

Forest Home First Time Parent Letter/ Good Reminders

- Prior to Camp Prep:
 - Reference the Packing List for the items you'll need
 - Get your Team Color Gear and Banquet Outfits and theme day we love to maximize the silliness at camp So the more themes the better.
 - Prepare your students' medications **(Must be in Original Pharmacy containers)**
 - **See the (Bringing medications to camp link in the email)**
 - Decide what electronics your child will be bringing
 - Separate your child's money into separate envelopes:
 - Lunch on the way to camp
 - Lunch on the way back
 - Forest Home is now cashless; all retail purchases must be made by credit card, debit card, Forest Home giftcard, or eGiftcard. This link allows you to load or reload money on to your camper's account at any time before or during camp. You have the option of adding a telephone number to the account, making it easier for your camper to memorize the number required for making a purchase. For more instructions or troubleshooting on eGiftcards, watch this video. At the end of camp, if your camper does not spend all the money on their eGiftcard, it will remain open so that your camper can use it the next time they are at camp. You can also email refunds@foresthomes.org to request a refund for the extra funds on your camper's eGiftcards.
 - Be sure your Online Medical Form is complete you can find that link in the email.
 - **Nothing should be brought to camp that is irreplaceable.(Except your student)**
- Departure:
 - **Please meet at the Northeast Campus Parking Lot at 6 am.**
 - Make sure your child's baggage is labeled with their name and our church's name.
 - We will separate our luggage into Creekside and Lakeview so make sure your child's bag ends up in the right area when you arrive. **Make sure they hold onto any items that they want to keep on the bus.**
 - You will check your child in and we will make sure of 4 things:
 - Your balance is paid in full
 - The Online Medical Form is complete
 - The SAPC Medical Form is complete
 - We will take your child's medication please see the Forest Home medication Guide attached in the email.
 - Your Child will receive their t-shirt at this time. **It is a good idea to write your child's name on their T-shirt tag to be sure they do not lose it! All of our t-shirts look the same so this will be the only way for your child to know it belongs to them.**
 - Make sure you receive a "Contact Postcard" so you have all the numbers you need in case of an emergency!

- Breathe a sigh of relief because your kiddo is going to have an awesome week!
- At Camp:
 - To help with homesickness, please let us know if your child is contacting you at camp. **Do NOT come to camp to get your child unless you have talked to us.** Many kids experience homesickness at some point during the week but our leaders are very experienced at caring for homesick kids. If you are worried about your child, the best thing to do is contact a leader.
 - If there is an emergency at home, please contact Tim or Richard.
 - If your child has a food allergy, encourage them to let their leader know so that the leader can advocate for them at meals. Each camp center will have a copy of your child's allergies to be sure to provide the best accommodations for your camper. The kitchen staff is amazing at making accommodations but sometimes students need help speaking up.
 - Your camper is going to have a blast! Here is a general outline of what their week will look like!
 - The entire camp is divided into 4 teams that compete in various games and competitions. Some of these competitions include Lake Comp, Pool Comp, Field Comp, Night Comp, etc. During these competitions teams earn points for the week by winning games, have good sportsmanship, creating cheers for their team, etc. Each day students will have meals together, a Morning gathering, a competition somewhere on camp, a night gathering, and free time. During free time, students will have a variety of options. They can swim, play laser tag (\$5 per game), go to the store, go to the craft cabin, go to the coffee shop or snack bar, play mini golf, go on the ropes course, go on the giant swing, go on the zipline, kayak, paddleboard, and more! At some point in the week your child will have the opportunity to meet one on one with a leader to talk about how the week is going for them, answer questions they may have about the talks they are hearing, and share a little bit about their life and faith.
 - Towards the end of the week our students participate in a night called the Worship Experience. This is a series of stations that allow the students and leaders to talk about faith and the things that they have learned through prayer, written expression, musical worship, affirmation, arts and crafts, and more.
- Returning home from camp
 - We typically leave camp between 11am and 12pm on Friday. We will stop for lunch along the way and aim to be back at the church between 6pm-7pm. **We will have your child contact you when we are 30 minutes away from the church, typically as we pass Picacho Peak.**
 - Your child will most likely be tired from camp so don't feel bad if they aren't very talkative Friday night! Ask them all about their experience at camp Saturday morning!
 - Your child will be excited to tell you all about the activities they did and the amazing adventures they went on. **We encourage you to ask them what they learned about God during this week.** We love all the fun that camp has, but we ultimately return to camp summer after summer because of the way students encounter God.
- After Camp

- Encourage your child to continue coming to weekly youth group (Tuesday Nights for High School and Wednesday Nights for Middle School) and youth events throughout the year. Camp is an amazing time for students to encounter God in a new way or for the first time, but learning how to be in relationship with God on a day to day basis happens at our weekly Youth Programming and by building relationships with our Youth Leaders who demonstrate what life with Christ looks like.