JOPPA FARM & FOREST SUMMER CAMP
EXTREME WEATHER

CAMPER CLOTHING & GEAR

Joppa Farm & Forest Summer Camp happens outside, so it's important for campers to wear comfy clothes for outdoor activities, including closed-toe shoes.

- To make sure your camper has the best time, please send them with weather-appropriate clothing, such as a rain jacket, rain boots, hats, sunscreen, and bug repellent.
- We also suggest layers of clothing. It can be cooler in the woods and barn than it is in the barnyard.
- Pack an extra set of clothes (including socks) in case their clothes get wet from rain or water play.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

MONITORING WEATHER CONDITIONS

- The Camp Director and Camp Manager will regularly monitor weather forecasts and radar to stay informed about upcoming weather conditions.
- Weather updates will be checked at least once in the morning, and once in the afternoon on days with forecasted weather events or observable changes.
- We understand that weather conditions at the farm may vary from forecasts, so staff observations are crucial in decision-making in effort to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of campers and staff.

COMMUNICATION

- In the event that schedule changes are made due to extreme or unsafe weather conditions, you will be notified via text message **and** email.
- Both messages will be sent from CampDoc to the primary phone number and email listed in your camper's CampDoc profile.

RAIN RESPONSE

- **Light or Moderate Rain:** Outdoor programming will generally continue as planned. Campers are expected to come prepared and dressed in weather-appropriate clothing.
- **Heavy Rain:** Camp staff may seek shelter for campers in available spaces (e.g., tent, forest areas, barn), while adjusting activities as needed. The safety and comfort of campers will guide decisions.

THUNDER & LIGHTNING

In the event of thunder or lightning, our camp staff are prepared as follows:

1. **Immediate Shelter in the Barn:**
   - Campers will be promptly moved inside the barn for their safety.
   - Campers will remain in the barn until 30-minutes after the last lightning strike to ensure a safe transition back outside.
   - Should thunder or lightning be expected to occur beyond 90-minutes, you will be contacted to pick up your camper via text and email, sent from CampDoc.

2. **Prepared Indoor Activities:**
   - Camp Counselors are prepared with pre-planned, engaging, and educational activities to keep campers occupied in the barn during this time.

3. **Consideration for Sensory Sensitivities:**
   - Given the nature of the barn's tin roof amplifying rain sounds, we recommend sending your camper with noise-canceling devices should you feel it would be helpful for them.
   - This consideration is especially helpful for campers with noise or sensory sensitivities, ensuring a more comfortable experience during inclement weather.

4. **Restroom Access:**
   - For safe and convenient access, a designated porta potty for camp, will be strategically placed near a barn exit.

REDUCED AIR QUALITY

- The Camp Director and Camp Manager monitor air quality levels regularly when alerts are issued by the National Weather Service.
- In the event that an air quality advisory is issued that poses a risk to campers, camp activities will be adjusted to provide alternative activities, limiting physical exertion.

EXTREME HEAT

The Camp Director and Camp Manager will check temperatures and humidity forecasts. When appropriate, safety measures will be taken, such as the following:

- Increased use of shaded areas for relaxation and protection from the sun
- Ensuring physical activities are not too tiring
- Encouraging frequent water breaks
- Providing popsicles and water play options

REFUNDS FOR WEATHER CANCELLATIONS IN EXTREME CONDITIONS

At Joppa Farm & Forest Summer Camp, the safety and wellbeing of our campers and staff are our top priorities. We understand that unforeseen and extreme weather conditions may impact our ability to conduct outdoor activities safely. Therefore, we have developed the following refund policy for days canceled due to extreme weather, and instances where parents/guardians are required to pick up their camper due to conditions that could not reasonably assure safety.

EXTREME WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

If a day of camp is canceled entirely due to extreme weather conditions (e.g., thunderstorms, heavy rain, poor air quality, or heatwave), a pro-rated refund will be issued to the parents/guardians for the affected day(s).

PARENTS/GUAR by DIANS REQUIRED TO PICK UP CAMPERS EARLY

In situations where extreme weather develops during camp hours, and it is deemed unsafe to continue outdoor activities, parents/guardians will be notified immediately via text and email through CampDoc.

If a camper must be picked up due to weather conditions, the following refund policy will apply:

a. If a camper is picked up before noon: A pro-rated refund will be issued for the remainder of the day.

b. If a camper is picked up after noon: The day will be considered complete, and no refund will be issued.

The refund policy for weather cancellations due to extreme weather is designed to provide fair compensation to parents/guardians while also considering the operational and administrative costs incurred by Joppa Farm & Forest Summer Camp. We appreciate your understanding of the importance of prioritizing the safety of our campers during adverse weather conditions.