



Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are excited that your child is participating in the 2012 Advanced Wildlife Camp at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center. Your child is in for a great time! Our philosophy is to teach students through hands-on and interactive learning experiences that are geared toward their age.

The Parental Release / Medical Form and Student Code of Conduct must be completed, signed, and received at check-in or earlier for your child to attend camp. Make sure your child reads and is familiar with the Center Policies and Student Code of Conduct. Please note that no refund will be given if a child is sent home because of misbehavior.

Check-in will be on Sunday at 4:00 PM in Sheffer Hall (the granite building on the right after you enter the gate). The balance is due upon arrival at camp. Please submit a check for the balance due **payable to the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center**.

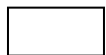
Phone use will be limited during the week of camp. Due to the nature of the activities of the camp and poor cell phone coverage, please **do not** allow your child to bring a cell phone. If you need your child to contact you, you can leave a message with the camp nurse by calling (770) 786-6926 ext. 3130 and we will get a message to your child. Only emergency calls will be fielded after 9:00 PM. **Parents are invited to attend Friday's closing assembly at 9:30 AM where campers will receive their certified hunter safety cards and the chance to win a variety of door prizes.**

For facility information, you can look at our Web site at georgiaffacamp.org. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (770)786-6926 ext 8 or email at LBagley@GaAgEd.org.

Sincerely,

Leroy Bagley

Leroy Bagley
Educational Program Specialist



(Office Use)

2012 Advanced Wildlife Camp
Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center
Parental Consent and Medical Release Form
Please thoroughly read and complete BOTH sides of this form

The Undersigned, Being a Parent or Guardian

of _____ (print name of minor) releases its representatives, agents, servants, instructors and employees from liability for any injury to said minor, resulting from any cause whatsoever occurring to said minor at any time while attending the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center including travel to and from camp, excepting only injury or damage resulting from willful acts of such representatives, agents, servants, instructors and employees. The Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center is also released of any expenses resulting from the injury.

Your child will have the opportunity to participate in many recreational activities, including skeet shooting, fishing, canoeing, and swimming. The Center will provide trained staff who will conduct these activities in the safest manner possible. Please note that by signing this form, you give permission for your child to participate in these activities, unless otherwise stated. The camp will take photographs and video footage of the campers while participating in the programs. This footage will only be used for marketing material for the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center and/or Wildlife Camp.

The Center has a full time nurse on staff. The nurse will treat for basic injuries and illnesses. Campers will be sent to Newton Medical Associates or Newton Medical Center if necessary. The camper fee includes a small insurance policy that will cover illness and injury that occur while at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center. This will be primary insurance for the student for such illness or injury. Medical fees above the maximum limit or fees denied by our insurance will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian..

To protect the safety of your child and other students, the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center has no-tolerance policies that immediately result in students being sent home. These policies are:

1. Use of violence
2. Possession of weapons
3. Use of alcohol or drugs
4. Entering the cabin of the opposite sex
5. Being outside the cabin after curfew

Parents or guardians of students who violate these policies will be notified to pick up their child and will forfeit all camp fees. Please stress to your child the importance of obeying all policies of the Center.

Only the adults that you list below will be allowed to pick up your child from the camp:

Name of Adult: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Name of Adult: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Name of Adult: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

****To protect your child, an ID must be presented when picking up campers.**

How did you find out about Wildlife Camp? (Please be specific)

Market Bulletin _____ **Friend/Relative:** _____ **Business:** _____

Website: _____

Radio: _____ **School/Teacher:** _____

Newspaper: _____ **Expo:** _____ **Magazine:** _____

Other: _____

Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center Policies

1. Campers will be expected to participate in all aspects of the camp program and to follow the camp schedule. Campers should conduct themselves appropriately at all assemblies and activities. Campers will stay with their assigned counselors the entire week.
2. Students are expected to show respect to all campers, instructors, and staff. Students will follow instructions from **any** instructors, adult supervisors, and camp staff.
3. Campers are responsible for loss or breakage of any equipment used.
4. Appropriate clothing must be worn at all times. No inappropriate advertising on clothing, including drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, or violence. Body should be modestly covered from shoulders to mid-thigh.
5. Shirts and shoes must be worn unless in the pool or on boats.
6. Males and females shall not enter cabins of the opposite sex.
7. Campers shall be in their assigned cabin after curfew.
8. Use of tobacco products, alcohol and/or drugs is prohibited.
9. Personal audio equipment should not be heard from outside the cabin or on camp grounds.
10. Skateboards, scooters, and roller blades are prohibited.
11. Use of violence is prohibited.
12. Firearms, weapons, pocket knives, and firecrackers are prohibited.
13. Destructive use of items such as water balloons, shaving cream, and toilet paper is prohibited.

Failure to follow policies will result in these steps:

1. **Student will call parent/guardian and report conduct not in compliance with these guidelines.**
2. **At the Director's discretion, this may result in parent/guardian arranging transportation home.**

Thank you for your cooperation in following these camp policies.

Student Code of Conduct

Student: Please read the following Code of Conduct. If you agree and are willing to comply with all of the expectations of the Code of Conduct and Wildlife Camp Program, please sign at the bottom of the page.

Parent/Guardian: Please read the following Code of Conduct. Please sign the bottom of this form to show your intent to support the implementation of this Code of Conduct in regards to your child.

As student attending the Wildlife Camp, I agree that:

- I will be expected to participate in all aspects of the camp program and to follow the daily camp schedule. I will conduct myself appropriately at all activities and classes.
- I will stay with my counselors at all times and at all times my counselors will know where I am.
- I will be challenged to have fun and try new things.
- I will conduct myself with respect towards other campers, instructors, and camp staff so that I myself may be respected. I will follow instructions from *ANY* adult supervisors or camp staff.
- During scheduled recreation times, I will follow the policies given at each area.
- I am personally responsible for any equipment I use and I will pay for any loss or breakage.
- I will respect property by keeping the facilities clean and not using such items as water balloons, shaving cream, and toilet paper for destructive purposes.
- I am not to have or use any form of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or firecrackers while at camp.
- I will wear appropriate clothing at all times. I will not wear inappropriate advertising on clothing, including drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, or violence. My body will be modestly covered from shoulders to mid-thigh. I will wear shirts and shoes unless in the pool or on boats.
- I will not enter cabins of the opposite sex.
- I will be in my assigned cabin after curfew.
- I will not bring skateboards, scooters, or roller blades.
- I will not participate in any act of violence. I understand that acts of violence will not be tolerated and that firearms and weapons, including pocket knives, are prohibited.
- **Failure to meet with these standards will result in these steps:**
 1. I will call my parents/guardians and report my conduct not in compliance with these guidelines.
 2. At the Director's discretion, this may result in parents/guardians arranging transportation home without refund of camp fees.

Student Commitment:

I, _____ have read and understand the Code of Conduct above. I agree to abide by it for the safety and enjoyment of myself and of other campers. I understand the consequences of failing to meet these guidelines.

Name of Student: _____

Signature of Student: _____

Date: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Homesickness Prevention

What is homesickness? Technically speaking, it is the distress or impairment caused by an actual or anticipated separation from home. It's characterized by acute longing and preoccupying thoughts of home and other beloved objects. Many times it is a result of a boy having had his roots pulled up in one place and not having them take hold firmly in the new place yet.

The grand majority of boys and girls will miss something about home when they are away at Camp and homesick feelings are absolutely normal. Contrary to conventional wisdom, Camp's physical distance from a child's home has no impact at all on whether a child experiences homesickness while at camp and is not a predictor of success at camp.

Fortunately, severe homesickness is very rare. While practical experience has helped us to develop a number of truly effective ways to deal with homesickness at Camp, there are some simple things that you can do before Camp starts to reduce the chance that your son will feel homesickness. In addition, there are lots of things that you can do to support your son if he should experience serious homesickness while at Camp.

Prior to the start of Camp, talk with your child about homesickness. Most children are pretty good at predicting how strong their own homesick feelings will be, and talking about homesickness won't cause it, or make it worse. Let your son/daughter know that there might be times when he will feel a little homesick, even though he is having a great time at Camp and that is perfectly normal. Let him know that there are lots of things to think about or do to feel better if he feels homesick. Many campers have found that the following points help to reduce homesickness at camp:

- **Do something fun** - staying busy at Camp, in activities and with friends in between activities.
- **Do something to feel closer to home** - writing letters to family, looking at pictures and reading letters.
- **Think about the good side of being at Camp** - looking on the bright side makes a huge difference. Think of all the interesting and novel things you can do at camp that you can't do at home.
- **Try to be happy and have fun** - try to change the way that you feel...sometimes just thinking about feeling good is enough to change your mood.
- **Remind yourself that Camp isn't really that long!** Thinking about how short Camp is can make a big difference.
- **Talk with someone who can help you feel better** - at Camp, there are many people around you who are there for support. Talk to your counselors or other staff. They are there to help you through tough times and they are experts at helping kids get over their homesickness!

Talking about these coping strategies and working on them with your son are great ways to diminish the chances that your son will have significant homesickness while at Camp.

Here are some things you can do as a parent to help reduce the potential that your son/daughter will feel homesick:

- **Keep doubts to yourself** - Try not to say things that will make your son worry about how you will feel when he's away at Camp. If you are uncertain about your child's ability to cope with homesickness, it is best to not share your doubts with your son. It is preferable for children to hear positive messages from their parents. If you let them know that you believe they can do it, they'll be more likely to succeed.
- **Send your child a letter at Camp before the first day** - receiving mail at Camp helps children to feel loved and remembered. Personal, positive letters from home are often the cure for almost any illness.
- **Do not make deals about early pick-ups!** Parents occasionally make pick-up deals in an innocent attempt to reduce pre-camp anxiety. Experience teaches us that this is not a good strategy. It is normal for campers to feel nervous and excited as Camp approaches and for campers to ask themselves whether Camp is such a good idea in the first place. Unfortunately, some well-meaning parents have tried to comfort their son by saying something like, "Well, if you still feel homesick, we will come to Camp and pick you up." This promise almost guarantees that the child will be homesick. They inevitably remember the discussion and hold onto your promise no matter how wonderful their camp experience.

There are two other reasons why ***pick up deals usually backfire***. First, the deal sends a negative message. The message is "Mom and Dad don't think you can make it through Camp. We think you will be so homesick that the only solution will be to leave Camp." They also give campers a powerful, home-related thought to dwell on: The Pick-Up. Every time your son/daughter encounters a stressful situation at Camp, or feels a twinge of homesickness, his thoughts turn to the pick-up. "My parents said that if I don't like Camp, they'd come to pick me up." This thought becomes a mental crutch. The camper leans on it, rather than his developing skills to cope with his feelings.

If your child asks you straight out, "Mom, will you come pick me up if I get really homesick and hate Camp?" a good response could be, "You sound a little nervous about going to Camp. But I think you're really going to love it. It's normal to feel nervous before you go. If you do have some homesick feelings at Camp, there will be many people who can help you through those feelings. Even though you might have some homesick feelings, I think you're going to have a great time at Camp."

Learning to cope with homesickness is a skill your son/daughter can use the next time he's away from home. Once kids recognize the feeling of homesickness, cope with it, and survive a brief separation from home, their confidence about future separations skyrockets. They gain independence and self-confidence and like exercise, it may hurt a little, but it makes you stronger.

This letter was sent to parents of campers at a Midwestern camp regarding phone calls. It accurately states our policy at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center.

Dear Parents:

With the coming of the electronic age, the telephone has become the primary channel for communication. Coupled with the instant everything (food, entertainment, etc.), it has become the new life style, invading every area of life, creating a new situation for camping - and not a very healthy one for campers.

Here at camp, we live in a kind of primary community within a self-contained environment. The sudden intrusion of the "home" world into the camp world is very jarring to the camper's mind-set, causing an abrupt switching of gears from one world to the next - a collision of two realities in his life, which are normally separated by time and distance, It takes emotional time and energy to adjust and re-enter each world, and is disruptive of the camper's own schedule and plans.

Creative separation is an important ingredient of growth, however difficult it is to realize in this day of immediate transportation. Overnight rail service has been replaced by airline flights, so that even time separation between home and camp has been diminished.

Cards and letters respect that separation, giving the kind of distance needed for campers to absorb and accommodate the communications from home.

Therefore, we ask that telephone communications to or from home be relegated to serious needs or emergencies, and that letters and cards - frequent and regular - be the primary channels for communication while at camp. Otherwise, important lessons of independence and self-reliance beyond the home situation can be short-circuited by a quick call to or from home. And the availability of the telephone can interfere with another important learning: how to plan ahead, by playing into the hands of today's instant gratification mentality, which is not healthy. Whereas telephone calls are gone the moment they happen, letters keep. You will find them delightful, invaluable souvenirs for you and your son of an age which passes too quickly.

Always feel free to call me at any time concerning a question, a concern or suggestion.

Thank you for your understanding and help.

P.S. If you are homesick for your son, please drop him a line saying you're thinking of him, don't lay your own homesickness on his shoulders. Those "think of you" thoughts are always welcome and supportive and can help you re-affirm and re-establish the relationship that you as a person can dearly miss.

Sincerely yours,

Leroy Bagley

MWC/LB

What to Bring to Check-in

Please have the following items prepared at check-in. If the following items are received in the office by the Friday prior to camp then you can take advantage of express check-in when you arrive!

- Completed Parental Consent Form and Medical Statement
- Signed Student Code of Conduct
- Balance Due (checks made payable to the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center)
- Copy of Hunter Safety Card

Check-in will be held on Sunday at 4:00 PM in Sheffer Hall (the large building on the right after you enter the gate.)

Parents/guardians are invited to attend the closing assembly on Friday at 9:30 AM in Sheffer Hall. After the closing, parents/guardians will pick up their child at the cabin. Only those listed on the Parental Consent Form will be allowed to pick up the child.

What To Bring To Camp

- Clothes (camp guidelines require clothing that covers the body from shoulders to mid-thigh and no inappropriate advertisements or vulgarity.)
 - Clothes for Recreational Activities
 - Extra shoes in case one pair gets wet
 - Tennis shoes are strongly suggested over flip flops or sandals
- Swimsuit and Towel
- Rain Gear
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen, hat (sun protection- we provide sunscreen but campers may bring their own)
- Personal Grooming Items
- Soap / Shampoo / Hand Soap
- Linens / Sleeping Bag / Blanket / Pillow (bunk beds-twin sheets)
- Towels / Washcloths
- Camera / Film / Batteries
- Money for the Canteen (most items \$.75 to \$1.00)
(Parents may deposit up to \$20 in the camp bank at check-in. This money will be used for canteen purchases. All money not spent will be returned to the parent/guardian at the end of the week.)
- Fishing Rod / Tackle (we provide rods/tackle but campers may bring their own)
- A Positive Attitude!
- **Do NOT Bring:**
 - Weapons
 - Tobacco
 - Alcohol/Drugs
 - Firecrackers
 - Pocket knives
 - Cell Phones
 - Bad Attitude

2012 Tentative Wildlife Camp Schedule

Sunday

4:00 PM	Check-in
5:30 PM	Orientation
6:00 PM	Supper
6:45 PM	Cabin meeting with counselor
7:15 PM	Evening assembly
8:30 PM	Night activity
10:00 PM	Cabin-check

Monday through Wednesday

7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30-11:30 AM	Sessions (Campers attend 8 rotating classes 3 hours each)
11:30 AM	Lunch
12:30-3:30 PM	Sessions
3:30-5:30 PM	Free-time recreation (pool, canoes, golf, etc.)
5:30 PM	Supper
7:00 PM	Evening Assembly
8:30 PM	Night activity
10:00 PM	Cabin-check

Thursday

7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30-11:30 AM	Sessions (Campers attend 8 rotating classes 3 hours each)
11:30 PM	Lunch
12:30-3:30 PM	Sessions
3:30-5:30 PM	Free-time recreation
5:30 PM	Supper
6:30-9:00 PM	Review/Test
9:00 PM	Night activity
10:00 PM	Cabin-check

Friday

7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Cabin Clean Up
9:30 AM	Closing Assembly (Parents Invited)
10:30 AM	Depart

Tentative Schedule – Subject to Change!

Directions to the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center

720 FFA FHA Camp Road

Covington, GA 30014

770-786-6926

www.Georgiaffacamp.org

From Atlanta (approx. 1 hour – plan extra time for rush hour traffic)

Take I-20 East towards Augusta. Take Exit 93 (Hazelbrand Road / Highway 142). At the top of exit, turn right onto Highway 142. Proceed 3.3 miles and turn left onto Highway 36. Proceed 9.3 miles until you see the Center sign on the left. Turn left into the driveway and follow FFA Road about 1 mile to the facility.

From Augusta (approx. 2 hours)

Take I-20 West towards Atlanta. Take Exit 93 (Hazelbrand Road / Highway 142). At the top of exit, turn left onto Highway 142. Proceed approximately 3.3 miles and turn left onto Highway 36. Proceed 9.3 miles until you see the Center sign on the left. Turn left into the driveway and follow FFA Road about 1 mile to the facility.

From Macon (approx. 1 hour)

Take I-75 North towards Atlanta to Exit 201 (Highway 36). At top of exit, turn right on Highway 36. Follow Hwy 36 through Jackson (you will take a right and a left in Jackson to stay on Hwy 36.) Continue on Hwy 36 approximately 14 miles from Jackson until you see the Center sign on the right (it is approximately ½ mile from the intersection of Hwy 212 and Hwy 36.) Turn right into the driveway and follow FFA Road about 1 mile to the facility.

From Athens (approx. 1 hour)

Take Highway 78 toward Monroe. Just west of the Monroe exits, take the exit for Highway 138 toward Conyers. Follow Hwy 138 to Walnut Grove. At the traffic light in Walnut Grove, turn left/South on Highway 81. Follow Hwy 81 approx 5 miles, then turn left on Highway 142. After you cross over Interstate 20, proceed approximately 3.3 miles and turn left onto Highway 36. Proceed on Hwy 36 approximately 9.3 miles until you see the Center sign on the left. Turn left into the driveway and follow FFA Road about 1 mile to the facility.

From Loganville and Lawrenceville (approx. 1 hour)

Take Highway 20 east through Lawrenceville toward Loganville. Highway 20 will combine with Highway 81. Follow Hwy 81 through Loganville and Walnut Grove. (You will take a left onto Hwy 78 followed by a right at the first traffic light to remain on Hwy 81.) Follow Hwy 81 approx 5 miles from Walnut Grove, then turn left on Highway 142. After you cross over Interstate 20, proceed approximately 3.3 miles and turn left onto Highway 36. Proceed on Hwy 36 approximately 9.3 miles until you see the Center sign on the left. Turn left into the driveway and follow FFA Road about 1 mile to the facility.

Purchase A Wildlife Camp CD

Purchase your FFA Wildlife Camp CD today and capture your child's memories of Wildlife Camp. The CD includes a collection of pictures taken throughout the week and a PowerPoint slide show. The cost of the CD is \$15.

STUDENT NAME _____

DATES OF CAMP _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

QUANTITY: _____ x \$15 = _____

TYPE OF PAYMENT:

CASH: _____

CHECK: _____ CHECK # _____

CD will be mailed after camp.