



Parent Info 2025

Camp Chatuga
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CAMP FEES AND SPENDING MONEY

PARENT EMAIL: Be sure to check email (and spam) often as it is the primary method we 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. 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 per camper 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. If a camper is sent home for behavior, there will be no refund.

MEDICAL FEES: You are responsible for any health expenses above what our infirmary provides. You will be billed for doctor visits, prescriptions, orthodontist, etc. Be sure to upload your insurance card to your My Online Account.

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: The Camp Store will be open during each Opening Day. You may pre-order Camp Chatuga merchandise from our website and pick it up when you arrive. 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 only 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 <i>Electric</i> 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 and *hidden cell phones* become mental crutches and self-fulfilling prophecies as soon as they arrive at camp. Telling your child you know they can do it will build confidence and self-assurance in them to succeed!

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 separate from Camp Store money.

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.

ILLNESS: We screen for symptoms of illness on Opening Day. Notify us before arrival if your child has been sick.



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 in original containers. 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 minor 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.

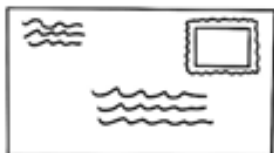
PRIVATE AREAS: Let your child know that if they are ever injured in their private area (through sports, biking, horseback, etc.) or if anyone (adult or kid) ever tries to inappropriately touch them, it is the right thing to do to let the nurse or a director know.

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.

BEDWETTING: 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

Your camper will receive a list of activities to look over in their Camper Packet. Instructions for online signup will be emailed approximately **one week before your session**. Once campers select preferences, our system builds the whole activity schedule around their priorities. We encourage campers to make their own selections so that they will love their schedule!

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.

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 or if contraband is suspected (check the "What NOT to Bring" list on page 2).
- Chatuga is not responsible for staff and camper communication after camp.