

Connect with Nature and Journey Into the Heart



Welcome to The Living Earth Camp!

Hello,

(Please note a confirmation letter was emailed to you when we received your application. Dates for overnight camps vary, as this form is a general overnight confirmation letter. Please check with us or the website for exact dates.)

We are glad you chose **The Earth Roots Camp** for your child's summer adventure. If you are new to The Living Earth School we welcome you with open arms. We invite you to experience what a nature camp really should be.....about the children, their learning, growth and creating a positive experience in nature. We also welcome all those returning. We are so thrilled to have you back and look so forward to our ongoing relationship. We love nothing more than running around with kids in the woods and helping them connect with nature and gain love and appreciation for this beautiful earth we live on! We know the importance of children having direct contact with nature in a safe nurturing environment. We strive to make this summer camp experience the best your child has ever had. We have an amazing crew of wonderful, skilled staff just waiting for our summer venture together.

Please put this form in a safe place, ready for camp!!!

Camp is held: _____

Plan to drop your camper off at 2pm for the first day of camp. Pick up on the final day of camp is at 12pm.

(Please note this is our general overnight confirmation letter, so please check to make sure you have the right dates).

We received your non-refundable deposit of \$_____, which brings your remaining total to \$_____.

Please pay the remaining tuition by June 1 and if you have not sent in your medical form, enclose that as well.

And Now for the Nitty Gritty Details

Day 1-Please arrive at camp between 2-2:30pm or a few minutes before. The following will help keep things organized and fluent. We will organize campers into their camp group with their assigned camp counselors at the start of our day. We require that each camper has all forms completed and is paid in full. We prefer to meet each parent or guardian on day 1 and to make sure all paperwork is completed. Also, please make sure camper comes with all items on the what to bring list. Upon arrival you may purchase a camp knife. Please hand in all medications, in their original packaging, to camp directors. Also hand in any food items, care packages and mail at this time.

How to Contact us- (434) 823-5531- This is the camp telephone, during camp season. We may not always be close to the phone to hear it ringing, but please leave a message. We check messages regularly throughout the day and will get back to you promptly.

Camp Mail- We encourage parents to send letters to their children while they are at camp. We know it is a short duration of time, but to some campers it really means the world. To do this, please bring the letters with you at camp drop off and hand them in at registration. (please don't send them to the mailing address listed below because this mailbox is not checked while camp is in duration). It can be a little disheartening to some campers whom don't receive mail while others get letters daily.....even a quick note is recommended.

Label all items- Please make sure to label all clothing and personal items with campers name. This helps ensure camper will return with his/her items and not somebody else's. Plus we would rather devote our time and energy to your camper and not to sorting their belongings.

Medications- Keep all medication in its original packaging/bottle that identifies the prescribing physician, if a prescription drug, the name of the medication, the dosages, and the frequency of administration. Bring enough medication to last entire time at camp. Please hand all medication in at time of registration.

Care Packages-Yes care packages are a wonderful thing, but not encouraged. At our camp a "Care Package" becomes a "Share Package"! This ensures that we don't have campers going without, while others get special treats. If your camper is a picky eater please let us know. If camper has dietary constrictions or special needs this is an exception to the "share Package" rule.

Healthy Feet- Yes, healthy feet are happy feet and = happy camper! Feet can be a tricky thing at nature camp, and keeping them dry is very important. We require a swim shoe to go swimming. Make sure to bring a few other comfortable shoes on top of this and a pair that is always kept dry. Hiking sandals, like Texas or Chacos are great, with a pair or two of gym shoes, hiking boots are fine as well. If you don't have hiking sandals, flip flops are good to dry feet out, but not used for hiking or swimming. Whatever the shoes, please make sure to have them broken in ahead of time, since blisters are no fun.

Living Earth School

Swimming- If your child is not a strong swimmer or unable to swim, please make this known to us, if you have not already on the application. Your campers safety is our utmost concern and we only swim with a lifeguard on duty. We recommend that your camper have swim lessons or gets comfortable with swimming prior to camp. We do a required simple swim test on day 1. If camper does not swim with ease, we require they wear one of our life jackets while at the swim hole. We don't want anyone feeling uncomfortable with this, we just want everyone to be safe.

Friends- We really love to see all campers making new friends at camp and we encourage this. Though we understand some campers sign up together and it is really important for them to be together. If you have not already informed us of this on the application, please do so no later than a few weeks before camp. We will try our absolute best to accommodate your requests but, please know we assign groups prior to day one and changing group members once campers have arrived is a difficulty. Groups often co-mingle throughout the day for swimming, group games etc. We will try our best here, though at times there are reasons for certain arrangements.

Location- Please note camp is located in Sugar Hollow in White Hall, about 25 minutes from Charlottesville. Our mailing address is in Afton and camp is not located there and please do not send letters to this address.

What Not to Bring- We ask that radios, CD players, ipods, electronic toys, trading cards and cell phones, etc. stay at home.

Recommended reading- A great book to have your younger camper read or to even read out loud together is: My Side of the Mountain, also Golden Guide Field Guides are a great way to start learning about the world of nature. The older camper will appreciate reading The Tracker, by Tom Brown Jr. These books help set a tone for living closely with nature, plus they are great reads and kids love them. A wonderful, enlightening book for parents to read is Last Child in the Woods, Saving our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv.

We are so excited about our adventures for the summer. If at any time between now and the beginning of camp you have any questions, concerns, or want to discuss your child's participation in camp, feel free to contact us.

The summer season will be upon us soon. The mountains will be thick and green, filled with bird song and cool running streams. Before we know it we will be gathering together around the campfire to start the first day of camp.

We look forward to seeing you soon,

Kate and Hub Knott & the LES Staff

The Living Earth School

101 Rocky Bottom Lane *(please note this is not the camp address)*

Afton, VA 22920

info@livingearthva.com/www.livingearthva.com

(540)456-7339



Directions to The Living Earth Camp

LOCATION: The Living Earth Camp is located at The Sugar Hollow Girl Scout camp in Albemarle County on Sugar Hollow Road (Rt. 614), about 14 miles west of Charlottesville, VA.

TELEPHONE: (434) 823-5531- This is the camp telephone, during camp season. We may not always be close to the phone to hear it ringing, but please leave a message. We check messages regularly throughout the day and will get back to you promptly.

DIRECTIONS:

North/South on Route 29 – Take the 250 Bypass around Charlottesville. Take the *Barracks Road Exit* (Route 654) west for 11 miles (The road changes to Garth road and the route number changes to 614). At Whitehall the road name changes to Browns Gap Rd. When you go past Wyants Store at Whitehall (which is just a small intersection) continue on Browns Gap Road for 1/10 of a mile. At The Piedmont Store, bear to the left onto Sugar Hollow Road. Continue on Sugar Hollow Road for four miles crossing two bridges. The camp entrance is on the left, past the first parking lot and down a little private lane, look for signs. These roads are winding, narrow roads.

East/West on Route I-64 - Take, Exit #107, Route 250/Crozet. Travel east on Route 250 (Rockfish Gap Road) about 1 mile. At the light turn left onto Crozet Road (Rt. 240) and follow Crozet Road into the town of Crozet, through the traffic light and under the railroad bridge. Continue out of Crozet an additional ½ mile; the road will take a sharp turn to the right and become Brown's Gap Road (Rt. 810). Continue on Brown's Gap Rd. four miles to the stop sign at Whitehall; Wyants Store will be right in front of you. At Whitehall turn left onto Brown's Gap Rd. (Rt. 614). Continue on Brown's Gap Road for 1/10 of a mile. At The Piedmont Store, bear to the left onto Sugar Hollow Road. Continue on Sugar Hollow Road for four miles crossing two bridges. The camp entrance is on the left, past the first parking lot and down a little private lane, look for signs. These roads are winding, narrow roads.



What to Bring to Camp!

Make sure to label all personal items with the camper's name to assist with lost and found items.

Clothing - (bring clothing that can & will get dirty)

- Jacket- polar fleece or sweatshirt
- 4 Pairs Shoes
 - 2 Pair- Gym Shoes/or hiking boots
 - Hiking sandals like Tevas or Chacos (if no hiking sandal bring flip flops for drying feet out purposes only)
 - Water Socks/Shoes –(these are required for swimming) (flip flops aren't included)
- 2 Long Sleeved Shirt
- 3 Pair Pants
- 4 Pair Shorts
- 5 T-Shirts
- 5 Pair Socks
- 6 Pair Underwear
- Swim Suit or Trunks
- Towel
- Rain Coat
- Hat- baseball cap or sun hat

Miscellaneous Items

- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad (roll up camping type), a few padded blankets can work as well
- Sheet (for hot nights)
- Small Backpack/Day Pack
- Dishes- bowl, plate, cup, spoon, fork (non-breakable)
- *Locking Blade Knife- used for carving, no pocket knife (*option to buy from us, see below*)
- Water Bottle (quart size preferred)
- Bathroom Items- toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, comb (have contained in their own bag)
- Sunscreen

Optional Items

- Flashlight
- Bug Spray (all natural kind required)
- Camera
- Sunscreen
- Binoculars
- Pillow
- Snorkeling Gear/ Goggles

* Each camper will need a knife to carve with at camp (for making their bowdrill fire set, etc) and it is important to have the right knife for their own safety. Their knife should fit well in the hand and not feel too large or too small to grip comfortably. It must be a locking blade or a non-folding knife. We have extra knives for sale that are the ideal knives and inexpensive (\$16 -\$20) , you may buy these on the first day of camp, and we have plenty for everyone. We have really researched knives and find these to be ideal. Please call if you have any questions.