



Nature Camps Values, Philosophies, and Operational Guidelines

Values

- Each child has inestimable worth
- Summertime is for children
- Nature is the best classroom and teacher
- Practice mutual respect for the natural world and for one another
- "Our labor is to bring all persons to their own teacher in themselves." (source: George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends, also known as the Quaker religion)

Philosophies

- A Sense of Wonder
- Mixed Age Learning
- Adventure Education
- The Joy of Choosing
- Challenge by Choice

Detailed information on Nature Camps' philosophies is available on [our website](#).

Operational Guidelines

1. Choose your own level of involvement / participation.
2. Use "I" statements, speak only for yourself.
3. Remind (with questions) that we have operating agreements.
4. Ask for permission to continue a conversation.
5. Ask for, and honor, confidentiality.
6. Seek balance between inquiry and advocacy.
7. Use check-in. Don't hold the group hostage to one issue, Use "Parking Lot."
8. Speak from the heart. Presume innocence. Assume positive intentions of others.
9. Mind commitments, now, and for the future.
10. Practice mutual respect. Recognize that we can disagree while still being supportive of one another.
11. Listen with the intent of understanding.
12. NC speaks with "one voice," and all staff must support these decisions, even if not in agreement.