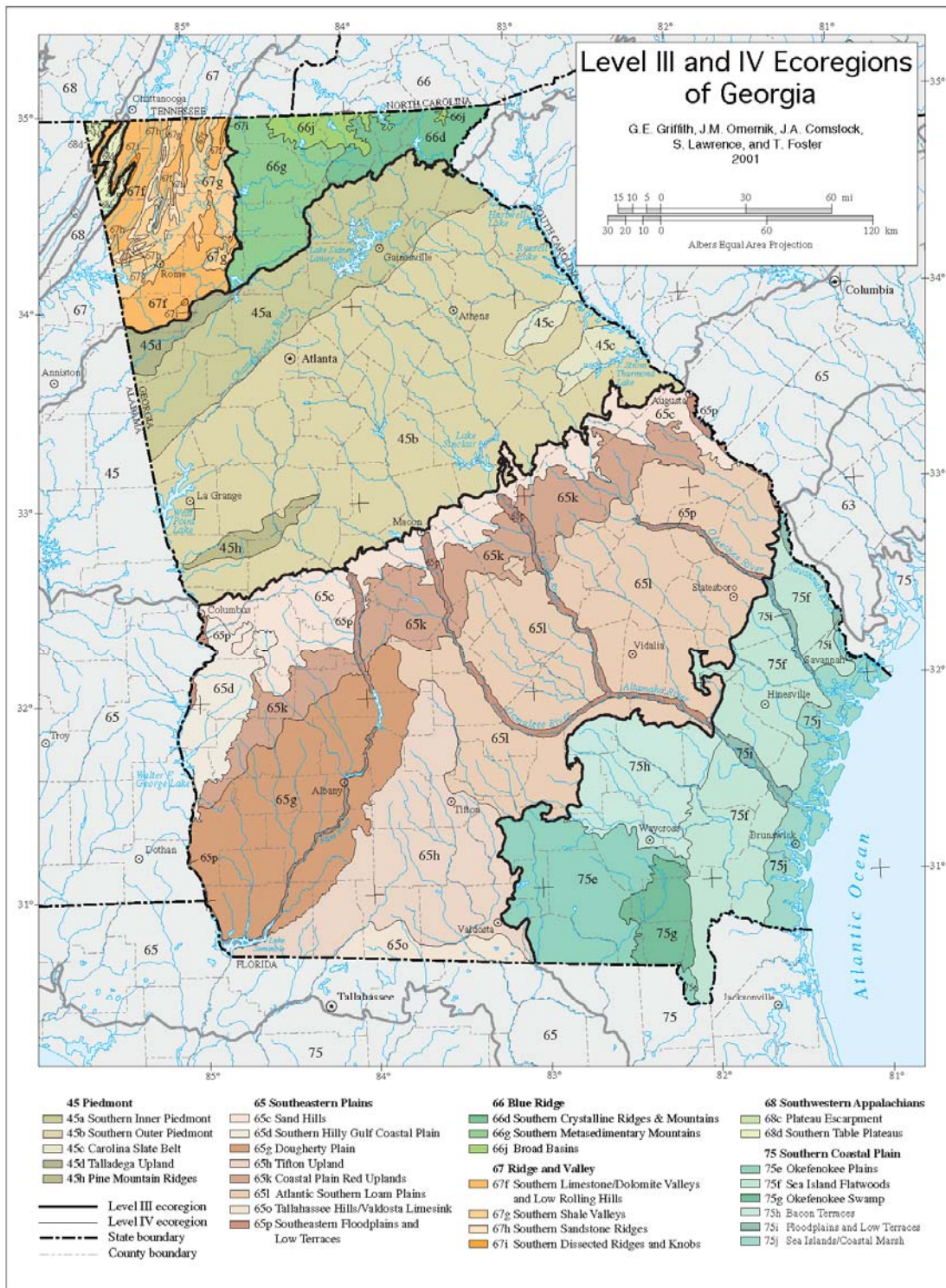
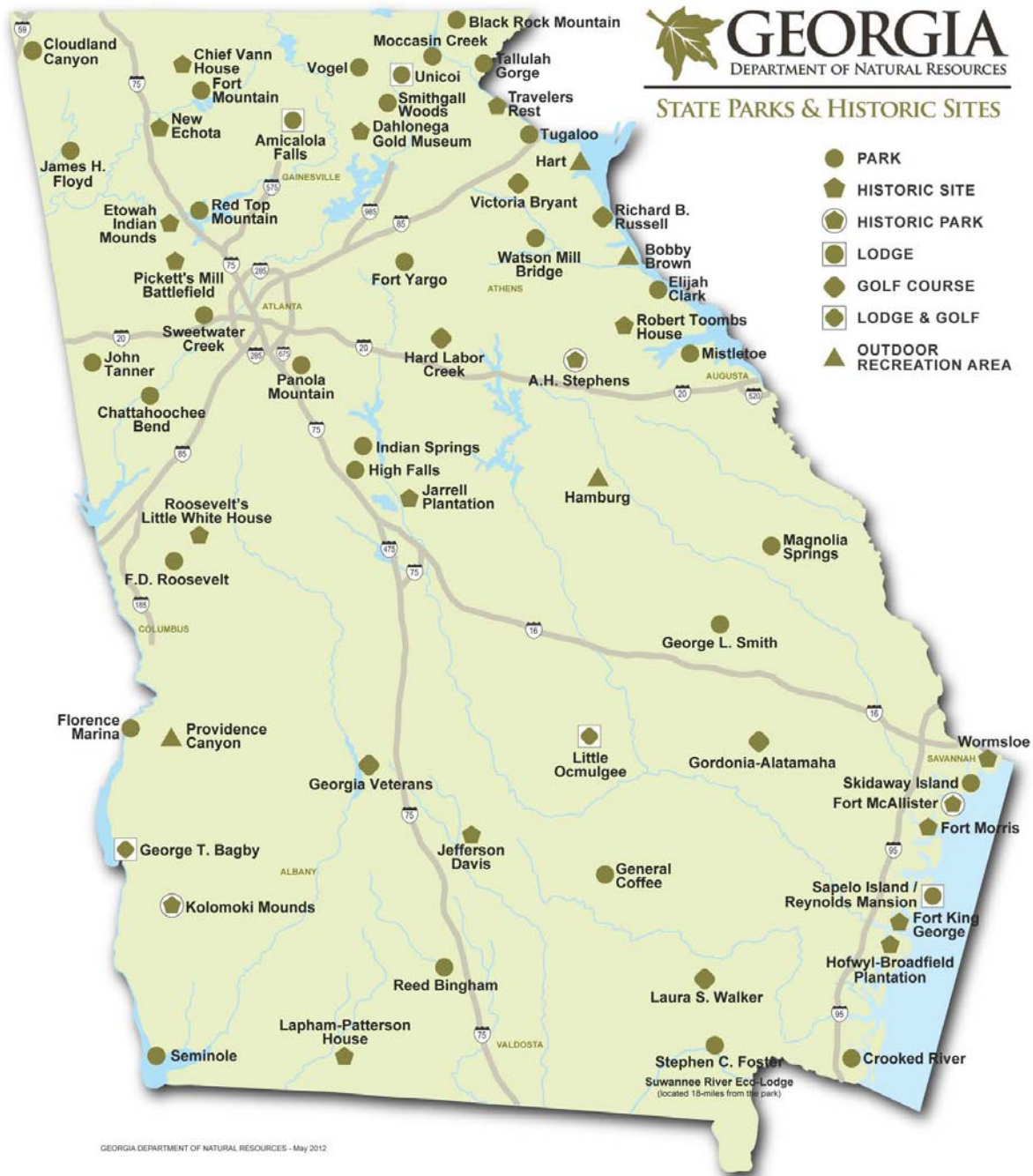


Georgia Ecoregion Map



Georgia State Park Map



Master Task List

ONE WEEK BEFORE

- ___ Make Arrival Packets
 - ___ program with schedule of events, map, sponsor/donor list
 - ___ info/ethics sheets
 - ___ citizen action guide
 - ___ magazines (GWF, your organization)
 - ___ membership forms (GWF, your organization)
 - ___ course descriptions
 - ___ name tags
- ___ Assign campsites for participants and staff
- ___ Determine registration process
- ___ Make final arrangements for TV/radio/newspaper/social media coverage
- ___ Is there someone specifically responsible for each event and activity who will assure its “smooth execution”? Touch base with them.
- ___ Prizes and give-a-ways — How and when will prizes and give-a-ways be given out?
- ___ Prepare agenda for Friday afternoon staff meeting. Make sure all staff know when and where!
- ___ Make directional signs to post at camp
- ___ Compile contact list of staff and participants for distribution. Make sure you have permission from participants.
- ___ Make sure transitions from one event to another have been considered.
- ___ Make “To Do” list for weekend.
- ___ Pick up any miscellaneous materials that you need.
- ___ Make copies of all handouts.
- ___ Make sure you have:
 - ___ Evaluations
 - ___ Certificates for volunteers and participants
 - ___ Thank-you cards for mentors (families can sign)
 - ___ Plaques or other recognition items that have been made
 - ___ Banners/posters
 - ___ Water bottles, t-shirts, backpacks, other?
 - ___ Equipment for outdoor activities
 - ___ Icebreakers – props
 - ___ Items for info tables
 - ___ Props for campfire/evening program

FRIDAY

Prior to everyone's arrival

- ___ Post all directional signs (Good idea to have waterproof signs!)
- ___ Set up registration area. Be ready to distribute arrival packets, reusable name tags, and necessary camping gear.

Staff Meeting (Prior to arrival of families)

- ___ Welcome and introductions (if needed)
- ___ Run-through of schedule, brief event-by-event overview and reports by various committees and organizers, logistics
- ___ Set-up times
- ___ Activity sign-ups (staff may also attend classes) if not determined during registration process.
- ___ Welcoming of arrivals
- ___ Answer questions

Registration

- ___ Review information each registrant needs to hear
 - location of campsite/bathhouse
 - what to do with camping gear
 - meal time/location
 - opening program time/location
 - quiet times/lights out
 - first-aid station location
 - times/location of information station
 - sign-ups for electives (if not determined during registration process)
 - wear name tags all weekend
 - printed program as resource

- ___ Have mentors (and extra staff) on hand to greet their families and help set up campsite.
- ___ Help everyone feel at home!

Dinner

- ___ Explain meal-time procedures if needed
- ___ Mentors sit with families
- ___ Announcements – brief greeting, information about opening program, including time

Opening Program (Set tone, start things off right, plant seed of stewardship)

- ___ Announcement throughout camp to round people up 10 minutes before
- ___ Materials for ice-breakers, campfire (pencils, props)
- ___ Who will light campfire and when?
- ___ Welcome and Introductions (stick to 30 minutes or less)

- Welcome, introductions, brief overview of evening
- Purpose and vision of Camp Charlie
- Mentors
- What to expect
- Expectations/camp rules/courtesies
 - being responsible for children
 - camp rules on quiet time, smoking, property limits, safety hazards
 - meal logistics
 - first-aid, emergency procedures
 - stay for whole weekend, closing ceremony
 - pick up trash (don't litter), respect quiet time, wildlife concerns
 - overview of schedule, meeting places, and when announcements will be made
 - identify staff (wearing t-shirts) as resources for questions
 - answer questions

___ Get-acquainted time with mentor groups

___ Make sure each mentor knows when and where to bring group for campfire

___ If you have a campfire:

- Have campfire lit before participants arrive
- Song sheets
- "Don't throw things into the fire!" rule
- Inspirational message

___ Announcements

- early morning activity – time and place
- breakfast – time and place
- quiet hour
- wake up by mentors?

___ Put out fire

SATURDAY

Early Morning

___ Activity set-up

Breakfast

___ Announcements

- electives sign-ups (if not handled through the registration process)
- instructions for theme activities, timing and rotation schedule, evaluations

Morning Activities

___ Start on time

___ Honk horn or other signal for switching stations/activities

___ Water always available

___ Equipment check-out

- care of equipment
- when to return

Lunch

___ Announcements

- fish caught/wildlife seen
- afternoon program logistics (when, where, what to bring)
- encourage drinking lots of water

Afternoon Activities

___ Remind instructors to have groups back on time

___ Snack available

___ Water available

___ Appropriate Equipment

Dinner

___ Announcements

- time/place of evening program
- free time options
- fishing, boating, swimming
- other optional instruction being offered?
- fly casting, videos, hikes, etc...

Campfire

___ Lighting of fire

___ Song sheets

___ S'mores makings, stick (for marshmallows)

___ Announcements

___ Put out the fire

___ Instructions for optional late night activity

SUNDAY

Early Morning

___ Activity set-up

Breakfast

___ Announcements

- check-out procedure
- time and place of wrap-up session

Camp Charlie Flyer



GEORGIA'S CAMP CHARLIE

A WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Is your family interested in camping, but not quite comfortable enough to go it alone? Then Georgia's Camp Charlie is for you.

Georgia's Camp Charlie is an opportunity for five families from the Folkston area to experience a weekend of camping and adventure at the Okefenokee Swamp, courtesy of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Georgia Wildlife Federation.

Participants will:

- ✓ improve camping skills;
- ✓ canoe in the swamp;
- ✓ hike through rare longleaf pinelands;
- ✓ learn about alligators and other wildlife;
- ✓ go fishing or birding;
- ✓ and, relax in the outdoors with their family.

Each family will have a mentor to make sure everyone feels welcome and has a great time.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any family (ages 8 and up) in the Folkston area interested in learning more about camping and enjoying a weekend in the outdoors.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

NOTHING. You just need to get you and your family to the campsite. Food, camping equipment, transportation and activities will be provided once at the campsite.

WHAT TO BRING?

Sleeping bag or sheets/blanket and any other personal items.

HOW TO APPLY?

Complete the application and submit to Principal Howard by **FEBRUARY 24**. Space is limited to 5 camping families (limit of 6 family members per campsite).

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Informational meeting: January 30
Application Deadline: February 10
Selected Families Notified: February 24
Camping Weekend: March 16 - 18

We hope to see you at the informational meeting at Charlton County High School Media Center on

Monday, January 30, 6:00PM.

The Okefenokee March 16 - 18, 2012



Tentative Schedule

Friday

Arrive at Trader's Hill Campground between 4-6pm. Set up camp with mentors and enjoy fun activities, cookout and campfire.

Saturday

Travel to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for canoeing, exploring the longleaf pine forests, touring the Chesser Homestead and nighttime wildlife viewing.

Sunday

Birding and/or fishing on the St. Mary's River, breakdown camp, and final activities. Depart at noon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Terry Tatum, GWF, 770-787-7887, ttatum@gwf.org
Joy Campbell, Okefenokee Adventures, 912-496-7156, joy@okefenokeeadventures.com

Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee Sponsors



Plum Creek



Camper Application



GEORGIA'S CAMP CHARLIE

A WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

**Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee
March 16 - 18, 2012**

APPLICATION

Complete and return to Principal Howard by 3:00PM, FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Alternate Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please list student's family members (up to 5) who will be participating.

NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT	AGE (IF CHILD)
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

Answer the following four questions.

- Student's previous outdoor experience: None _____ Some _____ Much _____
If some or much experience, please tell us a little about it.

2. Why do you and your family want to participate in Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee? Please write one or two paragraphs below.

3. Are there any special needs or circumstances we need to know about you or your family to help us in our planning? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please detail below.

4. Can you or your family stay the entire three days? Yes _____ No _____
If no, please explain.

Turn in application by 3:00PM on February 10 to Principal Howard. We will notify the selected Camp Charlie families by February 24, 2012.

Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee Sponsors



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Terry Tatum, GWF, 770-787-7887, ttatum@gwf.org or Joy Campbell, Okefenokee Adventures, 912-496-7156, joy@okefenokeeadventures.com

Camper Acceptance Letter



Hello there Harris Family!

Congratulations! Your family has been selected to go to Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee, March 16-18, 2012. Georgia's Camp Charlie is a program of the Georgia Wildlife Federation and the Fish and Wildlife Service. This weekend of fun at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is brought to you through the generosity of the Plum Creek Foundation. We are excited to show you what nature has to offer!

Everyone will arrive at Traders Hill Campground off Highway 2, near the intersection of South 3rd Street and GA-40, between 4-6 P.M. Friday night (March 16) to register, set up camp, and then get to know each other through playing games, cooking out, and cozying around a campfire. The next day, Saturday, March 17th (wear green!), we will travel in vans 5 miles to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Sara, a Refuge biologist, will lead us through the longleaf pine forests searching for the rare and endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Then Okefenokee Adventures will take us on a canoe trip through the world class Okefenokee Swamp where we will get to see lots of birds and wildlife, including alligators. Next, we will get to use nets to do a pond study and go inside the historic Chesser Island Homestead, built in 1927. Our final day (Sunday, March 18) will include fishing and bird-watching at the St. Marys River. We will finish up at noon. We hope that this weekend in the outdoors will be a time of fun and learning, but also relaxation and rest for your family.

This weekend will cost you nothing! We only ask that you bring a sleeping bag or some other sort of bedding (don't forget your pillow) for each person in your family, personal items, a little spending money (if you want, it's not necessary) a fishing license (if you have one), and a sense of adventure!

We will provide food for the entire weekend, but please let us know if you have any dietary needs (for example, if you have food allergies, or if you are a vegetarian) so that we accommodate them. If there are any other concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We have enclosed some forms for you to fill out, sign and return to us. This way we will know who and how many are coming, so we will have the right amount of supplies on hand. We have also enclosed a photo release form for you to sign and return.

We look forward to seeing you! You can call Joy Campbell at Okefenokee Adventures if you have any questions (912-496-7156).

Sincerely,

Terry Tatum
Georgia Wildlife Federation
ttatum@gwf.org
770-787-7887

GEORGIA'S CAMP CHARLIE AT THE OKEFENOKEE
March 16-18, 2012

Please Tell Us About You...

To help the Georgia's Camp Charlie staff make your weekend as rewarding as possible, please complete this short questionnaire and return it in the postage-paid envelope by March 9, 2012. For your convenience, we have entered the information you previously provided. Check for accuracy and make any changes directly on the form. Sign and date on the bottom.

Part I: Who's coming?

Applicant:

Address:

Phone Number:

Alternate Phone Number:

Email:

Names of other family members attending

Relationship to applicant

Ages of children.

Special dietary needs of any family member:

Handicap access needs:

Medical needs and considerations (please indicate allergies or other conditions staff should be aware of):

Part II: Your Outdoor Experiences

Over the past few years, in which of the following outdoor activities, if any, have you and other family members participated as a family or as individuals? (Please check all that apply.)

Family Individually

☐	☐	Hiking
☐	☐	Camping
☐	☐	Fishing
☐	☐	Bird watching
☐	☐	Canoeing
☐	☐	Outdoor photography
☐	☐	Outdoor cooking
☐	☐	Visit a local park
☐	☐	School field trip
☐	☐	Other _____
☐	☐	None of the above

Signature of Applicant_____

Date_____

Fishing License Request

Anybody 16 years of age or older must have a fishing license. Please fill out the required information for each person who would like to participate in the optional Sunday morning fishing activity on the St. Mary's River. We will provide the license, at no cost to you. You must return this before arriving so we can apply for your fishing license if necessary.

Name	Age		I plan to fish		I have a current GA fishing license		
	16+	Under 16	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Driver's License Number or Social Security Number _____

Address _____
 Street City State Zip
 Phone Number _____
 Male _____ Female _____ Height _____ Weight _____ Eye Color _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Driver's License Number or Social Security Number _____

Address _____
 Street City State Zip
 Phone Number _____
 Male _____ Female _____ Height _____ Weight _____ Eye Color _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Driver's License Number or Social Security Number _____

Address _____
 Street City State Zip
 Phone Number _____
 Male _____ Female _____ Height _____ Weight _____ Eye Color _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Driver's License Number or Social Security Number _____

Address _____
 Street City State Zip
 Phone Number _____
 Male _____ Female _____ Height _____ Weight _____ Eye Color _____

Mentor Letter

March 7, 2012

Dear Mentors,

Thank you so much for agreeing to participate as a Family Mentor during our first Georgia's Camp Charlie weekend at the Okefenokee March 16-18. We are looking forward to a great trip to one of Georgia's and the world's most amazing landscapes. I know that each of you will bring your own experience and ideas with you and each family member will benefit from your unique perspective. I would like to give you a little background about Georgia's Camp Charlie.

Camp Charlie, developed in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is a planned weekend of camping and hands-on outdoor activities focused on family learning and fostering respect for the environment through positive experience in the outdoors. The program primarily targets suburban and urban families who would like to experience the outdoors, but who may lack the knowledge, skill, equipment, and self-confidence necessary to go-it-alone.

Georgia's Camp Charlie, funded through the Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative, is an expansion of the Camp Charlie program that will build a conservation community by fostering partnerships of individuals, local organizations, educators, natural resources professionals and community leaders. **Georgia's Camp Charlie** will connect people to the outdoors, beginning at home, in natural areas that are accessible to them, but of which they may not even be aware. In the simplest terms, the Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative strives to **Engage, Educate and Employ** the next generation of natural resources conservationists. With your help, **Georgia's Camp Charlie** will accomplish these goals.

I would like to ask each of you to take a few moments to write down a little information about your own conservation experience. Rather than a biography or traditional resume, I would like to ask you the following questions:

- Are there events in your life or even moments that **engaged** you (created a sense of awareness) in the natural world?
- What is your outdoor **education**? (Do you have formal education, lots of outdoor experiences, both, etc.?)
- Have you ever been **employed** in natural resources conservation? If so, please elaborate.

I have attached the weekend schedule of activities for you to look at. This is not intended to be a hard-and-fast agenda, and we know that we will have to be flexible depending on weather conditions and the special circumstances each family will bring to camp. We know also that each of you will contribute your own special touch, making each individual's experience personal and unique.

Again, thank you so much for your contribution. I know how busy you are, and we greatly appreciate your willingness to volunteer for this program. Please call me if I can answer any questions. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you Friday, March 16, at Traders Hill.

Photo Release and Indemnification

I, the undersigned, hereby grant the Georgia Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, permission to take or use still photographs of the following children:

Name Date of Birth

Name Date of Birth

I also give the Georgia Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permission to put the finished photographs to any uses deemed proper. Further, I relinquish and give to the Georgia Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all right, title and interest I may have in the finished pictures, negatives, reproductions and copies of the original prints and negatives, and grant the Georgia Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the right to give, transfer and exhibit the negatives, original prints, or copies and facsimiles thereof, to any responsible individual, business firm, or publication, or to any of their assignees.

Photograph Location:

Dates of Photographs:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Suggested Evaluation Tools

The overall objective of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative is to “Engage, educate, and employ young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving America’s natural and cultural heritage.” To help meet the program objective of this initiative, we developed the following activity objectives for Camp Charlie at Okefenokee.

At the end of this activity participants will be able to:

1. Describe their favorite part of the weekend and what the experience of being in the middle of a unique wilderness area meant to them, and tell us the likelihood of them coming back to Okefenokee or other nature facility.
2. Recall at least two habitat types they saw during the weekend at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and at least two fish or wildlife species that live in that habitat.
3. Recognize one or more conservation actions that are needed to protect Okefenokee NWR.
4. Name two outdoor jobs that people can do in the FWS and other conservation organizations.

Assessment Techniques

Adult Questionnaire and Youth Written Test (Engage, Educate, Employ)

About 10:00AM, Sunday morning, after packing up the tents and other gear, we all gathered back at the picnic shelter. Each family sat together at their own picnic table. The mentors then held a review for everyone, with questions and answers and a lively discussion with adults and youth. We reviewed the various habitats and animals we saw, the outdoor jobs we learned about, and environmental actions we could all do to help protect Okefenokee NWR and other natural areas (NAAEE Theme 1.1 (questioning skills; 1.2 knowledge of environmental processes and systems; 1.3 skills for understanding and addressing environmental issues; and 1.4 personal and civic responsibility). We then asked the parents to fill out a questionnaire (Item 1 in Appendix B) designed to find out if they liked the activities, to gauge if they felt more confident taking their family camping after Camp Charlie, and to get an indication of how likely the parents were to take their families on an outdoor nature experience again. While the parents filled out their questionnaire, the youth completed a knowledge test (Item 2 in Appendix B) to find out if they could recall at least two habitat types at Okefenokee and at least two types of fish or animals that live in those habitats. The second part was a true or false test to correctly recognize one or more conservation actions that are needed to protect Okefenokee. We also asked them to write out their favorite activities of the weekend and two outdoor jobs that seemed interesting. The mentors were available to help the younger youth read the questions and write answers if needed, but the youth all ended up mostly reading their own questions and all wrote their own answers.

Oke Comedy Club

Part 1: YES, NO, DON'T CARE (Engage)

After the written tests, we asked all the youth to bring their chairs to sit in front of the stage for the Oke Comedy Club. The mentors warmed up the audience and got them laughing by performing a comedy skit called "The wide-mouthed frog." We then asked all the youth to close their eyes and at the same time to answer our questions by holding their arms straight up and wave for YES; act like they were throwing up for NO; or shrug their shoulders if they DON'T CARE. Our mentors recorded the responses. We asked the youth the following questions:

- 1) Did you have fun at Camp Charlie?
- 2) Did you like being at Okefenokee Swamp?
- 3) Did you like camping at Trader's Hill campground?
- 4) Would you like to come to Okefenokee again?

We had exuberant response from all youth except the two older teenagers who sat on picnic tables away from the group, and although they watched closely, they did not participate in any of the Oke Comedy Club activities.

Part 2: CHARADES (Engage, Employ)

For the next part of our assessment, we asked each youth to come to the stage by themselves or in groups to play charades. Most of the youth were eager to perform. We asked them to pantomime their favorite activity at Camp Charlie and have the youth audience guess what they were doing. Ten youth came up to the stage one by one and acted out their favorite activity. We also had animated response from the parents and some of the staff who also jumped up on stage and acted out their favorite activity. When the audience correctly shouted out what the activity was, a mentor recorded the answer.

We then had each youth come back up onstage to pantomime an outdoor job they learned about at Camp Charlie that seemed interesting to them or that they would like to do someday. Ten children voluntarily went up onstage and acted out their job, and three parents also pantomimed an outdoor job they would like to do.

Adult Survey

		Please read each statement below carefully, and check the box that describes whether or not you <u>AGREE</u> or <u>DISAGREE</u> with each statement.					
At Camp...		Strongly disagree	Mostly Disagree	SlightlyDisagree	Slightly Agree	Mostly Agree	Strongly Agree
A.	I liked the hike in the longleaf pines.						
B.	I liked the canoe trip						
C.	I liked the pond study						
D.	I liked visiting the Chesser Homestead						
E.	I like hiking on Canal Diggers Trail						
F.	I like the campfire event on Friday night						
G.	I liked the campfire on Saturday night						
H.	I liked the Oke Comedy Club						
I.	I liked the free time with my family						
J.	I liked fishing in the St. Marys River.						
K.	I liked birdng.						
L.	The tent was comfortable						
M.	The food was good on Friday						
N.	The food was good on Saturday.						
O.	The breakfast was good on Sunday.						
P.	I made new friends.						
Q.	I think my children had fun						
R.	I think my children learned						
S.	I feel more comfortable putting up a tent						
T.	I feel more comfortable cooking outside						
U.	I felt comfortable asking for help, if needed						
V.	I had fun						
W.	I learned new things						
X.	I have a tent and other camping gear at home						
Y.	My camping mentor was friendly and helpful						
Z.	The other staff were helpful and friendly						

		Gender: Male_____ Female_____
--	--	-------------------------------

Please read each statement below carefully, and check the box that describes whether or not you AGREE or DISAGREE with each statement.

	Definitely Will Not	Probably will not	Probably will	Definitely Will
1. I am likely to bring my family back to Okefenokee within the next year				
2. I will go camping somewhere within a year				
3. I will spend more time outside this year				
4. I will look for other outdoor nature experiences for my family				
5. Lack of camping equipment will prevent me from going camping again this year.				

Other comments - Things you recommend that we do differently or things that you particularly liked

Child Survey

Administered with the help of mentors

Circle at least two Habitat types that occur in Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge or at Traders Hill Campground

Cypress Swamp
Prairie
Desert

Longleaf Pine Forest
Swamp Islands
Maritime Forest

Mountain Glade
Beach

Circle the animals that live in Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Black bear
Alligator
Wading birds
Red-tailed hawk
Wood stork

Polar bear
Moose
Green tree frog
Red-cockaded woodpecker

Rattlesnake
Raccoon
Mudfish
Parrot

These actions would help conserve habitats and wildlife in Okefenokee swamp, True or false?

- ☐ Conduct prescribed fire on a regular basis
- ☐ Leave trash or litter in the swamp
- ☐ Build houses around the lakes in the swamp
- ☐ Mine for phosphate under the swamp
- ☐ Limit the number of people that are camping in the wilderness areas
- ☐ Educate people about the resources in the Okefenokee
- ☐ Conduct research and surveys to learn more about the swamp
- ☐ Bring family groups to the swamp that have never been here before
- ☐ Manage the habitat for native wildlife and plants
- ☐ Let invasive non-native plants grow everywhere
- ☐ protect the endangered wood stork nesting habitat
- ☐ work with other agencies and groups to protect Okefenokee
- ☐ Clear-cut the longleaf pine forest
- ☐ protect water in the swamp from pollutants

Sample Press Release

Georgia's Camp Charlie in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Brings Families Together in the Great Outdoors!

Georgia's Camp Charlie kicked off this past weekend with a great start at Trader's Hill in Folkston, GA and inside the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Five families had the opportunity to connect with nature and learn about careers in the outdoors through a fun-filled weekend of camping, canoeing and other outdoor adventures.

Georgia's Camp Charlie is a planned weekend of camping and hands-on outdoor activities focused on family learning and fostering respect for the environment through positive experience in the outdoors and will be the main focus of GWF's youth outreach.. This pilot program is a partnership between the Georgia Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is designed for families who would like to experience the outdoors, but who may lack the knowledge, skill, equipment, or self-confidence necessary to go-it-alone.



Georgia's Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge was generously funded by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Youth in the Great Outdoors initiative with matching funds from Plum Creek Foundation. Plum Creek is the largest private landowner in the country and has major timber operations in Charlton County. The foundation is committed to supporting non-profit organizations that improve the quality of life in the communities where Plum Creek operates.

With support from Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Okefenokee Adventures, GWF and FWS staff and volunteers, campers were guided through an exciting weekend of outdoor activities including canoeing in the refuge, bird watching, fishing, a pond study, storytelling and tent camping. For many campers, it was the first time they were able to participate in these activities, which play such a vital role instilling a love of the outdoors in children.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for these families to explore some of the many resources available for getting involved in the outdoors together," said GWF District 11 Board Member Joy Campbell, who coordinated the event on behalf of the GWF board. "So often we're not aware of what's available in our own backyards and think getting the family together outdoors has to be difficult and complicated. I hope this will be the beginning of many more outdoor adventures for these families. "

One of the functions of Camp Charlie is to introduce students and children to different environmental occupations and opportunities for employment. Role models in the Camp Charlie program are called "mentors" and are natural resource or wildlife professionals as well as people who have volunteered to share their love of the outdoors. The children were able to meet and discuss many exciting career opportunities with biologists, visitor service directors, tour guides and other outdoor professionals.