

# Camp Wiregrass Handbook



*Agriculture, Historic, and Natural Resource Day Camps*  
ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture

Thank you for joining Camp Wiregrass! Please read the attached camp policies and procedures. Included in the policies are Camper's Frequently Asked Questions, so please share this information with your camper.

Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to sharing exciting new adventures with your camper!

## **Contact Information**

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ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture

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## Camp Wiregrass Policies

Please read through the following policies and complete the registration forms. A camper's registration will not be finalized until all forms are received by the Georgia Museum of Agriculture (GMA). All registration forms must be provided prior to the first day of selected camp. If you have questions, please contact Sara Hand at (229) 391-5208 or [sfhand@abac.edu](mailto:sfhand@abac.edu).

### **Program Overview**

Camp Wiregrass at ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture consists of week-long sessions for ages 4-9. Museum staff provide participants hands-on learning opportunities in agriculture, history, and natural resources.

Camp Wiregrass is a part of ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture. The GMA opened as the Agrirama on July 4, 1976. The grounds consist of five areas: a traditional farm community of the 1870s, an 1890s progressive farmstead, an industrial sites complex, rural town, national peanut complex, and the Museum of Agriculture Center. Over 35 structures have been relocated to the 95-acre site and faithfully restored or preserved. Costumed interpreters explain and demonstrate the lifestyle and activities of this time in Georgia's history. For further information, visit [gma.abac.edu](http://gma.abac.edu).

### **Camp Staff**

Camp Wiregrass is administered by the Education Department of the GMA. Staff from the Education Department plan and operate all programs of Camp Wiregrass. Camps also include ABAC students as camp counselors.

- All staff of the GMA Education Department are CPR & First Aid certified. A minimum of one CPR/ First Aid certified staff member is with camp participants at all times.
- All Education staff and camp counselors are screened through background checks and follow ABAC's code of conduct guidelines. All camp staff are trained in camp safety policies, emergency procedures, mandatory reporting, and protecting youth.

Camps are supervised by a minimum of two staff members, with additional staff added based on age and number of children.



## **Check-In & Pick-Up**

### Check-in

- **All registration and medical forms must be provided prior to the first day of camp.** Check-in occurs from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at the Costume Shop. Campers must be signed in and out daily by a parent/guardian. Please do not drop off campers without coming inside for check-in.
- Programming begins at 8:00 a.m. Campers must arrive by 8:00 a.m. to ensure their attendance in the mornings' activities.

### Pick-up

- Explorers Camp (ages 7-9) pick-up is from 3:00-3:30 p.m. at the Costume Shop. Munchkin Camp (ages 4-6) pick-up is from 12:00-12:30 p.m.
- Parents/guardians must come to the Costume Shop to sign out their camper. Camp staff may ask for identification to ensure campers' safety. **Only parents/guardians and adults listed on the "Pick-Up Permission" page of registration packet will be allowed to pick up campers.**
- For security, adults picking up campers may need to show their driver's license.
- Early pick-up must be pre-arranged during check-in. Campers may be located at different areas throughout the facility prior to a camp's end time. If early pick-up is needed, campers will be brought to the Costume Shop at the pre-arranged time.
- Late fees will be applied, starting at 3:31 p.m. (12:31 p.m. for Munchkin Camp). **This fee is: \$5.00 for the first 5 minutes and \$10.00 for the next 5 minutes.**
- Please call our office at (229) 391-5205 if you will be late to pick up your child.

## **Camper's Frequently Asked Questions**

- What happens if I don't know anybody?  
There is a good chance that you will meet someone new at Camp Wiregrass! Camp staff will help everyone join together for each day's new adventures.
- What should I wear to camp?  
At Camp Wiregrass you will be spending much of your time outside...rain or shine! Always come prepared for the weather with a raincoat and/or light jacket.
  - ↗ Closed-toe shoes are required for all camps. Do not wear sandals due to safety precautions. Remember we will be walking, running, and jumping all day so comfortable shoes are a must!
  - ↗ Specific activities may require shoes to get wet or muddy. We will let you know which days these activities occur so you can bring the proper footwear.



- ↗ We will spend most of our time outside, so we recommend shorts and short sleeved shirts. Campers should bring a light jacket for time indoors and/or raincoat for rainy days.
- ↗ We suggest campers wear clothes that can get dirty since the activities will occur mostly outside.

**During full-day week camps, some afternoons will incorporate water activities. Please bring proper clothes (including shoes) which can get wet and dry easily. Swimsuits alone will not be allowed. Shirts must be worn with swimsuits.**

- What should I bring?
  - ↗ Lunch (There is no refrigerator or microwave available)
  - ↗ Refillable water bottle
  - ↗ Sunscreen
  - ↗ Closed toe shoes
  - ↗ Clothes to get wet and/or change of clothes
  - ↗ Lightweight sweater or rain jacket

***Please label everything with the camper's name to ensure all belongings return home with the right camper.***

- What will I be doing that day?  
Campers will walk, run, jump, crawl, and skip everywhere! Get ready to have fun and explore with your feet! Themes and activities change daily, but an example schedule is included below.

### **Daily Schedules**

#### Munchkin Camps

7:30-8:00 a.m.	Drop-off; Check-in
8:00-10:30 a.m.	Activities
10:30-11:00 a.m.	Snack ( <i>GMA provides</i> )
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Continued activities
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Pick-up

#### Explorer Camps

7:30-8:00 a.m.	Drop-off; Check-in
8:00-11:00 a.m.	Morning activities
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Lunch ( <i>camper brings</i> )
11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Afternoon activities
2:00-2:30 p.m.	Snack ( <i>GMA provides</i> )
3:00-3:30 p.m.	Pick-up

### **Contacting Your Camper**

If you need to contact your child for an emergency, call (229) 391-5205.



## **Camper Rights**

- Campers have the right to express their thoughts, feelings, and desires.
  - ↻ This means I can feel free to express my feelings and opinions without being interrupted or criticized.
- Campers have the right to be safe and have their body respected.
  - ↻ This means that no one will threaten me, bully me, or push me.
- Campers have the right to have their feelings respected and not to be teased, frightened, or embarrassed.
  - ↻ This means that no one will laugh at me or insult me.
- Campers have the right to be treated fairly and to receive the same privileges and considerations as everyone else.
  - ↻ This means that no one will pick on me because I may be different than them.
- Campers have the right to have their work and possessions respected by others.
  - ↻ This means that no one will destroy your property.

## **Discipline**

To maintain a safe and cooperative setting, Camp Wiregrass has specific policies and limitations for our facilities, staff, and child behavior. If it becomes necessary to resolve or correct any disruptive or dangerous behavior, Camp Wiregrass staff will follow these guidelines:

- Communication: Staff and the child will discuss the problem occurring and together identify what solutions are available.
- Time Out: Removal from a specific activity for a short period of time followed by a staff/child conference.
- Contacting Guardian: If the problem continues after attempted solutions, the parent/guardian will be contacted. Discussion as to further actions will occur.
- Dismissal from Program: The camper will be dismissed from the program and a parent/guardian will need to pick him/her up if the behavior continues to be disruptive or dangerous to the other campers. No refund will be provided if a camper must be dismissed.

Positive behavior reinforcement is used to promote appropriate behavior during Camp Wiregrass. No physical discipline is allowed. Campers are expected to be friendly and courteous to each other and camp staff. Improper language, name-calling, fighting, stealing and disrespect to others will not be tolerated. Attendance at Camp Wiregrass demonstrates each camper's agreement to these discipline guidelines.



## **Health & Safety**

- Camp staff will not administer any medication to campers. If a camper requires a medicine during camp hours, a parent/guardian or other adult listed on the pick-up permission list must come to the GMA to administer the medicine.
- If a child has physical limitations which may prevent hiking/walking distances, Camp Wiregrass should be notified prior to the first day of camp to plan activities accordingly.
- Campers who are ill must stay home (or be picked up) for the health of themselves and others.
- Campers who have the following symptoms should not attend camp or will be sent home: fever of 101 degrees F, nausea, diarrhea, sore throat, active rash, discharging eyes, early cold, or stomach pains.
- If a camper becomes ill during camp, the parent/guardian will be notified and he or she must be picked up.

## **Emergency Procedures**

- In case of emergency, GMA staff will contact the local EMS. The camper will most likely be taken to Tift Regional Medical Center.
- Action will be taken as necessary according to the medical release.
- Parents/guardians will be notified immediately of any emergency situation.
- Camp staff are CPR and First Aid certified and may act accordingly to their training.
- An accident report will be filed and provided to the camper's parents and GMA.

## **Meals/ Snacks**

- **Lunch IS NOT provided by Camp Wiregrass.**
- Please make sure you send lunch with your child each morning. We occasionally have lunch on site, earlier or later than our regular scheduled time which may affect when your child eats if he/she does not have lunch with them.
- If campers forget their lunch, then Camp staff will call the parents/guardian.
- All camps include a snack provided by Camp Wiregrass. Snack items are pre-packaged.
- Camp Wiregrass must have prior knowledge of any food allergies and will make reasonable accommodations for campers. If GMA is unable to accommodate food allergies, the camper will be asked to bring their own snack to ensure the health and safety of the camper.

## **Weather**

- Camp Wiregrass loves the rain! We plan to be outside unless severe weather inhibits the daily plans. If so, Camp Wiregrass will continue inside.
- Campers should be prepared for rainy days with the proper gear (rain jackets, rain boots, and extra change of clothes).





- If severe weather occurs (tornados, severe thunderstorms), counselors will act accordingly and ensure all campers' safety by taking cover in designated areas.

## **Cancellation Policy**

If a cancellation is received prior to four weeks before the start of the camp your child is registered for, 75% of the registration fee will be refunded. A \$45 non-refundable administrative fee will be charged for any cancellations four weeks or less before the start of a participant's scheduled camp. Exceptions to these policies may be made for documented medical reasons and require a physician's written verification. Camps are nontransferable.

## **Directions**

- We are less than a mile off of I-75, west of exit 63B (8th Street exit) on Whiddon Mill Road. For a map, visit <http://www.abac.edu/museum/contactus/>. The address is 1392 Whiddon Mill Rd, Tifton, GA 31793.
- To access the Costume Shop, drive through the gate (past the Country Store) and around to the front parking lot of the GMA. You will drive to the Clyatt Cabin (located in the farthest corner of the parking lot from where you enter). Once there, you will follow the brick path to the Costume Shop. The Clyatt Cabin is # 27 on the map below and the Costume Shop is directly behind it in the building labeled Storage.

