



GEORGIA'S CAMP CHARLIE

A WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Planning Guide



GEORGIA WILDLIFE
FEDERATION®





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Engage • Educate • Employ

I. INTRODUCTION





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Camp Charlie, developed by the Georgia Wildlife Federation 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 natural world. The program primarily targets families who would like to experience the outdoors, but who may lack the knowledge, skill, equipment, and self-confidence necessary to go-it-alone. 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.

Camp Charlie will build a conservation community by fostering partnerships of individuals, local organizations, educators, natural resource professionals and community leaders. There are many acres of public lands, from National Wildlife Refuges to county parks and regional Wildlife Education Centers, managed by natural resource agencies and non-profit conservation organizations. This offers immense opportunity to develop partnerships to host Camp Charlie throughout the state, in every eco-region, from the mountains to the coast.

Camp Charlie is named in memory of Charles Newton Elliott and Dr. Charles H. Wharton. Both men had a genuine love of the outdoors and recognized the importance of connecting people of all ages with the natural world.

Charles Newton Elliott
1906 - 2000



Charlie Elliott lived in Covington, Georgia and grew up hunting and fishing in the Alcovy River Swamp. He served as the first Director of Georgia State Parks in 1937-38, became the Commissioner of Natural Resources in 1938, and then became the first Director of the Game and Fish Commission (now known as the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division) in 1943. Elliott was also Southeastern Field Editor for *Outdoor Life* magazine from 1950 until his passing. His dedication to the conservation of the natural world and wildlife was evident to those who knew him personally and those who read his many writings.

Why Create Camp Charlie?

Camp Charlie connects people with nature.

As more and more people move to urban/suburban areas, they are increasingly removed from the “real” outdoors. They experience the natural world through television, the Internet, video games, and other electronic devices. As a result, they are more naïve than ever before about their relationship with nature and less aware of how their actions affect the environment.

Camp Charlie fosters respect for the environment.

The natural world has the capacity to engender awe and wonder. As people discover this through experience and learning, they begin to place a greater value on the environment. Reverence, respect, and understanding can be fostered through a positive emotional experience in the outdoors.

Camp Charlie increases knowledge and skills.

Many families would like to have a more meaningful outdoors experience, but may lack the equipment, skill, and knowledge to do so. Through Camp Charlie, families will be introduced to basic camping and outdoor skills such as setting up camp, hiking, and campfire safety.

Camp Charlie promotes stewardship.

With the right combination of adventure, inspiration, education, and shared experiences, a family weekend in the outdoors becomes a great opportunity to instill a sense of responsibility or stewardship (a conservation ethic) that could impact a lifetime of choices. When children embrace the conservation ethic, they have a positive influence on their parents and tend to hold their parents accountable.

Camp Charlie builds a constituency for natural resources.

By involving people in outdoor activities, teaching them about nature, and challenging them to be

Dr. Charles H. Wharton

1923 - 2003



Charlie Wharton was dedicated to conservation and worked tirelessly for the preservation of Georgia's wild places. In the 1960s and '70s, Wharton led the fight against channelization of the Alcovy River. His efforts not only saved the Alcovy, but also led to changes in federal policies concerning channelization nationwide. He is best known for his academic work, particularly his book, *The Natural Environments of Georgia*, published by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in 1978. For more than 40 years, Dr. Wharton made his home in the Georgia mountains on a 129-acre tract of land that is now home to the Georgia Wildlife Federation's Wharton Conservation Center.

responsible, it is possible to build a constituency for natural resources. Even more important, it is possible to build a community that practices and lives a conservation ethic.

Camp Charlie educates all ages.

Connecting people with nature through Camp Charlie supports the mission of the Georgia Wildlife Federation “to seek more intensive education of the whole public, youth and adult, in recognizing resource conservation as vital to our way of life and its preservation.” By targeting families, the program will reach individuals of all ages, and will demonstrate that enjoying the outdoors is an activity that can be shared across multiple generations.

What Makes Camp Charlie Unique?

Camp Charlie engages and teaches families.

There are conservation programs for youth, women, senior citizens, and other groups, but not many that are geared to an affordable family weekend. Camp Charlie weekends are for all types and sizes of families. It may be an aunt bringing a nephew, mothers with their sons, grandparents and grandchildren. All ages may attend Camp Charlie programs. This inter-generational participation reinforces the message of protecting natural resources for future generations. Camp Charlie provides an opportunity for adults and children to interact in a relaxed and natural environment. Adults get involved with children and children have a chance to see the older folks learning new things along with them.

Camp Charlie builds community relationships.

By providing training for community partners who participate in all aspects of Camp Charlie, from planning, funding, and recruiting families to implementing the programs, Camp Charlie builds partnerships and community relationships. By involving partners, you strengthen the links within your conservation community. Others who share your goals will reap the positive benefits of the program. You may even establish long-lasting relationships with some of your partners.

Camp Charlie provides role models and promotes career awareness.

Role models in the Camp Charlie program are called “mentors” and are people who have volunteered because they want to share their love of the outdoors. Every family who attends a Camp Charlie program is assigned a mentor. By sharing with their families all weekend, the mentors provide a personal touch. Mentors may demonstrate by

Camp Charlie engages and teaches families:

AWARENESS

To become more aware of the opportunities to be involved in outdoor activities and the benefits of spending time together in nature.

APPRECIATION

To appreciate the value of clean water, wetlands, forests, undeveloped public lands and other natural resources.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILL

To learn new outdoor skills and explore nature.

ACTION

To take responsibility by doing something specific to help protect natural resources in their community, state, or the world for future generations.

example the opportunities for careers in conservation in the fields of outdoor recreation, forestry, wildlife management, aquatic biology, environmental education and many others. Camp Charlie also celebrates two “Charlies”, each of whom enjoyed successful careers in conservation and recognized the value of engaging and educating children and families about their natural world, in the comfort and safety of a familiar environment.

Camp Charlie is more than a weekend.

Camp Charlie is not a one-shot deal – it is a continuing effort to build a conservation ethic. After having a great time learning and doing many different activities in the outdoors, ideally the campers will begin to incorporate the values of good stewardship into their everyday lives.

Camp Charlie attracts and supports volunteers and interns.

Camp Charlie volunteers are not generally hard to recruit. The program allows people to be creative – to plan, share, teach, and demonstrate activities they enjoy, while providing opportunities to continue their own natural resource education. Many volunteers are so enthusiastic about the program that they begin to assume more responsibility and develop as leaders. Some of the families who attend may also indicate an interest in getting more involved.



Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee, GWF’s pilot program, brought together young children, grandparents, and everyone in between to explore and enjoy the great Okefenokee Swamp.

With the right combination of adventure, inspiration, education, and shared experiences, a family weekend in the outdoors is a great opportunity to instill a sense of responsibility and stewardship that could impact a lifetime of choices.

II. KEY PLAYERS





II. KEY PLAYERS

Camp Charlie is designed to foster partnerships and build community. The success of your weekend is dependent upon getting various community members, organizations, and businesses involved.

Facilitators

The facilitator(s) will get the ball rolling by pulling together like-minded individuals or businesses to assist and lead in planning and carrying out the weekend. Camp Charlie is most successful when several partners work together to host the weekend.

Committee Members

At the beginning of the planning process, it is important to establish various committees and identify leaders on your team who are willing to take on more responsibility. Committees will have specific tasks and be accountable for meeting deadlines.

Partners

You are urged to recruit partners in the very beginning of Camp Charlie planning. Emphasize that this is an opportunity for them to be involved in a positive public relations program. Partners help plan the weekend, organize planning committees, and contribute volunteers and instructors for programs. They also recruit and/or sponsor families, assist with public relations, and share the work load.

Sponsors

Sponsors are groups and individuals who provide funding or in-kind donations to your program. You will need to consider finding funding sources to cover the cost of food, registration and promotion, program materials and instructors, activities and other various expenses.

Volunteers and Mentors

You will need a group of volunteers to help with meal preparation, programs, setup, and other various tasks during the weekend. Selecting those volunteers will be one of the most important things you do to ensure that your program is of the quality you want.

Potential Facilitators

- Members of the GWF Board of Directors
- GWF Associate Member Organizations
- Local Boy Scout Troop Leaders
- Local Community Organizations

Potential Sponsors

- Community Service and Sportsmen's Clubs
- Local Businesses
- Sporting Goods Companies
- Foundations and Corporations
- Citizens from the Community

Potential mentors/ volunteers:

- Experienced Natural Resources Professionals
- Educators from Any Grade Level or Discipline
- Families Experienced in Outdoor Activities
- Interns from Local Colleges
- Chapter Members of the Wildlife Society and other like organizations
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Potential Campers

- Urban/Suburban Families
- Single Parent Families
- Senior Citizens (Grandparents)
- Big Brother/Big Sister Matches
- Foster Children and Families

Mentors are hand-picked volunteers who love the outdoors, truly enjoy people, and want to share their knowledge and experiences. During the course of the weekend, they will serve their assigned family by making them feel welcome and comfortable, especially for those new to the camping world.

Campers

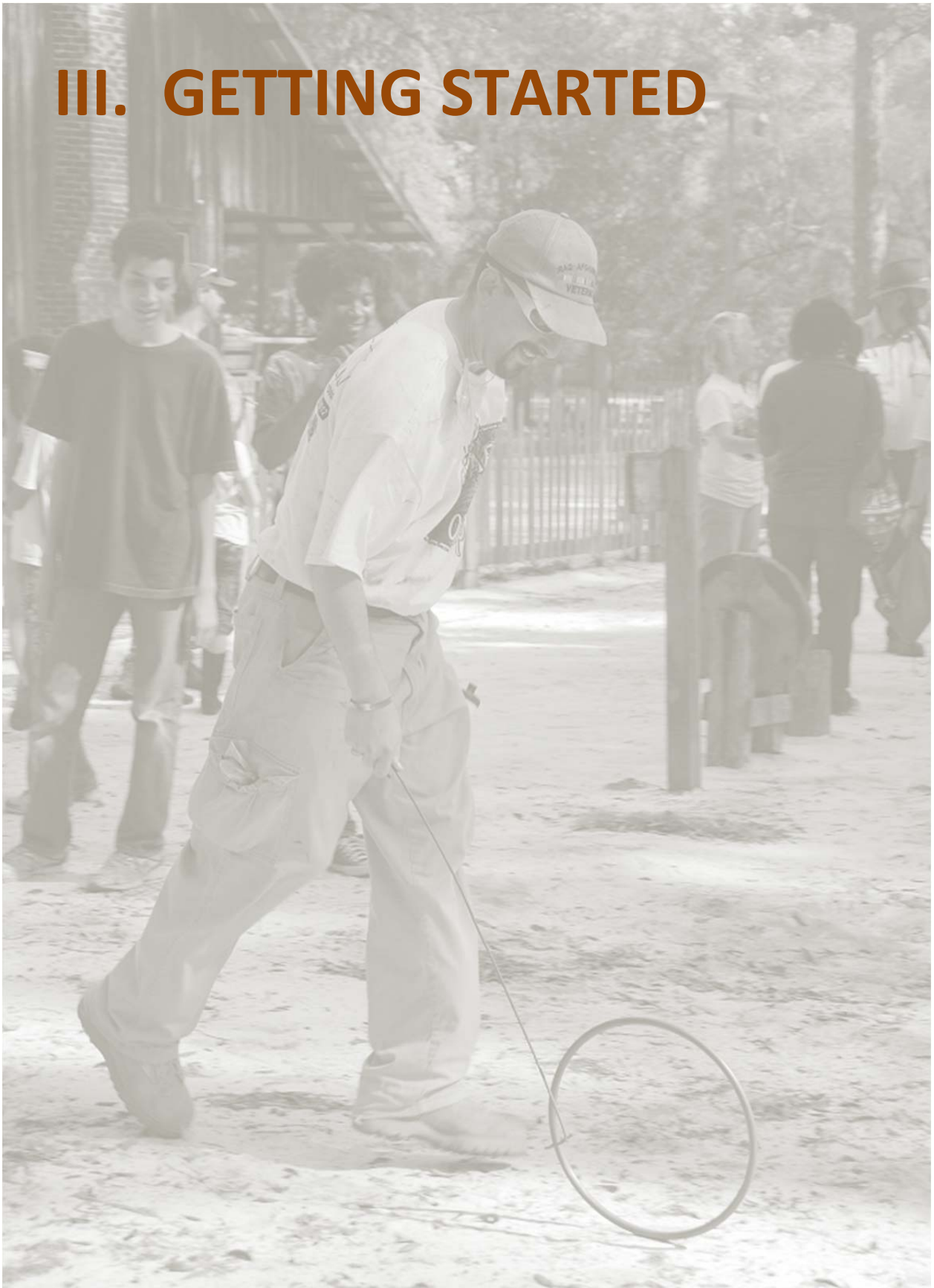
Camp Charlie offers an excellent opportunity to reach people who may not have spent much time outside an urban/suburban environment. By recruiting “beginners,” you can draw from a population that may not have developed a connection to nature. You may also choose to narrow your focus even more by targeting specific audiences, such as single parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, physically disabled or foster families.



Staff from the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge played an important role during Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee by providing hands-on activities. Other partners included Plum Creek Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Okefenokee Adventures.

Camp Charlie is most successful when several partners work together to host the weekend.

III. GETTING STARTED





III. GETTING STARTED

Your Camp Charlie will have its own unique flavor based on the content of your programs and the spirit, imagination and skills of your mentors and volunteers. The experience you create will be a very personal and unique one, reflecting your needs and goals and the needs of your target audience. But, it will also share a common vision with other Camp Charlies across the state and will benefit by being a part of the greater Camp Charlie community.

You will need to brainstorm and plan your Camp Charlie to fit the resources in your area and to make the most of the skills and expertise of individuals in your local conservation community. Your participants will learn new skills in a safe and comfortable environment with expert instruction, but it is the personal example and commitment of your staff and volunteers to good stewardship and conservation that will send the strongest message.

Establishing Your Committees

When should you start planning? The sooner the better! To ensure success and avoid being completely frazzled, it is best to begin planning a year ahead for your first Camp Charlie program. This will allow time for adequate publicity and proper development of a quality program. Just remember: it will get easier with each subsequent Camp Charlie weekend. In order to maximize resources and ensure a successful program, you will need help.

Involving your partners from the beginning gives them a sense of ownership and pride in the program, and helps you in determining available resources and shared responsibilities. In the beginning, establish your committees and clearly define expectations for each.

The following is recommended only. Please adapt the committees to meet your specific needs.

At Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee, GWF Board Member Joy Campbell served as facilitator alongside GWF Director of Development Terry Tatum and Debbie Harris from the US Fish & Wildlife Service. They played an integral part of the planning process, as led camper activities throughout the weekend.



Joy and Chip Campbell, Owners, Okefenokee Adventures

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Determine target audiences.
2. Determine theme or emphasis of Camp Charlie.
3. Decide on possible partners.
4. Determine funding needs.
5. Select site and dates.
6. Choose committees and oversee progress.
7. Publicize the program.
8. Check into insurance needs and other liability issues.
9. Review applications and choose participating families and mentors.
10. Survey campers and evaluate results.

FUNDING COMMITTEE

1. Work with Executive Committee on budget to determine needs for funding.
2. Prepare sponsorship package.
3. Recruit sponsors and donations as needed.
4. Keep accurate records and thank donors.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

1. Determine programs, activities and special events to carry out the theme and mood of your weekend.
2. Determine schedule and logistics.

FOOD COMMITTEE

1. Decide which meals/snacks will be provided and how they will be prepared and distributed.
2. Establish menus.
3. Acquire all food and kitchen equipment and develop food storage plan for weekend.
4. With help from volunteers, prepare meals/snacks and distribute as needed throughout the weekend. Make sure water is readily available.

VOLUNTEER/MENTOR COMMITTEE

1. Work with other committees to determine how many volunteers are needed for the weekend.
2. Determine mentor and volunteer qualifications and oversee the application process.

Your Camp Charlie will have its own unique flavor based on the content of your programs and the spirit, imagination and skills of your mentors and volunteers.

3. Work with the Executive Committee to assign mentors to appropriate camper families. Make sure volunteers and mentors have clear assignments and directions for the weekend.
4. Train mentors and volunteers as needed.
5. Recognize and thank volunteers appropriately.

REGISTRATION AND LOGISTICS COMMITTEE

1. Develop and distribute camper registration and communications.
2. Determine promotional items to be given away.
3. Reserve needed equipment with GWF and coordinate setup and breakdown.
4. Work with mentors to welcome campers.
5. Direct campers as needed throughout the weekend and make sure supplies and equipment are set up and available for all activities and programs.

Planning Timeline

10-12 Months

- o Consult with GWF staff.
- o Consider potential partnerships and sponsors.
- o Establish Executive Committee.
- o Develop budget and submit to Georgia Wildlife Federation.
- o Determine program theme and target audiences.
- o Select site and commit dates. Check insurance coverage.
- o Begin spreading the word – talk to various groups from which you might draw members for your committees.
- o Select and confirm primary partners.
- o Actively seek funding, family sponsorships and in-kind donations.
- o Establish committees and begin recruiting volunteers.

6-9 Months

- o Determine final costs of Camp Charlie weekend for participants and be ready to advertise.
- o Complete brochure/email and send to prospective participants.
- o Advertise as needed.
- o Determine daytime and evening programs and recruit appropriate people to teach and entertain.
- o Continue to solicit funding.

- o Prepare registration materials.

4-5 Months

- o Committees continue to meet.
- o Continue to make contacts and promote.
- o Continue to solicit funding.

3 Months

- o Plan meeting of all committees at event location to test-run program and get to know site. (This allows committee members to see how their part fits into the big picture, work out kinks and adjust to new considerations or alter plans if necessary.)
- o Actively seek “freebies” for prizes and giveaways. Make preparations to order any promotional items.
- o Register participants.

1-2 Months

- o Continue registering participants.
- o Confirm site reservations. Verify final numbers attending and camp site assignments.
- o Send letters to volunteers verifying their responsibilities and giving clear instructions.
- o Purchase any needed supplies and materials.
- o Seek media coverage of the weekend.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE





IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee consists of GWF Staff Members, GWF Board Members, and other community partners with a strong interest in the program and the time and resources to get involved. GWF recommends that you involve at least two other partners to help host a Camp Charlie weekend and have them assume a primary role in planning the event. Primary responsibilities of the Executive Committee include:

1. Determine target audiences.
2. Determine theme or emphasis of Camp Charlie.
3. Decide on possible partners.
4. Determine funding needs.
5. Select Site and Dates.
6. Choose committees and oversee their progress.
7. Publicize the program.
8. Check into insurance needs and other liability issues.
9. Review applications and choose participating families and mentors.
10. Survey campers and evaluate results.

Determine Target Audience

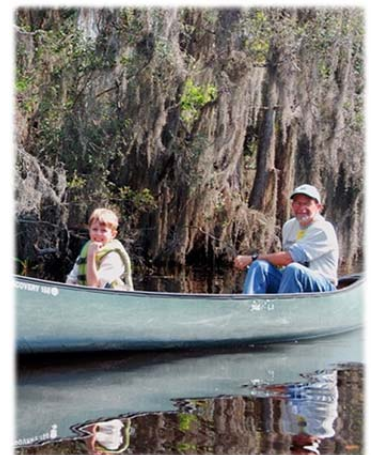
Camp Charlie primarily targets families who would like to experience the outdoors, but who may lack the knowledge, skill, equipment, and self-confidence necessary to go-it-alone. To determine your specific target audience, think about relationships in your community that have already been established and go from there.

Examples:

You may have a volunteer who is a teacher at a local elementary school. This would be a great connection to utilize in recruiting both volunteers and camping families.

You may have a committee member that is also a single mother. This might be a natural way to pull in other single moms in the area that feel uncomfortable participating in outdoor activities with their kids.

The pilot program at the Okefenokee consisted of a wide range of experienced and beginner campers including young children, grandparents, and all ages in between.



Determine Theme or Emphasis

Consider your target audience and choose a theme that best fosters enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoors and enables campers to feel comfortable. If you have an extremely diverse group, it might be best to focus on general wildlife or basic camping skills programs, or offer several options of activities during the day. Regardless, the message of environmental stewardship and appreciation will be the thread that runs throughout your weekend and all other Camp Charlies throughout the state.

Determine Possible Partners

Establishing community partnerships is a key component to having a successful event. Camp Charlie will appeal to a diversity of individuals and organizations, from those focused on the outdoors, to health and human service organizations. Potential partners might include:

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- 4-H
- Boy Scouts
- B.A.S.S. Chapters
- Church Camps
- Local Service Organizations
- Local Non-profit Organizations
- Outdoor Activity/Education Centers
- YMCA

Determine Funding Needs

The goal is to keep the expense for campers at no or a very minimal costs. To do this, you will need to seek funding or donations to cover food, transportation, promotional items and giveaways, equipment rentals or purchases, program/activity fees, signage, printing, postage and administrative costs. Although costs can vary greatly among weekends, a good number to shoot for is \$7500.

Selecting Your Site and Dates

Select a site, preferably within a one-hour drive from your target audience. If you go much further, you may find that families are not willing to drive that distance for a weekend, and/or it will cut into your program time on Friday night. If possible, utilize the Georgia State Park

Possible Camp Themes

*Fishing
Canoeing
Basic Camping Skills
Outdoor Cooking
Local Wildlife
Birding
Hiking
Nature Photography*



For our pilot program, the theme was simply to enjoy and experience the Okefenokee Swamp, the crown jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge System and one of Georgia's natural wonders.

system. In general, campsites are very family-friendly — most have electrical outlets, water, picnic tables, and a grill. Introducing your families to the park system, especially the ones “in their own backyard” will increase the likelihood of them trying camping again on their own. Other options for camping and/or programs may include National Forests, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, private campgrounds, and public and private outdoor education centers.

One of the most important aspects of finding a site is also finding cooperative site directors/managers. If you can find a park whose director shares the goals of the Camp Charlie program, it will make planning more enjoyable and easier. The staff may also be willing to provide some of the programming for your weekend or have regular public programming to incorporate into the schedule. Before you commit to a location, ask yourself:

- Are there enough campsites available to accommodate the expected number of participants? Remember to plan for varying sizes of family groups.
- Are adequate bathroom/shower facilities available? Are they clean?
- Are campsites available Friday through Sunday?
- Do you need handicapped accessible sites and facilities?
- Do you need a shelter for programming, group meals, or for inclement weather?
- Does your site have the natural features or meeting areas needed to conduct classes and activities?
- How much of a deposit is required? When is final payment due?
- Are campfires permitted?
- Are there fees to use any of the additional facilities?
- Is the camp covered with liability insurance? (GWF recommends that camps have at least \$1,000,000 in liability insurance)
- Are lakes, ponds or streams stocked? When and with what?
- What is the campground’s reservation policy? Make sure you have, in writing, documentation of reservation dates, number of campsites, check-in/out times, and any arrangements you have made concerning use of facilities or natural areas.
- What is the campground’s cancellation policy?
- Are there any camp rules you should know about such as curfews or restrictions?

Dates should be selected as far in advance as possible. This will give you plenty of time for advance publicity. Camp Charlie weekends may occur



Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee was held at Trader’s Hill, a private campground close to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. This location had plenty of shady sites, a bath house, and a pavilion that was used for group meetings and dining.

during any season, as long as activities are geared appropriately. If fishing is your theme, Georgia has a free fishing day that would be an excellent date since you wouldn't have to be concerned with selling fishing licenses.

Consider the following when selecting dates:

- When is the site available?
- Is this a particularly busy time for the campground? A wonderfully planned weekend could easily be marred by an overcrowded and/or rowdy campground.
- Is GWF's Camp Charlie equipment available?
- Is this a good time to be outdoors in your area? For example, you wouldn't want to schedule a camp in south Georgia during the height of mosquito season (especially for first-time campers -- they'll never come back).
- Have you considered other activities that are already scheduled in your community (school events, school breaks, sporting events, local festivals, etc.)?
- Is it a crazy time of the year for the key players on your team? The month before Camp Charlie should be relatively open to make sure you can finish all the last-minute details.
- Is it a particularly busy time for the campground? A rowdy, overcrowded campground could drastically change the experience for your campers.

As your camping weekend approaches, be sure to confirm all reservations and make sure the needs of other committees are taken care of for on-site and off-site activities.

Choose Committees and Oversee Progress

Hopefully, by this point, you will have a great group of partners working with you to plan the weekend. Spread the work around and don't try to do it by yourself. We recommend establishing funding, activities/programs, food, mentor/volunteer, and registration/logistics committees. You may choose to divide the work out differently. Either way, follow the progress carefully, and require regular communications and updates from your team. As you move through the process, you may find that regular face-to-face meetings are needed to keep everyone accountable. Face-to-face meetings also help to spark new ideas and promote creativity.

The site selection map on the Camp Charlie website is a great help in choosing your site, as well as the Georgia Eco-Region map and Georgia State Parks map included in the appendices.



Publicize the Program

You will need to promote the program to pull in sponsors and donors, partners, campers and mentors. Take advantage of all available resources to successfully promote your program. Consider:

- GWF Website and electronic newsletters
- GWF printed newsletter
- Facebook, Twitter and Other Social Media
- Newspapers
- Radio Stations
- Schools, recreational leagues, community groups, etc.
- WORD OF MOUTH!!! More than likely, this will be your most effective way of pulling others into the program.

We recommend that you begin advertising no later than 6 months prior to the event. Work with the Funding Committee to make sure that all sponsors and partners are recognized appropriately in PR materials. All PR materials should be approved by GWF before they are distributed. And don't forget about follow-up articles -- assign someone to take photographs throughout the weekend to be used in the community newspaper and future promotions.

Check Into Insurance and Liability Issues

Camp Charlie activities should be covered under general liability insurance of the site and/or Georgia Wildlife Federation. Work closely with GWF staff concerning insurance needs. Make sure all participants and volunteers sign liability release forms as provided by GWF. Keep in mind that some activities, such as horseback riding, may require additional forms.

Review applications and choose families and mentors.

Campers will be chosen through an application process facilitated by GWF. The Executive Committee will be in charge of making final decisions on which families will attend and who will serve as their mentor. Things to consider during the application and selection process:

- Should you require a small deposit to deter folks from backing out at the last minute?
- Do your activities warrant having a minimum age for children?

Be sure to assign someone to take photographs and video clips so this important step doesn't get overlooked in the busyness of the weekend. Photos and videos are a great way to document the success of your program and convey the impact of the weekend to donors, sponsors and other supporters.



- Is the weekend an option for individuals with disabilities or certain health issues?
- Is the weekend restricted to a certain family size?
- For larger families, do you need more than one mentor?
- Do you need to require a certain adult to child ratio? We recommend that, between parents and mentors, there is one adult for every two children.

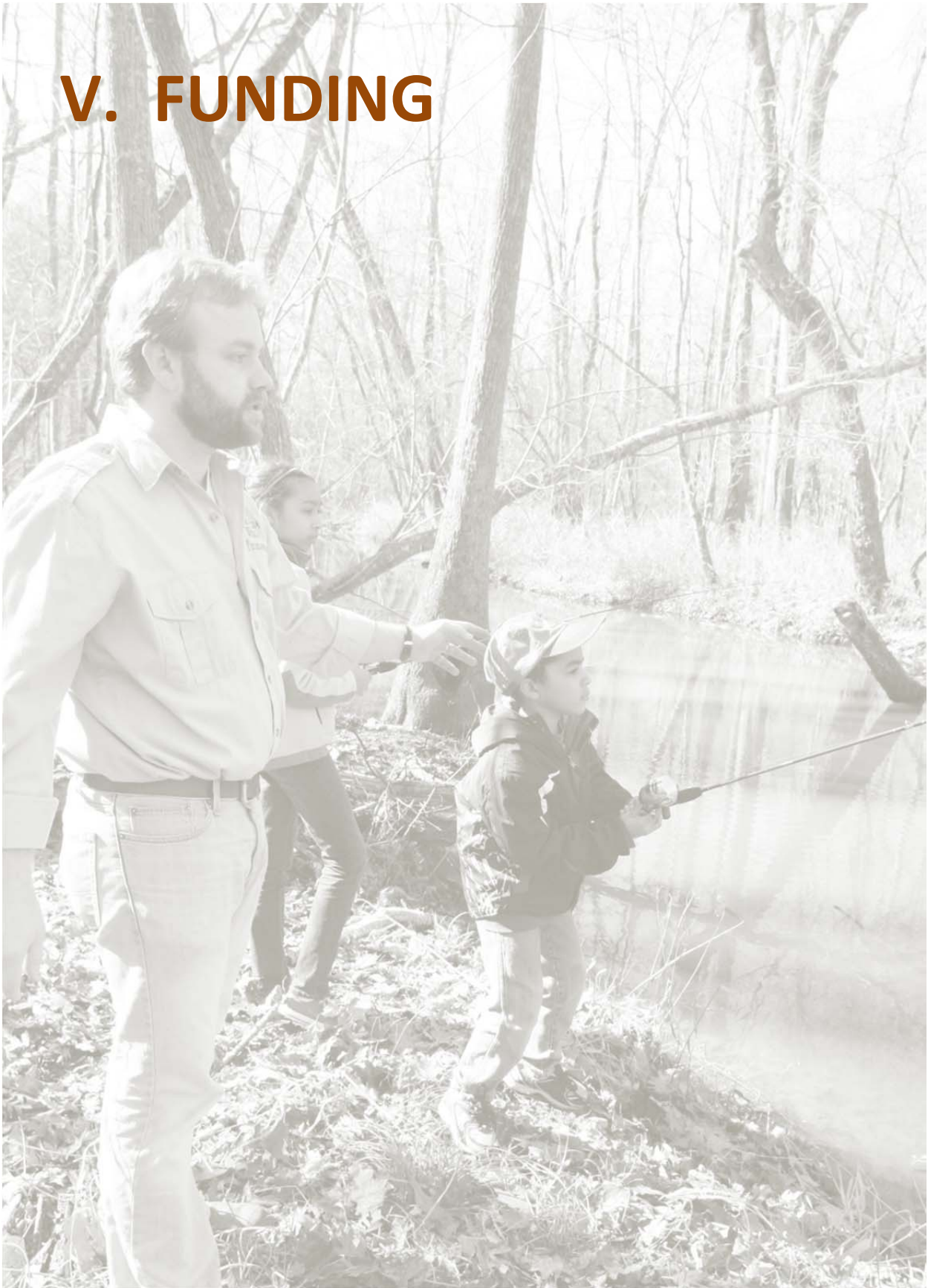
Once decisions have been made, be sure camping families are notified of their acceptance in a timely manner.

Survey Campers and Evaluate Success of the Program.

It is critically important to evaluate and document the strengths and weaknesses of each Camp Charlie weekend. This documentation will help make necessary improvements and aid in acquiring sponsors and donors for future camps.

Preferably, information will be collected through at least two methods including a written survey and a more active, hands-on activity. It may be necessary to create separate evaluations for adults and children. Examples are provided in the Appendices section and at the Camp Charlie website. Data should be submitted to GWF for evaluation.

V. FUNDING





V. FUNDING

In order to eliminate the costs for families, or keep them as low as possible, funds will need to be raised from outside sources. If funding is not secured to provide scholarships for all families, consider having a sliding scale for fees. Hopefully, no families will be excluded because they don't have the ability to pay. There are several ways to raise money for Camp Charlie.

- Charge families who can afford to attend.
- Seek corporate assistance, possibly from local businesses.
- Ask community service or sportsmen's clubs to sponsor families.
- Work with local media to sponsor a family.
- Grants can also be a great source of general funding for your program. Be sure to explore grant possibilities early in the process, as most programs have hard-and-fast deadlines that must be met. Consult with Georgia Wildlife Federation to determine possible grant opportunities.

The Executive Committee will be responsible for establishing the budget, but the Funding Committee will need to fully understand all of the costs and needs associated with the event. This will enable members to think "outside of the box" and come up with creative solutions to get the most out of the weekend.

In general, the Funding Committee will:

1. Work with Executive Committee on the budget to determine needs for funding.
2. Prepare sponsorship package.
3. Recruit sponsors and donations as needed.
4. Keep accurate records and thank donors.

Georgia's Camp Charlie at-large was funded through a grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The pilot weekend at the Okefenokee was funded through a \$10,000 grant from the Plum Creek Foundation. This money covered all expenses for the weekend.



Determining Funding Needs

Budgets will vary from program to program depending on the activities planned and how extensively each coordinator wants to promote Camp Charlie. The figures listed here are a rough estimate only.

Sample Expense Budget

Based on 5 camping families, 5 mentors, and 25 volunteers

Camp Charlie Program Costs:

Advertising	\$500
Registration	\$500
Administration/Overhead	\$2000
Volunteer training	\$500
Travel	<u>\$500</u>
Total	\$4000

Weekend Costs:

Camping Fees	\$750
Equipment	\$500
Food	\$1500
Speaker/Instructor fees	<u>\$600</u>
Total	\$3350

Total Estimate to Host a Camp Charlie Weekend: \$7350

The sample budget is based off of the pilot program at the Okefenokee. As you work through the planning process, items such as travel and advertising may not be relevant for your event.

Prepare Sponsor Package

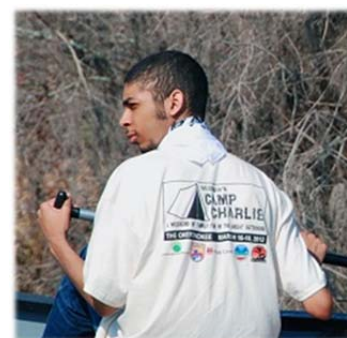
Preparing a clear and concise sponsor package is an effective way to communicate your needs to potential donors. Before you go out seeking funding and in-kind donations, but sure you have

- An appealing description of the program
- A clear list of your specific needs
- Specific ways your sponsors and donors will be recognized
- The deadline for sponsors to be included on promotional items

Recruit Sponsors and Donors

As you begin your fund-raising efforts, consider all types of potential contributors — big corporations, small local businesses, foundations, and individuals. Camp Charlie is a very sellable idea. Do not hesitate to offer sportsmen's clubs, local businesses, radio stations and other groups the chance to sponsor a family. They may enjoy this opportunity to do something personal.

Tips on Acquiring Sponsors		
Obviously, the easiest option is to find one sponsor for the entire event. However, it may be necessary to break down the costs into smaller amounts. Consider the special interests of potential sponsors. Below are suggestions of sponsorship packages that might catch the eye of funders.		
Sponsor a Family	Include food, camping fees, equipment and activities	\$350/family
Sponsor Mentors	Includes food, camping fees, equipment, activities, and training for volunteers	\$350
Promotional Items	Water bottles, backpacks, and t-shirts for each participant.	\$500
Food Donations	Provide food and volunteers for a special meal (low country dinner, BBQ, etc.)	\$250
Programs & Activities	Find a sponsor for all programs and activities.	\$600



At the Okefenokee, participants received water bottles, t-shirts and backpacks with the Camp Charlie logo.

Keep Accurate Records and Thank Donors

It is critical that all donations and sponsorships be tracked thoroughly. Sponsors and donors should submit payments directly to Georgia Wildlife Federation. At the conclusion of Camp Charlie, a complete list of all donations (monetary and in-kind) should be submitted to GWF for record-keeping purposes.

The Funding Committee should submit the names of all donors to the Executive and Logistics Committees in a timely manner so that donors and sponsors can be recognized appropriately. Although acknowledgement letters will be mailed to all donors by Georgia Wildlife Federation, hand-written notes and photographs are much

more impactful. Consider preparing thank you letters in advance of your weekend, and set aside a few minutes for campers to sign. Invite your contributors to attend a group meal or other special event during the weekend and recognize them with a special presentation if they do attend. In general, you want to foster a positive partnership with your contributors for future years and Camp Charlie programs.

Notes:



Sponsors and partners for Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee were recognized on promotional items, signs and registration materials. Camp Charlie artwork is available for download through the GWF website.

VI. PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES





VI. PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Well-thought-out programs and activities are instrumental in making the Camp Charlie experience enjoyable to all participants. Knowing *how* things need to happen to create a comfortable and inspiring learning environment is just as important as planning *what* will happen.

The Programs and Activities Committee will:

1. Determine programs, activities and special events to carry out the theme and mood of the weekend.
2. Determine schedule and logistics.

Determine Programs and Activities

Keeping the purpose of each day in mind as you plan the content of your activities will help ensure a consistent, cohesive and successful program.

Friday — Make Them Feel Comfortable

Friday's activities focus on welcoming and orienting families and making them feel a part of the whole experience. The tone for the entire weekend is set on Friday, and participants need to feel that they have arrived at a safe, organized, fun, and exciting event. Be sure to include some discussion on the significance of the area you will be exploring over the weekend.

Saturday — Experience the Outdoors

Saturday is when the bulk of activities take place, and you will need to plan a variety of offerings and locate appropriate instructors who are knowledgeable about the outdoors and your theme activity. Teach, share, facilitate, demonstrate, entertain, assist and inspire so that everyone enjoys a memorable experience. Make it fun to learn and fun to be outdoors!



Volunteers, mentors, and instructors should encourage conservation stewardship by weaving personal stories, tips, and experiences into conversations throughout the weekend. At the Okefenokee, Art Webster takes a moment to share his experiences that led him to the Okefenokee. It was also emphasized that a conservation ethic can be carried into any career choice, and is in no way limited to only those who work directly with our natural resources.

Questions to consider:

- Will activities entice families to try camping again on their own?
- Do program options accommodate varied interests and ages within camping families?
- Are there minimum age requirements for any activities?
- Although we want families to stay together, are there any activities that necessitate having to split up (example: cooking class).

Sunday — The Take-Home Message

Sunday morning will be busy with breakfast, breaking down camp, and a final gathering. Use this time to talk about the highlights of the weekend, and how families can continue to experience nature on their own. Leave them with tangible ways to get outdoors and serve as stewards of their natural world.

Determine the Schedule and Logistics

A lot of forethought goes into making a Camp Charlie weekend fun and effective. Keep in mind that you are setting the schedule for a diversity of ages, physical abilities and interests. If you are having a specific-themed camp, you can eliminate some of these issues by being very clear to your target audience. For example, if your activities focus on fishing, or involve strenuous hikes, make that clear in your registration materials. Hopefully, this will keep families from signing up for something that they really have no interest in, or cannot physically handle.

If your weekend has a very general camping or wildlife theme, your schedule will need to accommodate a variety of interests, ages, and personalities. You'll have some that like to get up early, and others that are late-risers; some families with little ones that move at a slower pace, and others with teenagers that get bored very quickly. As a general rule, go for a well-balanced weekend. Every individual may not enjoy everything that is planned, but, hopefully, something will "click". And don't be afraid of down-time. Sometimes, it is this free-time that gives campers the opportunity to find their own connection with the outdoors.

As you sort through the logistics for activities and programs, think through the following questions:



Okefenokee focused solely on getting campers acquainted with the outdoors, and experiencing the wonders of the Okefenokee Swamp. As time allowed, other activities, such as fishing and bird walks, were offered. Partnering with Okefenokee Adventures and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge were keys to being able to offer quality experiences.

- Is it best to divide into smaller groups for certain activities?
- Does the schedule have a good balance between organized activities and free time?
- What is the backup plan for inclement weather?
- Do you have all of the necessary supplies for activities?
- Do you need to make site visits to adequately gauge the feasibility of the activities schedule?
- How many volunteers will you need for each activity?
- Do campers need to sign up for any optional activities ahead of time? If yes, make sure this information is in the registration materials.
- Do you have qualified instructors?
- Is there enough time to get campers from one activity to another?
- Are all of your programs onsite, or do you need to provide transportation to and from any activities?
- Does the activities schedule flow well with the meal schedule.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This sample schedule will give you a good idea of the flow for a typical Camp Charlie weekend.

FRIDAY

4:00-6:00pm Registration and Check-in

A smooth and organized registration will help create a positive environment and a great beginning. Emphasize the need to arrive in time to set up camp before dark. Make sure campers participate in the setup of their campsite. As you work, use these natural teaching moments to provide any personal tips that have made your family camping adventures successful and enjoyable.

6:30pm Dinner

Because there is a lot to get done to set up camp, it is best to have volunteers prepare Friday dinner and serve buffet style at the meeting area. There will be better opportunities in the weekend to get campers involved in the cooking process. Try to arrange seating so that mentors can sit with their families.

7:45- 9:30pm Opening Program

Allow at least a half an hour for families to get settled after dinner. Your

AT THE OKEFENOKEE

FRIDAY

- 4pm Registration
- 6pm Group dinner
- 8pm Opening
Ice breakers
- 9pm Campfire songs
Skit
S'mores
history of the area
- 10pm Lights out

SATURDAY

- 7am Breakfast
- 8 am Travel to Refuge
- 8:15am Walk through
Longleaf Pine
- 9:45am Canoe the Swamp
- 1:15pm Lunch
- 1:45 Free Time at
Visitors Center
- 2:30pm Pond Study
Chesser Homestead
- 5pm Return to
campground
- 6:30pm Group Dinner
- 9pm Campfire songs
Local Storyteller
Skit

SUNDAY

- 7:00am Optional fishing
or bird watching
- 8am Breakfast
- 9:30am Breakdown
- 10:30 Wrap-up:
Surveys
Charades
Certificates

opening program will set the tone for the whole weekend and result in everyone feeling comfortable. Realize that families will need time to relax and prepare for the weekend. Don't try to fit too much in — keep it simple. The following format provides a good guideline:

Welcome and Introduction

Spend no more than 30 minutes giving a basic introduction, orientation and overview. Plant the seeds of good stewardship and remember that what you tell them now will define their expectations. Even though participants will have received mailings to prepare them for the weekend, a good introduction and orientation will assure that everyone's expectations are met. Besides, you can never reiterate enough when it comes to coordinating large groups of people. Make sure campers know the itinerary for the next day.

Get-acquainted time

Have everyone participate in an ice-breaker with the whole group. This will alleviate tension and put people at ease.

Evening Program

While there won't be enough time for a full blown evening program, it is still important as it introduces the flavor of the weekend. Remember that people may be tired and need a good night's rest, so don't run too late. A little bit of entertainment will help break any tension or apprehension that may be left. Some examples are campfires, storytelling, and singing. This is also a good time to present an inspirational message to set the tone of environmental responsibility, and to discuss the natural and cultural history of the site. Don't forget to include important announcements. For those who want to stay up a little later, you may opt to set out cards and board games. Be sure campers are aware of campground quiet hours. If Saturday's activity schedule allows, you might want to provide a grab-and-go breakfast option for those campers who are "night owls" and prefer to get a little later start Saturday morning.

SATURDAY

7:00am Optional Early Morning Activity

A bird walk or hike gives early risers a great outlet. Be sure to have coffee available for those who need it — it makes a big difference!

8:00am Breakfast



Evening programs at the Okefenokee entertained campers while teaching them about local history and folklore.

9:00-11:30am Session 1

Depending on the size of your group, you may want to plan two concurrent activities. This will allow you to work with smaller groups and it gives your participants a choice based on their interests and ages of family members. Some examples of activities are fishing, hiking, nature photography, and watchable wildlife. We encourage you to use the first portion of this time for interactive instruction and the later part of the morning as time for the participants to try out their new skills. Make sure parents and children participate together. This is a time for families to learn new skills together that they can share after the weekend is over. Provide a break and always keep lots of drinking water around. Remember to use partners, staff and volunteers as instructors. This will allow the mentors to spend this time with their families, sharing the experiences and helping them.

12:00pm Lunch

If part of your camp's focus is to teach basic camping skills, lunch might be a good opportunity to have families and mentors prepare food at their campsite as a follow up to a morning cooking class.

1:00-3:30pm Session 2

4:00-6:00pm Electives

Elective sessions provide participants with a broader range of choices. The scheduling and length of classes will depend on your staff and the available teaching opportunities. Be sure to have families register for electives prior to camp so you can plan accordingly. Encourage families to stay together, but if they choose to split up, make sure at least one parent accompanies each child.

Clearly explain the meeting place for each class, or have a common meeting spot for all classes. Classes need to offer variety, both in content and in style. Try to offer some that are active or hands on, as well as some that are slower paced. Instructors should be prepared to teach children and adults together.

Some families will want to participate in electives, while others may be interested in taking part of the afternoon to do something on their own, or just rest. Be aware of the differing needs of participants. *Remember the goal of the program — to connect families to the outdoors. Be sure to give individuals an opportunity to figure what that means for them. Often, it is the unstructured time outdoors that can be the most impactful.*



Young campers at the Okefenokee enjoy the Longleaf Pine forest.

6:30pm Dinner

Consider inviting sponsors and donors to join the group!

8:00pm Campfire

The Saturday campfire is a rewarding culmination of a long day of learning and another opportunity to develop the stewardship focus. Consider recruiting a local folk singer, guitarist, or storyteller. Other ideas include a demonstration of Native American dance, a program on bats, a story related to conservation, or the telling of local lore.

9:30pm Optional Late Evening Activity
(night hike, owl prowling, star gazing)**SUNDAY****7:00 Optional Early Morning Activity****8:00 Breakfast**

Make announcements concerning the location and time of the morning's activities. Reiterate that everyone should stay through the closing ceremony.

9:00 Breakdown Camp

Make sure equipment is inventoried as each campsite is broken down. Family members should participate — these moments are important in increasing the family's confidence to camp on their own in the future.

10:30 Closing Ceremony

It is very important to bring closure to the weekend and recognize those people who have played an important part. This includes: the coordinators, the main sponsors, the instructors, the mentors, and especially the participants. The coordinators may want to recognize the sponsors, instructors and mentors, and then let the mentors each recognize their families. You may also want to discuss upcoming opportunities for families to implement conservation ethics in their own home and community. It's also a good time to tell a few stories and leave everyone with a warm, personal feeling. You might want to present plaques to your main partners or sponsors, gifts to your staff and mentors, and certificates and/or a gift to the participants. Be sure to have participants complete a survey before they leave.

11:30 Departure

VII. FOOD





VII. FOOD

Let's face it — most people love to eat. Use the weekend to show families that meals can be fun, yummy, and easy to prepare. Even if a campfire cooking class is not part of your activity schedule, be sure to provide tips and tricks for preparing meals in the outdoors so families will be more likely to try camping again on their own.

The Food Committee will:

1. Decide which meals/snacks will be provided and how they will be prepared and distributed.
2. Establish menus.
3. Acquire all food and kitchen equipment and develop food storage plan for weekend.
4. With help from volunteers, prepare meals/snacks and distribute as needed throughout the weekend. Make sure water is readily available.

Decide Which Meals/Snacks Will Be Provided

Your budget, in-kind donations, schedule of activities, and the level of comfort of your campers will factor into your meal plan. You may want to offer a pre-packaged breakfast if you feel some campers want to get a later start to the day, or if campers have to travel off-site for an early morning activity. If you will be offering campfire cooking as an activity, you may provide the ingredients for a meal and then let campers prepare dinner at their campsite with the assistance of their mentors. You may decide that all evening meals will be group meals that lead into evening activities. Again, consider your target audience and determine a plan that will best ease concerns about camping again on their own.

Questions to Consider.....

- What meals/snacks will be provided?
- Will campers need to bring any food? If yes, make this clear in the registration materials.



Since the schedule at the Okefenokee was tight, all meals were prepared by volunteers and served buffet style. This allowed campers to rest and have some free time in between programs.

- What is your budget?
- What could you get through in-kind donations?
- How will you accommodate special dietary needs such as vegetarian meals?
- What information concerning meals needs to be collected through the registration process? (allergies, vegetarian options, pre-packaged breakfasts). Be sure to find substitute ingredients. You don't want kids to miss out on campfire desserts, for example, because the only thing available has nuts.
- What meal plan best fits the activity schedule that has been established?

Establish Menus

The menu will largely be determined by the cooking equipment you have available. If camping at a Georgia State Park, most sites will have small charcoal grills and fire rings at each campsite. For group meals, GWF has a large propane griddle, two propane burners, and a variety of campfire pots and irons.

Remember to keep things simple – especially if families are preparing meals at their campsite. The last thing you want to do is overwhelm campers with the task of preparing a meal that takes a lot of time and is particularly messy.

Sample Breakfast Menus:

Granola bars/yogurt Fruit Bowl Muffins	Pancakes Sausage Fruit bowl	Hashbrowns Toad in Hole (egg in toast) Bacon	Ham Grits Scrambled Eggs
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Sample Group Lunch/Dinner Menus:

BBQ Sandwiches Baked Beans Cole Slaw	Grilled hamburgers/hotdogs Chips Fruit	Spaghetti and meatballs Salad Garlic Bread	Low Country Boil with shrimp, sausage, corn, potatoes
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Sample Dessert Menus:

Platter of various cookies and brownies	S'mores (of course)	Watermelon (and a seed-spittin' contest)	Ice Cream Cone Treats
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Kitchen Necessities

Regardless of the method of cooking, make sure you have:

Salt
 Pepper
 Various Seasonings
 Oil
 Butter
 Spatulas
 Mixing Bowls
 Tongs
 Chafing Dishes
 Large Coolers
 Dish Soap
 Dish Rags
 Towels
 Dish Buckets
 Hand Sanitizer
 Chopping Knife

Acquire Equipment and Food, and Develop Food Storage Plan

We ask that you set an example of environmental stewardship by not using any Styrofoam products and implementing recycling practices to be used throughout the weekend. In addition, you can reduce waste and excessive packaging by serving buffet and cafeteria-style meals, and by using bulk foods, reusable dinnerware, and paper over plastic for disposables.

Our experience has shown that all the shopping can be done prior to the weekend. Count on needing 5 large coolers, including one to be used exclusively for raw meat.

Things to Consider:

- How will you get food to the camp site?
- Where is the closest grocery store in case you forgot something?
- How many propane tanks will you need?

Prepare Meals and/or Distribute Food As Needed

The details involved in carrying out meal preparation will vary from one Camp Charlie to the next. To keep things running smoothly, keep the following in mind:

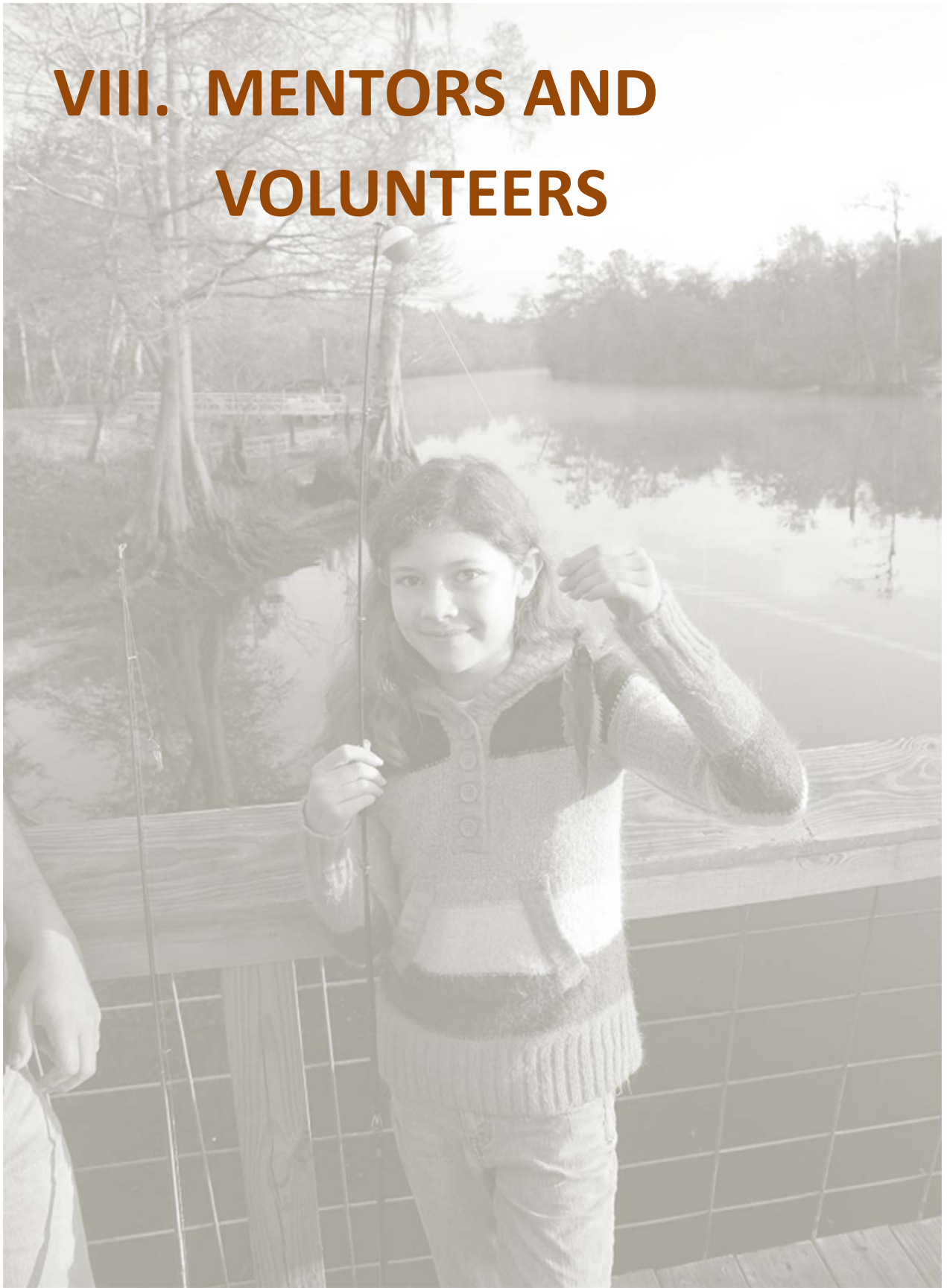
- Carefully think through the time required to prepare group meals.
- Can you do any of the prep work in advance of the weekend (chop vegetables, marinate meat, pre-cook noodles)?
- How will you keep food warm as it is being served? Chafing dishes are recommended.

ALL individuals are expected to clean up after themselves (even the kids!). Be sure to set up an easy-to-use station for campers to wash dishes after each meal. Of course, the food crew will be in charge of making sure the kitchen is tidied up after every meal.

*Make sure water
is available
throughout
the day.*

Notes:

VIII. MENTORS AND VOLUNTEERS





VIII. MENTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Mentors are hand-picked volunteers who love the outdoors, want to share their knowledge and experiences, truly enjoy people, and are willing to invest in their Camp Charlie family over the course of the weekend. Often, they form bonds with their families that are long-lasting and help make Camp Charlie an experience which lasts in the hearts of the participants.

Camp Charlie mentors are essentially role models and guides for Camp Charlie participants. Mentors should be people-oriented, comfortable with diversity, and willing to teach as well as learn from their families. Mentors help their families learn outdoor skills, sit with their families at meals, and, in some cases, participate in or lead classes.

The success of a Camp Charlie weekend also depends upon a good group of **volunteers** to make the weekend run smoothly and efficiently. Volunteer tasks can include setting up and breaking down campsites and meeting areas, preparing and serving meals, assisting in activities and entertainment, and registering participants.

The Mentor & Volunteer Committee will be expected to:

1. Work with other committees to determine how many volunteers are needed for the weekend.
2. Determine mentor and volunteer qualifications and oversee the application process.
3. Train mentors and volunteers as needed.
4. Work with the Executive Committee to assign mentors to appropriate camper families. Make sure volunteers and mentors have clear assignments and directions for the weekend.
5. Recognize and thank volunteers appropriately.



Determine How Many Volunteers Are Needed

In general, 25 volunteers (including mentors) will be needed to handle 50 participants. As a general guide, plan for:

- One mentor per family; large families or families with small children may require an additional mentor, or a mentor family to provide extra assistance.
- Two cooks/kitchen volunteers.
- One volunteer per family to assist the mentor as needed
- Three volunteers to handle logistics
- Ten volunteers to facilitate programs and activities, evening entertainment, and serve as hosts

Your mentors may be able to perform some of these tasks, but just make sure their schedule is free enough to make tending to their camping families the first priority.

Determine Mentor and Volunteer Qualifications and Oversee Application Process

The success of your Camp Charlie weekend will be determined by the volunteers who run it. Selecting those volunteers will be one of the most important things you do to ensure that your program has the quality you want. Hopefully, recruitment will not be difficult, since the Camp Charlie concept appeals to a wide range of people, including teachers, sportspersons, outdoor enthusiasts, youth leaders and others.

When recruiting volunteers, check for expertise in these areas:

- knowledge and experience in basic camping skills
- strong people skills
- good organization skills
- sensitivity to the needs of beginners
- love of the outdoors and enthusiasm in sharing it
- conservation-mindedness and concern about protecting natural resources
- support for the goals of the Camp Charlie program

All volunteers are required to sign the standard GWF Liability Form, submit a letter of reference, and sign the Camp Charlie Volunteer Policy. In addition, background checks and interviews are required for all mentors. Background checks will be administered by GWF staff.

When selecting mentors and volunteers, some qualities to look for are:

- *Patience*
- *Kindness*
- *Ability to be a role model*
- *Creativity*
- *Knowledge or experience*
- *Dedication*
- *Open-mindedness*
- *Enthusiasm*
- *Willingness to devote time to the program*
- *Friendly and outgoing*

Train Mentors and Volunteers

Provide a packet of information to both mentors and volunteers upon acceptance. In your packet, be sure to include:

- An overview of Georgia's Camp Charlie
- The theme, goals and expectations for the weekend
- A condensed overview of the schedule
- Directions and map of the site in order to facilitate the mentors' familiarity with the area
- If applicable, the rules and policies of the specific campground
- Emergency procedures: Go over policies and procedures for safety and health.

Additional training for mentors may or may not be required. Mentor training sessions allow you to communicate your goals and get to know the people who will be working with you and your Camp Charlie families. These sessions will instill a spirit of enthusiasm and community in the mentors while giving you a chance to go over important topics such as schedules, family needs, and safety and emergency procedures. Some possible activities and subjects to cover at a mentor training are:

- Introduction to Camp Charlie: Briefly give an overview of the Camp Charlie concept, what it means to be a mentor, and the schedule for the weekend.
- Ice Breakers/Team Building: Introduce mentors and staff, get to know each other, and discover one another's talents and interests.
- Walk through the weekend: Go over the weekend schedule, focusing on mentor duties.
- Give an overview of your participants' demographics since many of your mentors and their families may come from varying ethnic, social, or economic backgrounds. Help make your mentors feel comfortable and discuss with them the benefits of interacting with a diverse group of participants. You may want to bring in outside speakers, for example, someone who knows the families/communities you are trying to attract as participants.

Assign Mentors to Families and Give Clear Assignments for the Weekend

Once you have chosen and trained your mentors, you will need to assign mentors to families. Hopefully, by this point in the process, you

During Camp Charlie, mentors need to:

- *Be an example in all you do! Good stewardship is the underlying message.*
- *Be available to answer questions.*
- *Be a friend! Enjoy yourself and your families.*
- *Be aware of safety.*
- *Be sensitive to the needs of your family. Those with small children may need to opt-out of some activities, or just need an additional rest period during the day.*

Remember — the goal is for your group to have a great weekend in hopes they continue getting their family outdoors.

Flexibility is key to success.

are familiar with the various personalities in your group and will be able to best determine which mentors will work well with certain families.

During the Camp Charlie weekend, **mentors** will have a variety of responsibilities. The following is a sample schedule:

FRIDAY:

- Greet families as they arrive. Help them set up camp and get settled.
- Sit with your family at dinner.
- Lead ice-breaker/orientation sessions as needed.
- Establish a comfortable atmosphere for your family.
- Go to evening program with your families.
- Let your families know what will happen over the next few days.

SATURDAY:

- Wake up families if needed.
- Greet families at breakfast.
- Assemble families and outline the day's schedule. If options are available, make sure family members have selected the programs they want to attend and have necessary supplies.
- Dine and participate in activities with family.

SUNDAY:

- Wake up families if needed.
- Assist in leading families in morning activities.
- Assist families in breaking down camp.
- Assist as needed in closing ceremony.
- Assist family with completing survey

Specific tasks for **volunteers** will vary greatly. Make sure committee leaders, especially those in logistics, programs, and food, are in contact with volunteers and clearly define tasks for the weekend. Again, mentors may be able to perform some of these tasks, but tending to their family is their first priority.



At the Okefenokee, campfire treats were very popular with the kids. Mentors are pictured above helping their families assemble ice cream cone treats.

Recognize and Thank Volunteers Appropriately

Notes:

It is always a good idea to recognize and reward your volunteers for their hard work. Camp Charlie volunteers will probably appreciate a Camp Charlie t-shirt or other useful mementos. Perhaps area merchants might donate items or contribute gift certificates. Hosting a party after the event is another nice touch to say thanks. The more personal your effort, the more it will be appreciated. Often, it's the little things that really count.



For Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee, most mentors were professionals from the Georgia Wildlife Federation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Their formal training, however, is not what made them a great mentor. Their willingness to share a genuine love and respect for the natural world is what made the biggest impact.

IX. LOGISTICS





Notes:

IX. LOGISTICS

The primary role of the Logistics Committee is to make sure everything runs smoothly leading up to and during the weekend. The Committee will:

1. Develop and distribute camper registration and communications.
2. Determine promotional items to be given away.
3. Reserve needed equipment with GWF and coordinate setup and breakdown.
4. Work with mentors to welcome campers.
5. Direct campers as needed throughout the weekend and make sure supplies and equipment are set up and available for all activities and programs.

Develop and Distribute Camper Registration and Communications

Once campers have applied and been accepted into Camp Charlie, registration materials should be sent to collect additional information and communicate clear directions and expectations for the weekend. Complete and concise materials will put participants at ease and eliminate potential problems.

Registration materials should include:

- Choices for optional activities
- Requests for special dietary needs
- Liability and photo release forms
- Information to purchase fishing licenses, if applicable
- A survey of their camping/outdoor experience
- Any medical conditions
- Clear directions to the campsite, and, at the minimum, a general schedule for the weekend
- Packing Lists

Determine Promotional Items

Promotional items are a great way to recognize sponsors while making the weekend more memorable for your campers. T-shirts are always a hit! In addition, think about useful items such as small backpacks, water bottles, flashlights and hats. Work closely with the Funding Committee to make sure all appropriate sponsors and donors are recognized in registration materials and on promotional items.

Reserve Equipment with GWF and Coordinate Setup and Breakdown

Even though you will be working closely with GWF staff throughout the planning process, be sure to reserve all equipment you will need well in advance of your weekend. Depending upon your activities, additional equipment may need to be acquired. Discuss these needs up front with the Programs and Funding Committees, and create a plan for purchasing/acquiring materials.

GWF's Camp Charlie trailer is available to transport equipment to and from the campground. Make sure you coordinate with other committees to ensure all necessary equipment makes it onto the trailer. (It is a good idea to have all items delivered to the GWF office two days before departure.) Make an alternate plan for any items not being transported on the trailer, such as last minute refrigerated items or supplies that are not coming from the Atlanta area.

Welcome and Direct Campers and Activities As Needed

Basically, the Logistics Committee makes sure everyone has what they need, and knows where to go and when to be there. Obviously, the details of how to pull this off will be different for every Camp Charlie. In general, provide families with:

- A detailed schedule of the weekend
- Name tags
- Map of campground
- Campsite assignment
- Promotional items
- Mentors and volunteers to assist in setting up camp

Camp Charlie Equipment Available From GWF

Trailer
Tents
Ground Cloths
Sleeping Pads
Cots
First Aid Kits
Tent Mallets
Tables
Camp Chairs
Lanterns
Flashlights
Field Guides
Compass
Clipboards
Binoculars
Ponchos
Insect Spray
Journals
Hand Sanitizer
Coolers
Large Propane Griddle
Large Propane Burner
Fire Ring
Various Kitchen Tools
Coffee Maker
Serving Dishes
Plates, Cups, and Utensils

**For a current list and
quantities, visit
www.gwf.org.**

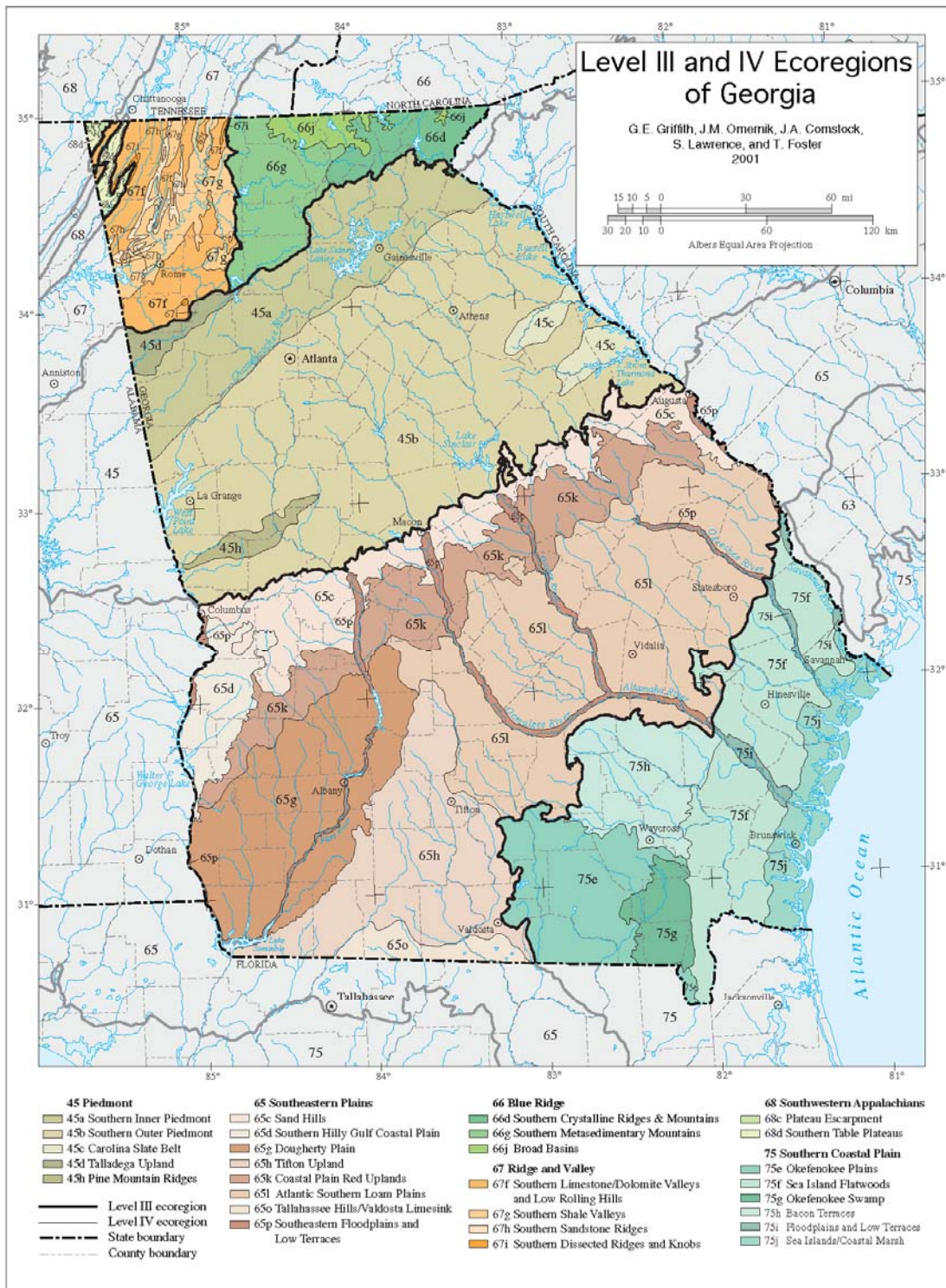


X. APPENDICES

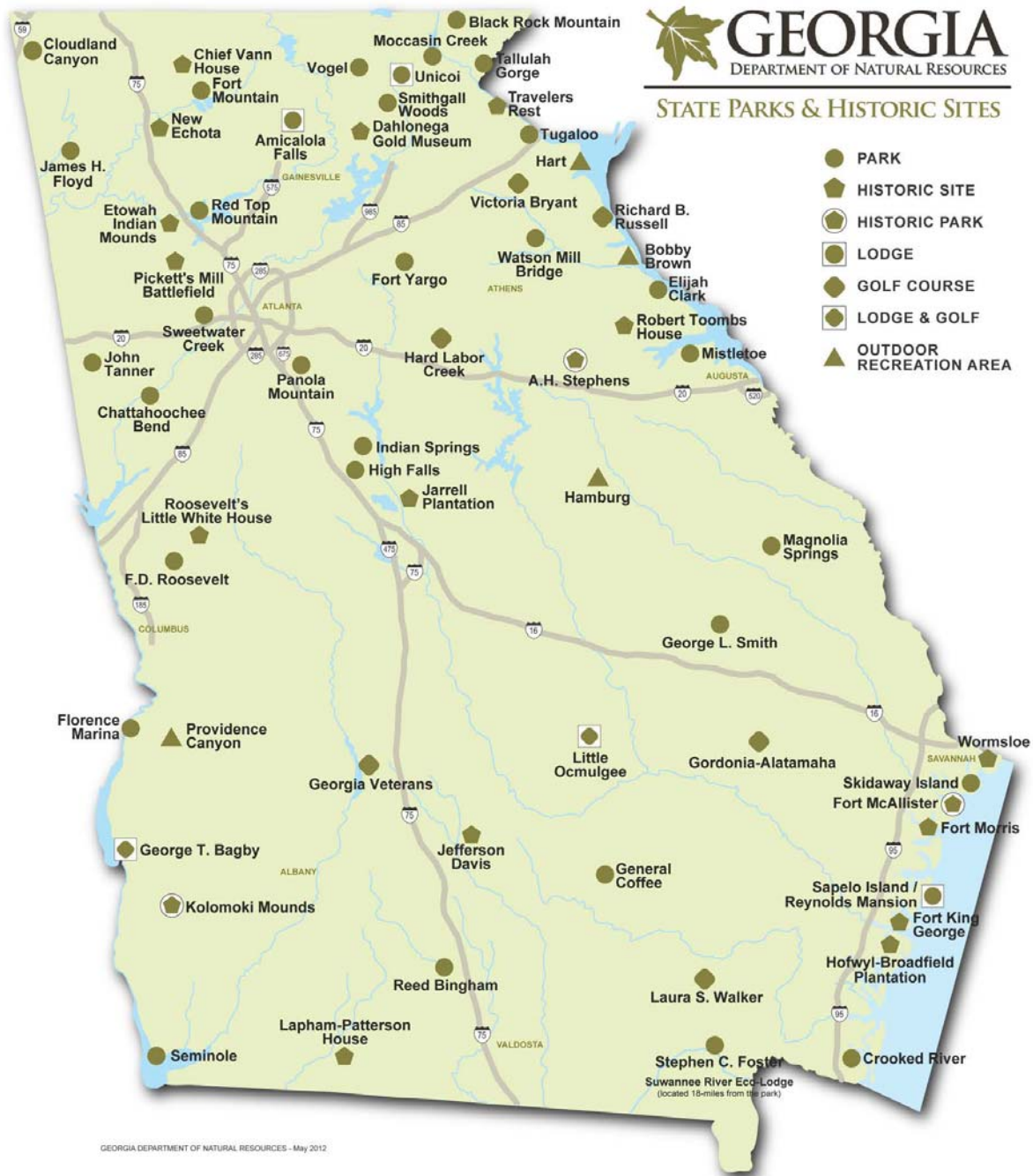
In this section, you will find sample letters and additional resources to help get you started. Electronic files are available for download at the Camp Charlie website. For the most up-to-date versions, always refer to the website. Additional resources are continuously being developed and made available at <http://www.gwf.org/ConservationEducation/CampCharlie/PlanningGuide.aspx>.

1. Georgia Ecoregion Map
2. Georgia State Park Map
3. Master Task List
4. Camp Charlie Flyer
5. Camper Application
6. Camper Acceptance Letter
7. Fishing License Request
8. Mentor Letter
9. Photo Release
10. Suggested Evaluation Tools
11. Adult Survey
12. Child Survey

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.

1. 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 OKEFENOCHE
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.