



March 15, 2023

Dear Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resource CTE Educator,

We are looking forward to hosting the 72<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Forestry Camp at our state's premier state park, Fall Creek Falls, Sunday, June 4 - Friday, June 9, 2023. This is one of the oldest camps of its kind in the nation devoted to serving the FFA community, and we want you to encourage your students to attend and make history by putting another "growth ring" on our Forestry Camp family tree.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry and the Career and Technical Ag Educators across the state have long held a strong partnership in the support of this camp. The Division, in cooperation with the Tennessee Forestry Association and forest industry sponsors, provides knowledgeable instructors with extensive forest management experience. You or your colleagues develop leadership skills through guidance as camp counselors, or by simply encouraging your students to attend. This partnership has held together for many decades. As we enter this next installment of camp, I am encouraged by what we have accomplished in terms of providing our youth with quality conservation education over the years.

Please take the time to review the accompanying information and application materials and encourage your students to consider enrolling. It is an experience of a lifetime and one in which we hope they will cherish and encourage younger students to attend in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Arnold".

David Arnold  
Assistant Commissioner/State Forester



To: TN Agriculture, Food & Natural Resource Educators

From: Tim Phelps, Director, Tennessee Forestry Camp

Date: March 15, 2023

**Subject: 72<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Forestry Camp**

Since 1950, Tennessee Forestry Camp has been providing a wonderful opportunity for high school students affiliated with Future Farmers of America (FFA) to discover and enhance their environmental conservation knowledge, skills, and ethics through the leadership and instruction of camp counselors and forestry professionals. This year we are pleased to invite you to encourage your FFA students to join us for another camp experience at **Fall Creek Falls State Park, Sunday, June 4 through Friday, June 9, 2023.**

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry, in cooperation with the Tennessee Forestry Association, and the Tennessee Department of Education, Career and Technical Education Division continue to be avid supporters of Forestry Camp by providing knowledgeable instructors with extensive forest management experience, and developing leadership skills through the guidance of camp counselors, respectively. This support goes a long way in making camp fun and educational all while making it efficient to host camp at a reasonable fee. A flier accompanies this letter with more information about the details of camp.

Also, I encourage you to share the accompanying Forestry Camp brochure with your students. The brochure details much of the same information in the flier included in the package, but also gives a 'face' to some of these details. Hopefully it will provide the students with a glimpse of camp life and some of the fun and learning experiences they'll have should they decide to attend.

If you know of potential campers, please provide them with the enclosed **application form to be filled out by them and returned to you.** Your collections should then be returned to the provided address on the form by **May 12** (late registrations incur a higher fee). Current freshman, sophomores, and juniors ('23-'24 sophomores, juniors, and seniors) are eligible. Students who attended previously are ineligible to attend again. Sixty (60) campers (up to 4 per FFA chapter; negotiable if spots are still available after May 12) will be admitted on a first come, first served basis determined by postmark.

Parents or guardians must provide insurance coverage and furnish the information requested on the application; otherwise we cannot admit the student. Students should be aware that they *must* bring insurance cards, claim forms, or other items they might need if they have to go to the hospital.

**The camper registration fee is \$95, which includes room and board for the entire week. After May 12, the late registration fee is \$120.** Should the camper decide not to go, the fee will be reimbursed if notice is given by Wednesday, May 24.

Teachers will be advised by email of accepted campers soon after receipt of applications.

Thank you for your participation.

## 2023 Tennessee Forestry Camp

**When:** Sunday, June 4 through Friday, June 9, 2023.

**Where:** Piney Creek Camp (formerly known as Group Camp 2), Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville TN 37367.  
Phone: 423-881-3297 (main Park office; for directions); for camp questions call 615-428-5913.

**Who:** Next year's sophomores, juniors, and seniors nominated by their teachers. 60 campers will be admitted on a first come, first served basis based on date of postmark.

**Cost:** \$95 registration before May 12; \$120 late registration after May 12; refundable upon notice of cancellation by May 24.

**Transportation:** Students are responsible for arranging transportation to and from camp. No student vehicles are allowed at camp.

**Camper check-in:** Sunday afternoon 2:00 – 4:30pm (CDT). Please do not arrive before then.

**Check out:** Students are to be picked up between noon - 1:00 pm Friday afternoon.

**Courses** are taught in the field by professional foresters: tree identification & measurement, compass & pacing, hardwood and pine silviculture, wildlife management, water quality protection, fire, insect & disease, best management practices, soils, and a hike to Fall Creek Falls. ***Guests are welcome to attend a cookout and forestry conclave held Wednesday night beginning at 5 pm.***

**Leisure time** (after 4:30 pm): basketball, horseshoes, softball, bocce ball, swimming, fishing

**Accommodations:** rustic unheated cabins with bunk beds, and three bathhouses. Designated girls and boys cabins and bathhouses. All meals and snacks provided. First meal is 5:00 pm Sunday afternoon; last is lunch on Friday. Candy and soft drinks are offered for sale. Cellular phone coverage is spotty depending on carrier; a phone is available in the mess hall until 10:00 p.m. each night.

**Insurance.** Forestry camp provides no insurance. Campers MUST show proof of medical insurance.

**Dress and conduct:** Long pants and sturdy shoes with socks are required during course sessions. Leisure time dress should be comfortable. Counselors will require dress change if tank tops, short tops, and/or short shorts are worn. Alcohol, drugs and tobacco are not allowed. One-piece swimsuits only.

### **What to bring:**

- Field clothes (long pants, boots, coat, rain gear), plenty of underwear (especially socks), informal clothes, sports shoes. Weather can be very hot or wet and cold - come prepared. NO LAUNDRY FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE, so bring enough clothes for the week.
- Sheets, blankets, pillows, sleeping bag. IT CAN GET COLD, and camp has no spare blankets.
- Towels & toilet items (flip-flops are handy for getting to & from bath house)
- Pen or pencil, paper & clipboard
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight
- Insurance card; claim form if applicable
- Cash for candy/soda at camp; snacks bar at pool
- Optional: box fan, camera, softball glove, swimwear, fishing pole, guitar, radio, etc.

Should you decide to cancel, please let your advisor know immediately. Your registration fee will be refunded if you notify Tim Phelps, 615-428-5913 of your cancellation by Wednesday, May 24. Substitutions may be allowed at the discretion of the advisor and camp director.