

WELCOME TO AMC'S AUGUST CAMP
All You Need to Know – General Information
www.augustcamp.org

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PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY AND ATTENTIVELY, as well as the “August Camp Specifics” document. BOTH SETS of information are very important. A comprehensive equipment list is also posted on our web site. After reading all of this information, if you have additional questions, please refer to the “Frequently Asked Questions” document on the web site and check the Yahoo site. Please **KEEP AND REFER TO** both sets of information and to the equipment list as you plan your trip to August Camp. Once notified of acceptance, **YOU MUST RETURN ALL FORMS AND YOUR BALANCE DUE BY May 1st**. If your balance is not paid by May 1st, your space and deposit may be forfeited. Please send by **REGULAR MAIL**, not by any means requiring a signature for delivery.

All August Camp information and forms are only available electronically. If you do not have a computer, please consult with friends, family and the local library to access this material and print required forms. In order to apply, you must access and complete the “August Camp Application and Camper Information document” on www.augustcamp.org. You may complete this form electronically, print, and sign or print and fill out and sign by hand. In either case, the completed form must be **MAILED** via **REGULAR MAIL** and **NOT** sent electronically to the Registrar.

August Camp has a [Yahoo group](#) to allow communication among campers. Check our [website](#) for details.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Please refer to the “Specifics” sheet for specific information for this year’s Camp.

People should make their own flight arrangements to the gateway airport, planning to arrive by mid-afternoon on arrival Saturday and to **depart no earlier than 10 am on departure Saturday**. Many campers choose to arrive a day early and spend the Friday night before their first Saturday of Camp near the airport. You may also wish to consider spending your final Saturday night near the airport and flying out on Sunday. August Camp rents vans to meet campers at the airport on each arrival Saturday, and we use these same vans to return campers to the airport at the end of their time at Camp. These same vans are used for transportation to all August Camp hikes and other activities. As campers arrive at the airport, vans are filled and sent off to Camp. Vans are driven by **APPROVED VOLUNTEER** drivers. In order to be considered to be an approved driver you must fill out and return the “Authorization to Drive Camp Vans” form to the Transportation Coordinator. The AMC's insurance carrier then runs a check on your driving record. You will be notified only if you are not approved. Approved drivers are authorized to drive the vans to all Camp activities and to and from the airport.

We need many approved drivers to assure a full complement of Camp activities, so we really appreciate your applying to be a driver. We encourage even those who drive their own cars to Camp to consider being an approved volunteer van driver.

DIRECTIONS FOR THOSE TRAVELING IN THEIR OWN VEHICLES: see "Specifics" document.

EMERGENCY CONTACT FOR TRAVEL/ARRIVAL SATURDAYS ONLY is given on the “Specifics” document and/or posted on our web site on the Transportation page.

EMERGENCY CONTACT WHILE AT CAMP – See Specifics document for this info.

Do not assume there will be electricity or phone access at Camp. **CELL PHONE USE WITHIN ANY COMMUNAL AREAS OF CAMP IS DISCOURAGED.** This includes your tent, dining, and campfire areas as well as on all activities. Cell service is often spotty. If you must stay connected, please do so out of the hearing of fellow campers.

CAMP FACILITIES

Campers share two-person wall tents, approximately 8' x 10', large enough to stand and walk around in, but without a floor. Campers may wish to bring a tarp or small throw rug for the floor. Note: Many tarps and chairs left by past campers are often available for rental through the Croo. Tents are equipped with two cots, two washbasins and a water pail. Campers provide their own sleeping bags, full-length air mattresses or foam padding, and pillows. Some people like to bring a camp chair for campfire and relaxing. Drinking water will be available at camp. Shower stalls are provided for using with one's own sun shower. Sun showers can be purchased at camping goods stores such as EMS or Campmor. The 2.5 or 3-gallon size is sufficient for one shower. We request that you label your shower with your name as many look alike. Water for washing and filling sun showers will also be available. Chemical toilets and hand-washing facilities will be provided at Camp.

FOOD

August Camp provides ample, nutritious food. Breakfasts and dinners are prepared and served by August Camp's hired "Croo." There is a cooking area for meal preparation (off limits to campers) and a dining pavilion with picnic table style seating for 64. The hot beverage tent is open about an hour before breakfast and in the late afternoon before dinner. (Bring your own mug to hang on the mug "tree" outside the tea tent.) Campers prepare their own lunches at the lunch tent which opens about one half hour before breakfast. The lunch tent provides a variety of options for lunch. August Camp accommodates vegetarian diets but not vegan diets. **As the cook needs to plan for food purchasing, if you want to avail yourself of the vegetarian option you MUST so indicate on the Camper Information form. Vegetarian options often include tofu, pasta and cheese.** We are a "field kitchen" and cannot accommodate individual food requirements/preferences. We can deal with gluten intolerance by offering rice cereal, rice cakes, baked potatoes, rice and fruit. If you have dietary restrictions, you may need to bring some of your own food to camp. Storage space will be provided. You may not be able to partake of every course of every meal. Lactose-free milk is available. To discourage unwanted "critter visits" we ask that you not store food in your tent. Alternative non-refrigerated storage space ("bear boxes") will be made available, along with shoebox-sized individual storage containers for your food. Be aware that scented cosmetics and toiletries may also attract unwanted visits and should be stored in airtight containers.

HAPPY HOUR AND ALCOHOL

Happy hour is an August Camp tradition that enhances relaxation and camaraderie. Campers provide their own drinks and snacks for these informal gatherings. Look for the happy hour flag or simply for a group of happy campers! In the dining tent discreet use of alcohol is permitted, but realize that you cannot sit around after dinner drinking in the dining tent. The Croo needs to have dinner and do clean-up promptly. There is generally a Camp-sponsored happy hour during the week, at which snacks and non-alcoholic beverages are provided.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

We end the day with a campfire at which campers report on the day's activities and hear announcements about the next day's plans. Campfire may also include informational talks or programs. The evening may end with a sing-along or conversations around the fire. Bring instruments!

ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Hikes and other activities at Camp are designed to be a group experience. We offer hikes at several different levels to accommodate as wide a range of experience and expectations as we can. Our trained hike leaders will do their best to ensure that each group has a rewarding and safe experience. You can help by choosing a suitable level of activity, staying with the group throughout the day, and taking responsibility for your own safety. Groups are generally limited to 12 people, so we don't anticipate a very wide range of abilities on any hike. That said, we set out as a group and return as a group.

Four or more trips will generally be offered each day, including hikes rated A, B, and C as well as an excursion/walk (W). The A hikes are for experienced hikers who enjoy a longer hike and/or faster pace with significant elevation gain. The B hikes have a less strenuous pace and may be shorter with less elevation gain. The C hike has a more leisurely pace and may cover easier terrain. Excursions or walks may be focused on photography, nature trails, or visits to a scenic area, museum or local event. There is usually a backpacking and/or car camping overnight offered each week. Some water-related trips (canoeing, kayaking, float/raft trips), usually involving an additional fee to campers, may be scheduled. Campers may also decide to have a day off at Camp.

August Camp has no specific children's program. Children over 10 are welcome provided they are under the supervision of a responsible adult at Camp and on daily activities. They must have proper hiking clothing and gear and be able to do the same hikes as their parent or responsible adult.

BE PREPARED

- You will find your hiking experience to be far more rewarding if you come to Camp in good hiking condition. Plan to be as physically fit as possible the day you arrive at Camp. **DO NOT** plan to "get in shape" at Camp.
- Camps may be at altitudes uncomfortable for some hikers. Please consider altitude as you choose your first few days' hikes.
- The weather is often changeable and can vary from very hot to very cold. Hikers must carry in their daypacks layers of non-cotton clothing, full rain gear, hat, sun-block and sufficient water.
- While you do not need to purchase trail guides, many campers like to familiarize themselves with the area beforehand. Please see the "Specifics" document for guidebook recommendations for this year's Camp.

LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

To ensure the smooth functioning of Camp and a pleasant living experience for Campers, August Camp depends on experienced volunteers and paid staff.

Included in the paid staff are the **CAMP MANAGER**, the **HEAD COOK** and the **CROO**. The Camp Manager directs the Croo, while the Head Cook orders the food, plans the meals and runs the kitchen. Croo members are often students saving money for their school expenses. They work very hard to give campers the best possible experience at Camp. "Feeding the Croo kitty" is an August

Camp (and an AMC) tradition. Gratuities in the amount of 10-15% are typical. All contributions are important and gratefully received. Some campers choose to bring a blank check to use for the Croo tip.

The **volunteer CAMP DIRECTOR** is the liaison between hired staff and campers. The Director keeps all aspects of Camp running smoothly. Questions about Camp operations and comments about how Camp is going should be addressed to the Director, who will in turn take camper concerns to the appropriate staff.

Activities are coordinated by **volunteer HEAD HIKE LEADERS** and led by **qualified volunteer LEADERS certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR, and have undergone AMC training in group leadership. Hike and activity leaders are not paid guides.** If a leader thinks a camper is unprepared for the demands of a given activity, that camper may be asked to choose a different activity for the day.

A WORD ABOUT BUGS AND BEARS

Bugs are a fact of outdoor life. We cannot ensure a bug-free campsite. If you suffer from bug anxiety consider repellent, head nets, bug suits, and mosquito netting. In general, if tent flaps are closed as evening approaches and are left closed overnight, bugs in the tent are not a problem. We have been known to purchase citronella buckets for campfire pests, but your own individual preventive measures are your first line of defense.

If we are camping or hiking in an area where bears are a concern, there will be a section on bears included in the "Specifics" document. Please read that information carefully and take it to heart.

BALANCE DUE

Send balance on or before May 1st to the Registrar at the address given on the sheet entitled "August Camp Application & Camper Information," posted on our web site. Late second payments may result in the loss of your space at Camp. Remember, if you or a member of your party is **not** a member of the AMC there is an additional \$50 charge per non-member per week.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO 'AMC AUGUST CAMP.' August Camp does not accept credit cards at this time.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

The cancellation policy is on the August Camp web site and is included in the application paperwork, page three, which you should save for reference. PLEASE READ THE POLICY. Cancellations **MUST BE** in writing and dated. They may be forwarded to the Registrar either by regular mail or e-mail.

Trip cancellation insurance is encouraged to cover unforeseen emergency cancellations. There are several companies that offer travel insurance. Travel Insurance Select is one such company with whom the AMC has worked, though there may be others that are less expensive. Participants can obtain information on line [here](#) or by calling Travel Insurance Select's customer service number 800-937-1387.

Your registration is not complete until you fill out and return the following forms. Failure to do so may result in the loss of your space at Camp or may eliminate you from being able to serve as a driver while at Camp.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING FORMS TO THE REGISTRAR NO LATER THAN May 1:

1. The Confidential Health Questionnaire (please copy/print as necessary for each person registered)
 2. The AMC Volunteer Managed Facilities Release form. All members of your party can sign the same release form. Parents must sign for minor children
 3. Your **check** for your final payment, made out to AMC August Camp. (NO credit cards)
- Final Payment amounts: Consult the Camper Application and Info form, last page.

Registrar: Trish Niece, 810 N. Farms Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492

PLEASE RETURN THESE FORMS TO THE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR at the address given on the forms no later than May 1:

1. The Transportation form with your COMPLETE flight information, including record locator. **Notify the Transportation Coordinator promptly of flight changes that significantly affect your arrival time, NOT the Registrar.** **Note:** On your Saturday departure day you should book a flight departing after 10 a.m. If you need to book an early morning flight, you should book it for **Sunday** morning and plan to spend Saturday night near the airport. **Transportation to the airport will not be available on departure Saturdays for flights leaving before 10 a.m.**
2. The Authorization to Drive August Camp Vans form if you want to be considered as a designated van driver for Camp. Only approved, designated drivers may drive the August Camp vehicles. The success of our activity program depends on having enough approved drivers each day.

Transportation Coordinator: Virginia Campbell, 20 Witherell St., Bronxville, NY 10708

Important Contact Information

Registration or general questions: Trish Niece, 203-265-9584 or augcampreg1887@gmail.com

Transportation coordinator: Virginia Campbell, 917-495-2084 or augcamptrans@gmail.com

General Camp questions: Sam Jamke, 603-472-2536 or samjamke@myfairpoint.net

(Call before 9 pm eastern time in all cases.)

Don't forget to check out the [Yahoo group](#). See the website for details: www.augustcamp.org

See you at Camp! You may also visit our [Facebook](#) page.