



July 20, 2022

Day Camp Parent/Guardian!

The following information is in regards to your child's Week 9 Day Camp field trip which will be a float trip planned for **Wednesday, July 27th** with the St. Charles Parks & Recreation Department. This field trip has been an annual special event that we put on for the 12-14 year old group for several years now and is an event that campers and staff look forward to all year. We will be floating again this year on the Meramec River near Steelville, Missouri. Our float trip is booked with The Rafting Company, who we have worked with each year. We will be using 6 person rafts with at least one day camp counselor in each raft with 5 campers at all times. We will also have 2 St. Charles Parks and Recreation Pool lifeguards floating with us all day. Please read the following information carefully!

Our schedule for the day is tentatively as follows:

- **7:45 a.m.** – **ALL CAMPERS** arrive at their respective Camp location (Blanchette or Wapelhorst)
- 8:15 a.m. – Campers load buses at Blanchette Day Camp and depart to Steelville, MO
- 8:15 a.m. – Campers will load bus at Wapelhorst Day Camp and depart to Steelville, MO
- 10:25 a.m. – Buses Arrive in Steelville, MO, The Rafting Company, with all campers and staff
- 10:30 a.m. – Lunch! – At The Rafting Company resort picnic tables
- 11:30 a.m. – Float starts!
- 4:45 p.m. – Float ends! Campers will change into dry clothes at this time at The Rafting Company resort
- 5:30 p.m. – Buses Depart to McDonald's in St. Clair, MO for dinner
- 6:15 p.m. – Buses Arrive at McDonald's in St. Clair, MO for dinner
- 7:00 p.m. – Bus Departs to Wapelhorst Day Camp
- 7:00 p.m. – Bus Departs to Blanchette Day Camp
- 8:00 p.m. – Bus Arrives at Wapelhorst Day Camp and Wapelhorst campers depart with Parent/Guardian
- 8:00 p.m. – Bus Arrives at Blanchette Day Camp and Blanchette campers depart with Parent/Guardian

Here are several reminders/important information regarding the float trip:

- **ALL CAMPERS will need to arrive at their Camp location by 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27th.** If you need to drop your child off at camp earlier, NOT a problem!
- We will be leaving Blanchette Park and Wapelhorst Park at 8:15a.m. and proceed to The Rafting Company in Steelville, MO which is the company and resort we will be floating from. We plan on arriving back to Wapelhorst Park and Blanchette Park at approximately 8:00 p.m. / 8:15 p.m.
- Our trip on the river will be approximately 5 miles long (5 hours) and will be traveling through The Rafting Company Resort in Steelville, MO. I have spoken with The Rafting Company this week to touch base and there is no flooding along this part of the river.
- My further bullet points will explain the following in detail, but here is a recommended list of what items your camper will need packed into a backpack/tote bag/etc. for the day. **In your camper's backpack please send the following: sack lunch & drink, money for McDonald's dinner, dry clothes, towel, closed toe shoes, sandals/dry socks for shoes, snack, sunscreen, hat/visor, and sunglasses.** Please do not send any water guns, water toys or electronic devices, etc. As at camp, each camper is responsible for their personal belongings. If your child has medication that needs to be taken between the hours we are gone, 7:45AM – 8:30PM, please fill out the medication portion on your child's EPACT waiver that you have already completed. Please send your child's medication in the original prescription bottle and then enclosed in a Ziploc bag. For this field trip only, if you would like, I will personally keep all campers medications in a sealed dry bag that will be kept in my waterproof first aid bag that I take on my raft. If you would like your camper to hold on to their own medication, you must still complete the medication portion on their camp waiver in EPACT. As stated on the Consent Waiver Form you have already filled out for your camper, the St. Charles Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for any lost

medications or items. If you have a camper with medication or needs any other accommodations, please call me so I can accommodate! My contact information is below.

- Please pack a good size lunch for your child. Campers will eat lunch at a picnic pavilion outside at The Rafting Company Resort BEFORE we start our float. Children will leave any uneaten lunch items and snacks in their backpack (with their dry clothes/towels/personal belongings) which will remain on the locked bus. We will be supplying chips, granola bars, fruit snacks, Gatorade and water bottles for your campers during the duration of the float so that any individual coolers or lunch boxes may be left on the locked bus. If your child has any allergies or requires a special snack, we will happily put their snack into our Park coolers. You may pack snacks for your child to eat after the float before dinner if you would like, but again we will not allow campers to bring their own individual cooler or bag on the float unless special arrangements are needed and you contact camp staff or myself.
- Please have your child wear their swimming suit to camp Wednesday morning under shorts and their blue camp T-shirt. **Closed toed shoes** or water shoes, which can get wet/muddy, must be worn while floating at all times. I would highly recommend that your camper wears old tennis shoes with no socks. **No flip-flops!** Velcro strap sandals that strap around the ankle and crocs will work, but NOT flip flops or slide sandals. My reasoning for recommending that campers pack sandals in their backpacks, as I listed in red above, is so that when we are done floating, campers can remove their wet/sandy shoes and have dry sandals or dry socks to put on for the drive home. This is optional! A hat and sunglasses are also recommended.
- We will pack/supply additional sunscreen SPF 50 to apply to all campers after eating lunch, before starting the float. We will also provide sunscreen for all campers to reapply throughout the day and will make every attempt not to let any children burn. We will be providing sunscreen so that your child does NOT need to bring a backpack in the raft on the float or keep track of their own individual sunscreen bottles on the river. I will be strongly encouraging all campers to wear their blue camp T-shirt for the duration of the float. With this being said, please pack an extra dry T-shirt (of any variety, does NOT have to be a second blue camp T-shirt) for your camper to change into for the drive home.
- **Children will wear a life jacket at all times. No exceptions!** Life jackets will be provided for everyone! If your child has their own personal life jacket and wishes to use it, they may do so.
- Again, please send dry change of clothes and a towel in a backpack. We will provide some towels during the duration of the float so that your child's towel doesn't end up in the water and so that they don't have to keep track of belongings while floating. Our bus driver will be staying with the bus the entire time we are floating and it will be locked. Campers are strongly encouraged/may leave their backpacks with a dry change of clothes, dinner money, towel and any other personal items on the locked bus while we are floating.
- **Please send money with your camper for a dinner stop on the way back to camp at the McDonald's in St. Clair, MO. Please put money in a Ziploc bag with their name on it and instruct your child to leave all money in their backpack on the bus!** Campers are responsible for their own money. Again, all personal items and money will be kept on the locked bus.
- Please remember that we will be floating along the river for approximately 5 hours. We will be making stops along the river bank beaches to take swim breaks and will let the children play in the water throughout the trip. Reminder: Our lifeguards and Leadership Staff will be stationed around the perimeter of our group while we are stopped for swim breaks. If a camper has to go to the bathroom during the day, they will need to "rough it" so to speak, like on a camping trip. I will have toilet paper for emergencies, but if this is your child's first float, please speak with them about river bathroom breaks.
- I will have my work cell phone with me at all times BUT please do NOT call my work cell phone unless there is an EMERGENCY situation and you need to contact your child. This EMERGENCY ONLY contact number is 636-448-9563. You may call the Rainout Line at 636-944-6001 anytime after 6:30 p.m. and choose option #10 (Blanchette Day Camp) or option #11 (Wapelhorst Day Camp) to receive a status update of our location/approximate time we will be returning to each camp. I will update this hotline when we are done eating at McDonald's and are on our way back to camp. I will also attempt to update the hotline when we are approximately 30 minutes out. In case of inclement weather, consisting of any lightning or thunder, we will pull children out of the river and wait 30 minutes on land after each thunder/lightening strike per Park Pool policy. Only after the weather is clear for the 30 minute

period, will we return to the water and continue our trip. In the event that inclement weather persists after we have started our float, The Rafting Company will provide busses to pick us up and transport us back to their location where our Camp bus will be parked and locked, waiting for us. If we happen to experience this issue, I will update the Rainout Line number (636-944-6001, option #10/#11) as well!

In addition to the Day Camp counselors that have been working with your child throughout the summer, I will be supervising this field trip along with a team of very experienced staff members as well as two St. Charles Parks and Recreation Lifeguards! Safety is our number one priority! ALL of my staff members are Jeff Ellis & Associates certified. I have a great team of counselors that will be ensuring that your child has a safe and fun experience!

Please let staff know at drop-off or pick-up, if your child will **NOT** be attending the float trip field trip by Tuesday, July 26th so that we can plan accordingly. If your child will not be attending the float trip, they may still come to camp on Wednesday, July 27th and be placed with the 11 year old age group. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time! Please see my contact information listed below.

This float trip will be a **SAFE and FUN** way to end the summer and I am looking forward to spending the day with your child!

Thank you for participating in our Day Camp Program!



Autumn Olendorff

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"An Extension of Your Own Backyard"