

7th Grade Naturalist Program

nat*u*ral*ist *noun* \nach*er*uh*list/: a person who studies plants and animals as they live in nature

Seventh Grade Girls who are not interested or able to participate in the 7th Grade Tent Camping program are welcome to sign up for this program. Campers in this program will remain at the main camp for the week and will generally follow the same “session” schedule as regular campers. However, instead of attending morning sessions for nature and crafts, these campers will participate in an in-depth study of the ecosystem located at Wekiva Youth Camp. Campers will learn to identify the plants and animals that interact in this ecosystem with focused study on one specific plant species and one specific animal species. Short morning hikes will allow up-close observation and study. Multiday, age-appropriate craft activities that compliment what is learned will be offered. In the afternoon, campers will have their third session (swimming) and follow the same schedule as regular campers.

This program was created to answer requests for accommodating campers interested in attending Wekiva Youth Camp but not interested in Tent Camping. At this time, this program is only being offered in one Girl's Week. Seventh Grade Girl Campers who are interested in attending camp for more than one week this summer are encouraged to consider signing up for this program.

Third to Sixth grade campers at Wekiva Youth Camp participate in three sessions (crafts, nature, swimming) daily and remain on site for the entire week. Seventh grade campers in the Tent Camping program do not participate in the three sessions; they participate in a pull-out program that leaves the main camp for several days to tent camp at the Primitive Group Camping Site at Wekiwa Springs State Park. While on site they follow their own schedule and programming. Eighth grade campers in the Canoeing program also do not participate in the three sessions; they participate in their own program learning correct canoeing techniques, practicing daily at the Springs, and culminating with a day long canoe trip on Friday. Additionally, these eighth graders have environmental education sessions to learn about the Springs and Springs protection. This 7th Grade Naturalist Program is suitable for middle school aged campers as it is designed with longer, more in-depth sessions. Campers in this program will remain on site for the entire week.

Seventh Grade Campers who participate in this program are welcome to return to Wekiva Youth Camp the following year for the 8th Grade Program. Campers interested in being considered for an invitation to the 9th Grade Leaders In Training Program MUST PARTICIPATE in the 8th Grade Program. Space in the 8th Grade Program is VERY limited and is usually filled by the second week of January.