FIU WELLNESS AND RECREATION CENTER

PANTHER A D V E N T U R E

RECREATION CAMP
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Mission

To promote creativity, community and health and wellness through recreation and outdoor adventure.

Values

Integrity: Being honest & making every attempt to be truthful and fair with others.

Creativity: Welcoming imagination and originality through programming.

Community: Having fellowship with other campers and counselors while showing respect and responsibility.

Health and Wellness: Promoting a healthy mind and body through recreation.

Why Choose Panther Adventure Recreation Camp?

Location: Our camp is conveniently located at the FIU Wellness and Recreation Center and surrounding Sport Fields.

Screened & Trained Staff: All employees are subject to criminal background checks. All employees are CPR, AED & First Aid certified.

Ratios: We believe in having smaller ratios for quality programming, our ratios are 1-to-6 for campers age 5 and 1-to-8 for campers ages 6-12.

Health and Safety: Panther Adventure Recreation Camp operates in compliance with federal, state and local standards for health and safety.

Fun Variety: Our program includes Field Games, Archery, Aquatics, Group Games, Songs, Nature Hikes, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor Education, STEM, Gaga Ball, Special Events & Field Trips.

Extended Care Available: Before and after care is available for campers.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Florida International University Wellness and Recreation Center’s Panther Adventure Recreation Camp recognizes the worth of all persons, regardless of race, religion, sex, age or economic circumstances.

ADA Policy Notice

Panther Adventure Recreation Camp (PARC) and Florida International University (FIU) provide reasonable accommodations to participants with disabilities in all its programming. In order to activate
the implementation of reasonable accommodations, the child’s parent(s) must contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible to schedule a “Welcome Appointment”. Once all appropriate documentation and narratives have been reviewed by the DRC, PARC will be notified of the needed accommodations and an implementation plan will be developed in consultation between DRC, PARC, and the parent(s). Please note that some accommodation limitations may arise due to the nature of some of the activities and environments used during the experiences provided by PARC.

About

At Panther Adventure Recreation Camp, we are here to make all campers feel welcome. Campers will find a safe, inclusive, nurturing and creative space where they can be themselves, try new things while creating a memorable and meaningful camp experience.

Panther Adventure Recreation Camp is a mix of fun and educational activities aimed at improving kids’ well-being, promoting creativity, community and health and wellness through recreation and outdoor adventure. Our program includes Field Games, Archery (Summer Camp only), Aquatics, Group Games, Songs, Nature Hikes, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor Education, STEM, Gaga ball, Special Events & Field Trips (Summer Camp only).

Camp Groups

Campers will be grouped by their upcoming school year grade. We will have groups from Kindergarten to 8th grade to accommodate 5-12 year olds.

K-1st Grade: Alligators
2nd Grade: Flamingos
3rd Grade: Manatees
4th-5th Grade: Great Blue Herons
6th-8th Grade: Panthers

Camp Hours

Camp hours are from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Morning Drop off is from 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. each morning.
Afternoon Pick-up is from 4:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. each afternoon.
Optional extended care is available for an additional rate; morning care hours are 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. and afternoon care hours are 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Extended care service must be paid in full 9 days prior to the beginning of the camp week.
Payment

The Wellness and Recreation Center only accepts Credit and/or Debit cards as a payment type. All fees must be paid in full 9 days prior to the beginning of the camp week. All sales are final. Refunds will only be given on an individual basis.

Snack

Panther Adventure Recreation Camp provides two nutritional snacks daily, one snack in the morning and one snack in the afternoon. Campers are encouraged to bring an additional snack from home if they choose not to eat the snack provided.

Food Policy

Campers will have a lunch option available when registering for camp that must be paid in advance with camp tuition. If lunch option was not selected, campers must bring their own lunch and drinks daily. If lunch has been forgotten, parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to bring lunch to their camper. Campers are not permitted to leave the Wellness Recreation Center and surrounding fields at any time of the camp day, including going and picking up lunch. Lunches cannot be ordered and delivered to camp as this can interfere with camp operations. Camp staff (Camp Director, supervisor, counselor, etc.) are not permitted to purchase food for campers from Tropical Smoothie or vending machines.

Campers are discouraged from bringing sodas to camp and are not permitted to chew gum. Foods containing nuts are strongly discouraged due to the possibility of severe life-threatening allergic reactions to some campers.

Staff Training

Panther Adventure Recreation Camp is run by Florida International University Wellness and Recreation Center by Recreation professionals that train and oversee well-qualified college students. All employees are subject to criminal background checks and fingerprinting.

All employees are CPR, AED & First Aid certified. Our counselors attend training seminars and trainings which include topics such as: positive discipline and redirection, Child Abuse Prevention, games, communication, group control, songs, basic water safety as well as many others. Our staff is the key to success and to your child’s memorable and meaningful camp experience.

Physical & Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention

The primary objective of Panther Adventure Recreation Camp is to ensure the safety of all of our campers. Panther Adventure Recreation Camp has a zero-tolerance policy for any abuse committed by a staff member, camper, or third party. No staff member, camper or third party, no matter his or her title
or position, has the authority to commit or allow any physical or sexual assaults. Every action will be taken to make camp a safe place.

**Safety measures in place to protect campers against sexual abuse and staff members from sexual abuse allegations include:**

- Criminal background checks and fingerprinting for all camp staff
- Fingerprinting for all program personnel
- Training for all program personnel
- Our ratios are 1-to-6 for campers age 5 and 1-to-8 for campers ages 6-12.
- Respect for camper privacy
- Appropriate attire of campers and staff
- No roughhousing or hazing that could result in inappropriate touching, including allowing campers to touch or hang on camp staff members in an inappropriate manner
- Campers are accounted for at all times (100% camper visibility and adult supervision)
- Supervision during swim activities by staff, aquatics coordinator, and lifeguard on duty

**Check-In & Sign-Out Procedures**

Parents/guardians and any additional persons listed on the enrollment agreement authorized pick-up list are required to enter the facility to sign their camper in and out each day. We will verify the identification of any person picking up a camper. Parents/guardians and any additional persons listed on the enrollment agreement authorized pick-up must always have their identification, such as a driver’s license readily available to show camp staff at check-out. If identification is not provided, the camper will not be permitted to be signed out.

Campers are not permitted to remain at camp after being signed out by the pick-up person. Any deviation from this policy will be considered a serious violation and will result in disciplinary action.

Any camper whose name is not listed on the attendance sheet will not be permitted to stay at the program without proof of enrollment from the parent/guardian.

**Authorization for Release of Camper**

Only persons listed on your enrollment agreement authorized pick-up list are authorized to pick-up and sign out your camper. Persons authorized to pick up your camper must be over the age of 18 and must always present an unexpired identification card with his/her photo to sign the child out. In the event of an emergency, when a child must be picked up by someone not authorized in the enrollment agreement, we require the following:

1. Persons must be over the age of 18.
2. Parents must call the Camp Director at (305) 348-6519; provide the name and physical
description of the person who will pick up their child. Please note, it is required that you first
provide us with your password as a means of authorizing your request.
3. The person picking up the child must present a current identification card with his/her photo
and must sign the child out. Under no circumstances will your child be allowed to leave
Panther Adventure Recreation Camp with an unauthorized person. Any change in family
status which impacts authorized parties for pick-up will require official documentation from
proper authorities.

Parent Communication

We value the involvement of parent commitment in our program; it is essential to our success.
Cooperation with all policies and procedures, good communication and partnerships between staff and
parents/guardians are crucial to the well-being of each camper.

Morning check-in and check-out are ideal times to speak to the camp supervisor about your camper’s
progress and development, any comments, concerns and/or suggestions. You can also share your input
with the Camp Director at (305) 348-6519 so that we can strive for further improvements in the quality
of staff and programming as well as recognize excellent effort from our staff.

Florida International University Wellness and Recreation Center’s Panther Adventure Recreation Camp
holds each parent/guardian to the expectation that you will conduct yourself appropriately at all times
when in the presence of our campers and staff. Inappropriate language, conduct or sexual harassment
toward any participant or staff member in our program will not be tolerated from parents or persons
picking up your camper. If a parent/guardian violates the policies and procedures of the program, and
poses a risk or danger to the participants and staff on site, Florida International University Wellness and
Recreation Center’s Panther Adventure Recreation Camp has the right to refuse service. Behaviors that
indicate the influence of drugs or alcohol may require that Panther Adventure Recreation Camp
personnel contact the authorities to ensure the safety of your camper and/or campers.

Camp Attire

Appropriate camper attire includes a t-shirt, comfortable athletic shorts, socks, tennis shoes and
swimsuit and towel for swim time.

Unacceptable camp attire includes flip-flops (or other open-toes shoes, unless it is during the assigned
swim time) or Heelys; short shorts (define as shorts that do not fall at or below the fingertips when arms
are extended at the side) or pants that hang low, displaying underwear. Campers wearing inappropriate
clothing will be sent to the administrative office to call home and have a parent bring in appropriate
clothing.

Personal Belongings
Panther Adventure Recreation Camp does not permit campers to bring toys, electronic games or other personal articles to camp. If items of this nature are brought to the program, we will require that they remain in your camper’s backpack for the duration of the day. Florida International University Wellness and Recreation Center’s Panther Adventure Recreation Camp is not responsible for items lost, broken or stolen during program hours. Articles that are left behind at the end of the day will be placed in the camp’s lost and found. Any lost and found items left at the end of each week will be donated to a local charity.

**Labeling Personal Items**

Parents are highly encouraged to label their camper’s article of clothing and belongings so that they are easy to identify in the event they are misplaced. Labels should include your child’s first and last name, and camper group name.

**Illness/ Accident/ Medication Policy**

**Illness:** We urge you to keep children at home if they are ill, both for their sake and for the sake of other campers. If a child is feeling ill during program hours for a period of 20 minutes or longer or if the illness includes fever of 100.4 or higher, vomiting or diarrhea, a staff member will contact the parent for immediate pick-up. If a child has been exposed to or has had a communicable disease during program hours, we will notify the parents at once.

Campers with infectious diseases, such as chicken pox or strep throat, must stay out of camp until the contagious stage has passed. Campers who have had head lice must be treated and nit-free before returning to camp. For the sake of other camper’s health it is vital that you let camp staff know your child’s diagnosis as soon as possible. In the case of the common cold, the camper should remain at home as long as there is a fever present, a sore throat, eye infection, continuous and colored nasal secretions, or persistent chest cough. We determine the need to send a camper home by both the symptoms listed above and by their behavior. Campers with signs of vomiting, diarrhea, or an undiagnosed skin rash should remain home.

Campers will be sent home if any above symptoms appear while they are at camp. They should remain home for at least the next 24 hours. If a fever is present, please keep your camper home until they are fever-free for 24 hours.

Panther Adventure Recreation Camp reserves the right to call and request that your camper be picked up immediately due to illness. Your camper will be kept comfortable in a designated isolation area while waiting for parent arrival.

Our illness policies will be strictly enforced, for the health, well-being, and safety of all concerned.

**Signs and Symptoms of Suspected Communicable Disease**

- Severe coughing, causing the child to become red or blue in the face or make a whooping sound
Difficult or rapid breathing
Stiff neck
Diarrhea or more than one abnormally loose stool
Temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit or higher
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
Exposed open skin lesions
Unusually dark urine and/or grey or white stool
Yellowish skin or eyes
Head lice (to return to camp, the child’s parent needs to sign statement that treatment has occurred and be free of nits (louse eggs)

Per state law, the university is required to report any suspicion of any abuse to the proper authorities regardless of how minor it may seem.

Accident: If an accident should occur during program hours, a staff member will notify the parents/guardian at once. The counselor caring for the child will complete a written report of any accident considered serious, detailing the medical procedure that was followed. We require that parents/guardians read and sign this document. If emergency treatment is warranted, the Camp Director will immediately notify the parent/guardian and the camper will be transported by ambulance to the nearest medical facility, if necessary.

Behavior Guidelines for Campers

It is the philosophy of our program that discipline is positive and serves to teach campers proper behavior, not to punish them. Above all, we will pace your camper’s physical and emotional well-being paramount. We will not engage in any practices that are physically or psychologically damaging.

We have aligned a proactive approach to behavior management which encourages positive behavior in all of our participants. Children are taught to consider the effect that their actions may have on others. Our values are guidelines that our campers must follow to assure that our program runs smoothly, protects the safety of all, promotes cooperation and assists our campers in taking responsibility for their action.

I addition, due to the large group setting of our program, we are unable to provide one-on-one care for any child except on an intermittent basis, such as injuries, immediate disciplinary issues, and certain personal care needs customarily provided to other children. Please note: Panther Adventure Recreation Camp reserves the right to remove any child that is determined to be in consistent need of one-on-one attention, keeping staff from maintaining appropriate staff-to-child ratios required by the State.

For more information, please contact our Camp Director at (305) 348-6519.

Program Rules:

As participants, all campers will be required to:
1. Check in with their counselor immediately upon arrival each day.
2. Respect the property of Florida International University grounds, Wellness and Recreation Center & designated Camp sites.
3. Report to a counselor if they are sick or hurt.
4. Keep all personal belongings in their backpacks during program hours.
5. Behave in a responsible manner - being helpful and cooperative.
6. Demonstrate courtesy and respect for one another.
7. Respect their counselors and follow directions.
8. Respect the rights of other campers, counselors and Florida international University and Wellness Recreation Center personnel.
9. Obey all camp rules
10. Be honest - making every attempt to be truthful and fair with others.

Positive Discipline Measures

It is our goal for counselors, campers and parents/guardians to work together toward cooperative behavior and a cohesive atmosphere. Staff will always notify parents/guardians of emerging difficulties and ask for assistance in behavior management. When warranted, behavior contracts and/or specific written goals will be established to reduce or redirect serious misconduct. However, in some cases, additional disciplinary measure may be pursued if a camper inflicts physical or emotional harm on other campers, is dangerous to themselves or others or is physically or verbally abusive to counselors and others.

The following behaviors are considered serious in nature:

**Theft or attempts to steal or property Damage**
- Theft, Attempted Theft or Property Damage is defined as any property not belonging to the camper.

**Verbal Abuse of Counselor or Other Campers (i.e. Bullying)**
- Verbal Abuse is the belittling, humiliation, intimidation or threatening of another.

**Physical Aggression**
- Physical Aggression is the deliberate intent to hurt or jeopardize the safety of oneself or others. This behavior will not be tolerated, even when the camper is angered or emotionally upset and requires immediate intervention.

**Disruptive, Defiant or Disrespectful Behavior**
- Disruptive, defiant and disrespectful behavior is behavior that requires repeated one on one attention and redirection thus taking the counselor attention away from the other campers putting them at risk.

**Inappropriate Touching/Behavior**
- Inappropriate touching is defined as any physical contact to another individual that causes emotional or physical distress.
• Inappropriate behavior is defined as any behavior that disrupts daily activities and/or causes distress to staff or other participants.

**Campers Leaving the Premises without an Authorized Escort**
- Children who attempt to leave without the assistance of a counselor are seriously endangering their safety and strict measures must be taken to prevent such occurrences. This will result in immediate 1 day suspension. In the case it occurs again, the child will be expelled from the program for the remainder of the season.
- All campers are required to stay within clearly designated Camp boundaries both outdoors and indoors. If a camper is troubled or hurt, he or she must seek the assistance of a counselor immediately.

**Verbal Threats of Severe Harm or Death Threats**
- Severe verbal threats that potentially endanger the life of a camper will be taken seriously and responded to with great caution. Immediate steps for resolution will take place in all such cases. It is not our intention or within our jurisdiction to determine the intent of the camper or to interpret the meaning of statements or actions. However, we cannot minimize the serious nature of such threats and will therefore enforce strict and consistent consequences to prevent future occurrences and/or a dangerous situation.

**Note:** Florida International University Wellness and Recreation Center’s Panther Adventure Recreation Camp, in an attempt to be fair and consistent a child who has been suspended, expelled and/or placed in an alternative behavior program to have forfeited their right to attend Panther Adventure Recreation Camp for the duration of their absence and/or removal.

**Counseling Memorandums (Write Ups)**

Panther Adventure Recreation Camp recognizes that this is a difficult time for the families involved; however, Panther Adventure Recreation Camp has an obligation to provide a safe and quality environment to all of the campers who are currently enrolled in camp.

**1st Offense:**
Parents/guardians will be contacted and arrangements will be made for immediate camper pick-up. The child will remain in supervised “In-Camp” suspension until the parent/guardian arrives.

**2nd Offense:**
1-3 days “Out of Camp” suspension, based on the severity of the incident. At this time, a discussion between the Camp Director and authorized member of the family will take place, followed by a signed written agreement that a repeat offense may result in removal from the program.

**3rd Offense:**
The Camp Director will review all documentation and determine if the camper will be removed from the program.
In all instances, the Camp Director will ensure that fairness and consistency is demonstrated with all disciplinary steps taken. He or she will get to know the child involved and observe, assess and review documentation. Every reasonable measure will be taken to ensure that the camper’s needs are met.
Please note that our primary goal is to provide effective supervision and positive support for every camper and to anticipate, successfully prevent and resolve conflicts. In some instances; however, Panther Adventure Recreation Camp reserves the right to remove a child from the program, after reasonable attempts have been made to help the camper, when the desired results have not been achieved.

Should the Camp Director make the decision to remove a camper from the program, the camper is ineligible to re-enroll for the remainder of the program length. The removal of campers from our program is enforced only to ensure the overall safety of all involved.

*Emergency Procedures & Inclement Weather Contingency Plan*

Florida International University Wellness and Recreation Center’s Panther Adventure Recreation Camp is prepared to activate emergency procedures in the event of severe weather, fire and/or other emergency conditions that require building evacuation or other immediate safety measures. Onsite personnel are trained on these procedures.

An alert system is located in our vicinity to help ensure the accurate dissemination of information and appropriate action. When appropriate, parents/guardians will be contacted for early pick-up. If inclement weather occurs and campus closes, Panther Adventure Recreation Camp will notify parents through email and signage that childcare will not be provided and camp will be closed. Please be advised that you are obligated to pick up your camper or make arrangements in the event of camp hours of operations are affected. If Florida International University does not open due to inclement weather, Panther Adventure Recreation Camp does not provide care that day.

*Sun Protection/Bug Repellent for Children*

Panther Adventure Recreation Camp promotes outdoor activities; therefore, sun protection/insect repellent for campers is essential. Sun sunburn may appear hours after sun exposure, it is critical that preventative measures be taken to avoid sunburn and/or excessive bug bites. The following measures should be taken to help protect your child:

1. Please include a strong sun block spray and insect repellent in your child’s backpack daily.
2. Give your camper instructions to have sun block applied prior to outdoor activities & every 2 hours.
3. Campers must speak to a counselor before applying sun block/ insect repellent and receive assistance and monitoring during the application process.
4. Camp staff will have scheduled sunscreen/ insect repellent checks throughout the day to ensure that all campers are properly protected.

Camp staff will take every reasonable measure to avoid over-exposure and sunburn; however, we cannot take sole responsibility for campers with extreme sensitivity to the sun or when preventive measures to avoid sunburn are not taken. Parental assistance is imperative to ensure the proper protection of each camper.
Aquatics

Panther Adventure Recreation Camp has offers aquatics for campers twice per week. We recommend bringing swim goggles and a rash guards (for swimmers that get cold).

Campers will be changing into their swimwear in a designated area within the locker room with camp staff supervision. Please be aware that, although the Wellness and Recreation Center hosts Panther Adventure Recreation Camp, the Wellness and Recreation Center also has their normal daily operations running congruently. Signage will be posted informing Wellness and Recreation Center members and guest to be mindful that children will be present. Please note that we cannot make individual accommodations for campers to change in other areas of the Wellness and Recreation Center.

Campers 48 inches or less must wear an approved lifejacket regardless of swimming ability. Campers 49 inches or taller will be swim tested. If campers 49 inches or taller pass the swim test, they will be permitted to swim without a lifejacket.

Field Trips

Buses are scheduled to depart the Wellness and Recreation Center at 9:00 a.m. It is important that all campers arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. on field trip day to ensure that they are able to join their group. We are scheduled to arrive at campus at approximately 4:00 p.m.

We understand that there may be circumstances that will not permit your camper to participate in programmed fieldtrips. However, we do not have staff remaining behind with campers. All campers attending camp on days with scheduled fieldtrips must attend the field trip.

Insurance

All campers must have an active insurance policy to participate in Panther Adventure Recreation Camp.