



Summer Resident Camp Parent Guide

What can I expect for my camper?

Counselors who truly care for every camper in their group, positive outdoor experiences, small group devotions and camp-wide worship experiences, crazy games, strong friendships, songs, campfires, new challenges, growth opportunities, and traditional camp activities. We encourage parents to get to know their camper's counselor on opening day. Our entire staff is committed not only to giving your camper a positive and fun experience, but a safe one where they can learn and grow. We desire for all who come to camp to leave with a greater understanding and appreciation for God, for themselves, and for one another.

Camper Check-In

Sundays (3:00PM-4:00 PM)

Registration takes place on the opening day of your selected camp, Sunday afternoons from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Arriving between the designated times will allow our staff to give you the attention needed with no disruption to our programs.

Things to Bring for Check-In

- Balance Due in the form of cash, check, money order, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover
- Camp Store deposit
- Any prescribed medication(s) in their original containers with proper labels. These will be kept by the camp's health professional to be given out at proper time with the exception of inhalers and epi-pens. Inhalers and epi-pens will be with your camper's counselor so your camper can have fast access if needed.

Camper Check-Out

Fridays (5:00PM – 6:00PM)

We will have a large group worship beginning at 4:30PM on Fridays. This will be a great opportunity to come and worship with us at camp and experience something similar to what your camper has been doing all week. Once our worship experience is over you may check-out your camper and gather belongings, this typically starts at 5:00PM. All campers must be check out by 6:00PM.

Family Pets

We understand that many campers are excited to reunite with their beloved pets after a week of camp. However, please refrain from bringing any family pets to Check-In or Check-Out days. There are a lot of unfamiliar distractions for them as well as unfamiliar people. Pets are not allowed at camp Riverside. **Please leave pets at home.**

Camper Medications

Camper medication will be collected during Check-In to be secured in the health center during your child's stay at camp. Prescription medication needs to be in the original bottle with the proper label. Please provide only the amount for your child's stay at camp plus two doses. Medication will be administered per doctors instructions printed on the bottle. We stock most common over the counter medication similar to Advil, Benadryl, etc. Campers prescribed with inhalers and epi-pens will be allowed to have 24 hour access to them.

What to Bring to Camp

Campers will be outdoors for large parts of the day, and should bring attire suited for that environment.

- Clothes (enough for their entire stay): long pants, long-sleeve and short-sleeved shirts, shorts, socks, undergarments,
- Hat
- Sleepwear
- Toiletries
- Towels
- Sunscreen & bug spray
- Modest swimsuit(s)
- Sleeping bag/bed linens & pillow
- Tennis shoes (closed toed shoes)
- Sandals for pool and shower time
- **WATER BOTTLE**
- A Bible
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Flashlight
- Disposable camera
- Prescribed medications
- Self-addressed stamp envelopes
- Note pad and pens

Please note:

Modest swimwear for ladies: 1 piece swimwear, for gentlemen: board short style swimwear

All clothing should be modest and styled for activity, ladies: wide tank top straps and longer, modest shorts, gentlemen: no sagging shorts or pants

What NOT to Bring

- Cell phones – see below
- Drugs and alcohol
- Expensive electronics
- Weapons of any kind
- iPods, MP3 players
- CD players
- TV's
- Video games
- Food of any kind
- Cash
- Personal sports equipment

Riverside is not responsible for the damage or theft of any items brought to camp.

Cell Phones

Campers are not allowed to bring cell phones to camp. **If your camper is found with a cell phone, we will confiscate it until Friday at check-out.** We know that in today's culture many of our campers and parents stay in daily communication via cell phones. We also understand the trust that you are placing in us by allowing your camper to come to camp without their cell phone, and want to make sure you understand why we have this policy. We believe that there is a very real value in your camper spending a week unplugged and disconnected from their digital lives. We believe that taking time off from our phones, computers, social media, video games, etc. can open up the space in our minds and hearts to hear and feel God at work. If there were any situations regarding your camper while at camp that you need to be made aware of (medical issues, severe homesickness, etc.) we will call you. If you need to reach your child immediately because of an emergency at home, please call the camp office at 863-675-0334. Thank you for trusting us with your camper.

Camp Discipline

Acceptable camp behavior will be reviewed with all campers before the first night of camp, and all are expected to behave in accordance to these guidelines. Counselors and staff will set the tone in their behavior and speech. If discipline issues arise the counselor will ask the camper to sit out of various activities, and if issues continue they will be dealt with by the director. If problems persist, the camper may be sent home. Physical altercations will result in immediate dismissal. Only the camp director has the authority to send campers home. **Campers sent home early for behavioral issues do not warrant a refund of fees.**

Camp Store

Campers will have an opportunity to visit the camp store each evening as well as several times throughout the week during their day. Items sold in the camp store include snacks – salty and sweet, sodas, water, sports drinks, t-shirts and memorabilia. Snacks and drinks will range in price from 50¢ - \$2 per item. T-shirts and memorabilia will range from \$2 - \$20 per item. We recommend \$20-\$30 per camp session for the week to cover camper snacks. For safety reasons, **campers will not be allowed to use cash during the week**; instead parents and guardians should deposit money through online registration or during camper check-in on Sunday. Campers will be encouraged to spend down their accounts throughout the week as unspent funds will not be returned at the end of the week. Unspent funds will be added to our camper scholarship fund. The camp store will also be open during check-in and check-out. This is a great time to get camp memorabilia and spend down any remaining amounts on camper accounts.

How can I contact my Camper?

Mail from home is always a great surprise for campers, as well as a good deterrent for homesickness.

Send mail for your camper to:

Camper's Name
c/o Riverside Camp & Retreat Center
7305 County Rd 78
Fort Denaud, FL 33935