



www.bearcreekschool.com

March 1, 2024

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce that we will once again be able to provide select students with an opportunity to participate in a week-long summer Nature Camp at Bear Creek Camp. Please refer to the information included with this letter. This Campership opportunity is sponsored by the Bear Creek Foundation.

Bear Creek Camp is located just one mile from the School and consists of over 3,000 acres of wilderness. It is truly an asset to our community. Bear Creek Camp offers wonderful educational opportunities for students to engage in hands-on learning about the natural world during summer break. Day camps are held Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with a snack and lunch provided daily. Aftercare is also available. You can learn more by visiting www.bearcreekcamp.org/nature-day-camp or by calling (570) 472-3741.

This opportunity is available to Bear Creek Community Charter School students currently in **fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh grade**. This is a competitive program, and not all students who apply will be selected. Selection criteria will include a student's behavior and/or discipline record, financial need, student ambition & interest in the environment, attendance at school, and teacher referral, among others. An essay is also required from each applicant, and the successful applicants will be asked to share their experiences with fellow students when they return to school in the fall.

Parents interested in applying for a 2024 Campership should complete and sign the enclosed form, and return it to the attention of Mrs. Larissa Soroka at the School, no later than Friday, April 5, 2024. Students selected to receive a Campership will be notified no later than the week of May 6th. Students who are selected must then complete and return camp registration paperwork no later than Friday, May 17, 2024.

Before submitting a request for a Campership, parents must ensure their child is able and willing to attend the Nature Camp, for the entire week of their choice. This requires parents providing transportation to and from Bear Creek Camp for five consecutive days. We want to ensure as many students as possible benefit from the limited funds available; therefore parents of students who "back out" after receiving a Campership and submitting their registration paperwork will be responsible for reimbursing Bear Creek Community Charter School a \$230.00 camp fee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop on the "J" and a distinct "S" at the end.

Jim Smith,
Chief Executive Officer



Student Interest Form - Campership Application

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

If your child is interested in attending a one-week Nature Day Camp at Bear Creek Camp and would like to apply for a full Campership to cover the cost of participating, please complete this form and return it to Bear Creek Community Charter School, Attention Larissa Soroka, no later than **Friday, April 5, 2024**. Along with this completed and signed form, your child must also include an essay using the following theme. The essay should be no greater than one page, double spaced.

Environmentalism is one of the core values at Bear Creek Community Charter School that makes your experience here a unique one. Write an essay describing why attending a week of Bear Creek Camp over the summer is important to you and how it would improve your environmental stewardship and knowledge of Pennsylvania ecology.

Please select one of the following eligible 2024 Day Camps at Bear Creek Camp:

- Wilderness Survival: June 17 - June 21.** Learn basic survival skills such as shelter building, fire starting, outdoor safety and other skills to provide personal growth in the outdoors. We will have fun creating our own survival base camp.
- Nuts About Nature: June 24 - June 28.** We will discover who lives in our wetlands, forests & streams and learn about our insects, birds and flying mammals. We will search for reptiles and amphibians and explore our swamps, bogs and vernal pools.
- Aquatic Exploration: July 22 - July 26.** Be prepared to get wet and have a wild time! We will explore the camp's many water features and discover what lives within them—newts, frogs, turtles, crawfish and more!
- Habitat Hikers: July 15 - August 19.** Grab your hiking boots and off we go! Explore the amazing trails and remote areas of camp. Create your very own adventure-filled hiking journal!

Camps begin at 8:30 a.m. daily and conclude at 3:00 p.m. Aftercare is available through the Bear Creek Camp. The Bear Creek Foundation is only providing funding for the camp experience. The School and Foundation has no input or control over programming. Questions regarding the camp, activities, etc. should be directed to the Bear Creek Camp at (570) 472-3741.

I understand that Camperships are competitive in nature and not all students who apply will be provided a Campership. I understand that I am responsible for providing transportation to and from the Bear Creek Camp for five days of camp. I further understand that if my child fails to attend camp after receiving a Campership, I am responsible for reimbursing Bear Creek Community Charter School \$230.00 for the week, or \$46.00 for each day of camp my child does not attend. I hereby release both the Bear Creek Foundation and Bear Creek Community Charter School from any and all liability associated with my child's participation in Summer Day Camp provided by the Bear Creek Camp.

Print Parent/Guardian's Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature