



2021 DAY CAMP & NATURE PRESCHOOL DAY CAMP PARENT PACKET



As an expression of God's love, Ferncliff welcomes people into a life of caring for Creation, others, and themselves.

*Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center
1720 Ferncliff Road
Little Rock, AR 72223
501-821-3063
jocelyn@ferncliff.org*

CONTACTING FERNCLIFF

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We are available throughout the year and during the summer.

Website: www.ferncliff.org

Office phone: 501-821-3063

Email: Jocelyn Wildhack, Camp Director & Chaplain; jocelyn@ferncliff.org

Cell phone: 501-772-8590 (Please call Associate Director Emily Hooker on this number with any emergencies or for any questions/concerns after 4:00pm)

PROGRAM GOALS

Ferncliff's **mission statement** is "As an expression of God's love, Ferncliff welcomes people into a life of caring for Creation, others, and themselves."

After a week of camp, campers of all ages at Ferncliff will:

- Expand their independence
- Strengthen their sense of identity
- Develop interpersonal skills
- Interact with creation
- Explore their Christian faith

PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Upon registration, a \$50 deposit is required with each camp registration. This deposit and any other payments made towards your registration are fully refundable **before April 1st**.

After April 1st, the \$50 deposit is nonrefundable; however, any other payments made towards your registration are fully refundable **if you must cancel your registration up to two weeks before the camp session start date**.

Within two weeks of the camp session start date, **no refunds will be issued if you must cancel your registration**.

Final payment of your camp balance is due **two weeks prior to each camp session**. You can pay your balance in installments and can view your balance at any time by logging into your account.

In the event that Ferncliff must cancel a camp session, families can choose to have their payments donated to Ferncliff or fully/partially refunded.

CAMPER BEHAVIOR POLICY

Ferncliff staff members are trained to look for appropriate behavior and reinforce campers with praise and encouragement when they are behaving well. They will remind the campers of the rules on a daily basis using clear positive language, telling the campers how they are expected to behave rather than what they are not supposed to do.

Our staff are taught to “choose their battles” and to not overreact to trivial instances of inappropriate behavior, focusing instead on correcting bigger problems and praising what campers are doing right.

If necessary, our staff will use brief separation or a “time out” from the group or activity when the camper does not respond to verbal cues to behave properly. After a brief separation staff will make sure to let the camper know how they are supposed to behave and welcome the camper back to the group or activity.

The staff is trained to never:

- Lose their temper
- Spank, hit or grab roughly
- Yell at campers
- Use verbal abuse, profanity or derogatory remarks
- Humiliate the camper
- Use a sarcastic tone

Please contact the Ferncliff office and speak with a director if you find or hear that the above stated behavior guidance policy is not being followed by our staff.

2021 DAY CAMP & NATURE PRESCHOOL DAY CAMP FAQs

What is Ferncliff's mission?

"As an expression of God's love, Ferncliff welcomes people into a life of caring for Creation, others, and themselves."

We're not Presbyterian. Can my child still attend Day Camp or Nature Preschool Day Camp?

Of course! Campers come from many different faiths, including some who do not have a faith tradition. Our summer staff members are all Christian, but not all are Presbyterian, either. Nature Preschool Day Camp sessions may include stories from multiple faith traditions and will have a nature-based exploration block. Day Camp sessions include a Bible study exploration block.

Can my child's friend be in the same group as my child?

Yes. While making new friends is an important part of the camp experience, in the registration process you will be asked if you have a buddy request. You can put in one friend's name and they can put your child's name on their registration form. We do not put larger groups together because it can put others in the group at a disadvantage; we do not want situations where, for instance, a single camper is put with a group of five campers who are already close friends.

When do camp sessions begin and end?

Our day camp programs begin on Mondays and run from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday. *(The only exception is the first session of Nature Preschool Day Camp, which runs Tuesday-Friday due to the Memorial Day holiday.)* **Drop off is between 8:30am and 9:00am. Pickup is from 3:30pm to 4:00pm.** Drop off and pickup times will be strictly enforced due to the necessity of health checks in the morning and sanitization routines in the evenings. You **must** be able to drop off your child by 9:00am and pick them up by 4:00pm.

What else do I need to know about check-in and pick-up?

Prior to drop off time, staff members are busy preparing for campers, so we ask that all campers arrive during the scheduled times.

In the evenings our staff members have other responsibilities and duties. As such, we cannot provide care for campers after the scheduled pick-up time.

When dropping off and picking up your child, please stay on all camp roads and obey the camp speed limit, which is 10 miles per hour. Be aware of any animals, pedestrians, or bike riders as you drive through camp.

You may **not** exit your vehicle when you drop off or pick up your camper. A staff member will come to you to sign your camper in and out and to walk with your camper.

Do you have medical staff on duty?

Yes. We have a registered nurse on call at all times between 9:00am and 4:00pm. In addition, all of our staff are trained and certified in First Aid and CPR.

What's the camper-to-counselor ratio?

A group will have no more than 10 campers. All campers in a group will be the same approximate age, usually within a couple of grades. There will be one to two staff members with each group, depending on the age makeup of the group. The ratio for Nature Preschool Day Camp groups will always be 1:5.

These ratios are consistent with the standards of the American Camp Association.

What do I need to know about lunches and snacks?

Because of restrictions related to the pandemic, we are not providing any meal service. You are responsible for providing your camper with a lunch and two snacks per day (morning and afternoon.) Due to the prevalence of nut allergies, **please do not send any items that contain nuts.** Your camper's lunches and snacks should not require refrigeration or heating.

Can you accommodate campers with special needs?

Our counselors generally are not trained with the specific skills required to work with children with special needs. In some instances, exceptions can be made after we consult with the child's parents and the child's doctors. Please do not send a child with special needs to camp without first consulting us.

What should my camper bring, and what should my camper leave at home?

See the packing list!

What if my camper loses or forgets items at camp?

We collect any items we find each week in a Lost and Found tub. If you arrive home and realize something is missing, give us a call or let us know at drop off or pick up! We keep lost and found items for two weeks before donating them to a local shelter.

Please be aware that Ferncliff is not responsible for any items that are lost or damaged while at camp. Campers are also responsible for keeping up with their own items. As noted on the packing list, do not send anything with your camper that is irreplaceable or would be devastating to get dirty.

GENERAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Children are to be kept home or will be sent home if they have any of the symptoms or illnesses listed below:

- Sudden and severe change in behavior
- Fever of over 100.4 degrees

- 2 or more instances of diarrhea
- 2 or more instances of vomiting in 24 hours
- Mouth sores or rash with fever
- Pink eye (not yet treated with drops)
- Head lice
- Active tuberculosis
- Impetigo (not yet treated)
- Strep throat (until 24 hours after antibiotic has started)
- Chicken pox
- Rubella, pertussis, mumps, or measles
- Hepatitis A

If your child is home sick for the day, or has to miss camp for any other reason, please notify a director by email or phone call.

Staff will be monitoring children throughout the day. If any child comes down with a contagious or infectious illness or is unable to participate in the typical routine of the day, their parent or caregiver will be notified and asked to pick them up.

All staff are certified in CPR/First Aid. Any child who is injured will be cared for immediately. Parents will be notified by phone call and/or an incident report depending on the severity of the injury.

Medication will be given to children only with signed parental permission which includes date, type, drug name, time, and dosage. It must be in the original container, not have an expired date, and be labeled with the child's name. Aspirin, ibuprofen, or acetaminophen may be provided by the facility if parental permission has been granted. These medications will be in the original container.

Children with special health care needs who require scheduled daily medications and/or emergency medications should have a care plan. A care plan will be created with a director and parent to include parameters, directions, and symptoms for needing the medications. A medication log will be kept and will include the time, date, dosage administered, and the initials of the staff who gave the medication.

There will be no refund of registration fees given for camp days missed due to illness. As a licensed child care provider, we are required to follow all health department guidelines.

CORONAVIRUS HEALTH & WELLNESS

Drop off will be from 8:30-9:00am and will include a health screening. If a family does not arrive in this time period to be screened, they will not be able to attend camp that day. Pickup will be from 3:30-4:00pm; we cannot accommodate late pick-ups because our staff

will be sanitizing spaces after campers leave. Parents are not to enter any buildings or exit their vehicles during drop-off and pick-up times.

Groups will consist of 10 or fewer children to meet the ADH guidelines for group size.

Masks will be required for all adults during drop-off and pick-up. Staff will wear masks except when they are exercising or eating or more than 6 feet away from any other person.

Children over the age of 10 are required to wear masks during the same times.

Children under the age of 10 are encouraged but not required to wear masks.

Increased hygiene and sanitization procedures will be enforced. Children will wash or sanitize hands upon arrival, before eating, and after many activities. Any indoor areas used by children will be sanitized daily before use by another group, and whole group materials will be kept to a minimum. Each group will have their own set of activity supplies.

We will look to our licensing specialist and the Arkansas Department of Health to guide us on notifying families, advising quarantining and testing, and program cancellation procedures if we have a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 within our program at any time.

If a child or staff member in a group is potentially or confirmed positive, we will follow the guidelines of the health department. That group may be required to stay home/quarantine and the site sanitized. Depending on exposure entire site may be closed for a time, as determined by the health department.

All staff and campers will be screened daily upon arrival and will be asked to stay home when sick or symptoms are present. Families/Staff will be required to notify the camp if they believe they have been exposed or potentially/confirmed positive with COVID-19.

In the event of closing or campers being asked to stay home because they are sick, we will not reimburse registration fees.

For more information on our COVID-19 attendance policies, please see our website.