

Camp Wonder

Parent Handbook

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DAY CAMP

Dear Families,

Thank you for registering your child for a Camp Wonder Classic Day Camp and/or Specialty Day Camp. We are very excited that your camper will be joining us this summer! Our goal is to provide a fun and enriching summer camp experience. This page will help you prepare your child for a fun, safe and exciting experience!

Attendance Options

5-Day: Monday-Friday

3-Day: Wednesday-Friday

2-Day: Monday-Tuesday

No single-day options available

Check in/out

Check In: 8am-9am

Check Out: 4pm-5pm

- Drop off and pick up for all of Day Camp/Specialty Camp will be at **Grindley Lodge** in the back of our property, and can happen anytime within the check in/ out timeframe.
- You will stay in your car and pull into "lanes" where a staff member will assist you.
- If you have to drop off late or pick up early, please inform us ASAP by calling or texting **810-599-0367**.

Before/ After Care

Before Care: 7am-8am

After Care: 5pm-6pm

- Available for \$10 extra per session (pre-registration required).
- Drop off & pick up can happen anytime within the before/ after care timeframe.

Camper PIN

- On the **first day** your camper checks in, you will receive a unique **PIN** for your camper (siblings will not share a code).
- This private code **must** be given/shown to the check-out staff to pick up your camper.
- **PLEASE ONLY SHARE THIS CODE WITH ADULTS** that you trust picking up your child. You may text them the code number or send them a picture.

Forms

Every camper needs to have the following 3 forms completed (and updated if changes):

- Health Form
- Agreement to Participate Form (waiver)
- Camper Code of Conduct Form

These forms are built right in to the online registration.

Day Camp Overnights

- Overnights: \$40 (Only Campers 3rd-8th Grades Registered for FULL WEEK Monday - Friday are eligible to attend) Campers will have the opportunity to sleep over on select Thursday nights for a “taste” of the Camp Wonder’s Overnight Camp.
- Dinner and a continental breakfast will be served, as well as an assortment of evening activities.
- Friday lunch is **not** provided.
- Campers need to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, flashlight, pajamas, toiletries and a change of clothes.
- Campers must attend the FULL WEEK SESSION to be able to sleep over.

Camper Health & Safety

- All camper medication must be given to the Health Officer in the **original packaging**.
- You can choose for your emergency medication i.e. Epi-Pens/Inhalers to stay at Camp all summer or be returned each week.
- Your camper's counselors will carry the emergency medication with them at all times.
- Campers are **not** permitted to carry any medication on them.

Camper Dress Code

- Camp Dress Code mirrors that of most school's policies.
- Campers must wear **closed-toe shoes**.
- It is highly recommended that all campers bring a change of clothes.

Inclement Weather

As much as we'd love for it to be sunny and 75°F all Summer we live in Michigan and know that rainy days are inevitable.

- We are a rain or shine camp, meaning that our activities will continue as long as there is no Thunder/Lightning
- We highly recommend campers bring a rain coat, rain boots, or umbrella on the potentially rainy days.

We also know that there are some days when it is just too hot.

- Camp Schedule may be modified to include more activities indoors or in shaded areas.
- Mandatory Swim may be required. This is when all campers must put their feet in the water for at least 15 minutes.

Lost & Found

- We have a Day Camp Lost & Found that is managed by our staff.
- If your child's item(s) are labeled with their name, we will bring it to them if found.
- Campers will walk through the Lost & Found to check for their items at least once throughout the day.
- Parents/Guardians are welcome to look through the lost & found during check-in/check-out.

Behavior Policy

- Inappropriate behaviors will not be tolerated.
- Zero-tolerance for bullying.
- Our 3-strike Policy
 - **Strike 1** - Camper is sent home for the **day** (no refund)
 - **Strike 2** - Camper is sent home for the rest of the **week** (no refund)
 - **Strike 3** - Camper is sent home for the rest of **summer** (no refund)

Packing List

- Backpack
- Lunch
- Refillable Water Bottle
- Swimsuit & Towel
 - Water shoes are allowed during swim times
- Spare clothes
- Sunscreen & Bug Spray
- Rain Gear
- Hat & Sunglasses

Please label all items with your campers name

We are not responsible for any lost items

Please do NOT bring:

- Campers are not permitted to have cell phones, tablets, or other electronic devices.
- All weapons, including pocket knives, are **not** allowed at camp.

OVERNIGHT CAMP

Dear Families,

Thank you for registering your child for a Camp Wonder Overnight Session! We can't wait to meet your camper this summer. The information should help prepare you and your child for their overnight camp experience. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out!

Contact Info

In case of an **emergency** during camp, you may reach one of our camp leaders at 810-599-0367. We ask that you use this number for **emergency communication** only.

For all other inquiries, please call our Welcome Center at 517-546-0249.

Forms

Every camper needs to have the following 3 forms completed:

- Health Form
- Agreement to Participate Form (waiver)
- Camper Code of Conduct Form

These forms are built right in to the online registration.

Fees

All fees must be paid in full before arriving to camp. Please see our online registration system for more details.

Check In & Check Out

Check In

Sunday 3:00 - 4:30pm

- Check in will take place at Grindley Lodge (see site map)
- To allow for a smoother process, check-in will take place on a rolling basis. Please arrive within your time slot, determined by the first letter of your last name.
 - Last Name beginning with A-L: Arrive between 3:00 and 3:45pm
 - Last Name beginning with M-Z: Arrive between 3:45 and 4:30pm
- When you arrive, please pull into one of the lanes, exit your vehicle, grab any mail/medications/spending money, leave the rest of your luggage in the car, and head to the check-in tables.
- At the tables, we will share your cabin and travel group assignments and verify Friday pick-up information as well as collect any spending money, medications, and camper mail.

Check Out

Friday 2:00 - 3:00pm

- Check out will take place at Grindley Lodge (see site map)
- All families should arrive at 2:00pm on Friday for our closing celebration!
- When you arrive, please park and head into Grindley Lodge. The slideshow will begin promptly at 2:15pm.
- After the slideshow, campers will be grouped with their cabins. Families will be instructed to give their PIN code to their child's counselor, then pick up any medications or leftover store money as well as luggage.
- Afterwards, all families are invited to share in an ice cream party before heading out!

Camper PIN

- At check-in, you will receive a unique **PIN** for each camper.
- This private code **must** be given at check-out to pick up your camper.
- **PLEASE ONLY SHARE THIS CODE WITH ADULTS** that you trust picking up your child. You may text them the code number or send them a picture.

Camper Policies

Medications

- Medication must be turned in at check-in to the Health Officer. Campers are not permitted to carry their own medications.
- All prescription medication must be in the original prescription bottle with the child's name on the label, and by state law, dispensed according to the directions on the label.
- If the doctor has changed the dosage or directions for administration, submit a signed letter from your physician with the new directions. This letter must include child's full name, dosage amount and delivery time(s).

Store Money

Optional: You may send spending money with your camper. It will be collected at check-in and stored until their cabin visits the camp store. Any unspent money will be returned at check-out.

Average Prices:

- Sweatshirts: \$40
- T-Shirts: \$16
- Stuffed Animals: \$12-22
- Stickers & Keychains: \$3-8
- Rocks & Minerals: \$1-15
- HNC Packs & Bottles: \$7-20
- Nature Toys & Guidebooks: \$10-20
- Small Toys: \$3.50-10

Camper Mail

Optional: Campers love mail! You may mail your camper letters, or drop them off at check-in with the designated day of week you'd like it delivered. If mailing, please send early in the week to ensure it arrives on time.

Mailing Address:

Howell Nature Center Camp Wonder
Attn: [Camper Name] [Age Group]
1005 Triangle Lake Road
Howell, MI 48843

Campers may not bring cell phones or other electronic devices; please do not call your camper. In case of an emergency, use the above contact information.

Weapons (including pocket knives) are also prohibited. See packing list for more details.

Behavior Management

Inappropriate behaviors will not be tolerated. A child exhibiting any of the following behaviors will be immediately suspended from camp: bullying, violence, sexual harassment, endangering the safety of any camper or staff member, any type of discrimination, theft, verbal abuse, and possession of any type of weapon. Incidents will be reviewed by administrative staff and a determination of the child's eligibility for continued attendance at camp will be made. Parents will be notified of the results of this review. Incidents will be handled on a case by case basis. No refunds for any camp fees paid will be issued in the event of disciplinary expulsion.

Discipline will be handled in the following manner:

- **Step 1:** Counselor will address behavior with camper, helping the camper to understand the rules and take responsibility for changing the behavior.
- **Step 2:** Camp Coordinator will meet with the camper to discuss and implement solutions.
- **Step 3:** The camper will meet with the Program Coordinator. Parental contact and clear objectives will be established.
- **Step 4:** The camper will be removed from camp without a refund. A parent or guardian will be asked to pick up the camper from Howell Nature Center or from a trip site as soon as possible.

Meals

- All our overnight campers come together for meal times and eat with their cabins.
- Meals are served buffet-style.
- We provide kid-friendly meal options and make sure everyone is well-fed!

Food Allergies

- We are able to accommodate most dietary restrictions with advance notice. Please notify us at least 3 weeks before camp if your child has any allergies or other restrictions that were not included on your registration form.
- Our kitchen is not certified gluten-free, and we cannot guarantee absolutely no cross-contamination for campers with celiac disease. Our camp is also not nut-free, though we are able to provide nut-free meal options.
- If you have concerns regarding your child's allergies, please reach out!

Schedules & Activities

Daily Schedules

- Our campers typically wake up at 7:30am to get ready and head to breakfast.
- Campers then come together for a stewardship activity and two cabin activities.
- After lunch, campers have a rest hour in their cabins, then another cabin activity and time at the waterfront.
- The evenings are filled with all-camp traditions like campfires, capture the flag, and mock rock!
- Campers then head back to cabins for snacks, intentions, and bedtime with lights out at 11:00pm.

Sample Activities

Camp is filled with a wide range of activities, allowing our campers the opportunity to enjoy their camp favorites as well as push themselves outside their comfort zone!

- Ziplining, Climbing Tower, & High Ropes
- Canoeing, Kayaking, and AquaToys
- Pond Study and Wildlife Park Tours
- Teambuilding and Gaga Ball
- Archery, Fishing, and Survival Skills
- Arts & Crafts

Swim Tests

Our Swimming area is split into three zones plus our inflatable water toys.

- First Zone: All campers may swim without a life jacket
- 2nd Zone: Campers must pass a swim test to not use a lifejacket. They will have an opportunity to take this Sunday night.
- 3rd Zone and AquaToys: All campers must wear a lifejacket regardless of swim ability.

All Activities & Schedules are Subject to Change

Camp Wonder makes no guarantees about the inclusion of any specific activity, and refunds will not be given based on changes to the schedule due to inclement weather or other circumstances.

We are a rain or shine camp, meaning that our activities will continue as long as there is no thunder/lightning or other dangerous weather.

In extreme heat, Mandatory Swim may be instituted. All campers must put their feet in the water for at least 15 minutes.

Packing List

Essential Items:

- Sleeping Bag & Pillow
- Towel & Washcloths (At least 2 sets)
- Soap / Shampoo
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Comb / Brush
- Deodorant
- Pajamas
- Underwear
- Socks
- Pants / Shorts
- Shirts
- Light Jacket / Sweatshirt
- Warm Jacket
- Hooded Rain Gear
- Footwear (Closed Toe & Water Shoes)
- Swimsuit & Extra Towel
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Water Bottle (reusable)
- Backpack
- Any Medication (in original packaging)

Dress Code

The Camp Wonder dress code mirrors the policies of most schools. Closed-toed shoes are required for the day. Sandals, flip flops, and crocs are not recommended for any activity, except for swim time.

What NOT to Bring

- All weapons, including pocket knives
- Cell phones and other electronic devices (except for digital cameras)
- Gum, candy, and snacks
- Jewelry, toys, trading cards, and other valuable items

Prohibited items will be held in the office until check-out.

Optional Items:

- Flashlight
- Camera
- Book
- Sunglasses
- Money for Camp Store

Please write your child's name on all belongings!

Howell Nature Center is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items.

EXCURSIONS

Dear Families,

Thank you for registering your child for a Camp Wonder Excursion! We can't wait to meet your camper this summer. The information should help prepare you and your child for their excursion camp experience. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out!

Contact Info

If you have questions prior to camp, please contact us at 517-546-0249 or summercamps@howellnaturecenter.org

In case of an **emergency** during camp, you may reach one of our camp leaders at (517) 546-2360. If there is an emergency while on the Excursion, you will receive a call from our Excursions Coordinator.

Forms

Every camper needs to have the following 3 forms completed:

- Health Form
- Agreement to Participate Form (waiver)
- Camper Code of Conduct Form

These forms are built right in to the online registration.

Camper PIN

- At check-in, you will receive a unique **PIN** for your camper (siblings will not share a code).
- This private code **must** be given/shown to the check-out staff to pick up your camper.
- **PLEASE ONLY SHARE THIS CODE WITH ADULTS** that you trust picking up your child. You may text them the code number or send them a picture.

Check In

Sunday 9:00am - 10:00am

- Check in will take place in the Courtyard, next to Welcome Center (see site-map)
- You will receive your Camper PIN
- **All medications need to be given to the Excursions Coordinator during check-in.**
 - They will hold onto them throughout the duration of the trip.
 - The medications need to be in original packaging.

Check Out

Friday 3:00pm - 4:00pm

- Check out will take place in the Courtyard, next to Welcome Center (see site-map)
- Give your Camper PIN to staff
- Pick-up any leftover medications from the Excursions Coordinator.

Additional Information

- You may send money with your camper for snacks/drinks on the road and souvenirs at any of their stops.
 - Campers will be given the freedom to spend their money as they wish on appropriate items
- If you are registered for the South Manitou Island trip, please note that HNC will provide the following backpacking gear
 - Backpack, sleeping pad, sleeping bag, and cookware
 - However, you are more than welcome to use your own gear instead.

Packing List

Essential Items:

- Sleeping Bag & Pillow
 - rolled together separately from duffle bag
- Towel & Washcloths
- Soap / Shampoo
 - Packed in small container
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Comb / Brush
- Deodorant
- Pajamas
- Underwear
- Socks
- Pants / Shorts
- Shirts
- Light Jacket / Sweatshirt
- Warm Jacket
- Hooded Rain Gear
- Footwear (Closed Toe & Water Shoes)
- Swimsuit & Extra Towel
- Sunscreen & Bug Spray
- Water Bottle (reusable)
- Backpack
- Any Medication (in original packaging)

Optional Items:

- Flashlight
- Camera
- Book
- Sunglasses
- Spending money

All items need to fit into duffle bag

No hard suitcases or big bulky luggage.

Dress Code

The Camp Wonder dress code mirrors the policies of most schools. Closed-toed shoes are **required** for the session. Sandals, flip flops, and crocs are not recommended for any activity, except for swim time.

What NOT to Bring

- All weapons, including pocket knives
- Cell phones and other electronic devices (except for digital cameras)
- Jewelry, toys, trading cards, and other valuable items

Prohibited items will be held in the office until check-out.

Please write your child's name on all belongings!

Howell Nature Center is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items.