



## Friends of Rye Nature Center

### June Bugs 2024

#### Program Information for Parents

We are so excited that your child is coming to June Bugs at Rye Nature Center! Below are some details that will help make your camper's experience educational and fun.

#### ABOUT OUR STAFF

Our June Bugs staff consists of our full-time educators as well as seasonal, part-time employees. Each group is assigned a lead teacher and a counselor. The lead teacher in each group will either be a full-time Rye Nature Center staff member or a college student who has been working at the Nature Center consistently over the summers. Our counselors are at least 16 years old. Volunteers who help at camp are at least 15 years old and are supervised at all times. All staff and volunteers must complete camp training sessions which include emergency preparedness. In addition, our full-time staff are certified in First Aid, including Epi-Pen administration and CPR. We far exceed the county minimum of 1 staff member certified in Responding to Emergencies for every 200 campers since safety is our first priority.

#### DAILY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Our camp day is structured so that the June Bugs get to experience a variety of hands-on activities and enjoy plenty of time outside exploring our beautiful woods. Throughout the week, children will go on hikes, meet animals, work in the garden, create art, and of course, play! We divide campers into groups based on age. There is a maximum of 16 kids in each group.

#### DAILY DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

In order to keep the day running smoothly, please follow the drop-off and pick-up times for your child's program listed below. Dashboard signs will be emailed; please print, write-in your child's first and last name, and display this sign on your dashboard. Because of the number of campers, we will utilize a drive-by drop-off and pick-up schedule. No one should walk through the parking lot; instead please walk your child around the perimeter of the parking lot.

Session	Drop-off	Pick-up
Morning Program: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	8:30 am – 8:45 am	12:15 pm – 12:30 pm
Afternoon Program: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

- At drop-off, June Bugs staff will greet your child at your vehicle, help them out of the car, and walk them to their group. **Please do not get out of the car to assist;** if the car seat situation in your vehicle is

tricky, we kindly ask that you park. If you need to park, please follow staff instructions and signage, do not block the drop-off/pick-up line.

- At pick-up, staff will bring your child to your car, buckle your child in, and drop-off their belongings in the car. We utilize the dashboard signs to keep everything moving quickly and smoothly, so please display yours at both drop-off and pick-up. Another staff person will greet you at your driver side window to obtain your signature at drop-off and pick-up.
- If you would like to walk your child to the Nature Center instead of driving, please avoid the driveway, when possible. You may enter through the woods from the Post Road snow lot or use the Theodore Fremd entrance (a.k.a. the Telephone Line Trail). You will still need to sign your child in and out.
- No supervision is available outside the time frames of your child's program times. Please respect the designated drop-off and pick-up times.
- You must provide a note at drop-off if anyone other than a parent/guardian or person listed on the carpool permission section of your registration form will pick up your child (nanny, sitter, grandparent, carpool driver, etc.) We will NOT release your child to anyone other than a parent/guardian or persons listed on the carpool permission section of your registration form without prior notification.
- Please tell the check-in staff if you need to arrange an early dismissal.
- **The speed limit on our driveway and in our parking lot is 5 mph. Please respect this rule.**

## WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

- June Bugs should wear comfortable, rugged clothing that can get dirty. A baseball cap or sun hat is recommended. Pack a raincoat and boots if showers are predicted. We will be outdoors rain or shine unless there is thunder or extreme winds.
- Sturdy sneakers or lightweight hikers with socks are required. **Open-toe shoes, sandals, Crocs, and flip-flops are not allowed.**
- Please send a change of clothes and extra shoes/boots in case of accidents (or very, very muddy days!) Be sure to label everything with your child's name.
- To avoid loss or damage, please do not send toys, electronic devices, money or other valuable items to June Bugs.
- June Bugs should bring a reusable water bottle labeled with their name. They will be responsible for carrying them on hikes, so make sure it is an appropriate size for your child to handle. Staff will refill bottles throughout the day.

## PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

- Our staff cannot dispense over-the-counter medications of any kind. If your child needs to take a prescribed medication during the camp day, they will be directed to the Health Director designee's office behind the front desk.
- Please turn in all prescription medications to the staff member signing children in at drop off. **Medications must be sent in original containers bearing prescription information, directions, and warning labels.** All medications will be safely stored until use.
- All medication needed for immediate emergency use, such as epi-pens and inhalers, will be carried by the group leader. All other non-emergency prescribed medications will be stored in a locked cabinet in the Health Director designee's office.

## **INSECT REPELLENT AND SUNSCREEN**

- You must provide a note if you would like June Bugs staff to apply repellents or sunscreen to your child.
- Parents should use their own discretion in applying these to their child(ren) before camp each day. Please avoid strongly scented products.
- Please see the attached fact sheets about Lyme disease, West Nile virus, and rabies.

## **SNACK & LUNCH**

- If your child is enrolled in the morning program, please pack them a healthy and hearty lunch. Please include plenty of fluids.
- Children attending the afternoon program should be sent with a snack.
- Children will always wash their hands before lunch and snack time.
- We are a carry-in, carry-out facility - We have very limited space for refuse at the Nature Center. We ask all campers to pack their non-compostable lunch waste into their lunch boxes for disposal at home.
- We encourage the use of reusable, refillable containers. Be sure to label bottles, bags, and containers with your child's name.
- Due to allergies, we discourage lunches with peanut and nut products.

**Please contact us if you have any questions, concerns, or if your child will be absent from camp.**

**914-967-5150**

**[alli@ryenaturecenter.org](mailto:alli@ryenaturecenter.org)**

**[admin@ryenaturecenter.org](mailto:admin@ryenaturecenter.org)**

# Animal Borne Disease Fact Sheet

Any outdoor activity carries an inherent risk of contact with animals that can transmit diseases. Our camp staff is trained to keep your children as safe as possible. However, parents also have a responsibility to understand the risks, take appropriate preventative measures and seek prompt professional medical attention if signs and symptoms of disease appear. According to the Westchester County Health Department, three diseases are of particular concern in our area at this time: Lyme disease, West Nile virus (a form of Encephalitis) and rabies.

## Lyme Disease



Lyme disease is a bacterial infection which can be transmitted to people by deer ticks. Deer ticks are found on mice, birds, and deer. They may be as small as the period on a printed page and grow up to 3 millimeters in size.

The tick embeds itself in the skin and engorges on blood. If not removed within 24 hours, bacteria may be transmitted.

A rash may develop around the tick bite in 3 to 30 days. Other symptoms of Lyme disease include fever, chills, headaches, stiff neck, fatigue, muscle aches and joint pain. If untreated, it can cause neurological, heart and joint damage.

Lyme disease can be detected with medical tests and treated with antibiotics.

For a more detailed fact sheet, see the Centers for Disease Control website at [cdc.gov/lyme](http://cdc.gov/lyme).

## West-Nile Virus

West Nile encephalitis is caused by a mosquito borne virus. Not all mosquitoes are infected with the virus and not all mosquito bites transmit the disease.

Most infected people exhibit no symptoms. Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected have mild, flu-like symptoms. About one in 150 people will develop severe symptoms including high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness, and paralysis. These may be life-threatening.

Since West-Nile encephalitis is caused by a virus, there is no specific treatment for low grade symptoms. If you or your child develops symptoms of severe illness, such as unusually severe headaches or confusion, seek medical attention immediately.

For more information, see the Center for Disease Control fact sheet at [cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.html](http://cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.html).

## **Prevention of Lyme Disease and West Nile Encephalitis:**

Lyme disease and West Nile encephalitis are best prevented by avoiding the animal vectors of these diseases. To protect your child during our day camp programs:

1. Our ponds are inspected by the Westchester County Health Department annually to insure that West-Nile virus carrying mosquito species are not living in our ponds.
2. Our staff conducts a "Tick Check," inspecting unprotected (unclothed) skin on all children at lunchtime and at the end of each camp day.
3. You must check your child more thoroughly at home, especially areas covered by clothing that we do not check. Remove ticks by pulling gently on the head (not the body) with fine tweezers. Use a disinfectant on the bitten area.
4. Change and launder clothes immediately when you get home to remove any ticks clinging to the fabric.
5. Insect repellent applied to your child's socks and clothing can act as a deterrent to deer ticks and mosquitoes. Staff is NOT permitted to apply insect repellent to campers. If you would like to protect your child in this way, please apply repellent prior to or upon arrival at the Nature Center.

## **Rabies**

Rabies is a viral disease carried by mammals that can only be transmitted through bites and direct contact with bodily fluids. Since rabies affects the brain, rabid animals may show unusual behavior such as aggression, fearlessness, abnormal posture, seizures, weakness or paralysis.

People can contract rabies from wildlife such as bats, foxes, raccoons, and skunks or through pets which have come into contact with infected wildlife. Small rodents, such as chipmunks, hamsters, mice, rabbits, and squirrels, do not typically carry rabies.

Rabies is a fatal disease that cannot be treated once the symptoms have appeared. Rabies can be confirmed only in a laboratory. Therefore, it is critically important to capture and test the animal that exhibits signs of rabies. You should see your doctor or the emergency room immediately.

For more information, see the Center For Disease Control website at [cdc.gov/rabiesandkids/](http://cdc.gov/rabiesandkids/).

## **Prevention of Rabies**

The mammals in our exhibits have been vaccinated. Our staff will keep your children out of contact with any potentially infected wild animals. The following measures may prevent infection at home year-round:

1. Be sure all pets are vaccinated.
2. Do NOT take in or feed stray animals, either wild or domestic.
3. Do not handle dead animals without proper precautions.