

William P. Ridley 4-H Center
Environmental Education Program
General Information

Trip Preparation

Class time spent in preparation for your visit will help prepare the students and adults for a positive experience. This preparation should include both an introduction to the units of study and an orientation to the policies, procedures, and living arrangements—if applicable. Emphasis should be placed on the realization that students will be participating in classes and be responsible for learning. The classroom will be an outdoor learning laboratory with experiential activities. It is critical that students understand their role as an active participant in educational activities.

Housing

We recommend that approximately 36 students and four adults occupy each cabin. Each cabin has 40 beds. Males and females are housed in separate cabins. It is critical that there is adequate supervision for both males and females. A cabin housing form must be completed before you arrive at the 4-H Center. Upon arrival, the cabin numbers will be assigned by the Program Director.

Recreation

The 4-H Center has multiple recreational areas and equipment for use by participants. These include basketball courts, a challenge course, hiking trails, a playground, putt-putt golf course, a recreational pavilion, a sand volleyball court, a softball field, a stage area, an amphitheater and campfire area, and many open areas for various games. Participants are encouraged to take advantage of these facilities.

Curriculum

The curricula for the program address Tennessee’s Department of Education science curriculum objectives. Year after year, teachers comment on how well the activities complement and reinforce the science topics they teach in the classroom. The interactive curricula utilize scientific investigations, scavenger hunts, relay and tag games, and group challenges to teach each unit of study. The science program provides students an opportunity to investigate the following concepts:

<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>Team Building I (K-3)</i>
<i>Forest Ecology</i>	<i>Team Building II (4-8)</i>
<i>Global Connections</i>	<i>Water</i>
<i>Soils</i>	<i>Wildlife</i>

These units make up the core curriculum, a standard feature, of the science program at the 4-H Center. Student participation in these areas is recommended to present a “whole” earth approach.

Medical and Special Needs

The 4-H Center does not provide a nurse on site. Minor medical needs can be handled by the teacher or chaperon designated for infirmary duty. We recommend that you provide at least one adult with the following qualifications:

- *CPR certification from a nationally recognized provider
- *First-aid certification from a nationally recognized provider

First-aid supplies are available in the first-aid station. The Maury Regional Hospital is less than two miles from the 4-H Center. Emergency numbers are posted by each phone.

We recommend that you bring with you a copy of the school health form that parents have completed for each student. Your completed school health form should provide you with emergency contact names and numbers, list of any known allergies or health conditions requiring treatment, restriction or other accommodation while on site and for minors without a parent on site—signed permission to seek emergency treatment or a signed religious waiver. The Ridley 4-H Center recognizes that school forms vary from system to system, but we need you to be prepared with updated information on each student in the event first aid and/or medication is needed by the child while traveling to, from or while at the 4-H Center.

The University of Tennessee does not provide accident insurance coverage for participants in the Environmental Education program at the Ridley 4-H Center. The University of Tennessee strongly recommends accident insurance coverage be provided by the participant's parent's/guardian's personal policy or by a school policy. Most schools have insurance providers that will insure students for one-day or overnight field trips. Please contact the proper school personnel that can provide you with information on filed trip insurance, if needed. Please have a 4-H Center Field Trip Permission Form completed by the parent/guardian of each student and bring with you on the day of your visit. The 4-H Center Field Trip Permission Form will remain on file at the Ridley 4-H Center following your trip.

No child will be allowed to participate in the Environmental Education program without a completed 4-H Center Field Trip Permission Form.

The teacher or designated chaperon is responsible for transporting and accompanying students to medical care facilities if they are injured or become extremely ill during their stay. All such trips must be reported to the Program Director at the Ridley 4-H Center.

Check the child's health form prior to your trip and note any special health needs—allergies, diabetes, epilepsy, hyperactivity, sleep walking, etc. Make sure appropriate people are informed of these special situations.

It is the responsibility of the adult assigned infirmary duty to collect any medications and dispense them at the appropriate time. Make sure parents have provided adequate information on how medication should be dispensed.

Contact the 4-H Center beforehand, if there are any special dietary or scheduling needs. Every effort will be made to accommodate your wishes.