



The Brandywine and Red Clay Valley Associations'
Summer Camp Information
2010



Summer Camp Mission

To offer fun, innovative, outdoor adventure programs for children ages 4-16 which instill an understanding of and appreciation for the natural world.

Arrivals and Departures

Parents/guardians (or others listed on Medical Form) must sign children **out** each day. Please do not drop off children before 8:45 AM or pick them up later than 3:10 PM.

If someone other than those listed on the Medical Form is picking up your child, please let your child's counselor know in advance and in writing.

Lateness and Absences

The camp day begins at 9:00 AM, (12:30 for PM preschool). If your child will be absent or late, please call the Myrick Conservation Center (MCC) at 610-793-1090 prior to 8:00 AM and leave a message.

Transportation

Some campers will be transported by van to go on field trips. Each reliable driver has a copy of their driver's license and proof of insurance filed at the MCC office.

Medical Forms

Completed Medical Forms must be on file at the MCC office **two weeks prior** to the camper's first camp session.

Accident/Incident Reports

Minor accidents or incidents will be communicated to parent/guardian at pick-up. Parent/guardian will be contacted immediately for more serious incidents.

Camper Conduct

BVA/RCVA expects campers will conduct themselves properly. BVA/RCVA does not tolerate insolence, bad language or lack of respect for people or property. Persistent improper conduct may result in a camper being asked to leave without a refund.

Inclement Weather

Programs run rain or shine. In the event of a weather emergency BVA/RCVA staff will contact a parent or guardian.

Photographs

BVA/RCVA reserve the right to use photographs of your child or quotations from conversations in future BVA/RCVA program brochures and other promotional materials unless otherwise notified by guardian in writing.

Lost and Found

Please label belongings so that they may be returned to their owners. Items left by campers will be collected and available on the last camp day of each week. By September 1st all unclaimed items will be disposed of or donated to charity.

Dress

Campers need to be dressed for the weather and activities. We recommend that campers wear long pants and sneakers for protection from poison ivy and brambles. Please refer to the camper checklist for details.

Emergency Plan

Our first priority is the safety of your children. In the event of an emergency BVA/RCVA staff will contact you with instructions.

The BVA/RCVA does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin in admissions, employment policies and educational programs.

Are you ready for your
Myrick Center Summer Camp Program ?

Mark your Calendars! FREE for Campers!

Lyme Disease Q & A - Thursday, June 17th, 5:30-7:00 PM
Summer Camp Open House - Thursday, June 17th, 7:00 to 7:30 PM

Two Weeks Before Camp:

- Return completed Medical Form
- Return **all** permission slips included with your confirmation letter



What to wear:

- Comfortable clothing that can get wet and dirty
- Old sneakers and socks (**no clogs, crocs or flip flops!**)
- Sunscreen and Bug repellent, apply before arriving to camp
- Hat
- 4-5 year olds should wear bathing suits to camp every day

What to bring:

- Extra clothes, including a pair of long pants
- Extra shoes (waterproof shoes, sport sandals)
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent
- Waterproof jacket, no umbrellas please
- Bathing suit
- Towel
- Plastic bag for wet clothes
- Packed lunch (or only a snack for 4-5 year olds), refrigeration is available. In an effort to reduce waste, we welcome reusable containers for sandwiches and snacks. Recycling and compost bins are available every day.
- Water bottle (Plastic BVA/RCVA water bottles will be handed out only by request or necessity this year.)



What to leave at home:



- Anything valuable
- Anything breakable
- Pocket knives or other sharp instruments
- Electronics
- Games and trading cards
- The use of cell phones is not permitted during camp hours**



1760 Unionville -Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382
610-793-1090

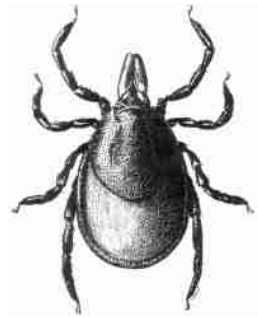


Beware, But Don't Despair!

Lyme Disease is an infection that is caused by a bacterium. Deer ticks are probably the only carriers of this bacterium and only a small percentage of them are infected. Ticks have a two year life cycle and all three stages (larva, nymph and adult) can be infected with the bacterium, but only the nymph and adult stages can transmit it to humans. Nymphs are most active in May, June and July and are about the size of a poppy seed. Adults are the size of a sesame seed and are most active in late October and November. Ticks require a blood meal to progress to the next stage of their life cycle and typically prefer small mammals, birds and deer rather than humans. Occasionally a tick may attach to a human, but if it hasn't been attached for more than 12 hours the likelihood of transmittance is very low.

BVA/RCVA staff tries to avoid the vegetated areas where ticks are found. Nonetheless, we recommend that campers use insect repellent and wear long pants, long sleeves and a hat. Ticks are more visible on light colored clothes. We highly recommend that campers shower every day when they get home and conduct a thorough "tick check." The **American Lyme Disease Foundation** suggests the following steps to remove a tick:

1. Using a pair of pointed precision tweezers, grasp the tick by the head or mouthparts right where they enter the skin. **DO NOT** grasp the tick by the body.
2. Without jerking, pull firmly and steadily directly outward. **DO NOT** twist the tick out or apply petroleum jelly, a hot match, alcohol or any other irritant to the tick in an attempt to get it to back out. These methods can backfire and even increase the chances of the tick transmitting the disease.
3. Place the tick in a vial or jar of alcohol to kill it. (BVA/RCVA staff suggests wrapping the tick in scotch tape for safe disposal if alcohol is unavailable.)
4. Clean the bite wound with disinfectant.



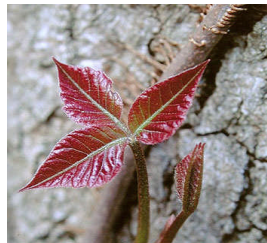
Deer Tick Image:

<http://pmo.umext.maine.edu/factsht/deer.jpg>

Source: www.aldf.com

Poison Ivy

The allergic reaction to poison ivy is the most common allergy in the country. You can develop this allergy at any time in your life. The rash is not contagious. You can have an allergic reaction to poison ivy only if you come in contact with the oily substance in the plant called urushiol. Dead plants can still cause a rash for up to 5 years. BVA/RCVA staff tries to avoid areas with poison ivy. If you believe your child has come in contact with poison ivy, or with something that has touched poison ivy (like your dog or shoes), wash your child's skin with liquid dish soap for 2 minutes or use a product such as Tecnu™ to remove the oil. Do not use any soaps with moisturizers which will spread the urushiol further. If a rash develops you can use an over the counter anti-itch cream or make a paste using baking soda and witch hazel. There are lots of other ideas and opinions on the internet. Poison ivy is irritating to humans but is a native plant and an important food source for songbirds during the fall and into the winter. Here's a website that has a visual quiz: www.poison-ivy.org.



Photos:

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