

IMPORTANT INFORMATION CAMP NIWANA DAY CAMP

PRIOR TO CAMP: You will receive a Parent Packet via snail mail the week prior to the session you have registered for. This packet will include a letter informing you about the camp themes and specific activities, as well as required permission forms that need to be completed prior to the first day of camp.

Your camper's counselor will give you a call the weekend before camp to introduce themselves, give you the group number and to answer any questions you may have.

ARRIVAL: Mornings are easier if you carpool! Day Camp is located at 11606 Ranch Dr. SW, Port Orchard, Washington, 98367. Camp Niwana is a single lane road. There will be someone with a radio at the caretaker's house. Please follow the instructions given by this person. Once he/she gives you the okay, proceed with caution as you drive down the road. Once in the parking lot, pull into a stall and take your child to the sign with their grade on it. Once you find your child's grade, the counselor will be ready for you to sign your child in. Counselors will be standing by signs with their group's grade between 9:00 am to 9:30 am. Please plan to drop your child off **NO EARLIER** than 9:00am, we cannot guarantee supervision before that time.

Please bring your completed "**Camper Release**" form (included in your Parent Packet) listing authorized drivers with your child on Monday; each individual camper needs their own form. To add to your list throughout the week, please send a permission note. If there is anyone who IS NOT allowed to pick up your child, please be sure to include this information on your Camper Release form. **Please be aware that you cannot leave your child on the first morning of camp without first completing a Camper Release Form.** This is for your child's safety and this policy will be strictly enforced.

DEPARTURE: Please pick up your camper promptly at 3:30 p.m. Groups will be dismissed at the same location where you signed in your child in the morning. Sign your child out with his/her counselor. You will be required to show a Photo ID every day at pick-up.

EARLY DEPARTURE or LATE ARRIVAL: If your child needs to leave camp early on any given day, we need a note in advance for that as well. Just come to the Lodge (headquarters), and we'll find your child for you. Again, you'll need to **show ID** to sign your camper out. If you know your child will be late or absent from camp, please notify the counselor the night before, or no later than 7:30 a.m. that morning. We feel responsible for your child during camp hours. If your child does not arrive, we'll become concerned and start calling to locate him or her. No stone will be left unturned until your child is located. So, please, don't make us call everyone on your list – keep us informed instead.

CLOTHING: Mornings are usually cool, so be sure your child wears/brings a sweatshirt or jacket. Dressing in layers so your camper can peel down as the temperature warms up is best. Remember the hat and apply sunscreen at home. Send sunscreen with your camper so they can reapply it if necessary. All campers must wear socks and **sturdy shoes with CLOSED heels and toes**. Please, no sandals or crocs. For your child's protection, long pants are recommended.

LABEL ALL BELONGINGS: Please label your camper's belongings with his/her name. Need Labels? We have partnered with Mabel's labels, when you purchase labels from camps.mabelslabels.com and select **Camp Fire Day Camp (Central Puget Sound)** from the Select Your Camp list, a portion of the proceeds will be funding campers in need of financial aid.

LUNCH and WATER: Bring a healthy sack lunch, snacks and beverage every day. Every camper will have the opportunity to do some outdoor cooking. We recommend a sack lunch be brought, even if your child's counselor has let you know the group will be cooking that day. Please remember to send your camper with a filled water bottle with their name on it every day because we want your camper to stay hydrated! **A refillable water bottle is also a necessity.**

NO PEANUTS: To protect children and staff who have severe and possibly life-threatening peanut allergies, peanuts and peanut products are **NOT allowed** at camp. We have a number of campers and staff with such severe peanut allergies that smelling peanuts or touching something that has been touched by peanut products can send them to the hospital. Please do not send your child with anything made with or containing peanuts. Counselors will throw away any peanuts/peanut products but we will provide your child with extra food for such occasions.

MEDICATIONS: When possible, give medicines at home before leaving for camp. If medicine needs to come to camp this week, it **MUST** be in its **ORIGINAL CONTAINER**, and checked in immediately with our Health Manager. Also, if your child takes any medication for A.D.D. or hyperactivity, please don't make this your camper's "week off" medication. Your child, and his/her volunteer counselor, will both have a better time if stability is maintained.

IN CASE OF RAIN: We will hold camp in the rain, unless the weather is very bad. You will receive a very early morning call from your child's counselor, if camp will be cancelled. Sadly, there are no makeup days.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, WEAPONS, and PERSONAL POSSESSIONS: Your child is prohibited from using alcohol or drugs and/or being under the influence while participating in Camp Fire activities. Current state law prohibits those under age 18 from possessing tobacco products. Remember: leave cell phones, video games, pocket knives, personal sporting equipment, and valuables at home: don't bring anything to camp that you would really miss if lost or damaged.

CELL PHONE POLICY: Campers are not allowed to carry cell phones at camp. If you would like your camper to have a phone at camp it must be checked in and left at Head Table (headquarters). Cell phones distract from the experience of camp, so please, leave them at home. Our counselors are allowed to carry phones for emergency purposes only.

PETS: For everyone's sake, including your dogs, we ask you to leave your dog and other pets at home or in the car when you come to camp to pick up or drop off your camper. Dogs are not allowed onsite at any time.

OVERNIGHT- WEDNESDAY: Campers 4th grade and above may stay on the optional overnight Thursday night. Those who stay will be cooking that night's dinner with their group. Breakfast will be provided the next morning and campers will cook out for lunch on Friday. **If you have a camper entering the fourth grade or above, the permission form for this event was included in registration.** This **must** be completed before your child will be allowed to stay on the overnight. Paper permission forms will be available at camp for any last minute permissions.

WATERFRONT: Campers who cannot swim well can take the swim test with a life jacket. They will be required to **always** wear life jackets when swimming. Life jackets in children's and adult's sizes are provided by the camp. All campers and staff (regardless of swimming ability) are required to wear them in the boats. Campers cannot swim or boat if their swim form is not filled out. **The permission form for this event was included in registration.** Paper permission forms will be available at camp for any last minute permissions.

PRE-CAMP PHONE CALL: Your child's counselor will call you Saturday or Sunday before the start of camp to speak with you and your child. This is your child's opportunity to get acquainted, get excited about camp, and learn how to find his/her counselor Monday morning. This will be **YOUR** chance to **get to know your campers counselor** and **your child's group number** for arrival and departure sign out, and share details about the camper that will help the counselor work most effectively with your child. Please share any recently developed medical conditions that weren't on the registration form.

