



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** **GOLD CREEK PARK 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.

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:** When you arrive to drop off your camper, please park your car (do not block the driveway) and bring your camper in to the lodge. You (or another adult) must sign-in your camper in each day. Campers should be brought to camp as close to 9:00 a.m. as possible. Please do not bring your camper any earlier than 8:45 a.m., as there will be no supervision before that time.

On the first day of camp, please make sure that all authorized drivers who may pick your child up are listed on their **Camper Release 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 provide the names on their camper release form. **Please be aware that you cannot leave your child on the first morning of camp without first signing them in.** This is for your child's safety and this policy will be strictly enforced.

**DEPARTURE:** Please pick up your camper promptly at 4:00 p.m. When picking up your camper, please park your vehicle and come into the lodge. Sign your child out. **You will be required to show a Photo ID every day at pick-up.**

**EARLY DEPARTURE or LATE ARRIVAL:** In the event that your camper must leave before the end of the camp day, please write out a permission note, stating the time your camper is to leave and the name of the person who will be picking up your camper. Please make sure to sign the permission note. The person picking up your camper should go to camp headquarters to pick him/her up. If you know your child is going to miss a day of camp due to illness or other obligation or must check in late, please send a note the day before or call your child's counselor. You will receive a call from Headquarters' staff if your child is not at camp and we have not been notified of the absence. If your camper arrives late to camp, please sign him/her in at the lodge.

**ID BRACELETS:** All Campers and Staff are required to wear durable Tyvek bracelets during the week of camp. This is a safety device to help easily identify campers and adults associated with camp in a public park setting – please leave them on your child for the week.

**LUNCH and WATER:** Bring a healthy sack lunch and beverage every day. Every camper will have the opportunity to do some outdoor cooking but not every day. We recommend a sack lunch be brought even if your child's counselor has let you know the group will be cooking that day. A water bottle marked with your child's name is also a necessity. We strongly suggest that no soft drinks be packed in lunches.

**NO NUTS:** and peanut/nut products should be left at home. Several campers/staff attending this camp have severe allergies. Even the smell or a trace of peanut/nuts on something that has been touched by peanut/nut products may send them to the hospital. Please do not send peanut butter sandwiches, Snickers, snack bars, etc. Please remind your camper **not to share food.** **Nut butter sandwiches and other nut products that show up at camp will be thrown away and you will be called and asked to bring your child a different lunch.** Soy and seed (sesame, sunflower) butters are alright to send to camp.

**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.

**WHAT TO WEAR:** Please dress your camper for the weather! We will hold camp even if it rains, so your camper needs to be prepared. Layering is best, as mornings can be quite cool and afternoons can get very hot. The following clothing is recommended: tennis shoes, hiking boots, or other sturdy shoes; socks to avoid blisters; shirt that covers the shoulders to avoid sunburns; pants or jeans to avoid sunburns and nettle stings; jacket or sweater for cooler weather or rain; rain gear (rain coat and boots if it is likely to rain or has rained overnight); and a hat for sun and/or rain protection. Please label your camper's clothing with his/her name. Please make sure your camper wears sunscreen or appropriate sun clothing. We also recommend that you send sunscreen every day so that your camper can reapply lotion if needed.

**WHAT NOT TO WEAR:** The following clothing is not allowed: tank tops with spaghetti straps, sun tops, or swim suits; clothing that allows belly buttons or underwear to show, including midriff tops or "short shorts"; flip-flops, sandals or other open-toed/open-heeled shoes. If your camper comes to camp in flip-flops or sandals you will be called to bring acceptable shoes or we will make duct-tape shoes for him/her.

**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](http://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.

**WEATHER:** We intend to hold camp every day, even if it is raining. In the event that the weather turns bad after the start of camp (a severe storm with lightening, high winds, a steady downpour of rain at the park), we will hold camp indoors. In the event of a power outage, we may choose to cancel camp; we are unable to provide make-up days in the event that camp is cancelled. If camp will be cancelled or postponed for the day, you will be notified by phone.

**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.

**COUNCIL FIRE:** A Camp Fire tradition is the ceremonial Council Fire, which will be held Friday afternoon at 3:20 p.m. All parents are encouraged to join us for our Council Fire and recognition ceremony. This is a time for all who have them to wear their Camp Fire ceremonial attire or uniform, and for others to dress in the Camp Fire colors of red, white and blue. CIT's (counselors-in-training), campers entering eighth grade in the fall, will participate in a "flying up" ceremony to join the rank of LEAD for next year.

**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 the counselor's phone number** 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.

