

# Friends



## Finding the Fun at 4-H Summer Camp

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_



UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA





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## Let's Find the Fun!

Georgia 4-H Summer Camp is a very special part of Georgia 4-H. After all, kids like you have been part of 4-H Summer Camp for more than 90 years! I'm glad that you're taking your first step toward finding the fun at 4-H Summer Camp, and inside you'll even discover which of Georgia's 4-H Centers you will have the chance to visit! So come hike along with me, as we find out more about the fun waiting for you at 4-H Summer Camp!

**Georgia 4-H** is a partner in public education and strives to incorporate Georgia Standards in the education materials produced for in-school use. The following Georgia Standards are correlated to the content delivery included in this publication's Finding the Fun at 4-H Summer Camp:

**ELAGSE4SL1:** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

**ELAGSE4W4:** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.

**ELAGSE5SL1:** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

**ELAGSE5L1:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

**ELAGSE6SL1:** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

**ELAGSE6L1:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

**ELAGSE6L2:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Standards from Georgia Standards, [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org)

**Think Green!** Not just 4-H Green...but let's help do our part to recycle and reuse. Save this book, reread it or pass it along to a friend. If it's too worn, please recycle it.





# GEORGIA 4-H CAMPING- HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?



More than 100 years ago, in 1904, Mr. G.C. Adams started the first Boys Corn Clubs in Newton County. Just a few years later, in 1908, the Girls Tomato Canning Club was started in Hancock County. The U.S. Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, which brought the Boys Corn Clubs and Girls Tomato Canning Clubs – which were springing up all over Georgia – together.

But when did Georgia's 4-H'ers start going to summer camp?

**1918** – At a school in DeKalb County, 25 girls and their leaders canned vegetables, made their own beds of wheat straw, went for boat rides, listened to music, and had a talent show. They called it camping.



**1924** – Camp Wilkins was held on the University of Georgia campus. Carroll and Bartow counties were the first counties to pay to attend.

**1928** – A camp for Black 4-H'ers opened in Liberty County and was named Camp Ralstonia for their 4-H Agent, Miss Minnie Ralston.

**1920s and 30s** – Many counties start their own local county 4-H Camps, with facilities in Charlton, Habersham and Union counties, among others.



**1937** – A request to use an abandoned CCC work camp for 4-H camping leads to the opening of Camp Wahsega in the north Georgia mountains near Dahlonega.

**1939** – The first 4-H'ers camp at Camp Fulton, near Atlanta. Georgia 4-H would camp here for the next 65 years.

**1946** – The City of Savannah Beach (now Tybee Island) donated six acres of land and the Chatham County 4-H Club camp opens the next year. This later becomes Tybee Island 4-H Center, Georgia 4-H's first beach camp.

**1948** – The Georgia 4-H Club Foundation was organized to help raise money to support 4-H. The first goal: build a 4-H Camp that could hold 1,000 4-H'ers.



**1955** – After four years of construction, Rock Eagle 4-H Center, on 1,400 acres of land near Eatonton, opened for summer camp. Rock Eagle 4-H Center is the site of a 2,000 plus year old white, quartz rock mound in the shape of an eagle.

**1982** – Georgia 4-H's second beach camp opens at Jekyll Island 4-H Center at the site of the old Dolphin Hotel.

**1990** – Major renovations at Rock Eagle 4-H Center improve the facility for camping and all the other programs held there.

**2004** – Tybee Island 4-H Center becomes Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island to honor Maxine and Bob Burton for a generous donation to improve the Center. Bob was a 4-H camp counselor.



**2004** – Georgia 4-H, in partnership with the Fortson Camp board of directors, opens Fortson 4-H Center, near Hampton, just south of Atlanta. A community camp had been operating at Fortson for about 40 years before this partnership and continues today.

**2014** – The Fortson Board donates the Fortson 4-H Center property to UGA and Georgia 4-H to continue camping and environmental education programs. It is the largest private gift ever received by Georgia 4-H.



**2017** – Camp Jekyll opens its doors to children in Georgia and beyond. On the original footprint of Jekyll Island 4-H Center, the completely rebuilt Camp Jekyll continues teaching Georgia's children about Jekyll Island's rich environment and diverse wildlife. Georgia 4-H manages Camp Jekyll in cooperation with the Jekyll Island Authority.





# 4-H CENTERS - WHERE YOU CAMP!

A team of year-round staff at the Centers, super UGA faculty (your County Extension staff!), great adult and teen volunteer leaders, and some really cool college students – mostly former 4-H'ers – serving as camp counselors all work together to get ready for your week of camp. Let's learn more about the 4-H Centers where you'll camp.

## Rock Eagle 4-H Center

The largest 4-H center in the world (yes, the world!) is located near Eatonton.

Join 1,000 other 4-H campers as you swim, canoe, play games, and hike and experience a week full of adventures! The fun at camp continues when you make friends, make crafts, and make memories while learning the ecology and wildlife of the 110-acre Rock Eagle lake.



## Wahsega 4-H Center

Wade from beautiful waterfalls into a mountain stream, or go swimming in the pond at the end of the stream. Sleep in a log cabin and listen for the dinner bell. Learn about plants and animals in the hills, streams and forests of north Georgia. You can do all this at Wahsega 4-H Center near Dahlonega, and challenge yourself on the zip line and other adventure activities, too!



## Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island

Beautiful Tybee Island near Savannah, is the site of fun in the sun at Burton 4-H Center. Not only can you play volleyball in the sand or catch some rays on the beach, you can also learn about the wildlife-rich tidal marshes and about the coastal birthplace of our state.





## Fortson 4-H Center

Located just south of Atlanta in Hampton, near the Atlanta Motor Speedway (AMS), a week of camp at Fortson 4-H Center is filled with great times. Swimming, adventure courses and canoeing are exciting on-Center activities, and off-site trips (Stone Mountain, for our Junior Campers) are part of the action.

### Did You Know?

In 1922, Harvard University President Charles W. Eliot said, "The organized summer camp is the most important step in education that America has given the world." Try to find some information on Charles Eliot to see why he made this statement.

**Camp Jekyll** opened its doors in February 2017 after an extensive renovation.

The reopening of Camp Jekyll allows 4-H youth the opportunity to explore the beach and marshes of this important barrier island. A tour of the millionaires village, bike riding through the maritime forest, and splashing around at Summer Waves water park are all part of the Camp Jekyll fun.







# POSTCARDS FROM COUNSELORS

Ninety of the wildest, craziest, most fun college students you will ever meet are ready to be your camp counselors at 4-H Camp next summer. Many of them went to 4-H Camp when they were your age — and many say that's the reason they wanted to be a 4-H camp counselor! A few of them wanted to write you about camp.

Summer camp, yes please! Georgia 4-H summer camp is a home away from home. Camping at one of our five amazing camping centers will be a blast! You not only meet people you will remember for a lifetime, but also have a week full of experiences you'll never forget. From going on cool adventures to making new friends, summer camp has something for everyone. Georgia 4-H has given me some of the best memories as a camper, 4-H'er, and now as a camp counselor. I hope to see you all at camp!

Carter Hewitt



Arch Dawg  
Camp Washega  
Dahlonega, GA

4-H camp is such an amazing experience that allows for everyone to be involved in such a fun way! It is one of the easiest ways to make new friends, try new things, and hang out with some awesome counselors!

Going to camp will make you cheer "Best Summer Ever!"

Kendall Rainey



Going to 4-H camp for the first time in 4th grade was an experience I'll never forget! From herpetology to high ropes, there is always something exciting going on during the camp week. 4-H camp gave me the opportunity to learn new skills and make dear friends that will last a lifetime.

Georgia 4-H summer camp truly rocks!

Katie Beth Brewer



4-H Summer Camp is hands down one of the most fun ways to spend a week of your summer. You can try new things and visit exciting places. I have made some of my best friends while at 4-H camp, and I hope that you will do the same!

I hope to see you this summer!

Cooper Hardy



Arch Dawg  
UGA  
Athens, Georgia

Do you like to have fun? Well, if you said "yes", you should consider spending the week at one of our five amazing 4-H centers! 4-H Camp is an awesome place filled with summertime fun and adventure! I can't wait to hang out with all you amazing people this summer!

Chris "Crittter" Kuhbander



Get ready for the Best Summer Ever!  
Experience new friends, new places, and new adventures.

Surrounded by camp games, competitions, and fun, 4-H Camp is sure to create memories that will last a lifetime! I met my best friends at camp, and I still can't get enough! Swimming, playing, learning, and laughing together is the perfect way to spend a week this summer!

Nadalyne McNulty





# WRITE A PERSUASIVE LETTER

**Wow! You really want to go to 4-H Camp. But how do you get the decision-makers in your home – mom, dad, grandparents, or whoever has to say "yes!" – to allow you to go to camp next summer?**

You could just beg. Or, you might consider sending a persuasive letter. A persuasive letter is a type of letter that, many times, is written to complain about a problem or situation and offer a possible solution. Say, for example, you heard the Candy Co. is about to stop making your favorite candy. You might send the Candy Co. a persuasive letter, stating your opinion – "Please don't stop making Giant Gummy Worms!" – and offering your suggestions on how to solve the problem.

Your persuasive letter for 4-H Camp would be used to make your case for why you should be allowed to attend 4-H Camp this summer; but, no matter what decision you're trying to influence, a persuasive letter usually has these six basic parts:

- 1. Heading** – Your address and the date.
- 2. Inside Address** – Include the name of the person you are writing to (we know – you normally don't live at the same address as the person you're writing, but it's OK for your camp letter).
- 3. Salutation** – Saying hello to the person you're writing (it's OK to say Mom or Grandpa or Aunt Jane in your camp letter – you'd normally use Mrs. or Mr. or Dr. or another title in a persuasive letter).
- 4. Body** – The main part of the letter. This is where you state your opinion, offer solutions, or write whatever you think will make the person do what you want to be done. In your camp letter you might simply write why you want to go to camp. You might also write when and where your county is going to 4-H Camp, who is taking you, how you will get there, how much it will cost, and when is the deadline to sign up. These details might be very important to your "decision-maker." Your 4-H leader has the answers to these questions.
- 5. Closing** – Saying good-bye. "Sincerely" is the most common way to say good-bye in a letter, but if you want to say "Love" in a letter to mom, dad or another relative, they'd probably appreciate it.
- 6. Signature** – Sign your name under the closing, or if you're using a computer sign your name over your "typed" name.

Good luck with your letter. We hope it works because **we really want to see you at 4-H Camp!**

4-H'ers, Share your persuasive letter with us, **AND YOU JUST MIGHT WIN A SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND CAMP!** To find out more, go to [www.georgia4h.org](http://www.georgia4h.org).

1000 Arch Street  
Athens, GA 30600  
January 1, 2025

Mrs. Cindy Summertime  
1000 Arch Street  
Athens, GA 30600

Dear Mom,

I have just learned about 4-H Camp and I really want to go! I think it will help me get along better with others and I'll learn many new things, like archery or canoeing...  
My county is going to 4-H Camp here, who is taking me, how I will get there, it will cost this much, and the deadline to sign up is...

Sincerely,  
*Sandy Summertime*  
Sandy Summertime







# CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW

Still trying to decide if you want to go to 4-H Camp? One thing you might want to do is find an adult who has gone to 4-H Camp, or any summer camp for that matter, and ask them some questions. An interview is a great way to learn about a topic you are interested in – you don't have to be an ace news reporter to be a good interviewer.

**Here are some steps to follow:**

- ▶ **Make a list of questions you have about camp. Here are some examples:** Did you ever go to camp? When did you go? What did you do at camp? What was your favorite activity? Did you have a favorite person or counselor at camp? Did you go to 4-H Camp? Did you do other things in 4-H?
- ▶ Politely ask for an interview with an adult you know and schedule a time to talk to them.
- ▶ Make a recording or take notes of their answers to your questions.
- ▶ Thank the person you interviewed for taking the time to answer your questions.



**Hopefully, the answers you get from your interview will convince you of how much fun 4-H summer camp really is!**

## Parents!

**Thank you for taking time to review this publication with your child.  
Please help your 4-H leader know that you have learned more about Georgia 4-H.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## SPOTLIGHT ON CAREERS

*Even though most of them would do it for free (just ask them!), your 4-H Camp Counselors get paid to work at camp. For many counselors it's their first "real" job, and their first chance to practice some skills used in seeking jobs like:*

- ▶ **Submitting an application—a paper form that lists education, abilities, and strengths**
- ▶ **Providing references—people to contact who know the kind of job you will do**
- ▶ **Interviewing—answering questions face to face about the job and your skills**

*Many 4-H camp counselors will tell you the counselor selection process helped them improve these job-seeking skills. Many former counselors, after having other jobs, will say being your 4-H camp counselor was the best job they ever had!*



## REFERENCES AND RESOURCES



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