

Pine Ridge Day Camp Camper-Parent Handbook

Dear Parents,

Camp time is almost here and we want to welcome you to our summer program. We are excited that you have chosen us for your child's summer adventure! Our goal is to provide a fun, relaxing and safe environment where kids can do the things kids love to do in the good old summertime!

You can be certain that our goal is to join you in every effort to make your child's summer camp experience fun, happy, and worthwhile. If there is something at camp that is bothering your child, please let us know right away. The more we understand your child, the more we can assure that they have a good summer experience.

Please visit our website for more information. www.pineridgedaycamp.org

Respectfully,

Pine Ridge Day Camp

Camp Contact Information

- ∞ Phone: (256)778-9999
During camp hours answered 8:00am-5:00pm. Monday-Friday.
After hours, please leave a message and someone will return your call the next camp day.
- ∞ Fax: (256) 350-1485
- ∞ E-mail: info@pineridgedaycamp.org
- ∞ Web Site: www.pineridgedaycamp.org
- ∞ Address: 113 Pine Hill Drive, Somerville, AL 35670

Parent Communication

We at Pine Ridge Day Camp want to partner with you to help make each camper's experience as fun filled, enriching, and safe as possible. We want our parents to communicate needs, problems and concerns as well as share great experiences, so please do not hesitate to let someone know if there is a problem or if your child has a special need. You can call us at (256) 778-9999, e-mail us info@pineridgedaycamp.org or speak directly with your child's camp counselor or the front desk.

Occasionally a camper may get sick during camp hours, become injured, or experience some difficulties at camp. We will contact you as soon as possible. In the event that it is not such a serious situation, but we think it is something you should know about, we will call you or send a note home with your child. Of course, we will not call a parent every time we have to apply a band-aid, but you can be assured that we will use our best judgment to decide when to notify you.

Check-list For Each Camp Day

- ∞ Swim suit and towel (1 piece for girls)
- ∞ Insect repellent
- ∞ Change of clothes
- ∞ Extra shoes (closed toe and heel – **NO CROCS OR FLIP FLOPS**)
- ∞ Sunscreen
- ∞ Water bottle
- ∞ Water shoes (closed toe and heel)
- ∞ Sports sandals are acceptable

Bus Rules and Policies

- ∞ Each student has their own seat.
- ∞ No seats beyond the permitted number to be shared.
- ∞ No bus will leave its parking space until bus counselor has verified that both of the above conditions are met.
- ∞ Each bus has a bus counselor and they will arrive before campers and stay until all campers have been picked up.
- ∞ Every camper must be signed on and off the bus by parent or we have to be notified in advance of who will get them and they will be required to show identification.
- ∞ Student behavior in the bus is closely monitored. Parents will be made aware of unacceptable bus behavior, and a camper may not be allowed to travel by bus.
- ∞ You can rest assured that this policy is strictly adhered to. Your child's safety is always our first concern.

Camp Day

The camp day will begin at 9:00am when the buses arrive and end at 4:00 pm when the buses depart camp.

Drop Off and Pick-up Policies

Drop off and pick up will take place via the office for security. Campers should be signed in and out by parents daily. If someone else has to pick them up, notify us in advance and they will need to show identification. Please remember to arrive no earlier than 8:30 to 9:00 am drop-off and 3:30 to 4:00 pm pick up. Please contact the office if your camper will be absent or be dropped off or picked up early.

Pick up at **Decatur Kroger at 8:20 - 8:30am**

Drop off at **Decatur Kroger at 4:30pm**

Pick up at **Madison Southern Family Market at 7:35 - 7:55am**

Drop off at **Madison Southern Family Market at 5:05pm**

Pick up at **Madison Burkes Outlet at 8:05 - 8:15am**

Drop off at **Madison Burkes Outlet at 4:45pm**
Pick up at **Huntsville Holy Spirit at 8:05 - 8:20am**
Drop off at **Huntsville Holy Spirit at 4:40pm**

We ask that you arrive 10 minutes early; the bus will depart on time with no exceptions.

Bad Weather

Most days at camp will hopefully be bright and sunny, but in case of thunderstorms, we will have indoor activities for campers. Should weather become more threatening, we will monitor conditions and recommend that parents listen to local TV and radio stations for announcements. Our camp does have an emergency weather procedure in place should tornados threaten and campers will be placed in the designated areas of camp that will provide the best protection for them if a warning is issued. Buses will not depart camp during severe weather. Parents will be notified of any delays.

Medications

All medications must be kept in the office and will be administered under supervision of our camp nurse. Medications must be in the original prescription bottle and clearly labeled and given to the bus counselor to hand in to the nurse. Basic first aid will be administered as needed. Let the office know of any allergies or special needs in this regard: asthma, bee sting allergies, nut allergies, etc. Sun burn may happen if sun screen is not applied at home prior to coming to camp. Hats are advised for all campers.

Lost and Found

Lost and found items are kept in the bin located in the camp office. Campers/counselors can check the box frequently. Encourage your camper to keep his/her stuff together and we encourage all parents to write your child's name on all items and extra shoes or clothing. We can **NOT** be responsible for lost items. Please leave treasured toys, games, etc. at home as they may be lost or broken at camp.

Special Equipment Needed For Activities

Please mark all items with your child's name. Books may be brought from home for quiet reading times. **NO VIDEO GAMES OR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT ALLOWED!** (It will be confiscated and remain at the office until the end of the session.) Comfortable clothing should be worn and tank tops and halter tops are discouraged on any days, as they can result in sunburn, excessive insect bites, and scratches from tree branches. A jacket or poncho is recommended for cool rainy days.

A swimsuit and towel will be needed on swimming days (everyday) and on days the camper's canoe. Please name label everything. We also recommend each camper bring an extra change of clothes and extra set of shoes. Shoes must be worn at all times and will get wet and muddy when canoeing. Keeping in mind that children will be hiking and visiting the horses on occasion, we ask that sneakers, or water shoes be worn to camp. Sandals, crocs and open toed shoes are not safe camp shoes.

Swimming

Each day, the children will go swimming in the pool. Certified Lifeguards will be on duty at all times when there is a group at the pool or the lake. Please note on your enrollment form the level swimmer your child is so that counselors will be aware of this. Lifeguards test each student to determine their level and younger students will not be allowed in the deep end unless they can pass the proper certification. Our campers spend much time in the woods and around our lake on our 122 acre property where they do many different activities from building forts, hikes or fishing. Again, because of frequent visits to the lake and the woods, we highly stress that all campers wear appropriate clothing and shoes and have extra shoes and clothes on campus. Something to store wet clothes in to take home for washing is also a must.

Insect Repellent and Sunscreen

Insects, including mosquitoes and bees just love scented perfumes, lotions, bath powders and sweet foods. We ask that you avoid these things and it may help the bugs to avoid you! We recommend that each camper bring a large container of bug spray with their name on it. We will apply it to younger campers, while it can be self applied by older campers. Pine Ridge Day Camp does take all measures for tick and mosquito control, but these critters are to be found in any wooded areas. Parents should check campers each day for ticks. We try to watch out for poison ivy as well, but sometimes it sneaks up on us. If your child is allergic to poison ivy, be sure we are aware of it.

We encourage the use of waterproof sun block. It is recommended that parents apply it in the morning before sending your child to camp then counselors can reapply if needed later in the day. If you send sunscreen to camp with your child, please make sure to put their name on the bottle with a permanent marker.

Snack and Lunch

All campers are provided lunch and 2 snacks. Please notify us of any special dietary requirements before the session begins. Our dining hall staff ensures that nutritious well balanced meals are offered on a daily basis. Meals include kid favorites such as chicken nuggets and hamburgers, but also offer salad, fresh vegetables, and fruit on a daily basis. We will provide water cooler stations around camp to refill water bottles.

Activities

Our goal is to provide a program that may be customized to each child to suit his/her needs and desires. A child will never be forced to participate in an activity, but we will encourage them in every way to participate in different things so that their camp experience is a great one. Please also note that no camper will be allowed to do any one activity all day long (horses.) We want campers to have a variety of active and less active activities daily. We will also strive to provide fun activities for your child.

The activity schedule is as follows:

	9:30-9:40am:
arrival/powwow/snack	9:45-10:35am:
1st activity	
10:40-11:30am:	2 nd activity
11:30-12:15pm:	lunch
12:20-1:10pm:	3 rd activity
1:15-2:05pm:	4 th activity
2:10-3:00pm:	5 th activity
3:05-3:25pm:	Powwow/Loading and departure of buses at 4:00 pm

Activities Offered:

Archery, home in the woods, climbing wall, horses, crafts, canoeing, pool, challenge course, petting zoo, fire building, fishing, hikes, pickle ball, initiative games, climbing wall, and zipline.

Online Photos

Each week you will be able to view photos of all the campers and staff on the secure camp web page. In the required forms you have an option to select whether or not you wish your child's picture to be posted on the web. This is an in house site with address only given to enrolled campers families.

Behavior of Campers

All campers are expected to be respectful of counselors and other campers. Rules for each camp will be gone over during the first week of camp. If campers are not able to participate appropriately using these rules, and staff and/or parent intervention does not modify behavioral problems, the camper may be asked to leave the program. It is our hope that every camper will have a fun and interesting summer.