



Common Ground Center Camper Packet

Travel Info, Packing List, Policies and More



Welcome to Camp Common Ground!

This is your camper packet. It contains useful packing tips, policies and safety procedures, and general information to help you make the most of your time at camp. We can't wait to see you!

Safe travels,
Common Ground Center Staff



Forms

All medical forms and waivers are completed as part of the online registration process. This information needs to be checked and/or updated every year. Please be sure your forms are up to date in your account before you arrive at camp.



What to Expect: The Basics

Meals & snacks: Our philosophy around our **vegetarian** fare is **simple, wholesome, and fresh**. People with special diets can check in with the kitchen coordinator upon arrival. In our experience, "delicious" and "plentiful" are the words most often used to describe food at CGC. And yes - coffee, tea, and snacks are always available!

Camper Kitchen: Campers may also store & prepare food (including meat) in our camper kitchen, complete with refrigerator, microwave, oven, and stove. Please be mindful that space in the camper kitchen is limited.

Bathrooms: Our central bathhouse has private indoor and outdoor showers, toilets and a shared sink space for washing hands and brushing teeth. There are also toilet facilities in each of the main buildings, a portable toilet by the pond, and a composting toilet by the cabins. Eco-Lodge rooms each have private bathrooms.

Electricity: Cabins do not have electricity but Eco-Lodge rooms and each of the main buildings do. Our reduction of light pollution keeps the night skies intact for stargazing. Get ready to unplug!

What should we bring to camp?



Handy Checklist

- _____ Warm sweater/fleece jacket
- _____ Rain gear or poncho for each family member
- _____ Bathing suit
- _____ Sun hat, sunglasses
- _____ Long pants and shorts
- _____ Loose, comfortable clothing for yoga and dancing
- _____ Sturdy walking or hiking shoes
- _____ Flip-flops for the shower
- _____ Sunscreen
- _____ Bug repellent
- _____ Prescription medications (including Epi-pens if needed)
- _____ Personal items including soap, shampoo, sanitary napkins, diapers, etc.
- _____ Flashlights and/or head lamps
- _____ A battery-operated lantern for your tent or cabin (No candles or fuel-operated lanterns permitted)
- _____ Watch or alarm clock
- _____ Bedding: pillows, sleeping bag, and/OR sheets and blankets*
- _____ Towels (for showering* and for the beach)
**Eco-Lodge rooms include bedding & bath towels*
- _____ Day pack
- _____ Water bottles
- _____ Infant or toddler items: an all terrain stroller and/or a baby backpack may be handy

Optional items/ideas of things to bring:

- _____ Clothes you don't mind getting dirty in art classes
- _____ Umbrella
- _____ Something to tie dye (white or light-colored **cotton** fabrics work best!)
- _____ Water shoes or sandals
- _____ Lawn or camp chairs (for your cabin or the beach)
- _____ Musical instruments and song books
- _____ Mattress pad (single or queen) for cabin beds

Camp Store

You'll be able to pick up souvenirs and treats on-site. Grocery & pharmacy items are available in the nearby towns of Hinesburg and Bristol.

Weather

Campers should be prepared for Vermont's variable summer weather.

BRING WARM CLOTHES AND LAYERS!

Things we have available to use:

- Tennis rackets & balls
- Balls, frisbees, hula hoops, etc
- Sand toys
- High chairs
- Yoga mats
- Board games & cards
- Coin-operated laundry
- Wi-Fi
- Writing materials and craft supplies
- First aid supplies
- Land line phone for urgent calls

Kids should arrive at Kidville each morning with:

- _____ Sunscreen applied or wearing sun protective clothing
- _____ Bathing suit
- _____ Water shoes or Crocs
- _____ Towel
- _____ Water bottle
- _____ Sun hat
- _____ Shoes to run in
- _____ Rain Gear (weather dependent)
- _____ Day pack to carry it all in

Things to leave at home:

- Boats
- Pets
- Alcohol and drugs
- Radios, hand-held video games and the like
- Candles or fuel operated lanterns
- Candy/Junk food
- Weapons



Common Ground Center Policies

Parents and Guardians: You are responsible for your children at all times (except for Kidville hours). Please make sure you know where your child is and what they are doing. Notify the camp director if you need to make arrangements to leave the site without your child.

Cabin Etiquette: Please do not bring food, toothpaste, or deodorant to your cabins or tents as these items will attract undesirable wildlife. We ask that you only use battery powered flashlights and lanterns in your cabin. No candles or oil-powered lanterns are permitted. Please—no graffiti.

Quiet Times: Quiet times are designated on campus between the hours of 9 pm - 7 am and 1 pm - 2:15 pm. During quiet times, please keep noise to a minimum in and around the cabin/tenting areas. During evening quiet hours, please keep the noise down outside and bring your activities into the Dining Hall.

Respect and Safety: Everyone at CCG is expected to respect the boundaries and privacy of others. We ask that campers act in accordance with camp rules and the law, do not engage in conduct that may harm themselves or others or that interferes with the carrying out of staff responsibilities. Failure to abide by this policy may result in being asked to leave camp and/or not be welcome back at camp.

Communication: We have one phone line available to campers for calls. If you need to make frequent calls during your week at camp, we highly recommend that you use a cell phone. Note that cell service is spotty on our site. If you need to bring a laptop for work, CGC assumes no responsibility for computers or other valuables. Wi-Fi is available in the Eco-Lodge Common Room.

Guests: Unfortunately we cannot accommodate any camper guests. Please plan to visit your friends and family before or after your time at CGC.

Conflict Resolution: Grievances or complaints should first be discussed with the other individual involved. If no satisfactory resolution occurs, both parties can discuss the situation with Jim Mendell, the Camp Mediator.

Drugs & Alcohol: Family Camp is drug and alcohol free. Please respect this policy while you are a member of our community. As a community, we are interested in creating a safe environment for everyone. Infractions of this policy will be handled by CGC's core staff and may result in removal from camp.

Tobacco: Smoking under the age of 21 is not permitted. For others, there will be a designated smoking area.

Hiking: Campers hiking in the woods must sign in and out on the log book in the farmhouse. Maps are available, please stay on designated trails. Campers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please don't hike after dark. If search and rescue is required, lost campers will assume the cost.

Swimming at the Pond: Lifeguards are at the pond in the afternoon. Adults may swim with a buddy at their own risk when lifeguard isn't present. The pond area is closed between 7 pm and 7 am. The lifeguard has final say in all activities in and around the pond.

Swimming at Lewis Creek: All swimming is at your own risk. All campers intending to swim in the creek must sign out and go with a buddy. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. No diving is permitted.

Parking: Please park in the designated area only (parking lot north of Tatro Road). You can unload your belongings closer to your tent or cabin, but please move your vehicle promptly to the parking area when you are finished.

Medical Staff: While CGC employs medical staff, the staff member is not able to handle every medical and/or psychological situation that may arise. CGC may, at its discretion, ask a camper to seek medical assistance off site if they determine that the issue is outside of the scope of what CGC is equipped to deal with.

Screen time: CGC is actively engaged in helping campers build stronger connections with one another. As such, **campers under the age of 18 are asked not to carry smart phones or tablets** while at camp and adults are encouraged to leave their phones in their cabins and take any necessary calls in a private setting.

Thank you for helping out: We encourage teens and adults to take part in making our community safe, clean, and fun by signing up for a **Helping Hands** role for the week. There will be a sign up sheet at registration when you arrive.



Directions to Common Ground Center

473 Tatro Road • Starksboro, Vermont 05487

From NY/NJ:

Follow 87 North past Albany to Exit 20—Glens Falls/Whitehall. Follow 149 East to 4 North. Take 4 North which becomes 4 East in Vermont. Take 22A North, then turn onto 17 East which becomes 116 North.*

From Southwest Vermont:

Take 7 North to New Haven and take a right on 17 East to Bristol. Follow 17 East into the town of Bristol. 17 East changes to 116 North after the town of Bristol.*

***From 116 North in Bristol:** Continue straight on 116 North for approximately 6 miles from the traffic light in the center of Bristol. Keep an eye out for our sign on the right and then make a left on Tatro Rd. (if you enter the main village of Starksboro, you've gone too far).

From I-89 (Boston, Montpelier, Burlington):

Get off I-89 at Williston exit 12. Go South on 2A. When the road ends turn left onto 116 South. Stay on 116 South about 15 miles, passing through the villages of Hinesburg and Starksboro. Pass Robinson Elementary School and go .6 miles further. You'll pass Hidden Acres and Brookside Drive on the right before turning right onto Tatro Road.



Once on Tatro Road: PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY

You will pass several houses. Proceed over a small bridge. You will see our welcome sign and a tan farmhouse, which is our office, on the left. **Please park in the parking lot on the right.**

If you plan to take a cab from the airport, please make arrangements in advance and bring our address & directions. We recommend **VT Tour & Charter: 1-802-734-1293** (subject to availability).



Please drive very carefully on Tatro Road and **DO NOT** exceed 15 MPH. There are often small children and dogs on the road.