



## **CAMP DICKENSON**

### **2024 GUIDE FOR OVERNIGHT CAMPERS**

We are thrilled and thankful to receive your registration for camp! We are looking forward to your arrival and the exciting week we will have together.

**PLEASE READ** through this guide. It will answer many of your questions, as well as help you and your camper prepare for a wonderful week at camp.

**Please make sure your Registration Confirmation receipt is correct.** If you find an error or have any questions about your registration, please call the Camp Dickenson office at **(276) 744-7241, M-F 9 am – 1 pm.**

**Your CAMPER HEALTH FORM, AUTHORIZATION/CONSENT FORM, and CAMPER PROFILE FORM are attached to your registration confirmation email. You must bring these completed and signed forms to camp check-in.**

### **SESSIONS BEGIN AND END**

Full-week sessions at Camp Dickenson begin on **Sunday** with a **4:00 pm** check-in.

Full-week sessions end **on Friday** with a **10 am pick-up.**

*Thank you for honoring these times!*

#### **EXCEPTIONS:**

- **Discovery Camp – ½ week (Sunday start)** begins **Sunday** with a **4:00 pm** check-in and ends **Tuesday** with a **4:00 pm** pick-up.
- **Discovery Camp – ½ week (Wednesday start)** begins **Wednesday** with a **10:00 am** check-in and ends **Friday** with a **10:00 am** pick-up.

Please Note: If any special protocols for camp operations are needed, including check-in and pick-up, these will be posted on our website: [www.campdickenson.com](http://www.campdickenson.com).

## **WHAT TO BRING**

*Please note: it is important to label all items to ensure they return home with your camper.*

- Shorts
- T-Shirts
- Underwear
- Socks
- Sleep Wear (PJ's)
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (or Jacket)
- Rain Jacket/Poncho (camp continues rain or shine)
- Swimsuit (one piece or tankini for girls)
- Towels (at least 2)
- Sturdy Shoes (closed-toed)
- Water Shoes for river or creek (no open backs)
- Day Pack/Book Bag
- Sleeping Bag/Pillow (or twin bedding)
- Wash Cloth
- Soap and Shampoo
- Toothbrush/Paste
- Other toiletries
- Bag for dirty clothes
- Bible
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent (lotion or mist)
- Water Bottle
- Flashlight
- Post Cards/Stamps

## **THINGS YOU WON'T NEED**

Camp is a special time away. Some of the things needed at home are not necessary at camp. In fact, there are a few items to leave at home:

- Money, cell phones, radios or other music players, electronic games, pets, food, and items of significant value.
- Tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, fireworks, firearms, and weapons of any kind are prohibited at camp.
- Camp has a modest approach to our expectation of camp attire. We ask campers not to bring clothing with alcohol, drug, tobacco, or sexually suggestive slogans or logos. Halter tops, tube tops, backless shirts, sheer clothing, mini-shorts or skirts, exposed midriffs, and exposed underwear do not align with camp expectations.

Personal sporting gear brought to camp for specialized camping activities must be inspected by camp recreational personnel prior to use, must be clearly labeled, and is the camper's responsibility.

Camp provides great entertainment, meals, and snacks, and each camper will receive a shirt and a link to all pictures and videos taken during their week.

## **HEALTH CARE AND YOUR CAMPER**

Please complete the Camper Health Form in its entirety. Complete and bring a printed form with you to **check-in**. The camper health form is attached to your registration confirmation email.

## **HEALTH CARE AT CAMP**

A Camper Health Assessment is part of our check-In procedure that includes checking camper temperatures, discussing recent sicknesses or exposures, and going over the camper Health Form. All medications will be received and logged by camp personnel during check-In.

Daily dispensing of prescribed medications, basic first aid, and health monitoring are provided while at camp. Families will be notified if your camper vomits, displays any COVID-19 symptoms, has a persistent condition (i.e. headache, nosebleed, fever, homesickness), or needs to be taken to the doctor or emergency room.

As stated in the Health Form, please make sure **all prescription and non-prescription medications are in their original containers and clearly labeled with the camper's name and dosages. Pill organizers and unlabeled bottles are not allowed.** Dosage instructions are strictly adhered to unless alternate written/signed Physician's orders are provided.

Special dietary needs should be noted in the camper Health Form. We can accommodate most dietary needs and/or allergies. Contact the camp office at (276) 744-7241 or email office@campdickenson.com at least two weeks ahead of your camp session to allow time to address concerns.

### **PRE-CAMP HEALTH CONCERNS**

In order to protect your camper and the greater camp community from illness, it is important that each camper is healthy when they arrive at camp. Use the following guidelines as you assess your camper's health prior to camp. If your child's health keeps them from attending their session, every attempt will be made to reschedule them into another session once their health returns or risk of COVID-19 has passed.

Has your camper:

- Had any of the following signs / symptoms today or within the past two weeks?;
  - Cough..... Yes No
  - Temperature over 100°F..... Yes No
  - Congestion or runny nose..... Yes No
  - Fever or chills..... Yes No
  - Difficulty breathing..... Yes No
  - Fatigue..... Yes No
  - Nausea or diarrhea..... Yes No
  - Loss of taste or smell..... Yes No

If you checked "yes" to any of these questions, your camper will not be allowed to attend camp for two weeks (exception: symptom related to diagnosed ongoing medical issue; please document on Health Form). Please contact the Camp Dickenson office at (276) 744-7241 to discuss the possibility of rescheduling.

**Each of these questions along with temperature check will be a part of the camp check-in process.**

### **LIFE AT CAMP Dickenson**

Summer camp provides a unique developmental opportunity for young people. Away from their regular routine and removed from the distractions of everyday life, campers are presented with wonderful opportunities to grow in the great outdoors. At camp, campers become part of an intentional, God-centered community. Campers gain new insights into who they are and how they relate to others. Research shows that children who attend camp become more independent, grow in self-confidence, and develop important social skills.

The heart of Camp Dickenson's intention during each week of camp is to **"Share the Love of Christ in the Glory of God's creation."**

Our goal is for each camper to have:

- An active and fun week of camp.
- A Christian community that inspires campers to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

- A wide range of camp opportunities and activities to meet the variety of needs and interests of our diverse campers.
- A well-trained and loving staff focused on the needs of campers.
- A healthy and safe camp environment.

**We have one “RULE” at Camp Dickenson:**

*“We are in the Build Them Up Business, Not the Tear Them Down Business.”*

- *We want to Build up:*
  - *Ourselves*
  - *Our Neighbors*
  - *Our Environment*

Camp Dickenson has a variety of housing options for campers, all of which include air-conditioning. All cabins include bathroom accommodations. Campers will stay in appropriate accommodations with the corresponding staff-to-camper ratio staying with them. The Camp Dickenson Schedule offers structure and routine in a camper’s day, with more fun and excitement around every corner.

**CAMP ACTIVITIES**

Camp Dickenson campers choose their camp activities for the daily activity time blocks (**NOTE: Discovery Camp has a preset schedule of activities for campers**). During the registration process, you should have selected your camper’s TOP 8 activity choices from the list below. If you did not complete this on-line form, please do so before your camp session. If you are unable to complete this form online, please call the camp office at (276) 744-7241 to select your activities.

Grades 3-6

*(Younger & Older Elementary Camps)*

- Climbing Wall/Zip Line (5th & 6th grade only)
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Golf
- Fishing
- Crafts
- Biking (on-site)
- Broomball
- Slingshot
- Tubing
- Creek Walk
- Frisbee Golf
- Nature Scavenger Hunt
- Slip 'N Slide
- Archery

Grades 7-12

*(Younger & Older Youth Camps, Staff Training Camp)*

- Crafts
- Biking (on-site)
- Broomball
- Canoeing
- Vertical Play Pen
- Frisbee Golf
- Hatchet Throwing
- Slip 'N Slide
- Archery
- Intro To Kayaking (in the pool)
- Pamper Pole (10-12th graders only)
- Climbing Wall/Zip Line
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Golf
- Fishing

All campers do Swimming, Hiking, Field Games, Dancing, 4-Square, Horseshoe, Cornhole, 9-Square, GaGa Ball, and Group Initiative Games. Please note that there are more activities than can possibly be

completed in a session of camp. Time, availability, and weather are all factors affecting the actual camp activity experience.

More details can be found in the 2024 Camp Dickenson brochure or on our website: [www.campdickenson.com](http://www.campdickenson.com).

### **Photos and Videos of each Camp Session**

Each week, hundreds of pictures and videos are taken of campers participating in activities and programs at camp. The compiled photos and videos will be available for download at no charge. A link will be shared at the end of each week to view photos and videos from the week.

### **WHILE YOUR CAMPER IS AT CAMP**

While camp is an uplifting experience in many ways, it can also be a difficult time for campers and parents, particularly in a first-time camp experience. The following can help both camper and parent:

- In your conversations with your child prior to camp, be positive, displaying confidence and enthusiasm about the trip to camp.
- Please help your child know that camp is not a phone-friendly place and that calls are generally made only when there are problems.
- Please be in prayer every day for your camper and the camp staff during the camp session.
- It is quite normal to miss your child.
- The camp activities are FUN and active. Your camper's day is filled with activity.
- You will be called if there is a problem at camp.
- Camp Dickenson staff takes homesickness very seriously and is experienced in helping children deal with their uneasy feelings. Calls from home are often counterproductive, but staff will have conversations with parents if these feelings persist.

Living in close community with one another, all campers are expected to be kind and caring towards each other. Language and actions which are abusive towards others will not be tolerated. Parents, please prepare your child for these expectations. Parents will be notified if there are persistent behavioral concerns. Remember, "WE ARE IN THE BUILD THEM UP BUSINESS, NOT THE TEAR THEM DOWN BUSINESS." It is a great guide to live by every day.

### **MAIL**

Receiving mail from home can be a real joy for your camper. Remember to send mail early so it arrives while your camper is still at camp. Mail can be sent to:

Camper's First and Last Name  
Camp Dickenson  
801 Camp Dickenson Lane  
Fries, VA, 24330

Consider preparing some self-addressed, stamped postcards for your camper to bring to camp and send home. Writing home can be fun and help campers stay connected with home while at camp.

## **A FINAL WORD**

We are looking forward to having your child at camp. We expect great blessings all around. Should you have questions, please give us a call at (276) 744-7241 or email [office@campdickenson.com](mailto:office@campdickenson.com).

## **DIRECTIONS TO CAMP DICKENSON**

801 Camp Dickenson Lane

Fries, VA, 24330

(If you have any problems finding us, please call (276) 744-7241.

Please use these directions and map. Note: many online directions and GPS services will take you different ways.

### **From I-77**

Take exit 14 (Hillsville) off Interstate 77.

Take US-221 S/US-58 W/Carrollton Pike toward Galax VA.

Continue to follow US-221 S/US-58 W for 13.1 miles. You will stay on this 4-lane highway all the way through the town of Galax.

Take a right onto VA-94 N/Riverside Dr.

Stay on Riverside Dr/94 for 2.4 miles then turn right onto Lime Kiln Road/State Route 638.

Continue on Lime Kiln Rd/State Route 638 until you see a large white Camp Dickenson sign.

Turn right onto Camp Dickenson Ln. Continue about a mile into camp.

### **From I-81**

Take exit 80 to Fort Chiswell, then turn right off the exit if coming from Wytheville. Take Fort Chiswell Rd/US-52 S (go about 1 mile).

Turn right onto Ivanhoe Rd/VA-94. You should see Fort Chiswell High School on the left just on the other side of the traffic light.

Stay on Ivanhoe Rd/VA-94 for 19.3 miles.

Continue to follow VA-94 for 3.4 mi out of town. You will see a Camp Dickenson sign on your left.

Turn left onto Lime Kiln Rd/ Route 638. Continue for 1.3 miles.

Turn left onto Camp Dickenson Ln. Continue about 1 mile into camp.