WILDECAMP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is camp?
Camp is located on The Wilds’ property and is roughly 3 miles from the main entrance.

What are the facilities like?
Our camp has a modern shower house with private toilet and shower stalls. There are separate sides for males and females. We also have a dining yurt, guest yurts, an air conditioned activity yurt, a staff yurt with first aid station, an outdoor amphitheater-style classroom, miles of hiking trails, a lake for fishing and a separate lake for swimming and canoeing.

What are the staff qualifications?
Staff members are carefully selected based on their qualifications and personalities. Typically, our seasonal Conservation Educators have degrees or are upper level college students striving for degrees in education, biology or a related field. Staff members are CPR/First Aid Certified. Certified lifeguards oversee the beach.

Do the staff members have background checks?
Yes, FBI and BCI (Federal and State) level checks.

What will my child eat at camp?
All meals and snacks are provided by The Wilds at camp. Our restaurant staff provides “kid friendly” meals. We also make every effort possible to accommodate dietary needs.

Can my child bring snacks?
We provide all food while they are here. In order to keep pests away, we ask that campers leave their snacks at home.

What is your lice policy?
To protect both your child and other campers’ from lice outbreaks, a Lice Center of Ohio representative will be conducting a lice check during WildeCamp drop off. If lice is discovered during that check, you will have the opportunity to opt in for a treatment and once completed, your child will be able to join the rest of the campers. If you do not choose to complete the treatment, your child will be sent home. You may reschedule for another week of camp if available. Refunds will not be issued. We encourage you to check your child’s scalp before leaving for WildeCamp.

Will my child have hands on time with animals?
We make every effort to take your child to as many animal areas as possible. However, because of the dynamic nature of The Wilds, we cannot guarantee these opportunities. For safety reasons, your child will not get hands on time with most of the animals at The Wilds.
What is the counselor:camper ratio?
Junior Explorers (8-9 years old) = 1:5
Safari Squad (10-11 years old) = 1:5
Eco Ambassadors (12-15 years old) = 1:5
Adventure Camp (12-15 years old) = 1:5
Dirty Wild Jobs (15-18 years old) = 1:4

Are boys and girls housed separately at camp?
Campers sleep in yurts with other campers and counselors of the same gender or gender-identity.

What is a yurt?
A yurt is a Mongolian-style house. It has a circular wooden structure, wooden floors and doors, a roof and canvas walls with windows. Our yurts have bunk beds with mattresses and electrical outlets. They are also temperature controlled.

What do you do in inclement/extreme weather situations?
We have alternate buildings to take refuge in case of large storms, and during extreme heat periods we make every effort to go to air conditioned spaces and encourage the campers to drink plenty of water.

Are there fences between the animals and my child while they are staying at camp?
Yes, camp is located outside the Wilds’ perimeter fence.

Are there ticks and mosquitoes at camp?
It is best to come prepared for ticks and mosquitoes. This includes insect repellant and long pants, especially at night and while hiking.

What if my child becomes homesick?
Our staff members are specially trained to help your homesick camper cope. We understand the level of sensitivity there can be when staying away from home for an extended amount of time, and we always make sure to treat each camper with kindness. Most children do not experience homesickness at camp, however.

Can my child call me from camp?
In order to avoid homesickness with the campers and because we do not have reliable phone capability to accommodate each camper’s calls, it’s important to not expect your camper to call you. It is best to encourage your camper to write to you, or to send them letters. For WildeCamp, it’s best to live by the adage, “no news is good news.” However, we do encourage you write to your campers.
Can my child write letters home and receive letters from us?
Yes! Please send letters early in their week here to ensure prompt delivery. The address is:

WildeCamper (your child’s name here) c/o Conservation Education Department
the Wilds
14000 International Road
Cumberland, OH 43732

Can I e-mail my child while they are at camp?
Sure! Please put your camper’s name in the subject line and send the emails to education@thewilds.org.

Note: that your camper can not respond to emails, and we cannot print off attachments.