



Parent Information Guide Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake *"Changing Lives Since 1925"*

The staff of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake is delighted that you have selected our camp. We have been providing wonderful Christian camping adventures since 1925. Camp Westminster staff and facilities are some of the finest in the country, and we are proud and excited about the programs that we will be providing this summer. To help insure a great camp experience, please look over the information contained in this guide. If there are questions, please contact the camp office at 313-341-8969, or info@campwestminster.com

Program Philosophy

Our principles for living and learning are centered on our Christian beliefs, based on the Bible. We strive to glorify God in our activities while having FUN. We treat each camper as a valuable and capable person of God. We focus on cooperation and teamwork in activities and games. We provide challenges in the context of safety and trust, to help campers grow beyond their perceived limitations. We encourage persons to learn from their experiences and to be responsible about their choices and behavior.

Questions and Answers:

Should I send mail?

Yes. Please do send mail, including messages of support and encouragement. Because camp is short, you might want to send letters a few days prior to your camper's departure to camp. These can then be delivered early in the week. Address mail to:

Camper Name, Camp Westminster, 116 Westminster Dr, Roscommon, MI 48653

Does my camper need spending money?

Before camp, a deposit of any amount may be given toward your camper's "store account". Each day, campers are allowed to purchase one snack item and one beverage at the camp store. Souvenirs and clothing items are also available for purchase, and include t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, blankets, and various other non-food items. Prices range from \$1 to approximately \$40. The amount of the store deposit is up to you, and many parents give their children the opportunity to earn this money on their own. Unused store money will be donated to the campership fund. If the amount leftover is greater than \$5, you may request a refund by mail in the fall.

If my camper must cancel, will I get a refund?

The deposit of \$100.00 is non-refundable. If a cancellation is received at least 15 days before the session begins or is made for medical reasons, all fees above the \$100.00 will be refunded. Fees paid may be transferred to another session, if space is available. **The deposit for bus fare cannot be refunded** because the number and size of buses chartered is based on reservations received.

How is the health of my camper cared for?

A health history is required for every camper and a health screening is done upon arrival at camp. A certified Health Officer is on staff and Camp Westminster has a well-equipped health center that includes a dispensary and sick bay. Arrangements have also been made with physicians at the Northpoint Clinic in Roscommon, and Mercy Hospital in Grayling, for consultation and emergency service. The State of Michigan requires camps to have the Health History and Examination Form, signed by parents, on file for each camper in camp. Any time a camper is referred for medical attention outside camp or is restricted from normal program participation for more than 24 hours, parents will be contacted and informed. Parents will be responsible for all costs incurred on behalf of the child for medical treatment and/or hospitalization resulting from any illness or for the deductible cost of an accident occurring while the child is attending Camp Westminster or traveling to and from camp.

Medications your child will need during camp must be sent in their original containers, clearly labeled with dosage instructions. All medications must be given to a member of the camp staff at check-in, and will be dispensed by the camp health officer as instructed.

What if my camper gets homesick?

Homesickness is common and natural when a person is separated from a familiar environment. Our staff is taught how to help a camper who gets homesick. Most affected campers get over their homesickness quickly. We do not allow campers to call home. However, with cases that are not quickly resolved, the director will be in touch with parents. Parents can help by writing friendly and encouraging letters; not promising that the camper can come home if homesick. In some situations a parent may receive a letter that is upsetting long after the problem has been resolved. Please, always feel free to call and talk with the Camp Director if there are any questions regarding your camper's well being.

How are my camper's special needs handled?

If your camper has special requirements, ask about provisions and facilities. We will work with you to determine the appropriateness of and ways to enhance your camper's participation. The **Parents' Confidential Information** provides an opportunity for your camper's counselor to work most effectively with him/her. Please share requested information and be assured that it is handled in strictest confidence, and kept with your camper's records in the office.

What are your discipline/behavior policies?

Camp rules on proper behavior are reviewed with campers when they arrive at camp. Campers are not allowed to leave camp without the Camp Director's permission and without proper staff supervision. Campers are expected to remain in their assigned groups, follow directions of supervising staff, and obey rules. Camp Westminster staff is carefully trained to work with children in a trusting environment. It is assumed that campers who come to Camp Westminster are amenable to discipline and will conform to the ideals and regulations of our camping programs. Corporal punishment, denial of food at meals, isolation without supervision, ridicule by staff or campers, excessive exercise or deprivation of sleep, are all expressly prohibited as means of discipline in our camp.

The Camp Administration, does reserve the right to dismiss any camper whose behavior or health might jeopardize self or others in the camp community. Any camper found in possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, drug paraphernalia, cigarettes, weapons, or pornographic materials **will be dismissed** from camp. In such cases parents or guardians will be contacted immediately. Any camper dismissed from camp for disciplinary reasons **will forfeit** any refund of fees.

What will my camper's day be like?

The daily schedule varies somewhat for the different sessions. Activity periods are classes chosen by your camper and/or cabin group. The camper's basic day looks like this:

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| 7:30 a.m. | Wake-up Bell |
| 7:50 | Morning Watch |
| 8:00 | Breakfast |
| 8:45 | Capers (Cabin clean-up) |
| 9:15 | Activity Period I |
| 10:15 | Activity Period II |
| 11:15 | Activity Period III |
| 12:15 p.m. | Lunch and Camp Store |
| 1:30 | F.O.B. (Quiet Time) |
| 2:30 | Activity Period IV |
| 3:30 | Activity Period V |
| 4:30 | All Camp Swim |
| 6:00 | Dinner |
| 7:00 | Vespers |
| 7:30 | Evening Program |
| 9:00-10:30 | Lights Out (depending upon age of campers) |

What should my camper bring to camp?

Please refer to the Packing List for specific items to pack for camp. Camp is a good place for older clothes; please do not send valuables or expensive clothing. Note that packing a variety of clothing is important, because temperatures during the summer can vary from highs of 95°F to as low as 45°F. Please LABEL ALL BELONGINGS WITH THE CAMPER'S FULL NAME. Every effort will be made to return lost items that are labeled with the camper's name. Unlabeled items and those not claimed after two weeks will be donated to a charity. Please **DO NOT** send candy or food to camp. Nutritious meals and snacks are provided in ample quantities, and food in the cabins tends to attract animals!

When should my camper arrive at camp?

If you are **driving your camper to camp**, please arrive at 3:30 p.m. Pick up your child from camp at 9:30 a.m.

If your camper will take the **bus to camp**, please arrive at Westminster Church of Detroit at 12:30 p.m. Pick up your child from Westminster at 1:00 p.m. (Exception: Pick-up will be at 3:00 p.m. on June 28)

Please check the ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION sheet for more details and exceptions

Camper Checklist

- Think about activities you want to participate in at camp. Share this with your parents and with your counselors when you arrive at camp.
- Use the Camper Packing List to help you pack for camp. Make sure you know where everything is labeled and count how many of each item you are packing.
- Please DO NOT bring valuable jewelry or expensive clothing to camp.
- DO NOT bring cell phones, music players, DVD players, video games, or other electronic devices to camp.
- Make a list of names and addresses of people you will want to write. Pre-addressed, stamped envelopes or post cards make letter writing easier.
- You will not need cash while you are at camp. Money should be deposited in your camp store account before, or when you arrive at camp.
- Always listen carefully to directions from parents and camp staff. Ask questions if you do not understand. Remember that you and all the other campers are what camp is all about! The counselors and staff want each and every camper to have fun, learn new skills, and to leave camp with great memories and many new friends.
- Alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, weapons, and pornographic materials are strictly prohibited in camp and are a reason for dismissal from camp.

Parents' Checklist

Registration Confirmation: Please review your confirmation information to confirm that your child is registered for the correct camp session(s) and transportation options. Any outstanding balance, including camp store money, must be submitted to the camp office by June 1.

Online registrants and those completing online forms: Please check your email for confirmation information. Instructions for completing online forms are posted on the website, www.campwestminster.com, at the Summer Camp page. Be sure to print the Physician Signature and Recommendation Form, and have your child's doctor sign the form. The signed form, *along with a copy of the camper's health insurance card* must be mailed or faxed to the camp office by June 1.

Parents completing Paper Forms: Paper forms will be mailed ONLY to those parents who request them by calling the camp office at 313-341-8969. The following forms must be submitted by June 1.

- Health History and Examination Form:** A parent or guardian must sign the front of this form, and the child's doctor must sign the last page of this form.
- Release Authorization:** State of Michigan law requires that your camper be released only to those authorized by you on this form. The authorized person(s) must present picture identification (*e.g.* Driver's License) in order for your camper to be released.
- Parents' Confidential Information:** Completion of this form will help the counselor(s) to have a better understanding of your camper.
- High Ropes, Initiatives, & Lighthouse Climb Waiver:** This form must be signed by the parent/guardian of all campers.
- Canoe Trip & Expedition Waiver:** This form must be completed for all campers who will be leaving camp for an overnight trip.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the camp office at 313-341-8969, or email info@campwestminster.com.