



# SUMMER YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

# 2025 HANDBOOK



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LINCOLN LOG CABIN FOUNDATION

# WELCOME PARENTS, CAMPERS AND YOUNG ADULTS!

## Mission of Lincoln Log Cabin's Summer Youth Programs

Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site and Lincoln Log Cabin Foundation are committed to providing a safe, friendly and productive environment where youths and young adults can obtain knowledge regarding both the Lincoln family and Abraham's local friends, who had an impact on his life here in Illinois. We also want youth to experience the persistence and determination necessary for families like the Lincolns to sustain themselves on Illinois' farms in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We believe that through experiences here at Lincoln Log Cabin, the youths and young adults we serve will gain skills helping them to achieve success in their own lives.

To accomplish our mission, we provide unique summer programs suited to various aged youths and young adults including our **Pioneer Day Camps**, a 5-day immersion into the lives of rural children in the 19th century, and **Young Adult Interpreters**, a 10-week program for young adults to refine their skills in an area of particular interest to them and to participate more fully in the interpretive programs at Lincoln Log Cabin.



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## CONTACT US:

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## VISIT US ONLINE:

<http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/lincolnlogcabin/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/lincolnlogcabin/>

# GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

## How to Register

Registration for all summer youth and young adult programs is now available online at our website: <https://lincolnlogcabin.org/ed.html>. Payment can be made online via credit or debit card, or checks can be mailed to the site, made payable to Lincoln Log Cabin Foundation. All fees must be paid in full by the day of the camp. Registrations are reserved on a first come, first served basis. Scholarships may be available for those in need of financial assistance.

## Important Phone Numbers

In case of emergency, please call the Lincoln Log Cabin Visitor Center at (217) 345-1845 or (217) 345-6489. The docent will take a message and be able to locate us on the farm.

## Location

Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site is located 8 miles south of Charleston on Lincoln Hwy Rd. Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site is the last farm of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln. Their son Abraham, while he didn't live here, owned a part of the farm and visited his family often throughout his life. The historic Sargent Farm adjacent to the

Visitor Center will be the primary location for youth and YAI program activities, although camp activities may also take place in the Visitor Center, the historic Lincoln Farm, or elsewhere on the site grounds.

## Hours of Operation

Pioneer Day Camps operates from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and the YAI program operates from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. *We cannot provide supervision for children dropped off before 9 a.m. or remaining after 4 p.m.*

## Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedure

Campers and young adult interpreters must be signed in for the day under the Visitor Center portico. At the end of the day, they must be signed out by an authorized individual. Campers will *NOT* be allowed to leave with an adult who is not authorized for pick up. Please notify the camp staff immediately if a person not previously specified is to pick up your child. We can always add new adults to the list of those authorized.

## Attendance

Please call (217) 345-1845 or (217) 345-6489 by 9:00 am if you know your child will not attend camp on any scheduled day. You may leave a message or speak directly with camp staff.

## Illness

If a camper appears to be ill, complains of illness, or has an apparent fever, the parent or guardian will be contacted and will be requested to pick up the child. Any camper with a fever or possible contagious condition will be isolated in a supervised area until a parent or authorized individual arrives. Please notify the Pioneer Day Camp Director IMMEDIATELY if your child contracts a communicable disease in order that other parents may be given the necessary information.

## Medication

If your child requires daily medication, please bring the medicine on the first day of camp in the original bottle marked with your child's name, dosage schedule and amount. It will be kept in the camp director's office and the day camp staff will assist in handing out the medication. However, it is your child's responsibility to cooperate and take the medicine.

## Cancellation Policy

If your child will be unable to participate, we will make a full refund up until two weeks prior to the start date of the session being attended. Exceptions to this may be made in the case of a family death or medical emergency.

## Questions-

Please contact us at [education@lincolnlogcabin.org](mailto:education@lincolnlogcabin.org) or by calling the Lincoln Log Cabin Visitor Center at (217) 345-1845 or (217) 345-6489. The docent will forward any messages to camp staff. Thank you for your interest in Lincoln Log Cabin's summer youth and young adult programs!



# PIONEER DAY CAMP

These popular week-long programs offers children ages 8-12 the chance to enjoy age--appropriate educational and recreational activities based on the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century using tools and techniques of that time. Each camp will have a maximum of 10 participants to ensure individualized attention and learning opportunities.

The cost is \$100 per child per session, which includes appropriate clothing, the noon meal each day, and all supplies. Note: Trailblazers sessions aren't consecutive. Children can attend one, two, or all— as many as they wish!\*

**June 10—14: Trailblazers I**

**June 24—June 28: Trailblazers II**

**July 8—12: Trailblazers III**

**July 22– 26: Trailblazers IV**

*\*At this time please register for one week of camp per child, if subsequent sessions allow for additional campers we will let you know.*

Campers will get a taste of living history - cooking a noon meal, trying their hands at traditional crafts and skills, and learning all about life on the farm. (The classic program)

**On Saturday afternoon, parents and guardians are invited to see what their campers have learned and sample a mid-19th century dessert prepared by the kids. (Expect a handout with more info at the beginning of camp week.)**

## Meals

Campers will be eating a meal prepared on the farm and do not need to bring lunch. If you have concerns regarding allergies or other dietary restrictions, please share that information on the medical information section of the registration form. If you are not comfortable with your child eating this meal, please send them with a sack lunch to enjoy outside. There is no refrigeration or microwave available. Please send a reusable water bottle to use though out the duration of the camp. Please take the water bottle home each day to wash.

## Clothing

We will be providing t-shirts for campers to wear and wash daily. On Tuesday, there are bathrooms available in the upstairs area of the visitor center to change into the t-shirt. Please take the t-shirt home each day to wash for use the next day. Campers must wear jeans and closed toed shoes as we will be around fires. Please **do not** send campers with bags or additional items, including electronic devices and phones. We have sunscreen and bug spray available should they need it.



## What NOT to Bring:

The following items are not appropriate for camp and should be left at home. If you have any questions about a specific item your child wants to bring, please contact the camp director.

Electronic devices, phones, smart watches, etc

Additional bags, sunscreen, bug spray, and water are all provided by the site, no need to send them

\*\*Cell phones are not allowed on site. If your camper needs to call or you need to get a hold of your child, there are phones available on the site and a staff member can make sure to get a hold of us (217-345-1845). Typically, there is very limited cell phone service at the site.

# YOUNG ADULT INTERPRETERS

This program offers older youths (ages 13+) the opportunity to participate more fully in the interpretive programs on the farms and hone their skills in a particular area of interest to them. Participants will work closely with our adult volunteers and seasonal interpreters and are expected to engage in daily chores, such as cooking, gardening, splitting rails, mucking barns, and wheat harvesting.

Each young adult interpreter will be given the opportunity to more fully explore an aspect of 19<sup>th</sup> century life of their choosing through an ongoing craft or activity. Whether their interest is in cooking, spinning, sewing, knitting, weaving, woodworking, or gardening, they will be provided with time to hone their craft under the guidance of our skilled staff and volunteers to build confidence in sharing their knowledge with the visiting public. Occasional games or other activities will provide a break from the day-to-day activities.

This program begins in early June and lasts for approximately 10 weeks. Participants volunteer at least one day a week (Wednesday or Thursday) from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and are considered an active member of the Lincoln Log Cabin Foundation's volunteer corps.

*The cost per young adult, which includes appropriate clothing, the noon meal each day, and all supplies, is \$100 per program.*

## Activities:

- Learn the history of Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site and Abraham Lincoln's family and work life in Coles County.
- Develop the communication skills necessary to share the history of Lincoln Log Cabin and Abraham Lincoln to people who visit the historic site.
- Spend each day dressed in period attire taking part in the daily interpretive activities with a seasoned historical interpreter who guides them in interacting with the visiting public. **Please schedule a time to pick up clothing before the beginning of the program. Clothing will not be available on the first day of the program.**
- Learn period skills – quilting, embroidery or knitting, spinning, weaving, wood working, gardening, blacksmithing, or coopering (skills taught vary each year.)
- Engage in 19<sup>th</sup> century fun and recreation
- Make new friends with other young adults who share a love of historic interpretation!



## Overnighter:

Young Adult Interpreters who have actively participated in the program will be invited on a field trip just for them! After a full day exploring regional historic sites, YAIs will head back to Lincoln Log Cabin for a night of games, gabbing, and fun before heading back to school for the year.

**Orientation:** Young Adult Interpreters and a parent or guardian are **required to attend an orientation** session at the beginning of the summer where they will learn about the expectations and responsibilities of volunteer interpreters at the state historic site. Parents are only required to attend in the morning. Participating youths will spend the rest of the day reviewing the history of Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, learning interpretative skills, and developing an individual training plan to complete the process of becoming a fully independent volunteer historical interpreter at the site.

# RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

This program is designed for youth who wish to participate in the everyday experiences on an 1845 farm. You will be an interpreter, and as such must treat all visitors courteously and politely.

Part of being an interpreter is doing the work you are asked to do. If you have a problem or a question, talk to one of the adult volunteers or staff members. The adults will help you, but they won't do your job for you. All youth must be cooperative and helpful to participate in the program. Children who are not helpful and willing to contribute will be sent home.

Youth must be responsible for their actions while on the farm and for scheduling time on the farm. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will result in being sent home. The Youth Coordinator will contact your parents and you will only be allowed to return with the understanding that your behavior will be improved. If problems persist the youth will be sent home again with no option of returning.

The **Young Adult Interpreter's Program** runs from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm Wednesday through Thursday. The **Pioneer Day Camp Program** runs Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Children must be with their parent/guardian at all times until greeted by a summer program staff member. Youth should be picked up at the portico out front of the Visitor Center.

Throughout the year the site hosts special events, and YAI will be invited to participate in these as well.

Youth must stay in the historic area at all times unless they have permission to leave to use the restroom, take a break, etc. The hayloft, creek, and fishing pond are off limits except with permission, or when accompanied by an adult.

Safety precautions must be observed when handling knives, tools, fires, and cooking utensils. Be especially aware of other children, particularly younger ones, who may be nearby. Return all tools and knives to their proper place immediately after use. Remember that you may not bring knives from home, and an adult must be present whenever you use one.

Please let us know if you will not be attending our programs on the day(s) you are scheduled. You can call the site (217-345-1845) and leave a message.



# SAFETY ON THE FARMS

## Fires

Fires will be located outside in the fire pit and inside the cabin in the kitchen. Girls must be very careful with their dresses around the fires. Watch out for gusts of wind that may blow skirts into the fire. Extreme care must be taken when digging coals out of the fire in order to cook food. Girls should ALWAYS tuck their skirts between their legs whenever near the fire to prevent their skirts from blowing into the fire. Also, place lids with hot coals on the hearth (inside) or on a rock near the fire pit (outside), NOT in the grass outside.

## Kitchen Implements

Campers and YAIs will be working in the kitchens with sharp knives, pokers (forks), as well as working with heavy bake ware. These may hurt if dropped on your feet and also get very hot when put next to the fire. Remember: a hot lid looks like a cool lid. Always use a pot holder to carry ovens and lids while they are being used or after being used on the farm.

## Animals

Everyone may think animals are cute and nice, but remember, these “critters” are for farming, not for petting.

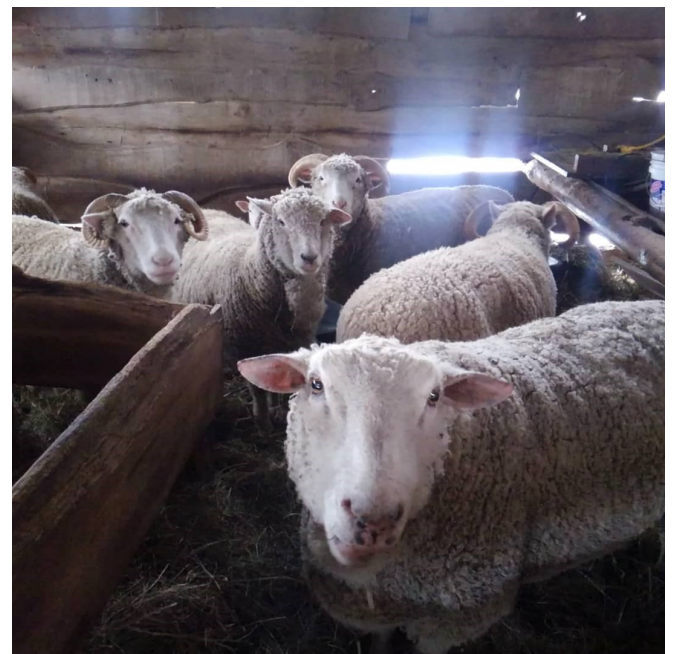
- Unless asked to do so by an adult, do not get in the pen with the pigs.
- Although sheep are generally harmless there are several things to remember around them. First, that their hooves are sharp and they weigh enough that it often hurts if they step on you. Unless asked to do so by an adult, do not get in the pasture/pen with the sheep.
- Do not chase the chickens! These animals are harmless, but please be respectful of them as well. They sometimes hiss and peck if you are trying to move them to get eggs, and their beaks are sharp. They are kept for their eggs and butchering.

**You may be asked to help feed or care for the animals. If so, listen to instructions and do as you are told.**

## Tools

Campers and YAIs will be working with axes, saws, sledge hammers and wedges, pitchforks, and various other dangerous tools. It is very easy to injure yourself or someone else. Be very careful and always listen for instructions. You will only be allowed to work with these tools with supervision.

**The most important rule to remember when it comes to farm safety is: LISTEN**



# CAMP EXPECTATIONS

Pioneer Day Camp Expectations—The mission of the Pioneer Day Camp programs is to provide exciting educational experiences that allow each child to fully understand what life was really like in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Abraham Lincoln’s family called Coles County home. With that goal, we have incorporated the following expectations for camp staff, campers and parents.



## Pioneer Day Camp Staff Responsibilities

- To provide a safe and structured environment for children
- To treat each child fairly and equally as an individual, and with respect
- To communicate openly and regularly with parents

## Camper Responsibilities

- To follow the rules for behavior in the Pioneer Day Camp Program
- To respect staff and other children
- To respect the Lincoln Log Cabin’s staff members, animals, and property
- To remain with the program staff at all times
- To participate in activities, and actively learn about life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

## Parent Responsibilities

- Dropping off/Picking up camper(s) on time
- Signing camper(s) in and out
- Sending camper(s) with necessary items
- Notifying staff of illness
- To be open to communication from staff about child’s behavior and to work with staff for an agreeable solution to any problems that might occur
- To keep the Pioneer Day Camp staff informed of phone numbers and locations where parents can be reached in emergency situations

## Behavior-

Participation in the Pioneer Day Camp is a privilege. Through rational communication with children and sensitivity to their needs, feelings and capabilities, we promote a positive system of child management based on praise, two-way discussions, gentle reminders, humor and choices offered to children. When necessary, any staff member has the right to remove a child from a group for a “time of reflection.” If a behavior problem persists, the Pioneer Day Camp Director will contact the parents/guardians to discuss the situation. At that time, a plan for improvement will be agreed upon. The parents/guardians will then be responsible for sitting down with their child (see page 10) and filling out a behavior contract, which will outline the agreed upon plan for improvement and consequences if improvement does not occur.

Both a parent/guardian and the child must then sign this contract (see page 10). The child will not be allowed to attend the program again until the behavior contract has been filled out and signed by both a parent/guardian and the child.





# COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The Pioneer Day Camp and Young Adult Interpreter programs strives to make your child's experience in our program an enjoyable time of activity and growth. Open communication among all those involved is essential to our program's development. Therefore, if you have any concerns about some aspect of our program implementation, we ask you to do one of the following:

- Speak with a Youth Program Coordinator about the situation
- Write a letter of formal complaint. Please include the following information:
  - Your name, phone number and child's name
  - Brief description of incident or concern.
  - Brief description of any action you have already taken in relation to the incident or concern.
  - What measure you suggest be taken concerning your complaint.

When a written complaint is received, it will be evaluated by the Youth Program Coordinator and Site Manager and action will be taken when deemed necessary. A response, including a summary of the evaluation and what action has been taken, will be sent to the parent.

**\*NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS\***

# BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Behavior:**

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**Plan for Improvement:**

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**Consequences if Behavior Does Not Improve:**

- \_\_\_ Immediate Suspension (Parent/Authorized Individual will be required to pick up child within 90 minutes of being notified)
  
- \_\_\_ One day suspension (following day) from program
  
- \_\_\_ Permanent suspension from program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian of  
Camper/YAI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Camper/ YAI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Programs  
Coordinator