



Camp Tecumseh YMCA Day Camp

2011 Parent Handbook

Welcome to Camp Tecumseh Day Camp 2011! I hope that you and your child are as excited about this summer as we here at camp are!

Included in this guide are some important pieces of information as you are planning for your time here at camp. Please take a look at this booklet and hold on to it for reference throughout the summer. **Even if you have been to Day Camp in the past, please take the time to read through this as some things have changed.**

This summer is sure to be lots of fun. We once again have an outstanding staff of counselors hired. We are bringing back some of the great games and activities from past summers, and adding in some new ones. Your child will have numerous opportunities to make new friends, try new experiences, and learn new things.

During the months leading up to summer as well as during your child's time here at camp, please let me know if I can help to answer any questions that you might have. I can be reached by phone at 765-564-2898 x309 or by email at joels@camptecumseh.org. During the summer-time, I am generally not at my desk during the day as I am out with the campers, but feel free to leave a message and I will return it at the end of the day. We have also revised our website to better serve you and answer questions. You can find that at **www.camptecumseh.org/daycamp**.

If you have any questions about registration, payment or camperships, you can talk with Christa Forster, our outstanding Day Camp Registrar. She is a wealth of knowledge and also great at brightening your day.

I hope to meet you at the Thursday Night Family Night during your child's week here at camp!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Sieplinga'.

Joel Sieplinga
Day Camp Director



Pick-Up & Drop-Off of Campers

DAY CAMP ENTRANCE! For drop off and pickup, we will once again be utilizing our new Day Camp Entrance. Instead of taking the entrance down to the river village, all Day Campers should go one entrance further to the “***Day Camp Entrance***”. Please follow the signs down to the new parking lot area. On Monday mornings, you will be able to continue through the parking lot and you will be directed out to the Day Camp site for drop-off. Starting Monday afternoon and every day after, you will park in the new Day Camp parking lot and your child’s counselors will be there waiting for you. During this drop-off and pick-up time, your child will be able to enjoy the new playground area, the mini farm and other options just outside the parking lot.

Drop-off is from 9:30-9:50 am and pick-up is from 3:00-3:20 pm. Please do not drop off before or pick-up after these times. If you are running late and must drop off after 9:50, please go to the River Village parking lot and check-in at the office. One of our staff will then pick your child up for you. The same goes for early pick-up. We do ask that for the safety of everyone at camp you do not drive through camp except for Monday mornings. Please also observe our in-camp speed limit of ***10 MPH***.

If at any time there is a change in **transportation arrangements**, you must provide a written note to camp **IN ADVANCE** stating the change. Remember that your child must be picked up by an adult (18 or over). Your child will not be released to someone other than those listed on the registration forms. **You will need to sign your camper out with his/her counselor every afternoon. Please be prepared to show ID if it is your first time picking up.** We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep all of our kids safe.

Bus

The Day Camp bus runs on a tight schedule and will arrive promptly at the specified pick-up & drop-off locations. Please make sure to arrive at the site on time/early. Our bus cannot wait for late campers/parents. For afternoon pick-up, you will have to sign your child out from the bus. Please encourage your child to stay with the counselors until they have been signed out.

Swim Time

Day Campers at Camp Tecumseh get the opportunity for free swim as well as swim lessons every day of camp. Mondays will consist of a swim check by the aquatic staff, placing the camper in a swim group appropriate to his/her own abilities. Campers will receive a wristband indicating their swim group. Please have your child keep this swimband on throughout the week. This allows our staff and lifeguards to easily identify swimmers. Campers will have the opportunity to retest throughout the week if they so desire.

Tuesday through Friday swim time will consist of 30 minutes of instructional swim and 30 minutes of free swim. If you have any questions or concerns about swimming or your child's swim level, please feel free to contact Joel Sieplinga, Day Camp Director.

Thursday Family Night/Stayover

Every Thursday during Day Camp, we host a Family Night Dessert Carry-In. The Night starts at 6:30 pm and is generally hosted in Kampen Lodge (see the weekly handouts for exact location). The night includes songs, skits, a picture slideshow, delicious desserts, and a chance for your child to introduce you to his/her counselor and give you a little experience of camp. All camper families are invited to attend and bring a dessert to share.

We also offer a Thursday night stayover option for those campers between the ages of 8-12. Those campers who would like to (and sign up to) stay over night on Thursday night will spend the evening with the counselors and other kids and enjoy a campfire, games and activities and then Breakfast on Friday Morning. See the weekly handouts for more information.

Horseback Riding

During your child's week(s) at Day Camp, he/she will have the opportunity to ride a horse in the River Village riding ring. A counselor will lead your child's horse around the ring while the camper enjoys the ride. In order to ride your child must be wearing long pants and close-toed shoes (no sandals or aqua shoes). Due to safety regulations, no camper will be allowed to ride without proper attire. Campers will have time to change into riding gear just prior to their trail ride. Helmets will be provided and required for horseback riding. Your child will receive a note reminding you when to send pants/close-toed shoes.

What to Bring to Day Camp

- **A Sack Lunch**—Please bring your lunch in a brown or white paper bag with your child’s first and last name clearly written on the front. We will refrigerate the lunch bag when your child arrives at camp. Large cooler-type lunch boxes are heavier and use a lot of space in our limited cooler space.
- **Bathing Suit & Towel**—Make sure to pack the swimsuit and towel in a plastic bag. It is also a good idea to mark the child’s first and last name on both the towel and suit. We also ask that swimsuits be modest for both boys and girls.
- **Swim Goggles**—If your child prefers swim goggles for lessons, make sure to send them with as we do not have extras here at camp. Goggles cannot cover nose or mouth.
- **Ear Plugs**—If your child needs/wants ear plugs, make sure to send those along.
- **Sunscreen**—Our counselors will remind campers to apply and assist them with their sunscreen. Make sure to match the SPF with your child’s needs.
- **Water Bottle**—Campers get very hot and need refreshment often, so make sure that this comes along with them.
- **Rain Coat/Light Jacket**—Even if it looks like a beautiful sunny day when you drop your child off, there really is no telling with Indiana weather.
- **A Great Attitude**—If your child arrives at camp with a great attitude and is looking forward to having fun, he/she is likely going to have a great time!

*Train a child in the way he should go, and
when he is old
he will not turn from it.*

-Proverbs 22:6

