



Association of
Whistler Area Residents
for the Environment

Whistler Nature Camp

Parent/Guardian & Camper Handbook

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this handbook is to inform you and your camper of all the need to know information necessary for an enjoyable experience at camp. Please take the time to read this entire handbook with care.

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About Us

Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE)

AWARE is a member driven charity that works to protect the natural environment in Whistler and the Sea to Sky through advocacy and speaking up about key environmental issues, while empowering others to do the same through science-based research and education.

AWARE works towards a vision of a knowledgeable community that is engaged and empowered to preserve and enhance the environment on which it depends.

Whistler Nature Camp

Whistler Nature Camp (WNC) offers a unique opportunity for kids to connect with Whistler's natural backyard! Imagine a place where their natural sense of wonder can ignite at the center of their fun and learning. Whether catching bugs, observing wildlife, befriending a tree, playing games or partaking in crafts, kids will have the chance to discover connections with the natural world and each other.

Whistler Nature Camp strives to provide opportunities that will nurture children's innate curiosity about the natural world, foster their understanding of the interconnectedness of all living and non-living things, and instill in them an abiding sense of care and responsibility for the well-being of their communities and planet Earth.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Program Coordinator at any time. We are pleased to offer our assistance!

Nature Camp Phone Number (604) 698 6232

Environmental Education Coordinator

Kristen Jones

Camp Cell: (604) 698 6232

Email: naturekids@awarewhistler.org



AWARE Executive Director

Claire Ruddy

Cell: (604) 966 7806

Email: cruddy@awarewhistler.org

Emergency Phone Number

Police, Fire or Medical Emergency 9-1-1

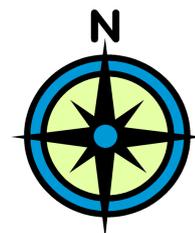
Non-emergency Phone Numbers

Whistler RCMP	(604) 932 3044
Whistler Fire Rescue Service	(604) 935 8260
Emergency Program	(604) 935 8473
BC Ambulance (Whistler)	(250) 953 3298
Poison Control Centre	(800) 567 8911



Camp Location

Address - Spruce Grove Field House
7328 Kirkpatrick Way
Whistler, BC
V0N 1B0



Drop-off and Pick-Up Times



8:30 - 9:00 | Camper Drop-off

3:15 - 3:30 | Camper Pick-up

3:30 - 5:30 | Optional After-Camp Program (pick-up at or by 5:30)

What to Bring

- Closed-toe shoes
- Reusable water bottle
- Sun hat
- Camp friendly clothing
- Lunch and 2 snacks
- Sunscreen (*please sunscreen your child at beginning of day and then pack their sunscreen in their bag)
- Epi-pen or other allergy medication if required (*please notify staff)

Optional:

- Sunglasses
- Bug Spray (*only personal bug spray will be applied to child)
- Rain gear



No Electronics Policy

To ensure every camper gets the most out of Whistler Nature Camp programming we ask that children do not come to camp with any electronics (including iPods, gaming devices or phones). Staff will ask any campers with electronics to keep them in their bags inside the Spruce Grove Field House until end of day.

Whistler Nature Camp Merchandise

Looking for some summer camp swag? Look no further, we have Youth and Adult size ball caps for sale on site. Just ask one of our friendly staff!

Whistler Nature Camp Hats | \$20



Behaviour Management Policy

This summer, the five major rules are:

Respect **O**thers
Respect **H**elpers
Respect **Y**ourself
Respect **E**nvironment
Respect **S**upervisors



These rules can easily be remembered by the acronym, **OH YES!**

Preventative Measures

All families in our camps will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct. All camp interpreters will be versed in our protocols and policies, as identified in this handbook.

Our team does their best to address situations while they are in the preliminary stages so that we may avoid serious discipline issues. In the morning, camp interpreters will talk about expectations for the day to set kids up for success.

Protocol for Dealing with Challenging Children

In the event that a camper displays inappropriate behaviour, the following steps will be taken:

- If a difficult situation arises: Staff will speak with the child. Address why the action was not OK and how their actions impact our group. The child will have quiet time out to contemplate their actions until they are ready to apologize in a meaningful manner to the group (if applicable) or the other child(ren) involved. If necessary, staff will talk with the parent/guardian at end of day.
- If a second difficult situation arises: The camper will receive another time out as well as a phone call home to his or her parent/guardian. If the offence is of serious nature, the parent/guardian will receive a phone call even if the occurrence is a first offence.
- Serious behaviour issues or a third difficult situation: If a child is endangering the safety of themselves or others, parents/guardians will be called to pick their child up. Parents/guardians will also be called to pick up their child should the integrity of the camps be compromised due to an inability to teach/learn due to the behaviour of one child. If a parent/guardian is not available, an emergency contact will be called.

Additional Information: Whistler Nature Camp operates on a three-strike rule. The first and/or second time a child is dismissed early from camp on terms of misbehaviour - there will be no refund. The third time, the child will no longer be able to participate in the Nature Camp program (families will be refunded for the programs, less a 10% admin fee and no refund for the days the child has been picked up).

Health and Safety

Protocol for Keeping Children Healthy/Administering Medications

Written permission must be given by the parent or guardian in order for any WNC staff to administer any medication (pain killer, etc). In cases of emergency (anaphylactic response) Benadryl can be administered - this is covered in our emergency medical care waiver. Benadryl will be carried on all excursions.

Children with fever, vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours will not be permitted to attend camp. If children are sent home sick, no refund will be provided.

Sunscreen and Bug Spray

Parents/guardians must sunscreen their children prior to drop off. Staff will reapply sunscreen after lunch with the camper's personal sunscreen. In the event sunscreen is forgotten, staff will re-apply with camp sunscreen (unless medical forms indicate the camper has sunscreen allergies or other skin sensitivities).

If a parent/guardian wishes for staff to apply bug spray to their child during the day, they must provide the bug spray.

Edible Wild Foods

Campers will have the opportunity to eat food we find in the forest like berries and wild ginger tea. If you have any concerns please talk to a camp leader.

Camp Boundaries

While outside, children will be under direct supervision. They will be reminded of their boundaries at the beginning of the day. Unless given specific directions, campers must keep leaders in sight at all times.

Wilderness Safety

All camp staff are trained in the case of a wildlife encounter or lost child – here are the rules we tell campers before going outside:



What do I do if I see a bear or cougar?

Stay calm and keep away from the animal. Don't look it in the eye. Back away slowly – if possible, take the same route out that you came in. Let camp leader know what you have seen.

What if I get separated from the group?

Stay calm and stay where you are. We will come and find you.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Policy

Drop-Offs

Parent/guardian must speak directly with the staff at sign-in to ensure we have all the information necessary for the day. This includes permitting someone other than the child's parent/guardian to pick them up at the end of the day.

Children biking or walking home by themselves at the end of the day must have written confirmation from their parent/guardian signed and dated each day that they are leaving alone. Children leaving alone may not leave before the end of the camp, unless authorized by their parent/guardian. Children may not leave the Nature Camp until staff have had confirmation from their parent/guardian.



Pick-Ups

Parents or guardians have the opportunity to opt into the WNC extended-program during registration which extends the camp day from 3:30 to 5:30pm. Only those who have signed up and paid the fee for this service will be considered for the program. If staff members are held up due to late pick-ups during regular or extended camp hours, parents/guardians will be charged \$10 for the first 15 minutes and \$1/minute thereafter.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Cancellation Policy

If **we** need to cancel: We will do everything possible to avoid program cancellations. However, programs with insufficient registration will be cancelled seven days prior to the start date. In this circumstance, we will accommodate your child at an alternative time or we will provide you a full refund.

If **you** need to cancel: If you cancel seven (7) days or more prior to a start date, a full refund, less a 10% administration fee, will be granted. No refunds will be issued with less than seven days of notice. In medical cases, full refunds (less the 10% administration fee) will be granted with a doctor's note.

All credits must be used within the current camp season. Credits will not be carried over into the following year.

Whistler Nature Camp Code of Conduct

Parent(s)/Guardian(s), please take a moment to read through our Code of Conduct with your child/children and ensure that they understand our expectations for them while attending camp.

During Whistler Nature Camp, I will:

- Show respect for camp leaders by listening and following camp rules (if any rules are unclear or there are rules campers do not agree with, they are encouraged to discuss it with their leader)
- Explore and play safely
- Show respect for the environment and “leave nothing but footprints” outside
- Be kind to all wildlife, big and small
- Stay in the boundaries at all times
- Use appropriate language
- Include others and treat others as I would like to be treated
- I will talk to a leader if I am upset or feeling sad (they are there to listen and help me)
- Above all, I will try my best and discover something new!

I understand that Nature Camp operates under a three-strike rule. If I cannot follow the Nature Camp rules, I know that my Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will have to pick me up from Nature Camp. The third time this happens, I will not be able to participate in Nature Camp programs.



I have read and understand the Whistler Nature Camp Code of Conduct and will do my best to follow the above points.

Camper Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Media Release Form

I _____ (name) am the parent/guardian of the minor _____ (camper name) and hereby give my permission to AWARE Whistler to use **photographs and videos** taken during programs and events in any publication, media release, promotional announcement, or advertisement, electronic or otherwise. I agree that neither the above listed minor, nor I, will receive any compensation if such image appears in such publication, media release, promotional announcement, or advertisement, electronic or otherwise. I understand that such image is the property of AWARE Whistler. I understand that AWARE Whistler will not supply such images for use in any commercial venture or advertisement not published/produced for/by AWARE Whistler without my permission unless such publication or production is by a Corporate Sponsor and only if the publication or production is directly related to and in support of AWARE Whistler.

Please select one box and sign below.

I have read the above and **agree** to give media permission to AWARE

I have read the above and **do not agree** to give media permission to AWARE

Signature

Date