

Updated 3.5.25

# Campsite Kids Handbook



Campsite Kids is a nature themed summer program that runs June - August for K-5th grade (must have completed K), Monday-Thursday, from 8:00 am to 3:15 pm. Campsite Kids takes place in the woods behind Birch Grove at “The Campsite” – a paved bonfire area, camp chairs, a paved picnic table area, a hammock circle, a large grill, forts, and trails provided! We have a storage shed full of supplies and activities! There is no other program quite like it in Lake or Cook County, making it a popular program that fills up fast! It's going to be a great summer! You can find more information on this program at <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Campsite-Kids>

Campsite Kids focuses on learning through exploration and various levels of activity. The program is intended for children who are eager to embrace these daily activities. The program will include activities on and off grounds including: free play in the woods, group activities, physical games, nature projects, a daily 30-minute quiet reading time, art projects, cooking over a bonfire, and hiking to local destinations, to name a few. We encourage your child to embrace the many aspects of this unique program.



Campsite Kids is an active program that will require participants to be self-aware, respectful, follow directions, be physically active, and behave appropriately. The safety of all participants is a high priority, as well as ensuring that the program is a positive experience for ALL of the children and staff in the program. There are times that the program is loosely structured allowing freedom to explore the woods and activities independently. If your child does well only in a highly structured environment, this program may not be a suitable choice. Please consider this.

*The safety of all children is a high priority, as is ensuring that the program is a positive experience for ALL of the children in the program.*

- Participation in off-site activities is required, as staffing does not allow for the group to split up to accommodate (or stay behind with) individual children
- Severe or repeated issues with behaviors including: negative peer interactions, physical/verbal abuse, bullying, or inability to follow safety directions (especially around the campfire or hiking destinations) may result in removal from the program (and we can try again the following year!)

## Program Calendar

Campsite Kids starts in June and ends in August, Monday-Thursday, from 8:00am-3:15pm, the same as school hours. The program is closed on national holidays: June 19 and July 4. For specific program dates, please visit the website.

In the morning the program starts in the school library until 9am and then moves to The Campsite. If registering for a full day, you may pick up and drop off your child whenever you would like. End of day pick up is at the pavilion. Parents will be

given a summer code to enter the building. Please do not share this code with others. In the event of rain or inclement weather, the program will move inside to the school library and the gym.



## Program Availability

Campsite Kids is unique to Cook and Lake County and is for children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade (must have completed Kindergarten). The program has been designed to be flexible and fit the needs and desires of parents and children. We have worked hard to ensure that your child has a quality program that is available four days a week in the summer. Children can be picked up or dropped off at any time on their scheduled days. Program registration is open to Birch Grove Community School families first, and then is open to the general public if there are any slots left available.

## Birch Grove Community School Garden Plot

Campsite Kids maintains the Birch Grove Community School garden plot during the summer months. Our plot is located in the Tofte Community Garden in the front of the Birch Grove building.

## Staffing

Staffing is a combination of Birch Grove Community School licensed elementary teachers and paraprofessionals, certified in CPR and First Aid. All are experienced in working with K-5 children and have worked at Campsite Kids previously. We have excellent staff and they are excited to share an awesome summer with your child!

## Fees

Half Day Rate 0-3.5 hours - \$19.00

Full Day Rate 3.5-7.25 hours - \$38.00



All previous program balances need to be paid in full prior to enrolling in Campsite Kids.

Payments are due 2 weeks in advance using the online Brightwheel system. If you do not yet have a Brightwheel account, please contact us and we will email you a registration link.

Families must prepay two weeks in advance of attendance or enrollment will be suspended until payment is received. If your child is absent for any reason, there will be no refund. If you should drop the program before the summer's end, you will still be billed for all of the days you registered for. There is no longer any situation where a refund will be given, except if a child's attendance is terminated by the program itself.

### **Lunch and Snacks**

You will need to pack a nutritious lunch, several snacks, and a water bottle daily. Extra emphasis on a water bottle! There is no microwave available in the summer – you have to send a lunch that does not need to be heated, please. Children spend many hours each day in the summer outside in all sorts of weather. Children will be hungry from an active day! Please do not send pop, candy or gum. Cooking meals over a bonfire or on the grill is a part of this program, and there is no need to send a lunch on these days. If you are not sure if it is a bonfire or grill day, send a lunch with your child.



### **Transportation**

Transportation to and from the program is not provided. Arrowhead Transit has public bus routes running from Lake and Cook County to Birch Grove. Buses arrive between 8:00-8:10am and leave BG at 3:15pm. These are the same bus routes that Birch Grove uses during the school year. If you are not familiar with the routes and want to know where your child may be able to get on/off the bus, please contact BG or Arrowhead Transportation. Tickets to ride the bus one way is \$5, so if your child is riding the bus to and from, it will be \$10 a day. Tickets can be purchased in advance from the main Arrowhead Transit office or you can pay the bus drivers with cash/check. Also, consider carpooling – we can get you in contact with others in your area.



### **Drop off/Pick up policy**

You are responsible for signing your child in and out daily. If someone other than a parent is picking up a child, we ask that you please let staff know in writing. The non-parent will be asked to show photo identification prior to picking up a child if the staff is not familiar with the adult. We have the safety of your child in mind! Children can be picked up or dropped off at any time on their scheduled days.

Please do not bring your child to the program prior to 8:00am, and we strongly urge you to pick up your child in a timely manner. Children remaining at the program after 3:15 will be charged an additional late fee of **\$1.00** a minute after 3:15pm.

## Daily Quiet Reading/Rest Time

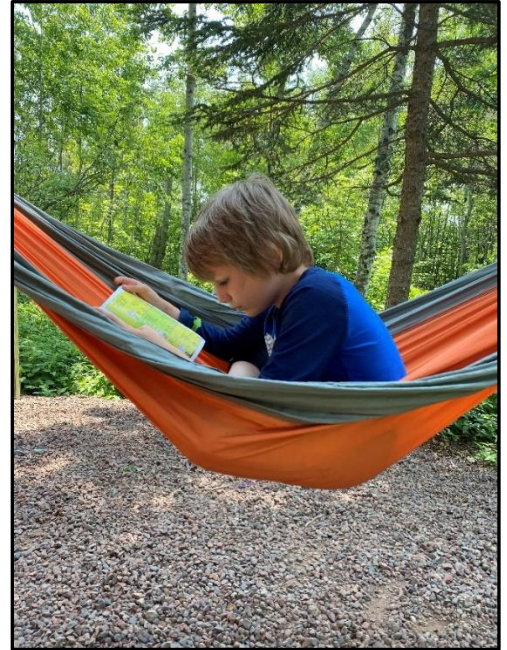
Quiet Reading/Rest time will occur daily. Children may bring books from home, but books from the Campsite Kids program and from the school library will be available. We feel that it is important that children have an opportunity to rest as well as read each day. 30 minutes per day is dedicated to this!

## Forms

All enrollment forms are required to be completed prior to completed registration. Once your child is registered, you will not be able to change the days you registered for and will be billed for the days you indicated. Please do not ask to add, remove, or switch the days, as we will not be able to do this once registered.

## Sunscreen and Bug Spray

The children will be spending a lot of time outdoors. We HIGHLY recommend that you send sunscreen every day! If you leave the sunscreen in your child's backpack, it can't be forgotten at home. We do not share sunscreen, so if you want your child to apply sunscreen, you must send it daily. We will also regularly venture into areas where bugs may be thick. If you send bug spray, we will see that it gets applied to your child.



## Supplies Needed

- A backpack that can contain the necessities (lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, etc.)
- Sunscreen (labeled with your child's name). If you don't send it, we will assume you do not want it applied to your child.
- Bug spray (labeled with your child's name). If you don't send it, we will assume you do not want it applied to your child.
- Sufficient clothing. We suggest dressing in layers, so children can remove layers if they become too warm.
- Shoes that are comfortable for walking, running, and climbing. Shoes that you don't mind if they get dirty. No flip-flops!
- Please dress your child in comfortable clothes they can work and play in without worry of soiling. The children will be getting dirty this summer, so please send your child in clothes they can have fun in without the worry!
- Regardless of age: An extra pair of clothes and a towel should be kept at school. If the weather is hot, we will be getting wet, if the weather is muddy, we will be getting muddy, and we will be doing some amazing things with art!

## Please Do Not Send

- Cell phones, laptops, iPads, hand held video games of any sort. If your child brings any type of electronics, staff will hold them until the end of the day and return to parents upon pick-up.
- Flip-flops! Do not send your child in flip-flops (or any open, slip on shoes). Most physical activities are hard to manage in flip-flops. The campsite in the woods is full of sticks, brush, roots, rocks, and a fire pit. Foot injuries are much more likely to happen with this type of foot ware, and we would like to avoid any potential injuries. PLEASE send tennis shoes/hiking boot type of foot ware. Children will be examined upon drop off and will not be able to

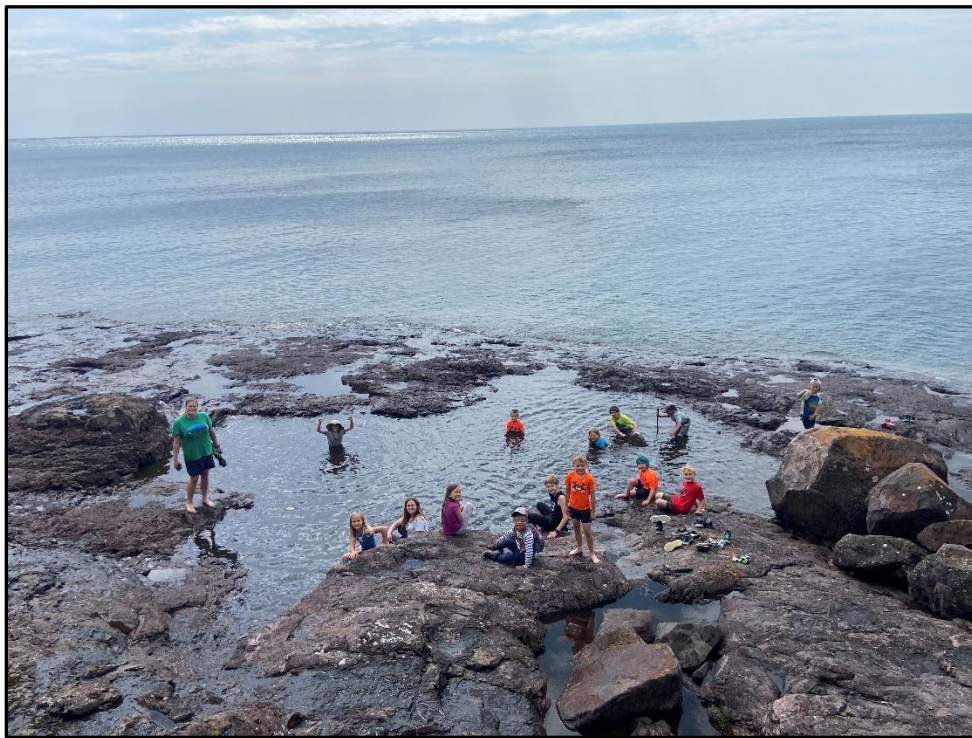
participate if they are wearing flip-flops and will need to go home and return with appropriate foot ware for the program. High heeled shoes/fashion boots are also not appropriate foot ware for the program.

### Campsite Kids Contract Form

The Campsite Kids contract must be signed by parents/guardians as well as the child that will be enrolled in the program. Enrollment will not be complete until this contract is signed by both parties.

### Staff Contact Information During Programming

You may call (218) 663-0170, ext. 21 to the Saplings room, to talk with/leave a message for the Campsite Kids summer staff. Messages are checked in the morning, at lunch time, and at the end of the day.



This is Campsite Kids secret beach! Shhh, don't tell anyone!



218-663-0170

[birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org)

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Community-Services>