

Daily Schedule

Our goal is to have..

A Mix of :

- active and mellow activities
- time in shade and sun
- activities for different intelligences

Times when:

- kids can choose from lots of things, e.g., morning free time
- choices are more limited, e.g., circle/group time, snack, lunch, toasts



Check the youth leader handbook too! It delves more deeply into daily schedule, and includes this [Schedule PDF for YLs](#).



The Basic Daily Schedule

**Honor the structure of camp AND
Bring your own inspiration to activities.**

- There is a basic structure to our day, and it really supports all when staff follow it. Please also bring energy for what feels right and good with the kids in the moment.
- Just because kids say *“I’m bored”*, doesn’t always mean you should change things.

We’ll review the daily schedule for the upcoming camp at team meetings.

- Each staff person gets a copy so they can help share in responsibility of tracking transitions and timing of the day. A copy is on the daily log Clipboard, too.



Activity Time Options

There are many activities that Staff can choose to lead with campers during an Activity Time that has nothing else planned. Supplies & equipment are available to you each day onsite.



Table Games – many, many board & card games, MTG

Nature Bin – bandanas for Meet a tree, Bat and moth, & other activities, animal guessing games, nature journal supplies, magnifying glasses, maps

Sports Equip – soccer, tennis, & rec balls, footballs, ball catchers, hoops, luna stix, ropes & balls for medic/monkey ball/artifact, capture the flag, , beemos, parachute

Legos & Blocks/Animals at Meadows & Lincoln Logs/Animals at Big Leaf

Art Activities – beading, watercolor, kumihimo, finger knitting, lanyards, friendship string, cootie catchers, paper airplanes, mini clay creatures, ← magic wands, scratch art, drawing books and supplies, craft stick puzzles,

Some Activities need supervision & get put away when a YL/staff can't be right there – field games, all art activities, bubbles, luna stix, diablos (at Big Leaf.)

Some Activities work better on a large field and Big Leaf groups have a travel sports bag they can take over to IC Field.

Book & Joke of the Day/Journals - Chill Time

Mid-day - all of us to get some down time; Site Director does admin – respond to texts, prep photos

Books

- YL/Staff (not SD) read 2-3 books; if time, SD can read after admin

Options for kids:

- Listen to books being read
- Quietly look at their own book or one from camp book bin
- Relax, close eyes, look around
- Do kumihimo/lanyard (if already started, otherwise tell them they can make at later time and bring next time)



Jokes after books read - Campers take turns to come up to tell a joke or riddle. They can read ones from books in book bin.

Older Groups - Chill Time is a more open variation of our book of the day/journal time. Still Chill. Books may be read or journals & table games may be the focus.

You'll talk about it at team meetings.

Journals

- Everyone sitting with their pages, working alone or with others at their table
- Fun to do the same sheet & either compete or help each other
- Table games & blocks or Legos can start after 10 mins.
- Give it a try even if there's resistance at first. Often kids end up getting busy and connecting with new kids in new ways.

3 Anchor Points for Meal Times



- **Transition to Handwashing-** The entire team works together to make sure all Staff and YLs are in different roles to anchor 3 important areas. This starts the 1st morning snack of each session and will become routine quickly. SD, please check with each person about where to be before the transition.
- **At lunch**, some staff may be going on break. **At PM snack** in the summer, some staff will be cleaning up for the day.
- Assign according to who will be working to these 3 areas:
 - ⚓ 1. **Handwashing in Bathrooms-** YLs (1 per bathroom at least)
 - ⚓ 2. **Backpacks/Bin Area-** 1 Staff remind/help kids get snack/lunch & water bottle, then direct them to find a seat with the group.
 - ⚓ 3. **Field/Yard-** 1 Staff stand/sit in area till all arrive. YLs (who are not washing hands) sit down to model for kids and welcome them. Please remind kids of boundaries when they push them to try to sit in other places. We want all kids to be close enough to the group and a staff/YL that conversations can be heard and we know that no one is choking or sharing food.



Wacky Wednesday

- Themes change each week, and are on the back of the Clipboard and on the Daily Schedule you'll see at the team meeting. Please dress up! No need to stay on theme. Having fun dressing up is the goal!!
- Costume Bin/bag at each site- shared by both groups and alternates every two weeks, for lice prevention. Don't share headbands or hats with campers.
- Staff please announce WW each Tuesday at closing circle, and as kids are getting picked up. Parents on the text thread will get a scheduled reminder about the theme.

Friday Fun



It's festive to do something special each Friday and/or on the last day of camp (usually a Friday.)

- Sometimes an activity will be on the schedule with supplies coming from the office. It might be with all groups or it might just be for your site or group. Other times your staff team will come up with something fun to do - Shark Tank, Jeopardy, site field game/obstacle course, water play, an exciting hike, group dance, variety show, circus. See your daily schedule at the team meeting.

- You can also do a special activity in the morning, not always in the afternoon.

- If an all-camp activity is planned at Meadows in the summer, MC and FS Site Directors please identify 3:30 pick up people and ask parents in the morning, if they can come pick up at Meadows that day. It can be hard to be back to Big Leaf before 3:30.

- Ending afternoon Chill time early (journals, books) is also important for these big events so there is enough time for the activity and your end of day routine (snack, gathering all the stuff, & circle.)



Special Guests

MBC Operations staff and other special guests will come to camp regularly to set up activities and do them with your group. It is much appreciated when staff support the guests.

Check in with guests about what they might need, number of kids at a time, etc. Your group may have another activity going on at the same time, nearby, so that kids can rotate in with the guest.

Nature Connection at Camp

- In summer we are outside all day.
- At breaks camps we're outside as much as possible.

You don't need to be an "expert" or know a lot of facts to inspire kids to think about nature and want to find out more themselves. Start a conversation with these phrases:

- ***I notice.....*** (Describe what you see and ask what they see.)
- ***I wonder....*** (Ask questions and imagine.)
- ***It reminds me of*** (Connect to what you do know about. Does it remind them of anything?)
- We like to use the tools we've learned from Naturalists who've worked at MBC. (Link to [Nature Connection Handbook](#))
- Tilden is full of life: trees all around, sitting on the ground, surrounded by a big sky, turkey vultures soaring, hawks crying out, deer in the mist, turtles on a log, ladybugs and dragonflies flying across the field.

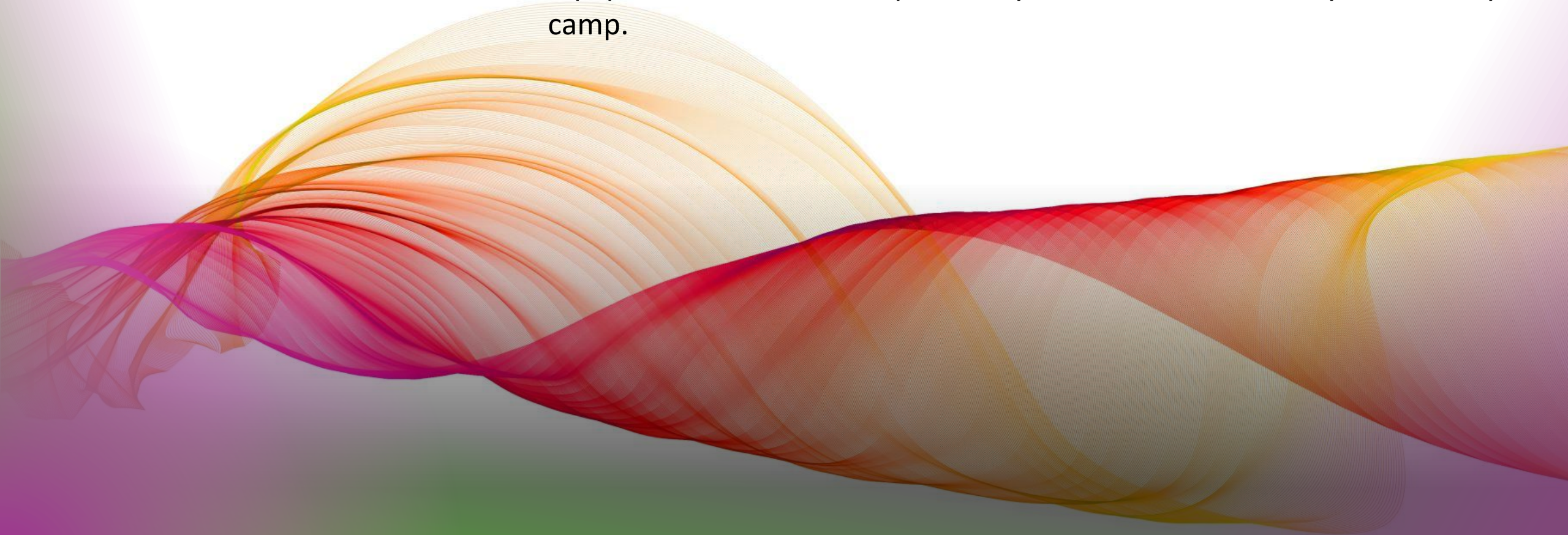


EQUIPMENT

We bring quite a bit of equipment to each of our camp locations so there can be some regular items, with some variety.

Bringing equipment helps us to have activities that honor multiple intelligences.

You may have a chance at a team meeting to see the supplies and equipment offered at camp. If not, you'll be able to see on your first day of camp.



Care of Equipment

- Look for equipment left on the field/yard, dropped pieces from games, art supplies left out, screws from canopy, and **SAVE!**
- If something is damaged or lost, let Brad and Samantha know ASAP to get it replaced, e.g., a missing chess piece or a ball with a leak.
- Remind campers to use equipment the way it was designed (No sword fighting with Luna-stix or whacking or bending the hula-hoops)
- You could say: ***“That looks fun, and we want our equipment to last a long time, so let’s try another way to use that.”***
- Have a camper take a break from using something if it’s hard to stop and it looks like it could get damaged.



Sustainability & Leave No Trace



- It is important for staff to set the example to keep a clean site. The park rangers notice and appreciate how we leave the park.
- Materials that spread easily and become trash, such as balloons from tiger tails, beads, yarn, or old nametags, must be cleaned up daily.
- ***“It’s time for Leave No Trace! Pick up 3 (or 5) pieces of trash off the ground and meet Will at the garbage to get your stamp before you head over to wash hands for snack! We can all do it quickly together.”***
- We have Ridwell, a service for processing plastic bags, so you might see notes to save bags for Brad to get.

Music on Site

- We love music at camp. **Spotify** is loaded on each phone, with playlists for quiet times, to do freeze dance, etc. Brad makes new playlists each year. Staff have also contributed some.
 - Text any playlist links to the group cell phone, so we can add them
- **Speakers pair with cell phones**; make sure to turn power off when not using to save battery.
- **Personal cell phones okay for music**, just do not check other phone details until your break.

Cell Phones-Photo and Video Taking-Each group will have a MBC cell phone- an Apple, so it works to air drop photos. Check Photo & Video Tips list for what are great photos for camp.

Cell Phone and Speaker Storage- Find out at orients where speakers and cell phones should be kept and please return at the end of the day.

Per park rules, please keep the music audible at the site, not out into the surrounding areas.



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