

## **The FOLC Farm**

### **Kids Program Policies**

#### **OVERALL STRUCTURE**

The FOLC Farm is a learning center that offers unique classes for kids to enjoy and participate in. These programs are not general school break babysitting services. More like horse camps or engineering camps, the classes and camps here are for kids who have an interest in the subject matter: learning wilderness, survival, outdoor, homesteading and farm skills in an experiential learning environment and a natural outdoor setting. We look forward to meeting, learning and sharing with your child!

Unique features of our kids programs:

- There are very few programs in the North Central Florida area that include these type of classes (other than organizations like Scouts and 4H) and no other organization offers the variety of classes we have or with the regularity we do.
- We keep the overall number of student enrollment low (max 15) to facilitate a relaxed home-like environment that is conducive to learning and where students can receive individualized attention.
- Our children's programs are run by adult professionals who are trained, knowledgeable and experienced in the skill sets they teach and in working with kids. Most classes will be run by the owner of The FOLC Farm, Catherine Jean, an experienced educator, outdoorswoman and a mom. Classes are not lead by high school or college students. Any assistants involved will also have experience working with children, have current CPR training, and have completed a background check.

#### **OUTDOOR CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT**

As many of our activities will be outside, please have your child come prepared to be in the Florida elements: heat, humidity, rain, bugs, occasional cold...all kids should bring a rain jacket, bug repellent and sunscreen of your choice, hat, closed-toed shoes, socks and long pants for bug protection (you are welcome to also pack shorts and sandals if they wish to change when inside), and any other weather appropriate clothing.

#### **ELECTRONICS POLICY**

Let's disconnect with gadgets and re-connect with life! Please do not bring or have children bring electronic devices to classes, camps or parents' night out. Kids with personal cell phones will need to store them in the entrance area while at The FOLC Farm.

#### **MAINTAINING PRIVACY**

Kids must to be able to use the bathroom without assistance to attend any event without a parent present. We have a policy that no instructor may enter the bathroom stall with a student or help a child change clothing, even if a child has had an accident and wants assistance.

## FOOD and WATER

For extended classes/camps, kids need to bring their own food with them (too many allergies and special diets out there!). If needed, we can store a few items in the fridge, but students cannot bring food that requires cooking.

Please have your child arrive with a labeled full water bottle. We don't want your child getting dehydrated!

We encourage healthy eating habits with the kids and would appreciate it if you do not pack candy, desserts, sodas, or other sugary snacks/drinks.

Healthier snacks will be available during breaks (fruit, popcorn, pretzels) and on occasion we will roast marshmallows as a treat if we have an evening campfire. You are also welcome to pack separate snacks for your child.

## INFORMATION and HEALTH FORM

If your child has any allergies, dietary restrictions, medical, behavioral or special needs concerns or anything else we should know about, please communicate with us in advance and the information must be included on the student form.

## MEDICATIONS and ILLNESS

Any medications needed by a child during camp hours must be included on the student form and a parent must sign the medication section to authorize our staff to administer. Medications must be clearly labeled with clear instructions.

Please do not bring your child to camp if s/he has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, has a cold, pink eye, lice or any other illness or contagious condition.

## ACCIDENTS and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Any minor injuries will be treated within our scope of practice at The FOLC Farm and a parent will be notified of the incident. As long as the parent, child and instructor are comfortable doing so, the child may remain at camp.

If there is a medical emergency, 911 will be called and the child will be taken by ambulance to the appropriate hospital (Shands Pediatric ER is the closest). Legal guardians (and then emergency contacts if unable to reach guardians) will be contacted immediately.

## PARTICIPATION and BEHAVIOR

These courses and camps are designed for kids who have a genuine interest in exploring these topics and are willing to take part in the group activities. We cannot look after a child who is not following instructions or who is disrupting the group. Not only does this behavior make it difficult for the other students to learn, but it creates an unsafe environment with the type of programs we run. After several attempts at redirection, breaks and talking about the behavior with the child,

parents will be called to pick up their child (or may attend the camp with their child and maintain responsibility for him/her the entire time). We assist kids in learning to resolve conflicts between each other as these are important life skills, but if a child's behavior escalates to harassing, continued unwanted contact, bullying and/or violence towards others, parents will be notified to pick up their child immediately.

If taking a course does not interest your child, but playing at The FOLC Farm does that is ok! She/he is welcome to visit with a parent during one of our community social events!

#### REGISTRATION, PAYMENT and REFUNDS

In order to reserve a spot and attend, registration must be paid in full. As we maintain limited numbers in our courses to keep quality high, cancellations do have a big impact on our ability to function and continue to offer these programs. Cancellations three weeks or more out from the course date will receive a refund minus a cancellation fee (\$15 for day camp and \$50 for week camp). Cancellations within three weeks of the course will receive a 50% refund minus the cancellation fee. Cancellations within one week of the course will not receive a refund.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

We want children who are genuinely interested in learning these skills to be able to do so when family financial situations do not allow for their child to register for a camp program. Therefore, we have limited spots available for scholarship participants (partial scholarships of various levels). Please contact us to discuss the details and to see if your child is a good fit (based on family need and child interest).

#### SCHEDULE and DROP OFF/ PICK UP

The main day program runs from 9 am- 4 pm with extended time available before camp (7:30-9 pm) and after camp (4-5:30 pm). An extended care charge will be added when a parent does not sign up for extended care but do not pick up their child by 4 pm.

A child will only be released to someone on your child's pick up list. If the person is not already known to our staff, they will need to bring proof of identification.

#### REVIEW of WHAT TO BRING

Labeled full water bottle, packed lunch/dinner (snacks if desired), weather/environment appropriate clothes including a hat and closed toed shoes, a change of clothes just in case, sunscreen and bug spray.