

# Hello KEEN Families and Campers!

## Welcome to KEEN's Summer Camp Programs 2024!

KEEN has offered amazing summer camp programs in Kittitas County since 2015.

- **Pond to Pines** summer day camps are 100% outdoor immersion held at the Yakima Canyon interpretive Center in Helen McCabe Park, just five miles south of Ellensburg (I-90). **Pond to Pines** is from 9am-3pm M-F between June 24-August 2, 2023. Each camp is carefully constructed to provide the ultimate nature-based learning environment while providing a FUN hands-on experience!
- **Mountaineers Adventure Camps** is a series of week-long day and overnight adventure programs, designed to challenge and excite older campers as we explore the wilderness of the Pacific Northwest. **Mountaineers Adventure Camps** run from June 24-August 4, 2023 and are open to youth ages 11-17. *Additional camp information will be provided separately to families registered in these programs.*

Our primitive facilities provide for amazing nature-based experiences and true outdoor nature exploration. During our summer camp children learn through inquisitive and creative activities utilizing science, math, critical-thinking skills, and a great deal of imagination! Plus, we have a ton of fun!

To better serve you, we have developed this parent packet to help you prepare for your child's summer with KEEN. **It is vital to everyone's safety and the success of this program that these policies are understood and followed by all.** At any time, please feel free to call us if you have any questions regarding the program. We can't wait to see you!

1. **Please read the ENTIRE parent packet carefully.** The parent packet will tell you all you need to know about packing, procedures, medication, etc.
2. **Please take specific note to all check-in and check-out times and procedures.** Please arrive at the times listed and expect the process to take up to 10 minutes, possibly longer. **If your camper will be arriving late or leaving early, please contact us in advance so that we can prepare.**
3. Please make sure that your camper wears clothing that is appropriate for both the weather and the atmosphere of the park. This includes adequate warm weather gear (hats, sunscreen, bug spray). More information on the dress code can be found in this info packet.
4. During the summer, we will be posting pictures of our campers on our Facebook page. You can opt out of photos in the registration form if you prefer. Please like our page, KEEN – Kittitas Environmental Education Network, to see the feed of activities throughout the summer.

We are committed to helping your campers have an exciting summer. If there is anything we should know that will help make this possible for your camper, please call or email us before programming begins, or let us know at check-in. We want camp to be a great opportunity for fun and play, where campers grow in self-confidence, but also to grow in sense of self, relationships to others, and build an excitement to learn more about the natural world. We are super excited to see you!

## KEEN Programs Contact Information

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KEEN President  
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KEEN Camp Director  
[carlynsaunders@keenetwork.org](mailto:carlynsaunders@keenetwork.org)

Jennifer Smith  
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P2P Program Supervisor  
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## Preparing for SUMMER DAY CAMP

### Paperwork – FORMS ARE DIGITAL THIS YEAR!

Please fill out a complete health history and waiver form for **each** child attending camp **before** the first day they attend programming. Email Carlyn with any questions regarding health and waivers: [carlynsaunders@keenetwork.org](mailto:carlynsaunders@keenetwork.org) as soon as possible. Alternatively, the form can be printed and handed in on the first morning of camp. *Any additional forms, like specific activity waivers or transportation waivers will be sent separately to registered campers.*

**This form is REQUIRED for kids to attend camp.**

### Health Screenings Prior to CAMP

Monitor the health of your child daily, including symptoms of illness and temperature. If a child is showing symptoms or they have had confirmed contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, our Camp Director will advise you to keep your child home and follow CDC guidelines for isolation. If a child is showing signs of being sick (including but not limited to fever, nausea, vomiting, coughing, shortness of breath, chills, sore throat, ect), KEEN will ask that parents consider keeping every child in the household at home while determining if the symptoms could be a result of COVID-19. If your child has recently been tested, KEEN will ask that your child remain at home until a negative test result is confirmed.

### COVID-19 Precautions

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Camp Association (ACA) have issued their guidelines for summer camp operation (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>). KEEN Summer Day Camp programming will adhere to the national and state recommendations. Families will be notified of any changes that occur during summer programming that effect these protocols. KEEN Summer Day Camps are 100% outdoor with rustic facilities; the CDC confirms that outdoor spaces have the lowest risk of transmission. However, **POND TO PINES** programming can occasionally require close contact. Therefore:

- Facial coverings will be available on site and administered to anyone who is showing signs of illness.
- All participants and staff 5 and older are encouraged to seek vaccination.
- During programming that requires the transportation of campers and staff to pre-designated off-site activities, mask use will be recommended in every vehicle.

### Arrival Procedures

**When you arrive at the park, please remain with your child until you are greeted by a counselor. DO NOT simply drop off your child and leave without speaking with a counselor.** Please arrive promptly at your designated times each day. **POND TO PINES** is located at [Helen McCabe State Park](#); please use the main entrance and parking lot by the pit toilets along Canyon Road.

**BUS DROP OFF:** If you have signed up your child for camp busing, please read the following carefully. The KEEN bus will depart from the downtown Ellensburg Safeway at 8:30am every morning. The KEEN bus driver/staff member will be at the Safeway starting at 8:15am for check in (includes paperwork and packing list check). A transportation waiver will be sent to each participating family; form must be completed prior to camper's first day riding the bus.

Checking in consists of:

- ✓ Checking to ensure each camper arrives with a complete packing list;
- ✓ Confirming health forms and waivers;
- ✓ Checking in any medications with staff.

**IF YOU NEED A LATE DROP OFF AT CAMP, YOU MUST CONTACT JEN SMITH (509-607-0822) THE DAY PRIOR TO ARRANGE DROP OFF.**

Camp Drop-off

8:45-9:00 am

## Departure Procedures

When you arrive at the park, wait until you are greeted by a counselor to pick up your child. When picking up your child, please arrive promptly at your designated times each day. Follow the below instructions to ensure your check out experience is smooth.

**YOU MUST CHECK OUT WITH A COUNSELOR BEFORE LEAVING THE PARK WITH YOUR CHILD.**

**BUS PICK UP:** If you have signed up your child for camp busing, please read the following carefully. The KEEN bus will depart from camp at 3pm. Pick up will start upon arrival and continue until 3:30pm promptly.

**YOU MUST CHECK OUT WITH STAFF BEFORE LEAVING SAFEWAY WITH YOUR CHILD.**

Checking out consists of:

- ✓ **You MUST provide a valid photo ID when picking up your child.** We will not release a child to anyone not specifically indicated on the registration form.
- ✓ Collecting any medications.
- ✓ Checking lost and found.
- ✓ Double checking that you have: your child, their extra clothes, their water bottle, and anything else they brought with them.

**\*A \$25 late fee will be implemented for any pickup after 3:30pm without prior authorization from the camp director or supervisor.** To avoid a late fee, please ensure you have good communication with camp staff and have several backup authorized adults able to pick up your child if an situation should arise (list these on your camper's health form).

Camp Pick-up 3pm-3:15pm

## Medications

We prefer that parents administer routine medications to their child before or after daily programming when possible. We take the administration of medication very seriously. All prescription medications brought must be in their original containers with written directions for dispersal from their doctor. We cannot give medications in any manner that deviate from those orders. Also, while we must have the medications in their original container, we recommend you only send the amount needed for each day plus one extra (in case a pill is dropped and lost, we have a spare). All other non-prescription medications and ointments must also come in their original containers, with signed instructions for dispersal from the camper's parent or guardian. All medication must be identified to staff at check in/drop off.

## Communicating with your Camper:

**KEEN Summer Day Camps** are a place for children to interact with each other, build friendships, and create memories.

**Please do not bring cell phones and other electronic equipment**, unless needed for after camp communication with guardians. Not only do these devices detract from genuine interactions with those who are present, but they also are valuables that we would not want to be damaged or misplaced while here. Please do not bring: cell phones, music players, kindles, iPad or tablets, game players, digital cameras, etc. If a child is found with an electronic device during programming, they will be asked to place it into their backpack until the end of the day.

If you ever need to get a message to your camper, we will make it happen. **Contact information for camp program supervisors can be found on page 1.** Also, in the event we need to get in touch with you or a contact that you designate, please make sure your contact information is accurate and up to date. Parents will be notified in the event of an emergency, including medical emergency and serious accidents, missing persons, evacuation, fire, or other natural disaster.

## Packing List

Please write your child's name on every item to limit cross-contamination and lost possessions.

- ✓ Water bottle (preferably at least 32 oz.), filled. **Pond to Pines** will have water stations available for refilling.
- ✓ Weather-appropriate clothing, including sturdy close-toed shoes.
  - Summer clothing can include: lightweight t-shirt and shorts, hat, jacket
- ✓ **Change of clothes** (accidents happen; please send your camper prepared so staff is not forced to contact you during camp hours for soiled clothing)
- ✓ **Water Days:** water shoes, swimsuit, and towel for pond days, usually Thursdays or Fridays
- ✓ Backpack
- ✓ Sunscreen with your child's name written on it in permanent marker
- ✓ Hat and/or Sunglasses
- ✓ Bug spray; our mosquitos are hungry. Nothing less than 40% DEET works. Treating clothing with Permethrin before camp is encouraged as well.
- ✓ **Breakfast and lunch are provided through the FISH food bank. Please indicate on your health and waiver form if you intend to utilize the free meal option.** Any child can bring their own lunch as desired. We will provide two daily snacks. If your child has specific dietary concerns, including allergies, please consider providing extra snacks (or a lunch) for your kiddo.

## Dress Code

Please remember that we are an educational environment. Make sure that all clothing is age- appropriate and does not depict the following: violence, gangs, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, pictured or written sexual references. **Weather can sometimes change quickly; children should have a warm layer packed.** Closed toed shoes are required.

Please Don't Bring...

- ✓ Negative attitude
- ✓ Food, gum, or candy (attracts critters; **two snacks will be provided daily**)
- ✓ Cell phones and other electronics
- ✓ Digital cameras (we will post pictures on Facebook!)
- ✓ Valuables (jewelry, clothes, electronics)
- ✓ Weapons, knives, guns
- ✓ Cigarettes, chewing tobacco, drugs (other than prescribed medication)
- ✓ Animals or pets
- ✓ Personal toys

## Helping Your Camper Succeed

### Behavior Expectations

We expect everyone to follow the three rules of fun: **Respect Yourself, Respect Others, and Respect the Environment.** We know that no one is perfect and we are all trying to be better people. Our staff is trained to help redirect behavior, celebrate the positive, and not feed the negative. **Please let us know if there are specific strategies you use at home that would be helpful for staff to know during programming.** We hope that we can work as a team to help each child have the best experience they can. We may call you if our efforts are not having the desired effect, so that we can brainstorm together. **However, certain behaviors are not tolerated: bullying (emotional or physical) and intentional endangerment.** Both are grounds for dismissal. Parents will be notified in the event of unacceptable or risky behavior that puts themselves or others in harm's way.

### Setting Realistic Expectations

Engaging in outdoor education experiences are frequently highlights of a child's life, but not every minute of every day is perfect. Truthfully, one of the easiest ways to make friends is through common bonds. If you search your memories – many common bonds are from overcoming challenges. During summer camp – that long hike or that buggy morning - might not seem perfect at the time, but hopefully it will have helped bring campers to new friendships.

## Friendships

Building and developing new, quality friendships is one of the primary goals of outdoor educational opportunities (along with safety and learning about the environment). We want our campers to create memorable experiences that they can build friendships on. The prospect of making new friends should be something to look forward to. It may be helpful to discuss ahead of time how to be a good friend and perhaps discuss the kinds of traits to look for in new friends.

## Parent Visits

Each session's schedule is packed full of activities and visits disrupt the flow of programming and each camper's experience. As we are also adhering to group size guidelines, we cannot permit additional people outside of our groups to engage in our programming. **You're welcome to call at any time to check on your camper, but please don't show up unannounced! If you need to pick your child up early, please call ahead!**

## Meals and Special Diets

**FISH Food Bank will be providing on-site meals every day at our location. Food options are unknown at this time, so if your kiddo has any allergies or dietary restrictions, consider packing them a lunch.** Two daily snacks (individually packaged) will be offered in the mid-morning and mid-afternoon. If your child has a special diet or food allergy, please indicate this on the registration form so that we can plan to keep your child safe and well-fed! If you have specific dietary concerns for your child, please consider sending them with a snack from home.

## Photos and Cameras

We have a "no camera" policy for two main reasons: one, to protect our campers' property, and two, to try to make sure that every photo seen is one we think the camper will be proud of. So, we have our staff take photos, pick out the best ones we think everyone would be happy seeing, and share them on Facebook for easy access.

## Lost and Found

Of course, we want you to leave with everything your child brought but please recognize that sometimes things do get left behind. Please check the lost and found each day when you pick up your camper! If belongings are labeled ahead of time, it is easier – but regardless, if we find something, we'll store it for a couple weeks giving you a chance to claim it. Please call us as soon as you notice something you've left behind. You will be responsible to come pick it up.

## Supporting KEEN's Summer Day Camps

All programming within KEEN's Summer Day Camps are funded by tuition and infrequently, grants and donations. To grow and serve more people, we need your help. Your donations are treated as unexpected funds that help us support campers who might not be able to afford a summer camp experience. Gifts of recommendation also help us grow and serve more people. If you like KEEN's Summer Day Camp programs, please tell a friend and consider us in your annual giving.

## Health, Safety & Medical Treatment

### In case of Emergency or Illness

While your child is attending **KEEN Summer Day Camps**, our staff will make every effort to contact you by telephone in the event of an emergency or if out-of-camp health care is required. Depending on the circumstances surrounding the situation – and your schedule – we may not be successful in reaching you. Our staff will use the telephone numbers you have provided on the Registration Form to attempt to contact you.

**Please make sure that we know how to reach you during your child's attendance during programming.**

If you have an answering machine or voicemail, we will leave an informational message. In the event that out-of-camp health care is utilized, the Program Supervisor will provide you with a written summary. The summary will include information such as:

- ✓ Nature of illness or health concern
- ✓ Name, address, and telephone number of provider
- ✓ Diagnosis and prognosis of the provider
- ✓ Description of health care given by camp staff
- ✓ Recommendations for follow-up care at home

Normally we will not contact you for routine health care or problems (ie. skinned knees, insect bites, etc.) that are not severe or do not require the additional attention of an out-of-camp health care provider. In these instances, commonly accepted first aid practices will be followed, as per staff training. The decision to contact you in those kinds of situations will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us if you require a practice different from what is described above.

### Attending POND TO PINES With An Illness

In accordance with Washington State Department of Health, the American Camp Association, and Center for Disease Control guidelines, KEEN is taking precautions to ensure the health of all campers and staff. **If your child is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with a person suspected of or diagnosed with COVID-19 or you are waiting on results of a recent COVID test, we will ask you to keep your child home and differ to the CDC's guidelines for exposure isolation.** KEEN will discuss refund options with any family whose child cannot attend due to COVID-19 illness on a case by case basis.

### Smoke Hazards and Weather Considerations

Kittitas County is wildfire territory. In the event of an area wildfire, the program supervisor and staff will monitor air quality closely. **If air quality limits safe outdoor exposure, POND TO PINES activities will be postponed or cancelled.** The potential for an indoor location to be utilized in such a situation is not guaranteed. Parents will be notified as soon as possible in the event of such a change.

While **POND TO PINES** are 100% outdoor summer camp experiences and we are fully prepared to combat a variety of sudden and seasonal weather patterns. Children are extremely resilient to extreme weather changes, but if a situation could be hazardous to our campers and staff, **our program supervisors will contact you with updates and cancellations in a timely manner.**

During summer in the Kittitas Valley, we experience extremely hot and arid weather conditions. **Our most common health issues during our summer programming are dehydration, sunburn, bug bites, and nose bleeds.** Camp staff will encourage campers to drink regularly, and we encouraged discussion at home on the importance of drinking water. If your child is prone to nose bleeds in dry conditions, please make a note of this on your health form.

## Directions to YCIC @ Helen McCabe Park (Pond to Pines Summer Day Camp)

### From Ellensburg

Follow Canyon Road south from town, about 5 miles to YCIC @ Helen McCabe Park (just before the canyon).

### From Yakima

Take I-82 north towards Ellensburg

Take Exit #3: Thrall Road

Turn right onto Thrall Road

Turn left onto Canyon Road

### Parking

For check-in and check-out, please park in the main park entrance on Canyon Road, near the pond and pit toilets.