This first page is a quick reference page for printing.

Belle Vie Farm Summer Camp 2026 Information

Pack – Please label with your child's first and last name

- Lunch with ice pack
- 2 - 4 snacks (depending on half- or full-day attendance)
- Water bottle (best for keeping water cool are double-walled stainless)
- Sunscreen & Bug spray- **required each camp day**
- Change of clothes (at least 1)
- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Backpack or other bag to carry all belongings. Please bring one bag only. No plastic grocery bags for personal belongings, please.
- ***Water shoes for water play. No bare feet! Keens, Crocs, flip flops, etc.***

Without labels, we won't know what items belong to your child. Please take time to label lunch boxes, water bottles, snack bags, sunscreen, bug spray, towels, swimsuits, water shoes, etc. Each year, we send TONS of items to the thrift store weeks after camp ends because they are not labeled.

Drop-off/Pick Up

Drop off: 8:30am

Belle Vie Farm's Maker Studio at 3100 Damascus Church Road

This is the paved driveway next door to the farm's gravel drive. Drop-off and pick-up will be kiss-and-go style this year. Please review the attached map for instructions.

Pick-up is 12:30pm (half day) or 4:30pm (full day)

Late pick-up will receive a $25 late fee. We have had increasing difficulty with late pick-ups over the years, so **this year an automatic $25 fee invoice will be emailed to families who pick up after 12:35pm or 4:35pm for extended day.**

Emergency Contact Number

Shelley 919-360-3280

BVF
Studio
Turn into the driveway with the red arrows. Follow counselor instructions for where to drop your camper. Please do NOT park in the Studio parking lot.
DAMASCUS CHURCH RD
For families of young children who have separation anxiety, you may park at BVF, turning into the driveway shown by the blue arrow below.
Belle Vie Farm

Welcome to Belle Vie Summer Camp 2026! We are super excited you have chosen us for your child's summer camp. Below are details you will need prior to your child's summer camp week.

What should my child bring to camp?

- water bottle, snack and lunch (2-3 additional snacks if your child is registered for After Care)
- wear close-toe shoes (NO flip-flops or crocs except crocs boots except for water play) with socks and whatever he or she feels most comfortable in (shorts & t-shirt are typical). JEANS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED. Boots without socks are a nightmare for children.
- a change of clothes packed in a ziploc bag **labeled clearly with your child's first and last name**, a bathing suit & towel **labeled clearly with your child's name**, sunscreen and bug spray **labeled clearly with your child's name**.

We reapply (or prompt older campers to reapply) sunscreen and bug spray every 2 hours. **Please be sure to label your child's bottles clearly.**

Where do I drop my child off at 8:30am on camp mornings?

- Drop off is at the Belle Vie Farm's Maker Studio at 3100 Damascus Church Road.
- **Do not speed once you enter the paved driveway at the Studio.**
- **No parking in the Studio parking lot. Your child *must* be ready to exit your car once you enter the drop-off line. Make sure sun screen, bug spray, shoes, etc are already applied/on before leaving home, as we will not be able to hold up the drop off line for you to take care of these things. This can cause a dangerous vehicle back-up on Damascus Church Road.**
- Parents must sign their camper in each morning and sign them out each afternoon, and your child's counselor will provide you with the sign in/out form at your car. Please do not exit your car once you are in the pick-up line. If your child needs assistance getting into the car, counselors will help.

Early Pick-Up Protocol

If you need to pick up your camper outside of the standard pick-up time, you must text Shelley at 919-360-3280 as soon as you know early pick up will be necessary. **Additionally, please text Shelley at 919-360-3280 when you are 15 minutes from picking up**. This helps us get your camper where he/she needs to be for quick pick-up. If you are in an emergency situation, text/call Shelley when you are able. No need to prompt 15 minutes in advance.

- **Early pick-ups require advance planning**, so please help us keep things running smoothly by providing us with this information ahead of time. If you plan to pick up early but do not notify us, you will need to wait until we determine where your child's group is and send a CIT to walk with your child to the Maker Studio. Plan on a 30 minute wait. Our farm is 34 acres, and campers use the entire farm for activities.

What about poison ivy?
We've got it, so please be prepared! We teach campers what it looks like and use Dawn detergent if anyone comes in contact. We pull poison ivy as we are able, but our forest is 25 acres, so it is a daunting task!

We learned from a scientist that the **best remedy for poison ivy is Dawn Dish Detergent**. If your child or a counselor thinks there has been poison ivy contact, staff are instructed to wash the affected area with Dawn **within two hours of contact**. We have been amazed at how effective this is. If your child does get poison ivy, a light scrubbing 2-3 times per day with Dawn usually takes care of things without much ado.

My child is really shy/introverted. How do you handle this?
This is actually pretty common in summer camps. Our counselors are trained to notice quickly when a child may not be enjoying the camp day. If the cause of his unhappiness is a lack of connection with others, counselors will subtly support that child in initiating a connection and building a friendship. Most of the time, children simply need the presence of an adult as added support or they need to know what words to use to make a connection. Counselors are trained to help with this.
A note about introverts: Introversion is not a liability. It is a wonderful way of being in the world that can be celebrated. We are very cautious about making "helpful" suggestions to children that they *should* get involved in an activity. Not every child's involvement looks the same. For some children, observing others' activity *is* the involvement. Children can experience a tremendous amount of joy and connection simply by being near other children engaged in action.

My child has lots and lots of energy. How does this fit in with your camps?
Nearly every child will find a place for herself at Belle Vie Farm. Shelley has often described herself as "screaming ADHD" and was the typical child who hated school (really, really hated it!). She daydreamed, yearned to be outdoors and paid very little attention to others' ideas about what she should find interesting. She totally "gets" children who feel similarly! Belle Vie Farm, just like Wildflower School, is child-directed environment. Children are the pilots of their own summer camp aircraft! Staff at Belle Vie view our job as one of providing materials and support. Children inquire, and we help them explore and play by giving them the time, space and stuff necessary!

I don't like my child's clothes to get paint or mud on them. Is your camp still a good fit for our family?
The short answer - nope! We play in mud kitchens, acrylic painting stations and hay pretty much all day long! Dirt (and paint, clay, hay, water) happens - a lot - at Belle Vie! **Please do not send your child in clothing or shoes that you want to keep clean.** We are a messy camp!

The items your child creates at camp will be sent home. Sometimes parents balk at bringing home lots of things, but please know we are very intentional about art and maker activities. Your child's art may look to you like a big messy pile of cardboard, glue gun glue, feathers and pine cones, but please be as thrilled to see it as they were to make it!