

NYSDEC SUMMER CAMPS PACKING INFORMATION

Clothing

Pack old but functional clothes. Campers will get dirty and may tear or stain clothes.

- Long pants
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Changes of underwear
- 7 pairs of socks including 1 pair of wool or polar fleece
- Sleep clothes (2 sets; 1 warm and 1 cold weather)
- Swimsuit
- Sweatshirt/sweater
- Warm jacket/fleece
- Hat
- Rain gear (hooded jacket and rain pants preferred; most activities will be outside even when raining)

Shoes

Do not pack new shoes. Make sure shoes fit to avoid blisters.

- Sneakers
- Additional closed-toe shoes (hiking boots, another pair of sneakers, closed-toe sandals, etc.)
- Closed-toe water shoes (will get wet!)

Bedding

No bedding is supplied by the camps. Sleeping bags will be supplied for overnight trips, if needed.

- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Twin sized sheet
- Pillow with pillowcase

Additional

- 2 bath towels and face/wash cloths
- Toiletries (soap, toothbrush, etc.) *Unscented deodorant and lotion are less likely to attract bugs!*
- 2 reusable 32-ounce water bottles
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Sunglasses
- One white 100% cotton t-shirt or bandana, pre-washed, for tie-dye.
- Sunscreen (lotion/non-aerosol only)
- Insect repellent (lotion/non-aerosol only)

Optional

- Fishing gear and archery equipment (bow and target arrows) *To be secured when not in use during programs.*
- Small backpack
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Notebook, sketchbook, journal and pen/pencil
- Internal or external frame backpack
- Camping sleeping pad
- Tent
- Musical instrument
- Book
- Shaving supplies (blades will be secured when not in use)
- Self-addressed, stamped postcards

Camper belongings should all be labeled with permanent marker. It will help return items misplaced during the week before campers go home.

Laundry at Camp

There are no laundry facilities at camp except for emergencies. Please pack enough clothing for their week with additional changes in case items get dirty.

Do Not Bring to Camp

If any of these items are brought to camp they will be confiscated and returned to the authorized pick-up person during check-out. These items can be distracting, unsafe, and/or attract wildlife.

NYSDEC Summer Camps are intentionally without electronics. Please help support our goal of connecting youth with the outdoors by not allowing your camper to bring a phone. See our section *Keeping in Contact* for ways we can help you and your camper feel connected during the camp week.

- Cell phones
- Smart watches
- iPads, tablets, e-readers
- Food, gum, candy, snacks, etc.
- Money (there is no camp store)
- Hair dryer, curling iron, etc.
- Make-up, perfume, hairspray, cologne
- Valuables
- Knives, axes, hatchets
- Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or vapes
- Pets
- Depilatories (Nair, Neet, etc.)
- Matches, lighters

Possession of illegal substances, vapes, or other items on this list may result in the child being sent home. It may also result in local authorities being notified.

Lost and Found

NYSDEC assumes no responsibility for lost personal items, although we attempt to return all such items to the campers during the week. At the end of each camp week, items left behind are placed in "lost and found." Check this area before leaving camp. Unclaimed items will be held until the end of the summer camp season, after which they will be donated to charity. To retrieve a lost item, please contact the camp's director to arrange a time to pick it up before August 17, 2025.

Generally, NYSDEC will not mail lost/forgotten items after a camper has left. You must arrange a pick-up time while camp is in session. Camps are closed from 5:00PM Fridays through noon Sunday. Staff will not be available to assist during this time.

