

# **2025 Winter Break Camp**

## **Parent Information and Details**

### **GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION**

#### **Directions to Camp**

Camp is held each day at The PNC Achievement Center for Education and Interpretation located in the Creekside Center in Beckley Creek Park. Our address is 1411 Beckley Creek Parkway, Louisville, KY 40245. **Be advised that some GPS units do not recognize our address.**

**Written directions are as follows:**

Take I-64 East to I-265 (Gene Snyder Freeway) North; take the Middletown exit and turn right onto Shelbyville Road. It is approximately 0.8 miles to Beckley Station Road – turn right at the stop light onto South Beckley Station Road. Follow 1.7 miles to the Beckley Creek Park entrance on left (before intersection of Beckley Station and Wibble Hill Road). Once inside the park you will see our building to your right.

For a link to Google Maps directions please [click here](#).

#### **What if my child would like to be placed with his/her friend?**

Each camp group (K-3rd, 4th -6<sup>th</sup>) will be its own group. Campers in different age groups cannot be placed together for safety reasons but camp groups often visit the same park locations and spend time together at the playground each day.

#### **What can my child expect at camp?**

Parklands Campers can expect to spend a good deal of time outdoors hiking trails, wading in the stream, and participating in many more activities including but not limited to hiking, arts and crafts, science experiments, games, and time at our playground. For students in grades 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> biking and archery will also be optional activities but are based on safe weather conditions.

***A change of clothes and shoes is highly recommended for comfort. All water-based activities are subject to proper weather conditions. At Winter Break Camp we will explore near our stream but will NOT go in the water.***

#### **Can my camper attend a camp in an older or younger age group, even if he/she is not entering those grades?**

For the safety of our campers and in the interest of age level appropriateness, age categories must be observed to ensure the best possible experience for all campers. We have found that children enjoy themselves more and have a better experience if they are with kids their own age. If campers must enter a camp outside of their grade level, we encourage Parents/Guardians to choose a camp below their grade level. Campers will not be admitted into a camp above their grade level unless they are entering the minimum grade of that camp in the coming school year. Only campers in grades 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> can participate in biking and archery activities.

## WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

### What should my camper bring each day?

Campers should wear appropriate attire for winter outdoor activity and that can get wet and muddy. Most days campers will be participating in outdoor exploration activities where the child can expect to get muddy, so appropriate clothing is required. We suggest boots as good footwear but anything that will keep the child's feet warm are acceptable. Crocs do not keep feet warm. A change of clothes and shoes is strongly recommended for comfort, but not necessary. Food will not be provided as a part of the camp day; all campers should bring a lunch and snack that does not require refrigeration and a bottle for water that can be refilled, each day. A backpack is suggested but not necessary. Please dress for winter weather including winter coat, gloves, and hat.

*Parklands camp is based mostly outdoors, and your child should expect to get muddy. During camp, we spend time near Floyds Fork exploring near the stream which can be muddy. Please come prepared to camp each day with a change of clothes and shoes for comfort.*

### How should I prepare prior to arriving at camp each day?

If your child feels sick, please keep them home and inform Parklands Camp Coordinator by emailing [rhynes@theparklands.org](mailto:rhynes@theparklands.org) or by calling, 502-866-1008. Please make sure your child arrives at camp each day with clean clothes, a change of clothes and shoes, a refillable water bottle, sack lunch, and snack. Please apply sunscreen and bug spray to your camper prior to arriving at camp. Parklands staff will remind students to reapply throughout the day but will not put sunscreen or bug spray on children unless they are unable to do so themselves.

## DAILY DROP OFF & PICK UP

### What do I need to do on my child's first day of camp?

On your child's first day of camp, you'll need to bring your child to the side door of the PNC Achievement Center located in Beckley Creek Park to check in and turn in **all required paperwork for camp (Health History Form, Permission Form, & Emergency Action Form – if necessary)**. Please make every effort to have paperwork filled out prior to camp. If that is not an option, we will have copies available during drop-off. At this point, Parklands staff will walk your student into their classroom.

### How do I drop off / pick up the rest of the week?

Each day, Parents/Guardians will pull up to the side door of the PNC Achievement Center to drop their camper off. Parklands staff will meet your outside the side door to check them in.

During pick up, parents/guardians should pull up to the side door of the PNC Achievement Center. Please come to the side door where Parklands staff will meet you check identification. **Parklands staff will only release campers to those whose names appear on the camper's Health History Form and all those picking up MUST show ID each day.**

### How soon can I drop off my child? Is it OK to pick up early or drop off late?

Drop off begins **no earlier than 8:30 a.m.** and will continue until 9:00 a.m. when camp begins. There is no early drop-off as Parklands staff need this time to prepare for the camp day. Parents/Guardians may opt to drop off late or pick up early, but please be advised that campers may be participating in camp activities in the park and time should be allotted for travel back to the PNC Achievement Center. **Official pick-up hours are from 4:00-4:30pm.** There is no late care service; all campers must be picked up no later than 4:30pm. Parents/Guardians will be subject to an automatic credit card charge of \$1 per minute for each minute after 4:30pm.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT AT CAMP**

### **What can my child expect when arriving at camp?**

Drop-Off for Parklands Outdoor Adventure Camp begins at 8:30am with camp activities beginning at 9:00am. Please make every effort to arrive at camp by 9:00am so that your child can meet up with their group. If arriving late, please alert Camp Coordinator Ryan Hynes by calling 502-866-1008 or emailing [rhynes@thparklands.org](mailto:rhynes@thparklands.org).

Upon arrival each morning, Parklands staff will check-in your child outside of the side door to the PNC Center and walk them into their classroom.

### **What can my child expect during camp?**

At camp, we make every effort to be outdoors as much as is safely possible. This will include hiking, wading, fishing, games, crafts, and experiments, among many other things. However, during hazardous weather days we will remain inside our education center. Our camps are student led and campers will get the chance each morning to vote for the activities they would like to do. This often means splitting up into groups based on activity. A typical camp day schedule is below.

**8:30am-9:00am-** Arrival at camp, games and art in the classroom

**9:00am-9:15am-** Review rules and student expectations, restroom break

**9:15am-11:45am-** Morning Park exploration (fossil hunts, hikes, games, creek bank exploration)

**11:45am-12:00pm-** Prepare for lunch, wash hands

**12:00pm-12:45pm-** Lunch outdoors at PWC Pavilion and field games

**12:45pm-1:15pm-** Warm up time in the PNC Center (nature video)

**1:15pm-2:00pm-** Playground Time

**2:00pm-3:45pm-** Optional craft or outdoor activity (groups will split up based on interest)

**3:45pm-4:00pm-** Prepare for departure, gather belongings

**4:00pm-4:30pm-** Parent pick up (nature video)

### **What can my child expect when departing camp for the day?**

Camp activities end each day between 3:30-4:00pm and parents will be expected to pick their camper up no later than 4:30pm. Pick up will be at the side door to the PNC Center (same as drop-off). Parents are welcome to stay in their vehicle during pick up. Upon arrival, Parklands staff will check parent/guardian identification and then walk your camper to your vehicle. Please have your camper wash hands for at least 20 seconds when arriving at home. Showering/bathing as well as washing clothes and other items is recommended after arriving at home each day.

## **WHEN CAMP BEGINS:**

### **How will my child spend his or her day?**

All campers will participate in a balanced day of indoor and outdoor activities each week. Indoor and outdoor time will vary daily based on the topic or activity for the day. All campers will have at least ½ hour each for both lunch and recess. Outdoor activities include creek exploration, hiking, science experiments, and games. Indoor activities include crafts, science experiments, and games.

### **What does my child need to wear?**

All campers should wear appropriate footwear and clothing for winter outdoor exploration. This includes but is not limited to boots, winter coat, hat, gloves, scarf, extra socks. *A change of clothes and shoes/socks is strongly recommended for comfort.*

### **What should I do for lunch/snack each day?**

Campers will eat lunch in the park each day, so please pack a lunch and snack for your child. Remember, some campers may be suffering from food allergies so please be considerate when packing your child's lunch. Please note: Lunches are outdoors so do not pack food that requires refrigeration.

## **THE EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION TEAM & CLASS SIZES**

### **Who is The Education & Interpretation Team? Who will be my child's counselors?**

The Education & Interpretation team at The Parklands is responsible for the day-to-day operation of camp. They are full-time staff with The Parklands and are on site and available each day. The Parklands camps are taught by The Parklands Interpretive Rangers, Camp Coordinator, Director of Education and Assistant Director of Education; all are college graduates with educational backgrounds in ecology, are CPR & First Aid Certified, and have completed extensive criminal background checks. All staff love the outdoors and are looking forward to working with the campers this summer. Our standard ratio of counselors to children is 1:10.

### **How large are your classes, what are your ratios?**

All camp age groups are limited to 30 campers. When a class reaches capacity, we will start a waiting list. Our ratios are 1:10; each class has at least three adults per group at almost all times, depending on activity and daily schedule.

### **Can I stay with my child during camp?**

For the safety of Parklands staff and campers, parents will not be allowed to stay with their child at camp. We know campers may be uneasy if this is their first camp experience so to help with this, Parents/Guardians are welcome to stay with their campers during our drop off period (8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.) as long as they stay separate from the rest of the camp group-outside. At the start of our day, we ask that Parents/Guardians leave their campers in the care of The Education & Interpretation Team. Please keep in mind that all Education & Interpretation Team members have experience and an interest in working with children and will strive to make camp the best experience possible for your child. The Education & Interpretation team will call you if a concern should arise with your child.

## **CAMP POLICIES**

### **What are your COVID-19 safety policies?**

We do not have any current COVID-19 policies, but we reserve the right to implement new safety policies based on the recommendations of the CDC and the state as it relates to the spread of disease.

### **No Violence Policy**

The Parklands of Floyds Fork has a No Violence policy in place to keep summer campers and other park visitors safe and having fun. Failure to comply with this policy may result in your child being asked to leave camp with no refund provided. Parents will be notified if this policy is violated.

### **No Phone Policy**

During Parklands Fall Break Camp, students will not be permitted to use their phones while participating in park activities. This rule is in place for the safety and enjoyment of all campers. Science has confirmed that being in nature, unplugged from our devices can have profoundly positive impacts on our physical and mental health. All Parklands Camp Counselors will have access to phones and radios and can get in touch with parents any time a camper asks. Camp Counselors reserve the right to take a phone away if this rule cannot be followed. The phone will be returned to the camper at the end of the day.

### **Allergies**

Please be sure to alert Parklands staff verbally and on the Emergency Action Form of any serious allergies your camper has that may require emergency care such as EPI Pens. If your child has a serious tree nut allergy, please be advised that while exploring the forest, it is likely that students will encounter tree nuts. We make every effort to be mindful of allergies so please be sure to share this information with camp staff.

### **What is your cancellation/refund policy?**

Refunds will be issued in full if requested at least 14 days prior to the start of your camp week(s). If a refund is requested under 14 days prior to the start of your camp week(s), partial refunds will be considered but not guaranteed. "No Shows" will not be issued a refund.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks reserves the right to cancel camp sessions without prior notice based on safety concerns at which point a full refund will be issued.

### **What is your inherent risk clause? Why do you need it?**

Because we offer camps in an outdoor setting (and nature can be unpredictable), it is important that we communicate with our camper's Parents/Guardians about any potential risk that may occur when we are participating in activities that are outside. Our number one priority at camp is safety and all decisions and activities are conducted with this in mind. Inherent risk clauses are common in outdoor education programs; our inherent risk clause is below:

*I \_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian name) give permission for \_\_\_\_ (my child's name) to participate in the 21st Century Parks, Inc. Camp Program at The Parklands of Floyds Fork. I understand that the child named above must follow all rules and regulations stated by 21st Century Parks, Inc. Inherent risk is associated with all outdoor activities including but not limited to hiking, biking, archery, canoeing/kayaking, wading, and fishing. All of these activities can be adversely affected by trail conditions and weather. I further agree to release and hold harmless 21st Century Parks, Inc., from any and all claims of bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, (including loss or damage to tangible property) to my child that might occur during this program.*

*We constantly strive to provide programs that respect emotional, social, intellectual and physical safety. Participants and/or guardians acknowledge their understanding of and agreement to participate in potentially unsafe programs by signing appropriate Health and Safety forms.*

**What if my child has special needs, or requires daily medication?**

21st Century Parks, Inc. staff & volunteers are unable to administer medication to any child unless it is specifically designated by the parent/guardian on The Parklands Emergency Action Form prior to camp. If your child requires daily medication that must be administered during camp or emergency medication such as an epinephrine pen or inhaler, you may fill out an Emergency Action Form so that Parklands staff may administer when needed or in a crisis situation. Please give medication to Parklands staff in the morning upon drop off. Medication should be given in a marked bottle with the child's name and dosage information.

Please note that one-on-one care cannot be provided. You may opt to provide your child with an outside caregiver during camp (at no cost) if you wish to have your child participate in camp.

**What if my camper will be absent?**

Please notify us by calling Camp Coordinator Ryan Hynes at 502-866-1008 or the Director of Education and Programming directly at 502-815-0274. Our Education & Programming team will check messages daily and will notify your counselor in case of an absence. Refunds will not be issued for absent days.

**What is your policy in case of severe weather?**

During times of severe weather, camp will be held indoors in the PNC Center. In case of weather severe enough to cancel camp activities, The Parklands Education & Programming team will communicate with all parents by phone and email in addition to providing closing information on our website. If severe weather is present camp activities will be held indoors.