**MONROE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER, INC.**

**WELCOME TO SUMMER CAMP! – FAQ’s**

**When does camp begin?**

 **For Resident Campers, c**amp begins on the start date of your camp with registration from

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please arrive as close to 3:00 p.m. as possible so we can start our activities promptly. We are not able to receive campers any earlier than 3PM so please plan accordingly.

**For Day Campers**, Day camps begin at 8:45 a.m. each day.

**When does camp end?**

 Parents/grandparents/guests are invited to lunch on Friday at noon. The cost is $5 each. A sign-up sheet will be available at registration. Campers will present programs based on things they have learned while at camp. If you are not having lunch, arrive at 1:00 p.m. to pick up your child. All children should be picked up from camp no later than 1:00 p.m. Friday. Day Campers should be picked up by

5:00 p.m. except on Friday. If your camp ends on a day different than Friday, we will attach a special communication of that pick-up time in this confirmation packet.

 **NOTE: Only people on your approved camper pick-up list may take your child home. We do this to ensure your child’s safety.** You may make changes to this list, but they must be in writing. Please advise anyone who is coming to pick up your camper (including yourself) that they will need to present **a Photo ID to the camp staff in charge of check-out.**

**How do you handle distribution of medication?**

 Campers with prescription medication will turn in their medications at check-in. A parent/guardian will sign a release giving our camp nurse permission to distribute the medications. Our camp nurse will ensure campers receive their medication at the appropriate times. Medications are protected under lock and key when the nurse is not present. Campers with emergency medications such as an EpiPen® or asthma inhalers will also be checked in and will be given to the camper’s counselor for safe keeping.

**Can my camper request a roommate?**

While we do our best to accommodate requests, we only take the obligation to grant one roommate request per child. We grant these requests only if the request from both parties is mutual. (Example: We do not necessarily put campers together if “Johnny” requests to room with “Billy,” but “Billy” does not request to room with “Johnny.”) Campers cannot request to be cabin mates with campers in different camps. We find that keeping campers with their same age group at night is best for all. Cabin mate requests on registration day will not be granted. While we do our best to accommodate roommate requests, we do not guarantee that every request will be granted. Contact the office to make request if not previously stated on registration form.

**What happens in the event of an emergency?**

While we pray emergency situations never happen (and they rarely do), we are prepared to handle most emergencies at camp. We require an emergency preparation plan for natural and personal emergencies. Each staff member is trained for emergencies and is certified in CPR & First Aid. Parents will be contacted in the event of an emergency.

**How are your staff chosen, screened, and trained?**

We know a quality staff makes a quality camp. Our summer staff is comprised of young adults who have a love for God, children, camping, and the outdoors. Typically, our staff are college-aged with interests in fields such as ministry, education, outdoor recreation, or child development. Applicants apply, submit references, and are all individually interviewed. Before a hire becomes official they must also submit to a criminal background check. Staff are also required to complete ten days of staff training prior to the arrival of children at camp. Training includes preparing staff to lead campers in all camp activities, review and prepare for emergency situations, learn camp procedures and regulations, learn techniques to help support campers if problems arise, and how to respond when campers do not follow rules.

**Will I or my camper be able to contact one another?**

 We encourage parents and campers to write letters to one another during the week. However, you are responsible for providing your child with paper, pens, envelopes, and stamps. Parents can also E-mail their children. However, only under extreme circumstances do we allow campers and parents to make verbal contact during the week. Typically a camper wants to call home because they are homesick and we have found that a call home only makes it worse on the camper. Talk with your child about this before they arrive at camp; it will help!

**What happens if my child is homesick?**

 Homesickness is all too common, but we know it’s not permanent. We will do everything we can to ensure your camper copes with the worries of being away from home. Most of the time, a camper is over it after being at camp a full day. However, if we believe your camper is not able to finish the week, a member of the staff may contact the parent to discuss other solutions. Last year, we did not have to send one camper home due to homesickness.

**How is misbehavior handled at camp?**

Kids will be kids and we know kids aren’t perfect. The best way we prevent misbehavior is to keep our campers busy and engaged in our camp activities. However if misbehavior happens, most situations can be handled with a conference with the counselor and or the camp director. Repetitive misbehavior may result in campers losing a few minutes of swim time during the day. In extreme cases, campers may be sent home immediately at the expense of their parents. Never will a staff member deprive a camper of meals, snacks, or water as a method of discipline. Never will a staff member leave a child in isolation as a method of discipline. Never will a staff member strike or scream at a child as a method of discipline.

**Can we visit camp before we come?**

 Absolutely! Call us at 910-276-1654 to arrange a tour.

**Can you accommodate campers with special dietary needs?**

We can usually accommodate the most common dietary restrictions. Let us know about dietary needs in advance by calling before your child comes to camp. In addition, please indicate dietary needs on the health form.

**Can I come for more than one week?**

Absolutely! Just fill out a registration form and payment for each camp. Please note: Campers attending consecutive weeks of camp may not stay at Monroe over the weekend.