Social Story: Arriving to Upham Woods

When I arrive at Upham Woods, I will see the visitor center.

A staff member will tell me where to leave my overnight bags. Everybody will leave their stuff in the same place. My bags will be safe as I go to orientation.

If I want to know who works at Upham Woods, I can look at the “Meet our Team” page on the Upham Woods website.

I will then walk into the main building.
There are bathrooms and a water fountain on my left. I can use these right now if I need to. Other people will wait for me, so I do not need to rush.

In this area, there are 2 multi-stall bathrooms.

If I need a single-stall bathroom, I can ask an Upham Woods staff member, and they will show me where it is.
Once I am ready, I will go out the back door, take a right, and walk to the firepit. Other people are also going to the firepit, so I will not get lost.

I will wait at the fire pit until everyone in my group is at the fire pit. When everyone is there, my group’s naturalist will introduce themselves and talk about the rules.

While the naturalist is talking, I will need to listen. It might be hard, but it is important to listen because the rules at Upham Woods might be different from the rules at home or at school.

*a separate social story has the rules of Upham listed in greater detail*
Then the naturalist will talk about emergencies. If I hear the camp bell or sirens ringing, I need to go to the “central lodge”. Once we are all at the lodge, I need to stay still and quiet so that the adults can take attendance.

I do not need to be worried. This is like a fire drill at school. The adults will make sure that I am safe.

Then the naturalist will talk about the schedule. They will explain where classes or other activities meet and what I need to bring to each class like a water bottle or closed-toe shoes.

Once orientation is over, I will do the next thing on my schedule.