

Operational Plan Details for Fort littlegreen 2022

Fort Littlegreen Gardens, Inc., is a non-profit youth camp and nature center located in Stoughton, WI. Our mission statement: To provide high quality nature-based education and daily care to the grade school youth of Stoughton. By teaching the knowledge of self-sustained living, organic growing, and environmental science, we can instill a love of nature for their lifetime.

Ownership/History:

The camp is operated by Luke and Kate Dennis who are co-directors. The property is owned by Kate's parents, David and Claudia Anderson. Kate grew up on the property the camp is located on. Her father built the home in 1988 and included a large lower level with an indoor gym. This 2500 square foot space is currently housing our camp kids during in-climate weather and is our base-camp. Her mother still resides in the upper portion of the home. Luke and Kate live on Anderson Ave, just 1 block (or a stroll through the wooded nature trails) from camp.

Operations:

Our camp is open 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday in the summer (June – August) and only until 5:30 p.m. during the school year (September – May). We currently enroll 50 kids in the summer and 25 to 30 during the school year. We are hoping to increase our number of students to 100 in the summer months, with the addition of an outbuilding (including plumbing and electrical). We would continue to operate with fewer students during the school year until we have a larger building and can transport more students.

Traffic:

Summer: Drop off in the mornings is between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and pick up in the evenings is between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The majority of the traffic will come between these times. During the day neighbors might see staff coming and going for shifts or break times, or occasional parents picking up their students early, or dropping off late.

School Year: During the school year we pick up students from the schools using 15 passenger vans and minivans. We pick up at 5 different schools in Stoughton. The bulk of the traffic during the school year is when parents pick up between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Staff will come and go just before 7:00 a.m. and slightly after 6:00 p.m. for opening and closing. We occasionally have a special event going on in the evening, such as a Customer Appreciation Party or an Open House. These occasions are few and far between (2 – 3 times per year). Other traffic might include work trucks on the weekend, or volunteers tending the garden or animals. We are very conscious of the high volume of traffic we bring to the neighborhood, and we understand and respect the neighbors who are close to us. We have "Please Slow Down" signs posted on the way in and out of camp, and when available we will station a staff member holding a SLOW sign at the end of the driveway. We also send out reminder emails to customers reminding them to respect our neighborhood and please slow down.

Parking:

Our new site plan will include a parking area with 40 spaces (in addition to the grass parking we have of approx. 40 spaces). This will cut down on any street parking during special events. We

currently have a turn around pick up and drop off area that allows parent to receive their student without having to back up. Our new site plan includes another circle drive that is wider and will help traffic flow smoothly.

Noise:

The new plan will include a buffer of evergreen trees that will shield neighbors from noise on all edges facing neighbors. We have strict rules about our students causing excessive noise. For example, our staff is trained to correct children if they are screaming outdoors, and to tell them we must keep a reasonable volume to respect our neighbors. When using the local parks, we always walk quietly, never going to other people's yards. When arriving at the park staff is trained to scan for younger students and others playing. If a group of younger students is using the park, we will choose a different area to not disrupt their space. Most of our activity areas on our property are centrally located farther from neighbors. The property is 10.2 acres.

Facilities:

In effort to not overload our current septic system, and because we are an outdoor-based program, we utilize portable bathrooms and handwashing stations around the property in the nice weather (Spring through fall – until freezing weather) We do not anticipate having more than 25 to 30 kids during the school year, until we have a bigger building, and more vehicles available for bussing kids.

Accreditation:

We are accredited by The American Camp Association. We have a long list of standards we have to be in compliance with. You can view these standards on the ACA website. We take our job very seriously and adhere to a strict 8:1 ratio (campers to staff). Our strict standards and dedicated staff (along with an amazing outdoor space) is what makes our program so popular.

Community:

Camp is a place where kids feel a sense of belonging and everyone is welcome. It is a place where kids learn self confidence and respect for others. It is also a place they learn to help their community. Our students spend time picking up trash around our grounds and the local parks. They are taught to leave the space better than when they found it. They earn "virtual money" to spend at the camp store by doing camp chores. One of these chores is tending plants and harvesting in our garden. We have a market stand where you can pick up fresh produce for any donation you can offer and we use proceeds to buy seeds for next year. We also donated hundreds of pounds of produce to the local food pantries. Last season we donated 100 pumpkins to an elementary school for their fall festival. We show our neighbors the same generosity giving away flowers, produce, sheep fleece for knitting, fresh farm eggs and honey from the hives.

Other Activities:

Workshops: Archaeology, Dinosaurs Rock!, Discovery Center Museum, Safari Lake Geneva, Reptiles, Weather Safety, and More!

Field Trips: State Parks, Museums, Swimming, Hiking, Fishing, Aviation, and More!

On Site: Sports, Art, STEM, Water Games, Team Building Games, Drama, Nature Education, Gardening, Small Animal Care (2 Pot Belly Pigs, 1 Donkey, 15 Chickens, 1 Peacock, 2 Sheep).
Indoor Animals: Hamsters, Rabbit, Turtle, and currently, baby chicks.

Building:

With approval, we plan to build a separate building from the current home on the property. We would like it to be a 100-person occupancy. We will happily comply with all requirements set forth. We would like to be able to increase our enrollment right away for summer 2022, as we do have capacity currently for 75 students. Detailed building plans will not be finalized until 2023.

Thank you!

Kate Dennis

Executive Director