



# Parent Info Summer 2024

Camp Chatuga  
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864.638.3728 [campchatuga.com](http://campchatuga.com)

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Camp Fees and Spending Money.....	1
Before Camper Arrives.....	2
What Not to Bring .....	2
Arrival & Departure Times.....	3
Traveling During Camp .....	3
Health Procedures.....	4
Communicating with Campers.....	5
Daily Activities .....	5
Additional Information.....	6

## **CAMP FEES AND SPENDING MONEY**

**PARENT EMAIL:** Be sure to check email (and spam) often as it is the primary method we will use to communicate important information.

**ONLINE ACCOUNT:** You can access your online account at any time by going to *My Online Account* on our website at [campchatuga.com](http://campchatuga.com). Username is your email address on file.

**BALANCE DUE:** Payment in full is due June 1.

**REFUNDS:** If you cancel up to three weeks before your session begins, we have a full refund policy, minus a \$100 processing fee; however, any cancellations within three weeks of session start date will result in a forfeit of all tuition unless we fill your spot from the waiting list. No deductions for late arrivals or early departures.

**MEDICAL FEES:** You are responsible for any health expenses above what our infirmary provides. You will be billed for doctor visits, prescriptions, orthodontist, etc.

**CHARGES:** We will debit your account for any additions or fees we incur for your child. You will be notified and given the opportunity to change how it is paid for.



**EXTRA TRIP SPENDING MONEY:** Campers who are returning for their second summer or more and staying multiple weeks (and all Session C campers) need to bring extra trip spending money. We recommend \$25-30 in a sealed envelope with the camper's name on it. Chatuga won't assume responsibility for lost or stolen money that is not deposited with us

**CAMP STORE:** You may pre-order Camp Chatuga merchandise from our website for your camper to receive on Opening Day. The Camp Store will also open during the session if your camper would like to purchase items in person. Store money needs to be in a sealed envelope marked with the camper's name and *camp store* written on it.

## BEFORE CAMPER ARRIVES

**FACTS OF LIFE:** When kids are away from parents, they may discuss the “facts of life.” We prefer they hear it from you first, so please discuss it based on the age-appropriate level of your camper. Our staff is trained to refer “facts of life” questions back to the parents and to always promote friendships at camp. All campers should be reminded that their private areas are private.

**BATHING:** Cover-ups or clothes will be worn to bathhouses. Clip younger children’s nails before they arrive. If your children only take tub baths, have them practice showering and washing their own hair.

**CAMPER GUIDELINES:** A copy of our Camper Guidelines is included in the camper packet. Be sure your camper is familiar with our policies. A copy can also be found on our website under “Forms.”

### What NOT to Bring

Personal Electric Fans	Cell Phones	Weaponry/Knives
iPods/iPads/Kindles	Smart Watches	Tobacco products
Electronic Games	Food or Gum	Lighters/matches
E-cigarette products	Alcohol/Drugs	Animals

*Leave expensive items at home.*

**HOMESICKNESS:** Homesickness is a normal feeling, and the best at-home prevention strategies include the following:

- Work together as a family to prepare and pack.
- Spend practice time away from home, such as a long weekend at a friend or relative’s house.
- Remind your camper to stay busy when they feel homesick and to remember how quickly time goes by when they’re active.
- Tell your camper to speak to their counselor, who has been trained to help with homesickness.
- Prepare pre-stamped, addressed envelopes to bring to camp.

### Watch out!

The most common mistake parents make is the Pick-Up Deal. Never, ever say, “If you feel homesick, I’ll come and get you.” This conveys a message of doubt and pity that undermines children’s confidence and independence. Pick-Up Deals become mental crutches and self-fulfilling prophecies for children as soon as they arrive at camp. Instead of preparing them to fail, tell your child you have confidence in them and you know they can do it!

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

**OPENING DAY:** Drop off is Sunday between 3:00 -5:00 pm for all sessions.

**CLOSING DAY:** Closing Day times vary for each session:

All two-, three-, and four-week sessions	Saturday, 9-10 am
Sessions A1, B1	Saturday, 2-2:30 pm
Sessions A2, B2	Saturday, 9-10 am
Session A3	Friday, 2-2:30 pm

*Chatuga's responsibility for your child begins when a staff member meets them on Opening Day and ends when parents meet them on Closing Day.*

## TRAVEL DURING CAMP

**TRAVEL DURING CAMP:** Campers in any session might travel in vehicles (buses, vans, trucks, cars, or tractor flatbed) for special activities. Emphasize to your camper to follow all camp traveling rules as detailed in the Camper Guidelines (sent in the camper packet and available on our website under Forms).



**TRIP DAY:** Second-year and up campers in two-, three- and four-week sessions (and all Session C campers) get a trip out of camp at no extra charge. Parents may receive additional permission forms to complete for some trips. Send extra spending money of at least \$25-30 for campers going on a Trip Day. Turn money in to the office on Opening Day in a marked envelope.



## HEALTH PROCEDURES

**LICE:** Your child must be lice- and nit-free before coming to camp. We do a head check on Opening Day and will send a child with lice or nits home. Please help by checking your child or having your child checked for lice by a medical professional 72 hours before arrival. If lice are found, treat thoroughly and remove all nits. If your child has been recently treated, let us know.

**COVID-19:** We will not require proof of vaccination or test campers for Covid at camp. Notify us if your child gets sick before camp.



**MEDICATIONS:** Our infirmary is equipped with over-the-counter medications. If there is any OTC your child takes regularly, including melatonin and allergy meds, send those with them in original containers. Please leave vitamins at home. For those with

prescribed medications, fill out the medication form in your online account. All medications must be turned in to the infirmary in original packaging upon arrival or we will not accept it. For prescriptions taken routinely, send only enough to last the session.

**SUNSCREEN/BUG SPRAY:** Only lotion or stick sunscreen and bug spray are permitted in cabins. Aerosol lotion or bug spray must be labeled with camper name and kept in the infirmary. It is up to the camper to go to the infirmary to apply it.

**PARENTAL NOTIFICATION:** Scrapes and cold-type illnesses are treated in the infirmary without parental notification. If camper has an accident or fever taken care of by our health personnel or if camper needs to see a doctor, you will be notified. In an emergency, we will notify you (or emergency contact) as soon as the situation is under control.

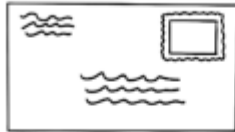
**PRIVATE AREAS:** Let your child know that if they are ever injured in their private area (through sports, biking, horseback, etc.) or if anyone (adult or kid) ever tries to inappropriately touch them, it is the right thing to do to let the nurse or a director know.

**INFECTED SORES:** Encourage your camper to show any sores to the nurse for early treatment. Encourage your camper not to share personal items and to wash sores or bug bites with soap and water.

**BEDWETTERS:** Indicate this on the Health Form. Bring a pack of nighttime pull-ups to the infirmary. Your camper will go to the infirmary at Call-to-Quarters to get his/her nighttime "meds."

## COMMUNICATING WITH CAMPERS

**PARENT LIAISON:** We have a Camper Experience Director to ensure first-year families are guided through their new experience and parents are updated on how your camper is doing during their session.



**MAIL:** Kids love mail! Your choices are snail mail, email (see below), or you may bring a few letters to the office for us to distribute for you during their stay.

**PACKAGES:** All packages above the size of a letter (including magazines and bulky letters) will be returned to the sender. Please make relatives and friends aware of this policy. The obvious exceptions are birthday packages (which will be opened and checked for food or gum, which are not allowed) and items such as medication, eyeglasses, etc. Those packages should be sent “in care of Office Manager.”

**EMAIL:** You may email your camper by purchasing blocks of emails (five for \$5) through My Online Account on our website. Email is one-way only and is printed and delivered to campers once a day. You may also send an invitation to others who would like to email your camper. Unused emails carry over to next summer.

**BIRTHDAYS:** If your child has a birthday while at camp, we celebrate with a cake, singing, balloons, and a spin of the birthday wheel (for a prize), and they can receive a phone call from home. The best time to call would be before lunch between 12:45 – 1:00 pm.

**VIEW CAMP PHOTOS:** You will be notified by email how to access the private photo website where you can view, save, print, and order pictures and a variety of gift items. We can't guarantee that your camper will be in photos that are posted each day but try our best to feature a variety of activities and camper groups daily.

## DAILY ACTIVITIES

Instructions for activity selection will be emailed approximately **one week before your session**. Your camper will receive a list of choices to look over in their Camper Packet before they sign up online. Parents are encouraged to let campers select their own schedule as it helps relieve the drop/add selection time during camp. Activity choices are “first come, first served” before some fill up.

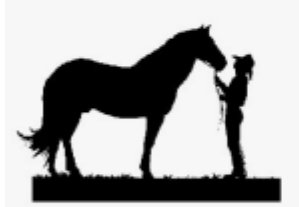
## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**ABUSE:** Staff have thorough reference, National Sex Offender, and criminal background checks. We also do extensive staff training that covers abuse and appropriate camper/staff contact. Precautions are built into our rules and the way our cabins are set up. Even so, the sad reality is that abuse can happen any time in any place by any person (including other kids), so the best prevention is educated children. Parents should talk to their children in a matter-of-fact way to equip them to be aware and to know what to do (including to tell a responsible adult) if they are ever involved in, see, or hear of an inappropriate situation.

**FOOD:** Do not bring food or gum. Campers get two snacks a day from the canteen. Fresh fruit is always available. At breakfast, we have cereal, milk, and 100% juice along with a full breakfast. A fresh salad bar is also available with hot meals at lunch and supper.

**LAKE:** Our private lake is spring- and creek-fed with continuously flowing water that is tested by an independent lab twice a month. Campers get eardrops to prevent swimmer's ear after being in the lake.

**GRATUITIES:** ACA regulations discourage tips for staff.



**WARNING:** Under South Carolina law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of equine activity, pursuant to Article 7, Chapter 9 of Title 47, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.

## OTHER POLICIES

- Chatuga reserves the right to use photographs, videos, writings, quotes, etc. of campers, staff, and parents to promote Chatuga.
- All personal items and sports equipment are brought at the risk of the owner and will be stored where directed by the Camp.
- Chatuga is not responsible for personal belongings and money while in transit or in camp or if lost/damaged by fire, theft, etc.
- Chatuga reserves the right to search personal belongings if health or safety of the camper or camp community indicates the need.
- Chatuga is not responsible for staff and camper communication after camp.