

Dear Church,

We are thrilled that you have signed up to be part of BCNM Kids Camp for 2023. Here are a few notes and suggestions for a great week of camp!

- Our theme for the week is “Listen!” from Mark 4:3. We look forward to learning about how to listen to God in the midst of the chaos and noise of the world. Please be in prayer for the kids as they prepare to come to camp. Pray boldly and specifically for God to change hearts and that His Word will take root in their lives.
- Joe Vivian, one of the pastors at Eastern Hills Baptist Church, Albuquerque will be our camp pastor. Joe’s wife, Kerry, will also be helping with some object lessons throughout the week.
- We have a great camp leadership team who are working to get everything ready at Inlow and Sivells. They are preparing for worship, Bible Studies, activities, and plenty of fun!

What you need to know about SPONSORS:

- When you look for sponsors, be wise and be intentional. Sponsors are essential to camp. You are looking for trustworthy men and women to care for and disciple the kids in your group.
- Your church is responsible to have one adult (18 or older) sponsor for every 7 kids, gender specific. **Junior Sponsors are no longer permitted.**
- Read through the information page about sponsors and provide the information to your sponsors.
- Each church is responsible to run a background check for each adult coming to camp. We also recommend abuse prevention training for all adults.

Camp Arrival:

- **Inlow:** Check in will be from 1:30-3:30 on Monday, June 12th. Our first activity will be at 4:00 that afternoon so don’t be late.
- **Sivells:** For efficient registration, check in times are staggered for each church. You will be contacted by Sharon Wasser with your registration time prior to camp. *If you have not been contacted by June 7th, contact Sharon at skaywasser@gmail.com.* Only ONE person may check-in for your group. IF AN EMERGENCY CAUSES YOU TO ARRIVE AFTER 2:30 PM ON MONDAY, PLEASE CALL SIVELLS: 575-687-3538
 - Please make sure all vans/busses are parked for the week in the RV area above the pond. Vehicles need to be parked facing the road.
- At check in, you will need:
 - 1) Final list of campers.
 - 2) Three release forms for **EVERY camper AND EVERY Sponsor**. NOTICE that the forms we are using for 2023 are NEW. Any forms prior to the 2023 forms cannot be accepted so don’t use an old form that you have on file.
 - 3) Sponsor Approval Form with all adult sponsors listed.
 - 4) Visitor Approval Form if you plan to have any visitors from your church during the week of camp. The Visitor Approval Form has to be turned in at registration so that visitors can be put on the visitors list for the front gate. If their name is not on the list they will not be allowed into the camp.
 - 5) Final payment

Other Information:

- Your church will be able to meet as a group each day after evening worship. You will have a time to discuss and follow-up with worship services and the Bible Studies that day. You'll be given some materials at camp to help you with these times.
- If you have anyone who wants to visit their child or their church group while they are at camp, you will need to fill out a Visitor Approval Form prior to camp and turn in the form at check in. For the protection of our children at camp, if someone arrives at camp and has not been placed on the 'Visitor Approval Form', then they will not be allowed into the camp.
 - Parents are allowed but not encouraged to come and visit. Often, children will want to go home with the parent instead of choosing to stay and finish a great week of camp. If parents or visitors are at Inlow for meals, they will need to make prior reservations for the meal and pay for the meal.
- Contacting home is not easy at camp. Some cell service is sketchy but mostly not available at all. The phone number for Inlow is 505-384-4023 and for Sivells is 575-687-3538. Encourage parents to use it ONLY in an emergency. Also, be aware that it may take a while to get a message to a child or sponsor. Children will not be able to use the Inlow phone to check in with parents because it would tie up the line unnecessarily. Sponsors will contact parents if there is a problem, otherwise parents can rest assured that their child is having a great time at camp.
- There is Internet access at camp in some areas. This is for sponsor's convenience but shouldn't take away from your job as a sponsor during camp. You will need to request the Internet password from the Inlow staff. It does not have enough bandwidth for all adults to be downloading or uploading pictures or face-timing, etc. Use it sparingly.
- The meals at camp are good! There is always a variety of food and plenty of food. Children and sponsors won't go hungry. However, special dietary needs cannot be met at camp. If a child or sponsor has special dietary needs, you are encouraged to bring your own food. Contact us with any questions on this. Also, the snack bar will be open at least once each day to purchase all kinds of snacks.
- **BCNM has a policy that states that whatever vehicle you use to bring children to camp needs to stay at camp all week. In the event of an evacuation, we need to be sure that there are seats for every child and sponsor to leave camp in an emergency.**
- Have parents LABEL everything the child brings. Tell parents that if it's at all important, it needs to have their child's name on it. We always have a pile of lost and found and no idea of whom it belongs to.
- If there is any severe discipline problem with a child, parents may be asked to come and get the child.

Looking forward to a great week at camp! Contact camp director, Katy Parker, if you have any questions. katyp@bcnm.com or 505-924-2336.

Church Leader: Here is a letter that you could give to parents of kids coming to camp. We would be happy to e-mail this to you so that you can revise it to suit your church needs.

Dear Parents,

Thanks for entrusting your children to us for a week of camp. It is our privilege to help children have loads of fun this week while learning about Jesus! Here's some information you may want to know about camp.

- Be praying for your child this week. Pray that God would teach your child new things and the children will grow in their walk with the Lord. Our theme for the week is "Listen!" and we will dive into learning how to listen to God in the midst of the noise of the world. Our theme verse is Mark 4:3. We know you'll want your child to experience spiritual growth this week, and we are partnering with you as you pray for your child.
- Joe Vivian, family pastor at Eastern Hills Baptist Church in Albuquerque will be the camp pastor. There are several others who are a part of our team from across the state, and they are excited lead in Bible studies, tracks, and more.
- Your church leader will need you to fill out and sign three releases /Permission Forms.
- You should also receive a 'what to bring to camp' list to help you pack your child for camp.
- It's completely normal if you feel a little nervous about sending your child away for a week. However, kids have loads of fun at camp and they need this time away to grow in their walk with God. Your child and you will be thrilled about all the things they get to do and experience at camp! Our team has been putting camps together for 15 plus years. We design camp to meet the needs of your 2nd-6th grader. They will be kept busy, have loads of fun, and be challenged to learn and grow in their walk with God!
- A little homesickness can be normal at this age. Honestly, the best remedy is to not contact family during the week. Plus, Inlow has only ONE phone line and we need to keep it open for emergencies. Some cell phone companies get a little service but don't expect phone calls. Your child is being kept busy with lots of fun activities. We will contact you if there is an emergency or problem with your child. Inlow's phone number is 505-384-4023 and Sivells' is 575-687-3538 if you have an **emergency**. Don't expect to call and immediately talk to your child. They may be at the other end of camp and a message will need to be delivered to them to have them call you back.
- You are allowed, though not encouraged to come and visit your child during the week. You must decide that prior to camp so that your church can put your name on the Visitor Approval List. To protect your child during the week, we do not allow any visitors who are not on our Visitor Approval List to come into the campground. Also, if you plan to eat with your child while at Inlow, you need to have arranged that prior to coming and you need to pay for your meal.
- We try to get kids to bed by 10:30 each night and breakfast is at 7:30a.m. However, kids usually have one or two sleepless nights. On Friday, your child will arrive home sleepy, possibly grumpy, and with a suitcase full of dirty clothes (if they change clothes during the week ☺). Expect that they'll need some extra downtime on that Friday to catch up on some sleep, and they may not want to talk about camp too much until they've had some sleep.
- If you want your child's clothes and belongings to come home with him/her, please LABEL everything they bring. We often end up with a large pile of lost and found and don't know who the things belong to. It's easier if items are labeled with their name.
- The meals at camp are good! There is always a variety of food and plenty of food. Children will not go hungry. However, special dietary needs cannot be met at camp. If a child has special dietary needs, they are allowed to bring their own food. Work with your child's sponsor and contact us with any questions! There is also a snack bar that will be open each afternoon to purchase extra goodies!
- If there is any severe discipline problem with a child, parents may be asked to come and get the child.

Looking forward to a great week at camp! Contact camp director, Katy Parker, if you have any questions. katyp@bcnm.com or 505-924-2336

What to Bring to BCNM Kids Camps

Please label all belongings

- Bible with the child's name written on inside cover
- Pens or Pencils
- Sleeping bag and Pillow and blanket
- Towels, Washcloth
- Refillable water bottle/ thermos to use everyday
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.
- Umbrella / rain jacket
- Sunscreen
- Hand Sanitizer
- Bug Spray
- Flashlight
- Clothing: it should be modest and appropriate. Churches and leaders are expected to communicate expectations with campers and sponsors prior to camp. Other considerations:
 - Camp is casual. Don't bring clothes that you don't want to get dirty.
 - Light jacket / sweatshirt for cool mountain evenings
 - Clothes for water or messy games
 - Everyone receives a camp shirt and bag
- Tennis shoes and at least one other pair of shoes if those get muddy and wet (flip-flops are nice to have for the shower, but will not be allowed outside of the dorms/cabins.)
- Large plastic bag for dirty / wet clothes
- Money –Recommended amount is \$15-\$40. Children need to be responsible for their own money. Parents might want to separate money into 4 envelopes for the 4 days so that money doesn't all get spent the first day. Every year, kids lose their money so this is a good time to talk about how to be responsible. Money could be used for:
 - Snack Bar: Snacks, candy, and drinks are available for a few dollars.
 - Offering will be collected for a designate ministry, which is determined each year. Examples could include: NM Children's Home, missions, Disaster Relief, etc.
- Snacks from home are not recommended. If your child must have snacks, send it in Ziploc bags to seal and discourage critters and animals from entering cabin.

What NOT to Bring

- Children do not need to bring their own phone to camp. There is little to no service anyway. And please don't bring IPOD's or any type of electronic video game or music player. We want them to take a break from devices this week and enjoy camp.
- Of course, they should absolutely not bring any type of matches, fireworks, or lighters!
- Alcohol, tobacco, or non-prescription drugs are strictly not allowed.
- No weapons of any kind

All About Camp Sponsors

Thank you so much for giving up a week of your summer to ensure that children get to have an awesome week at camp growing in their faith. For many kids, this week will be the highlight of their summer, and for some this week will be a pivotal moment in the journey of faith. Thank you for making it possible! To help you know what to expect from camp, please read the following before camp:

What is a Sponsor?

- An adult who is at least 18 years of age. Junior sponsors are not permitted.
 - *BCNM Kids Camps require that churches provide at least one sponsor for every seven kids. You need female sponsors for girls and male sponsors for boys.*
- Active member of the church and in good standing with the church.
- Mature, responsible, loves God, and has experience working with children.

How to Prepare before Camp:

- Completed a criminal background check *churches are required by BCNM to run these checks*
- Completed sexual abuse prevention training *strongly encouraged*
- Spend time in personal spiritual preparation for the week. Prepare your heart to hear from God, and prepare to disciple the kids in your group to hear from God.
- One of the important principles for ministry is to be FLEXIBLE! Keep an open mind and heart, and be ready to jump in to serve, disciple, and have fun!
- **First Aid:** We do *not* have a camp nurse. We have a simple first aid kit, but you might want to bring some first-aid items including children's Tylenol and maybe Tums or Pepto Bismol. If your children take prescription medicine, you are in charge of the medicine – so be sure you know what to give to each child and when. If kids have needed an inhaler or epi-pen in the last five years, ask parents to provide you with one. The excitement of camp and being in the high altitude might bring out a rare health issue.
- **Internet:** There is *some* internet access at camp and no cell service. However, the internet service won't handle 100 people trying to upload photos and send emails. Internet usage is monitored. Don't plan on spending lots of time connected to the internet this week. *Time on the internet takes away from time investing in the kids in your group, which is what we are here for.*
- All the activities at camp help provide a framework for you to minister to the kids you bring. Camp is an opportunity to get to know your kids in a deeper way. It is a rare opportunity that you have to spend lots of quality time with your kids. Use it to be intentional!
- Be **praying** for them before and during camp. Get a prayer team of 3-5 close friends to pray for you during the week. Ask them to pray boldly and specifically for God to change hearts and for meaningful Gospel conversations.
- Some things for SPONSORS to bring (not the kids)—extra fan(s) for your room. (No air conditioning!) You might want air fresheners, extra hand soap, or hand sanitizer. Bring things kids may have forgotten – extra deodorant, extra toothpaste, towels, etc. Girl's cabins especially

might appreciate a multi-outlet extension cord. Also, bring extra blankets –it can get chilly in the mountains.

- There really are bears and critters in the woods around the campground. You might want to bring extra Ziploc pouches to have any snacks sealed tightly while inside the cabin.
- **Don't think of it as 'downtime' or 'vacation' or you might be disappointed. Think of it as time invested in the spiritual life of children.** This will be a busy week with lots of walking and lots of energy needed to keep up with the kids. Make sure you're rested and ready to participate. On Friday, you will leave tired and ready for your own bed, **but** it's all worth it when you see a kid respond to Christ's calling in their life!

Responsibilities at Camp

- You will need to keep track of your kids all of the time. We can't keep track of 100+ kids, so we rely on you to keep track of your 7. Get kids up in the morning, make sure they're dressed, *mostly* clean, and on-time for breakfast. Camp Rules include that children must attend all activities so make sure they get to where they are supposed to be *on time*.
- Try to monitor the kids eating habits. Are they buying ten candy bars and not eating dinner? They don't have to eat everything on their plate in the dining hall, but kids are happier if they're not hungry or don't have a stomachache.
- Drink LOTS of water and make sure the kids do too! Summer in the mountains makes it easy to dehydrate. Make sure that the kids drink plenty of water before they get something else.
- You will be asked to help out during the Bible Study, activities, and afternoon tracks. Come prepared to be involved. Unless you have been specifically asked, you don't need to prepare anything ahead of time – we'll explain when you get to camp.
- Look for ministering opportunities and ways to engage kids in your church group with special needs or kids who may be on the fringe of the group.
- Keep your rooms/cabins clean every day. Church groups will be given the task of cleaning in the dining hall at least one meal and will also be assigned a clean-up task before leaving camp on Friday. Sponsors will be responsible for supervising these assignments.
- Lost items are normal. Every year, kids lose their belongings and/or their money. They often assume things have been stolen when they're really just lost. Help kids keep track of their stuff and their money as best you can.
- The Leadership areas (Elliott Lodge at Inlow or O'Brien at Sivells) will have some snacks and a Keurig for sponsors (not for the kids). It also has a refrigerator if you really need to refrigerate something. It is a regular home refrigerator (not a commercial one) so there's not a lot of room for 100 adults to be putting stuff into it, but it's there if you need it.
- When there is any free time, you are responsible for knowing where your kids are. Consider taking your kids on a hike or a nature walk. Unsupervised kids cause hundreds of dollars in damage, and your church will be responsible for that expense. Please supervise your children.
- In the worship times, sit with your kids. Model for kids how they should be involved in worship. Be silly with them when it's time to be silly by jumping or screaming or doing motions with the kids. Be serious when it's time to be serious! Try not to let kids get up and go to the bathroom

during worship. Part of preparing for worship is using the bathroom before it starts. When someone leaves in the middle of worship, it's disruptive and makes other kids want to get up too. Also, there is not a restroom near the building. Bathroom trips take time away from worship and hearing God's word.

- Please enforce lights out by 10:30pm as closely as possible. Kids will already be exhausted by Friday, enforcing lights out makes sure that kids won't be exhausted by Wednesday. We also want there to be consistency to help all the other church leaders to have their kids in bed and quiet. Sometimes, it helps to give incentive to kids to tell them they can stay up late on Thursday if they go to bed the other nights. We encourage a cabin prayer at 10:15.
- We have several staff members that have experience in camping ministry. If you're confused, frustrated or overwhelmed- feel free to grab one of us so we can help you out. We want to help you have a great week so that your kids have a great week!