



Parent Guide

June 8-13, 2025

Camp Wannaklot



Welcome to Camp Wannaklot!

You are sending your child off to camp, a valuable experience that your child will cherish. Camp Wannaklot has been in operation since 1994. This summer we expect more than 100 campers. Camp Wannaklot is held at Camp Twin Lakes Will A Way at Fort Yargo State Park, in Winder Georgia this summer. This is our first season at this Camp Twin Lake's location. The facility was designed specifically for campers with special needs in the 1950's by the state of Georgia. Camp Twin Lakes took over the lease from the state around 2014 and has made many improvements in the facility over the last 10 plus years.

Camp Wannaklot is open to children with bleeding disorders ages 7 to 17 who live in Georgia. During the week of camp campers will get to experience everything camp has to offer from pool time, canoe/kayaking, fishing, archery, sports, climbing activities, zip lining, horseback riding, crafts programs and more. Each activity area is supervised by Camp Twin Lakes staff that are trained in the area. Also, if the area requires certification in areas such as boating or the pool, they hold that as well. Campers are supervised around camp and in the cabins by dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers either grew up in the program and are now adults, are parents that have campers affected by a bleeding disorder, or people from the community with a passion for youth and medical needs-based programs.

Camp Wannaklot is planned and executed by our Camp Director, Kristi Fulford. Kristi comes to HoG with 25 years' experience in youth development and camping. She is so excited to lead HoG through another successful summer of camp.

At Camp Wannaklot, each day is very special, exciting, and unique. Campers experience a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. Each evening after dinner there are special programs planned for the campers' enjoyment.

You may be wondering, "What do I need to know before I send my child off on this week of fun and adventure? What food do they serve in the dining room? How many campers are there in a cabin? What time do they get up in the morning and what time do they go to bed? What happens if my child gets homesick?" These are all very important questions.

This *Parents' Guide to Camp Wannaklot* is designed to answer these questions and more. If you have any additional questions after reading this information, please contact Kristi Fulford at Hemophilia of Georgia.

How to Contact Kristi Fulford, Camp Director

Cell Phone: 404-218-0361

Email: Kffulford@hog.org

Office Line: 770-518-8272 ext 330

Most commonly asked questions about camp

For many of you this will be the first time you have sent your child to Camp Wannaklot. Below you will find questions that many parents ask before they send their children off to camp.

How much does it cost to send my child to camp?

Hemophilia of Georgia covers all the costs of operating Camp Wannaklot. We only ask for a \$10 registration fee from parents. Assistance may be available for those with a financial hardship.

What type of food do they serve at camp and how is it served?

Meals will be served family style or cafeteria line style.

Campers and staff are served breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The canteen each afternoon and evening for a snack. For breakfast, a camper might have eggs, blueberry pancakes, waffles, muffins, cereal, yogurt, or fruit. The lunch and dinner menus include chicken fingers, spaghetti, quesadillas, lasagna, and of course a variety of fruits and vegetables. There are also vegetarian meals offered at camp.

Please let us know if your child has any special dietary restrictions or food allergies so that we may plan for their needs.

What if my child has a birthday during camp?

Please let us know so that we can make that day extra special for them. We can provide a birthday cake if we know ahead of time.

What time will my child go to bed at camp and what time will he/she get up?

Because camp is full of fun and exciting activities it is most important that campers get plenty of rest while they are at camp. Lights out for campers ranges from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. depending on the age of the cabin group. Campers wake up in the morning at 6:30 a.m. Campers also have an hour rest period every afternoon after lunch.

How many campers are in my child's cabin?

Cabins will have 5-8 campers and 3-4 adult volunteers for supervision, in them and they will be grouped by age. Girls and boys have separate cabins.

What happens if my child loses something at camp?

With more than 100 young people at camp it is most important to put a camper's name on all of his or her belongings. A lost and found box is located at the front of the dining hall and campers are strongly encouraged to look through the box for missing items. Found items (with the exception of socks, towels, and underwear) that are not claimed at camp are brought back to the Hemophilia of Georgia office.

How can Camp Wannaklot ensure my child's safety at camp?

Camp Wannaklot is housed at Camp Twin Lakes, a facility designed for children with special needs. Camp Twin Lakes has a security gate and cameras to control entry into the camp.

Who are the counselors at camp? How do they find out about camp? How are the applicants screened?

Camp counselors must be at least 18 years old. We recruit counselors from universities and by speaking to professional organizations and faith communities. We also recruit counselors by placing ads in university and community organization newspapers. Prospective applicants are interviewed and references are checked. A criminal background check is also conducted on each applicant. A counselor is not allowed to be alone with campers at any time.

Can campers and counselors contact each other after camp?

HoG does not support or encourage any contact between counselors and campers outside of HoG activities. Please be aware of this policy and ask your child NOT to exchange any contact information (e.g. phone number, email address) with his or her counselors.

We also suggest talking with your child about ways to protect their identity, appropriate material to post on internet profiles, and who it is okay to be "friends" with on social networking sites such as Facebook.

How is Camp Wannaklot medically staffed?

Camp Wannaklot's medical team consists of a hematologist who is the medical director, Hemophilia of Georgia's outreach nurses, as well as a hematologists and nurses from the Hemophilia Treatment Centers. This unique team of medical professionals has a history with our campers from seeing them in the clinic and in the home.

How are campers given factor?

The medical team works together to set up a treatment plan for each camper. Cabin counselors work with the medical team to ensure that campers get their medications at the scheduled time.

What happens if my child has a bleed at camp?

A child who has a bleed at camp will go to the medical lodge accompanied by a counselor. There are always doctors and nurses available in the medical lodge.

Medications

Factor

Campers **must** bring an adequate supply of factor for the week. We will be able to provide all other supplies for infusions. Please **do not** pack infusion supplies to send to camp with your child. Please contact your child's physician for advice on how much factor you should arrange to send with your child to camp. Your child's physician will determine the treatment plan for your child. If you order factor from the HoG pharmacy, please call the HoG pharmacy **no later than May 27, 2025** to have your child's factor ordered and shipped to camp. The physician will order the infusion and/or prophylaxis treatment schedule for your child while he/she is at camp.

Please Do Not Pack Factor In Your Child's Luggage!

Factor should be packed separately in the original box or bag in which it was shipped. HoG staff will inventory the factor at camper check in.

You will receive documentation showing the factor used during the camp week. Any factor that is not used at camp will be returned to you when camp is over. Any factor from the HoG or Beacon pharmacy used for your child while at camp will be charged to your insurance or other payment source.

Other Medications

Please leave all medications in the **original** containers. These containers should have the child's name and all information regarding the medication, including directions, name of medication, etc. Medications **will not** be accepted if they are **not** in the original containers.

All medications will be checked in and stored separately from factor. Please be sure to send a week's supply of medications to camp with your child. HoG nurses will give medications according to the directions on medication bottles.

Medications, including factor, must be brought to check-in according to this process. Your child may be **UNABLE** to attend camp if he/she does not bring medications (including factor) to camp at the time of check-in.



Helping your child adjust to camp

Quite often we have first time campers ask, “Can my mom come with me?” As a parent you might hear, “If I do not like it, do I have to stay?” It is very common for children to have some anxiety when leaving home for an extended period of time. For many, this will be the first time away from home. Upon arrival, the newness of the camp environment, making new friends, and the natural longing for the “old and familiar,” can cause homesickness.

Experience has taught us to expect the symptoms of homesickness to occur over the first two days of camp—often during rest period and at bedtime. Most often after a few reassuring conversations with counselors and with the security of new friends and activities, the homesickness goes away. Here are some tips to help prepare your child for camp and the possibility of homesickness:

Prior to Camp

Practice short overnights prior to camp. A night away at grandma’s house is an easier steppingstone than a week away at camp. We don’t recommend camp as your child’s first overnight experience.

Have a positive family attitude about camp. Avoid phrases such as “I don’t know what I’m going to do without you,” “I’m going to count the seconds until you return,” or “I’m worried that you’re going to get eaten by a bear.” These are just some of the things that parents can say increase a camper’s anxiety about going away from home for a week.

Discuss expected camp activities. There are a lot of fun activities that are offered at camp. There is the climbing tower, zip line, archery, paddle boats, swimming, and biking just to name a few.

Give gentle encouragement that missing home is okay. Studies show that 95% of campers have at least one moment of feeling “homesick.” These feelings are completely normal, and it helps for the **child to know that those feelings are “okay.”**

Avoid phrases such as, “If you stay until Wednesday, then we will come and pick you up.” Children are more likely to get homesick if they have low expectations of camp, felt forced to come to camp, or if their parents express doubt or anxiety about their going to camp.



During Camp

When writing letters to your child, avoid phrases such as “we miss you,” “wish you were here,” or detailed accounts of what siblings and the family are doing. Ask about camp activities, counselors, and special programs. Set a positive and encouraging tone in your letter.

Express your confidence in his/her ability to be away from home. Explain that the counselors are there to assist him or her.

If you feel the need to call and check on your child, you may call Camp Twin Lakes at 770-867-6123 or you may call the camp director’s cell phone at 404-218-0361 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.



How do I contact my child at camp?

The camp address is:

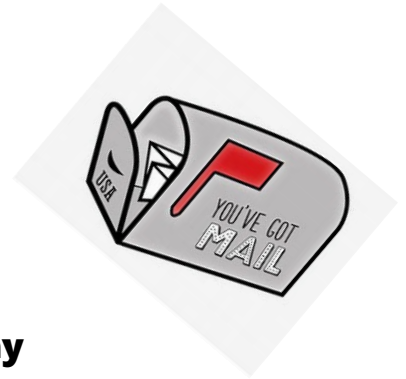
(Camper Name)

Camp Wannaklot

c/o Camp Twin Lakes—Will-A-Way

Fort Yargo State Park

210 S.Broad St. Winder, GA 30680



Camp Director's Cell Phone: 404-218-0361

Cell phone reception is not guaranteed throughout the camp site, so you may not get the camp director immediately when you call. If you leave a message in the voice mailbox, we will return your call. Please see the "helping your child adjust to camp" section on the following pages. One of the strategies to prevent homesickness is that campers not speak to their parents over the phone during the week. If you need to contact your child, please leave a message and we can work out arrangements based on the situation. If for some reason you are having difficulty getting through to camp, contact the HoG office in Atlanta at 770-518-8272 or 1-800-866-4366. We will be checking in with the office daily.



Please remember cellphones are not permitted at camp for campers! We ask that you not try to sneak a phone in the socks or other methods. Please reach out to the Camp Director Kristi to assist you with checking in with your camper(s).

Camper Mail

Letters at camp are ALWAYS welcome!

You can get mail to your camper 2 ways:

1. **Mail them to camp:** It takes a couple of days for mail to get to camp so **please** send letters early. *We recommend sending packages and letters at least 1 week prior to camp to ensure their arrival.*

Please put your child's name, Camp Wannaklot, and the address noted below when sending mail. **PLEASE** do not send any food or candy items.

2. **Drop off letter/package (s) for your camper at check in.** If doing this you must follow the following guidelines in order to take this option.

- A. Limit to 5 pieces of mail for the week
- B. Each piece of mail must have the campers name and day you would like them to receive the mail on the it.
- C. These packages should not contain any food!

Note: If you choose this method, you will drop off all the mail in the bin at check in and it will be sorted before mail time on Monday.

The camp address is:
(Camper Name)
Camp Wannaklot
c/o Camp Twin Lakes—Will-A-Way
Fort Yargo State Park
210 S.Broad St. Winder, GA 30680



Camper Check In and Check Out

We will be offering bus transportation from the following areas this year: Augusta, Savannah/Pooler, Newnan, Decatur, and Sandy Springs. Prior to camp you will be sent a form with confirmed bus stops for you to confirm how you will get your camper to and from camp. Expect that email prior to June 20th.

If you need assistance with transportation to camp or to and from a bus stop, please contact your HoG Social Worker.

Every camper will be given an assigned time to check in and check out of camp. Check in/check out will be done by assigned camper groups. This information will be emailed out to you the week prior to camp. We will also call families to ensure they have received the information and answer any questions.

It is vitally important that you are ON TIME to drop off and pick up your camper at their assigned time. If you are using the buses, it is possible your camper will get left you are running late. It is critical you provide a good cell phone number in your camper's registration so we can reach you.

Please **do not** arrive early at Camp Twin Lakes, as we **will not** be prepared to check your camper in to or out of camp.

You **will not** be allowed to walk around the camp at this time. Please remember neither **smoking** nor **pets** are allowed at Camp Twin Lakes.

Camper Check-In on Sunday at Camp June 8th :

Remember to bring all your camper's medications and pack them separately from camper's luggage.

You will drop these off as part of the check in process after you have already dropped off your luggage.

2025 Camp Twin Lakes Will-A-Way
June 8-13, 2025
Check In at Camp: 2-4pm
Fort Yargo State Park
210 S.Broad St.
Winder, GA 30680

Bus Stop Check In Times:

For all campers riding the bus we will provide a sandwich type lunch on the bus to camp from the stop.

Medications should not be packed in the luggage if dropping off at a bus stop as well. We will do med check in prior to luggage being put on the bus.

- Savannah: 8-8:45am
- Newnan: 11:30-12pm
- Augusta: 11:45-12:30pm
- Sandy Spring: 12:30-1:15pm
- Decatur: 12:45-1:15pm

Camper Pick Up Times for Friday June 13th :

Pick Up Your Child on Friday, June 13 between 10:30-11:30am at camp.

Pick Up Times at Bus Stops:

Buses will leave camp by 10:15am to arrive at the following stops at:

- Sandy Springs- 11:00am
- Decatur- 11:00am
- Newnan- 12:30pm
- Augusta: 12:00pm
- Savannah: 3:00pm- we will get these campers lunch as we are leaving Augusta

-At least one adult in the car must have a **Photo ID** and be on the list of **Authorized Adults** to pick up campers from camp or the bus stop!