



Camp EcoAvocado 2016

"Little Naturalist"

Welcome Families to Camp EcoAvocado!

Our culture for achievement was to create a Day Camp so welcoming, so inviting that every child who walks through doors has an amazing experience. Camp EcoAvocado is inspired by an outdoor camp experience, where our "little naturalists" can develop a deeper connection with nature, love and appreciate wildlife, have a better understanding of how the world works, and how to become future stewards of the planet. Our "little naturalists" explore a variety of Maine wildlife habitats on the EcoAvocado Trail and Hedgehog Loop, and we model and encourage children to develop compassion and sensitivity for all living creatures. Camp EcoAvocado is an outdoor experience that strengthens physical well-being, promotes a happier well-balanced child, increases cognitive development by children having to problem solve and work in groups, and creates a better understanding of the human-nature connection. As educators, we thrive on helping "little naturalists" practice good citizenship, conservation literacy, and enjoying what summer is all about!

Important Camp Information:

Camp EcoAvocado requires several easy "Things You Need to Know", such as safety, behavior, foods to bring and what to do in case of an emergency. We provide all that info and how to prepare for your "little naturalists" for a day at Camp EcoAvocado.

Summer Payment Options

Parents can choose to pay “weekly” or “monthly” and parents need to apply the payment option your family has committed to when your “little naturalist” has registered. If your family has agreed to pay weekly, payment is due every Monday, and if your family has agreed to pay monthly, payment is due on the 1st of each month. There is a \$5.00 late fee for each day tuition is received late.

Summer Registration

Registration Fee	Current Family Members: \$40
	New Family Members: \$75

Summer Registration Details

Summer Registration begins February 15th each year! Parents need to be registered for Camp EcoAvocado for a minimum of 1 half day per week. We ask parents to please give staff as much notice as possible so we can guarantee your “little naturalist's” slot for the summer. If we have a day available that is open during the week the full day rate is \$57.00. In addition, if parents suddenly need care for their child, please call Kidz Go Eco at 7:30am to see if we have availability for your “little naturalist” to join us that day; there is a very good chance we could have a slot open!

“Little Naturalist”

Children are referred to as “little naturalists” at Camp EcoAvocado, and each “naturalist” receives an ecology hat from KGE as a memento.

Age Appropriate Activities

To make participation fun, each camp theme provides activities that are designed for specific age categories. KGE’s Camp EcoAvocado participants must be 3 years old at the start of the session and toilet trained.

Camp Trails

- EcoAvocado Trail
- Hedgehog Loop

Camp Staff

Camp Teaching staff are carefully screened and selected for their activity skills, level of enthusiasm, ability to work well with children, and good judgment. In addition, training is provided on safety procedures and expected conduct, as well as program planning and implementation. By state law, all staff undergo criminal background checks.

Camper Behavior

Respecting others and the property of others is the key to having a great time at camp, and ensuring our facility provides a safe environment is a priority to our “little naturalists” and staff. To help create a positive camp atmosphere for everyone, “little naturalists” and their parents must understand that we reinforce positive behaviors and experiences at KGE, and at anytime if a “little naturalist” exhibits inappropriate or unsafe behavior, the child will be dismissed or possibly terminated from Summer Camp. Thank you for helping us keep camp fun and safe!

Camper Security

For your child's safety, only the individual(s) designated on the Summer Registration Form can pick up your child. Additionally, the person completing the Summer Registration form is the only one who can add or delete individuals with pick-up authority. “Little naturalists” must be signed in and signed out each day, so therefore camp staff will be keeping track of children’s arrivals and dismissals in our camp attendance log. Any individual listed on the pick-up list that is picking up a child will be asked for proper identification/license.

Field Trips and Special Events

We currently do not transport children nor do we allow other parents of other children to transport children. All special events and extra curricula activities are brought onsite for safety purposes.

Food at Camp

“Little naturalists” are expected to bring a cold lunch, nonperishable food, and drink for the entire day. Water is always available at camp. Any food allergies must be clearly identified on the Health History Form to avoid emergencies. Refrigeration is available at camp so parents can pack lunch boxes for your “little naturalist”. Camp EcoAvocado is a peanut aware and nut aware zone to ensure the safety of participants.

Pick-Up Policy

Parents are expected to pick up children promptly at the end of all our camp programs. We have camp programs that end at 1:00pm and 5:30pm, so an overtime fee of \$1.00 per minute will be assessed for being late. Payment is due at the time of pick-up (cash or check), and a child may not participate until the late fee has been paid. We apologize for our strict policies, and we thank our families for understanding.

Safety First

Safety is our first priority and our summer camp program operates under the certain Day Camp Standards. Parents must provide a water bottle, and we encourage water breaks to ensure children are drinking enough water during the day. Please be sure your “little naturalist” has bug spray applied, and sunscreen applied prior to being dropped off at camp. We re-apply eco-healthy bug spray & sunscreen to every child each time they go outside for safety and precaution (sunscreen cannot be expired). **All existing allergies/asthma need to be listed on campers Summer Registration Form and families will need to sign the Asthma & Allergy Action Plan. All prescribed Epi-pens need to be given to staff at the time of enrollment** (Example: Bee Stings, Food Allergies). Camp staff are certified in CPR and First Aid.

Footwear

We have a “No Flip Flop” policy. Sport sandals that cover your child’s toes are considered safe shoe wear. We encourage parents to bring garden/rain boots so children can use them for gardening, and outdoor play in the wetlands on the camp trails.

Tick Precautions

By utilizing a combination of education and awareness, personal protection strategies—including the use of repellents and multiple daily tick checks; proper tick removal (with parental permission) and prompt identification and submission. Youngsters and staff attending summer camps and scouting activities can significantly reduce their chances of contracting tick-borne illnesses. By utilizing a reporting protocol to inform camp leaders, and parents of tick removal, camp leadership can be proactive, not reactive. If possible, the adult in charge will try to identify, remove and secure the tick for possible submission so the family can bring to a local physician or testing service. We will note in child’s file if a parent declines to take tick for testing if tick was removed and saved upon parental consent.

Tick Educational Strategies

We perform multiple tick checks throughout the day—after each camp venue or at the mid morning break, lunch time, mid afternoon, and most thoroughly during the evening shower or bath. We instruct campers/students to use the sensitivity of their fingertips to feel for ticks. We use language such as “Inspect to Protect” to teach children how to feel and look for a possible tick.

We maintain a log of when and where ticks are acquired. This assists us in determining which areas of camp/school are most likely to support tick activity. In addition, repeated tick attachments to the same individuals might indicate a pattern of activity and assist with defining tick habitat.

Pre-camp screening. We ask parents to let us know if incoming “little naturalists” are coming from a tick endemic region of the country. Please let us know if your “little naturalist” has any recent flu-like symptoms, particularly in the summer months when flu like symptoms don't typically manifest.

We are proactive in regard to tick-borne illnesses, therefore we ask parents to spray their children with repellent before drop off, and we will continue to use repellent throughout the day that parents provide for their “little naturalist”. We also provide literature to families on tick awareness.

Summer Heat

KGE's Camp EcoAvocado camps are air-conditioned; when high temperature warnings are issued, program activities may be modified. Scheduled events may be substituted with alternative activities such as less active games, water play, and indoor activities.

What your “Little Naturalist” will need:

- Summer Registration Forms Completed
- Non-Prescription Topical Form
- Tick Permission/Removal Form
- Non-perishable cold lunch with name on lunchbox (***peanut and nut free***)
- Water bottle with name
- Needs to have bug spray & sunscreen applied prior to arrival and eco-healthy sunscreen and eco-healthy bug spray for the summer
- Towel with name
- Sport sandals (no flip flops), garden/rain boots
- One-piece bathing suits only
- Summer hats if parents want to ensure extra precaution/protection
- Bike helmet if parents want children to ride scooters

Summer Institute: (Camp EcoAvocado)

Summer offers our unique educational summer programs! Our days of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:30am–5:30pm, and we ask parents to bring a cold lunch for their child and a personalized “lunch note” so can read it to your child during lunch time! We have a few options for time slots to accommodate half-day and full-day programs.

Summer Hours & Tuition:

Session 1 • 7:30am - 1:00pm		Session 2 • 7:30am - 5:30pm	
1 day	\$47 wk	1 day	\$57 wk
2 days	\$107 wk	2 days	\$117 wk
3 days	\$117 wk	3 days	\$167 wk
4 days	\$147 wk	4 days	\$187 wk
5 days	\$157 wk	5 days	\$207 wk
Registration Fee: Current Members \$40 / New Members \$75			

Camp EcoAvocado's Summer Schedule & Themes:

Animal Savers: 6/20 – 6/24

If your child adores animals, wants to be a zookeeper, park ranger, veterinarian, wildlife rehabber, or help less fortunate animals, then they will love our Animal Savers Camp! “Little naturalists” spend time learning how to care for animals, how to contribute to local organizations to see other ways people are working to make the world a better place for animals and wildlife.

Growing Green: 6/27 – 7/1

Getting your child’s botany experiences in the garden is a wonderful way to welcome the Summer Season in Maine. This is an opportunity for “little naturalists” to learn about what flowers and shrubs can attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and even the very important insect of Maine the “Honey Bee.” Children learn the importance of pollination in agriculture, and the difference between annuals and perennials. The Garden of Life teaches the importance of composting, healthy soil, how to water flowers, plant unique wildflowers, and take home their own planted flower in a reusable container!

Atelier Studio (*atelier means Art Studio in French*): 7/5 – 7/8 (Camp Closed 7/4)

Unleash your child's inner Picasso in an art camp where Old World Masters meet High Tech Digital Media! "Little naturalists" will create masterpieces using various mediums such as chalk, watercolor, acrylic, outdoor natural materials, and clay while learning about artists of the world. Other art projects will involve emergent learning art activities in which the children will teach us which they are most interested in.

Maine Wildlife Discovery: 7/11 – 7/15

Exploring all the unique species in Maine that are threatened, endangered, or extirpated! Teaching "little naturalists" how we can support our local conservation and wildlife preservation in our own backyard. "Little naturalists" discover animal tracks, Maine birds, Maine amphibians, Maine Turtles, and Maine Mammals. Miss Michelle our Director/Founder is a volunteer at the Maine Wildlife Park, and is extremely passionate about supporting & protecting Maine Wildlife. This is a wonderful week to show appreciation for what Maine is all about!

Drama: 7/18 – 7/22

Stage Play will be a highlight of the summer reviews! "Little naturalists" will work collectively to develop the stage production, including designing the set, costumes, puppet play, and acting out roles. Voice projection, stage presence, and the art of acting will be the focus of this stimulating week. Costumes will transform campers into the character as they act out the special part.

Coral Reefs: 7/25 – 7/29

"Little naturalists" will learn about the intertidal regions of one of the most diverse eco-systems on the planet. Children explore everything from crabs, sea urchins, sea stars, mussels, snails, varieties of seaweed, barnacles, lobsters, various aquatic themes & oceans, sea mammals, and hands-on fun with seashells and sea rocks. The most important focus during this week is the emphasis on keeping our oceans clean, taking part in marine wildlife conservation, and the significance of endangered coral reefs.

Park Rangers: 8/1 – 8/5

What animal did that scat come from? Is that a New England animal? Who left those tracks? Just like little park rangers, "little naturalists" will investigate the evidence of animal activity, how insects, plants and weather play a major role in an ecosystem and meet the needs of our native New England animals. Games and outdoor discovery will help reinforce the imagination of being a Park Ranger.

We Go Safari: 8/8 – 8/12

Let's create a little guided imagination and take your "little naturalist" on a Safari!! Learning about Endangered Species in Africa, how extraordinary exotic wildlife really is, and how to discover how each animal lives and interacts in their very own habitat. We have Safari hats, binoculars, and vests to give your child the added dramatic play and sense of wonder in the wild! Great learning experience!

Rookie Naturalists: 8/15 – 8/19

How do "little naturalists" care for the Earth? We discover the simple joys of nature and the loving ways "little naturalists" can develop appreciation for it from our mountains, forests, beaches, lakes and rivers. Also the Ferry Beach Ecology School will be visiting our small facility to perform a small skit for all the children! During this week we will focus on teaching the children the relationships between organisms and their environment. Using magnifying glasses, "little naturalists" inspect insects like ladybugs, observe life-cycles from tadpoles to frogs, and caterpillars to butterflies, and many more to show how the relationship of these organisms relates to us. Southern Maine has 8 ecosystems, and we'll touch base on ecological issues—biomass, energy flow, nutrient cycling. Emphasis on recycling and that everyday is "Earth Day."

Enchanted Forest: 8/22 – 8/26

This is a magical and whimsical week! "Little naturalists" dress up as "little gnomes" with hats or "little fairies" with wings! Children using their imagination turn bubbles into potions, sticks and ribbons into magic wands, turn silk scarves and flowers into Fairy Soup, and design enchanted castles out of recycled cardboard! "Little naturalists" have fun creating gnome and fairy houses out of leaves, sticks, and milk cartons, while children's imaginations will take them on the EcoAvocado Trail, and transform the nature trail into a magical Enchanted Forest!

Let's Talk School: 8/29 – 9/2

Wow... Summer is already coming to an end!!! This is the last week our "little naturalists" are at KGE, and they will slowly take on the idea of transforming back into students! We'll be discussing classroom etiquette, school safety, how to meet new friends, and how to introduce themselves to their new teachers!

Again, welcome to Camp EcoAvocado! We're looking forward to a fun summer, with lots of enriching activities, and one that your "little naturalist" will always remember! Please sign & return the handbook letting us know you have acknowledged and understood our policies and procedures. Thank you for helping us keep your little naturalist comfortable and safe while they spend their summer days at Kidz Go Eco!

Tax Information

Kidz Go Eco, LLC (EIN/Tax ID# is 46-4851943)
Camp EcoAvocado
Administrative Office
80 Flag Pond Rd.
Saco, ME 04072
207-571-9444
www.kidzgoeco.com

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Camp Director Signature _____ Date _____