

4-H Camp Overlook

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin & St. Lawrence Counties

campoverlook@cornell.edu

www.4hcampoverlook.org

Camp Physical Address

70 Beach Road
Mountain View, NY 12969

Camp Office Address

355 West Main St, Suite 105
Malone, NY 12953

Environmental Stewardship Plan

Created April, 2016

Our Year-Round Program Mission Statement: "To instill in participants a sense of belonging and connection with the natural world through an outdoor educational experience; To help students to recognize the value of community, and how their unique contribution is vital in sustaining that community; To provide experience that empower students to be leaders and critical thinkers through academic and physical challenges; To teach students the value of reflection as a means of self-discovery and growth; To awaken in students a spirit that is conscious of its connection with the world, and accepts responsibility for its role in protecting that world for future generations."

4-H Camp Overlook is a residential Summer Camp and a year-round Outdoor Learning Center. Camp Overlook strives provide a natural Adirondack environment where youth, under the guidance of positive role models, take part in a personal growth experience that emphasizes community building, positive social interactions, environmental awareness, skill building and fun. Overlook includes a traditional Adirondack not for profit summer camp open to ALL children, both 4-H members and non-members alike, as well as a thriving year-round adventure program. Its remote setting is perfect for groups and individuals to experience an outdoor setting while having the infrastructure in place for group needs.

Camp Overlook sees more than 800 youth in its residential summer camp program, and more than 1700 local school children and over 400 adults during the school year. Because of the large number of visitors in a rural area, Camp Overlook has pledged to reduce its environmental impact and impose a stewardship plan to help guide and navigate its future development, and to fulfill our program's Year-round mission.

Steps 4-H Camp Overlook as taken to lessen its environmental impact & streamline its waste management process

1. Garbage cans and recycling bins are in place and clearly labeled throughout the property. Garbage bins are covered with metal shoot outside and uncovered inside buildings. Each cabin includes both a garbage pail and a small recycling bin. Campers are instructed and encouraged to use recycling bins in cabins and during their stay.
2. The kitchen uses large recycling containers for glass, plastic, and metal items.
3. Cardboard is flattened and stockpiled in the recycling dumpster, or reused for art projects.
4. Glass, plastic, and metal are put into a second compartment in the recycling dumpster and is swapped for a new dumpster when called. Franklin County is implementing "Zero Sort Recycling" to streamline part of the process. The dumpster is removed by Casella Waste Management.

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5. The garbage dumpster is emptied weekly during the summer and "on call" for the other 9 months of the year. The dumpster is emptied by Casella Waste Management.
6. Confidential Office paper is shredded as needed and reused a packaging material or as fire starter.
7. Non-Confidential office paper is recycled / or binned and reused as scrap paper
8. Wood shavings from our wood planer at build-a-bench and canoe paddle building are used as tinder for campfires.
9. Downed trees and wood scraps are cut up for firewood at fire pits, and winter heating needs.
10. Campers sort recycling and transport trash to the dumpster during "squad duties". Duties are basically chores the entire camp does after breakfast and other meals.
11. Other large items are often resold on craigslist or local venues, or reused (such as old windows being re-used in a greenhouse)
12. Paper towel use in bathhouses is limited to reduce paper waste.
13. Automatic lights installed in newer bathrooms to automatically turn off after 10-minutes of non-use.
14. Commercial dishwasher installed in 2013 to cut down on paper waste from camps previous disposable dining options.
15. Larger recyclable materials and redeemable deposits are brought to TAP Industries (A materials recovery facility) in Malone on occasion.
16. Many recyclable materials are re-used in art projects during the summer as part of our Arts & Crafts curriculum.

Proposed changes to policy and actions starting in June, 2016

1. Kitchen staff will separate their compostable food scraps (ex. Egg shells, vegetable peels, paper towels, etc.) from 'non-compostable' food waste (ex. bones, meat scraps, dairy.).
2. Food is served family style, and portions are controlled by staff. Food not served to campers can be re-served at a later date, to save in food waste. Food served will be sorted into compost and non-compostable food.
3. Some camper food will be composted starting in 2016. Additional studies and observation will occur to ensure that non-compostable food waste is not entering the system.
4. Campers food waste (that cannot be composted) will occasionally be monitored over the summer in order to help campers understand resource management and help eliminate what enters the waste stream.
5. Leaf and pine needles will be raked into piles and relocated in the woods after being removed from the main camp footprint, sometimes composted.
6. Campers will help transport compost during 'squad duties'. Duties are basically chores the entire camp does after breakfast.
7. Campers will have access to Camp's Green Pledge, developed in spring of 2016. Access will be encouraged electronically to reduce paper waste.

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8. Campers enrolled in Camp's environmental education program will be given in-depth lessons on composting and reducing environmental impact.
9. All summer campers will be given a brief introduction to reducing waste through recycling and composting during our weekly review of our camper code of conduct, and during meals.
10. More in-depth discussion of composting will occur during squad duties of Trash, Recycling & Composting.

Current and perceived limits to the Environmental Stewardship plan

1. Preventing wildlife from associating our location with easy food is essential. Animal rehabilitation specialists have been at camp in order to reduce our raccoon population in our dumpster. Our compost will have to be monitored and watched for animal activity.
2. Ensuring non-compostable food and other waste does not enter the system. A monitoring system will have to be in place.
3. Compost is limited to its location (away from camper cabins, in secure area near dumpsters) in a fairly shaded spot. It will be monitored for sunlight to make sure the system is actively composting waste.

Education to be implemented during the summer

1. All campers will see a short "5 minute" presentation regarding compost, recycling, and garbage during Sunday afternoon review of camper code of conduct by our assistant director.
2. During "squad duties" after breakfast, a different squad each day will do the "trash, recycling & compost duty". Basically, this group of 10 -15 campers will bring our daily trash, recycling, and compost down to our bins.
3. Part of our environmental education class, Eco-explorers, will cover composting in greater detail, and include interactive lesson plans and activities. Classes are optional, so not every camper will attend this class.
4. During meals where camper food waste & compost is being collected, campers will be given a short explanation of what is food waste and how to reduce food that enters the waste stream.

Education to be implemented to year-round groups

1. Continue to have containers that clearly mark the separation of recycling, refundable containers, and garbage.
2. Offer the ability to compost food scraps from rental groups and school groups
3. During Conservation Field Days a short 20 minute composting and recycling lesson will be taught to approximately 200 students (in ten groups of twenty) in first and fifth grade.
4. Use of our website and social media to hit larger audience indefinitely, including camper parents and camp alumni.

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Active Partners

Franklin County Solid Waste Transfer Station (Managed by Casella Waste Management)

326 Brand Rd

Malone NY 12953

(518) 481-6129

<http://www.casella.com/dropoff/ny/malone/12953>

TAP Industries

59 Railroad St

Malone NY 12953

518-483-2220

manager@tapindustriesmalone.comIndustries

<http://www.tapindustriesmalone.com/>

Cornell Waste Management Institute

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/>