



Junior Squam Lakes Association 2018 Parents' Guide to Camp

Welcome to camp! We're excited to share our love of the natural world with you this summer. Please read through the Parents' Guide, check out our FAQ page, and download Medication Forms and other information on our website at:

<https://www.squamlakes.org/summer-youth-programs/jsla>

Mission: Junior Squam Lakes Association (JSLA) camps are designed to nurture respect for the natural world, increase awareness of environmental issues and instill a sense of stewardship. Campers will hike, explore the landscape, participate in stewardship projects, play nature games, and create earth friendly arts and crafts, among many other themed activities.

The Squam Lakes Association is located at 534 US Route 3, Holderness, NH. Camps are held both outdoors and in the Fisher Family Barn dependent on the activity. The Squam Lakes Association office is open Monday-Friday 9:00am-5pm: during this time you can contact our Director of Education, Leigh Ann Reynolds, by phone, email, or stopping by the office.

Leigh Ann's Contact Information:

Phone: 603-968-7336 x17

Email: leighannreynolds@squamlakes.org

Day to Day

Campers hike and explore the landscape on a daily basis. Campers are expected to participate meaningfully in nature games, activities and scientific exploration. Every week, campers will take part in unit-based age appropriate activities, stories, games and crafts along with the occasional opportunity for camp-wide games and activities. Schedules will be available at the beginning of each week and you can pick one up on Mondays.

What to Wear:

- Comfortable clothing that can get dirty and wet
- Sneakers or boots and socks
- Sunscreen
- Hat or bandana to keep ticks and sun off head

What to Bring Every Day:

- Extra set of clothing
- Water shoes, sport sandals or crocs with ankle straps for water activities.
- Bathing Suit and Towel
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen – we will remind campers to reapply after lunch
- Water bottle(s) – we often are not able to refill water during the day, so bring what you'll need (2 liters is generally enough)
- Lunch and healthy snacks – send a hearty, non-perishable lunch with your camper each day; keep in mind that we DO NOT provide refrigeration. We encourage trash-free lunches to promote environmental stewardship. Recycling and composting are available.
- Backpack – for day to day needs you will need a backpack to carry the above listed items.

What to Bring On Overnights: In addition to the daily needs, please bring the following.

- Sleeping Bag and Sleeping Pad
- Bowl/plate and fork/spoon
- Flashlight (new batteries)
- Long Pants
- Warm Fleece Top
- Extra pair of socks
- Backpack (or large bag)
- Trash Bag (to keep things dry)

What to Leave at Home:

- ✓ Anything breakable or valuable
- ✓ All electronics
- ✓ Gum or excessive candy (a piece or two in the lunch is fine; a bag becomes a problem)
- ✓ Cell phones are not permitted during camp hours

Inclement Weather: Camp is outdoors unless there is severe weather. On rainy days, please prepare your camper for outdoor exploration. Be sure to pack a rain jacket, extra shoes and clothes. If there is thunder and/or lightning storms we move campers to a safe location and follow our lightning protocol (see next page).

Lightning Protocol

(Adapted from the National Lightning Safety Institute)

To prevent a lightning emergency:

1. Check the weather frequently.
2. Do not summit if a storm is nearby.
3. Do not go on the lake if a storm is nearby.
4. Do not camp on a ridgeline.
5. Wait 30 minutes after you hear the last thunder before heading back out.

In the event that you are caught out during lightning,

1. If you are on the lake, GET OFF THE LAKE, and find a small stand of evenly sized trees to take shelter.
2. If you are near an SLA building, GO INSIDE.
3. If you are on a trail, DESCEND and find a stand of small even trees to take shelter.
4. Once in a stand of small trees, spread the group out slightly and place leaders on either side of the group.
5. If there is a strike, be prepared to give CPR.

In the event that you are in a tent during lightning:

1. Tents will be set up with lightning safety in mind (small even stand of live trees)
2. Crouch on the balls of your feet on top of your sleeping pad
3. Avoid touching the metal poles of the tent

Places & things to avoid during lightning:

1. Summits of mountain or hills
2. Water
3. Being the tallest (or being near the tallest) object in a field
4. Small caves or overhangs
5. Shorelines
6. Open Spaces
7. Metallic Objects
8. Close contact with others-spread out 15-20 ft. apart
9. Contact with dissimilar objects (water & land; boat & land; rock & ground; tree & ground)

Labeling: All personal items need to be labeled including backpacks, water bottles, lunches and clothes. The Squam Lakes Association is not responsible for any lost/stolen personal items. The Lost and Found basket will be out during pick up on Fridays and then moved to SLA Headquarters. After one month in Lost and Found, items will be donated to a local charity.

Drop Off and Pick Up: Morning Drop off is at 8:30am in our Fisher Family Barn. Parking is in the field – walk over the bridge to the barn. Please DO NOT park in front of the barn or along Route 3 as this is too dangerous for our campers with the high rate of speed on the road. We will start the camp day at 9:05. The afternoon Pick Up is at 3:30pm

Late Pick Up: Campers arriving or being picked up late places undue stress on our program and staff. A fee of \$10 will be charged to parents for campers not picked up by scheduled time, payable on the following day at morning arrival.

First Day of Camp: Please be prepared to show ID and stay a few minutes to meet with the counselors on the first day of each session. You or a designated person is required to sign your child in and out with a staff member daily.

Pick Up Protection: For your child's safety, only the individual(s) designated on the registration form can pick up your child and for the first pick-up they will need to show their ID. The person that completed the health form is the only one who can add or delete individuals with pick-up authority.

Waste-Free Lunches: Much of the trash we generate comes from the packaging on the food we buy, and lunch foods are no exception. We highly encourage the use of reusable food containers, drink containers, utensils, and napkins. We discourage the use of disposable packaging, such as prepackaged foods, plastic bags, juice boxes and pouches, paper napkins, and disposable utensils. We provide recycling and composting. For ideas for waste-free lunches, visit: <http://www.wastefreelunches.org/parents.html>.

Tick Checks: The staff will remind campers to check for ticks throughout the day. It is also very important that you check your camper at home thoroughly after each camp day.

Sunscreen: We do not provide or apply sunscreen; however, we encourage that you apply sunscreen before camp. If you provide sunscreen we will remind campers to reapply at lunchtime or after getting wet.

Allergies: Please make a point to inform our camp staff of any allergies that your child may have on the first day of camp.

Medications: Children who must take medications while at camp must be able to take their own medications under the supervision of JSLA staff. JSLA staff is not allowed to administer medicines. We must have parent authorization for over the counter medicines and a physician's authorization for prescription medications. Please fill out all necessary information pertaining to this information in the Medical and Legal forms packet as well as speak to one of the camp leaders.

JSLA Day Camp

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I need to pack for my child?

- Please pack the following: water bottle; sunscreen; waste-free, filling lunch & snacks; swimsuit and towel; sturdy closed-toe shoes for running around; water shoes; change of clothes; rain gear; a backpack in which to store your campers' items

Where do I park and drop my child off for camp?

- Please park in the main parking area – the field located to your right as you pull into the Squam Lakes Association parking lot. From there look for the Barn Event / Youth Programs sign that will lead you to the bridge that accesses the Fisher Family Barn. Please do not park alongside Route 3 or in front of the Barn. The traffic can be heavy at times on the road creating an unsafe location for drop-off and pick-ups.

Do you serve food at camp?

- You will need to provide lunch and snacks for each day that your camper attends camp with the exception of the day after an overnight. During overnights we provide the dinner meal, dessert, breakfast and lunch. If you have any food allergies please note that on the medical forms and make sure to communicate that with your child's Environmental Camp Leader on the first day of camp.

My Child has a remote drop-off and pick-up scheduled – how will I know where to go?

- On the first day of camp you will be given a detailed handout with the weekly schedule on it including directions.

What will my child sleep in during the overnight?

- We provide tents for campers to sleep in for all of our overnights. Please note that we do not mix genders in tents. There are times when campers must have a tent to themselves. If you feel that this is an issue for your child please speak with them and us beforehand.

Can JSLA staff administer medications?

- No. Children who must take medications while at camp must be able to take their own medications under the supervision of JSLA staff. JSLA staff is not allowed to administer medicines. We must have parent authorization for over the counter medicines and a physician's authorization for prescription medications. Please fill out all necessary information pertaining to this in the Medical and Legal forms packet.

My child has special needs. Can they attend camp?

- If your child is able to participate in normal daily activities, they are welcome to join us. However, we are unable to provide one-on-one assistance in our camp programs. Please give us as much information as possible to allow camp staff to most appropriately assist your camper.

I need someone to pick up my camper who is not on the authorization list. What do I do?

- Email the Director of Education. You may also drop off a note with the written information on it. We must have the name of the person picking up your child in writing and we will check their ID at pick-up.

There is an overnight scheduled during the week my child is attending but they will not be able to attend the overnight. What do I do?

- If your child will not be attending the overnight we ask that they not attend camp until the following day of the scheduled overnight. It is too confusing for the other campers when a child is removed on the day of the campout – which can lead to homesickness among other campers. Your child can attend the following day at 11am when their camp group returns to the Youth Activity Barn at the SLA Resource Center from the overnight.

Do you offer a scholarship for my child to attend camp?

- Each Squam Lakes Watershed school is offered three scholarships that are awarded to deserving students who could benefit from a week of summer fun. The watershed schools include: Ashland, Holderness, Inter-lakes, Moultonborough, Sandwich, and Plymouth. The MJ LaFoley Foundation generously donates one JSLA scholarship to a child from each school who exemplifies outstanding humanitarian qualities. Follow this link, <https://www.mjfoundation.org/>, to learn more about the MJ LaFoley Foundation. The SLA offers one JSLA and one CYSP scholarship to a child from each school who demonstrates good citizenship. If you are a NH resident and your child does not attend one of these schools there is a separate application process. For more information contact our Director of Education, Leigh Ann Reynolds, at leighannreynolds@squamlakes.org.

How do you group kids together at camp?

- Each camp group is arranged by age. Discovery is for children entering grades 3 and 4; Explorer is for children entering grades 5 and 6; and Expedition is for children entering grades 7, 8 and 9. Our Leader in Training (LIT) program is for youth entering grades 10, 11 and 12. Each program has about ten kids per group with two leaders and one LIT. There are times when our camp program groups overlap for all camp activities but most of the time each respective age group has their own schedule of activities. Please note that at times of low enrollment our groups may be combined in an effort to help with group dynamics and logistics.

What if my child gets hurt?

- If your child sustains a minor injury – they will be given the medical attention allowing for them to comfortably finish the day (band-aid, cold pack, etc). You will be informed at pick-up that they had a minor injury. In the unfortunate event that your child needs serious medical attention – you will be called, if you cannot be reached the next emergency contact will be called. We will continue to call the numbers you listed on your form until we reach someone we can speak to. We typically use Spear Memorial Hospital in Plymouth. Dependent on your location, the time and the type of injury we will either ask you to pick up your child; meet the ambulance or meet us at the hospital. You will be contacted by the Director of Education.

I have ideas on how to make camp better...how do I share them?

- We value your opinion! We strive to make every day at camp a meaningful and enriching experience for all. You will find a link to an online web-form to fill out on our website at: <https://www.squamlakes.org/summer-youth-programs/jsla>. We will also have a hard copy hand out on Fridays at the end of camp.

