

WHAT TO BRING

One thing students like best about the program is living with their cabin mates and the spirit of unity that builds throughout the session. Each student has a clean bed and mattress in our rustic cabins to sleep on. All other necessities, including bedding and clothing, should be packed for camp. Since the children will be at camp for only two days, please do not pack more than needed. Try to limit packing to one medium-size suitcase or bag. **All belongings are to be clearly marked and labeled. Campers do not always recognize their own belongings. The camp and school will not be responsible for them.** Since students will be spending much time studying nature from the ground up, clothes will get dirty. Old clothing is preferable to new; there are no dress up activities at camp. You should adapt this list according to the weather:

Sleeping bag or 2-3 blankets

1 Single sheet	Pillow	Insect Repellent
Warm jacket	Rubber Boots (a must)	Chapstick
Sweater/Sweatshirt (2)	Underwear	Sunscreen
Tennis Shoes (1-2)	T-Shirts (3)	Comb/Brush
Raincoat	Long Pants (3)	Washcloth
Socks (4+ above ankle)	Pajamas	Soap
Hat	Toothpaste	Towel
Tissues	Toothbrush	Flashlight

Students will be notified by their teachers if any additional supplies will be needed. Recreational equipment is provided by the camp.

Remember, because this is school, all school rules will be in effect. Please do not bring or send candy, gum, food, any electronic devices including radios, CD players, video games, cell phones, etc., weapons of any kind including pocket knives, firearms and fireworks, laser pointers or other inappropriate items.

Camp Christopher is not responsible for lost or stolen belongings.

ADDRESSES & CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION

For GPS and Online **mapping**: 1930 N. Hametown Rd. Akron, OH 44333

Camp Christopher Office: 812 Biruta St. Akron, OH 44307

Office Phone: 330.376.2267 **Fax**: 330.762.2001 **TF**: 1.800.296-camp

Website: www.campchris.org

Email: campchristopher@ccdole.org



Camp Christopher
Environmental Education
Parent Handbook

THE PROGRAM

The Environmental Education Program is a 2 or 2.5 -day environmental awareness experience for elementary, middle and high school students. It is an opportunity for students to:

- See the science of ecology beyond the textbooks in a hands-on outdoor classroom so that they may become responsible citizens of the planet
- Share a community experience with other students and teachers
- Learn in a natural setting
- Learn through direct experience and problem-solving techniques
- Participate with their teachers in the outdoors and tailor their classroom experience to the camp experience

In addition, students have a unique opportunity to live, work and play in a 24-hour setting with their classmates and teachers, learning about each other and growing in community . Some concepts highlighted by our program are: communication, cooperation, independence and appreciation for diversity.

The program is highly structured and in line with the Ohio Revised Science Standards. Courses include academic-oriented examination of many domains of environmental sciences, including habitats, predator-prey relationships, energy conversion, human relationships with nature—and more. Classes are taught by the Camp Staff and the classroom teacher with the help of volunteer chaperones.

When not in class, teachers can plan reflective time such as journaling, Mass, prayer service, or other activities such as field games, scavenger hunts, or crafts.

WHERE

The program is conducted at Camp Christopher, on 165 rolling acres in Bath, Ohio. This environment is rich in flora and fauna, and features many unique natural features, such as a natural bridge, sandstone cliffs and caves. This wide variety makes Camp Christopher the perfect place for experiential learning.

SUPERVISION

Your child's teacher supervises all classes; Camp Christopher provides instructors. Volunteers provided by the schools, including adults and high school students, attend classes with the students, providing additional support. These same volunteers also eat and live in the cabins with the students. Camp Christopher does not provide supervision outside of Environmental Education courses and day/night camp programs.

EXPENSES

All arrangements for the Program are handled directly through your child's school.

MEALS

A professional cooking staff provides all the food a hungry student can eat and all the milk they can drink. Three meals a day, including a salad bar at breakfast, lunch and dinner, are served family style in the camp dining halls. Students share their meal with other students. In addition to food, meal times are usually times for song and skits as well. The meals are balanced and plentiful so please do not send food with your child...it can attract unwanted wildlife.

HEALTH

The program has an excellent health and safety record. At minimum, a person trained in first aid and CPR is always available. An MD and an RN are available by phone at all times.

Camp Christopher **does not** provide or accept medical forms or histories. Your child's school is responsible for keeping this information and should have access to it, provided you, the parent, returned this information to the school. If you are **not** affiliated with a school (for example: you are a home-schooling group), or your school does not require medical forms, it is up to the teachers or chaperones accompanying the child to have access to this information.

Parents will be notified immediately of any serious health problem. In case of an emergency, the student will be taken to Akron Children's Hospital or EMT's chosen facility for immediate treatment.

All medication from home will be collected by the student's teacher; Camp Christopher will secure sensitive medications if necessary. Your school's staff are responsible for the administration of medications.

Your school's personnel will alert us of medical or dietary needs, provided you, the parent, communicate those needs to them. For further information or to discuss your concerns, please contact the Environmental Education program coordinator at **330-762-2961 x229**. Please note the following:

1. The camp program takes place outdoors. Your camper may be more active in our program than at home.
2. We ask that, when possible, campers attend to their own special dietary needs under the supervision of their classroom teacher. Substitute foods will be provided when requested through the school's special needs form submitted to camp.
3. For campers with diabetes, we ask that campers provide their own diabetes care, under school personnel supervision, while at camp. We ask that supplies (insulin, syringes, Glucometer, etc) be kept in the Health Center; a sharps container is available.
4. Mealtimes may vary. Campers get up around 7:00 am; breakfast follows in about an hour. Lunch is served at 12:00-noon. The evening meal is at 5:15 pm. The camp food service can provide snacks for diabetic campers if requested (e.g. milk, fresh fruit, cereal). If you want to know a more exact meal schedule, please contact the Program Coordinator.
5. If you need to send extra food items for your child's care, please label them with your child's name and give them to your child's teacher.
6. Staff are told that campers with medial/dietary needs or medication are capable of self-management, under appropriate supervision. Staff are also told that these campers know how to manage their activity to compliment their health status. Specific information about your child is given to staff on a need-to-know basis.