

**QUICK CONTACT GUIDE**

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**Website**

<http://georgia4h.org/4-h-centers/wahsega-4-h-center/environmental-education/>

**Main Phone**

706-864-2050

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## **GENERAL WAHSEGA INFORMATION**

### **Our location**

Wahsega 4-H Center is located 12 miles north of downtown Dahlonega, Georgia. We are on Forest Service Road 28 one mile from the entrance to Camp Frank D. Merrill Army Ranger Training Facility. The 4-H center is in a valley shared by Ward Creek on property owned by the University of Georgia in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

### **DO NOT USE GPS OR ONLINE MAPS TO FIND US.**

If you or your transportation provider uses a GPS device or online maps to find us, you will most likely get lost. Please use the maps page on our website at <http://georgia4h.org/4-h-centers/wahsega-4-h-center/environmental-education/trip-planner/>. Click on the Maps tab at the bottom of the page.

### **Wahsega 4-H Center Facilities**

- 222 beds in 16 cabins
- 2 bathhouses
- Dining Hall with seating for 200 guests
- Recreation hall with sound equipment
- Classroom with a stereoscope connected to a TV
- Herpetology Lab -- Featuring live snakes
- Turtle-topia – Outdoor live turtle habitat
- The Discovery Hike – Outdoor, self-guided hike with learning stations
- The Discovery Room – Indoor classroom with self-guided learning stations (currently under renovation)
- Challenge course – Enhances communication, problem solving, and team-building skills.
- High-ropes course – An adventure challenge course that builds self-confidence and courage.
- 4 fire-rings with seating for 30 each
- Amphitheater with 2 fire pits and seating for 200
- 4 Hiking Trails
- 4 pavilions with seating for 25 each
- Basketball and volleyball courts

### **Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Objectives**

- To develop an awareness, knowledge and appreciation for the environment
- To cultivate curiosity, critical reasoning and evaluation
- To develop positive relationships among students and teachers
- To make the school program more meaningful by applying knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to real life situations
- To provide experiences in using scientific processes, such as observing, measuring and classifying
- To develop self-confidence and physical fitness
- To develop appreciation for the local and natural history of an area

## PLANNING INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

### Create a trip preparation checkoff sheet

These are a few items you will need to add to your own list. They are covered in detail below. If you have questions, many of the answers can be found on our website but feel free to call or email us if needed.

1. Book your preferred dates
2. Make transportation arrangements
3. Publicize and host a parent meeting and recruit chaperones
4. Collect permission slips, paperwork and money
5. Get a check cut for the deposit
6. Submit class selections online
7. Read, sign and return the contract and deposit
8. Make plans for classes taught by teachers or chaperones from your school
9. Assign students to cabins, learning groups, KP, and cleanup duties
10. Create student journals (optional)
11. Make nametags (optional)
12. Make requests for special services
13. Designate an emergency Home Contact Person
14. Plan and host a chaperone orientation meeting
15. Plan to have a check cut for the remainder of your fees
16. Notify Wahsega of any dietary restrictions
17. Contact us if attendance numbers change
18. Please do not arrive earlier than scheduled or depart later than scheduled
19. Fill out the Attendance Registration Form to present upon arrival with payment

### 1. Book your preferred dates.

Making your reservation will involve several steps which are outlined below. Once these are completed we will send you a contract via U.S. mail.

#### PICK A SEASON TO ATTEND

- *Early fall* (late August to mid-October): Planning the trip helps teachers and parents establish a great rapport early in the year. The weather is still warm, so class time in the creek during stream ecology is refreshing.
- *Late fall* (mid-October through mid-November): Leaves are changing and it can be cold. Be sure to book early for late fall sessions as this is a popular time of the year.
- *Early spring* (early March through mid-April): The weather is unpredictable, so be prepared for either near freezing temperatures or very warm days. Teachers know their students well by this time and know what to expect from them.
- *Late spring* (mid-April through late May): The weather is warmer than in the early spring or late fall. It gets dark later in the evening so some evening classes are better choices than others.

#### CHOOSE A PROGRAM PACKAGE OPTION

Wahsega offers 3-day, 2-day and 1-day program package options. Customized variations of the program packages are available.

#### PICK A SESSION DURING THE WEEK

There are three 3-day/2-night sessions each week. 1) Monday at 1:30 to Wednesday at 12:30, 2) Wednesday at 1:30 to Friday at 12:30, 3) Friday at 1:30 to Sunday at 12:30. Please do not plan to arrive early if your orientation is at 2:00 p.m. Early arrival is not an option; however, local parks may be used for a picnic lunch.

#### ESTIMATE ATTENDANCE COSTS

The fee per person varies according to the length of the field study. See the Rate Schedules section of our website for current rate information. Attendance fees are charged to every youth and every adult in attendance including teachers, parents and chaperones.

#### CONTACT WAHSEGA'S PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Contact our Program Coordinator Adam Rolwes at 706-864-2050 or through email at [amr639@uga.edu](mailto:amr639@uga.edu).

#### MAKE RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE

We make reservations as much as 20 months in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. You may book for the next year before attending programs this year. See our 'Important Dates' page at <http://www.wahsega4h.org/dates.html> for when books will open for Spring seasons.

You can book your field study by:

1. Filling out our online form at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BQRQ9G5GS>; or
2. Emailing our Program Coordinator, Adam Rolwes, at [amr639@uga.edu](mailto:amr639@uga.edu); or
3. Calling our office at 706-864-2050.

#### 2. Make transportation arrangements.

Both school buses and tour buses can handle the gravel road leading to Wahsega. Make sure that your bus driver does not use a GPS device, Google Maps or any other electronic or online system to find us because you will most likely get lost. Please use the maps page on our website at <http://georgia4h.org/4-h-centers/wahsega-4-h-center/environmental-education/trip-planner/>. Click on the Maps tab at the bottom of the page.

#### 3. Publicize and host a parent meeting and recruit chaperones.

Use this meeting to generate interest in the trip and to recruit chaperones. We highly recommend using the PowerPoint presentation available on our website to give parents a better understanding of the unique experience a Wahsega field study offers. The photos will generate support for the experience and motivate adults to volunteer as chaperones. The presentation can be found at [www.wahsega4h.org/ee/documents/Wahsega\\_4-H\\_Center\\_Presentation\\_for\\_Parent\\_Meetings.pdf](http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/documents/Wahsega_4-H_Center_Presentation_for_Parent_Meetings.pdf).

#### 4. Collect permission slips, paperwork and money

We do not require a copy of your students' permission slips or any other paperwork that your school requires.

#### 5. Get a check cut for the deposit

We ask for a deposit of \$300 or \$1 per person expected to attend your field study, whichever is greater.

#### 6. Complete the Class Selection Worksheet

Well before your field study, our Program Coordinator, [Adam Rolwes](#), will contact you to set up a schedule. You must choose the classes for your students. Please complete the appropriate Class Selection form online by following the link below for the program in which you are interested. Class selection forms should only be filled out after reservations have been made.

- 3-day/2-night Program form: [http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/3-day\\_class\\_selection\\_form.html](http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/3-day_class_selection_form.html)
- 2-day/1-night Program form: [http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/2-day\\_class\\_selection\\_form.html](http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/2-day_class_selection_form.html)
- 1-day Program form: [http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/1-day\\_class\\_selection\\_form.html](http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/1-day_class_selection_form.html)
- Custom Program form: [http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/custom\\_class\\_selection\\_form.html](http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/custom_class_selection_form.html)

When more than one school is on center, we often have the same class being taught at several locations. Because the number of locations to teach certain classes is limited, the first group to contact us with their class selections will receive priority over other groups asking for the same classes. Due to scheduling conflicts with other schools, we reserve the right to refuse last minute schedule changes.

#### 7. Read, sign and return the contract and deposit.

We will send out a contract via email after you call to make reservations. To secure the dates you want, within 45 days of receiving the contract, return to our office a signed copy of the contract and a non-

refundable deposit.

**Note: Reservations are not secured until the signed contract and deposit are received in our office.**

#### CANCELLATION POLICY

No fee will be assessed for the first 10% drop from your original numbers or for cancellations when you notify us 120 days (4 months) or more before the field study. Notification of cancellations of 10% or more of your original numbers, including a complete cancellation of the trip, between 120 and 60 days before the scheduled trip will result in a \$10 charge per person; less than 60 days is a \$25 per person charge.

#### **8. Make plans for classes taught by teachers or chaperones from your school.**

While we make the facilities available, our staff does not teach every class. Adults from the school teach one day class during each of the 6 rotations and the two evening class rotations on the second night of your visit, during a typical 3-day/2-night session. See the class descriptions beginning on page 10 for more information.

You may either choose to create lesson plans and lead a class of your own design during these times or use the Wahsega curriculum. Feel free to request the curricula for the classes you want to teach. The Program Coordinator can assist you in making the class selections best suited for your grade level.

#### **9. Assign students to cabins, learning groups, KP, and cleanup duties.**

##### MAKE CABIN ASSIGNMENTS

Divide the students among the cabins provided for your group. Children and adults should be segregated by gender regardless of the age of the children. Be sure to put at least one chaperone in each cabin. We will assign actual cabin numbers to your group and communicate these to you before your visit.

**Note: Cabins 1-14 have fourteen beds and cabins 15 and 16 have thirteen beds (this is a change from the past). Reserve at least one bed in each cabin for a chaperone. Cabins do not have bathrooms, heat or a/c. Space heaters are not allowed as they pose a fire hazard.**

##### MAKE LEARNING GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

We will let you know how many learning groups we have calculated that your school needs based on the estimated attendance numbers. We will assign learning group names such as squirrel, bear, and snakes. Please use the names assigned to you. Other systems, such as colors, numbers or teachers' names cause confusion.

Divide students among the learning groups as evenly as possible. Learning groups of significantly different sizes are not allowed as they tend to cause friction among the groups and detract from the experience.

**Note: Please assign students to learning groups before arrival.**

As many as 25 students may be assigned to a group. However, in order to provide the best possible experience, we attempt to keep the student/instructor ratio below 25 to 1.

##### MAKE KITCHEN PATROL (KP) ASSIGNMENTS

Some youth help set tables before a meal and clean up after the meal. This is called KP. Assign youth to KP duty before arrival. Typically, youth are assigned KP on a rotation basis so that most students only serve KP for one meal, if any. When the KP bell rings, it is important that students and chaperones report to the dining hall.

*The lead teacher of the school assigns KP duties.*

Please communicate with the Program Coordinator to make sure that KP is assigned correctly. The number of students assigned to KP for a meal should equal about 10% of your total group numbers. For a 3-day program, there are usually 6 meals that have to be covered.

*Adults are integral to KP.*

At least two chaperones should accompany the youth to the dining hall when KP starts. We need adults to serve as role models who help the youth as well as keep them focused on the job. Our staff will provide direction and instructions, but they are not responsible for discipline.

#### MAKE BATHHOUSE CLEANUP DUTY ASSIGNMENTS

The visiting schools should keep the bathhouses tidy and clean. Encourage students to be considerate of other schools and remind them to take all of their personal belongings back to their cabins. We do not provide housekeeping services to clean the bathhouses during your visit.

On the day of departure, youth and chaperones assigned by the lead teacher will clean the bathhouses at 10:30. Before they may leave the bathhouses, an inspection will be performed by Wahsega's staff. If the bathhouse is sufficiently clean, it will be locked. Public restrooms in the Canteen building will remain available.

Students from all schools will need to be assigned to bathhouse cleanup duty for eight students at each bathhouse. One adult from each school will need to accompany their students assigned to bathhouse cleanup.

***Note: Adults from each school must be assigned to supervise cleanup. Wahsega staff members will be present to provide cleaning supplies and give direction to students assigned to clean the bathhouse.***

#### MAKE CAMP CLEANUP DUTY ASSIGNMENTS

Please assign a small group of students and an adult (10-15 people) to camp cleanup duty. At 10:30 am on departure day, this group will meet at the basketball court to be directed by our staff in grounds clean-up.

#### **10. Create student journals (optional)**

Writing about their experiences in our classes allows students to express their own creativity and to reinforce the learning experience. Breaks and journal times are scheduled into the program to maximize this opportunity.

The format of journals is left up to you. For your convenience, we have a list (Word document download; found at [http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/documents/Journal\\_Questions\\_K-12.doc](http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/documents/Journal_Questions_K-12.doc)) of suggested questions to use in assembling journals for your students before your visit.

#### **11. Make nametags**

Nametags are optional but they are very helpful to our staff, so we encourage you to use them.

#### **12. Make requests for special services.**

Some groups need to customize their experience. Please talk to our Program Coordinator to set up times for religious services, special meal times, services for people with special needs and specific meeting places for events. See the information below at #16 about dietary restrictions.

Four blankets are provided in the cabins in case someone needs one. A few additional blankets are available in the Canteen Building in a cabinet in the First Aid Station. Please request linen service well in advance if you require blankets for all members of your group.

**13. Designate an emergency Home Contact Person.**

More information about this concept is provided in the Emergencies and First Aid section that follows.

**14. Plan and host a chaperone orientation meeting**

You can find information to share with Chaperones beginning on page 18 of this Trip Planner.

**15. Plan to have a check cut for the remainder of your fees**

Please bring a check with you to cover the balance of your field study based on your most up-to-date count of participants. If an unforeseen absence causes you to overpay, you will receive a refund for the difference within 60 days of your field study. If an unforeseen addition causes your payment to be short we will print an invoice for you for the amount due.

**16. Notify Wahsega of any dietary restrictions**

Our Food Service Manager, Amanda Smallwood, is an experienced food service provider and can accommodate any special dietary needs your group has. We cook special meals for vegetarians, persons with food allergies or those who observe religious dietary restrictions. Please complete and submit the dietary restrictions form online at [http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/dietary\\_restrictions\\_form.html](http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/dietary_restrictions_form.html) detailing your group's specific needs.

**Note: We need to be notified as early as possible about special diets and not less than 2 weeks in advance of your visit.**

**17. Contact us if attendance numbers change**

**BRINGING MORE STUDENTS OR ADULTS**

Additions to your reservation numbers *may* be possible. Call us to see if we can accommodate any students who are on your waiting list.

**Note: Due to fire safety regulations, we cannot overfill cabins. Do not plan to lodge more individuals per cabin than specified above in the 'Assign students to cabins...' section.**

**CABIN ASSIGNMENTS MAY CHANGE**

We may reduce the number of cabins assigned if attendance is lower than originally estimated.

**18. Please do not arrive earlier than scheduled or depart later than scheduled.**

With several groups and programs onsite, this can pose a significant problem. See page 16 for information on the use of Dahlenega's parks for a picnic lunch before your arrival time.

**19. Please have a completed Attendance Registration Form and your payment ready upon arrival.**

Please provide us with attendance numbers using the Attendance Registration Form found online at [http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/eeforms\\_es237.html](http://www.wahsega4h.org/ee/eeforms_es237.html) or on page 15 of this document. Present the form along with a check in our office upon arrival.

## **EMERGENCIES AND FIRST AID**

### **First Aid Station**

#### **24-HOUR SERVICE**

Wahsega does not provide a nurse on center. Minor incidents can be treated in our First Aid Station 24 hours a day. It is at the end of the hall in the Canteen building.

#### **SUPPLIES**

We are only allowed to stock Ace bandages, band-aids, water, soap and ice packs. We are not authorized to stock or dispense other supplies or medications.

#### **INCIDENT REPORT FORM**

If you provide first aid, please complete our Incident Report Form located on a clipboard in the First Aid Station.

#### **MEDICATION**

Medication should be left in the care of an adult. Refrigerators are available in our First Aid Station and Pavilion 4 for medication that needs to be refrigerated.

### **On-center emergencies**

#### **HOSPITAL VISITS**

We will help you obtain emergency medical treatment for students if necessary at the hospital in Dahlonega.

#### **PERMISSION SLIPS**

Be sure to bring the proper paperwork with you to Wahsega when you come. Our office does not collect permission slips for each child.

#### **INSURANCE**

Wahsega is not responsible for your group's medical insurance. Inexpensive insurance is available through your local Cooperative Extension office if desired.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

We strongly recommend that an adult drive a vehicle to Wahsega that can be used in an emergency.

#### **RESPONDING TO WEATHER OR OTHER EMERGENCIES**

If we need to evacuate the 4-H center, or respond in some other way to an emergency, officials from the 911 Center will advise us. Lumpkin County Emergency Services has a County Emergency Operations Plan to provide services to residents, tourists and residential education facilities like Wahsega.

### **Home Contact Person**

It may be wise to designate someone not on the trip as a Home Contact person. Leave emergency contact information with this person. Let the school know who they are and distribute their phone number in a letter sent to parents. In an emergency, your Home Contact Person can call Wahsega's office number during office hours. After office hours, the contact person can call the Lumpkin County 911 Center. Either the 911 dispatcher will attempt to contact us from a list of contact numbers we have on file or they will dispatch a sheriff's deputy to drive to Wahsega to find us and deliver the message.

- Wahsega 4-H Center Office – 706-864-2050
- Lumpkin County 911 Center – 706-864-3633

When necessary, a Home Contact person can also relay messages from you while you are here to the proper individuals at home if you are having trouble contacting them. In addition, if the school office is closed, bus breakdowns or other problems can be communicated through a Home Contact person.



## TYPICAL SCHEDULES

Schedules can be customized to accommodate your particular needs.

### 3-DAY/2-NIGHT PROGRAM

#### Day One

1:30 Arrival  
2:00 Orientation  
**3:15 Day Class No. 1**  
4:45 Break and journals  
4:45 Dinner KP reports  
5:15 Dinner  
6:00 KP cleanup  
6:30 Canteen opens  
**7:00 Evening Class No. 1**  
**8:00 Evening Class No. 2**

#### Day Two

7:00 Wakeup bell  
7:30 Breakfast KP begins  
8:00 Breakfast  
8:30 KP cleanup  
**8:45 Day Class No. 2**  
10:15 Break and journals  
**10:30 Day Class No. 3**  
12:00 Lunch KP begins  
12:30 Lunch  
1:00 KP cleanup  
**1:30 Day Class No. 4**  
3:00 Break and journals  
**3:15 Day Class No. 5**  
4:45 Break and journals  
5:00 Dinner KP begins  
5:30 Dinner  
6:00 KP cleanup  
6:30 Canteen opens  
**7:00 Evening Class No. 3**  
**8:00 Evening Class No. 4**

#### Day Three

6:30 Wakeup bell  
7:15 Cabin check  
7:30 Breakfast KP begins  
8:00 Breakfast  
8:30 KP cleanup  
**9:00 Day Class No. 6**  
10:30 Lunch KP begins  
11:00 Lunch  
11:30 KP cleanup  
12:00 Load buses  
12:30 Depart

### 2-DAY/1-NIGHT PROGRAM

#### Day One

9:30 Arrival  
10:00 Orientation  
**10:30 Day Class No. 1**  
12:00 Lunch KP reports  
12:30 Lunch  
1:00 KP cleanup  
**1:30 Day Class No. 2**  
3:00 Break and journals  
**3:15 Day Class No. 3**  
4:45 Dinner KP reports  
5:15 Dinner  
6:00 KP cleanup  
6:30 Canteen opens  
**7:00 Evening Class No. 1**  
**8:00 Evening Class No. 2**  
9:00 Class ends  
11:00 Lights out

#### Day Two

6:30 Wakeup bell  
7:15 Start cabin cleanup  
7:30 Breakfast KP reports  
8:00 Breakfast  
8:30 KP cleanup  
**9:00 Day Class No. 4**  
10:30 Lunch KP reports  
11:00 Lunch  
11:30 KP cleanup  
12:00 Load buses  
12:30 Depart

### 1-DAY PROGRAM

9:30 Arrival  
10:00 Orientation  
**10:30 Day Class No. 1**  
12:00 Lunch KP reports  
12:30 Lunch  
1:00 KP cleanup  
**1:30 Day Class No. 2**  
3:00 Break and journals  
**3:15 Day Class No. 3**  
4:45 Load buses  
5:00 Depart

## **CLASS LISTING**

### **Day class options**

1. Archery
2. Astronomy
3. Challenge Course
4. Entomology
5. Forest Ecology
6. Herpetology
7. High-ropes (Additional charges and restrictions apply)
8. Orienteering
9. Pioneer Life
10. Stream Ecology
11. Survival
12. Wildlife
13. Discovery Hike\*
14. Gold Panning\*
15. Wilderness Art\*

### **Evening class options**

1. Snake Appreciation (May not be taken with Herpetology.)\*\*
2. Night Wildlife\*\*
3. Sensory Awareness\*\*
4. Campfire Songs & Skits\*
5. Dance Party\*
6. Movie\*
7. Native American Games\*
8. New Games\*
9. Ultimate Frisbee\*

### **Wahsega GPS Correlation Guide**

Classes are matched to the GPS by grade level. This means that the major concepts taught in a class are determined by GPS requirements. The concepts we teach are listed in the Wahsega GPS Correlation Guide. There may be numerous indirect relationships in a class to many concepts covered by the GPS; however, these indirect concepts are not listed. The correlation guide is available on our website.

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\* Teachers or chaperones from the school normally provide instruction for this class.  
\*\* Multiple teaching groups may be combined for this class.

## **CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Day classes led by Wahsega's staff**

#### **1. ARCHERY**

**Goals:** To introduce students to the basic components of a bow and how to properly use a bow.

**Methods:** Students will be introduced to some basic archery skills (safety, history, and shooting techniques). Students will then use what they have learned to shoot targets on the archery range using compound bows.

**Skills:** Patience, Listening & Following directions, Processing, Comprehension, Application, Observation

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

#### **2. ASTRONOMY**

**Goals:** To increase the student's knowledge of astronomy concepts and locations of common stars and constellations.

**Methods:** Students are exposed to asterisms, constellations, stories related to the constellations, significant stars, and planets using our inflatable star lab. Students also discuss the solar system we all call home. They will also learn why and how our very own moon behaves the way it does.

**Skills:** Observation, Literary Awareness, Creativity and Identification

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

#### **3. CHALLENGE COURSE**

**Goals:** To help students increase personal confidence, build mutual support within a peer group, and aid in understanding the importance of planning and cooperation.

**Methods:** Students will go through a series of activities designed to give students clearly defined mental and physical problems to solve. The challenges offer students the opportunity to stretch beyond their boundaries in a safe environment, allowing growth in self-awareness and self-confidence. The challenge course elements are designed to force students to plan and work together as a team to solve the specific problems presented.

**Skills:** Leadership, Cooperation, Coordination, Mutual respect, Discipline, Patience, Listening, Processing, Oral communication, Following directions

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

#### **4. ENTOMOLOGY**

**Goals:** To discover how diverse the insect kingdom is, become aware of the traits that enable insects to survive in their habitats and understand the role of insects in relation to other living things.

**Methods:** Students learn the characteristics and body parts of insects. Also, students explore different habitat areas around Wahsega observing, collecting and gathering information about insects.

**Skills:** Observation, Identification, Classification, Comparing Similarities and Differences, Matching, Processing Skills, and Problem Solving Skills

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

#### **5. FOREST ECOLOGY**

**Goals:** To help students understand and appreciate the relationships and inter-dependency that characterizes a forest ecosystem.

**Methods:** Students will participate in a group discussion exploring the implications of community. While hiking on a trail, students will participate in activities that illustrate the life cycles that exist in the forest and search for signs of the members of that community.

**Skills:** Observation, Identification, Classification, Comparing & Contrasting, Analyzing, Processing Skills, Problem Solving Skills, Comprehension, and Sensory Awareness Skills

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

#### **7. HERPETOLOGY**

**Goals:** To introduce students to characteristics, differences, and roles of reptiles and amphibians.

**Methods:** After participating in a group discussion to identify characteristics of reptiles and amphibians students will have the opportunity to handle live specimens.

**Skills:** Observation, Application, Classification, Description, Comparing Similarities & Differences, Reading, animal Handling

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

## 8. HIGH-ROPES

**Goals:** To use the high-ropes challenge course to help students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or higher identify and then overcome self-imposed limitations.

**Methods:** The lead teacher will select one high-ropes element from the three available (Zip Line, Climbing Wall, and Flying Squirrel). Students will then be instructed in appropriate safety methods and equipment usage before beginning. With the support of their peers and Wahsega staff members, students will be encouraged to accept the challenge presented by the element and then accomplish the goal of the element as set out by Wahsega staff members.

**Skills:** Identification, Analyzing, Problem Solving, and Comprehension

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

**Note:** *There are limited slots for Zip Line and Climbing Wall. Teachers must speak with the program coordinator to check availability before selecting this class.*

## 9. ORIENTEERING

**Goals:** To introduce students to the proper use of the compass and the proper pacing technique.

**Methods:** Students will listen to a mini-lecture describing compass parts, how to take a bearing, and proper pacing techniques, then participate in activities practicing these skills.

**Skills:** Application, Estimation, Computation, Listening & Following Directions, Measurement, Psychomotor Development

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

## 10. PIONEER LIFE (Not scheduled with gold panning)

**Goals:** Through observation and participation students explore the life of the Pioneers of North Georgia.

**Methods:** Students will participate in a group discussion about the effects of Europeans in Georgia on Native Americans. In addition they will use tools of the early settlers to explore the nature of daily life during this time period, pan for gold, make candles, and end class with a discussion on technological advances and how their life might be different if they were alive during the time of the Georgia gold rush.

**Skills:** Coordination, Discipline & Patience, Listening, and Following Directions

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

## 11. STREAM ECOLOGY

**Goals:** To aid students in their understanding and appreciation of the importance of the water cycle; recognize differences in the life stages of aquatic animals as they grow and discover the diversity of animals that live in a stream. Students also learn to distinguish the difference between healthy streams and unhealthy streams.

**Methods:** The students will participate in activities that enhance their understanding of the water cycle and aquatic ecosystems; students also capture, identify, and observe stream animals.

**Skills:** Observation, Inference, Identification, Collecting, Classifying & Categorizing, Comparing Similarities & Differences, Matching, Recognition, and Critter Catching

**What to wear:** Clothes and shoes that can get wet are strongly suggested. Students have the option of getting into the stream.

## 12. SURVIVAL

**Goals:** To teach skills and techniques which help prevent students from getting lost in the woods and what to do if they become lost. Students will learn to set up a survival camp and will demonstrate understanding of basic survival needs and how to fulfill these needs in the wilderness.

**Methods:** Activities are incorporated into discussion about how not to get lost and the five basic survival needs. Students decide what items and methods should be utilized. Students are challenged to construct a survival shelter.

**Skills:** Problem Solving, Inference, Observation, Psychomotor Development, and Cooperation

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

### 13. WILDLIFE

**Goals:** To help students understand some of the natural processes that affect the wildlife of the Chattahoochee National Forest, their habitat and how human activity affects wildlife.

**Methods:** Students will participate in activities that enhance their understanding of the essential components of habitats, the importance of good habitat for animals, what limiting factors affect animals and the importance of predator/prey relationships.

**Skills:** Generalization, Psychomotor Development, Graphing, Application, Comparing Similarities & Differences

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

### Day classes – teacher-led options

#### 14. DISCOVERY HIKE – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

**Goals:** Students will explore characteristics of organisms found in the forest around Wahsega and consider their interactions with each other and the environment.

**Methods:** A hike along a trail in the national forest is marked by several stopping points, each presenting students with a question or challenge.

**Materials:** Hiking guide for group leader, worksheets, pencils

**Skills:** Observation, Compare/contrast, Analyzing, Identification and Comprehension

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

#### 15. GOLD PANNING (Not scheduled with pioneer life) – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

**Goals:** To introduce students to the early history of Georgia and the role of gold in the relations between Native Americans and colonists.

**Methods:** After a brief discussion about Georgia's pioneer and gold rush history, students have the opportunity to pan for gold.

**Skills:** Observation, Compare/contrast, Analyzing, and Comprehension

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

#### 16. WILDERNESS ART – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS.

Select an educational and artistic project for your students to complete in this 1 ½ hour class time. You will need to provide instructions and materials. Work with the Program Coordinator to determine if your project is a good fit for the schedule and facilities.

**Wahsega can provide the supplies for Nature Sketching.**

**Goals:** Students use various mediums to explore environmental education concepts.

**Methods:** Hike out into the woods and choose a natural scene to capture. Using pastels and crayons students will sketch nature scenes.

**Materials:** crayons, pastels, paper.

**Skills:** Problem Solving, Hypotheses Formulating and Testing, Aesthetic Sensitivity, and Dexterity

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

### Evening classes led by Wahsega's staff

#### 1. SNAKE APPRECIATION (may not be taken with Herpetology)

**Goals:** To introduce students to this often misunderstood crawling reptile as well as explain physical characteristics.

**Methods:** Students will participate in a discussion discerning fact from fiction. Students will also get a chance to touch or hold a live snake during the class.

**Skills:** Listening, Observation, Comparing Similarities and Differences, and Following Directions

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

#### 2. NIGHT WILDLIFE

**Goals:** To help students understand and distinguish between nocturnal and diurnal animal traits.

**Methods:** Students participate in activities and games that aid in their discovery of nocturnal animal traits.

**Skills:** Observation, Problem Solving, Classification, Inference, Investigation, and Processing

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

### **3. SENSORY AWARENESS**

**Goals:** To increase the student's awareness of their various senses and illustrate how dependent humans are on the sense of sight.

**Methods:** Students participate in multi-sensory exercises illustrating the limitations of human sensory organs at night.

**Skills:** Listening, Observation, Classification, Coordination and Independence

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

### **Evening classes – teacher-led options**

**1. CAMPFIRE SONGS, SKITS & STORIES – USUALLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS, WAHSEGA'S STAFF CAN LEAD THIS AS WELL.**

**Goals:** To provide students with the opportunity to interact socially in an educational and entertaining setting.

**Methods:** Students participate in songs, skits and stories at a campfire.

**Skills:** Oral Communication, Cooperation, Observation, Listening, Acting and Public Speaking

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

**2. DANCE PARTY – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS**

Teachers who wish to have a dance in the Rec. Hall for their students may do so. Please communicate with Wahsega's Program Coordinator when making these plans.

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

**3. MOVIE IN THE REC HALL – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL LEAD THIS.**

Teachers who wish to show a movie in the Rec. hall may do so. Please communicate with Wahsega's Program Coordinator when making these plans. You will need to bring your own movie. Snacks are not allowed in the Rec. hall.

**What to wear:** Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

**4. NATIVE AMERICAN GAMES – USUALLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS, WAHSEGA'S STAFF CAN LEAD THIS AS WELL.**

**Goals:** To allow students to experience non-traditional physical activities, introduce them to other cultures, and show students how other cultures used games to teach lessons or make decisions.

**Methods:** Students participate in a series of active games similar to those played by Native American people.

**Skills:** Discipline, Agility, Communication, Processing Skills, Patience, Listening, Observation and Psychomotor Development

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

**5. NEW GAMES – USUALLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS, WAHSEGA'S STAFF CAN LEAD THIS AS WELL.**

**Goals:** To enable students to increase their agility, trust and cooperation within a group using non-traditional physical activities.

**Methods:** Students participate in a series of active physical activities designed to build group cooperation and trust.

**Skills:** Problem Solving, Processing, Discipline, Psychomotor Development, and Oral Communication

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

**6. ULTIMATE FRISBEE – USUALLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL LEAD THIS, WAHSEGA'S STAFF CAN LEAD THIS AS WELL.**

**Goals:** To encourage students to use teamwork to reach a common goal, to encourage physical activity while having fun and to demonstrate to students that they can enjoy themselves while staying within the structure set forth by the rules of the game.

**Methods:** Students participate in a short orientation where they learn the basics of throwing a Frisbee and the rules of Ultimate Frisbee. Then the students participate in a game of Ultimate Frisbee.

**Skills:** Discipline, Agility, Verbal and non-verbal communication, Patience, Cooperation, Team skills, Leadership, Hand-eye coordination and Athletic ability

**What to wear:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

## BUS DRIVER INFORMATION FORM

This information may be useful for bus drivers.

**Note: Please do not use GPS devices, Google Maps or other electronic mapping systems. They provide the shortest route without regard for road quality. U.S. Forest Service roads in the area may be almost impassable. Furthermore, online maps of this area have mislabeled road names.**

### Contact Information

#### SCHOOL GROUP INFORMATION

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Group name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### WAHSEGA 4-H CENTER INFORMATION

Phone: 706-864-2050

Email: [wahsega@uga.edu](mailto:wahsega@uga.edu)

Web: <http://www.wahsega4h.org/maps.html>

### Itinerary

#### FIRST DAY

Pickup point: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure from pickup point: Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop-off point: Wahsega 4-H Center

Expected arrival time at Wahsega 4-H Center: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: For 3-day programs, please do not arrive before 1:30 p.m. without prior approval.**

#### LAST DAY

Pickup point: Wahsega 4-H Center

Departure from pickup point: Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Please plan to leave by 12:30 in the afternoon if you are here for the 3-day program.**

Drop-off point: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected arrival time at drop-off point : \_\_\_\_\_

### Getting to Wahsega

Use the bus route marked on this map rather than going through downtown Dahlonega.

### Expect a gravel road

Wahsega 4-H Center (a.k.a. Camp Wahsega) is off a narrow winding gravel road, Forest Road 28, one mile from the end of Camp Wahsega Road.

### Entering the center

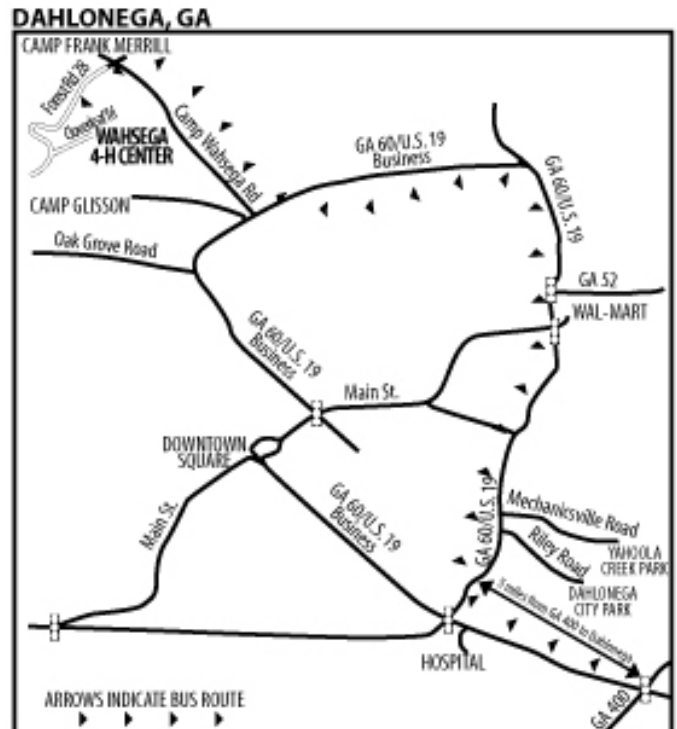
Our driveway does not have separate entrances and exits and is only one lane. Therefore, to exit without a problem, drivers should pull past the entrance and then back down the driveway.

### Parking on center

While the parking lot is small, a number of buses can park side by side without a problem.

### No idling engines

Please turn off engines immediately upon arrival rather than leaving them running.





## ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the following fields accurately.

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Field study dates: \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Students:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# of Adults:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GROUP TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level (if multiple grades, # of students per grade): \_\_\_\_\_

School Type (check one): Public  Private  Home  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### ES-237 Data Collection

We are required by the USDA to present the form below to you. However, you may choose not to respond. The classifications are defined by the USDA and cannot be changed. The data collected is confidential and will not be identified with your school when used for reporting purposes.

- The sum of the numbers below does not have to equal the Group Total above.
- One person may be represented in multiple classifications.
- Please include both adults and students in the classifications below.

### Racial Classification

#### Male

Race White: \_\_\_\_\_

Race African American or Black: \_\_\_\_\_

Race American Indian or Alaska Native: \_\_\_\_\_

Race Asian: \_\_\_\_\_

Race Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Female

Race White: \_\_\_\_\_

Race African American or Black: \_\_\_\_\_

Race American Indian or Alaska Native: \_\_\_\_\_

Race Asian: \_\_\_\_\_

Race Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: \_\_\_\_\_

### Ethnicity

In addition to one or more races, you may classify a person as "Hispanic or Latino".

#### Male

Ethnicity Hispanic or Latino: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Female

Ethnicity Hispanic or Latino: \_\_\_\_\_

## **IMPORTANT NOTES FOR TEACHERS**

### **Chaperones**

Each learning group needs at least one chaperone. Our staff will not teach a group that does not have a chaperone present. Cabins will need to be chaperoned by members of your group as well. Wahsega does not provide cabin counselors.

### **Phones**

Phones for adults to use are in Pavilion 4 and the First Aid Station. A phone is not available for students. Cell phones will not work at Wahsega due to our extremely remote location. Plan to use a calling card to call long-distance. We sell calling cards at our cost for \$6 (60 minutes). Please don't request to use an office phone except in an emergency.

### **Computers**

Access to our office computers is not available. Wireless access over WiFi is available near the office building for iPhones, iPods and lap top computers.

### **Nametags**

Most school groups choose to give their students nametags to wear. Wahsega does not provide name-tags and does not require them.

### **Rules**

Please enforce the rules for students listed on page 20. Lights out is 11:00 p.m. You may want to impose a few other rules or remind students of your school's rules.

### **Carpooling**

Parking is limited, so please encourage carpooling if your group is not using buses.

### **Damage Fees**

A schedule of damage fees is posted in each cabin. The fees for damages, if any, will be assessed on the last day of your visit and billed to the school.

### **Use of the Parks in Dahlonega**

#### **ABOUT THE PARKS**

Because schools may not arrive early, some teachers like to go to a park in Dahlonega for a picnic lunch before arrival.

- The DAHLONEGA CITY PARK is suitable for a small group. It has a small restroom, four or five covered picnic tables and playground equipment. There is adequate parking for a bus or two but not extensive parking. Reservations are required but usage is free. You must call ahead to reserve the Dahlonega City Park for your group. Call the Dahlonega City Hall at 706-864-6133.
- YAHOOLA CREEK PARK is also available. It is a large park with pavilions, trails, picnic tables and plenty of parking. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. every day. No reservations are required but the pavilions are provided on a first come first served basis unless a \$15.00 fee is paid to reserve the pavilion. Call the Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Department at 706-864-3622 to make reservations for the Yahoola Creek Park.

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKS**

Going north on Georgia 400, turn left where 400 ends, this is GA 60 North. It goes directly to Dahlonega. Near Dahlonega, there is a Shell station on the right at the top of a hill. Chestatee Regional Hospital and McDonalds are on the left down the hill from the Shell station.

- To DAHLONEGA CITY PARK: At the stoplight at the bottom of the hill, turn right onto U.S. 19 & GA 60. Go less than a mile. Turn right onto Riley Rd. The ball field is on the left. Follow Riley road around and behind the field. City Hall is directly ahead and the Park and Recreation building will be on the left. Proceed to City Hall. The public park area is on the right as you face City Hall.
- To YAHOOLA CREEK PARK: At the stoplight at the bottom of the hill, turn right onto U.S. 19 & GA 60. Go less than a mile. Pass Riley Road and take the next left onto Mechanicsville Road. The park is about a mile down and the road dead ends at the park, so you can't miss it.

### **Accessibility**

If anyone in the group has special needs, we recommend that the group leader visit Wahsega ahead of time to determine if we can meet their needs.

### **Custom field study schedules**

We can provide more or fewer meals or classes in your schedule to fit your students' needs more closely. There is no premium fee for this service. Call us for a quote.

### **Exclusive use option**

Exclusive use of the center during a 4-H Environmental Education field study is available. A premium conference fee is assessed for groups that request this service. Call for an exact quote.

### **Religious services**

We will work with you to schedule times and provide facilities to accommodate religious practice or events. To avoid scheduling conflicts with other groups, mention these needs to the Program Coordinator when you make class selections.

## **GUIDELINES FOR CHAPERONES**

### **At least one chaperone stays with each learning group and is present in classes at all times.**

Our staff will not teach a class without a chaperone present. If there are several chaperones assigned to a learning group, please keep conversations at the back of class to a minimum.

### **At least one chaperone is required per cabin.**

### **Enforce our rules and any rules the school has in place.**

See page 20 for Wahsega's rules.

### **Assist children with first aid and emergencies.**

The First Aid Station is located in the Canteen building. A nurse is not on duty. We ask that chaperones help children with first aid needs. Feel free to use our supplies. Please log treatment provided on the clipboard on the counter in the First Aid Station. In an emergency, dial 9-911.

### **Supervise the students during free time.**

### **Assist with KP, bathhouse cleanup and camp cleanup.**

Wahsega staff will direct these duties, but chaperones are required to be present and assist.

### **Make sure that students clean their cabins and pass inspection before checkout.**

Cabin cleanup takes place on the morning of your departure. Cabins should be clean and empty. They will be locked up before breakfast that morning by our staff that comes by to inspect. There is a list of cleanup tasks in each cabin. It is helpful to have the students pack up the night before.

### **Be positive.**

Students will adopt your attitude.

### **Cell phones won't work at Wahsega.**

Cell phone service is unavailable at Wahsega because we are in an extremely remote location. We offer the use of two landlines, which you have access to 24 hours a day. These phones are located in the First Aid Station and in the Pavilion 4 kitchen area. Dial 9 to get an outside line. We are not in the Atlanta Metro local calling area, so you'll need to call collect or use a calling card for most calls. We sell calling cards from either our office or the Canteen store. WiFi enabled cell phones are able to get internet access in an area near the office.

### **Coffee is available at all times.**

At the dining hall entrance, there is a coffeemaker that chaperones may use at any time to brew coffee. Directions and supplies are provided. Be eco-friendly by bringing along your own travel coffee mug. Students are not allowed to have coffee.

### **Please carpool.**

If your group is traveling in personal vehicles rather than buses, please make plans to travel in fewer cars if possible. There is limited parking at Wahsega.

## INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

### What to pack

- Sleeping bag or twin sheets & pillow (No linens or pillows provided)
- Towels & washcloths
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Bag or basket to carry supplies from the cabin to the bathhouse
- Daily change of clothing (Some days you may need two)
- Old shirts & jeans (for ropes courses)
- Jacket or sweatshirt (for cool mornings and nights)
- Rain gear (classes continue regardless of the weather)
- Shoes (Some to keep dry and some that can get wet):  
**Note: Wearing wet socks, shoes or sandals all day causes blisters.**
- Sun block
- Plastic garbage bags marked with the owner's name (for wet clothes)
- Water bottle

**Note: Label clothing and personal items.**

### What not to pack

- Chewing gum
- Flip-flops or *any* sandals without a heel strap (except for showering)
- New or nice clothing
- Electronics, cell phones, iPods, etc.
- Skate boards, roller blades, bicycles, etc.
- Other items of high value

**Note: Wahsega 4-H Center is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

### No housekeeping service

#### CLEANLINESS IS THE STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY

There is no cleaning service for the bathhouses or cabins. It is the responsibility of the students to keep bathhouses and cabins clean.

#### KEEP UP WITH YOUR OWN BELONGINGS

You will share the bathhouses with other schools. Please be considerate of them and keep the bathhouses clean. Each time you leave the bathhouse, carry your own dirty or wet clothes and towels as well as soap, shampoo and other toiletries with you.

### Bring old clothes & shoes

Bring old clothes and shoes that can get dirty and old shoes that can get wet while in Stream Ecology class.

### Do not plan to wear sandals without a heel strap

Sandals without heel straps are not allowed. To prevent injury, you must wear shoes that will stay on your feet.

### Bring a pillow & sleeping bag or twin size sheets & covers

Pillows, sheets and blankets are not provided for guests. Bring a pillow and sleeping bag or twin sheets and adequate covers for the bunk beds. Cabins are not heated.

**Remember toiletries**

Towels, washcloths, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and other toiletries are not provided. Some of these products may be available for purchase in the Canteen.

**Money for souvenirs from the Canteen store**

We sell a selection of souvenirs, clothing and snacks in the Canteen. Soft drinks are available in vending machines on the outside of the Canteen building.

**About our First Aid Station**

Wahsega's First Aid Station is on the right at the end of the hall in the Canteen Building. It has Ace band-aids, band-aids, water and soap. Also, some pain and allergy medications are available. A nurse is not on duty. We will help teachers get emergency medical treatment at the hospital in Dahlenega if necessary.

**Medication**

If a child is taking any medication, the medication must be left with a teacher who will oversee its use. Refrigerated medication may be kept in a refrigerator in our First Aid Station or in the Pavilion 4 kitchen.

**Rules**

We have one rule at Wahsega:

**RESPECT your T.O.E.S.**

**Teachers**

- The teachers and chaperones
- The EE instructors
- All Adults

**Others**

- Friends and classmates as well as students and adults from other schools or adults on Wahsega's staff
- Turtles living in Turtle-topia, water snakes living alongside the creek, other living creatures

**Environment**

- Youth are responsible for cleaning up after themselves
- No food in cabins
- Throw away trash and recycle bottles
- Stay out of the stream and pond
- No throwing rocks
- No chewing gum
- Personal belongings need to be taken with you when you leave the bathhouse

**Self**

- Wear good shoes around camp – no flip flops
- Wash your hands before a meal in the bathhouse or Canteen restroom.
- Adult supervision is needed on hiking trails, at the waterfall deck, or when going off center.