



2018 VINS Nature Camp **Confirmation and Information** **Old Pepper Place Nature Reserve** Washington, Vermont

Dear VINS Camper Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for registering your child for VINS Nature Camp at Old Pepper Place Nature Reserve. This informational packet is designed to answer many of your questions about camp.

For safety purposes, we ask that you provide us with important information about your child. Please take the time to complete the **VINS Overnight Camp Health and Emergency Care Form** included in your confirmation email and **return to the Lead, Nature Camp no later than TWO WEEKS prior the start of camp.**

We also encourage you to talk with your child about information that will be important for his/her camp experience before the start of each session. Please, let us know of any questions you or your child(ren) may have about any of the information in this packet.

Each year, we hope to improve upon the last in order to better serve our camp families. We welcome any feedback and suggestions you may have about our program at any time. In addition to informal feedback, we will invite you to complete a camp evaluation at the end of the summer.

VINS Nature Camp is looking forward to sharing the wonders of the natural world with your child this summer!

Warm regards,

Sarah Strew
Lead, Nature Camp

Camp Contact Information

Address: Vermont Institute of Natural Science
149 Natures Way
PO Box 1281
Quechee, Vermont 05059
Phone: 802-359-5000
Fax: 802-359-5001
Email: camps@vinsweb.org
Website: www.vinsweb.org/nature-camp
Tax ID#: 03-0231665

If you have questions regarding registration or need to get in touch with the camp staff at the VINS Nature Center prior to or during the camp program, please call:

Sarah Strew, Lead, Nature Camp at 802.359.5000 x245
or
Linda Conrad, Camp Registrar at 802.359-5000 x221

Camp Location

The 2018 VINS Overnight Camps at Old Pepper Place Nature Reserve are located at:

Old Pepper Place Nature Reserve
2100 Pepper Road
Washington, VT 05675

Participants will be transported to and from the camp location from the VINS Nature Center:

VINS Nature Center
149 Natures Way
Quechee, VT 05059

The VINS Nature Center is located on Route 4, west of the Quechee Gorge. From I-89, take exit 1 to Route 4 West.

Camp Days, Hours, Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Camp runs from **Monday, 9:00am – Friday, 12:00pm**

Drop-off: Monday between 8:50am and 9:00am.

Pick-Up: Friday at 12:00pm.

Camp drop-off and pick-up is located at the east end of the VINS Nature Center parking lot.

Due to the nature of this program, VINS is unable to accommodate late arrivals, early departures or campers needing to miss a day of camp. If you have any questions please contact Lead, Nature Camp at 802.359.5000 x245.

If a camper is not picked up within 20 minutes of the designated pick-up time, you will be charged a late fee of \$10.00. A staff member will remain with your child until the parent or alternate contact person arrives (the police will be called as a last resort).

****IMPORTANT****

On the VINS Overnight Health and Emergency Care Form, please designate **ALL** adults who are authorized to pick up your child **INCLUDING** yourself. During pick-up, a valid ID must be presented or instructors cannot release your child.

Health and Emergency Care

It is imperative that we receive a completed VINS Overnight Camp Health and Emergency Care Form and, if applicable, an Overnight Camper Medication Information, Permission, and Waiver for each camper at least **two weeks prior the start of camp**. Please complete all information and sign then mail, e-mail, fax or drop it off at VINS Nature Center.

Medication

Camp staff must be notified of any medications, prescribed or over-the-counter, that your child will be taking during the week (see Overnight Camper Medication Information, Permission, and Waiver). Camp staff is not permitted to administer medications, however will remind and/or assist your child in taking his or her medicine according to your instructions.

Due to the remote setting of this camp VINS makes an explicit exception to our medication policy. VINS Nature Camp staff at Old Pepper Place will have access to basic over-the-counter medicine to be used on an as needed basis. Permission for staff to dispense these medicines as needed must be granted by parent or guardian on the VINS Overnight Camp Health and Emergency Care Form.

Illness and Minor Injury

Please do not send your child/ward to camp if s/he is ill. If your child/ward becomes ill, is injured, or becomes upset, a camp staff member will contact you in order to evaluate whether or not s/he should remain at camp for the rest of the week.

Emergencies

All VINS Nature Camp staff are certified in First Aid and CPR and are trained to respond to medical emergencies. Additionally, for our overnight programs, there will be at least one staff member on duty at all times who is certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR. In the event of a health emergency, you will be contacted immediately. If necessary, your child/ward will be transported by ambulance to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

Camp Behavior Code

The VINS Nature Camp staff is committed to providing each and every child with a productive and enjoyable camp experience. Our goal is to create a fun and nurturing environment that accommodates individual needs and learning styles.

In order to maintain the safety and quality of the program, we will manage camper behavior as appropriate including, if necessary, employing disciplinary measures. Please review VINS Nature Camp Behavior Code with your child prior to the start of camp (see VINS Overnight Camp Health and Emergency Care Form). If you have any questions about our behavior code, please contact Lead, Nature Camp, at 802.359.5000 x245.

Packing List

Your child/ward should come to camp dressed in casual, comfortable clothes, ready to hike and possibly get wet and dirty. Campers should be dressed for the weather and be prepared to spend most of the week outdoors. S/he should bring the following:

- Day pack
- Overnight bag to carry belongings
- Water bottle filled with water (potable water is available for refills)
- Complete change of clothes for 5 days
- Sturdy walking shoes (sneakers or hiking boots)
- Comfortable camp shoes (close-toed sandals, sneakers, or slippers with rubber sole)
- Insect repellent and sunscreen¹
- Baseball cap or sun hat
- Any medications (medication form must be filled out)
- A flashlight and/or headlamp
- A sleeping bag
- A pillow
- Toothbrush, toothpaste and other personal care items as needed (ie. deodorant, contact lenses, feminine products ect.)
- Towel
- Warm layer for top and bottom (ie. jacket, heavy fleece or sweatshirt & sweat pants or fleece pants)
- Long underwear for top and bottom or similar type of warm layers
- Sleepwear/pajamas
- Rain jacket (rain boots and rain pants a plus if you have them)
- A mess kit: 1 bowl, 1 plate, 1 mug, 1 fork, 1 spoon, and a bag to hold them
- An extra water bottle
- Journal or small notebook
- Swimsuit, if desired (swimming in a small pond may be an optional activity during the week)

¹ Please let camp staff know if your child needs assistance in applying these items

Please label all of your child's belongings²

VINS has a small supply of camping equipment such as sleeping bags, headlamps, and long underwear to lend camp participants. Equipment and clothing loans will be made on a first come first serve basis. Please contact Lead, Nature Camps at 802.359.5000 x 245 to learn more or to reserve your items.

Optional Items: These are items that may come in handy but are not necessary. Please feel free to pack them if desired.

- Pocket knife (camper's knives must be turned in to camp staff who will hold onto them. Campers will be allowed to use knives during designated times and/or activities as determined by camp staff)
- Field guides, binoculars, compass or magnifying lens
- A folding/camping chair
- Camp lantern
- Cards or other games for free time
- Book for free time

What NOT to Bring/Wear

- Video games, iPods, cell phones or any other electronic toys or devices. This is a device-free environment. (Cellular phone service is limited at this location, camp staff will have working cell phones in the event of an emergency)
- Personal items or toys that could get lost or that are not camp appropriate, including items that could be considered a weapon (Exceptions will be made for pocket knives which must be turned over to camp staff for them to hold on to)
- Flip flops or open-toed sandals
- Nice clothing that should not get wet or soiled
- Perfume, scented lotions, shampoos or soaps (We do have a primitive outdoor shower facility onsite and VINS will provide soap and shampoo)
- Food of any kind (exceptions can be made for dietary needs)

Please contact the Lead, Nature Camp at 802.359.5000 x 245 with questions regarding this packing list or to let us know of your camper's dietary restrictions.

² Please note: at the end of the camp season, all unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to a local facility
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Cancellation Policy

Cancellations are discouraged. If you must cancel your child's registration, please be aware of our refund policy outlined below.

Refunds are subject to a \$35 non-refundable processing fee and will be given according to the following schedule:

- If requested at least one month before the first day of camp, you will receive a full refund (less a \$35 processing fee).
- If requested between one month and two weeks before the first day of camp, you will receive a 50% refund (less a \$35 processing fee).
- If requested less than two weeks before the first day of camp, we will be unable to issue a refund.
- VINS is unable to provide refunds if a child misses one or more days of camp due to dismissal, illness, unexpected family obligations, or any other unforeseen factor.
- VINS reserves the right to cancel camp programs due to low enrollment.



**Thank you for taking part in our
program, we look forward to an exciting
summer exploring nature
with your child!**