

# New Parent Orientation FAQ Sheet

## Camp History

- Whippoorwill Farm Day Camp was started in the summer of 1972 by Sidney Wooten a school teacher. 47 years later, we are now serving over 1600 campers a summer.
- Sidney retired in 2008 and Shanelle Lambert-Rauh took over as Executive Camp Director.
- Shanelle has been with the camp for 14 years. She is an American Camp Association Standards Visitor and the Professional Development Chair for our local region. She attends multiple camp conferences and workshops a year.

## What to Bring

- Campers must wear shoes at all times unless swimming in the pool or pond.
- We have found that old tennis shoes work best for creek shoes, but any type of sandal or water shoe will work. We do not recommend flip flops or crocs as those tend to break easily.
- Campers who want to ponyride or rock climb/rappel must have closed toed shoes and socks.
- Towels are not necessary and tend to get lost. The sun is an excellent source to dry campers off.
- Campers will need a lunch every day. Please consider using an insulated lunch box with ice pack to protect food from being out all day. All belongings will stay at campers Dens throughout the day so they will not be carrying them around.
- Teepee and Teepee Elders (rising 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) do not need a lunch on Wednesday. We will have our weekly cookout on this day. Campers will know the menu on Tuesday.
- Please apply sunscreen and bug spray to your camper before they arrive at camp. We will help re-apply sunscreen at lunch time.
- We ask that all electronics including cell phones, iPods, cameras etc. are kept at home. We try to make the bus ride fun and exciting so that campers do not feel they need music.
- A full packing list can be found in our Parent Handbook on our website.

## Daily Schedule

- Campers arrive on camp property between 8:45-9:00 am. Busses depart promptly at 4:00 pm
- We will have 4-5 activity periods each day for campers. All activities are offered at least twice a day, every day. There will be plenty of opportunity for campers to participate in the activities they want to.
- Camp will provide an afternoon snack every day for all campers. The nurse will verify any food allergies before we hand out snacks. Snacks typically rotate between Popsicle, rice krispie treat or fruit snacks.
- Check the website a week before your session to learn what the camp theme is for the week your camper is attending. This web page will tell you if any special guests are visiting camp and if your camper needs anything extra for the week. You will also receive a weekly newsletter on Monday of your session.

## Activities

- Log Cabin and Teepee and Teepee Elder campers will get the opportunity to use one of our climbing walls. We have a brand new 20-foot climbing wall and a 40-foot climbing/rappelling wall. Bear Cub campers do not participate in climbing activities.
- A swim test is required for all ages at both the pond and the pool each week. Once the lifeguard can assess the campers swimming ability, it is charted and kept on record for the remaining week.
- All campers, no matter the age will wear a life vest when swimming in the pond. Bear Cub campers do not get to swim in the pond. They do have daily swimming time in the pool.
- Tie-Dye is an activity that occurs every Thursday for all ages. Campers do need to provide their own 100% cotton white t-shirt or pillow case if they want to participate. Whippoorwill T-shirts can be purchased on property for \$5 during the week.
- We offer a “Build-an-Animal” program for all ages on Thursday and Friday. Campers can purchase a stuffed animal for \$12 during the week and then “build” their animal as an activity.
- We have very strict camper-to-counselor ratios for all activity areas.
  - Bear Cubs: 6:1
  - Log Cabin: 8:1
  - Teepee and Teepee Elders: 10:1

## Transportation

- All bus drivers are certified Williamson or Davidson County School Bus drivers.
- There will be 2-5 counselors on every bus to supervise and provide entertainment.
- Camp Whippoorwill has zero tolerance for bullying and will send a camper home if they are caught being violent or bullying another camper.
- Please arrive to your bus stop 5-10 minutes early. The times listed on the website are the times the bus departs. They keep to a very strict schedule and cannot wait on late campers.
- Parents or guardians will need to walk campers to the bus and check them in for the morning drop off and walk to the bus and check them out in the afternoon. ID is required.
- If your camper will be going home with a friend or someone other than a parent, please send a note with your camper in the AM or email the camp office so we are aware.
- Please make any bus changes (ie. Different stop than registered) at least one week in advance. Changes made after this one week deadline will incur a \$15 administrator fee.

**Please visit our website for more great information.**

**Check out our parent handbook with pictures and lots of useful information.**