



Backpack Adventure Camp 2024 FAQs

We are so glad your child is going to join us for summer camp!! We can't wait to meet your child! Please read this letter carefully so you and your child are prepared for a great session.

Forms to complete and submit via JotForm:

- **By June 3rd, please complete online:**
- **Enrollment Form**
- **Health History and Emergency Care Form**
- **Parent Agreement Form**

Forms to print, complete, and bring to camp with your child:

- **Immunization Form**
- **Medication Authorization Form (if child has EpiPen/Inhaler) along with required medication**

*Please also carefully read the Health Protocols document, which reflects up to date health protocols outlined by the CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health.

If you are unable to complete forms online, please contact anna@ridgessanctuary.org to receive PDF documents or paper copies of the forms.

If filling out paper copies of forms, you can send completed forms either via mail to:
The Ridges Sanctuary
P.O. Box 215
Baileys Harbor, WI
54202

Or via email to anna@ridgessanctuary.org. If you are submitting forms via email, please use the subject line "Backpack Adventure Camp Forms". Please include your child's name and the week they are attending camp in the email.

What is the purpose of summer camp at The Ridges?

We hope that children will fall in love with the natural world (in spite of the mosquitoes) and will notice even more in the boreal forest and wetland than they ever did before. We hope that children will gain confidence in themselves as they work and play in a new environment, and as they are challenged by the outdoor setting. Camp leaders will intentionally support children in these important areas: 1) finding out new things about the wildlife of the boreal forest; 2) making new friendships; and, 3) succeeding with the physical challenges of the outdoors!

What will my child be doing at camp?

Your child will be working in a group of 16 children of various ages, with 2 camp leaders. Camp leaders will plan and implement activities that allow children to learn, play, listen to stories or explanations, and engage in hands-on nature study.

Note: In order to keep all children happy and safe, it is our expectation that your child follows directions and works collaboratively.

What are the current Health Protocols for camp?

In order to keep your children safe, we will be updating our current Health Protocols document, as well as our Parent Agreement, to reflect CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health guidelines. These documents will be sent to all families registered for camp. They are also available on our website at www.ridgessanctuary.org/registered-camp-families/. Please complete all camp forms for your child(ren) before June 3rd.

What if my child needs an epi pen?

Please make a note of this on the Enrollment Form and fill out the Medication Authorization Form, which can be found on our website under the Registered Camp Families page. Label the medication with your child's name, place it in a plastic bag with a copy of the Medication Authorization Form, and give it to the camp leader who assists you at the car line drop off. Don't forget to bring it home at the end of camp.

What should my child wear?

Clothes that your child can manage on their own!

Because of mosquitoes and possible ticks, please dress your child this way:

1. Long pants
2. Long sleeves
3. Shoes that can get wet (rain boots or water shoes) and can be worn on a hike without causing blisters – we will be walking in sand, wet grass, and maybe mud
4. Socks that stay up during long walks
5. Sunscreen – please apply **at home**
6. Bug repellent – please apply **at home**
7. Hat for sun and to keep the flies off!!!!
8. Jacket if it is cool
9. Waterproof jacket for rainy days. Unless it is thundering or raining hard, we will go outside.

What should my child bring?

Your child must have a filled water bottle each day labeled with their name.

Your child will need a dry pair of socks, and a complete change of clothes.

A plastic bag for wet clothes.

For beach Friday, your child will need a towel and warm jacket or hoodie.

Where will my child put their things when they get to camp?

Please have belongings in a bag of some sort that your child can identify, be in charge of, and carry. Each morning your child will place his/her belongings in "his/her" space. Then your child will put his/her water bottle and hat in a special Ridges backpack to carry on a hike. Ridges backpacks will remain at camp. Extra clothes and water bottles can remain in the cabins for the week. We realize that part of early childhood development is learning how to organize personal items, and we will

give each child a space in which they can be successful, and we will allow adequate time for this part of the day. Be sure to check for wet clothes in your child's bag when you get home. ☺

What should I ask my child after camp?

Did your clothes work well for you?

Where did you go today? What did you see?

What was the hardest thing you did today? How did that go?

What are you looking forward to for tomorrow?

If you have other questions, please contact Anna Foster at anna@ridgessanctuary.org or (920)-839-2802 ext. 115.

See you soon!!!!

The Ridges Staff