

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP**

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CAMPERS AND PARENTS

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC), an association of garden clubs consisting of 18,000 members from around the state, sponsors a youth camp for children each summer as part of their commitment to youth environmental education.

The camp is located in Wekiva Springs State Park, which is just north of Orlando, and is in operation from mid-June through July. The first two weeks are boy's camp followed by 4 weeks for girls. Each camper stays overnight for a week. Registration is on Sunday afternoon and campers leave on Saturday morning.

Focus of the camp is environmental education and nature; it is the hope of the FFGC that this program helps to foster an appreciation of nature and its protection for leaders of the future. Camp is for students who have finished 3rd grade up to the oldest who have finished 8th grade. Campers (104 of them each week) are housed in a cabin that sleeps 8 campers of the same age along with two counselors.

Each day at camp begins with flag ceremony and breakfast. All meals are prepared by an executive chef employed by the camp. Following breakfast, campers do camp chores necessary for approximately 150 people to live together in unity in the camp community.

Over the day, campers and their counselors attend sessions in crafts, nature and swimming. At the end of the last session of the day is canteen time – a time to enjoy a cool drink and a snack before recreation time begins. After recreation time, it is time for dinner which is followed by an evening program related to nature; Florida Indian history, or other topics related to the outdoors and wildlife conservation in Florida.

One night is cabin skit night, a time for each cabin to entertain and educate the rest of the campers. Friday nights are used to award campers their certificates in swimming and camp attendance. On this night, there is an impressive candle-light ceremony involving pledges by all to protect the natural resources of our country. Then it is off to the circle campfires for s'mores, camp reflections, good-byes and camp songs, (which campers sing all week, as well.).

Most of the campers who attend camp are sponsored by a garden club, though a few attend from the general public if space is available. Members of garden clubs support the camp financially and all the crafts and nature sessions are taught by garden club volunteers. The nurse, canteen manager and office manager for each week are also volunteers. Paid staff includes the kitchen crew, counselors, lifeguards, pool manager and security.

Dear Parents of Potential Campers,

Each year Winter Park Garden Club (WPGC) gives partial to full support for campers to attend the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) Wekiva Youth Camp (WYC) located in Wekiva Springs State Park. Campers are expected to be interested in learning about nature, having fun and making friends. They should be capable of spending time in a rustic setting, getting along with eight cabin mates, and being away from home for up to a week. There are different kinds of camp sessions as indicated below with slightly different application forms to complete.

CRITTER CAMP is a mini camp for boys and girls who have completed K through 2nd grade. Campers participate in many activities of regular camp with more supervision. This includes both a cabin counselor and a cabin mom or dad who assist with activities and cabin management. In the past, WPGC has fully funded Critter Camp for our campers. To apply, fill out the application form for Critter Camp in this packet and return it to Winter Park Garden Club by January 15th.

REGULAR CAMP is a one week sleep-away camp with focus on nature, crafts, swimming and evening programs for campers who have completed grades 3 – 8. It is possible that WPGC may not be able to completely fund each camper. Parents are expected to pay WPGC any remainder of the camp fee not covered by the garden club plus the activity fee and registration fee. These should be included with the complete camper registration. To apply, complete the form :Application for a Campership to Wekiva Youth Camp or SEEK” and return it to Winter Park Garden Club by January 15th. Please complete the cover sheet to include with your application.

SEEK (Save the Earth’s Environment Through Knowledge) is a four-day, three-night program for students who have completed grades 9 – 11 and is held in Wakulla Springs State Park. Participants are expected to be “intelligent, enthusiastic, interested in the environment and able to work well with their peers and adult instructors”. For further information, visit www.ffgc.org or contact Lyn Artz at 850-320-2158. To apply, complete the form “Application for a Campership to Wekiva Youth Camp or SEEK” and return it to Winter Park Garden Club my January 15th. Please include the cover sheet with your application.

LEADERSHIP IN TRAINING (LIT) is a special program for students who have completed 9th grade. The goal of this program is to train potential counselors in the future leadership of WYC campers. Participation in this program is by invitation only. Should you know of a former WYC camper who has been invited to participate in this program, please send a copy of the invitation to WPGC, P.O. Box 272, Winter Park, FL 32790-0272 as soon as possible. WPGC will try to fund (or partially fund) such campers.

The WPGC Camp Committee will meet in late January to make camper selections. If you have applied, you will be notified in early February of the Committee’s decision.

Enclosed in this packet are current flyers with schedules and additional information on Wekiva Youth Camp, Critter Camp, SEEK, and the LIT program. This information is based on what is available at this time. Eventually all information and forms will be at the FFGC website www.ffgc.org. If you need additional information or clarification, please contact the WPGC at 407-644-5770 or contact the Camp Committee Chairman.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne Freyer, Chairman
Winter Park Garden Club Camp Committee
407-298-2642

APPLICATION FOR A CAMBERSHIP TO WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP OR SEEK
(Circle One)

NAME _____ DATE _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What are your favorite subjects in school?
2. What are your extracurricular activities/hobbies/interests?
3. Have you attended WYC previously?
If so, when?
4. Have you attended SEEK previously?
If so when?
5. Tell us about your favorite outdoor and/or camp experiences.
6. What would you like to do while you are a camper at WYC?
7. What personal characteristics so you have that will contribute to your camp experience and that of your cabin mates?
8. What do you imagine will be your greatest difficulty oat camp?
9. What camp activities are you interested in? Check all that apply.

_____ animal studies	_____ crafts	_____ hiking
_____ swimming	_____ canteen	_____ night rides
_____ exploring	_____ photography	
_____ singing	_____ bird watching	
_____ canoeing	_____ plant studies	
_____ campfires	_____ animal tracking	
_____ weaving	_____ land sports/group games	
_____ skits	_____ compass work	
_____ knots	_____ making friends	
10. Of the above, which three are your favorites?
11. In a short essay (which you may illustrate) tell how your camp experience can help you learn more about nature and the out-of-doors. Use the back of this paper or a separate sheet of paper, please.

COVER SHEET
APPLICATION FOR A CAMPERSHIP TO WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP or SEEK
SPONSORED BY THE WINTER PARK GARDEN CLUB

Name _____ Male _____ Female _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (cell) _____

E-mail _____

Parent Name _____

School now attending _____

Current grade _____ (to be completed by June)

Age _____

What is your connection to Winter Park Garden Club? Please be very specific and list names and relationships.

NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15, return all forms to:

Winter Park Garden Club
Wekiva Youth Camp Committee'
P.O. Box 272
Winter Park, FL 32790-0272