

2025 Pottawattamie Conservation Camp Expectations

Thank you for choosing Pottawattamie Conservation for your child's summer camp adventures! This document contains important information to help ensure a positive camp experience for you and your child. Please read it carefully and share the information with your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Environmental Education department at environmentaleducation@pottcounty-ia.gov or call 712-242-1189.

Drop Off & Pick-Up: We use a curbside pick-up and drop-off procedure. It streamlines the process and makes things easier for you. For it to work, it is important that you are prompt in dropping off and picking up your camper each day. Please read the following carefully:

- You do not need to pay the entrance fee into the park, so you may bypass the pay station.
- Proceed to the east side of Breezy Lodge, past the barricades, to meet staff for “curbside” drop off (see map below). Please stay in line, and for safety, do not let children out of your vehicle until greeted by staff.
- Please be at the designated curb-side drop-off area by 8am but no earlier than 7:45am. Because most camp activities will be held outside, **there will be no staff in the building and no one to check you in if you are late.**
- End-of-day pick up at 1pm will also be “curbside”, the same procedure as the morning. Your child will be brought to you so no need for you to get out of your vehicle.
- Your child will not be released to anyone other than a parent/guardian unless you notify the staff ahead of time.

Inclement Weather: Camps will be held almost entirely outside. If light rain is in the forecast, we will hold camp as planned. If, however, heavy rain or severe weather is forecasted, camp will be canceled for the day. Staff will alert you via text and email by 6:30am (unless you request a phone call). Friday is reserved for a weather make-up day. If two or three days of camp are canceled due to weather, refunds will be issued at \$25 per day.

Basic conduct expectations for campers:

- Follow staff directions.
- Be respectful of themselves, their camp leaders, their fellow campers, and nature.
- Stay with their group at all times.
- Leave all electronics, including cell phones, at home.
- Try new things, and give every activity their best effort.
- Have Fun!

Food & Water: All campers need to bring a water bottle and a sack lunch that does not require refrigeration for each day of camp. Please encourage and help your child pack a zero-waste lunch with reusable containers. A mid-morning snack will be provided. Please put names on lunches. If your child has a special food allergy or dietary need that was not indicated at the time of registration, please notify the Environmental Education Department prior to camp. Water stations to refill water bottles will be set up throughout the camp area to ensure proper hydration during the summer weather.

Equipment: Personal items that are handy include a hat, insect repellent, and sunscreen. Please put your child's name on these items. Sunscreen and bug spray should be applied prior to arrival at camp. Staff will not apply sunscreen or bug spray to campers.

Clothing: We will be actively exploring the outdoors and your camper will get dirty. Please make sure that your camper is dressed in long pants and closed-toe shoes. Socks long enough to tuck pants into are helpful for keeping ticks out and will go a long way toward ensuring that ticks don't go home with your camper. Sandals are not allowed. We plan to be outside every day, rain or shine, so campers should be dressed for the weather. You are welcome to pack an extra set of clothing/shoes, just in case. Please mark everything with your child's name.

Safety: We want camp to be a physically and emotionally safe place for all campers. Bullying, verbal abuse, and physical abuse from any camper, parent, or staff will not be tolerated. If your child has behavioral or emotional challenges, please reach out to us ahead of time so we can prepare to make the camp experience the best it can be for everyone.

