



Children's Church Camp-Letter for Parents/Guardians

Dear Parents,

Thank You for trusting your church leaders and Camp Caraway to send your children to camp with us this summer! We are honored to serve your church and your children and are prayerfully preparing for the fun we will have!

Questions: After thoroughly reading this document, direct your questions first to your church leader.

Program: We are intentional to use fun in growing faith, developing relationships, building skills, and serving others. Our camp staff are carefully screened and trained. We as a staff will do everything that we can to help make this week the best experience possible. During the week, campers will be encouraged to participate and do their best in each activity. The level of participation is always the choice of the camper. Adult chaperones from your church will be responsible for your child. Our staff will run the program and assist chaperones as requested.

Medical & Release Forms: Your group leader will email you an invitation link to go online to add your camper's picture, complete health history, complete waiver forms, add medications, and activity signups for your child. Activity signups will be available on April 1, and are due 2 weeks before your camp start date. Campers cannot come to camp without properly completed forms online. You can view a step-by-step guide for our registration system [here](#).

Pictures & Camper E-mails: Bunk 1 is an optional service to view camper pictures and send emails to your camper. If you choose to use our partner service, Bunk 1 to send letters via email to your child while they are at camp, you can do that through your camper's online registration account. You will see this option when registering your camper and completing forms for camp. You are not obligated to use or purchase anything from Bunk 1. You can still view the photos for free.

Emergency Contact: Campers MAY NOT have cell phones or call home on their own. Their group leader or camp administrator can help them call home when needed. Chaperones or our staff will keep you well informed if needed and can deliver any important messages to your camper if necessary. We will call you using the numbers you provided in the health form any time we have concerns about your child's health or behavior. Chaperones are allowed to have cell phones on silent and can deliver messages if needed. Thank you for not sending cell phones or electronics with your camper.

Money: Our camp store has a store credit option which allows campers to purchase items from their account without cash on hand. Parents may add funds to the store credit on your child's registration account before and during camp. They will have the opportunity to visit The Post Camp Store daily to purchase optional Caraway gifts and snacks. The money you pay for will stay in your child's account until they use it. If they don't use the full amount, any amount \$10 or more will be refunded back to the card you paid with.

If you choose to bring cash to camp, this money needs to be in a zip bag labeled with his or her full name and church name. We will also take an optional missions offering to teach the importance of giving, and this



offering must be in cash or check. Your child, with the close assistance of their chaperone, will be responsible for his or her money.

Special Concerns: The church leaders and adult chaperones that brought your child are responsible for them and our staff will assist them as requested. Our staff are trained to approach special concerns with campers such as medical conditions, bed-wetting, or home sickness with the utmost respect and confidentiality and will gladly assist the group leaders as requested. We will also seek the advice and assistance of the adult chaperones from your church that will attend with your child. Please help us prepare your child for success with these needs.

Medical Conditions: Please document all medical conditions, needed medications, special diets, and other pertinent information on the health history form online. If needed, please have a church leader share any clarifications or special concerns with us at the medication check in table during check-in. If your child has any special food needs, please contact us the week before his or her camp arrival so we can make arrangements to serve them well. Please place all medication in a zip bag in the original packaging with your child's full name, age, and group name written on the bag. Give these medications to your group leader.

Bedwetting: document this on the health history form so the camp chaperone will be prepared for the possibility to assist your child. We suggest you consider pull up absorbent overnight undergarments or disposable bed linen covers. Both of these can be discreetly used. If a child does soil his or her bed our staff will discreetly assist the chaperone and camper by washing the linens and in giving the child reassurance and support when needed.

Homesickness: Homesickness is normal and many campers may experience a little homesickness at some point during their camp session. Camp can be a great first step towards independence and can play an important role in the growth and development of your child. Parents can help with homesickness with patience and preparation.

Please consider some of these tips to help your camper deal with homesickness in a healthy way at camp:

- Encourage your child's independence throughout the year, such as sleepovers at a friend's house.
- Discuss what camp will be like with your child before leaving and call us with questions.
- Send your camper a letter.
- Please do not bribe; linking a successful stay at camp to a material object may send the wrong message.
- Remember that your child's confidence and independence will be a great reward for completing a weekend at camp!

Please honor our no cell phone policy. We will call you if needed. During the weekend, if you are worried about how your child is adjusting, please call us and speak to us about your child. We will gladly check on them for you. Don't feel guilty about encouraging your child to stay at camp. This experience can be a great first step towards independence and can play an important role in the growth and development of your child!



Behavior & Bullying: Campers and adult chaperones are given clear expectations and rules for the week when they arrive. We expect campers to follow these expectations and to treat others as they want to be treated. One expectation to share with your child is that they are to always be with a group of 3 people when they are walking around campus. Bullying or picking of any kind is inexcusable and not tolerated here. Our staff is trained well in motivating and disciplining campers appropriately and will assist the church chaperones as needed. If your child does not follow our expectations and rules after disciplinary action, we will call you to make a plan of action.

Special Food Needs: At Camp Caraway, we take food allergies very seriously. Our chef and kitchen staff accommodate and provide alternative meal options as much as possible. We can typically work around most allergies including gluten, dairy, soy, nuts, egg, and corn. It is important to note that our facility is NOT a nut free, dairy free, soy-free, egg-free environment. Although our staff prepares our special diet meals on a separate counter and appliances in the kitchen, we do not have a dedicated kitchen for these meals.

If you have any questions or concerns on whether we can accommodate your dietary needs, please call our office during office hours from 9am-5pm or by email to our Director of Food Service at cpowell@caraway.org. Please make sure to communicate all allergies on your health form and call our office with more details if needed. If we cannot provide your full dietary needs, we invite all of our guests to bring their own supply of snacks and personal meal supplements and offer a small amount of space to store refrigerated items in the Dining Hall area.

We care about you, your child, and the others coming from your community. If we can do anything to make your preparation for camp better, please ask!

Serving Together,

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Children's Church Camp Packing List

Please label all items with your camper's name

- ❑ Bible, pen, notepad
- ❑ Small lightweight school type backpack to carry water bottle, money, flashlight, etc.
- ❑ 1 light weight rain coat or poncho
- ❑ Clothes: t-shirts, shorts, underclothes, socks-enough to last the whole week with one extra set (comfortable clothes that can get dirty)
- ❑ pajamas or sleep wear
- ❑ Modest 1 piece bathing suit
- ❑ 2 tennis shoes (one pair should be shoes that can get dirty)
- ❑ twin sheets & blanket or a sleeping bag with pillow
- ❑ 2 bath towels and a wash cloth
- ❑ Swim/beach towel
- ❑ Toiletry articles (toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, brush, etc.)
- ❑ Shower shoes or flip flops (not to be worn during recreation times)
- ❑ Dirty laundry bag
- ❑ Flashlight with good batteries
- ❑ Water bottle (we will have Caraway bottles for sale at The Post Store)
- ❑ Missions offering or store money in a plastic zip bag labeled with camper name and church

Please Note: Caraway is not responsible for any personal belongings. Please label your camper's items with their name.



What Not to Bring

- ❖ Phones, tablets, smart watches, any electronics
- ❖ Any animals or pets
- ❖ Fireworks of any kind
- ❖ Firearms or weapons
- ❖ Any type of illegal drugs, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, vapes, or alcohol
- ❖ Thank you for not sending food to camp with your child. If special arrangements for food or snacks are needed for diet or health reasons, please communicate with your church leader in advance and we can assist with this at check in.