



# AOS Summer Day Camp Parent Handbook



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Thank you for choosing the AOS Summer Day Camp Program. Kids need camp, now more than ever! The freedom, fun, and individual growth of summer camp is so essential, especially this year. Arkansas Outdoor School's Summer Day Camp provides a week full of outdoor activities and theme-based programming aimed at developing the heads, hearts, hands, and health of our young campers. We believe adolescence is time for energy, exploration, and empowerment. One of the central goals of our program is to introduce our campers to new activities and interests while providing them the opportunity and encouragement to develop mastery in these new skills. We know this will have a profound impact on self-image, confidence, and passion.

In pursuit of that goal, we will host a specific theme for each week of camp. Most of our time will be spent outdoors on our beautiful 220-acre campus. Program activities will be based around each week's theme, and students will leave with new friends, new skills, and new experiences.

In addition to the different session themes, each camp offers your child the opportunity to develop skills they can use throughout their lives such as communication, decision making, and teamwork.

Our goal is to provide a quality camping experience! If you have any questions or concerns, please bring them to our attention. We can be reached at (501) 821-6884 or [jkirkes@uada.edu](mailto:jkirkes@uada.edu). Again, thank you for choosing the AOS Summer Day Camp program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Kirkes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin Kirkes  
AOS Summer Day Camp Coordinator

## Program Overview

Our Summer Day Camp program is intended for students aged 8-13. Our programming is divided into 8 different sessions, organized around a weekly theme. Most camps are 5-days long, offering unique activities specific to the theme. New this year, we are also offering 4-day, 3-day, and 2-day camps which provide a focused experience related to a specific and exciting topic. We are even offering an off-site trip this year with our Summer Splash Camp, where we will be planning a local canoe adventure! Each camp will have unique activities specific to the theme, but with all our 5-day sessions, your camper will have a chance to enjoy these core 4-H activities: canoeing, archery, swimming, rock climbing, hiking, and creative arts.

## Refund Policy and Financial Obligations

Late cancellations are difficult because we often order supplies in advance, and filling empty spots on short notice is often impossible. **No refunds will be given for cancellations made within 2 weeks of a camp's starting date.** If cancellations are made prior to 2 weeks from the start date, we will issue a full refund, minus the \$50.00 deposit. Final payments are due May 25, 2022. If you have questions or need special consideration, please contact us.

## Camp Enrollment and the Waiting List

Camp enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. We intentionally keep our camps small to provide small group instruction. Most camps have a maximum enrollment of 25 campers. Any registration received after the maximum enrollment is reached will be placed on a waiting list or given the option of enrolling in a camp that has not yet filled. In the event we have an open spot for enrollment, we will fill first from the waiting list, then offer available spots to the public.

## Typical Daily Schedule

Every camp will have the same core format and most camps run Monday-Friday. Programming activities will change based on theme and age.

<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Early drop-off</b> <i>(must be arranged at time of registration)</i>
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Camper drop off</b>
9:30-11:30	Morning activities
11:30-12:00	Lunch
12:00-1:30	Afternoon activities
1:30-3:00	Swimming and snack
<b>3:30 pm</b>	<b>Camper pick-up</b>

**Changes in the daily schedule may occur due to weather or other considerations.**

## **Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedure**

The drop-off and pick-up location is Feland Hall (See attached map). Summer is a busy time at the 4-H Center, so please drive slowly on 4-H Center property. **Please understand we do not have a sliding pick-up and drop-off schedule. Drop-off is either 7:30am or 9am, depending on the option you have chosen at registration.** Keep in mind that only individuals listed on your registration form will be allowed to pick up your child. If you need to add someone to the list of authorized people at any time, please email [jkirkes@uada.edu](mailto:jkirkes@uada.edu).

## **Off-Site Drop-Off and Pick-Up (Summer Splash Camp Only)**

On this day-long off-site trip, parents should plan to drop-off and pick-up their camper at an off-site location within 15 miles of the Arkansas 4-H Center. No Early Arrival will be available on this day. In the event of inclement weather, we will reschedule this off-site trip for a different day.

## **Early Pick-Up**

If you need to pick up your camper early, please give us advanced notice. For planned absences, it is most helpful to let us know at the beginning of the session which day(s) and at what time you will need to pick-up your camper early. If you have an emergency and need to pick up your child, please call our Programs office at (501) 821-6884 and our office staff will be able to radio the group.

## **Afternoon Late Charges**

Pick-up is at 3:30pm. **Please be aware: There will be a late charge of \$10.00 assessed for every 10 minutes a camper's ride is late.**

## **What to Bring to Camp**

Please have your campers bring the following items each day to camp: a lunch, a water bottle, a swimsuit and towel, a bag, bug spray, and sunscreen. We recommend sun protection with an SPF of 30 or higher.

Students may bring hats, sunglasses, and cameras (but not those attached to phones or game systems). We ask that your camper dress in comfortable play clothes that can get dirty and, at times, wet. We also ask that your camper wear closed toe shoes (like tennis shoes) for all activities. Students may bring sandals or other shoes to change into for swimming or other water activities. For pool time, students may bring swim goggles, snorkels, or other pool toys. Please make sure your camper's name is on all their personal possessions so we can make sure they get back home.

## **What Not to Bring to Camp**

We ask that your child **NOT** bring any of the following items to camp: a knife, firearms, matches or lighter, live animals, money, cell phones, video games, medications (unless needed), or anything valuable or irreplaceable.

## **Medication Policy**

As a staff, we do not administer medication to campers. This includes over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol or Advil. If your child takes any daily prescriptions that need to be administered during the camp day, he or she will self-administer under close adult supervisor. If your child carries an epi-pen, please indicate that on their medical form and ensure that they have one with them each day.

## **Safety Procedures**

Our staff is trained in CPR and Wilderness First Aid. Staff will handle every scrape and bruise that occurs, and parents will be notified at the end of the day for minor incidents. For accidents that require medical attention, we will immediately reach out to the emergency contacts listed on the camper's application, and, if necessary, call 911.

## **Code of Conduct**

It is our goal to provide a safe, respectful camp environment for every one of our participants. Each camper will be asked to abide by our Code of Conduct while at camp. We will go over the Code of Conduct at the beginning of each camp session and we also encourage you to review these rules with your camper to ensure they fully understand what is expected of them while at camp. Thank you for your assistance.

### **Rules**

- I will respect my fellow campers.
- I will take care of my own things and respect the property of others, including Camp property.
- I will listen to the instructors and follow their instructions.
- I will follow safety rules and make sure my fellow campers are safe.
- I will do my best to be an example for my fellow campers to follow.

### **Consequences**

- 1st offense - The staff member and camper will speak with parents. Together, we will determine suitable consequences.
- 2nd offense - Camper will stay home one day.
- 3rd offense - Camper will be taken out of that session with no refund.