

Health policies

Although we are driven by a strong philosophical desire to accommodate all youth, Camp Quest Smoky Mountains (CQSM) is a small nonprofit. Thus, factors of supervision ratios, host camp facilities, financial resources, available medical support, and other practical considerations may limit our ability to accommodate all potential campers. If you have any doubts about whether CQSM can accommodate your camper's needs, please reach out to campdirector@cqsmokymountains.com. If needed, we will ask you to complete a medical and/or behavioral needs assessment to help us make the determination.

During camp, a trained first responder and/or a licensed clinician will be on site to administer basic first aid and/or contact emergency services (within 30 min of the camp location) as needed.

Online health history policy

As part of CQSM online registration, parents/guardians must complete, to the best of their ability and knowledge, a series of informational entries that reflect the camper's current health status. After completing this online form, parents/guardians may provide updates up to and including the date of check-in.

Camper physical policy

The CQSM "Camper Physical" form (or a physician's version that meets all CQSM requirements) must be completed (dated/stamped/signed) for each camper by a qualified physician, i.e., doctor of medicine (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO). The camper physical must be dated within 12 months of the start of camp. CQSM reserves the right to deny camper entry if their camper physical form is missing, lacks required entries, or contains negative recommendations made by the physician.

Prescription drug policy

The camper physical form contains a block in which all prescription medications requiring administration during the camping period must be listed. The original prescriptions must have been issued by a healthcare provider with bona fide prescriptive authority, per National Institutes of Health [guidelines](#). All prescriptions listed on the camper physical form **must be provided** at check-in. CQSM reserves the right to deny camper entry if one or more of the listed prescriptions are not provided during check-in.

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If the parent/guardian feels the need to allow their camper to take a “break” from their prescription medication(s) during camp, then the decision must be made with the concurrence of the physician who signs the camper physical. Hence, the prescription will either be annotated with a note from the physician that indicates the discretionary allowance, or optimally, the medication will not be listed at all. Similarly, during check-in, no prescription medications that are **not** on the signed list will be accepted.

Immunization policy

Camp Quest Smoky Mountains (CQSM) requires that all campers have all current age-based immunizations per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [guidelines](#). It may be helpful to request the camper’s current list of immunizations during the same office visit in which they obtain their camper physical.

A medical exemption is allowed when a child has a medical condition that prevents them from receiving a vaccine. Many state and federal government social programs allow nonmedical exemptions for religious or philosophical reasons. However, Camp Quest accepts **only** qualified medical exemptions, signed by licensed MDs and DOs. CQSM reserves the right to deny camper entry if one or more of the recommended age-based immunizations are not current per the physician dated/signed/stamped form provided during check-in.

COVID-19 policy

During online registration, the parent/guardian of the minor camper must attest via digital signature that they are aware of the risks associated with overnight camping and the possibility of contracting and/or transmitting COVID-19. This acknowledgment will knowingly, voluntarily, irrevocably, and forever **release, waive, and discharge** (and covenant not to sue) CQSM and/or Camp Quest, Inc. from any and all liability of any nature related to COVID-19 that may arise from the minor camper’s participation at the CQSM camp. During check-in, parents must supply negative (PCR) COVID-19 test results as of 3 days prior to arrival at camp. If these results are not available, CQSM reserves the right to administer a COVID-19 rapid test at the point of entry. If the results are positive and/or the camp staff suspect that the potential camper may have COVID-19, CQSM reserves the right to deny camper entry.

Other requirements

During online registration, the parent/guardian of the minor camper must attest via digital signature that they understand, concur, and will abide by the following ancillary promises:

Current as of 1/29/2023

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I will complete the online health history thoroughly and truthfully and will provide authentic and legitimate camper physical, immunization, and prescription drug forms per the policies outlined above.

I will not bring a child with a positive COVID-19 test or suspected COVID-19 infection to CQSM.

If there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection within my household within 10 days prior to camp, I will not bring my child to camp, unless all household members have tested negative (by PCR) for COVID-19 as of 3 days prior to arrival.

I agree to alert CQSM staff immediately of any signs of COVID-19 infection that occur within my household during the camping session and for the 10 days following its conclusion.

I authorize CQSM staff to test my child for COVID-19 or to seek testing elsewhere at their discretion during the camping session.

If my camper tests positive for COVID-19, or if the camping session is forced to end early due to COVID-19 infections, I will pick up my camper within 12 hours.

I or another adult authorized for pickup will be available via one of the contact methods listed on the online camper registration form throughout the week of camp.