

Elevate Summer Camp Parent Guide - Grades 3-5

SUMMER CAMP OFFICE HOURS

June 18-August 11, 2017
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday - Office Closed
Sunday - 1:30 - 6:30 PM

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Closed Saturday and Sunday
218-575-2240
www.shamineau.org

We look forward to having you join us at Camp Shamineau this summer! This parent guide contains information that you need to know to prepare your child for summer camp. Feel free to contact us in the camp office during our regular office hours if you have any questions.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK - We want to hear from parents of campers and even campers themselves as they are a great resource of how we are doing and how we can better serve you in the future. Please call or write us with any concerns, questions or ideas on how to improve.

WHAT TIME IS CHECK IN?

4:00 - 5:00 PM Arrive at Camp and check in

Follow the signs for parking. Campers will be given their cabin assignments in the parking lot unless there is a balance on their account.

Go to the gym ONLY if you need:

- To pay your camp bill if necessary
- To drop off mail or packages for your camper.
- To turn in all your medications (prescription and over-the-counter) to the nurse.

5:00 PM - Campers say goodbye to parents and begin their camp tour

5:30 PM - Supper for campers

WHAT TIME IS CHECK OUT?

Optional Activities for families and those picking up campers. Reservations NOT necessary for these activities.

- 11:00 AM - Meet the directors and camp tour - meet by the gym
- 12:00 PM - Free Lunch in our Dining Hall
- 12:45 PM - Closing chapel

2:00 PM Pack up and head for home!

Campers' luggage will be at the gym, sorted by cabins. **Campers will only be released to someone listed on their registration forms as an approved person to pick up the child.** If you are not personally picking up your child at camp or at the bus, make sure that you have listed the person picking up your child on your child's record. We will not release your child to someone not listed on their record as an approved pick up person. **PARENTS WHO ARE PICKING UP THEIR CHILD MUST ALSO BE LISTED ON THE FORM.**

LATE ARRIVAL AT CHECK IN

If you do not think you will make it to camp by the end of check-in (5:00 PM) please notify the camp office.

EARLY DEPARTURE

We do realize that due to schedule conflicts a child might need to be picked up from camp earlier than the usual check out time. However, we would ask as a general rule that you do not check out your camper early unless it is absolutely necessary. On Friday mornings campers are still on a regular schedule finishing up their skills classes for the week as well as getting ready to leave. The camp staff is also busy preparing all the details that go into the last day of camp and getting campers ready to leave. If your child needs to be picked up before the scheduled check out time, please contact the camp office at least 2 days ahead of time. Thank you for your consideration.

WHEN IS THE BALANCE DUE ON MY CAMPER'S ACCOUNT

Your balance is due 2 weeks prior to your camp session.

OPTIONS:

- 1). Log In to your camper's account and pay online.
- 2). You can call the camp office and pay with a credit card over the phone.
- 3). You can mail a check to our office: PO Box 244, Motley, MN 56466.

HOW DO I PUT SPENDING MONEY IN MY CHILD'S ACCOUNT?

CAMP STORE MONEY NEEDS TO BE DEPOSITED PRIOR TO YOUR CAMP SESSION. CAMP STORE DEPOSITS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT CHECK IN. This helps us make sure we have an accurate accounting of all camp store money.

Using the Camp Store Spending Account IS NOT required. Campers are free to keep their own spending money for the week. Spending money can be deposited when you register your camper or added at a later date prior to your arrival at camp. **You will not be able to add money to your child's camp store account once their camp week has begun.**

- Deposit money only in whole dollar amounts.
- Campers can withdraw money daily from their account during their free time. Unspent money will be returned to the campers at the end of the week.

HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY DOES MY CAMPER NEED?

A typical amount of spending money would be \$20-\$40. The Gift/Snack Shoppe is open during check in and check out for you to purchase items such as t-shirts or sweatshirts for your camper. It is also open each day during Free Time for snacks and drinks and for campers to purchase camp souvenirs. It features postcards, t-shirts (from \$10-\$15) sweatshirts (from \$25-\$40) and much more! Optional free time activities with an extra fee are: Horse Trail Rides - for campers who have completed grades 3-5 (\$5), Crafts (free-\$5) Leather Shop (Most are Free but a bigger leather project can be up to \$20), wakeboarding or tubing during free time - \$1-\$3. An offering is also received each week.

GETTING TO CAMP

Directions to Camp - 2345 Ridge Rd, Motley, MN. Camp Shamineau is located about an hour north of St Cloud (just south of Motley) on Highway 10. Watch for the "Camp Shamineau" or "Ridge Road" signs at mile marker 120. Camp Shamineau is 1 1/2 miles east of Highway 10 on Ridge Road. You can also log into your account and click on "Additional Options" to get Driving Directions.

SEVERE WEATHER

With summertime always comes the possibility of severe weather. Our directors monitor the weather constantly during any weather alerts, and the Morrison County Sheriff's department is always in direct contact with us at those times as well. Counselors are trained in procedures of safety in case of severe weather and we have a number of buildings on site with basements that campers are sent to.

"HOW TO" ONLINE

The easiest way to make any changes to your camper's reservation is to go online and log into their account.

1. To add care package or skills class go into your camper's account. Click on their reservation. Go to the Options item in their registration and click on "Edit". Make the changes you desire.
2. To add spending money to their Camp Store account go into your camper's account. Click on their reservation. Click on the Additional Options tab at the top of the page and then click on Camp Store.
3. To add a cabin mate go into their account. Click on their reservation and then click on Additional Information - cabin mates. Cabins are assigned 10 days prior to arrival so do not make any buddy changes after that time without calling the camp office.
4. To add an approved pickup person go into your camper's account. Click on Pickup Authorization and make your changes.

I DON'T KNOW MY USER NAME AND PASSWORD. NOW WHAT DO I DO?

Your username is typically the email address you used with your registration. (Even if you registered with a paper form.) DO NOT create a new record with new usernames and passwords as you will end up with duplicate accounts and that is very confusing! Log in with your username email address and request a password reminder or new password. If you are having difficulty logging in, please call our office.

To cancel your child's registration please call the camp office.

HOW MANY CAMPERS WILL BE IN THE CABIN WITH MY CHILD? HOW MANY COUNSELORS?

Camper/Staff Ratio

Children are placed in cabin groups of 8-12 campers with 2 counselors to each cabin. Along with these counselors our support staff - made up of wranglers, lifeguards, program staff and kitchen crew - are assigned to a cabin as a "cabin friend" and participate with the campers in many activities throughout the week.

Cabin Assignments

Cabin assignments are made 10 days before camp and are not released until check in time. This enables us to grant most requests for cabin mates. If your camper is part of a large group of friends that need to be split into 2 we may contact parents to figure out the best way to do that. Do not make Cabin Mate changes online beginning 10 days prior to your camp session. If you have any Cabin Mate changes to make 3-10 days before your camp session, call our office. We cannot guarantee placement of any last minute cabinmate changes.

Staff Selection and Training

All staff are chosen on the basis of their personal commitment to Jesus Christ, maturity, character and love for kids. Staff attend a minimum of a week-long training session and are regularly evaluated. If you like you can check out our Summer Staff Application with its extensive questions in the "Forms" section of our website. Interviews, references and background checks are part of our hiring process.

PHOTO GALLERY, VIDEO OF YOUR CAMPER'S WEEK

Video of your camper's week at camp will be available to download on your electronic device. After the camp session you will receive an email with a link to that week's video for you to access. During each camp session our photographer takes a great photo of each cabin group. **These cabin pictures will be available by logging into your child's account, clicking on "Additional Options" and then click on "Photo Gallery".**

CARE PACKAGES

Shamaineau Care Packages are an easy way for your child to receive a midweek treat. A Care Package contains items handy for camp, snacks and Shamaineau souvenirs. They can be purchased for \$20. You can order these items with your registration or add them at check in and they will be delivered to your child early in the week.

WHAT IS THE ROPES COURSE SKILLS CLASS?

In this class campers learn teamwork and leadership skills through experience on the Low Ropes Course, High Ropes Course (25 ft up in the trees) and the Rock Climbing Wall. Campers meet for an hour daily and can progress from Beginner to Advanced levels as they learn different climbing techniques and practice on the elements. There is a \$35 fee for this class and it will be the camper's skills class for the week.

WHAT IS THE HORSEMANSHIP SKILLS CLASS?

The Horsemanship Skills class is for campers who want to spend some "horse time" each day. The class will include group lessons as well as horse care. Campers will be grouped according to their experience (previous horse experience not necessary!) The class will meet each morning for about an hour and it will be the camper's skills class for the week.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE?

Campers are introduced to the other skills class options on Monday morning. Each day they will sign up for a skills class and may work in the same area all week or switch to other class options as they desire. Classes offered often include: riflery, outdoor survival, archery, shotguns, nature center, canoeing, skateboarding, arts and crafts, swimming, wakeboarding, sailing, outdoor cooking and music. Availability varies by week and age. There is no extra charge for these classes.

WATERFRONT

Our waterfront has a dock system that divides the shallow part of the swim area from the deeper part. All campers are allowed to swim in the shallow areas and those who wish to swim in the deeper sections will be individually tested. Certified lifeguards supervise all swimmers. All campers can use the Blob or watercrafts (kayaks, paddleboats, canoes) as lifejackets are required for these activities. Lifejackets are provided by Camp Shamaineau for all necessary activities.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD GETS HOMESICK?

Preventing homesickness starts at home with you! Homesickness is an affliction that can affect a child's camping experience. Once at camp we do our best to help campers work through the feelings, but here are some suggestions that can make things easier for your child.

- Send your child with a good friend. Good supportive friends are a great prevention.
- Discuss what camp will be like. Talk about the fun activities, and the adventure of it all.
- Plan an overnight for your child before camp. This will help you evaluate if your child is ready for camp.
- Write them often while they are at camp. Keep your letters cheerful!
- If your child is significantly struggling with homesickness a staff member will call you to discuss the situation.

HOW DO YOU HANDLE MY CHILD'S HEALTH NEEDS?

We take every precaution to ensure the health and safety of each camper. Your child's health is our nurses' main concern. Campers are welcome to see them at any time. We want to keep campers healthy and happy so they can have a great week of camp! Should your child require off-camp care, every attempt will be made to contact you first.

- **Each camper is required to submit the completed medical information form.** If you register online this form is part of your registration process. If you use the paper registration you will need to fill out the paper form.
- A well equipped Health Center is located on site and staffed by medical personnel. We do have "over the counter" meds in stock.
- Clinics and emergency room care are located within 12 miles of camp and many of our staff are Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders.
- Camp Shamineau carries secondary medical coverage on campers. Medical bills resulting from injury while at camp must first be submitted to the camper's personal medical insurer.
- If you have specific concerns or care instructions, please send those to us in writing.

Medications

When packing, have all medications in a zipper locking bag clearly marked with the camper's name. **Please bring meds in original containers.** All medication (prescriptions, vitamins, over the counter medications, etc) must be turned in to the nurse during check in and will be administered as scheduled. Medications will be returned to campers prior to departure. Campers with inhalers should bring two, one to keep in their cabin and one to leave with the Camp Nurse. Bring an anaphylactic kit for severe allergies.

Special Dietary Needs

We often have campers with special dietary needs and our Food Service works to accommodate them as much as possible. Parents of campers with serious food allergies or dietary concerns are asked to call camp to discuss the menu with the Food Service Director 2 weeks prior to their child's camp date. Special dietary items needed by your camper will be kept in the camp kitchen.

Poison Ivy

Let your campers know that Poison Ivy grows abundantly in our area. Help them learn to identify it and encourage them to stay on well-traveled paths. Campers should always wash well after being in areas of possible poison ivy contact or use an alcohol-based waterless hand sanitizer. This will neutralize the oils on the skin.

HOW DO I CONTACT MY CAMPER DURING THE WEEK?

Phones

At Camp Shamineau campers are only permitted to make or receive phone calls in emergency situations. Campers will also not be allowed to keep cell phones. Parents are requested to call for campers only in the case of an emergency. After 5:00 PM an answering machine will provide an emergency number. A Camp Shamineau staff member will answer this phone after hours. This after-hours phone is for emergencies only.

Visitors

Due to the brief stay the campers have at camp there are no scheduled visiting days during the week. For security purposes visitors are not encouraged.

Camper Emails!

Email access to your camper will be available through our website. Emails will be printed off each morning at 9:00 AM and delivered to campers during mail call. Due to system constraints campers will not be able to respond to your emails and the office staff will not be able to reply to emails directed to your camper. We also would request that you don't send multiple emails each day. With 300-350 campers here each week we just don't have the staffing to print off hundreds of emails each day. Keep your emails positive and encouraging as that will help keep your camper from feeling homesick.

Mail/Packages

Campers love to receive letters and packages while at camp. If you are sending mail or a package be sure to allow at least 3-4 days for the mail to arrive.

Address your mail: Camp Shamineau
 Camper's Name
 PO Box 244
 Motley, MN 56466

For letters or packages going through the US Post Office please use our PO Box number, NOT the street address. We pick up our mail each morning at the post office and they prefer our box number.

If you are sending a package through FedEx or UPS you will need to use our location address: 2345 Ridge Rd.

Many parents bring their camper packages and letters with them when they drop their camper off at camp. We will keep your camper's letters and packages in our office and deliver them during the week. Be sure they are well marked with your child's name and drop them off at check in.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO PACK FOR CAMP?

Bringing what your child needs can help to ensure a good camp experience. **Remember to mark all clothing and gear with the camper's name using nametags or permanent ink.** Keep in mind that no laundry service is available.

When it comes to clothing, pack items that are modest. To us this means that swimwear adequately covers a camper's body, pants stay up, and we don't see their underwear. All girls should pack a one-piece swimsuit or modest tankini since most camp water activities are very active. Clothing that advertises alcohol or tobacco products is not allowed. If you don't think something will be right for camp, you should leave it at home. If a camper is wearing something that is inappropriate camp staff will ask them to change.

LOST AND FOUND

IMPORTANT - Mark all items with your child's full name with permanent ink. All items are discarded after 10 days. It is your responsibility to call camp and give us a detailed description of your lost items. If the reported items are found, we will call to make arrangements for your payment of the packing and shipping costs. Any towels, socks, undergarments, pillows, toiletries and wet or foul smelling items will be discarded immediately.

DO NOT BRING

Excessive snacks, music devices, cell phones, electronic games, immodest clothing, weapons of any kind, fireworks, expensive items/clothing, drones. If they are brought they may be collected, stored, and if appropriate, returned at the end of the week. Camp Shamineau is not responsible for lost, broken or stolen items brought by campers.

Be sure to pack typical camp clothes - the kind you could afford to lose and don't mind getting really dirty!

Due to the active nature of camp, all campers must have at least one pair of athletic/tennis shoes.

Campers planning to ride horses must wear long pants with boots or lace-tied shoes. Please make sure your bag for dirty clothes is marked "DIRTY CLOTHES" and labeled with your child's name so it is not mistaken for trash.

- Jeans/Shorts
- Water Bottle
- Swimsuits (for girls - one-piece or modest tankini only, for boys - no speedos)
- T-shirts
- Sweatshirt/Jacket
- Pajamas/underwear/socks
- Boots or hard sole shoes if riding horses (riding boots not necessary, athletic shoes ok)
- Athletic/running Shoes
- Dirty Clothes Bag
- Sleeping Bag/Pillow/ OR Bedding that will fit a bunk or twin size bed
- Towels/Toiletries
- Bible/Notebook/Pens
- Stamps/Envelopes/Postcards for letters home
- Optional items: camera, fishing equipment, sun block, flashlight, bug spray (Counselors will not be responsible to apply sunscreen or bug spray to your camper.)

CAMP ACCREDITATION

Shamaineau Ministries is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America, but campers of all beliefs and denominations are welcome. Christ and a personal relationship with Him are the core beliefs communicated.

Camp Shamaineau is accredited by CCCA, Christian Camp and Conference Association. Key staff members have certifications within their area of expertise. Many of our staff are Emergency Medical Technicians, certified First Responders and Fire Fighters.

Typical Schedule

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| 8:00am | Breakfast |
| 8:30 | Cabin Clean Up |
| 9:00 | Skills Classes |
| 10:00 | Group Activity, Ballfield Games |
| 12:00pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 | Amphitheatre - mail call, announcements |
| 1:30 | Rest Time |
| 2:00 | Free Time- waterfront, snack shop, open gym, zip line, trail rides, beach, climbing wall |
| 3:30 | Bible Exploration - Devotions with your cabin |
| 5:00 | Supper |
| 6:30 | Chapel |
| 8:30 | Evening Activity |
| 10:30 | Lights Out |