

## Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) Camp Wekiva

**Critter Camp** is a mini-camp experience open to boys and girls that have completed the 1st or 2nd grade. The three-day, two-night session is well-suited for younger campers. The program introduces future campers to Wekiva Youth Camp with age-appropriate sessions in nature, crafts, swimming, and allows them to join with older campers at the Flag Circle and meals in the Dining Hall. Critter Camp happens right in the middle of a week of regular camp. **July 4 – 6, 2017**. Critters arrive after lunch on a Tuesday and jump right into a magic of Wekiva Youth Camp. They spend Tuesday and Wednesday night sleeping with their same-gender cabin mates and counselors. Critter Camp is over before lunch on Thursday. For more information on camp go to the website: Critter Camp. (link: <http://www.wekivayouthcamp.org/critter-camp-registration-grades-1-2/>)

**Wekiva Youth Camp** is a residential nature camp for 3rd through 8th grade youngsters sponsored by the FFGC (a not-for-profit organization) for the purpose of instilling a love and respect for the REAL Florida in our youth through nature study, conservation and protection of our environment for the future of our state and our planet. Wekiva Youth Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association.

Wekiva Youth Camp is comprised of six one-week sessions during June and July in **Wekiva Springs State Park**, here Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) partners with the Florida Parks service to improve and maintain the facilities. Wekiva Youth Camp promises an unforgettable experience enjoying nature, crafts, and the beauty of the natural world in a magical, pristine setting. Campers should be interested in nature and like the outdoors. Florida residency is not required and campers are welcome without regard to race, color, religion, or ethnicity. Campers enjoy a unique outdoor living and learning experience, with close supervision. Our motto for our youth is “Campers Today – Environmental Leaders Tomorrow”. For more information, go to Camp Wekiva. (Link: <http://www.wekivayouthcamp.org/>)

**Leaders-in-Training (LIT) Program** (Grade 9) is a bridge between being a camper and becoming a leader at FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp. Program participants are selected from returning Wekiva Campers recommended by Camp Wekiva Staff from the 8th Grade Environmental Education Program and /or the 7th /8th Grade Naturalist Program. Invitation letters are issued by the Program Coordinator to recommended participants in January each year. Participants in the LIT Program must be 15 years of age by June 1st of the year they are enrolled in the program.

LIT is one week, co-ed program preparing participants for future leadership opportunities while learning about marine environments. LIT's week begins at Wekiva Youth Camp with leadership activities all day on Monday. Early Tuesday, the LIT group leaves Wekiva for the Marine Science Station in Crystal River. Here they spend time on the water learning about Florida's marine and coastal environments while boating, swimming, and snorkeling. They continue leadership training in the evenings followed by free time on the grounds of the Marine Science Station. They return to Wekiva Youth Camp on Friday for closing ceremonies.

LIT Program participants are evaluated by the Staff at the end of the week and recommendations are made to the Camp Director for consideration as Counselors in-Training (CITs), an entry level staff

position, for the following summer. For more information, go to **Leaders-In-Training**. (Link to <http://www.wekivayouthcamp.org/leaders-in-training-grade-9/>)

**Wekiva Leadership Training** is a spring weekend orientation (February 3 – 5, 2017) for adults interested in volunteering at Camp Wekiva or learning more about Wekiva Youth Camp. The State of Florida requires all employees and volunteers at summer camp complete a Level 2 Background Screening prior to interacting with children. Adult volunteers are coordinated and scheduled by the Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman and the Critter Camp Chairman. For more information and application visit website Wekiva Youth Camp...Adult Volunteers. <http://www.wekivayouthcamp.org/adult-volunteers/>

For more information and registration forms go to [www.wekivayouthcamp.org](http://www.wekivayouthcamp.org)

Financial Assistance is available through LWRGC for financial assistance must be RECEIVED no later than January 1. Send application to FFGC Youth Programs, 917 154th St NE, Bradenton, FL 34212

Applications to FFGC for financial assistance must be RECEIVED March 1<sup>st</sup>. Send application to Wekiva Youth Camp Campership Chairman, FFGC, 1400 South Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789-5662 (Link: <http://www.wekivayouthcamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Wekiva-Youth-Camp-Sally-Rahm-Campership-Application030116.pdf>)