



Canter's Cave 4-H Camp Elizabeth L. Evans  
Outdoor Education Center  
4-H Camp Handbook



## About Us:

Canter's Cave is a 4-H camp located off of Cave Road, just east of U.S. Route 35 in southern Ohio. It is situated in Jackson Township in northeastern Jackson County, which recorded a population of 32,641 in the 2000 Census. Jackson Township was admitted by county commissioners July 1, 1816, and recorded a population of 1,296 people in 2000. While no municipalities are located within the township, the closest communities to Canter's Cave include Raysville and Swiftsville, while the county seat, Jackson, is five miles to the southeast.

Situated on the east side of Little Salt Creek, a small branch of nearby Salt Creek, Canter's Cave is a pair of natural shelters. The valley of the stream running by the caves is very narrow, forming a typical "hollow" with high, precipitous walls, created through the erosion of the rock and soil, gradually lowering the streambed.

Echo Cave, the larger of the two, measures 108 feet wide and 55 feet deep at its extremes. The floor of the cave is roughly oval and drops off sharply to a spring of water. The roof of the cave, at the opening, is about 50 feet high and gradually lowers toward the back. The lower part of the cave is covered with ferns and mosses, and the water that seeps down its wall contains various mineral substances. The buildup of sand, soil and ashes inside the shelter varies from one foot thick to four feet. Several sandstone boulders have fallen from above and lie within the shelter.

The second shelter, known as Indian Cave, lays a short walk downstream from Echo Cave. It is somewhat smaller than Echo Cave but is somewhat triangular in shape and has a low, oval extension about 30 feet long, two to three feet high and eight to sixteen feet deep. Huge fragments of rock have broken away, littering the floor of the cave.

Over the centuries, prehistoric animals visited Salt Creek and Little Salt Creek, attracted by the water, shelters and extensive salt licks located along their banks. Many fossilized bones have been discovered over the years in and around the salt deposits. Tusks, grinders, ribs, vertebrae and other remains of the woolly mammoth, mastodon and other prehistoric animals have been found in the area, embedded in the mud and clay. Remains of buffalo, elk, deer, bears, panthers, wolves, wildcats, lynxes, foxes, raccoons, wild turkeys and other smaller animals have also been found in and near the caves.

Prehistoric Hopewell inhabitants, Shawnee and other modern Indians and early European pioneers all were attracted to the area, not only for the water and salt, but also for the sustenance the abundant wild game in the surrounding forests afforded them. Jackson County contains many mounds and other prehistoric human remains. Within ten miles of the county's center, 170 burial mounds, a score of camp and village-sites, several earthworks and a set of petroglyphs (rock pictures) have been found. The earliest European settlers of Jackson Township generally migrated from eastern lands in Virginia and Pennsylvania, many after travelling to Chillicothe – the first and third state capital of Ohio in adjoining Ross County.

A legend that explains how Canter's Cave was named tells about an army officer named James Canter joining former Vice President Aaron Burr in a scheme to lead a militia to invade Mexico.

As the myth goes, once federal forces dispersed the soldiers and arrested Burr, Canter wandered southern Ohio in disgrace and became a hermit and lived out the rest of his life in the cave.

Another story describes how Canter's Cave was named for John and Thomas Canter, Easterners who traded for some land in Pickaway County after the Revolution. They were turned back by government troops attending to "Indian troubles" in the area, so they waited for the trouble to pass by spending the entire winter living in the shelters. In 1816, someone predicted the world was coming to an end, and the Canters and some neighbors took refuge at the cave. While the day passed uneventfully, the cave was named after the numerous members of the Canter family who waited there that day.

Historically, the principal industries of Jackson County have been salt boiling, agriculture, coal and iron ore mining, and brick making. At first, the coal mining was done in small drift mines, and the coal was transported to blacksmith shops operating in Chillicothe. Later, most of the coal was stripped from the surface of the ground.

In the twenty years before the American Civil War, iron of sufficient quantity to make cannon were found in only three places in the world: Turkey, Spain and southern Ohio. Large furnaces were built in the early days of the county to smelt the valuable ore. The Jackson, Keystone and Buckeye Furnaces were built nearby before the area's first railroad, the Hocking and Scioto Railroad, was built in 1851 to connect the county to Portsmouth on the Ohio River. The furnaces quickly developed into communities with homes, churches, schools and company stores.

Near the turn of the century, Canter's Cave became an attraction for visitors holding picnics and staying in cabins for weekend getaways. In 1925, George N. Miller owned the land on which the Canter's Cave shelters are located, and he worked to convert the site into a pleasure resort. In the process, he discovered and donated to museums many fossils, including flint chips and animal and bird bones, including the first evidence of the Mississippi Kite in Ohio.

4-H bought Canter's Cave in 1949 and later expanded the holdings to more than 350 acres. Canter's Cave serves as the site of summer camps for 4-H programs in 10 southeastern Ohio counties: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Scioto and Vinton, as well as various statewide summer camping experiences. Most of the camp activities are held there at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center. The camp is supported by and the center is named for the family of Bob Evans, a famous restaurateur and native of the nearby city of Gallipolis. Canter's Cave also is the site of numerous other activities, such as banquets, weddings, retreats, outdoor and historical seminars, and trade fairs.

## Accreditation:

We are an American Camping Association (ACA) Accredited camping facility.

The American Camping Association (ACA) shares our camp's commitment to the growth of youth through the camp experience.



# Our Mission:

**Serving youth and adults.** The Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center provides an environment for the social and educational development of youth and adult groups through resident camping, retreats, seminars and other programs and events.

## Objectives of 4-H Camping

Why send your child to 4-H Camp?

- A. To have educational, recreational, and social experiences in outdoor living away from home.
- B. To provide opportunities to meet and learn to get along with other people by living together and participating in a camping experience.
- C. To provide opportunities for youth to learn to take responsibility for their own decisions and actions.
- D. To offer new experiences for youth by exploring new interests, or by exposing them to new approaches to old interests, such as nature, aquatics, music, and other life skills that cannot be provided as effectively outside of camp.
- E. To teach youth about citizenship and the importance of being a responsible citizen.
- F. To discover and provide opportunities for developing leadership skills.
- G. To discover special talents among campers and teen leaders and provide opportunities for developing these talents.
- H. To learn to meet individual and group responsibilities.
- I. To enrich the ongoing 4-H club program and to involve youth in unit 4-H clubs.
- J. To have fun.
- K. To be inspired to practice better 4-H club membership.

# Experience Canter's Cave 4-H Camp!

Contact Us:

## Canter's Cave 4-H Camp

1362 Caves Rd.  
Jackson, OH 45640

Phone: 740-286-4058

Fax: 740-286-8622

Email: [canterscave4hcamp@gmail.com](mailto:canterscave4hcamp@gmail.com)



Name	Position title	Phone	Email
<a href="#">Annie Warrens</a>	Camp Manager	740-286-4058	<a href="mailto:canterscave4hcamp@gmail.com">canterscave4hcamp@gmail.com</a>

Contact Your County 4-H Educator for more information about summer 4-H camping programs:

- Adams County – Kristy Watters ([watters.92@osu.edu](mailto:watters.92@osu.edu))
- Brown County – Christy Clary ([clary.42@osu.edu](mailto:clary.42@osu.edu))
- Gallia County – Erin Dailey ([dailey.108@osu.edu](mailto:dailey.108@osu.edu))
- Highland County – Kathy Bruynis ([bruynis.5@osu.edu](mailto:bruynis.5@osu.edu))
- Jackson County – Maddie Allman ([allman.68@osu.edu](mailto:allman.68@osu.edu))
- Lawrence County – Rachael Fraley ([fraley.171@osu.edu](mailto:fraley.171@osu.edu))
- Meigs County – Michelle Stumbo ([Stumbo.5@osu.edu](mailto:Stumbo.5@osu.edu))
- Pike County – Joy Bauman ([bauman.67@osu.edu](mailto:bauman.67@osu.edu))
- Scioto County – Jo Williams ([williams.2213@osu.edu](mailto:williams.2213@osu.edu))
- Vinton County – Travis West ([west.222@osu.edu](mailto:west.222@osu.edu))

Visit <https://4hcanterscave.osu.edu/home> for more information!

## Directions:

From Columbus:

Follow US Route 23 (South) from Columbus to Chillicothe. Take US Route 35 (EAST) in Chillicothe towards Jackson. After about (22) twenty two miles on US Route 35 (EAST) you will come to a green and white highway sign indicating “Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp 1 mile. Immediately turn LEFT onto Township Road #223 (Caves Road). Follow this road for approximately (1) one mile. Turn LEFT onto gravel drive at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp sign. Follow gravel road to Main Lodge located at end of gravel drive.

From Dayton:

Take US Route 35 (EAST) to Chillicothe. Follow directions listed above from Columbus.

From Cincinnati:

Take US Route 32 (EAST) to Jackson. At the intersection of US 32 and US 35, turn (WEST) onto US 35 (toward Chillicothe). Follow US 35 for approximately five (5) miles, you will come to a green and white highway sign indicating “Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp 1 mile. Immediately turn RIGHT onto Township Road #223 (Caves Road). Follow this road for approximately (1) one mile. Turn LEFT onto gravel drive at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp sign. Follow gravel road to Main Lodge located at end of gravel drive.

## Youth Camping Opportunities

Canter's Cave 4-H Camp serves 10 counties for their local 4-H Camps, several statewide 4-H camps, workshops, and much more. Our camp is open to 4-H'ers and Non-4-H'ers as well as campers from outside of our 10 counties that camp at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp. Overall, more than 2,000 4-H'ers ages 8-18 take part in our 4-H camping programs each year. So why should youth consider coming to 4-H camp? Here are just a few reasons:

- *HAVE FUN!*
- *Make new friends from surrounding across the state.*
- *Opportunities to try new things and be engaged in learning.*
- *Gain leadership and life skills.*
- *Activities such as high ropes, arts & crafts, shooting sports, canoeing and paddle boating, fishing, swimming, tie dye, campfire, rappelling, hiking, nature programs...*
- *and much more!*

# What camps are offered at Canter's Cave?

By County:

- Adams, Lawrence, & Pike County 4-H Camp (grades 3-8)
- Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Meigs, Scioto County Beginner 4-H Camp (grades 3-5)
- Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Meigs, Scioto County Junior High 4-H Camp (grades 6-8)
- Vinton County 4-H Camp (grades 3-8)
- 4-H Teen Camp (grades 9-12) (ALL COUNTIES)
- 4-H Cloverbud Overnight Camp (grades K-2) (ALL COUNTIES)  
\*Must be accompanied by an adult

State Camps held at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp:

- Special Needs 4-H Camp
- 4-H STEM Camp (grades 5-7)
- Forestry & Wildlife Camp (grades 6-8)
- Ohio 4-H Junior Shooting Sports Camp (ages 9-12)
- Ohio 4-H Senior Shooting Sports Camp (ages 12-18)

Visit <https://4hcantercave.osu.edu/home> for more information!

## What to Bring to Camp (Packing List)

**Necessary Medication (Prescription or Non-Prescription):** Must be in original labeling and turned in to the Camp Nurse upon arrival.

**Sleeping:** A sleeping bag, twin sheets, a warm blanket, and a pillow or two.

**Personal Items:** Soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush/comb, hair ties, shampoo & conditioner, bath towels, shower shoes, deodorant, bug spray, sunscreen, beach towel, shower tote/bag to carry supplies to shower, bag for dirty clothes.

**Clothing:** Comfortable outdoor clothes that can get dirty. Two pairs of comfortable closed-toe shoes (sometimes shoes get wet!), water shoes or shoes that can get wet/muddy, socks, underwear, sweatshirt/jacket for cool evenings, and a swimsuit.

- Flip flops are NOT appropriate for outdoor activities and hiking but may be worn to the pool and showers. Two-piece swimsuits are acceptable if they will not come untied during water games and swimming. No string bikinis or suits that fasten only with a tie.
- Please Note: We often tie dye at camp. Please pack an outfit that can be ruined in the case the dye gets on their clothing. Dye from tie dye cannot be removed.

**Miscellaneous Items:** A small flashlight, refillable water bottle, dirty clothes bag, drawstring bag, hat, hiking boots, rain gear, deck of cards, watch or alarm clock, and snacks in an airtight container.

## **What NOT to bring to Camp:**

NO tobacco/vaping products, alcoholic beverages, knives, firearms, other weapons, refrigerators, computer equipment, **NO cell phones**, tablets, Wi-Fi/Internet capable devices, fireworks, candles, or lighters may be brought to camp.

Please refer to the Informed Consent/Camp Program Release and Standards of Behavior for Minor Participants for more information on what not to bring and policies for non-compliance. The Camp Director may inspect or search possessions if there is a reasonable cause to suspect a camper may possess items which could cause harm.

Due to allergies: this is a **peanut-free and Bath and Body Works product-free** camp due to allergy concerns. Other items may be added to the list based on results of health forms.

## **Strongly Discouraged Items**

Lots of extra food in the cabins (this invites furry friends and critters to visit.), and anything of high value. Camp is not responsible for lost or damaged personal belongings. Please label your personal belongings. Any snacks should be stored in airtight containers.

## **Tips for Packing for Camp:**

- Include your child in the packing process! This will help them know where their stuff is when they need it.
- Pack an extra bag to place dirty or wet clothes in. This will help keep clean clothes clean and dry during camp.
- For younger campers, some parents recommend sorting outfits into gallon sized bags so campers can pull out a bag from their suitcase and have everything they'll need. Outfits will match, stay clean, and no undergarments will be forgotten when dressing in the shower room.
- Ensure to pack a backup outfit (or two) just in case.
- Be sure to pack a sweatshirt and jeans – just in case. Some activities at camp, such as high ropes and rappelling, require long pants to be worn. Some evenings and mornings, or even the air conditioning in the lodges, can be chilly!
- Don't be disappointed when items don't come home from camp or come home dirty. Send items that can get dirty or lost – it will happen.
- Label everything with your child's FULL name! If a lost item is found, that will make it easier for staff to reunite that item with your child.



# Canter's Cave 4-H Camp Policies & Procedures

## Health Concerns: COVID-19

As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Pediatricians can advise families on whether it is safe for a child to attend camp based on his or her medical history and should make sure the child is up to date on vaccines. Staff, campers, and family are encouraged to participate in low-risk activities the 14 days prior to camp arrival, and to make note of their health status for COVID-19 symptoms during this period. Staff members, counselors, or campers with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or any other COVID-19 symptoms, such as cough or shortness of breath will not attend camp. Any staff or campers who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 will not attend camp. As usual, campers or counselors who experience any signs or symptoms of illness will be seen by the camp nurse(s) for evaluation. Campers and counselors who experience COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated as a precaution and sent home as soon as possible (picked up by their family member). The Nurse will administer medications and handle any issues that may arise, including contacting you if there are any questions. Should your camper become ill or injured we will make every attempt to contact you by phone immediately. Please make sure the phone numbers you provide on your health forms are current, and please provide us with cell phone numbers and a back-up emergency contact number of another family member.

## **Photo Release:**

We take many pictures at camp so you can share in the fun back home! Photos will be shared during the camp slide show, used for publicity purposes, and posted on our Facebook page. Individuals are never identified by name in these photos and photos are pre-approved by camp directors before posting. By signing the photo release on the online health form, your child can be included in these pictures. Without it we will not be able to include your child. If you would like to see pictures during camp follow us on Facebook at "Canter's Cave 4-H Camp", <https://www.facebook.com/CanterCave>. We will post pictures of camp activities, as we are able.

Please refer to the Informed Consent/Camp Program Release and Standards of Behavior for Minor Participants for more information on what not to bring and policies for non-compliance.

\*\*Please remember that by registering for camp, the camper is agreeing to follow all camp policies and guidelines. CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: <http://go.osu.edu/cfaes.diversity>.

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