

# Camp Tecumseh YMCA 2014 Parent Guide to Summer Camp



Camp Tecumseh YMCA  
12635 W Tecumseh Bend Rd  
Brookston, IN 47923  
[www.camptecumseh.org](http://www.camptecumseh.org)



Dear Parents,

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your child's life this summer. We believe your son or daughter will be taking part in a camp program that is second to none. Our staff works all year to ensure that the time your camper spends here will help develop: self-confidence, leadership, initiative, personal responsibility, and the ability to get along and work with others. The Camp Tecumseh YMCA experience has been proven over many seasons and is one you'll be proud to discuss with your child and your friends.

There is some information in this guide that is very important. It will help keep camp running smoothly and is in the best interest of all concerned. Please read it carefully and save it to refer to later. If you have any questions, please feel comfortable in giving me a call (765-564-2898).

I look forward to seeing you,  
Scott Brosman  
CEO



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## ***Before You Come To Camp***

### **Have I completed and sent in all the necessary forms?**

It is very important that you send in both a completed Health Form and Confidential Form at least 30 DAYS prior to your camper's arrival at camp. The medical examination form must be signed by a physician and include the date of the camper's last tetanus shot. A school physical done within 12 months of camp is acceptable, just attach it to our form and fill in additional information needed. In order to be in compliance with state regulations a completed health information form including your child's health history and physical examination record signed by a doctor, must be on file. For every day of your child's camp session that these forms are not on hand a fee of \$50 per day will be assessed. Your child could also be sent home due to failure to comply with this requirement and no refund will be given. Camp requests that forms are to be sent to camp at least 30 days before the scheduled camp session so they can be properly reviewed by camp health personnel.

### **What if my child has a disability or special needs?**

Camp Tecumseh counselors are encouraging and patient and can help facilitate successful camp experiences for children with mild and moderate disabilities. Our programs are not designed for campers who need significant assistance or personal care, require constant one-on-one support, or have difficulty managing their behavior in group settings.

If your child has a special health care need, the camper's parent/guardian must contact camp by phone at least 90 days in advance of their camp date for an evaluation of the camper's care needs. This evaluation will be made by camp's healthcare professional. Health conditions requiring advance clearance include, but are not limited to: Insulin Dependent Diabetes, Cardiac Situations, Asthmatics, Seizure Disorders, Autism Spectrum & Serious Food Allergies.

### **What is the deadline for getting my camper's fees paid?**

All camp fees are due April 1. Most parents use our online payment plan. You can also make payment by logging on to your registration account on our website. If you would like to make your payment using your credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover), simply contact our office at 765-564-2898. If you use a check please make note in the memo line your camper's name and their camp dates. You can find that information on your confirmation letter.

### **If my camper writes a letter home, will s/he be able to mail it?**

Yes! Campers will be encouraged to write one letter home each week. Do not be alarmed if the letters are brief and quite irregular as the youngsters are busy at camp and "no news is good news" as far as campers are concerned. Also, early letters may sound upsetting, but usually by the time you receive the letter the camper has adjusted and often forgotten what s/he wrote. Stamps and stationery are available for purchase in the Trading Post.

### **Do I need to send spending money for the Trading Post (Camp Store)?**

Unless you have indicated differently on your registration form, your child will be allotted \$50 PER WEEK to spend in the Trading Post. At the end of the camp stay, we will charge the final balance to the credit card we have on file for your camper's account. If you would like to adjust the allotted amount your child can spend, please send a note or an e-mail to our Registrar, at registrar@camptecumseh.org. Campers should not have money in their possession while at Camp.

### **These items are most commonly purchased by campers:**

Camp Picture --\$6.75	Trail Ride--\$9.00
Camp Shirts--\$15.00 - \$25.00	World Service*--\$3.00
Assorted Souvenirs--\$0.50-\$15.00	Snack--\$1.00-\$1.50 (1 a day)
Unit Shirts--\$12.00	Faxes or e-mails--50¢ per page
Pop Stop or Juice--\$0.75 or \$1.50 (1 a day)	

(Listed prices are subject to change.)

Prior to camp, most parents and campers may wish to discuss the amount of money that is allotted in their trading post account. The enjoyment of camp is not dependent on the amount of money spent at the Trading Post. Please discuss with your youngster the things that might be most appropriate for them to buy. One can of pop or juice may be purchased each afternoon and one snack item may be purchased after supper.

\*World Service: YMCA World Service is an important aspect of the YMCA mission. Camp Tecumseh offers a World Service event, (carnival, olympics, etc.) through which each camper may make a maximum contribution of \$3.00. This money is used as a part of Camp Tecumseh's commitment of support to mission work in other countries such as sponsoring two children through Compassion International.

### **What if I need to cancel my child's stay at Camp?**

The \$75 per week registration fee is a registration charge and is not refundable, nor transferable, under any circumstances. Due to the difficulty of filling cancelled spots just prior to or during the camping season, cancellations for any session or program for any reason within 30 days of camp dates will receive no fee remission. Final payment is due by April 1st. All cancellations prior to the camp date must be sent in writing to the camp office. You can mail or send it to the registrar at registrar@camptecumseh.org. A notice will be sent to you by return mail. If you do not receive a confirmation of cancellation, camp has not received your cancellation notice and no refund will be given. Understand that the camp fee does not include accident insurance. Remember that no refunds are given if a child leaves early for any reason or is dismissed for disruptive behavior.

## ***Packing For Camp***

### **What should I pack for my child to bring to camp?**

Use the "What to Bring to Camp Tecumseh" checklist on page 6. As you pack, mark the items off on the list. Check again upon returning home while unpacking. Since practicing personal responsibility is part of the camp experience, please discuss with your child the importance of keeping track of all personal items. To help recover lost items, please have names on all belongings.

### **Does Camp Tecumseh have guidelines for clothing?**

In striving to provide an environment of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and faith, we ask that you help us in the choices of clothing your child brings to camp. We request that sayings/pictures on clothing be in good taste. Camp reserves the right to prohibit the wearing of clothing the Camp Director deems inappropriate for a Christian youth camp.

Campers should have enough clothing to last the duration of their stay. Those campers staying for more than one week will have the opportunity to have a load of wash laundered during the weekend using their Trading Post spending money (\$7.00). Campers should bring clothing that can get wet and dirty without concern. Mud Hikes to Ghost Creek are popular and old sneakers are needed because they can't wear sandals. **All clothing should be marked with the camper's name.**

**Swim attire:** To help maintain an atmosphere of modesty (and avoid making teenaged girls and boys any more excited than they already are around the opposite gender), we respectfully ask that boys only bring boxer-type swim trunks to camp and girls wear one-piece or modest two piece swim suits that adequately cover their feminine parts. Please do not bring bikinis, thongs, or other skimpy swimwear. Aquatic areas are places to have fun and fellowship but not a place to "show off our body" as might occur on public beaches or TV. Camp Tecumseh is a Christian youth camp and we don't want staff or camper attire at the aquatic areas or elsewhere to be skimpy, suggestive or in poor taste. Final authority of dress appropriateness lies with camp administration.

**Horseback riding:** If your child will be participating in Equestrian camp or Horsemanship clinic or is planning on going on a trail ride, please remember to include a pair of long pants and close toed shoes. Long pants can include jeans, breeches, wind pants, sweat pants, and capris (as long as they extend past the knees while sitting). Any camper wanting to participate in a horse related activity must bring close toed, hard soled shoes. Tennis shoes are acceptable for those riding in a western saddle as our stirrups have a covering that prevents a foot from sliding through. Those Equestrian campers planning on riding English style should bring a boot with a 1/2" heel to prevent their foot from sliding through. Crocs are not acceptable footwear. "Under Indiana law, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities."

### **Are there any items my child should NOT BRING to camp?**

Being a natural environment designed for children to get a break from the pressures of the world, camp will continue with, and enforce, the policy of no electronic devices. Campers may bring a fan, alarm clock, and a blow dryer. **Campers may not bring portable IPOD/CD/MP3 players, cell phones, radios, electronic games, laptop computers, PDAs, Kindles, etc.** If it is discovered that your child does have any of these items after you leave, the items will be locked up in the offices until the camper checks out. We want to encourage wholesome outdoor recreation in the beauty of the natural world. Also, the possession of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco, alcohol, knives, guns, or any acts of violence or sexual misconduct will be grounds for immediate dismissal from camp. Pets are not allowed at camp.

### **May my child bring food to camp?**

Camp provides healthy meals, so snacks are not needed. Camp will allow campers to bring a small amount of snacks, but only if they are stored in an air-tight container, such as a ziplock bag. Please do not bring a large container of candy or other sweets. **Due to increased allergy sensitivities, please refrain from bringing products with peanuts.** Camp Tecumseh will not provide storage containers nor be held responsible for lost or stolen food items. Counselors will regulate when campers can have the food. Drinkables are not allowed, except for bottled water. Care packages may also be mailed to your camper during their stay.



# ***What to Bring to Camp Tecumseh YMCA***

(Clearly mark NAME on ALL ARTICLES!)

Do NOT Bring: Electronic Devices, Jewelry, Fireworks, Guns, Ammunition, Skate boards, Bicycles, In-line Skates or Pets. Drugs, Tobacco or Alcohol products are grounds for immediate dismissal from camp.

## **Clothing**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> T-Shirts                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Close-Toed Shoes<br>(For mud hikes, float trips<br>and/or trailrides. Old<br>Sneakers work best) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sneakers   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathing Suit              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Pants                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket   | <input type="checkbox"/> Underclothes              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandals/Flip Flops<br>(for pool/lake/shower) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas  | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Old "Mud Hike<br>Clothes"                    |   | <input type="checkbox"/> "Theme Dinner"<br>clothes |

Note: Any camper participating in a horse related activity must bring close-toed, hard soled shoes. Equestrian campers planning on riding English style should bring a boot with a 1/2" heel.

## **Bedding/Personal Hygiene**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow Case         | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin Size Sheets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets  | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach Towel         | <input type="checkbox"/> Bath Towels      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag<br>(even if you are bringing<br>sheets & blankets--for<br>sleepouts) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo/Conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Wash Cloths      |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comb/Hairbrush      | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap             |

## **Miscellaneous Items**

- |   |                                       |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight       | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing Material |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Block        |

## **Optional Equipment**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Racket | <input type="checkbox"/> Fan (small clip-on) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Tackle | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera        |  |

**Camp is not responsible for a camper's personal items.**

# ***Arrival at Camp & Check-In Day***

## **Where is Check-In?**

All campers will check-in at the Creative Arts Center, located in the River Village. Please follow the signs for Check-In.

## **When does Check-In begin?**

Camp is not prepared to check-in campers prior to 2:00 pm Eastern Time. Staff will still be on their break and final preparations for your arrival will be in progress. Please cooperate in this important matter. You may check-in any time between 2:00 and 4:00 pm Eastern Time. There is normally a long line at 2:00 that diminishes by 3:00 pm. Check-in begins with a quick health screening. Remember that fully completed Health Forms should be at Camp 30 days in advance.

## **Am I going to have to stand in multiple lines?**

If all the necessary forms are sent prior to Check-in and you don't have medications, you only have to stand in the health screening and Check-in lines. Medications (prescription and over-the-counter) must be given to the nurse at check-in and must be in original containers.

## **When do we meet our camper's counselors?**

After your camper is checked in, you should accompany them to their assigned cabin so you may meet and talk with the counselors. Please feel free to ask questions of any camp staff as we wish to make your camper's stay as pleasant as possible. If someone other than yourself is picking up your child at check-out, or you will have a mid-week pick-up or early check-out, please complete a "Special Leave" card with the cabin counselors. Note: Counselors will check campers for head lice before they enter the cabin. Campers with head lice or any nits will not be allowed to stay at camp. We recommend you check your camper one week prior to camp.

## **Do all campers have to take a swim check after they arrive?**

YES. After all the campers arrive at the cabin, the cabin group will visit the pool for a swim check. Swim checks on the afternoon of each opening day allow us to accomplish several important tasks. First, it allows the counselor to see any sores or injuries that may need special attention during your camper's stay. Secondly, it allows the counselor and the aquatic staff to identify any non-swimmers or weak swimmers that need to be supervised more closely.

Swimmers in Resident Camp (non-equestrian) that can not swim two widths of the pool (40'x2), using good front crawl and a second stroke, will be automatically signed up to have a swim lesson each morning. In addition, these campers will not be able to enroll in deep water swimming or boating clinics. If you do not wish for your child to have the daily swim lesson, indicate that on the Parent Confidential form.

# *Picking Up Your Camper on Check-Out Day*

## **Where do I go to pick-up my camper?**

When you arrive at camp on Check-Out Day, go directly to your camper's cabin to pick them up. After loading up the car, with your camper and their belongings, stop by Kampen Lodge, located in the Lake Village, and check-out your camper. At that time, you will pick up their medications and be able to sign up for next year too! Please be especially thorough on check-out day as some times laundry, shoes, or luggage bags are left. Also check the cabin porch & clothesline for your camper's things.

## **When can I pick up my camper?**

Campers will not be ready to be picked up before 9:30 am on closing day, and should not be left past 11:00 am (Eastern Time), unless arrangements have been made well in advance with the camp office at 765-564-2898.

## **What if my camper is missing some of his/her belongings?**

Lost and found items are collected and displayed on the benches in front of the lodge in each village. Our counselors make every effort to ensure that your child will return with everything s/he brought to camp. But your child is responsible to ensure that nothing is lost. Please be sure all items brought to camp are plainly marked with your child's name and please counsel your child to keep close track of all items. If you discover something is missing upon your return home, please call as soon as possible. The more time that passes, the less likely it can be found. Lost and found items will only be held for three weeks and then will be taken to a local charity (clothing bank or thrift store).

## **What if my camper is staying for two weeks in a row?**

"Stayover" campers will be supervised the entire weekend by our counselor staff. They may have to switch cabins for the weekend. If that is the case, camp staff will help them move their needed items and then return them on Sunday. If you wish to pick up your camper, whether for the entire weekend or for just a couple of hours for lunch on Saturday, please check your camper out with our staff at Kampen Lodge. When returning your camper, please check them back in with the staff.





## ***Summer Parent's Connection***

For pictures, to send emails and other information while your kids are at camp, click on "Summer Parent's Connection" on our homepage--[www.camptecumseh.org](http://www.camptecumseh.org)



## ***Other Important Information***

### **What happens if my child becomes ill while at camp?**

In the case of serious illness or other situations that require seeing a physician, the Camp Director or nurse will notify parents. Parents are invited to talk with the Camp Director, one of the three full-time nurses, or the counselors, about individual camper needs when you arrive at camp. Remember all medications, prescriptions or over the counter medications must be turned in to the nurses at Check-in. They must be in the original containers.

### **How can I help reduce the likelihood that my child will experience homesickness?**

Campers look forward to hearing from their parents. Please write to them so they receive a letter the 1st or 2nd day. (You can leave them at the Trading Post on check-in day and we'll deliver them with the regular mail.) It is suggested that letters be cheery and newsy in such a way that they will not make the camper homesick. Don't make the youngster feel that you can't get along without them or suggest or ask them about homesickness. Do not discuss this before they go to camp as it tends to make them more homesick. Temporary homesickness is a normal reaction, particularly to new campers. With proper handling by the staff, campers, and parents it can be overcome and the camper can make a big stride in maturing. We welcome this opportunity to help campers grow in this area and we train our staff to handle homesickness in constructive and loving ways.

### **What are the easiest ways to communicate with my camper while s/he is at camp?**

You can E-MAIL or FAX your child at Camp. Please put your child's name and cabin name in the Subject line. \$ .50 will be charged to your child's Trading Post account for each page. Campers will not be able to e-mail or fax outgoing messages. Please limit e-mails to text only; no electronic greeting cards or attachments.

The easiest way to e-mail is to go to our Web site ([www.camptecumseh.org](http://www.camptecumseh.org)) and click "Parent's Connection", where you will find a link to e-mail your camper. This "online form" email system helps us distribute camper mail faster. If you prefer, you may also send a message from your personal e-mail program to [camper@camptecumseh.org](mailto:camper@camptecumseh.org). Our FAX number is 765-564-3210.

If you prefer U.S. Postal, please include the camper's cabin name on mail to your camper. The camp address is 12635 W. Tecumseh Bend Road, Brookston, IN 47923.

### **Can I arrange for my child to be in the same cabin as his/her friend?**

Camp honors only one "mutual cabinmate request". A "mutual request" is formed when two campers of similar age only request each other. It is unfair to the other campers in a cabin to have a large group who already know one another placed together. **Therefore, both campers must request only each other as their "Cabinmate Request" to form a mutual request and ensure the pairing is made.** Also, make sure the campers are coming the same week. In cases where several campers have linked their names together, each choosing a different cabinmate, camp will place campers as it feels is in the best interest of all concerned. Please cooperate by coordinating your "Cabinmate Request" with the other family. Please remember that even if two persons are not in the same cabin there are many opportunities to spend time together in camp. If you are requesting that your child not be placed with a certain child it is your responsibility to inform the other family prior to arrival at camp.

### **Can I contact my camper in the event of a home emergency?**

Phone calls to or from campers are DISCOURAGED. In the event of an emergency parents should contact the camp at 765-564-2898. The Camp Director will then work with the parent to determine the best way to notify the camper. If calling outside of office hours please follow the voice prompts for accessing camp's emergency phone.

### **Are visitors permitted?**

In order that the camp program may be more effective, it is necessary to free the campers from outside contacts as much as possible. Often well-meaning parents may unintentionally interfere with the camper's enjoyment and growth in camp when they should be engaged in camp activity. Visitation of parents and family is welcomed on the weekend between sessions for campers who are staying longer than one week. No child will be released to a non-custodial parent or another adult without written permission from a custodial parent. If your child needs to leave early, please give a written note to the staff at check-in and one to the cabin counselors stating when you would like to pick-up your child so we can have them ready. No pets are permitted on camp property without a leash. Alcoholic beverages on camp property are prohibited.

Former Campers: Visits from former camper to current campers must have advance permission of the Camp Director. Visitations must be during the normal check-in/check-out times if visiting campers or during the staff member's time off if visiting staff. Campfire programs are a part of the camp experience for campers registered during that week. Please do not plan to attend an Opening or Closing campfire. Only former staff or counselor parents are allowed.

## When can I sign my camper up for Summer Camp 2015?

Registrations will be accepted in our office by mail, fax, in person, or online no earlier than June 2, 2014. No phone registrations will be accepted until after August 13, 2014. Pre-filled registration forms will also be included in your Check-out envelope. Faxed registrations must be followed up by a phone call to confirm receipt within 24 hours. We cannot guarantee we have received fax registrations. Note: Campers In Leadership Training (CILTs) filled very quickly last year.

## How do I get to Camp Tecumseh?

Camp Tecumseh YMCA is located approximately halfway between Delphi and Brookston, IN, and north off State Road 18.

Traveling from Delphi or Brookston on State Road 18, turn North onto Springboro Road at the flashing light (up a big hill). One mile north, you turn right onto Tecumseh Bend Road.

Nine tenths of a mile down Tecumseh Bend Road use the camp entrance marked "River Village". The speed limit in camp is 10 miles per hour.







## **Camp Tecumseh fosters a positive camp atmosphere with its "I'm Third" motto**

An important component in creating such a positive atmosphere at Camp Tecumseh is the "I'm Third" motto. God is first, the other person is second, and I'm Third. This encourages each of us to put "God First" in our life; to follow His teaching and conduct ourselves in ways pleasing to Him. "The other person is second" reminds us to be unselfish and lookout for the concerns of others, leaving ourselves "Third."

Other Camp Tecumseh Opportunities Available During The Year:

Retreats, Groups, Conferences, Family Camp, Adventure Guides, Scouts, Leadership Training, Quilt Camps, and Outdoor Education for Schools

**To learn more about Camp Tecumseh YMCA, contact us at:**

765-564-2898

[info@camptecumseh.org](mailto:info@camptecumseh.org)

[www.camptecumseh.org](http://www.camptecumseh.org)