



fellowship
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Summer 2024
CAMPER HANDBOOK

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Our Summer Camp Program Philosophy

We believe that Camp should be a safe place where campers can explore their faith through Bible study, worship, fun, and fellowship with the supportive guidance of caring staff. The camp staff creates this safe place by building a healthy community through caring relationships. Each camper becomes a part of a family group. Usually, two cabins form a family unit -- one female and one male cabin with their cabin counselors. In these family groups, campers grow together, learn new skills, work and play, worship and pray, and live together in the Christian community.

Throughout the week, each camp family group joins in opportunities for worship, service, learning, playing, sharing, and growing through Christian fellowship and cooperation. Together, they will face challenges and overcome obstacles, learning that together they are strong and that their trust in one another reflects their faith in Christ. Each camper also becomes a part of the larger camp community by eating meals together in the dining hall, through “all-camp” programs and activities, and in “all-camp” Bible study and worship. Supported by the community of faith at camp and by the extended community of faith that includes our partner presbytery and churches and all those who support and pray for camp, each camper has the opportunity to grow and learn through a unique experience in the outdoors.



A Typical Day at Camp



A typical camp day begins before breakfast with Morning Watch, a time to focus and reflect on all that is happening around us as we give special attention to God's presence in the morning and begin exploring our theme for the day. Meal times serve as anchor points for gathering the campers and staff together during the day. Campers participate in Family Group Activities between meals, including hiking, swimming, canoeing, Bible study, worship, archery, arts and crafts, wall climbing, disc golf, GaGa Ball, and so much more! After supper, campers and staff gather together for activities such as Water Games, Talent Shows, Campfires, Storytelling, Night Hikes, Super-Secret Kitchen Raids, Skit Nights, and other "all camp" activities. The day ends with the same focus as it began - with campers and staff gathered in a time of praise and worship.

Opening Day (Sunday)

4:00-5:30 pm Arrival/Check-In
6:00-6:45 pm Dinner
7:00-8:00 pm Welcome & Worship
8:30-9:00 pm Cabin Time
10:00 pm Lights out!

Closing Day (Friday)

7:45 am Morning Watch
8:00 am Breakfast
8:45-12:00 pm Activity Block
12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Camper Departure

A Typical Daily Schedule

7:45 am Morning Watch
8:00 am Breakfast/Announcements
9:00-12:00 pm Blocks 1 & 2
12:00 pm Lunch/Mail Call
1:00 pm FOB (Rest & Relaxation)
2:00 Camp Store/Energizers
3:00-6:00 pm Blocks 3 & 4
6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Worship
7:30 pm All Camp Activity
8:00 pm Showers/Cabin Reflections
10:00 pm Lights Out!

Note: There will not be a family cookout & closing program due to health and safety policies. We ask that all family members remain in their vehicles for drop-off and pick-up.

Day Camp Camper Specifics



Day Campers will check in at 9 am with a staff member and an adult who will sign them in. Drop-off happens in front of our gym, where only campers will need to exit the car. Adults dropping off can stay in their car. Day Campers will have some free play time as everyone gets checked in. Depending on the number of day campers, the group will stay together or split up in age groups to navigate camp activities together, including hiking, swimming, canoeing, Bible study, worship, archery, arts and crafts, wall climbing, disc golf, GaGa Ball, and so much more! Day Campers will eat lunch at 11:30 am followed by a bible study time. They will have the opportunity to purchase snacks from the camp store each afternoon. Day Campers will always spend at least one activity block in the water and should be able to change in and out of swimwear independently. Before pick-up begins at 4 pm, day campers will make their way back to the gym. There they will play games, complete crafts, and build friendships. A staff member will be present to have adults sign day campers out from their car. Please be cautious driving during drop off and pick up as we have other campers onsite!

A Typical Daily Schedule

9:00 am Drop off
9:30 - 11:30 am Activity Blocks
11:30 am Lunch
12:00 pm Bible Study and Rest
12:30 pm Camp Store/Energizers
1:00 pm Activity Block (typically swimming)
3:15 pm Games and Crafts
4:00 pm Pick Up

Packing: Day campers should bring a water bottle, towel, swimsuit, sunscreen, bug spray, and change of clothes with them in a backpack they can independently carry. Please leave all electronics and valuables at home.

Note: When a day camper is dropped off, please inform the staff of any abnormal pick-up schedules and the adult who will be picking up that afternoon.



Packing for Camp



Packing for camp can be one of the biggest challenges of the week! Just as you want to pack the right things, we want to ensure campers have clothing and other items they will need when at camp.

With this in mind, we offer the following suggestions and checklist (next page) for your use when packing for camp:

- All camp participants must wear appropriate clothing for camp activities. Camp is active and sometimes extra messy. They will be asked to change if clothing distracts or hinders a camper's participation.
- Campers should be able to carry their bags and gear. We're here to help, but we want to encourage everyone to pack as resourcefully as possible – limiting the size and weight of bags, trunks, etc.
- Pack ***with*** your camper. This will ensure they know what is packed for them! • We suggest sending older clothing that can get dirty. Save the new school clothes for September!
- Laundry facilities are generally unavailable to campers, so please plan sets of interchangeable clothing based on length of stay and include extra socks, underwear, and shoes.
- **Please label ALL camper clothing, sleeping bags, and other personal items!** This helps in identifying lost clothing and other items. We cannot be responsible for lost clothing and other items, but we like to return them! (Lost and Found items are kept until the end of the summer camping season).
- **SHOES:** It is a camp policy that all participants and staff must wear appropriate shoes for the activities and terrain at camp. Appropriate shoes for most camp activities offer good support and straps around the heel/ankle. Some activities require close-toed shoes (such as tennis shoes). Specialty camps may require special shoes/boots. Participants in our off-site hiking camps need good, sturdy hiking boots that have been broken in ***PRIOR*** to coming to camp. Flip-flops are ***only*** acceptable for use when utilizing the bathhouses. Some campers prefer to wear “water shoes” in the lake.
- **SWIMWEAR:** Swimsuits will be worn during physical activity, so they should be properly fitted and secure for the camper. Campers with unsafe and unnecessary skin exposure may be asked to change or add a layer for their protection and safety.
- **BEDDING:** Most campers will stay in our rustic, open-air summer cabins containing bunk beds with single mattresses. Please pack a sleeping bag, sheets and blankets, and a pillow.
- **TOILETRIES & TOWELS:** Please pack all necessary toiletries (deodorant, soap, toothbrush, etc.), washcloths, and towels.
- **MEDICATIONS:** Please pack all medications (prescription and over-the-counter) in a zip-loc bag in their original containers. These will need to be “checked in” during registration. Again, ***ALL medications should be in their original packaging.*** We keep common OTC medications in the office, and they are only administered by a Director, with approval by the guardian.

Recommended Packing List

BEDDING

- _____ pillow
- _____ sheets and/or sleeping bag

RAIN GEAR

- _____ poncho or raincoat

CLOTHING

- _____ shorts
- _____ jeans
- _____ sweatpants
- _____ t-shirts
- _____ long-sleeved shirt (recommended)
- _____ underwear
- _____ hat
- _____ socks
- _____ sleepwear

FOOTWEAR

- _____ water shoes
- _____ sneakers
- _____ shower shoes (flip-flops, etc.)
- _____ sandal w/ heel strap

SWIMMING/Water Activities

- _____ appropriate swimwear
- _____ beach towel
- _____ sunscreen

TOILETRIES

- _____ toiletry bag for carrying to the bathhouse
- _____ shampoo
- _____ soap
- _____ brush or comb
- _____ toothbrush
- _____ toothpaste
- _____ deodorant
- _____ washcloths
- _____ bath towels
- _____ feminine sanitary products(as needed)
- _____ prescription medications(in original containers)

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR COMFORT & FUN

- _____ flashlight (especially for Night Owls)
- _____ extra batteries
- _____ insect repellent
- _____ laundry bag
- _____ Bible
- _____ notebook
- _____ pencils
- _____ stationary
- _____ stamps for campers to send mail
- _____ small electric/battery-operated fan
- _____ disposable camera
- _____ book to read
- _____ backpack with TWO sturdy straps
- _____ money for “canteen” & camp store
- _____ water bottle

PLEASE DO NOT PACK THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Food, electronics (including **cell phones**, iPods, iPads, computers, electronic games, radios, etc.), candy, weapons, tobacco, illegal drugs, fireworks, firearms, family heirlooms, etc. If any of these items are discovered at camp, they will be confiscated and kept securely in the office. They will be returned to the adult picking up the camper during check out. Any questions or concerns about the do not pack list may be sent to the Assistant Director, katie@campfellowship.org

General Information

CAMPER ADDRESS / MAIL

Mail is the highlight of every camper's day. Please make your letters cheerful, expressing your interest in what is happening at camp. Hopefully, "mail" doesn't say things like "your goldfish died & we're leaving for Brazil." Please send mail two weeks before camp to ensure that mail is received on time. Or - *Save a Stamp!* Write letters before camp and leave them at the Registration table to be delivered daily. Be sure the **CAMPER NAME** and **SESSION** are noted! We will attempt to forward mail received after the camper has left camp.

Please address mail as follows:

Camper Name & Session
c/o Camp Fellowship
457 Camp Fellowship Rd
Waterloo, SC 29384

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special occasions at camp! Please alert the Associate Director if your camper will celebrate their birthday during their camp session. Our Food Service will typically provide a sheet cake or other appropriate dessert at dinner on the night of your camper's birthday to be shared with the entire camp. Please contact the Director to make arrangements if you would like to provide a special cake or other items.

CAMP LIFE – Modified Small Group De-Centralized Camping

Small Group camping provides training through the give and take of community living. With adult guidance, each camper has a part in deciding on and carrying out the particulars of the camp program. Each family group is made up of two small groups (one male group and one female group, as a general rule). The group chooses activities based on interest and counselor guidance. Activities may include canoeing, swimming, arts & crafts, hiking, nature walks, sailing, tubing, orienteering, etc. These activities, plus meals & rest time, provide the framework for each group's daily routine. Each day, all groups gather and share in some common activities. High Adventure and some specialty camps will involve offsite location activities. All activities are provided at a developmentally appropriate and progression-aware level.

CAMP PHONE CALLS

Generally, campers will NOT be able to make or receive phone calls. If there is a problem at camp, the Director will contact you. In the event of an emergency at home, please call the camp office. Be prepared to leave a message for the staff, and your call will be returned as soon as possible. In an Emergency, contact the Director's cell phone at (864) 396-0582.

Policies, Procedures, & Generally Accepted Camp Practices

CANCELLATIONS / REFUND POLICY

We offer the following cancellation/refund guidance should it become necessary to cancel your camp registration. Please contact the Executive Director (kevin@campfellowship.org) if necessary, as we consider cancellations on a case-by-case basis.

- A full refund (less \$125 administration/deposit fee) is available if canceled **45 business days** or more prior to the start date of your camp week.
- A 50% refund (less \$125 administration/deposit fee) if canceled between **30 and 44 business days** prior to your camp week.
- **No refund** if canceled within 30 business days of the opening day of your camp week.

Exceptions:

- If we cancel a camp for any reason, we will refund you fully.
- Special consideration will be given to extenuating circumstances such as death in the immediate family or hospitalization of camper or *immediate* family member. Please contact the registrar or director for more information.

NOTE: An *immediate* family member is a family member living in the same household as the camper. Generally, parents/guardians and siblings are considered immediate family members.

FOOD - PLEASE DO NOT SEND FOOD, CANDY, OR GUM TO CAMP

Due to food allergies and other dietary restrictions, we prefer that our dining services provide all food. Meals at camp are nutritionally balanced and prepared by qualified, experienced staff. Dessert is served daily, and snacks are provided to each camper. Food in cabins attracts mice and other (larger) wildlife. Campers can purchase additional snacks, drinks, and other items from the Pavilion Canteen/Camp Store. Please contact the director if you have food allergy/dietary concerns or other concerns related to this Food Policy.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health, safety, and well-being of our campers are the highest priority of the Camp Fellowship staff. CPR & First Aid trained staff members supervise all activities. Medical facilities are located near the camp. Staff members are provided information on nearby medical facilities when on off-site trips. Certified lifeguards supervise all swimming and boating activities while on and off-site. Campers are **required** to wear life jackets while boating, tubing, and rafting (both on and off-site). On the day of Camper Registration, campers will pass a health screening. This includes a temperature check, lice check, and questions regarding injuries, allergies, and any recent illnesses.

Before the first scheduled swimming block, campers will be encouraged to complete a swimming skills check to assess swimming ability. Any camper not completing the swim skills check must stay in the shallow end of the swimming area and/or wear a life jacket while participating in water-based activities. We aim to minimize risk with careful attention to safety procedures while offering a fun and challenging outdoor program.

INSURANCE Please provide a copy of **both sides** of your insurance card on or before opening day registration. In case of an accident or illness, we must provide the hospital or treatment facility with a copy of **BOTH SIDES** of your insurance card.

LOST & FOUND

Please label your camper's medicines, clothing, and other personal belongings. If something is lost during the camp week, please notify us immediately! We will attempt to locate items left behind but cannot guarantee retrieval or replacement of lost personal belongings. **We are not responsible for items lost during summer camp! Lost items found at camp will be kept until the end of the summer camping season.** If it is necessary to return lost items by mail, we will ask to be reimbursed for postage.

HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is a natural feeling that many campers experience. Usually, the feeling passes in a couple of days, and the camper enjoys the rest of the session. If a camper becomes homesick, the staff and other campers are supportive and helpful in overcoming these feelings. Parents and friends can write cheerful letters of support and encouragement to help them enjoy their stay at camp. Avoid writing about stressful events at home; concentrate on questions about camp activities, buddies, food, and weather. We encourage you to send mail before the camper arrives (or bring a letter to check in) so they will get letters at the beginning of the session. Since talking with parents directly on the phone may increase a camper's homesickness, the camp procedure for handling homesickness **does not** ordinarily include a phone call between parent and camper. If you receive homesick letters, please realize the feelings your camper had when the letter was written have probably passed by the time you receive the letter. If homesickness continues for an extended period, the Director or Associate Director will notify you by phone. If you are concerned about the communication you receive from your camper, please contact the Director or Assistant Director.

+SPECIAL MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND ALLERGIES +

Medical Considerations Please communicate with the Director and Assistant Director about any special medical considerations, including allergies. ALL special medical considerations must also be noted on the Health Form and communicated during the health screening at registration.

Allergies & Dietary Needs Dietary restrictions (allergies, etc.) should be noted on the Health Form and discussed with the Director or Associate Director at least one week before opening day to allow for any special ordering and preparation.

OUR STAFF

Summer camp staff is comprised of young adults, generally from 17-25 years of age. These young adults are committed Christians who love the outdoors, organized camping, and ministry with children. All staff members are thoroughly screened, including an application and interview process, a criminal background check, and reference checks. Staff members are oriented to their work through a rigorous training period that includes child developmental theory, Christian education theory, First Aid/CPR certification or health/emergency management review, safety and risk management, basic counseling skills, and worship leadership, among many other topics. Staff members employed by the Camp year-round are also present during the summer programs.

ROOMMATES/CABIN MATES

It is recognized that campers may wish to share a room or be in the same cabin with a specific friend while at camp. We also acknowledge and affirm an important part of the camp experience is making new friends and developing community within the group of campers each week.

Each camper may request one cabin mate for each week at camp. We can honor requests but sometimes must decide based on available housing, program, age, and other factors. ***We do not guarantee placement when multiple roommates have been requested or when campers from one church or area request a "chain" of roommates.*** Siblings are generally placed in separate cabins so both can grow and share independently.

SPENDING MONEY/ CAMP STORE

Campers have the opportunity to visit our camp store and canteen each day. A number of items, including t-shirts, water bottles, and other camp gear, are available. Generally, no extra money is needed during the camp week. Snacks will be provided to all campers. *Additional snacks, however, may be purchased from the canteen/camp store.* The Camp Store will be open during the week as staffing allows.

General Arrival/Departure Procedures

OPENING DAY SCHEDULE

Upon arrival on site, please follow the signs to the registration area. Please stay in your vehicle as staff greet you and direct you and your camper through the registration process. The staff member assigned to check in your camper will greet you at your vehicle. Any and all paperwork will be exchanged, as well as medication, camper mail, and final payments. Everyone present in the car will have their temperature checked. If anyone in the vehicle has a temperature of 100.4 F or higher, the camper cannot stay. Your camper(s) will go through an additional health screening during this time. After the health screening, the staff will then unload your camper's belongings. Please say your goodbyes in your car. Families are invited and encouraged to help their camper get acquainted but are also reminded to use discretion in this process if an extended "goodbye" might trigger early homesickness.

Opening Day (Sunday)

4:00-5:00 pm Arrival/Check-In

6:00-6:45 pm Dinner

7:00-7:45 pm Welcome & Worship

7:45-8:00 pm Evening Snacks

8:30-9:00 pm Cabin Time

10:00 pm Lights out!

CLOSING DAY SCHEDULE

Upon arrival on site, please follow the signs to the check-out area. Please stay in your vehicle as staff greet you and direct you through the check-out process. The staff member assigned to check out your camper will greet you at your vehicle. Your camper's belongings will be placed in your vehicle for you.

Closing Day (Friday)

7:45 am Morning Watch

8:00 am Breakfast

8:45-12:00 pm Activity Block

12:00 pm Closing & Camper Lunch

1:00 pm Camper Departure