

SEVENTH GRADE CAMP

OCTOBER 22 - OCTOBER 26

**EBERSOLE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONFERENCE CENTER
WAYLAND, MI— 517-755-5000**

Camping is part of DeWitt Junior High's educational program. Each year for the past 38 years, DeWitt seventh graders have spent a week at camp in the Yankee Springs Recreational Area. Camp is located at the Ebersole Education and Conference Center in Barry County, south of Middleville and west of Hastings.

This handout will acquaint you with the framework through which camp will operate. There is a permission slip and health form attached to the handout. We hope that your child will be able to attend Seventh Grade Camp this year and that you will fill out the permission slip and health form and return them immediately.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/DEADLINES

Thursday, September 20	Parent Meeting – 7:30pm in gym (after open house)
Thursday, September 27	Deadline for permission slips, health forms and camp fees.
Monday, October 22	Leave DeWitt for camp.
Friday, October 26	Return home (approximately 2:00 p.m.).

PARENT INFORMATION

1. Our school will be attending camp from **October 22** through **October 26**. Students should meet in the cafeteria by 7:40 a.m. on Monday, October 22. All baggage should be deposited in the auxiliary gym between 7:00am and 7:30am on Monday.
2. The cost of camp will be **\$240.00**. Please send the money to school by Thursday, **September 27**. Make checks payable to **DeWitt Junior High**.
3. It would be appreciated if your child does not receive visits or phone calls during the camp session unless there is an emergency. Letters, however, are appropriate and welcome.

4. Please see to it that there is no cash, candy, gum, or electronics (including games, portable CD players or radios, cell phones, and beepers/pagers) taken to camp.
5. This year four men and four women volunteers are needed to be Dorm Dads and Dorm Moms. They must be over 18 years of age. The main duties of the volunteers are dorm and dining room supervision. Volunteers are able to split the week with another person, but a volunteer is needed to be present at camp for at least a two-day time period. Interested persons should contact Mr. Wells.
6. Please return the health information sheet and permission form to the school office by Thursday, September 27. Insurance company names and policy numbers are very helpful to have should your child require emergency care. This information is kept confidential in the nurse's file.
7. If there is a problem with payment of the camp fee or meeting the deadline for payment, please contact the DeWitt Junior High office. Special arrangements can be made.
8. If you have any questions, email or call one of the camp directors. They are both easiest to reach via email.

Mr. Greg Wells	wells@dewitt.edzone.net	(517) 668-3259
Mrs. Ellie Hodges	hodges@dewitt.edzone.net	(517) 668-3288

CAMP CLASSES

Activity groups will be divided into approximately 15 students.

ACTIVITY AREAS

FISHING	MICHIGAN HISTORY—PROJECT LAKEWELL
GEOLOGY HIKE	TEAMS COURSE
DANCE	ARCHERY
DRAMA	WETLAND ECOLOGY
SURVIVAL ORIENTEERING	CANOEING AND WATER SAFETY

FISHING

Students are instructed on how to safely bait a hook. Students will then have the opportunity to catch live fish.

DRAMA

In this class, students will explore their creative potential and develop confidence with being in front of a group. This class will also help prepare students for Skit Night.

DANCE

During this class, each student will be given an opportunity to learn a variety of simple dance steps. This class is designed so that all of the students will know enough dance steps to be comfortable at the dance. A great deal of time is spent discussing dance etiquette. (Alternate activities are provided for those students with conflicting religious beliefs.)

SURVIVAL ORIENTEERING

This class involves the use of compasses in orienteering through the woods. Concepts to be learned are the correct uses of a compass and how to find angles. In addition, students will learn how to build a shelter out of natural materials and start a fire.

GEOLOGY HIKE

Students will be taken on a hike to the Devil's Soup Bowl and Graves Hill during this activity. Various kinds of landforms that were caused by the glacial movement through Michigan will be discussed as the students view them. In addition to the landforms, students will also become acquainted with the basic ecological framework of the area and its importance.

MICHIGAN HISTORY—PROJECT LAKEWELL

This class is designed to promote an appreciation of the natural environment and our role in preserving and protecting it. Activities are planned that make students aware of the past and what problems we may face in the future with a special emphasis on the natural and human history of Michigan and the Great Lakes region. Project Lakewell is part of this class.

TEAMS COURSE

This class, which takes place in the woods, deals with cooperation and teamwork. Students work through a course of problem-solving challenges that require them to draw upon individual resources as well as cooperate as a group.

ARCHERY

This class introduces students to the use of a bow and arrow. In addition, they will learn the proper terminology for all equipment and conduct a safety inspection of the equipment prior to use.

WETLAND ECOLOGY

During this course students will walk the Wetland Trail around Jackson Lake to observe wetland species such as the four-foot tall sandhill crane, snapping turtles, and carnivorous plants. Students will learn about wetland ecology, including plant and animal species and their roles in the food web.

CANOEING AND WATER SAFETY

Students will be taught the fundamental skills involved in canoeing. Included in this is training in the proper use of a life jacket, holding a paddle correctly, and entering and exiting a canoe safely.

EVENING PROGRAMS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

DANCE

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

FINE ARTS NIGHT

WORK DETAIL

MUSIC

CAMPFIRE

DANCE

The dance is held after each student has had dance class, usually Thursday night. This dance is the culminating evening activity of camp week.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Balls and other sports equipment are provided for use on the field during free period.

FINE ARTS NIGHT

Fine Arts Night is a traditional part of camp life. Each activity group will present a skit to the rest of the campers during one of the evening programs. Any props that the group needs may be brought from home.

WORK DETAIL

All students who attend camp will be expected to do various chores such as dining hall set-up and clean-up and keeping their bunks clean. A schedule of duties and their times will be given to each student prior to the camp session, and students will be encouraged to study it so that all responsibilities are met. Additional duties may be assigned to any student who does not show up for his/her scheduled duties.

MUSIC/CAMPFIRE

Singing is an important part of camp. Sing-alongs are often part of our evening programs. Weather permitting, singing is usually done around a campfire.

We look forward to having you at Seventh Grade Camp!