

A Typical Day at Turtle Island

A typical day at Turtle Island begins with the blowing of the conch shell. Many “cabin groups” prefer to begin their day with a “polar bear” (a dip in the creek). After folding your bedding and a quick straightening of gear, groups assemble at the Friendship Circle to start Morning Watch. Morning Watch is the ritual by which we welcome the new day in silence seated upon Morning Watch Hill. After descending from Morning Watch, we learn about morning activities and circle up for breakfast. Breakfast is cooked on our wood burning stoves, on the open fire and often includes baked goodies from the stone oven.

Morning instruction time provides the opportunity for campers to learn new skills and engage in the creation of various projects. Usually there are several activities to choose from of varying skill levels. Often we have guest teachers and experts that will offer a demonstration or hands-on class.

Free-time precedes lunch, it's a time to sharpen tools, continue work on projects, play games, take a buggy ride with Eustace, and relax. After lunch, rest-hour provides the chance to catch some sleep, or enjoy a quiet book. Most campers find that Turtle Island is a place of vigorous activity and rest-hour becomes more appreciated as camp progresses.

Afternoon instruction mirrors the morning program, but on hot days staff are usually happy to lead a hike to the waterfall for a cool swim. After dinner we tend to play big group games and then settle down by the fire for story telling and music. Our day ends with the Good Night Circle, and each cabin group returns to its shelter.

Average Daily Schedule

7:00 Morning Watch
8:00 Breakfast
9:30 AM Instruction
12:30 Lunch
Rest hour
3:00 PM Instruction
6:00 Supper
Evening game/activity
8:00 Group campfire



Truthfully few of our days are typical. We believe that spontaneity is crucial for taking advantage of “teachable moments,” and that each group should be free to engage in activities that meet its unique needs and desires. The routine of the “typical day” provides a framework from which we gather skills, and develop interests that may then be explored on the individual group level. Furthermore overnight hikes, campouts, trips to the swimming holes and cookouts limit our time at base camp.