

Keewaydin Environmental Education Center

STUDENT EQUIPMENT LIST

There is never bad weather only bad clothing.

It is essential that your child is properly equipped for an active week of outdoor exploration while at KEEC. Our 'classroom' is out-of-doors and we'll be outside rain or shine. The cabins and dining hall are heated with wood stoves; however, in early spring or late fall, it can be quite cool, even inside the buildings. These seasons also present us with all kinds of fun moisture. It is vital your child be prepared. We are learning to appreciate nature with all of its diversity and it is important that your child be prepared and as comfortable as possible.

Packing for this experience can be a great lesson for your child and one that will have a lasting impact all week. **Packing is a very important step.** Your child needs to bring as few things as possible without sacrificing comfort and basic needs. This can be a creative process. Your child should learn what is functional and what is luxury, what is essential and what is unnecessary. Simplicity is the rule of thumb. Packing old, dark clothes is best, as we will be sitting on the ground, rocks, fallen limbs; whatever we find, wherever we go. If you're worried about something being stained, don't send it.

Feet deserve special mention since we will be on them all week. Functional, comfortable shoes are to be worn at all times on campus. We do a lot of hiking, wet and dry. Dry, warm feet are the best feet around. A lot of socks and 2-3 pair of shoes/boots would be perfect.

The "natural" classroom also presents us with an abundant amount of mosquitoes and other biting insects. It is helpful for your child to dress appropriately and to bring insect repellent. Wearing pants, long sleeve shirts and long socks are invaluable protection against bug bites.

We suggest packing in one piece of luggage in addition to a daypack or school backpack since space on the school bus and in cabins is limited. Pack sheets and essentials for the first day last to make unpacking easier.

Knowing how to dress for the elements is a key part in enjoying our surroundings. Layering is essential; buying new things is not. We do not want you to buy anything for this one week, which will not be used at other times. Please borrow anything on the list that you don't have. And don't forget to: **LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILDS BELONGINGS!**

Thank you for allowing your child to be a part of this experience! A convenient check list of important equipment is on the back of this form.

NECESSARY ITEMS

- RAINCOAT OR PONCHO (rain pants are very helpful too)
- Warm Fleece jacket (fleece is best, it works when wet! or a heavy wool.)
- Shoes/Boots/Sneakers for hiking **PLEASE NOTE; WE REQUIRE EVERYONE TO WEAR CLOSED TOED SHOES ON ALL OF OUR INVESTIGATIONS!** Crocs or flip-flops are not acceptable footwear.
- Socks: warm and abundant!
- Long and Short sleeve shirts
- 3-4 long pants **PLEASE NOTE: WE REQUIRE STUDENTS TO WEAR LONG PANTS ON ALL OF OUR INVESTIGATIONS!**
- Pajamas
- Underwear
- Towel and Shower items
- Warm sleeping bag or warm sheets. **NOTE: FLEECE BLANKETS ARE SUPPLIED BY KEEWAYDIN BUT PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PILLOW!**
- Pillow
- Warm hat
- Brimmed Hat (baseball cap type is fine)
- Flashlight
- 2-3 pens or pencils
- Daypack or school backpack
- Water bottle (one liter soda bottles work beautifully)

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Long underwear (for early spring or late fall)
- Rubber boots for wet walking
- Books (for quiet time)
- Letter writing material, stamped envelopes
- Camera (disposable film cameras are better than expensive digital types)
- Binoculars
- Musical instruments
- Sunglasses
- Chapstick
- Bathing suit
- Shoes/sandals to wear in water (no flip-flops please)
- Shower shoes
- Fishing poles
- Insect repellent

DO NOT BRING (it will be confiscated)

- Food, candy, gum, or drinks
- Cell phones, iPods, electronic game consoles
- Pocket Knives