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Athens Y Camps

Athens Y Camp for Boys • Camp Chattooga for Girls Tallulah Falls, GA

Dear Parents of Athens “Y” Camps Campers,

We are excited your child is joining us for a “Y” Camp adventure! We have continued working and planning during the off-camp months to improve the facilities, grounds and programs to ensure you and your child a memorable and quality camp experience.

In order to simplify the preparation of coming to camp, we are providing you with this information which zeroes in on topics such as payments, deadlines, medical forms, what to bring to camp, homesickness, etc.

We are partnering with you to provide an uplifting and educational Christian camping experience for your child. Our desire is for the camps to emphasize and hold true to the values you teach your child while also introducing him or her to living, playing, learning and competing with other youngsters in a forum away from home.

Athens Y Camp and Camp Chattooga have proven to be solid stepping-stones on the road of maturity. We hold with high regard the trust you have placed in us by sending your child to camp with us this summer. We look forward to seeing you soon!

FEES AND PAYMENTS: All camp and store fees are due in full by **May 1**. A late fee of 10% of the balance will be charged to your account if the balance is not received by the due date. Checks, money orders and credit card payments are accepted. There is a \$35.00 returned check fee. Credit card payments must be made in full at the time of registration unless other arrangements have been made.

REFUNDS: No deduction will be given for late arrivals, early withdrawals or dismissal. The deposit is non-refundable unless cancellation occurs 30 days prior to the opening of the session for which the camper is registered. A \$50.00 processing fee will be deducted from all refunds. In the event of an early withdrawal (due to illness), you will receive a refund for the remaining days of the session (prorated). All refunds are subject to approval by the Camp Director.

CAMP STORE: An extra fee is required for your child’s camp store account. With their fee, a camper may purchase store items on their account. Items available in the store include but are not limited to: toiletry items, pens, camp memorabilia, powerade and stamps. Any money not spent may be refunded or may be donated to the camp scholarship fund for underprivileged children to attend camp. Store balances less than \$2.00 are automatically donated. Group photos are taken at the beginning of the session. This photo and a theme t-shirt are included in the registration fees.

CABIN ASSIGNMENTS: Cabin assignments are made on the basis of grade and age level. Years of camping experience prove the advantages of assigning friends to separate cabins, allowing new friendships to blossom. It is undesirable to assign groups of friends (four or more) together because it puts other children in the cabin at a disadvantage. Please limit your request to one cabin mate. We will try to honor all cabin mate requests, however, we do not make any guarantees. Additionally, please allow us to make bed assignments that are optimal for all campers in the cabin. We cannot guarantee cabin mates will always have bunks next to one another. Please trust us to make decisions concerning all assignments based on what is most advantageous for the entire cabin.

“Away from the sin-filled, flea bitten cities of man into the valley of the paradise of youth where God and a good time are friends.”

▣ **MEDICAL FORMS:** All campers must have physician approval to attend camp. All medical forms are due **one month** before your child arrives in order for staff to review it. Section A is to be completed by a parent or guardian. Sign the health insurance segment and **send a copy of your health insurance card.** Section B is to be completed by a physician. Physicals are required within 12 months prior to camp attendance. Immunization records must be completed with dates either by parent or physician. No camper will be accepted into camp without a medical form. Please make sure all information is completed. Additional copies are available on our web site. Our infirmary is staffed by a registered nurse or doctor to care for your child while at camp. Prompt attention is given to any accident or injury, and parents will be notified if a problem is serious. All prescription and over the counter medicines should be given to the infirmary staff on opening day, and these medicines will be dispensed as requested by you or your child's doctor.

AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION (ACA): Both the boys and girls camps are members of the American Camp Association and are accredited by The ACA. What does ACA membership and accreditation mean for you? It means both camps are members of a community of camp professionals joined together to share knowledge about camping and to ensure quality camp programs. Accreditation identifies those programs that have a solid foundation of health, safety and program quality. Learn more about the ACA at www.acacamps.org.

DIRECTIONS: Tallulah Falls is located in the corner of Northeast Georgia and is accessible via U.S. Highway 441. GA State Highway 365, I-985 (which branches from I-85 North), U.S. Highways 17 and 23 all meet Highway 441, which runs through Tallulah Falls. From 441N, after crossing the Tallulah Gorge Bridge (Lake Tallulah on the left and Tallulah Gorge on the right) turn left onto Terrora Circle at the traffic signal. Take an immediate right at the dead end. Proceed two miles on Terrora Circle around Lake Tallulah and take a left after the 2nd bridge onto Y Camp Road. From 441S, turn right onto Terrora Circle by the Tallulah River Resort. Take a right onto Y Camp Road. Proceed one mile to the end of the road.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: Check our website for correct arrival and departure dates and time. All arrivals before and departures after the designated times must be pre-arranged and will incur a \$75.00 charge. Please pick your child up on time.

STAYOVERS: Parents who have children staying consecutive one-week sessions may choose to pick up their child on Saturday and return on Sunday or have the camper remain at camp with supervised staff and activities. Campers enjoy special foods, treats and activities such as trips to movies, restaurants and local attractions.

FLYING TO CAMP: Campers will be met at Hartsfield/Jackson Airport in Atlanta on opening day by a camp staff member and transported to camp in a camp vehicle. Those flying home from Atlanta will be taken to the airport on closing day and escorted until placed under the care of an airline representative. **THERE IS A \$50.00 FEE EACH WAY PER CAMPER FOR THIS SERVICE.** Please arrange your child's flight arrival prior to 11:00 am for opening days and their departure flight between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on closing day. Your child's flight schedule should be sent to the Director's attention at least one week prior to arrival. It is your responsibility to call and make sure it has been received.

LAUNDRY/LOST AND FOUND: Laundry is done for campers staying more than one week during the stayover weekend. Use a permanent black marker or name label to indicate your child's full name on all their personal belongings. Make a list of clothing and equipment and attach it to the inside lid of the trunk. This list assists the leaders in helping your child pack when camp is over. We do not assume responsibility for lost or broken items. Please do not send valuable items to camp. **Stress to your child it is their responsibility for keeping up with personal possessions.** All unclaimed items will be kept until two weeks after your child's camp session and then donated to charity. Items, when claimed, can be mailed to you for the price of postage.

▪ **BIRTHDAYS AT CAMP:** Should your child have a birthday during camp, we will make it special. We will provide a birthday cake and camp wide singing! Upon arrival, please verify your child's birthday for this special celebration.

PACKING LIST: Please put your child's first and last name on all their belongings. We work with the campers and encourage them to be responsible for their own belongings. We return items in our lost and found daily. Do not bring expensive clothes to camp. We play in the dirt and it shows by the end of the week! This list is not all-inclusive, so be thoughtful in packing. Check our website for program specific list (Extremist, LIT, etc.).

STANDARD ITEMS:

- Bible
- 8 shirts
- 8 pairs shorts
- 8 pairs undergarments
- 8 pairs socks
- 2 pairs jeans/athletic pants*
- 2 pairs tennis shoes
- flip flops/sandals
- 2 swimsuits (one-piece swimsuits for Chattooga)
- sunscreen/bug repellent
- water bottle
- laundry bag
- hat
- flashlight
- stationary/stamps/writing utensils
- bath/beach towels
- washcloths
- sleeping bag
- sweatshirt/lightweight jacket
- raincoat or poncho
- twin sheet set
- blanket
- pillow and pillow cases
- pajamas
- bathrobe
- shower shoes

TOILETRIES (shower caddy is helpful)

- deodorant
- soap and soap dish
- shampoo/conditioner
- toothbrush/paste
- comb/brush
- personal hygiene items

Optional:

- tennis racket and balls
- fishing pole and tackle (boys camp)
- musical instrument
- baseball glove (boys camp)
- costumes (for theme weeks)
- books/comics
- cards

DO NOT BRING: (items will be confiscated if found at camp)

- electronics of any kind
- cell phone
- iPod/mp3 players
- tablet computer
- waterballoons
- food or candy
- tape/CD player
- radio
- fire crackers
- PSP/DS/handheld video games
- television/DVD player
- weapons
- drugs
- money

*(for horseback riding bring extra pants and closed toed shoes)

How do I contact my camper at camp?

Campers are not allowed to use the phone. However, they may write letters as often as they like. You may send postal mail or a message to your child at camp. Messaging is available through our website along with our daily photo gallery. Messages are downloaded once daily at 9:30am and distributed at mail call. Campers will not be able to message you back. Email sent to the office will not be processed. Both camps offer a free on-line photo gallery. This service is provided by the camps for your enjoyment! A limited number of candid camp pictures will be taken daily and uploaded to the website for parents to view and purchase. (Instructions on how to access this feature are given out on opening day when you arrive.)

Mail call occurs once daily.

Postal Mail and Packages:

Campers Name
Athens Y Camp for Boys or Camp Chattooga for Girls
PO Box 8
1000 Y Camp Rd (only required for ups and FedEx shipments)
Tallulah Falls, GA 30573



HOMESICKNESS: In most children, homesickness is a normal occurrence that manifests itself in many ways. Some children will openly cry, and others will keep it inside. Often we hear of a homesick camper, but, when we find them, they are swimming or having fun while engaged in an activity. Then later during quiet time the camper feels the homesickness again. Unfortunately, this is when letters are written. If a camper wrote letters when he was on the tennis court, athletic field, or in the gym, there would be no homesick mail. What can parents do to help with this?

- 1. Before camp,** children should be told they might be homesick. Talk with your child and let him or her know it is normal to miss home. Tell him/her to find a friend and/or activity to make the lonely times turn into fun.
- 2. Make them understand they will not be able to call home or come home when they are homesick.** This is a part of the growing up process.
- 3. Expect a few homesick letters the first few days of camp.** Usually the letters do not say, *I'm homesick* but things like *I don't like camp*, *My leader hates me*, *I have been real sick*, or something like this in order to gain your sympathy and immediate response. One boy even wrote that a rattlesnake had bitten him. Of course, this was not true.

4. **Make your farewell brief.** Do not linger for several hours.

5. **Make your letters** newsy but do not make statements like: *We all miss you; the dog misses you, your brother and sister miss you or what a wonderful time the rest of the family is having at the beach.* Tell him or her how fortunate they are to be at camp because all of their friends are out of town, and it is 109 degrees at home.

6. **Do not call camp.** If your child is homesick, our staff is trained in how to recognize this and help campers overcome it. The most detrimental thing you can do is talk to your child.

7. **Please do not pick your child up early** or come for a visit. Camping is one of the most powerful experiences a child can have. Homesickness can in some cases interfere with this experience, but a child must learn how to make this healthy adjustment. It is much easier to overcome homesickness at an early age than to wait until college age. Promising “If you feel homesick, I’ll come and get you” undermines children’s confidence and dramatically intensifies homesickness. Instead, normalize their anxiety, talk positively about camp.

8. **Sometimes homesickness is brought on by a strained relationship between two campers,** etc. in the cabin. Tell your child if he/she has any problems with another camper or staff member that he/she should report the problem to a program director, and if the problem persists to report it directly to the camp director.

CAMP GUIDELINES: Because we strive to provide a wholesome quality Christian environment, it is important to us that campers abide by our regulations. Campers are not allowed to have alcohol, drugs or tobacco of any kind at camp. Inappropriate behavior such as sexual misconduct, foul language, persistent belligerence and disobedience is not allowed. Explicit material including music, magazines and posters is not allowed. Campers not abiding by the rules will be sent home without a refund of fees.

