

# Parent Information

## BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special occasions at camp! Please alert the Camp Program Director(s) and/or Counselor(s) if your camper will celebrate their birthday during the camp session.

## CAMP BEHAVIOR

Campers are expected to behave in a socially acceptable manner while at camp. Disruptive or dangerous behavior that continues to occur after appropriate disciplinary intervention will not be tolerated. The Program Director may send disruptive campers home. Please review this information with your camper so camp is an enjoyable experience for everyone present.

## CAMP LIFE - Modified Small Group De-Centralized Camping

Small Group camping provides training through the give and take of community living. With adult guidance, each camper has a part in deciding on and carrying out the particulars of the camp program. Activities may include dining, Bible studies, swimming, arts & crafts, hiking, nature walks, singing, archery, and much more. These activities plus more provide the framework for each group's daily routine. Each day all groups gather and share in some activities. For the majority of the day campers move about in cabin groups.

## CAMP PHONE CALLS

Generally, campers will NOT be able to make or receive phone calls. If there is a problem at camp, the Director will contact you. In the event of an emergency at home, be prepared to leave a message for the staff and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

**In Case of an emergency call the camp office at (661) 536-8555 or (661) 536-9323.**

## CAMPER ADDRESS / MAIL

Mail is the highlight of every camper's day. Our tradition at SCSC is that every camper who receives 3 letters or more or 1 package each day does something silly in front of the whole group. Please make your letters cheerful ones, expressing your interest in what is happening at camp. Hopefully "mail" doesn't say things like "your goldfish died & we're leaving for Brazil." To insure that mail is received on time, please consider sending mail two weeks prior to camp. Please address mail as follows:

Camper Name  
Sierra Christian Service Camp  
44503 Old Stage Rd.  
Posey, CA 93260

**OR EVEN BETTER:** Write letters before camp and leave them at the Registration table to be delivered daily. Be sure a delivery date is noted! Also, mail can be sent via email to: [cpitter@sierrachristianservicecamp.org](mailto:cpitter@sierrachristianservicecamp.org). Mail is delivered to campers at 6:30 pm daily.

## CANCELLATIONS / REFUND POLICY

If it becomes necessary to cancel your camper's week at camp, we offer the following cancellation/refund guidance:

A \$90 non-refundable deposit is due with your camper's registration form. Refunds must be requested in writing. No refunds will be made due to cancellations less than 15 days prior to the start of camp. Exceptions: extenuating circumstances may prompt a full refund but will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

#### FOOD - PLEASE DO NOT SEND FOOD, CANDY, OR GUM TO CAMP

Due to food allergies and other restrictions, we prefer that all food be provided by our dining services. Meals at camp are nutritionally balanced and prepared by qualified, experienced staff. Dessert is served daily, and snacks are provided. Food is not allowed in any of the cabins.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health, safety and well being of our campers is the highest priority of our staff. CPR & First Aid trained staff members supervise all activities. We have a First-aid station at camp. Certified lifeguards supervise all swimming activities. With careful attention to safety procedures, we aim to minimize risk while still offering a fun and challenging outdoor program.

**!!! SPECIAL MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND ALLERGIES!!!** Please communicate with the Camp Director about any special medical considerations, including allergies. These special medical considerations should also be noted on the Registration Form. **\*\*\*Dietary restrictions (allergies, etc.) should be noted on the Health Form and discussed with the Director at least three weeks prior to opening day to allow for any special ordering or preparation. Difficult diets may require the parent to supply some food or pay additional fees.\*\*\***

#### INSURANCE

Sierra Christian Service Camp provides secondary insurance for all campers while they are at camp. This secondary insurance is intended to cover deductible amounts or other charges when used with primary insurance provided by family, church or other sources. For questions or more information, please contact the director.

#### LOST & FOUND

Please label your camper's medicines, clothing, and other personal belongings. If something is lost during the camp week, please notify us immediately! We will attempt to locate items left behind, but cannot guarantee retrieval or replacement of lost personal belongings. Lost & found items will be kept at each camp until the end of the summer camping season. If it is necessary to return lost items by mail, we will ask for any postage costs.

#### HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is a natural feeling that many campers experience. Usually the feeling passes in a couple of hours and the camper enjoys the rest of the session. If a camper becomes homesick, the staff and other campers are supportive and helpful in overcoming these feelings. Parents and friends can write cheerful letters of support and encouragement to help them enjoy their stay at camp. Avoid writing about stressful events at home; concentrate instead on questions about camp activities, buddies, food and weather. We

encourage you to send mail before camper arrives (or bring a letter to check-in) so they will get letters at the beginning of the session.

Since talking with parents directly on the phone may increase a camper's homesickness, the camp procedure for handling homesickness does not include a phone call between parent and camper. If you receive homesick letters, please realize the feelings your camper had when the letter was written have probably passed by the time you receive the letter. If homesickness continues for an extended period, the Camp Program Director will notify you by phone. If you are concerned about communication you receive from your camper, please contact the director.

#### OUR STAFF

Summer camp staff is composed of young adults generally from 18-30 years of age. These young adults are committed Christians with a love of the outdoors, organized camping, and ministry with children. All staff members are screened, including an application and interview process, a background check, and reference checks. Staff members are oriented to their work through a rigorous training period that includes child developmental theory, Christian education theory and practice, safety and risk management, basic counseling skills, and worship leadership, among many other topics.

#### ROOMMATES/CABIN MATES

It is recognized that campers may wish to room with a specific friend while at camp. Part of the camp experience is making new friends and developing a community within the group. One cabin mate may be requested for each week at camp. We are usually able to honor requests, but sometimes must make decisions based on available housing, program, age, and other factors. We do not guarantee placement when multiple roommates have been requested or when campers from one church or area request a "chain" of roommates. Siblings may be placed in separate cabins so both can grow and share on their own.

#### SPENDING MONEY/ CAMP STORE

Our Camp Store sells t-shirts as well as water bottles, candy, drinks, toys and other camp gear. The Camp Store will be open during the week about an hour per day. Camper's money is held "on account" so that no loose money exists in the cabins (it poses a theft risk). We recommend each camper come with \$15-\$20 extra for their store account. Money not spent will be returned at the end of camp.

#### GENERAL CHECK IN/CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

Arrival Time varies per camp and session. Please do not come early.

Campers with a balance due must come to the Camp Office / Store to check-in and pay.

#### Upon Arrival:

Check-in in either the Parking Lot or Office / Store

Pay your remaining balance by CASH, CHECK, or MONEY ORDER only.

Drop-off medications with the First-aid staff in the First-Aid Cabin.

Staff will be present to assist with luggage and help find your cabin.

You may also leave camper mail, purchase store items, discuss special needs for your camper with staff, etc.

On opening day, please inform staff of early departures, changes to health information,

changes to pick up info, etc.!

**On Closing Day**

**Departure Day:** Join us for a Closing Chapel Celebration.

**\*\*Medications:** Please pick up your medications from the First Aid Cabin after Chapel.

Campers will receive the camp DVD at Closing Chapel Celebration from their counselors.

Store credit not spent and not picked up will be donated to missions.

**IF YOU MUST PICK UP YOUR CAMPER EARLY, OR IF YOUR CAMPER WILL BE PICKED UP BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE PERSON INDICATED ON THE REGISTRATION FORM, ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE WITH THE DIRECTOR IN ADVANCE.**

We are looking forward to having you join us this summer! Please feel free to contact the Camp Office at 661-536-8555 or at [cpitter@sierrachristianservicecamp.org](mailto:cpitter@sierrachristianservicecamp.org)

Thank you!