff scheduled for the number of registered campers each week and that children have been turned away from camp. Unfortunately, no refunds will be made without a physician-documented medical reason.

In the case of a medically necessary withdrawal, your camp fee, less your nonrefundable one-time registration fee, will be refunded by check. If during a session a camper needs to go home for medical reasons, the remaining portion of the session will be refunded.

In the case of dismissal or voluntary withdrawal, there will be NO refund of any fees.

Parent Visiting Days

Although parents are always welcome to visit their campers at Camel's Hump Farm, our campers' safety is our highest priority. We ask that visitors please call the Director -Victoria- 484-241-6117- so that we can meet you at the gate and bring your child to you.

Camp Rules and Behavior Policy

Camp is the perfect environment to promote social skills and self-esteem in children. To achieve this, we include age-specific groups and activities, low camper-staff ratios, positive reinforcement, group and individual decision-making, and attention to the individual needs of each child. You are your child's own best advocate. We encourage you to share any information about your child that you feel will help ensure that he or she has a successful

camp experience.

All campers are expected to follow basic rules of behavior. These rules will be explained to the campers at the beginning of each camp week. Camp counselors will be constantly supervising campers over the course of the day, along with assistance from the Camp and Activity Directors as needed.

Camp Rules:

1. All campers must be with a staff member at all times.
2. Campers should be respectful of themselves, peers, staff, wildlife, and surroundings at all times.
3. Campers should play safely and fairly (fighting or threatening behavior will not be tolerated).

Behavior Policy

We believe children learn self-control when adults treat them with dignity and use conflict resolution and behavior modification techniques such as the following:

1. Guiding children by setting clear consistent limits for behavior. In the case of older children, helping them set their own limits.
2. Restating rule/ rational -redirecting children to a more acceptable behavior or activity
3. Visualizing mistakes as learning opportunities.
4. Listening when children talk about their feelings and frustrations.
5. Guiding children to resolve conflicts and modeling skills that help them solve their own problems.

If rules are broken at camp, counselors ask campers to identify the rule that was broken and counselors give a verbal warning. If the rule is broken a second time, the counselor will supervise a 30-second to 5-minute “break” near the activity to discuss the situation with the camper and try to figure out the reason and appropriate solution. The next step will be to see the Camp Director. A note will be written to the parents detailing the incident and resolution. Parents will be called when physical contact or repeat issues are involved.

Special Needs

We strive to meet the needs of all of our campers. For us to be able to help your child have an enjoyable experience at camp, we ask that you notify us of your child’s special needs at least one week before your child’s first day of camp. This may include information on medical conditions especially asthma or allergies, accessibility concerns, behavioral, psychological, or emotional conditions, or other special needs. **Please bring a labeled rescue inhaler or epi-pen to camp and make certain that your child knows how to use them and is comfortable with self-administration if needed.**

While we offer our camps to as wide a range of children as possible, it is not possible for us to offer one-on-one care. Campers requiring more attention than the prescribed camper-to-counselor ratio must be accompanied by parent-provided Therapeutic Support Staff at all times at camp. **Please advise your TSS to dress appropriately for hiking and water play- they will be expected to be engaged with their students at all times- in tall grass, hiking, and the water.** If your child has special issues or requires a TSS, please contact the Camp Director, Victoria at 484-241-6117 to provide additional information to help us to prepare so that we can best meet your child's individual needs.

Thank you for all of your assistance and cooperation!

Looking forward to a Safe, Nature-based, Wonder-Filled
Summer Camp!

CAMEL'S HUMP FARM ON THE JOHNSTON ESTATE
 Environmental Education Center, Community Garden & Preserve
 1311 Santee Mill Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017



The 47 acre was preserved by the Friends of Johnston farm is part of the first mayor of Bethlehem, Archibald Johnston's Estate

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A. Entrance
- B. Parking
- C. Nature School- Office, handicapped accessible bathrooms, classrooms, kitchen
- D. 1836 PA Double Decker Bank Barn- Barnyard Courtyard, teaching animals, workshop
- E. Greenhouse and Garden Tools
- F. Guesthouse- nature center exhibits, meeting space, kitchen, bathroom
- G. Amphitheater- Frog Pond, bioswale and raingarden stormwater management exhibit
- H. Enchanted Forest Arboretum- Forest classroom, paths, picnic areas, Library Box, Forest Investigation Station, Lil' Folks Nature Playscape, Tree Identification Circle, Butterfly Gazebo
- I. Magical Marsh- Environmental Restoration Area- stormwater management, habitat restoration, Investigation Station, Picnic Area
- J. Meadow Path- Nest Box Trail
- K. Marsh Path
- L. Housenick Park and Back Field Path
- M. Community Garden- Children's Garden, Community Orchard, Pumpkin Patch
- N. Garden Path
- O. Garden Pavilion- Kiosk, Garden Classroom
- P. Permaculture Orchard- demonstration area for natural farming, stormwater management, no pesticides, no herbicides
- Q. Wildflower Pollinator Meadow- Environmental Restoration Area
- R. Honey Bee Apiary- Come see our bees busy at work, but please give them their privacy and stay outside roped area
- S. Wee One's Playscape- Children's Amphitheater, bird blind, Hobbit Village
- T. Field Research Station- field study data and equipment- Citizen Science equipment sign-out at office in farmhouse
- U. Campfire and Drum Circle
- V. Native Tree Nursery
- W. Native Plant Nursery
- X. Bog Path- Environmental Restoration Study Area, boardwalk and observation deck
- Y. PA Forest Deer Enclosure- Environmental Restoration Area, open to visitors- wine berry picking in late June!
- Z. Arboretum Path

PATHS

Our paths are relatively flat, mowed or mulched through natural areas. Dogs are allowed on leash. All paths eventually lead to Housenick Park. Please wear sturdy shoes, long pants, sunscreen, insect repellent and bring water. Please take home all refuse.

- Bog Path** 0.25 miles, bog, boardwalk, observation area, PA forest
- Meadow Path** 0.4 miles- upland meadow, nest box trail, trail to Housenick Park and back of Preserve
- Garden Path** 0.4 miles- Community Garden, pavilion, Permaculture Orchard, Wildflower meadow, Apiary & leads to Marion
- Marsh Path** 0.5 miles- travels along marsh, ties into meadow path and leads to Housenick Park
- Arboretum Path** 0.7 miles- Forest classroom, Lil' Folks Playscape, Butterfly Gazebo, Tree ID circle, Picnic Areas
- Housenick Park and Back Field Path**