

## **PARENTS' PRE-CAMP ORIENTATION INFORMATION**

Information for parents is included on the following pages. Please copy and share this information with your campers' parents so that they will be better able to prepare their children to attend camp.

Alternatively, you may write your own version of this information or you may edit this information as you see fit by downloading this document in Microsoft Word format on the Staff Only website.

## **PACKING GUIDELINES**

### **Label everything**

- Mark all clothing, shoes, luggage and other items with the camper's name.
- Label trash bags used for dirty clothes. Trash bags with dirty clothing can be confused with trash.

### **Helpful hints**

- Pack a daily change of clothing at the minimum.
- Clothes can get wet, so pack extra socks and underwear – more than you would normally need.
- Shorts and T-shirts are perfect. Sleeveless shirts and tank tops are allowed (but see the Dress Code).
- Pack older clothes that can get wet or muddy, not nice new clothes.
- Pack shorts that extend below mid-thigh for the high-ropes course.
- Blisters are a problem. Encourage campers to wear dry socks and shoes to prevent blisters.

### **About shoes**

- Comfortable shoes or sandals are a must. Don't take new shoes or sandals to camp.
- Closed-toe shoes are required for the high-ropes course.
- Comfortable sandals with heel straps or crocs are OK if the heel strap is worn on the heel.
- Pack shoes to keep dry (tennis shoes for running around, hiking, climbing, and other times).
- Pack shoes that can get wet (old shoes, water shoes or sturdy sandals with a heel strap).
- Flip flops and sandals that are just flip flops with a thin heel strap are not allowed.
- Footwear (not flip flops) is required when wading in the creek or playing in the waterfalls.

### **Dress Code**

Dress modestly. Campers who wear clothing deemed inappropriate by chaperones will be asked to change clothes. The general rule is dress modestly. Here are some guidelines:

- Revealing or immodest shorts, pants, sleep pants or boxer shorts worn on the outside aren't allowed.
- Underwear must be worn and must not be visible. Briefs, boxers and bras are underwear.
- Sagging is not allowed.
- Clothing with advertising that encourages breaking the 4-H Code of Conduct is not allowed.
- Girls tops must be modest. Halter tops, backless shirts, ripped T-shirts, one-shoulder tops, spaghetti straps, visible midriffs and other shirts or tops that are not modest won't be allowed.
- When swimming, girls should wear a one piece or a tankini. A bikini is not acceptable at camp.
- Girls may choose to wear a dark colored T-shirt cover-up, swim trunks or modest cut-offs.
- Boys swimsuits should be shorts, swim trunks, board shorts or cut-offs; not boxers or swim briefs.

### **What not to pack**

- No knives, Swiss Army knives, firearms, fireworks or any other dangerous items or weapons. Dangerous items will be confiscated and returned to parents on Friday.
- No jewelry or large amounts of money and no valuable electronics like iPads or smart phones. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- No personal food and snacks unless prearranged for dietary needs (no snacks in the cabins)
- No pressurized aerosol spray cans. Use pump sprayers for insect repellent or hair spray.
- No prescription medications kept with a child. Meds must be turned in to the 4-H leaders.
- No alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters or anything else that breaks the Georgia 4-H Code of Conduct

## WHAT TO PACK

### **Clothing & Gear**

- Shirts
- Shorts
- Underwear
- Socks
- Extra socks
- Swimsuit or swim trunks (cut-off jeans work well for the waterfalls)
- Jacket or sweatshirt (for cool mornings and nights)
- Rain jacket
- Sunglasses
- Eyeglasses or contacts
- Eyeglass case or contacts case and contacts cleaning supplies
- Hat

### **Footwear**

- Sandals (sturdy sandals or crocs with a heel strap) or old tennis shoes that can get wet
- Tennis shoes or other comfortable shoes that you keep dry

### **Bed & Bath**

- Sleeping bag (an inexpensive sleeping bag will work fine) or sheets & light blanket
- Pillow and pillow case (pillows are not provided)
- Towels (for showering and after swimming)
- Wash cloth and hand towels
- Laundry bag and trash bag for wet clothes. Be sure to label trash bags well

### **Toiletries**

- Shower caddy or basket, bag or shaving kit to carry supplies when walking to the bathhouse
- Soap and soap container
- Shampoo
- Toothbrush with protective holder
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Brush, comb and hair accessories
- Shaving supplies
- Feminine supplies
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent liquid, pump spray, cream or wipes (no pressurized aerosol spray cans)

### **Medications To Keep Separate**

Plan to turn in meds to your child's 4-H leader before departure from the county on Monday morning.

- Prescription medications in their correct and unexpired bottles or packages
- Over-the-counter medications in correct and unexpired bottles or packages
- A zip-lock bag labeled with the camper's name for their prescription and over the counter medication

## **Optional items**

- Hillbilly Costume for the Costume Party on Tuesday night
- Wallet or purse
- Money for the Canteen (crisp \$1 bills for drink machines; the machines don't take larger bills)
- Talent Show supplies such as sheet music, CD's, costumes, instruments or other props
- Disposable camera with your name on it (film, batteries and cameras are not sold in the Canteen)
- Writing paper, stamps and envelopes (these items are not sold at Wahsega)
- Flashlight (flashlights are allowed and will not be confiscated)

## **Reminders about packing for the week of camp**

- **PACK A PILLOW & SLEEPING BAG OR SHEETS AND BLANKET** – Pillows and sheets are not provided. Pack a pillow and sleeping bag or twin sheets and a blanket for the bunk beds.
- **PACK TOILETRIES** – Towels, washcloths, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant...
- **MONEY FOR THE CANTEEN** – We sell souvenirs, clothing and snacks in the Canteen. We only have caffeine-free soft drinks. Soft drinks are \$2 each. The drink machines only accept coins and \$1 bills.
- **PACK OLD CLOTHES & SHOES** – Pack old clothes and shoes that can get dirty. Pack sandals or shoes that you don't mind getting wet and will dry quickly.
- **PLAN TO WEAR SHOES OR SANDALS** – Only good sturdy sandals with a heel strap are allowed. To prevent injury, wear shoes that will stay on your feet and that won't come off in the waterfalls.
- **PACK BAGS TOGETHER WITH YOUR CHILD** – Work with your child to pack their bags and review everything in their bags so they know what clothing and personal items they have with them.
- **PACK SWIMWEAR ON TOP** – Campers may choose to be checked for swim ability after arrival on Monday, so their swimwear may be the first thing they need after they move in.
- **DON'T PACK AEROSOL SPRAY CANS** – Canned and pressurized aerosol insect repellent or hair spray is not allowed. Insect repellent must be in the form of lotion, wipes, or pump spray bottles.
- **FOLLOW THE DRESS CODE** – We will enforce the Code of Conduct and the Dress Code Guidelines.

## **Lost and Found**

We will attempt to return lost and found items while your child is still at camp. Campers can do more than anyone to ensure that nothing is lost. Please label all items with a permanent marker for easy identification.

Call us immediately if you discover that your child's belongings are missing. The more time that passes, the less likely it will be found. Lost and Found items are stored for 2 weeks and then donated to charity. Wahsega 4-H Center is not responsible for property that is lost, stolen, damaged or left behind. Please do not allow children to take expensive or valuable items to camp.

## **CAMP RULES**

Campers are responsible for themselves, their behavior and their property. They should realize that both emotional and physical aggression is cause for discipline. Campers may not exert force against anyone or harm them nor may they take or damage anyone's property including the 4-H center's property. The rules below are worded positively in order to advance a vision for what we want to happen.

1. Show respect to everyone – their body, their space, their property and their emotions.
2. Respect all the other living creatures including plants, snakes, wildlife.
3. You may pick up rocks and look at them, then place them back on the ground.
4. Wear shoes or sandals at all times except when swimming in the pond or showering.
5. Wear shoes or sandals while wading in the creek or playing in the waterfalls.
6. Sleep on your pillows rather than fight with them.
7. Store and eat food outside of the cabins. Food inside the cabin attracts ants and mice.
8. Be waiting at the Dining Hall when the KP bell rings if it's your turn to be on KP.
9. Stay within the boundaries of the 4-H center.
10. When the bell rings, hurry to where you are expected to be.
11. Leave chewing gum at home.
12. Only go into your own cabin rather than other people's cabins.
13. Keep your money with you rather than leaving it in your cabin.
14. Throw trash in trashcans including very tiny bits of trash.
15. Recycle plastic bottles, but throw the caps in the trash.
16. Keep up with soft drink bottles rather than leaving them lying around.
17. Dress modestly.
18. Leave electronic devices at home.
19. Coffee served in the dining hall is for adults only.
20. Phones are only for adult use.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

It's natural to be anxious about leaving home, adopting new routines, and meeting new friends. To minimize anxiety, here is some information to help you and your child know what to expect.

### **Expect typical old-fashioned summer camp cabins**

Each cabin is a single large room of bunk beds. Everyone sleeps in bunk beds and each camper has their own bed. Cabin groups will be competing for the "Clean Cabin Clover" award each day.

### **Expect bathhouses**

There are separate girls and boys bathhouses with separate individual shower and toilet stalls. Campers carry their toiletries to the bathhouse. A cabin group is assigned to clean the bathhouse each day.

### **Expect campers to serve on KP (Kitchen Patrol)**

KP is where campers are asked to set the tables, act as servers, clear the tables, dry silverware and bowls and mop and sweep the dining room. A Dining Hall staff member leads campers in KP.

### **Expect good food!**

We serve three meals per day cafeteria style. The menus for our meals are online. Please talk with your child about the importance of eating meals to keep their energy up and maintain good health.

### **Expect special service for special diets**

If campers have food allergies, observe religious dietary restrictions or have other special dietary needs, let your county 4-H leader know.

### **Expect campers to drink lots of water**

Please stress the importance of drinking lots of water to campers. The weather will be hot and we will be outside all day. Headaches, stomach aches and lack of energy are a sign of dehydration.

### **Expect campers to behave**

Each camper signs the 4-H Code of Conduct. Campers should understand the rules. Failure to adhere to the rules will result in disciplinary action.

### **Expect chaperones to discipline appropriately**

Georgia 4-H policy states that no corporal or physical punishment is allowed. We will correct minor misbehavior by having a child take an immediate time out or a time out during a fun activity.

### **Expect all camp program expenses to be covered**

There are no additional or optional activities that cost extra money. For example, there are no optional arts & crafts or optional water activities that cost extra money. Only snacks and souvenirs cost extra.

### **If you need to call the 4-H center, expect to talk to a staff member rather than your child**

Part of the experience of growing at camp is made possible through the extended time of independence that camp creates. To facilitate this growth, phone calls for campers are limited to a family emergency. Even then, you will speak to a staff member first to coordinate follow-up phone calls with your county 4-H leader or your child. An arranged phone call due to special family circumstances is possible.

### **Expect to leave a voicemail when calling after hours**

We check voicemail the first thing in the morning, after lunch and in the evenings before going home for the night. We will return calls or pick up the phone if it rings after hours if we are in the office. While the office phone is consistently covered during office hours, no one monitors the phone overnight. The voicemail greeting has special instructions for contacting someone on duty after hours if there is an emergency.

### **Expect county leaders to call you if there is a need**

An adult leader will call you if there are any concerns during camp regarding:

#### NON-DISCIPLINARY CONCERNS

- Luggage or personal items that are missing, lost, potentially stolen or left behind (parents have been known to drive off with sleeping bags still in the car!)
- An emergency or injury that results in a visit to the doctor or emergency room
- Serious illness that could result in a visit to a doctor
- Severe cases of homesickness that result in physical illness

#### DISCIPLINE

- Refusal to comply with the Georgia 4-H Code of Conduct
- Behavior that endangers other campers or staff
- A persistent pattern of recurring misbehavior
- A pattern of exhibiting physical, verbal or psychological bullying or instigating social drama that causes other campers to not enjoy camp

It is rare to send a child home from camp for misbehavior, but it does happen. We will work with you to help ensure your child's success at camp.

### **Expect to pay for damage to the facility**

The county 4-H leader will hold you responsible for intentional damage to equipment and facilities caused by a misbehaving child.

Also, occasionally, children cause minor unintentional damage for which you are responsible even though the damage was an accident. We will work with you to address incidents that result in damage fees whether they are intentional or unintentional.

### **Expect campers to smell springtime fresh on Friday morning**

Well, probably not! But at least ask them to shower a few times during the week of camp.

## **MORE EXPECTATIONS: EXPECT A HAPPY CAMPER**

Setting an expectation in your home well before camp starts that your child will be a “happy camper” is the first step in preventing your child from being overwhelmed by missing home.

### **Expect campers to be overjoyed to be back home... when camp is over!**

Please be very intentional about how you talk about the topic of missing home with your child. Think of the positive ideas you want your child to remember and then make comments that are positive. For example, if I say “Don’t run” the idea of “run” is what you remember even though that’s exactly the opposite of what I want. But if I say, “Please walk”, I communicate the idea I intend.

The same is true of a parent talking to their child about missing home. Most children will miss home some. That’s normal. However, it’s much easier for a camper to handle their feelings of missing home in a mature fashion if you make positive comments about the great experience they will have at camp. Your comments about camp greatly influence your child’s attitude at camp. Therefore, be intentional about how you discuss the subject.

### **Expect campers to work through their feelings at camp**

By pushing through feelings of missing home, campers learn a life skill and become more mature, confident and independent. They don’t do it alone: The county 4-H leaders, chaperones and Wahsega’s staff have been trained to handle these situations in constructive and loving ways. Counselors work to help campers overcome being overwhelmed by missing home by encouraging them to accept the feeling of missing family, friends and pets while continuing to make the most of being at camp.

WRITING CAMPERS IS A GREAT IDEA – Campers look forward to hearing from you while at camp. When writing, ask campers about camp and encourage them to be enthusiastic about the experience away from home. Be encouraging and fun. Use positive sentence constructions.

### **STRATEGIES TO HELP YOUR CHILD WORK THROUGH HOMESICKNESS**

- Reach an agreement with your child ahead of time to honor our no-phone-call policy.
- Don’t bribe. Linking a successful stay at camp to a material object sends the wrong message.
- Pack a personal item from home that promotes positive feelings of familiarity.
- Be confident about encouraging your child to stay at camp. For many children, camp is a first step toward independence and plays an important role in their growth and development.

HOMESICK CAMPERS STILL HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNED ACTIVITIES – Campers quickly get into the camp routine and don’t have any free time. Campers aren’t allowed to take naps during the day and everyone is expected to be present for all activities... even if they are missing home! Homesickness can lead to discipline problems for children who refuse to be where they are expected to be.

CALLING HOME IS THE LAST RESORT – If a camper is missing home so much that they are miserable, an adult leader will call you. If you agree to allow your child to call home, a time will be set to do so. Allowing the camper to call home usually makes matters worse, so that is not the first thing we’ll do. If you talk to your child, offer calm reassurance and put the short time frame of camp into perspective. Avoid the temptation to agree to come pick up your child early.



## **PREPARING YOURSELF & YOUR CHILD FOR CAMP**

### **1. What to say about camp ahead of time**

- Express excitement that your child is going to camp rather than worrying aloud about being lonely or depressed because your child is not home.
- Say sincere positive things about summer camp, 4-H and the adults involved.
- Say that you know that events will be fun and safe to make your child feel secure about camp.
- Talk about the positive opportunity to experience camp.
- Tell your child that you look forward to him or her being back home at the end of the week but that you hope they have a good time at camp.
- Discuss expected camp activities in detail, including departure for camp and arrival back at home at the end of the week.
- Rather than camp being a completely separated experience, talk about the week in the context of your family's life. Even though you aren't together for camp, it is part of what you are doing to give your child a great childhood.
- If you have gone to camp, call it a tradition in your family. If not, call it a new tradition!
- Encourage children by explaining that missing home is OK but that it shouldn't stop them from participating in activities and meeting new people.
- Tell your child that most campers are a little anxious about camp at first and that they have to work at being at camp with a positive attitude.

### **2. One week prior to camp**

- Be enthusiastic about camp. Again, say positive things about the opportunity to go to camp.
- Label each item your camper will take to camp and work with them to pack appropriate clothing.
- Start packing well before the night before camp.
- Work with your pharmacist to get original containers for medications. No expired, unmarked or hand-written labels on prescription medication bottles.
- Check the dates, times and location of drop-off and pick-up.

### **3. The night before**

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep at home.
- Make a final check of your child's luggage.
- To help your child have a positive attitude, make more positive comments about camp.

### **4. On Monday morning**

- Plan to give the county 4-H leader your child's medication.
- Arrive at the departure location ahead of time.

### **5. Plan to pick-up on time on Friday**

- Double check the pick-up time and location for Friday.

## **MEALS AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

### **Tell campers about cabins & bathhouses**

Please encourage your child to shower, use deodorant, change clothing daily and go to bed and sleep at scheduled times. Otherwise, they will not feel like participating in daytime activities. There are no naps in the schedule and everyone is expected to be present for all activities.

**CABINS** – Campers, Teen Leaders and chaperones stay in cabins with a large room of bunk beds. Everyone sleeps in bunk beds and all campers have their own bed. Also, they will be competing for the “Clean Cabin Clover” award given each day to the cleanest cabin.

**BATHHOUSES** – There is a girl’s bathhouse and a boy’s bathhouse. Campers carry their toiletries, towel and change of clothes to the bathhouse for daily grooming. There are separate shower stalls in the bathhouses. Campers need to expect to keep up with their belongings and not leave them in the bathhouse.

### **Cleaning and housekeeping**

Campers are expected to clean the cabin each morning, including making beds, putting away clothing and sweeping the cabin. 4-H’ers will take turns cleaning the bathhouse. They will also participate in KP duty with other campers at least once during the week. While on KP, they set tables, act as servers, clear the tables, dry silverware and, finally, mop and sweep the dining area.

### **Meal service**

**MENUS** – Wahsega serves three meals per day cafeteria style. The menus are available online at [wahsega4h.org](http://www.wahsega4h.org) under the Food Service section here:

[http://www.wahsega4h.org/food\\_service/summer\\_camp\\_menu.html](http://www.wahsega4h.org/food_service/summer_camp_menu.html)

**SPECIAL DIETS** – If your child is allergic to any foods or requires a special diet, arrangements can be made but please let the county 4-H leader know immediately so we can communicate your child’s needs to the camp.

**EATING HEALTHY** – Talk with your child about the importance of eating meals rather than junk food. Eating meals keeps you healthy but eating too much junk food can lead to feeling sick.

**AVOIDING DEHYDRATION** – Stress to your child the importance of drinking lots of water. It will be hot and we will be outside all day. It is easy for your child to become dehydrated and get a headache or feel ill if they are not properly hydrated.

## **SENDING AND RECEIVING MAIL**

### **Mail sent to campers during camp**

Parents, friends and loved ones may send letters during the week of camp to Wahsega's address under the camper's name and county like this:

*Camper's name*

*Camper's county*

Wahsega 4-H Center

77 Cloverleaf Trail

Dahlonega, GA 30533

Please put letters in the mail the week before camp starts. Please do not send food.

### **Write encouraging letters**

- If you choose to send a letter or email to your child while they are at camp, ask about camp activities, counselors, special programs and friends.
- Set a positive and encouraging tone in your letter.
- Express your confidence in the camper's maturity and ability to be away from home.
- Tell them that the adults and counselors are there to assist them if they should need anything.

### **Sending mail home from camp**

Campers may send mail home while they are at camp. Stamps and stationery are not available for purchase and email is not an option. A mailbox near the Bell Tower is available for sending mail.

### **Writing counselors after camp**

Youth may write counselors after camp. Campers may send letters to the address listed above under a counselor's name or even a counselor's nickname. Campers may also use the counselors' home addresses if they have them or we can forward mail to the counselors if summer camp is over.

## **CHAPERONES & STAFF**

### **Chaperones & supervision of campers**

Children are well supervised: In the cabins, in classes, at mealtime, during recreation times and all the times in between. Supervision is always provided by Extension staff and volunteers serving as chaperones. Chaperones staying overnight have been screened by a formal background investigation, trained by Extension staff and have fulfilled requirements to be Certified 4-H Overnight Chaperones.

### **Parents serving as chaperones**

Parents attending camp as chaperones do not have to be in the same groups with their child. However, to be in a Family Group with a particular child, adults should be in line with that child during check-in. If a parent or other chaperone needs to be with a child all day every day for any reason, we can notify the 4-H center and make sure that the child and adult have matching assignments.

### **Tour of camp and check-in for adults**

All adults from the county staying overnight must go on the tour with the campers upon arrival and then check in to get their nametag. It is more important to go on the tour than it is to start unloading luggage. That can wait until after adults in charge of luggage have gone on the tour and checked in. All adults check in at the Rec Hall so that the 4-H center will have a record of everyone in attendance and a correct meal count.

### **4-H summer camp counselors**

All Georgia 4-H Summer Camp Counselors are hired for their first summer by a Selection Committee that interviews candidates from all over Georgia each January. The candidates are usually active 4-H'ers in their senior year of high school. Counselors serve subsequent summers as college students after having been hired back by the State 4-H Summer Camp Program Coordinator and the 4-H Center where they are assigned to work.

The Selection Committee that hires counselors is made up of former 4-H'ers and friends of Georgia 4-H. Furthermore, counselors are screened by a formal background investigation, trained by 4-H staff at the 4-H center and certified to work with youth by the Georgia 4-H Program. They have all completed First Aid and CPR training and lifeguard training. In addition, they have extensive training in the use of the safety equipment used for the high-ropes elements.

### **Other 4-H center staff members**

Campers typically will get to know other members of the 4-H center staff. Dining hall staff will instruct campers in how to complete their duties when serving on KP and will interact with campers in the dining hall. The Center Director and Program Coordinator may also be around during some programs. All full-time and part-time staff members at the 4-H center have passed a background investigation and most have worked at the center for many years.

## **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

### **Contact information**

In the case of a dire emergency, please call the Extension office during office hours. After office hours, the emergency number to call is the Lumpkin County 911 Center at 706-864-3633.

### **Medication at camp**

If your child is taking prescription medication during camp, complete a Medication Summary form for the county 4-H office, which describes the medication, storage procedures, time and amount of dose. It's very important that we know if your child takes prescription medication for allergies, ADD, ADHD, asthma or anything else. These medications affect behavior and we want to make sure they get their medication on time daily.

The 4-H office has to have approval to give your child over-the-counter medication as well as prescription medication, so OTC medication needs to be on the Medication Summary as well.

### **Insurance information**

You must have completed the Medical Information and Release Form and a 4-H Code of Conduct Form. These forms will be with us while traveling to and from camp. In case of an emergency, your child will be taken to the hospital in Dahlonega. You will be notified if your child is taken to the hospital. Your child is partially covered with health insurance during the week of camp for any incident that happens at camp.

### **When parents need to call**

Parents should expect to:

- Have messages delivered on the same day that you call.
- Leave a voice mail if you are calling Wahsega after business hours.
- Call the county Extension office to find out if the county has arrived safely at camp.
- Call the county Extension office to check on their child or talk to their child during the week.
- Keep their child's cell phone at home.

### **The 4-H center location**

Wahsega 4-H Center is 12 miles north of Dahlonega on Forest Rd. 28 one mile from Camp Wahsega Rd. and the entrance to Camp Frank D. Merrill, the Army Ranger Training School. The 4-H center is in a valley shared by Ward Creek on property owned by UGA in the Chattahoochee National Forest in the North Georgia Mountains.

### **Visiting the center & driving directions**

To get directions, browse to the Maps page on the Wahsega website or call us. Please note that directions given by a GPS device, maps app or Google Maps are not good sources of directions. You will need to notify the Extension Office in your county before the week of camp if you plan to visit.

## ACTIVITIES AT CAMP

### **General camp program activities**

NIGHT RECREATION – Many activities are available during Night Rec including:

- *Canteen* – Campers can purchase souvenirs and snacks during the first 30 minutes of Night Rec. The soft drink vending machines are available 24 hours a day.
- *Rec Hall* – Dances and crazy games are a tradition at 4-H camp.
- *Arts & Crafts* – Craft activities will be available in the classroom.
- *Outdoor sports* – Basketballs, volleyballs, Frisbees and footballs are available.
- *Camp Head* – Camp Head is an activity at Pavilion 4 for campers who wish to get a crazy hair style.
- *Board games* – There will also be a selection of popular board games available during Night Rec.

TALENT SHOW – Hey! If you have talent, show off your talents at the Talent Show. Dancers, singers, actors, piano players or campers with any other talents are encouraged to sign up.

HILLBILLY COSTUME CONTEST – Campers are invited to dress up in a Hillbilly Costume for the Talent Show. Following the show, the Lead Counselor will award a prize worth \$5 in the Canteen to the camper wearing the best costume.

MONDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE – On Monday night the campers will have a chance to attend a campfire with their Family Group and make S'mores.

SWIMMING & WATERFALLS – During swim times at Wahsega, campers can swim in the pond or slide down the waterfalls.

HILLBILLY GAMES – A hot afternoon, 200 kids, a bunch of crazy games and lots of fun and water.

MORNING FAMILY MEETINGS – Start the day with an overview of what's happening that day. A special visitor may drop by, too.

4-H ASSEMBLIES – What's 4-H all about? Recognition of active 4-H'ers and skits gives campers a look at what else 4-H has to offer.

THURSDAY NIGHT SLIDE SHOW – The slide show on Thursday night is a nice event where campers re-live the week of camp.

THURSDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE – The big finale for the week is the Thursday Night Campfire. The Lead Agent may request a night of funny stories and games mixed with mild ghost stories or just fun and games with no ghost stories.

**Animal Group Rotations** (Classes. All campers have the opportunity to take all 5 classes.)

*EACH OF THESE FOUR CLASSES WILL BE TAUGHT*

LOW ROPES CHALLENGE COURSE – These are challenges designed to turn a group of kids into a thinking team. The low-ropes course has structures designed and built for the purpose of developing a team into an efficient and trusting group.

ARCHERY – An introduction to archery. Learn about the gear, shooting techniques and following competition-style commands. Campers have many opportunities to shoot bows and arrows during the class.

STREAM ECOLOGY with GOLD PANNING – Campers learn about the wildlife habitat in the creek at Wahsega. Then we celebrate the history of the Gold Rush in Georgia by giving campers a chance to pan for gold. We purchase unprocessed gold ore (it looks like sand) from a local gold mine. The campers then pan for gold using the ore. Any gold they find they get to keep in small vials that we will give to them.

HERPETOLOGY and FOREST ECOLOGY – Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians. In this class, campers may touch and hold non-venomous snakes in our Herp Lab and turtles at our outdoor habitat called Turtle-topia. Then kids are introduced to forest ecology on a hike on the trails that loop away from the 4-H center and into the Chattahoochee National Forest. While hiking, campers are introduced to wildlife habitats near the trails.

ONE OF THESE CLASSES WILL ALSO BE TAUGHT FOR A TOTAL OF FIVE CLASSES

OUTDOOR SURVIVAL – Outdoor survival is a class that gives campers the opportunity to practice good judgment in a crisis. In addition, campers are taught to survive overnight in the wilderness with few supplies.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE – Counselors teach the campers to throw a Frisbee and let them practice their skills. Then two teams go at it with rules similar to soccer. Youth at any level of skill or athletic ability have fun playing this game.

LINE DANCING – No standing against the wall in this class! Using popular songs and old favorites, a counselor teaches a variety of line dances to campers.

**Family Group Rotations** (High-ropes Challenge Course & Tubing. All campers will do all activities.)

CLIMBING WALL – Wearing a harness attached to a rope and belay system, campers face the daunting challenge of climbing a 35-foot wooden wall with nothing to hold on to but tiny, rocky handholds attached to the wall.

ZIP-LINE – Climb the pole. Jump. Zip! It's easy. Campers wearing a harness attached to a belay system are transferred to the Zip-line by a counselor stationed on a platform at the top of the pole.

FLYING SQUIRREL – The camper is the squirrel. Hooked to a rope at their back, campers are lofted 45 feet in the air by a team of other campers pulling the rope. Counselors check safety harnesses and provide direction to the squirrel and belay team.

TUBING – A Wahsega favorite! Campers take a bus to a local river. Tubes and life vests are provided. If tubing is rained out, we go to the Crisson Gold Mine to try panning for gold or to the Dahlonega Gold Museum on the downtown square.

SPORTS AND RECREATION – While some campers are participating in the high-ropes challenges, others will be waiting. Instead of just sitting there, they will have the opportunity to participate in indoor and outdoor sports and recreation activities lead by one of our summer camp counselors.