



2022 OVERNIGHT CAMP PARENT PACKET



*As an expression of God's love, Ferncliff welcomes people into a
life of caring for Creation, others, and themselves.*

*Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center
1720 Ferncliff Road
Little Rock, AR 72223
501-821-3063
jocelyn@ferncliff.org*

CONTACTING FERNCLIFF

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We are available throughout the year and during the summer.

Website: www.ferncliff.org

Office phone: 501-821-3063

Email: Jocelyn Wildhack, Camp Director & Chaplain; jocelyn@ferncliff.org

Cell phone: 501-772-8590 (Please call Associate Director Emily Hooker on this number with any emergencies or for any questions/concerns after 4:00pm)

PROGRAM GOALS

Ferncliff's **mission statement** is "As an expression of God's love, Ferncliff welcomes people into a life of caring for Creation, others, and themselves."

After a week of camp, campers of all ages at Ferncliff will:

- Expand their independence
- Strengthen their sense of identity
- Develop interpersonal skills
- Interact with creation
- Explore their Christian faith

PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Upon registration, a \$50 deposit is required with each Day Camp registration. The \$50 deposit is nonrefundable; however, any other payments made towards your registration are fully refundable **up to two weeks before the camp session start date**. Within two weeks of the camp session start date, **no refunds will be issued if you must cancel your registration**.

Final payment of your camp balance is due **two weeks prior to each camp session**. You can pay your balance in installments and can view your balance at any time by logging into your account.

In the event that Ferncliff must cancel a camp session, families can choose to have their payments donated to Ferncliff or fully/partially refunded.

GENERAL OVERNIGHT CAMP FAQs

What is Ferncliff's mission?

"As an expression of God's love, Ferncliff welcomes people into a life of caring for Creation, others, and themselves."

We're not Presbyterian. Can my child still attend Overnight Camp?

Of course! Campers come from many different faiths, including some who do not have a faith tradition. Our summer staff members are all Christian, but not all are Presbyterian, either. We only ask that all campers participate in the Bible studies and worships that are part of all our camps.

Can my child's friend be in the same group as my child?

Yes. While making new friends is an important part of the camp experience, in the registration process you will be asked if you have a buddy request. You can put in one friend's name and they can put your child's name on their registration form. We do not put larger groups together because it can put others in the group at a disadvantage; we do not want situations where, for instance, a single camper is put with a group of five campers who are already close friends.

When do Overnight Camp sessions begin and end?

Our overnight camp sessions begin on Sundays and end on Fridays. Check-in is from 4:00pm-5:00pm on Sundays. Pick-up is from 4:00-5:00pm on Fridays.

Drop off and pickup times will be strictly enforced due to other staff duties in opening and closing camp sessions.

What else do I need to know about check-in and pick-up?

Prior to check-in time, staff members are busy preparing for campers, so we ask that all campers arrive during the scheduled times. Please arrive within the hour-long check-in window. Please remain in your vehicle when you check in or pick up your camper.

On Sundays, follow signs and camp staff to check-in campers, drop-off luggage, hand over any medication, and conduct a wellness check. On Fridays, enter at the same location and follow signs to sign out and pick up your camper and your camper's luggage.

When dropping off and picking up your child, please stay on camp roads and obey the camp speed limit, which is 10 miles per hour. Be aware of any animals, pedestrians, or bike riders as you drive through camp.

Where will my overnight camper stay?

Your child will be in a cabin with campers of the same gender and approximate age. Our [Belden Pond cabins](#) have air conditioning, bunk beds, showers, and toilets.

Do you have medical staff on duty?

Yes. We have a registered nurse on call at all times. In addition, all of our staff are trained and certified in First Aid and CPR.

What's the camper-to-counselor ratio?

Our groups follow the counselor-to-camper ratios of the American Camp Association - 1:6 for campers ages 6-8, 1:8 for overnight campers ages 9-14, and 1:10 for ages 15-18. There will be one to two staff members with each group. All campers in a group will be the same approximate age, usually within a couple of grades. Most family groups are co-ed, though occasionally, a family group may be comprised of all female campers and counselors or all male campers and counselors.

What should my camper bring, and what should my camper leave at home?

See the packing list!

What if my camper loses or forgets items at camp?

We collect any items we find each week in a Lost and Found tub. If you arrive home and realize something is missing, give us a call and let us know! We keep lost and found items for two weeks before donating them to a local shelter.

Please be aware that Ferncliff is not responsible for any items that are lost or damaged while at camp. Campers are also responsible for keeping up with their own items. As noted on the packing list, do not send anything with your camper that is irreplaceable or would be devastating to get dirty.

How can I stay in touch with my overnight camper?

Campers love receiving mail from home! We deliver mail each day after lunch. You can send good old-fashioned snail mail addressed to your camper to the camp address. Our address is:

1720 Ferncliff Road
Little Rock, AR 72223

You may also opt to purchase credits through your UltraCamp account to send one-way emails to your camper. When you drop your child off at camp, you will be given information about this one-way email service.

Care packages are a nice treat for campers, but please do not send any food to your camper. We provide snacks multiple times a day, and our policy is to keep all food out of cabins. We also take all precautions to be as nut-free a site as possible due to nut allergies every week, and that is difficult to regulate with additional snacks coming in. If you do send food or snacks to your camper, the Camp Director will hold onto it until pickup on Friday.

We do not allow campers to make or receive phone calls, or carry cell phones. If you are concerned about your camper, feel free to give us a call or email and we will check on your child.

In addition, our summer staff will take photos of campers to post on our photo website. You will receive the access information to this secure website upon registration or drop-off. Viewing photos is a great way to check up on your child and see what they're doing throughout the week!

Can you accommodate campers with special dietary needs?

We can usually accommodate the most common dietary restrictions, including allergies. Let us know about dietary needs in advance when registering or by calling us before your child comes to camp. In addition, please indicate dietary needs on the health form. Parents of campers with allergies or dietary restrictions may bring 'safe' food for their child to be kept in the dining hall for meal times, if approved in advance.

Can you accommodate campers with special needs?

Our counselors generally are not trained with the specific skills required to work with children with special needs. In some instances, exceptions can be made after we consult with the child's parents and the child's doctors. Please do not send a child with special needs to camp without first consulting us.

Is financial assistance available?

Ferncliff has some limited campership funds reserved to help children of single parents or from low-income families. Many Presbyterian churches also provide assistance. A campership application can be found through our website, or you can call us for more information.

GENERAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Children are to be kept home or will be sent home if they have any of the symptoms or illnesses listed below:

- Sudden and severe change in behavior
- Fever of over 100.4 degrees
- 2 or more instances of diarrhea
- 2 or more instances of vomiting in 24 hours
- Mouth sores or rash with fever
- Pink eye (not yet treated with drops)
- Head lice
- Active tuberculosis
- Impetigo (not yet treated)
- Strep throat (until 24 hours after antibiotic has started)
- Chicken pox

- Rubella, pertussis, mumps, or measles
- Hepatitis A

If your child is home sick, or has to miss camp for any other reason, please notify a director by email or phone call.

Staff will be monitoring children throughout the week. If any child comes down with a contagious or infectious illness or is unable to participate in the typical routine of the day, they will be isolated and their parent or caregiver will be notified and asked to pick them up.

All staff are certified in CPR/First Aid. Any child who is injured will be cared for by the staff and/or camp nurse up to their abilities. More severe injuries may need to be treated off site. Parents will be notified by phone call and/or an incident report for all injuries depending on the severity of the injury.

Medication will be given to children only with signed parental permission which includes date, type, drug name, time, and dosage. It must be in the original container, not have an expired date, and be labeled with the child's name. Aspirin, ibuprofen, or acetaminophen may be provided by the facility if parental permission has been granted. These medications will be in the original container.

Children with special health care needs who require scheduled daily medications and/or emergency medications should have a care plan. A care plan will be created with a director and parent to include parameters, directions, and symptoms for needing the medications. A medication log will be kept and will include the time, date, dosage administered, and the initials of the staff who gave the medication.

There will be no refund of registration fees given for camp days missed due to illness. As a licensed child care provider, we are required to follow all health department guidelines.

COVID-19 HEALTH & WELLNESS

PLEASE NOTE: Ferncliff's policies and procedures related to COVID-19 are subject to change given the changing nature of the pandemic. We are following and will continue to follow guidance and directives from the Arkansas Department of Health. As updates and new information are released, we will keep updated information about our policies and what this will look like at camp at www.ferncliff.org/camp-COVID19-policies. Prior to your week of camp, we will send out detailed policies and procedures for your camp week.

We will be guided by our licensing specialist and the Arkansas Department of Health on notifying families, advising quarantining and testing, and program cancellation procedures if we have a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 within our program at any time.

If a child or staff member in a group is potentially or confirmed positive, that group may be required to head home/quarantine and the site would be sanitized. Depending on exposure, the entire site may be closed for a time, as determined by the health department.

Families/staff will be required to notify the camp if they are potentially/confirmed positive with COVID-19.

In the event of closing or campers being asked to stay home because they are sick, we will not reimburse registration fees.

CAMPER BEHAVIOR POLICY

Ferncliff staff members are trained to look for appropriate behavior and reinforce campers with praise and encouragement when they are behaving well. They will remind the campers of the rules on a daily basis using clear positive language, telling the campers how they are expected to behave rather than what they are not supposed to do.

Our staff are taught to “choose their battles” and to not overreact to trivial instances of inappropriate behavior, focusing instead on correcting bigger problems and praising what campers are doing right.

If necessary, our staff will use brief separation or a “time out” from the group or activity when the camper does not respond to verbal cues to behave properly. After a brief separation staff will make sure to let the camper know how they are supposed to behave and welcome the camper back to the group or activity.

The staff is trained to never:

- Lose their temper
- Spank, hit or grab roughly
- Yell at campers
- Use verbal abuse, profanity or derogatory remarks
- Humiliate the camper
- Use a sarcastic tone

Please contact the Ferncliff office and speak with a director if you find or hear that the above stated behavior guidance policy is not being followed by our staff.