



www.bearcreekschool.com

January 6, 2025

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. This opportunity is funded through a partnership with the Bear Creek Foundation. 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 2025 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, February 14, 2025.

Students selected to receive a Campership will be notified no later than the week of March 7th. Students who are selected must then complete and return camp registration paperwork no later than Friday, March 21, 2025.

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 \$235.00 camp fee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jim Smith,
Chief Executive Officer



2025

Summer Nature Day Camp

Student Interest Form - Campership Application

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

If your child is in fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh grade and 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, February 14th, 2025**. 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 2025 Day Camps at Bear Creek Camp:

- Wilderness Survival: June 16 - June 20.** 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.
- Habitat Explorers: June 23- June 27.** Grab your hiking boots and off we go! Let's explore the amazing trails and creeks of Bear Creek Camp, while creating your very own adventure filled hiking journal.
- Nuts About Nature: July 14 - July 18.** For those who have a deep appreciation for nature's beauty! We will explore ecosystems where every leaf, rock and stream have a tale to tell. We will learn about local wildlife and encourage a sense of stewardship and appreciation for the environment.
- Aquatic Adventures: July 21 - July 25.** Dive into adventure as we explore our camp's water features, where we'll discover the creatures that call them home-newts, frogs, turtles, and crayfish; Just to name a few.

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 \$235.00 for the week, or \$47.00 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