



## **TURTLE ISLAND PRESERVE**

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### **Family Camp Mission**

Family Camp at Turtle Island Preserve is an unusual opportunity in a profoundly unique place. It is a time for families of all shapes and sizes: Mom, Dad, daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, grandparents, uncles, aunties, cousins and friends to part with a rapid-paced life for a few days to camp out on the only Appalachian Heritage farm of its kind. In the time-tested tradition of our ancestors, families take time to reconnect together with their natural roots.

The camp begins with an introduction to the community at Turtle Island. An orientation to the campus includes meeting our domestic animals and getting acquainted with our traditional and historic facilities like barns, outhouses, composting areas, blacksmith forge, wood working center and playground. You will tour the handmade barns and agricultural structures, see the horse drawn carriages, mowers and wagons, smell the natural foods cooking over the open fire, taste and see the delights coming up in our gardens and get familiar with the wild edibles and medicinal plants found naturally occurring around the farm.

Family groups camp out in Adirondack huts, tipis and/or creatively hand-crafted natural shelters. Informative, hands-on classes are taught each morning and afternoon by the Turtle Island residents and knowledgeable naturalists. Three hot meals each day are provided in our outdoor camp kitchen – Nacho Mamma’s Café. Our beautiful crystal clear creeks provide a refreshing chance to cool off and clean up, while evening programs such as guided night-walks or stories & music around the campfire conclude our days.

We begin each day anew at the top of Morning-Watch Hill in reverent silence, and have fun and adventure while away from modern appliances and gadgets, and wires and “signals”. For many it is a rare chance to be apart from the wasteful, complacent, over-consumptive, destructive modern “norm.” At Turtle Island, visitors experience the first internet... They get personally involved in the web – of life.

Taking time to listen, look and feel, the learning experiences and opportunities for personal growth occur on an exponential scale during a few short days. Children walk away feeling excited and empowered after being trusted to handle new tools, the practicing of a craft, or a fire of their own design. Adults walk away feeling relaxed, refreshed and renewed in the rare chance to be with their clan in the sanctuary of wilderness, humbly together finding the secrets of nature and what wisdom it has to share.

We encourage all families, from all walks, traditions, cultures, and personal philosophies to explore themselves while in the gentle hands of this one-of-a-kind discovery center. Spaces are limited. To inquire further or receive an application, please contact the Turtle Island office at the number above.