

## Parents' Guide to School's Out

Mt. Pleasant

The Conservancy's Mt. Pleasant location is located at 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock, MD 21163.

School's Out students hike, explore the landscape, and participate in nature games, activities and study. Every School's Out session features unit-based age appropriate science and nature lessons, activities, stories, games and crafts.

Our School's Out rules encourage respect for oneself, each other, and the environment. General rules include: keep hands, feet, and objects to self; leave nature where it is; be kind and respectful to fellow students and staff; help preserve our historic land by not defacing, climbing on or destroying Conservancy property. A well-fitting mask must be worn by all students and instructors while inside and we will adhere to social distancing guidelines with all our activities.

Out of respect for our natural areas, we follow Leave No Trace ethics. This includes not climbing in trees, removing wild animals or destroying wetland habitats.

The "Bee's" of School's Out:



- Be Kind
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe
- Be Responsible

### BE PREPARED!

#### What to Wear:

- ✓ Comfortable clothing that can get dirty and wet
- ✓ Sneakers or boots and socks - open toed shoes and flip flops are NOT allowed
- ✓ Dress for the weather- hat, coat, gloves, rain boots as needed
- ✓ Sunscreen

#### What to Bring (labeled with camper's name):

- ✓ Extra set of clothing
- ✓ Mask in labeled ziplock bag
- ✓ Pencil Box with pencils, crayons, scissors, glue stick, 2 dry erase markers, colored pencils, washable markers and eraser
- ✓ Favorite book for reading time
- ✓ Beach Towel for eating lunch and activities outside
- ✓ Closed toed water shoes, sport sandals/crocs with ankle straps- for streams/water activities
- ✓ Rain gear if the weather calls for it
- ✓ Water bottle - easy open, wide mouthed bottle for easy refilling preferred
- ✓ Lunch and snack – send a hearty, non-perishable lunch with your camper each day; keep in mind that the Conservancy DOES NOT provide refrigeration. *We encourage trash-free lunches to promote environmental stewardship. Recycling and composting are used daily.*
- ✓ A backpack in which to store your campers' items

**What to Leave at Home:**

- ✓ Anything breakable or valuable
- ✓ All electronics
- ✓ Gum or excessive candy (a piece or two in the lunch is fine; a bag becomes a problem)
- ✓ Animal habitats or carriers
- ✓ Cell phones are not permitted during School's Out hours

**Inclement Weather:** School's Out students will explore outdoors unless there is severe weather. On rainy, cold or windy days, please prepare your child for outdoor activities. Pack a jacket, coat, hat, gloves, extra shoes and clothing as needed. If there is passing thunder, high winds and/or lightning storms we will not be outside and will have alternative indoor activities planned. On code red heat days campers will also spend time inside. Weather will be monitored by camp administration using emergency weather radios and local weather reports. *\*In response to COVID 19 social distancing guidelines, should there be a forecast for extended inclement weather Conservancy camps will close for the day. This may include extreme heat and humidity, extreme cold/snow/ice, or a forecast for prolonged rain or severe storms. Refunds will not be issued for late openings, early closings or partial day closures.*

**Labeling:** All personal items need to be labeled including backpacks, water bottles, lunch and clothes. The Howard County Conservancy is not responsible for any lost/stolen personal items. If you have lost an item, please inform staff as soon as possible. After one month in Lost and Found, items will be donated to a local charity.

**Drop Off and Pick Up:** The School's Out program runs from 8:30am – 3:30pm. Morning drop off is open from 8:30-9:00am and the afternoon pick up window is from 3:30-3:45pm.

We are utilizing a drop off and pick up line, please be prepared to pull your vehicle up to our lower nature center entrance to drop off your child. Camper safety is our first priority and we will require that all campers are **signed in and out** with a staff member daily on our attendance log.

#### **Locations of drop off**

**Mt. Pleasant:** Morning drop off line (8:30 am – 9:00 am) and afternoon pick up line (3:30 pm -3:45 pm) will be near the main building. Please pull forward to the marked area, parents will remain in the vehicle (unless the camper needs assistance with a car seat). Campers will remain in the vehicle until camp staffers complete a health history and temperature check. You and your child must wear a mask at drop off.

**Late Pick Up:** A charge of \$10 for the first fifteen minutes and \$15 for each additional fifteen minutes will be charged to parents for children not picked up by the scheduled time, payable upon arrival of the authorized adult picking up the child.

**Pick Up Authorization:** You, or a designated person, are required to sign your child in and out with a staff member. For your child's safety, only the individual(s) designated on the registration form can pick up your child. The person that completed the health form is the only one who can add or delete individuals with pick- up authority. Please have a photo ID available at pick up.

**Waste-Free Lunches:** Much of the trash we generate comes from the packaging on the food we buy, and lunch foods are no exception. Our waste-free lunch program favors the use of reusable food containers, drink containers, utensils, and napkins. We discourage the use of disposable packaging, such as prepackaged foods, plastic bags, juice boxes and pouches, paper napkins, and disposable utensils. We provide recycling and composting. Our gift shop sells Snack Taxis, reusable cloth snack bags. For ideas for waste-free lunches, visit <http://www.wastefreelunches.org/parents.html>.

**Tick Checks:** The staff will remind students to conduct a tick check. It is also very important that you check your child at home thoroughly after the School's Out day.

**Sunscreen:** We do not provide or apply sunscreen. We encourage you to apply sunscreen before School's Out. All sunscreen is FDA controlled and must be in its original container with your child's name on the outside.

**Snacks:** The Howard County Conservancy will not provide a snack., We recommend packing them extra food in their lunch as a snack. If food is ever provided as a special treat or activity, parents will be given notice 1 week prior to the program date. If your child has any allergies you are welcome to send an alternative.

## **Contact us!**

**Teddy Driscoll, Education Manager**

[teddy.driscoll@howardnature.org](mailto:teddy.driscoll@howardnature.org) Office Phone: 410-465-8877

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