



Environmental
Learning Centers
of Connecticut, Inc.

BARNES NATURE CENTER • INDIAN ROCK NATURE PRESERVE

2020 Fall for Indian Rock

Environmental Learning Centers of CT has always put the health and safety of its participants, staff, and parents first and this fall will be no different. We consistently receive a perfect score our annual surprise summer camp health and safety inspections by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC). This is due to strict adherence to OEC guidelines, a professional senior staff who work for the organization year-round, and rigorous training of all our staff. Though the COVID-19 pandemic presents additional challenges, our commitment to health and safety remains paramount.

We are dedicated to providing the best experience possible even in light of COVID-19. We used all of the current guidelines and regulations regarding 2020 summer camps from the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC), The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Camp Association (ACA) as the basis for our *2020 Indian Rock Summer Camp Implementation Plan*. This plan allowed us to successfully run 11 weeks of camp this summer and the same plan will followed for Fall for Indian Rock. The guidelines are designed to provide for a safe, educational, and fun experience for your child(ren).

Communication

Frequent communication will be essential this year to insure a successful, rewarding, and fun Fall for Indian Rock. We will be in regular contact with all our families. If you are not receiving emails for us please verify that the email address you entered at registration is current and check your spam folder to ensure that the emails are not ending up there. If you are still having issues receiving our emails please contact us at (860)583-1234 or email us at summercamp@elcct.org The basis for our communication plan includes the following:

- Rules and guidelines for participants to follow during their time at Fall for Indian Rock will be emailed to all parents of registered children prior to the start of the program.
- Parents and guardians will receive updates on the program along with relevant information regarding COVID-19.
- Communications with parents will be conducted remotely, during check in/out or outside while using masks and following physical distancing protocols. All buildings and program areas will be limited to participants and authorized staff to the extent possible.
- Relevant posters and signage from the CDC, World Health Organization (WHO), and/or other accredited health agencies will be posted in each of our buildings. Examples include: COVID-19 information, Handwashing, Cough Etiquette, Symptoms associated with COVID-19, Stop the spread of germs, and Physical distancing.

What will Physical Distancing look like at Fall for Indian Rock?

Group Size

- All groups sizes will be 16 or less children.
- All children within a group will be from the same school.
- We will arrange rooms and choose activities to facilitate maintaining social distancing.
- Participants will stay within their individual group for the entire day/week and will not intermix with other groups.
- Each group will be assigned to a specific indoor space for the duration of the week. These assigned spaces will be used for any indoor activities and in the event of inclement weather.

Drop-off and Pick-up

- Drop-off will be from 8:15-8:45 and pick-up will be from 3:45-4:15. When arriving all families will proceed straight ahead up to the check in location near the main building. Once a child has been screened (see screening section below) and checked-in they will go immediately to their assigned tent/room to be greeted by their counselors.
- At pick-up, the children will wait with their group and counselors in their assigned tent/room. Once they are signed-out they will proceed directly from their group to their vehicle to go home.
- Please make sure that whoever is picking-up your child has identification with them. We will ask at drop-off who will be picking up the child each day. If the person changes, please call the office so that we can update the pick-up information.
- Additional details regarding drop-off and pick-up will be emailed out to families prior to the first day of camp each week.

Late Drop-Off or Early Pick-Up

- If you arrive after 8:45 to drop-off your child, please drive to the main building, remain in your vehicle, and call the office at (860)583-1234. One of our staff will come out to complete your child's screening and check them in. Once they are checked-in they will be walked to their group's location.
- If you need to pick-up your child prior to 3:45 please let us know in the morning at drop-off or call as soon as possible to let us know. When you arrive please call the office at (860) 583-1234 and a staff member will come out to sign your child out.

Lunch/Breakfast

- Breakfast and Lunch will be provided by the district.
- Campers will remain within their groups for breakfast and lunch and will eat either in their classroom or enjoy a picnic style lunch outdoors on the preserve.

Inclement weather

- Fall for Indian Rock will remain open in the event of inclement weather.
- During light rain the groups will still be going outside, so be sure to send your child with clothing that is appropriate for the weather each day.
- If there is thunder and/or lightening, the campers will remain indoors in their assigned rooms and participate in indoor activities.

How is the health of campers and staff being monitored?

Pre-screening before Fall for Indian Rock begins

- Participant health forms will be reviewed to identify conditions that may put a child at higher risk. Parents of children identified as having conditions that put them at higher risk will be contacted to discuss if any additional precautionary measures as indicated by the child's health care provider.

Daily Screening to check for signs and symptoms upon arrival

- We will follow OEC guidelines as they pertain to screening of children each day when they arrive at Fall for Indian Rock.
- All staff and children will be required to be screened for any observable illness and COVID related symptoms, including cough or respiratory distress, and to confirm temperature below 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - Participants/Staff who have a temperature greater than 100 degrees will not be permitted into Fall for Indian Rock per Executive Order 7Q.
 - Participants and staff will be observed throughout day by their counselors/supervisory staff for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress.

Absences

- Parents will be required to call the office and report if their child will not be at Fall for Indian Rock on a certain day and state the reason why. If a child is absent and no call is received, we will contact the parent to find out why their child is absent.

Enhanced Health and Safety Procedures

In addition to implementing health and safety actions that are standard at Fall for Indian Rock, ELCCT will take the following additional steps this summer to insure the health and safety of participants, staff and parents:

Hand Washing

- The sinks in the restrooms and activity spaces will be used to facilitate frequent handwashing by all children and staff.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each room.

- Each group will be trained by their counselors on correct hand washing techniques and coughing etiquette the first day of each week.

Additional cleaning protocols being implemented this fall

- Deep cleaning and disinfecting of communal spaces, restrooms, and classrooms will occur daily at the end of the day after children have left.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of communal spaces and restrooms will occur frequently throughout the day and between groups as feasible.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day.

Masks

- All children and staff will wear protective face masks inside, and outside when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Please make sure to send your child with a mask every day.

Sharing of items such as toys, supplies and equipment

- Where feasible, equipment will be assigned to one or two children for the entire week and will be disinfected after use.
- Shared materials and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected after use and at the end of the day.

Staff Training

Training has always been an integral part of Environmental Learning Centers of CT. Staff training for Fall for Indian Rock will include training on the following COVID-related topics:

- Definition and examples of physical distancing
- Protocols to insure there will be no mixing of groups
- The use and care of PPE and when it should be used, including how to doff and don masks and gloves.
- Procedures to follow if a child or staff gets sick
- Procedures to follow if there is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.
- New scheduling and program procedures in place to enforce physical distancing and sanitation
- What materials should be used for proper sanitation and how to use them.

Plan for if a child or staff is suspected or confirmed of having COVID-19

Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut is experienced with responding to injuries and illnesses. As per our camp license from the State of Connecticut, we are required to have a Director of First Aid on site while the program is in session. Our Director of First Aid is a full-time employee of ELCCT whose sole responsibility during the summer/fall is to monitor health, administer and keep track of medications and respond to health issues. In the event of suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 we will:

- Immediately inform parents/legal guardians if their child(ren) are experiencing any symptoms.
- Immediately notify the State Department of Health, Office of Early Childhood, Bristol-Burlington Health District, and our on-call camp physician.
- Parents/legal guardians of other participants will be informed about any potential contact their children may have had with suspected or confirmed cases.
- Additional cleaning and disinfecting protocols as specified by the Office of Early Childhood will be implemented.

What role do parents play this fall?

We are in this together! We are on your team, dedicated to giving kids a healthy, fun experience this fall. We ask that all registered families be on board with the following:

- We ask that as much as possible, families continue to practice appropriate physical distancing. In order for us to stay open, we need families to limit their exposures as much as possible.
- We will all have new routines to learn. We will need parents to **read the information we send and comply with all policies and directions.** We can't do this without all of us on board to participate in communication. If you got this far in the FAQ, you can do this!

With everyone's cooperation this year's Fall for Indian Rock will provide a fun and safe fall to remember! If you have any further questions please call our office at (860)583-1234 or email us at summercamp@elcct.org.