

DAILY SCHEDULE - WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

7:00	Reveille
7:30	Flag Circle
7:45-8:15	Breakfast
8:15-8:55	Clean up cabin and finish chores
8:55	Bell for 1 st Session
9:00-10:20	1 st Session
10:20	Bell for 2 nd Session
10:35-11:55	2 nd Session
11:55	Bell for Lunch
12:00	Flag Circle
12:15-12:55	Lunch
12:55-1:55	Rest /Siesta
1:55	Bell for 3 rd Session
2:00-3:20	3 rd Session
3:20	Bell for Canteen
3:20-3:55	Canteen
4:00-5:00	Recreation Hour
5:00	Bell for Shower Hour
5:00-6:00	Shower Hour and Cabin Time
6:00	Bell for Dinner
6:10-6:20	Flag Circle
6:20-7:00	Dinner
7:30-9:00	Evening Program
9:00-9:40	Cabin Time, Get Ready for bed or night ride
9:45	Lights out in Circle 1, followed by lights out in Circle 2
10:15-11:30	Senior Break
11:30	Senior Break Ends

50 WAYS TO SAY “VERY GOOD, WELL DONE”

Specific feedback about what a child has done well will help improve his or her performance the most. When giving praise, remember to be specific and be encouraging. For example: “Super, _____, you held your breath for 2 seconds.”

1. Note: Always try to remember to use the name of the Camper, Volunteer, or Counselor.
2. _____, you’re doing a good job!
3. You did a lot of work today, _____.
4. Now you’ve figured it out.
5. That’s RIGHT!
6. Now you have the hang of it!
7. You did it great that time!
8. FANTASTIC!
9. TERRIFIC!
10. Good for you.
11. GOOD WORK!
12. That’s better.
13. EXCELLENT!
14. That’s a good boy (girl).
15. That’s the best you have ever done.
16. Good going!
17. Keep it up!
18. That’s really nice.
19. Keep up the good work.
20. Much better!
21. Good for you!
22. SUPER!
23. Nice going.
24. You make it look easy.
25. Way to go!
26. You’re getting better every day.
28. I knew you could do it.
29. Keep working on it...you’re getting better
30. You’re really working hard today.
31. That’s the way to do it.
32. Keep on trying.
33. You’re very good at that.
34. You are learning fast.
35. You certainly did well today.
36. You’ve just about got it.
37. I’m happy to see you working like that!
38. I’m proud of the way you worked today.
39. That’s the right way to do it.
40. MARVELOUS!
41. Now you’ve figured it out.
42. PERFECT!
43. You figured that out fast.
44. You’re really improving.
45. I think you’ve got it now.
46. You’ve done a great job, _____
47. Congratulations! You’ve got it right.
48. You can be proud for not giving up.
49. You can be proud for doing so well.
50. You’ve gotten the hardest part right.

Summary: Everyone likes to hear the sound of their own names. So remember to use the name often of campers, volunteers, and counselors
BE POSITIVE. BE AFFIRMING. BE AN ENCOURAGER. BE ATTENTIVE, A GOOD LISTENER. GO THAT EXTRA MILE. YOU CAN DO IT!

CABIN DEPARTURE GUIDELINES

Dear Volunteers and others to whom this applies:

Surprise! Surprise! Due to managements Budget Cuts.....Camp lost in-house Maid Service!!!
(We hope you don't believe we ever had one.)

We are depending on each of you to help us get ready for next week's volunteer crew. You can do your part by:

1. Cleaning your refrigerator and refilling the ice cube trays. PLEASE don't leave food or beverages.
2. Return cups, glasses, and whatever else back to the kitchen before Friday's dinner. We have to pay for what we lose!!!
3. Return anything that you borrowed by Saturday morning. Tell us if something is not working; otherwise it could easily get packed broken at the end of camp.
4. Last week of Camp: Camp resources such as library books are to be returned by Friday night. Ask the Camp Chairman for direction. All books are not stored at camp.
5. Any bedspreads, mattress pads, bath mats, etc. borrowed from camp and needing washing should be brought to the office before you leave. All bedding and small rugs must be brought to the office at the end of the last week of camp.
6. Bathrooms must be cleaned every week including toilets, showers and lavatories, and don't forget medicine cabinets. Janitorial supplies may be obtained from the office. Leave your cabin supplied. Ask at the office for toilet paper, paper towels and light bulbs.
7. Sweep steps, porch, and inside cabin. Empty trash cans and replace plastic trash bags.

Return all borrowed supplies such as hammers, clipboards, etc. Nature materials are returned to the Nature Hut. Craft supplies go to the Craft Staff for packing.

The Park Service cleaned and prepared camp for our arrival. It is our responsibility to leave camp clean and "better than we found it" condition. Every building is inspected by Park Staff at the end of camp. Closing staff counts every pencil, pen, and band-aid. Linens and floors must be washed. Everything belonging to camp gets inventoried and packed. How we leave our belongings is how we find them next year.

We know you are anxious to get on the road, but let's leave camp the way we would like to have it when we arrive next year.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS. YOU ARE APPRECIATEDD!

AL0914

CONSERVATION PLEDGE

**I give my pledge as an American,
To save and faithfully defend from waste
The natural resources of my country**

Its AIR – SOIL – and MINERALS

Its FOREST – WATERS and WILDLIFE

EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

IMPORTANT: In the event of an emergency in the youth camp area, the first number to call is: **407-886-3411**. Put this number in your cell phone to have it handy. When calling from the camp phone in the office, you must dial “9” first. If there is no response at that number, call **911**.

These plans have been formulated to provide a systematic accountability of all campers, volunteers, and counselors in the event of an emergency. An emergency could be a wildfire, building fire, lost camper, severe weather, personal injury or any other situation where everyone in camp needs to be notified and verified.

- In the event of an emergency, the park manager or his assistant will be notified. A siren from a park vehicle will be sounded for five minutes.
- At the sound of the siren, all activities stop. Volunteers close down the activity areas and go directly to the Craft Hall.
- If someone cannot be verified, the Ranger Station will be notified and given a complete description of the person, what they are wearing, and the location where they were last seen.
- Proper action will take place accordingly.
- To ensure proper head counts, anyone leaving camp must sign out and leave your cell phone number.
- In the event of an accident or emergency that might result in media attention, the only people who are to speak with the media are: the Camp Chairman, The Camp Director, or a designated camp representative. Counselors, other paid staff, volunteers, and campers are not to discuss events with the media.

Strangers: Because Wekiva Youth Camp is in a state park with public trails and a nearby campground, we often get people in the youth camp area who are not part of our camp. A good clue is they will not be wearing one of our nametags. Usually they are just lost or have come to see what we are all about. Should this happen, report it immediately to a Counselor, or Camp Staff.

Lightning: Summer lightning storms can come up quickly and violently. We have a lightning detector in the office and we monitor the weather. If we don't get word to you, then observe the sky yourself if it appears to be menacing. At the first sign of lightning, very dark sky, gusts of strong wind, or thunder, move the campers to the closest indoor area and wait for further instructions. If you are at the Springs, go to the bathroom area and wait there until the storm passes. If lightning occurs during a time when scheduled activities are going on, we will keep you in a safe location until the storm passes. Please remain where you are until you hear the all clear message.

AL0914

FFGC WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As a Counselor or Volunteer, you are a crucial part of the Wekiva Youth Camp (WYC) community. These Policies and Procedures have been designed to provide you with the perspectives and knowledge you need to be an effective member of the Wekiva Youth Camp staff. The success of the camp depends on the strength of each of you in your unique roles. Wekiva Youth Camp is primarily a nature camp and strives to make our campers good stewards of the earth. These Policies and Procedures contain information you need to do your job well. Please read this from beginning to end before camp starts and refer to it throughout your stay at camp.

Wekiva Youth Camp abides by all rules and regulations of Wekiwa Springs State Park.

1. All Plants and animal life is protected.
2. Drug and alcohol possession and use are not allowed.
3. Aluminum cans are recycled in the containers provided.
4. No form of vandalism will be tolerated.
5. No smoking is allowed at Wekiva Youth Camp.
6. Food and sodas are not allowed in camper sites.

The following is the mission and/or curriculum of Wekiva Youth Camp.

1. Wekiva Youth Camp specializes in environmental education and conservation.
2. Boys and girls who have completed grades three through eight by the end of the current school year may attend WYC.
3. Special programs are offered for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade youngsters. These programs are limited to carefully screened and recommended previous WYC campers.
4. A mini-camp experience (three days, two nights) is offered to youngsters completing 1st and 2nd grades. "Critter Camp" is limited in attendance numbers determined by the Camp Chairman.
5. The curriculum for all campers includes crafts, swimming, and nature classes. Other activities are included as determined by the Camp Director.
6. Camp fees are determined by the Camp Committee and approved by the FFGC Board of Directors.

It is the goal of Wekiva Youth Camp to provide a safe and enjoyable nature camp experience.

1. Campers will use a buddy system.
2. Any actions or words are prohibited which would jeopardize a camper's physical or emotional safety.
3. Camper cabins and/or camper groups are never to be left unsupervised.
4. All campers and counselors are expected to actively participate in all camp activities and camp wide programs.
6. No pranks, initiations, hazing or cabin raids will be tolerated.
7. No radios, weapons (including scout knives), electronic games or electronic devices, such as cell phones, snacks or food are permitted in the campers' cabins. Any of these items brought to camp will be held by the office staff for safekeeping and then returned. Canteen time is allowed every day. Campers may have a sweet and a drink.
8. Volunteer cabins are off limits to campers and counselors AND camper cabins are off limits to volunteers.
9. The kitchen area is off limits to volunteers and counseling staff.

Wekiva Youth Camp is a private camp and registers all campers and staff.

1. Visitors may be on the campus only with the permission of the Camp Director or the Camp Chairman.

2. Anyone on the campgrounds who is not registered with the camp or a Park employee should be reported to the Director immediately.
3. All personnel must have permission to leave camp and must sign out and in.

Wekiva Youth Camp Staff will serve as positive role models for the campers.

1. Professional dress is expected at all times. The attire for opening and closing camp is a Staff shirt with white or kaki shorts or slacks. Bathing suits must be modest. Only one piece bathing suits are allowed. Socks and closed-toed shoes will worn at all times except in the pool area. Crocs are acceptable if worn with socks, although socks are not required in the pool area.
2. As a symbol of respect, volunteers enter the dining hall and are served first.
3. Hats are removed for flag ceremonies and in the dining hall.
4. Counselors dine with their cabin group to provide a positive atmosphere in the dining hall.
5. Counselors will sit with their cabin groups during evening programs.
6. Counselors and staff will monitor their conversations to ensure that no inappropriate language is used in the presence of campers.

Wekiva Youth Camp has extensive aquatics activities.

1. All aquatic activities including canoeing must have the knowledge and approval of the Aquatics Director.
2. The Aquatic Director will decide the appropriate safety requirements.
3. Campers will not swim in the pool or Wekiwa Springs without an assigned lifeguard on duty.
4. Counselors and/or staff swimming in Wekiwa Springs during break time will not be considered a Youth Camp activity.
5. The pool is **off limits** unless supervised by the Aquatics Program Director.

Wekiva Youth Camp will have a Camp Nurse on Staff

1. All campers, counselors, and other staff members will have a health form on file.
2. All campers will check in with the Camp Nurse during registration.
3. All medications are to be left with the Camp Nurse and will be dispersed appropriately.
4. No campers or counselors will be excused from participation in any camp activity because of illness without the approval of the Camp Nurse. Campers or counselors are not permitted to stay in a cabin during a scheduled activity because of illness without the Camp Nurse's permission.
5. Homesickness is not a reason to go home except in cases where working with the camper has not been productive.
6. Rest is important! Everyone is expected to be in bed at the time decided by the Camp Director. Everyone is expected to rest during "quiet time," the hour following lunch. Campers may read or write letters during quiet time.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Wekiva Youth Camp Experience!

FLAGS

FLAG CEREMONY

The flag of the United States of America is a living symbol that calls to our spirit, reminding us of the greatness of our country. We cherish and uphold the flag because it is a symbol of the standard of honor which live.

We view the flag with devotion, for it represents our national heritage of noble deeds, splendid accomplishments, and untold sacrifices which combined to establish the moral character of our national foundation. The flag is a symbol that merges the past with the present and makes the present a prophecy for the future while signifying a people dedicated to liberty, justice and freedom for all.

The Flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily, it should only be displayed between sunrise and sunset and should be illuminated if displayed at night.

The Flag is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered until the flag is unhooked from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is longer.

Raising the Flag

1. All cabin groups gather quietly around the flag pole before the ceremony. The cabin performing the ceremony gets the flags from the camp office.
2. As flag bearers approach the ceremony area, all campers are to be silent and respectful with hats removed.
3. As the flag is raised, everyone places their right hand over their heart.
4. After the flags (USA and Conservation) are raised, everyone keeps their hand over their heart to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The hand may be lowered for the Conservation Pledge. The cabin in charge of the ceremony leads the pledges.

Retiring the Flag

1. Everyone gathers quietly around the flagpole at the appropriate time.
2. Flag bearers approach the flag pole and everyone else remains silent and respectful (with hats removed).
3. Everyone places their right hand over their heart as the flag is slowly lowered and keeps their hand in place until the last flag is unclipped. There may be accompanying music.

4. Everyone remains silent until the flags are folded and bearers retreat. The flags must never touch the ground.

Special instructions for flying the flag at half mast

1. The flag is raised to the top of the flagpole and then lowered to half mast.
2. When lowering a flag that has been at half mast, raise the flag first to the top and then slowly lower as usual.

Folding the Flag (requires two persons)

1. Fold the flag first lengthwise in half and then in half again. The blue field of stars (the flag's union) should be showing (facing up) and held securely.
2. The remaining person begins to fold the flag in a triangle, maintaining a tight fold until reaching the end. This completes the folding of the flag.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

The Pledge of Allegiance should be rendered while standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting (with right hand over heart).

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The Ecology Flag

The Ecology Flag was patterned after the Flag of the United States and has thirteen stripes alternating green and white. Its canton is green with a yellow Theta because of its historic use as a warning symbol. Theta has since become associated with Earth Day.

The color green symbolizes unspoiled land.

The white symbolizes the need for pure air.

The Greek Theta in the canon signifies death and serves as a warning to remind us of what will happen if we do not protect the earth and its resources.

The Conservation Pledge

"I give my pledge as an American, to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country – its air, soil, and minerals, its forest, waters, and wildlife.

AL0914

FRIDAY NIGHT CEREMONY

The Friday night ceremony commences with fun awards. Staff wears their staff shirts to demonstrate the importance of this particular evening program. Volunteers may wear any regular or camp shirt they wish, as long as it meets the dress code. We thank and say goodbye to all the volunteers, and awards are given to individual campers and cabins. The evening culminates with some very old and moving traditions.

Awards: Dog tags are given to one cabin in each circle with the most points earned during the week. Each year the dog tags are unique, giving the campers an incentive to try to earn them each year. These represent not only that the cabin has earned the most points throughout the week, but also that they have bonded in fellowship as a cabin.

Iwahelaya: After all the awards are given out, the ceremony takes a more somber tone. An older volunteer, or someone who has been coming to camp for several years, comes to the front with a special book and recounts the history of camp. Campers who are returning are invited to sign the book, as the year they first attended camp is called. **Only those who have been to camp before are allowed to sign.** Some volunteers have been coming for more than thirty years, and it is always touching to watch them walk to the front and sign yet again. This is the one tradition that dates back to the start of camp – over 40 years ago. During the book signing, counselors come to the front and sing slower songs that have been reserved specifically for this occasion. What does Iwahelaya mean? If this is your first year at camp, you will have to wait until next year to find out.

Candle Lighting: After all returners have signed the book and Friday night songs wrap up, the camp moves to the flag pole where each camper, staff, and volunteer is given a candle. (If it is raining or thundering, the ceremony may be conducted in the Craft Hall.) Each cabin is called and the Counselors come forward to announce the environmental pledge their cabin has made to help preserve our environment. They light their candles and return to their cabin group and proceed to light all the campers' candles. This continues through all the cabins and volunteers until every person in camp is holding a lit candle. All candles are extinguished at once and placed back in the plastic bags.

Special Meeting: When the candles are blown out, cabins are dismissed to their respective circles for a campfire. Volunteers will be asked to meet in the Dining Hall for a special meeting. The highlight is an ice cream social as a thank you to the volunteers.

GENERAL DAILY INFORMATION

Sign-Out Sheet: (Important)

Any time you leave the Youth Camp for any reason (including going to the Springs), please sign out. There is a sign-out/sign-in sheet in the front office on the table. Please make this a habit so we know where you are in case of an emergency.

Meals: After the flag ceremony volunteers will be permitted to go into the dining hall before the campers. Volunteers sit at the long tables at the back of the dining hall, in no particular order. Dinner is buffet style where counselors serve the campers, but everyone will be given guidelines on how much to take of each item. This is set by the kitchen staff to be sure there is enough food. Seconds are available after all the camper tables have gone through the buffet line and before the second bell. There is usually a table at the front of the dining hall with salads and other foods that are not routinely served to the campers. You may help yourself there at any time.

Please refrain from talking or showing any preference to your child/grandchild in the dining hall or anywhere else. You may say something to the entire cabin as long as it does not single out your youngster. Other campers should not know you have a child/grandchild present.

Singing/Songs: Singing after meals is a long standing tradition at Wekiva. Songs have been passed down for generations and campers and counselors alike have their favorites. Singing is a great way to promote camp spirit and encourage camaraderie. You may want to stay and listen to a few songs.

Rest Hour/Siesta: Rest hour (12:55) is quiet time. Campers go to their cabins. This is free time for you so you may rest or go to the springs. Just be sure to be at the appropriate session at 2:00 p.m. and sign out and back in.

Point System: Campers earn points throughout the week for their cabin for such things as perfect inspection, arriving to sessions on time, and going above and beyond to be helpful. Cabins are awarded a first, second, and third place flag at the flagpole before lunch. Points are added up at the end of the week and the cabin with the most points will be awarded dog tags.

Inspection and Chores: Inspection is conducted by the Circle Leaders each morning during 1st session. After breakfast, campers go back to their cabins to clean the cabin and complete morning chores e.g. bathrooms in an effort to earn perfect inspection. Other chores may need to be completed during other parts of the day e.g. craft hall, dining hall, office, etc. There is a weekly chore list in each building.

Canteen: Canteen occurs every day after third session 3:20. Volunteers may pay for their canteen items each day. Each item is \$0.75 and we ask that you follow the same rules that the campers follow. Two items each day; one has to be a liquid.

Hikes/Bicycles: The state park is a phenomenal resource and an excellent place to see and explore the Florida nature and wildlife. When you hike during your free time, let someone know where you are going and carry your cell phone. A few bicycles might be available for volunteers; campers are not permitted to use bicycles.

Name tags: Name tags are to worn by EVERYONE AT ALL TIMES. NO EXCEPTIONS! This includes campers, counselors, staff and volunteers. If you see a person in camp without a name tag, let a counselor or the director know. Try to bring you name tag back next year to save money and time.

Lost and Found: The lost and found table is usually located just outside the dining hall on the porch.

AL0914

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CAMP

Wekiva Youth Camp is a non-profit, self-supporting residential camp sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. Our focus is on the study and appreciation of NATURE and CONSERVATION. We combine that with LOTS OF FUN and activities that promote confidence building, sportsmanship, self-reliance and a spirit of teamwork. Our campers, staff and volunteers develop friendships, and the “Wekiva Experience” keeps everyone coming back year after year. Our thirteen cabins with their Native-American names evoke our precious native Florida heritage. Each cabin houses eight campers and two counselors. Our infirmary is open 24 hours, and is staffed by licensed and certified healthcare professionals. Emergency care is a short distance from camp. Wekiva Youth Camp is located in Wekiwa Springs State Park in Apopka.

Volunteers come from our Garden Clubs around the state to lead and facilitate our classes, activities and programs. Our Counselors are carefully chosen, as is our Aquatic Staff. The Camp Director and Assistant Director are highly qualified. We have a Food Service Staff who provides delicious and nutritious food during camp sessions. A Camp Chairman and Vice Chairman represent the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, and help the Director and Staff to oversee the operations of the camp.

Campers enjoy Swimming, Canoeing, Nature and Crafts Lessons, Field Sports, Games, Talent/Skit Nights, Speakers, Wildlife Programs, Hiking, Tree Identification, Leadership Skills, Campfires and S’mores. We offer six one-week sessions during the summer with 104 campers per week.

C:\handouts inserts General Information
AL0914

HEALTHCARE AND THE CLINIC

Volunteers may visit the clinic at any time they feel necessary. The nurse is available 24 hours a day. If you feel a camper needs to visit the clinic, tell their counselor that you are concerned about that camper and the counselor will take the camper to the clinic. Volunteers are not to accompany campers to the clinic.

Reasons to visit the clinic:

- Any serious injury or anytime an injury is suspected
- Bleeding, bad bruising, and other painful injuries
- Any animal or bug bites (Always note the source of the bite, e.g. insect vs spider)
- Painful, numerous, or swelling due to bug bites
- Tick bites – even if the tick is not embedded **(Never remove a tick yourself.)**
- Splinters **(Never remove a splinter yourself.)**
- Any allergic reaction to anything
- Campers who complain about feeling ill, are in pain, or appear ill.
- Vomiting, diarrhea, constipation **(Do not go into the bathroom with a camper if this occurs.)**
- Overly tired campers
- Overheated campers and campers complaining about being cold when they are in a hot environment.
- ANYTHING FOR WHICH YOU ARE UNCERTAIN

Medications:

- **KEEP ALL MEDICATIONS IN YOUR CABIN, EXCEPT INHALERS.**
- If you notice campers with any medication, tell their Counselor immediately.

If the camper in need of the nurse is your child/grandchild, PLEASE treat them as you would any other camper. Do not deviate from the rules.

HISTORY OF CABIN NAMES

Leader Cabins

- AIS*** Group of 10,000 from Cape Canaveral to the St. Lucie River and inland to the St. Johns River. The head Chief lived on the Indian River (Rio de Ais until after US possession; now called Indian River).
- MAYAIMI*** A tribe belonging to the Calusa who lived near Laguna de Mayami, now Lake Okeechobee.
- PUCPUGGY** “Flower Hunter” – a name given to William Bartram by Cowkeeper, the Seminole Chief of Cuscowilla Village. Bartram recorded plants and animals in Florida from 1773-1777 and published *Travels* in 1781.
- SEE-HO-KEE** Miccosukee heroine in the novel *Say These Names (Remember Them)*, by Sue Cummings, 1984.
- EUCHEE** Creek Chief who lived in the Panhandle. The Euchee Valley parallels the Southwesterly flowing Chocta Watchee River for 15 miles in the Florida Panhandle.
- TEQUESTA** Natives of Florida’s Southeastern coast who were first encountered by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513. This tribe of about 800 fished and hunted from Jupiter to the Keys. Spanish missions for the Tequesta on the Miami River at Biscayne Bay failed. Early accounts also refer to Chief Tequesta, perhaps a relative of Calusa Chief Carlos.
- SIMINOLI** Means “wild ones/runaways” in Creek. The Oconee tribe of the Creek Indians, the first to leave Georgia in the early 1700s, were called Siminoli. (Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman’s Cabin).

Circle I Cabins

- TIMUCUA** The largest group of Indians – 40,000 – who occupied most of the northern third of Florida from Southeastern Georgia to Cape Canaveral. Fourteen tribes spoke Timucan dialects (5-20 villages composed a tribe).
- TOCOBEGA** A powerful Chief of a tribe of 7000 (also called Tocobega) who lived along a river in Tampa Bay.
- TELECHEEKE** “Long House” in Seminole

OKLAWAHA "Swamp/muddy" in Seminole
OSCEOLA Creek leader in the Second Seminole War (1830-1837) whose mother was part Creek and father (or stepfather) was British. Name – Asi-Yaholi – means Black Drink Singer from "asi," a black herbal tea made from the parched leaves of swamp holly boiled in water, and "yaholi," which is shouted while drinking it. Osceola was weakened by malaria and died of tonsillitis at 34 in the Ft. Moultrie prison, South Carolina.

Circle II Cabins

APALACHEE* Group of 25,000 occupying the Eastern part of the Panhandle from the Aucilla River west to the Apalachicola River near Tallahassee.

CALUSA* Group of 20,000 in Southwest Coastal Florida from Charlotte Harbor to the lower Keys and inland along the Caloosahatchee River (river of the Calusa) including the Lake Okeechobee Basin. The tribal Chief lived on Mound Key in Estero Bay.

COACOOCHEE "Koakochi" (meaning 'wildcat' in Creek) was a warrior leader. Son of King Philip was captured during the Seminole War and escaped in 1837. He was sent to Arkansas in 1841 and died of smallpox in 1857 in Mexico.

EMBOKPAGEE means "turtle river" in Seminole. The Loxahatchee is a Florida Wild and Scenic River going through the northern most part of the Everglades in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and Hobe Sound is home to the Loxahatchee Historical Museum.

MOLOCOCO Molococo was a Native America leader from the Tampa Bay area.

MYAKKA Means "very large/big water in Seminole. The Mayakka and Myakkahatchee Rivers flow into Charlotte Harbor. The Myakka River State Park, home of Myakka Lake is near Sarasota.

*They were aboriginal peoples present in Florida at the time of Ponce de Leon's discovery of La Florida in 1513. "By 1710 (less than 200 years later), the native population of approximately 100,000 was almost completely destroyed by disease and by the slaving raids from South Carolina." (Milanih & Fiarbanks, Florida Archaeology)

HISTORY OF FFGC WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

FFGC's first "junior Nature Camp" was founded in July 1959 when Mable "Petunia" Miller, a member of Bartow Garden Club, organized garden club members – nature and craft leaders, a nurse, a waterfront person and a cook – and a group of first 12 boys and then 12 girls – at Camp Kiwanis on Mill Dam Lake. "Petunia" loved her native state and had a fervent desire to instill in youngsters that over, concern, and desire to protect the flora and fauna of our beautiful state of Florida.

As the years passed, and as FFGC Presidents and Camp Chairmen changed, FFGC continued sponsoring a youth camp annually in rented facilities. The dream of owning our own Camp was ever present throughout those years.

In 1972, Jean Villareal spearheaded a gargantuan fund drive and obtained matching funds to build ffgc's Wekiva Youth Camp in its present location – in the midst of Wekiwa Springs State Park, in Apopka, Florida. Ground was broken in 1973, 13 cabins were built, all named for Florida Indians, along with a pavilion, dining hall, office/infirmary/craft hall, and 3 staff cabins. In June 1974, FFGC's Wekiva Youth Camp gates were opened wide as the first crop of 104 eager youngsters were welcomed to camp. Our Dream had become a reality. Since 1974, garden clubs and friends have built a nature teaching facility, staff cabins, and a beautiful swimming pool. A separate canteen was built in 1995, and an extension (porch) to the seventh/eighth grade leader cabin was built in 1997.

Each week for 6 weeks, over 100 campers, grades 3-8, come to FFGC's Wekiva Youth Camp. At Wekiva we are dedicated to providing each and every camper in our care a unique living/learning experience. Our volunteer staff are "guiding stars" in the lives of these young people.

Over the years the curriculum and programs have been enhanced and improved. A powerful, unified, graded nature program and manual was written to enable volunteers to better instruct the campers. In 2002, "Critter Camp," a mini-camp experience presently open to youngsters completing 1st and 2nd grades was introduced. It proved to be highly successful and has become a part of the regular camp program. In 2001, a Leadership Training Program (LIT), for 9th grade was initiated. Campers who have successfully completed the 8th grade Programs are invited to participate in this program. It has been well received and graduates may be invited to become Counselors in Training (CIT) the following year. Thus we are training our leaders for the future.

Our goal – that every camper takes home memories of Wekiva Youth Camp which will be treasured throughout their lifetimes.

Our motto: **Wekiva Youth Campers today – Environmental Leaders Tomorrow!**

Without exception, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. welcomes participation of all youngsters, grades 3 through 8 in its Wekiva Youth Camp Program.

AL0914

MISCELLANEOUS

Off Limit Areas:

There are many areas off limits to certain people. Cabin circles are off limits to Volunteers without special permission from the Camp Director, Assistant Director, Camp Chairman or Vice Chairman who will accompany you. This will be approved for exceptional reasons only! Volunteers are not to accompany a camper alone. Always let a counselor take a camper to the restroom, nurse, etc.

In contrast Tequesta, the nurse and office buildings always remain open and unlocked. The camp Director sleeps in the office/nurse building. The Camp Assistant Director sleeps in Tequesta. The Camp Chairman's cabin is Siminoli.

Saturday Mornings:

The camp does meet at the flag circle on Saturday mornings at the usual time, 7:30 a.m. However, there may only be a cold breakfast such as cereal or Danish. The campers clean their cabins and pack their belongings.

Please sweep your cabin and clean the bathroom. Check under the bed for belongings. The porch should be clean also.

EVERY CAMPER HAS TO BE SIGNED OUT BEFORE BEING PICKED UP AT THEIR CABINS.

Checkout is at the Dining Hall. Sign your camper/campers out and you will receive a small piece of paper with their name proving to the cabin counselor that the camper was officially signed out. You may then go to the cabins to retrieve your camper. Double check to be sure they have everything that belongs to them including their craft bag.

Thank you for volunteering at Wekiva Youth Camp. We hope you had a good experience and that you will return!

PROGRAM AREAS

Volunteers are expected to get to their program areas a few minutes early to help set up crafts, nature, etc. If you are ill, please tell another volunteer to relay the message to the appropriate program leader. Counselors are expected to get the campers to their program areas on time. Counselors are expected to help you and the campers. Don't let them sit off to the side and talk.

Crafts: Craft sessions meet in the craft hall. Campers create a variety of projects each week and these projects will stay in the craft hall. Be sure campers place their craft item in their bag or in front of it when their session ends. They will take their bags home when they check out on Saturday morning. Volunteers in Crafts are expected to assist the campers in setting up and making their projects, and cleaning up to get ready for the next session. If you want to make a craft for yourself, be sure there are enough materials for you to do so and make your craft on your free time. Supplies may be carefully planned for the week and there may not be extras. THE AIR CONDITIONING UNITS MUST NOT BE SET LOWER THAN 78 DEGREES.

Nature: Nature sessions meet on the porch of Nature Hut. The nature session may include various activities such as nature photography, hiking, animal tracking, etc. The session begins on the porch and usually will move out on the trails or roads. Counselors are expected to participate in the activity and to assist the campers. Safety is an important issue. Keep your eyes open to children getting too hot or dehydrated, touching hazardous plants or wildlife, or getting lost. Closed-toed shoes and socks must be worn at all times, BY EVERYONE!

Swimming: You may drive to the springs during your free time. Be sure to sign out and back in. If you wish to swim in the pool, check with the waterfront director or camp directors to see if there will be a lifeguard on duty at 4:00 during the campers recreation hour. While at the camp pool, volunteers are expected to follow the camper dress code (one-piece bathing suits, shoes). No one may enter the pool area without a lifeguard on duty.

Recreation Hour: Camper Recreation hour starts after canteen, usually at 4:00. Recreation hour may include team sports, or Wekiva Rivalry. At the end of the week, we will have The Great Wekiva Race and each cabin earns points for their group.

7th/8th Grades/Critter Camp: These are specific programs which do not follow the same schedule of the 3-6th grade campers. If you have volunteered for these areas, the program coordinator for the program will advise you about your schedule and duties.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE – WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

- 8:00 Back Gate Opens – Use this entrance to camp on Sunday
1371 E. Welch Rd., Apopka
- 9:00 Put signs out
Canteen – Bring sale items to Dining Hall
Set up name tag table outside of Dining Hall
Place carts near parking lot
Move cars to lower parking area near Craft Hall
Clean Dining Hall and prepare it for Staff Brunch
- 11:00 Brunch for Staff
- 12:30 Set up Dining Hall for Registration
- 1:00-3:00 Camper Registration – Dining Hall**
- 1:00-2:30 Volunteer Check In and Cabin Assignments – Dining Hall**
- 2:00-3:00 Camper Swim Tests
- 3:30 Volunteer Meeting - Craft Hall**
- 5:00 Mandatory Meeting for Everyone at Camp – Craft Hall**
- 6:00 Flag Circle – Everyone at Camp
- 6:15-7:00 Dinner – Everyone at Camp
- 7:30 Campers Team Meeting in fire circles
- 7:30 Training for Volunteers - Crafts and Nature
Locations announced at 3:30 Volunteer Meeting**
- 8:30 Camper Team Fires
- 9:45 Campers lights out

TRADITIONS AT WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

Teaching children traditions helps them appreciate what has come before and what others have done to make their experience possible. Traditions at camp give campers something to look forward to in returning year after year. Some of the traditions we have at Wekiva Youth Camp go back over 40 years.

Flag Ceremony:

The entire camp gathers at the flagpole before each meal. At breakfast we raise the flag with a ceremony and say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Conservation Pledge. At dinner we lower the flags and fold them (retire the colors). Campers, staff, and volunteers are expected to stand at attention and remain quiet and respectful while the ceremony commences. If the flag ceremony is in progress while you are walking up to the flag circle, it is customary to stop where you are at the point that you realize the ceremony is taking place. After the flag raising and grace you may then approach the flag circle.

Roll Call:

Gathering at the flagpole before meals not only gives us a venue to have a flag ceremony, it is also a good way to make sure we have accounted for everyone. This has turned into a roll call. Before the ceremony, the directors or circle leaders call out each cabin name and volunteers. The cabins and volunteers often respond with witty retorts that are indicative of the fellowship in their group.

Thursday Night Tacos in a Bag/Skit Night

The dinner tradition is fun and allows extra time to get ready for Skit Night. Cabins come to roll call for “taco talk” – a brief and silly how-to-create-your-taco-in-a-bag demonstration. The camp eats outside on towels and benches (return them to your porch after dinner please.). Many times volunteers like to go out to a restaurant for dinner on Thursday. Check with the Camp Chairman. Volunteers return in time for skits.

Cabin Pledge

On Friday night, during the candle lighting, each counselor will recite the environmental pledge that their cabin has written. Pledges should be about how you will not only protect the environment during the next year, but how you can educate family and friends about our earth and how to protect it.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRIP SAFETY

The speed limit in Wekiva Youth Camp is 5 mph. It is 25 mph throughout the park. Please follow this and all speed limits while in the park and camp area. Park Patrol Officers do give tickets.

Volunteers MAY NOT transport campers in personal vehicles at any time during camp (after sign-in and before sign-out).

Safety Regulations:

- Predetermined staff and volunteers will be responsible for driving all camp vehicles.
- If there are seatbelts, they must be worn at all times.
- Neither campers nor staff members are permitted to ride in the bed of pickup trucks.
- For trips outside the park such as 8th and 9th grade programs, only vehicles arranged by Wekiva Youth Camp may transport campers; health forms will be provided.

Procedures:

- Wait in a designated location (usually the Canteen Circle) for the vehicle.
- Board only when the driver gives the OK, and reminds campers of the rules.
- It is the staff's responsibility to assist and direct the campers when loading and unloading camp vehicles.
- Load and unload while the vehicle is parked curbside.
- Remain seated at all times.
- Do not get off of the vehicle until the driver directs you to do so.
- Driver will check to be sure the passenger limit has not been exceeded.
- In the case of an accident or emergency staff will assist campers out of the vehicle, if necessary. **THE CAMP OFFICE WILL BE CALLED IMMEDIATELY TO REPORT THE INCIDENT.**

WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Camp Chairman: Appointed by FFGC, oversees all policies, final decisions, business matters, nurses, park concerns, dining hall and budget. **Coordinates Volunteers.**

Camp Director: Hired by FFGC. Oversees all Counselors and Assistant Director, conducts daily running of camp and camp safety, coordinates all orientations, training and ACA visits, conducts CIT program, works with campers and parents as needed, oversees all evening and special programs.

Assistant Director: Hired by Director. Works directly with counselors, conducts trainings, orientations, counselor program schedules, break time, camper management and staff evaluations. Steps in for Director when necessary.

Fire Circle Leader: Appointed by the Director and head staff. Assists with inspection, assists with recreation schedule, assists counselors and campers as needed.

Senior Counselors: Hired by Director. Responsible for care of own cabin, teach and/or assist in one or more activity areas.

Junior Counselors: Hired by Director. Assists Senior Counselor in the cabins and assists campers in program areas.

CITs: Hired by Director to assist Senior Counselors in the cabins. Go with and assist campers in program area, attend all CIT trainings and extra events.

Other Important Jobs at Camp

Chef: Hired by FFGC. Responsible for all meals and food-related activities; also responsible for dining hall and dining hall restrooms cleanliness.

Waterfront Director: Hired by FFGC. Responsible for all aquatic activities, teaching and scheduling swimming, schedules life guards and pool activities.

Volunteers: Coordinated by Camp Chairman. Responsible for teaching specific activity areas.

Nurse: Responsible for all camp health care.

Canteen Coordinator: Oversees the canteen including restocking and organizing the space.

Park Rangers: Oversee maintenance of camp and park property. Should only be contacted by the Chairman or Director.

Nature and Craft Coordinators: Hired by FFGC. Oversees all activities and scheduling regarding all crafts, and nature programs (including nature photography)



Welcome to the Wekiva Youth Camp! To some of you, Welcome back! We are excited to get the summer started. You are on the verge of what we hope will be one of the most exciting and rewarding adventures you will ever have. During your time at camp you will make decisions and have experiences that you likely cannot imagine now. You will be given the opportunity and awesome responsibility of guiding and molding the lives of well over 100 children. Give your time at camp the very best you have because the rewards and relationships will last a lifetime.

Mission Statement of Wekiva Youth Camp

The Mission of FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp is to develop the skills in our youth that will help them become environmentally aware leaders by promoting appreciation, understanding, and awareness of our natural environment and resources through an educational and fun summer camp experience.

Goals of Wekiva Youth Camp

- To promote awareness and understanding of our natural environment
- To increase camper knowledge of native Florida habitats
- To develop leadership skills
- To foster skills to help campers enjoy and appreciate actual recreation activities when not at camp
- To provide leaders and staff the training and resources to educate and promote the goals of FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp

Outcomes

- Campers will be able to prove that they can make decisions about our environment
When the situation arises
- Campers will be able to discuss and share information with others about Florida's natural habitats.
- Campers will show that they can use opportunities during camp to prove they have developed leadership skills
- Campers will work together with other campers to accomplish goals

AL0914