

Outdoor Connections at Camp Sealth

Fall 2020 Program Information



About Camp Sealth & Camp Fire

Camp Sealth is owned by Camp Fire Central Puget Sound Council. In a typical year, we operate overnight and day camp during the summer, and outdoor education and retreats the rest of the year. Camp Fire also runs traditional club programs for youth, and leadership and service learning for teens. Camp Sealth serves around 7,000 youth and families annually.

We have over 350 acres of pristine forest, wetlands, and private saltwater beach on Colvos Passage, on the southwest shore of Vashon Island. On site are over 40 buildings, three large playfields, covered picnic shelters and firepits, and outdoor amphitheater seating which allow for flexibility with both indoor and outdoor programs.

Program Overview & Goals

Camp Sealth is excited to introduce "Outdoor Connections", a program to support youth, teens, and families who are impacted by COVID-19 and school closures. We received a great deal of feedback on what island families would like to see provided, and appreciate everyone who took the time to share their ideas. The options below represent the majority of responses from parents, and what is logistically possible in terms of cost and staffing abilities.

We also understand that the situation around COVID-19 is constantly changing. Our plans and program offerings will be flexible depending on family needs, school district reopening plans, and county/state requirements.

Outdoor Connections Program Options

- **Full Week (grades K-5):** The full week program runs Monday to Friday from 8:30 – 3:30 daily with optional extended care until 5:30. Students will have work time in the morning to attend online classes, and the rest of the day will include camp activities, outdoor/nature classes, and free play time.
- **Half-Day (grades K-8):** This is a 2-day option (either Mon/Wed or Tue/Thu) from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Academic support is not included in this program; kids will be spending time outdoors doing camp activities and free play in their small groups.
- **Pre-K:** The pre-K program is for kids aged 3 to 5 who are not yet in kindergarten. This is a 2-day program (either Mon/Wed or Tue/Thu) that runs from 8:30 – 12:30. The pre-K program will include indoor and outdoor free play time, age-appropriate camp activities, and structured social time.
- **Teen Program (grades 6-12):** This program is for teens (and tweens), and will run only on Fridays from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. The program includes outdoor camp activities, service learning, and leadership development.

Program Goals

Camp Fire and Camp Sealth believes in empowering youth to grow in confidence, social and emotional skills, leadership, and compassion. We are proud to be a welcoming place for all kids to come together to learn, play, and grow into successful and caring adults. The specific goals in offering the Outdoor Connections program are:

- To provide an opportunity for kids to get outdoors for exercise and free play
- To supplement kids' educational needs with the ability to interact with peers and gain social skills
- To fill a need for childcare for parents who need to work
- To prevent the spread of COVID-19 by implementing the highest possible safety measures, while still allowing kids to have fun and connect with each other

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Basic Information: Dates, Program Options, and Cost

First Term dates: September 14 – December 18

Program operates all weekdays except the following holidays: November 11 and November 25-27.

Registration Options for Outdoor Connections

		Age/Grade	Days Each Week	Hours
Option 1	Full Week	Grades K-5	5 days Monday to Friday	8:30 – 3:30
Extended Care		Available for full-week program	Monday to Friday	3:30 – 5:30
Option 2	Half-Day M/W	Grades K-8	2 days Monday/Wednesday	2:00 – 6:00
Option 3	Half-Day Tu/Th	Grades K-8	2 days Tuesday/Thursday	2:00 – 6:00
Option 4	Pre-K M/W	Age 3-5	2 days Monday/Wednesday	8:30 – 12:30
Option 5	Pre-K Tu/Th	Age 3-5	2 days Tuesday/Thursday	8:30 – 12:30
Option 5	Teen Program	Grades 6-12	1 day Friday	1:30 – 5:30

Eligibility Requirements

Youth in grades K to 5 are eligible to register for the Full Week program, and grades K to 8 are eligible for the Half-Day option. The Teen Program is open to grades 6 to 12. Pre-K must be at least 3 years old as of September 14 and potty-trained. Camp Sealth supports most children with disabilities; see the Supporting Youth with Disabilities section for more details.

Registration

Registration will open on Thursday, August 20. A link to registration can be found on our website:

www.campfireseattle.org.

Cost

Camp Sealth wants all families who need it to participate in our program. Fees are determined on a self-selected sliding scale based on the following eligibility. Determine your category by using the number of people living in your household and your *expected income for 2020*. If the lowest available cost category still presents a barrier to your family, please contact us about full financial aid options.

Household size:	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people	7 people	8+ people
Category A	Up to \$23,250	Up to \$26,600	Up to \$29,900	Up to \$33,200	Up to \$35,900	Up to \$38,550	Up to \$41,200	Up to \$43,850
Category B	\$23,251 to \$46,500	\$26,601 to \$53,160	\$29,901 to \$59,820	\$33,201 to \$66,420	\$35,901 to \$71,760	\$38,551 to \$77,100	\$41,201 to \$82,380	\$43,851 to \$87,720
Category C	\$46,501 to \$61,800	\$52,161 to \$70,600	\$59,821 to \$79,450	\$66,421 to \$88,250	\$71,761 to \$95,350	\$77,101 to \$102,400	\$82,381 to \$109,450	\$87,721 to \$116,500
Category D	\$61,801 or more	\$70,601 or more	\$79,451 or more	\$88,251 or more	\$95,351 or more	\$102,401 or more	\$109,451 or more	\$116,501 or more

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	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D
Full Week (gr. K-5)	\$100/week	\$200/week	\$250/week	\$320/week
Extended Care for Full-Week program	\$25/week	\$30/week	\$50/week	\$75/week
Half-Day (br. K-8) M/W or Tu/Th	\$40/week	\$70/week	\$95/week	\$120/week
Pre-K M/W or Tu/Th	\$40/week	\$70/week	\$95/week	\$120/week
Teen Program (gr. 6-12)	\$20/week	\$35/week	\$45/week	\$60/week

Registration & Finance Policies

You will only need to register once for the entire first term (September 14 to December 18). At time of registration, you'll pay only for September (3 weeks) and then will be charged monthly after that. You may cancel at any time and will not be charged for any unused weeks, however, we cannot prorate for partial weeks. You may also change programs (depending on availability) at any time for no fee except the difference in program cost. Due to the need to keep groups consistent, we can only accommodate one registration change per month except in an emergency.

We cannot prorate for partial weeks in case of days missed; however, if your child must miss the program for one full week or more due to quarantine or other medical issue, we will refund for the missed weeks.

Depending on the reopening plans for the school district and state of Washington, re-registration will be required for a term beginning in January.

COVID-19 Prevention

The health and safety of our campers, staff, and the greater island community is our first priority. We will only run programs if we feel that it is safe to do so. Camp Sealth will follow all recommendations from the [Washington State Department of Health](#) and the [American Camp Association](#). Before the start of the program, we will provide families and staff with a copy of our comprehensive COVID-19 prevention plan. We encourage you to carefully read and review with your family to ensure that we are doing everything we can to minimize the spread of the virus at camp and in our community.

Each family's situation is different. If there are any high-risk individuals in your family, you should consult with your health-care provider before deciding to participate in this program.

The following is a basic list of the specific precautions we will be taking and what to expect in our program (the prevention plan will include more details):

- **Health Screening:** Staff and campers will complete a health screening each day at check-in, including temperature and symptom check, and must attest that they have not been exposed to anyone with COVID-19.
- **Masks:** Cloth face coverings (masks) or face shields are required at all times by staff and anyone over the age of 5, except when eating or drinking. Masks are recommended for 3 and 4 year olds but not required.

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COVID-19 Prevention, continued:

- **Arrival/Departure:** Drop-off and pick-up procedures will be organized in a way to minimize contact between families including staggered arrival/departure times, distance markers for lines, and directional traffic. Carpools are discouraged, but may be allowed with families in the same group.
- **Groups:** Campers will be organized into small, multi-age groups of no more than 10 children with up to two staff, and the groups will be kept consistent through the program duration. Families may choose to have siblings or friends in the same group.
- **Hygiene:** Campers and staff will be instructed in hygiene and illness prevention measures. Handwashing facilities and hand sanitizer are readily available throughout the facility, and frequent handwashing will be encouraged.
- **Outdoors & Social Distancing:** Activities will take place outdoors as much as possible. Six-foot social distancing will be utilized indoors and outdoors whenever possible within each small group, and always when campers from different groups are together.
- **Cleaning:** When using indoor spaces, only one group will be in a room together, and the room will be disinfected before another group uses that space. High-contact surfaces in shared bathrooms will be disinfected approximately every two hours. All shared supplies, equipment, and facilities will be disinfected between groups and at the end of each day.
- **Food:** Lunch and snacks will be eaten outdoors whenever possible. Campers and staff will be seated 6 feet apart so that they can remove masks to eat and drink.
- **If Someone Gets Sick:** Campers or staff who display illness symptoms will be sent home or asked to stay home. Families will be notified if a camper or staff in their child's group gets sick, while maintaining privacy of the individual. A sick individual may not return to the program until they have met quarantine requirements or are cleared by a health care professional to return.

Other Health & Safety Information

We are proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association. We meet hundreds of standards for health and safety, risk management, and program quality. Combined, our staff have decades of experience in providing safe and high-quality programs to children.

Prior to the start of camp, we will ask you to complete a health history form for each child attending so that we have a complete picture of your child's physical, mental, and emotional health so that we can provide the best support possible. If your child takes medication during the day or carries emergency medication, we have procedures for safe handling and administration during the camp day.

Supporting Youth with Disabilities

Camp Sealth is able to accommodate most youth with disabilities. Prior to registration, we recommend contacting our office to discuss what kind of support or accommodations your child might need, and if our program is a good fit. We will also ask parents to complete a detailed Inclusion Assessment form which helps give us information about your child's unique strengths and challenges and best support strategies. In order to attend a Camp Sealth program, a child must be able (with support & reminders) to follow instructions, stay with the group, handle personal care needs, and refrain from harmful or destructive behavior.

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Commitment to Equity

Camp Sealth is committed to ensuring that every child has a safe space to learn and grow. By offering sliding scale fees, we hope that this program is accessible to as many people as possible. If the fees still present a barrier to your family, please contact us to find out about full financial aid options. If there is anything else we can provide to ensure that this opportunity is open to your child/family, please tell us what you need.

Group Structure

Youth will be placed in groups of no more than 10 (this is well below Washington State guidelines, which allow for groups of 22), with either 1 or 2 counselors per group. These groups and their staff will remain as consistent as possible for the duration of the program, to reduce the amount of exposure. Each group will stay together for all activities.

When you register, you may select to have children from the same family/household in a group together, or you can separate them in different groups. Kids may also select a friend to be in the same group. We will make every effort to keep siblings and friends together when requested, which means that most groups will be multi-age. To be in a group together, they must be registered for the same program option and mutually request each other.

Activities

Academic Support

Academic support is only being offered for youth attending the full-week program. The morning will be spent in individual work time. Camp Sealth will not provide any curriculum, but will support students with online learning from the Vashon Island School District or any other program. For kids who do not want or need academic work time, quiet alternative activities will be provided, such as craft activities, puzzles, or books, or youth may bring activities from home to do. Families will need to provide computers, tablets, or other resources. Camp Sealth will provide wi-fi access, and staff will be available assist students with technical support or other needs.

Nature & Outdoor Classes

Camp Sealth has experience providing a wide range of outdoor education classes, including marine, forest, and wetland ecology, sustainability, astronomy, gardening, outdoor living skills, and more. A portion of each day will be spent outdoors exploring and learning about the incredible natural space we have access to.

Classic Camp Activities

It wouldn't be camp without doing the activities that we love best. Camp activities will vary by age and interest level, and campers will be involved in choosing their activities each week. Activities may also vary depending on weather conditions, but nearly all activities can take place regardless of the weather. Below are some activity examples, but the options are endless depending on the creativity of our staff members and interests of campers.

Pre-K: Nature walks, story time at Pooh Corner, beach exploration, scavenger hunts, outdoor games, craft projects, songs, story time

Grades K-3: Everything available for Pre-K kids, plus longer hikes, fishing, sports and field games, Star Lab, bouldering

Grades 4+: Everything available for Pre-K through grade 3, plus archery, teambuilding/low ropes course, canoeing, outdoor skills

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Grades 6+: This program will be youth-guided based on their interests, and may include any of the camp activities above, as well as kayaking and paddle-boarding, community service projects chosen by the group, and leadership development.

Lunch & Snacks

Camp Sealth will provide lunch each day, included in the cost of the program. Lunch will be a pre-packaged sack lunch based on your child's choices (typically a sandwich, fruit, chips/crackers, cookies and juice or milk). We can accommodate nearly any special diet. Meals are prepared by our staff with the highest standards of cleanliness and safety, and will be individually distributed to kids at lunchtime. A healthy mid-morning snack will also be provided. Or if you prefer, you are welcome to send your child with their own lunch and snacks.

Kids will eat lunch and snacks outdoors (weather permitting) with masks off. In case of rain, camp has several covered picnic shelters that can be used.

Staff & Volunteers

Outdoor Connections will be staffed primarily by paid staff, and there will also be a role for volunteers. Paid staff must be at least 18 years old and enthusiastic about working with children; part-time or full-time options are available. Volunteer roles are available for adults or for teens age 15 or older, including parents of enrolled children. More details about staff positions and volunteer roles will be available on our website. All staff and volunteers must pass a background check and will be required to attend training before working with children.