

CAMP TURNER

Honor God in the Children Confided to Your Care

Parent Handbook

Rev. 4/5/2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who May Come to Camp?	2
Immunizations.....	2
Mandatory Paperwork.....	3
Refund / Cancellation Policy	3
Check Out due to homesickness or illness.....	4
Late Payments	4
Illness during a camping session	4
Behavior Expectations	4
Bullying and Meanness	5
Cabins and Cabin Mates	5
Arrival Procedures	6
Departure Procedures.....	8
Bus Stop Check Out	8
Left Luggage / Lost and Found.....	8
Early Check out on Fridays.....	8
Off Site Check-Out.....	9
Confidentiality	9
Medications.....	9
Emergency Contact	9
What to pack	9
Cameras / cell phones.....	12
Directions to Camp.....	13
Email to Campers	13
Mail, Email, Care Packages.....	13
Photo Gallery	14
Food Service & Dietary Needs	15
The Camp Store	15
Friends of Camp Turner, Inc.....	16
Alumni Visitation.....	16
Payments / Online Account.....	16
Email to campers (one way email)	17
Staff Screening Procedures	17
Relationships Outside of Camp	18
Group Rentals	18
Catering.....	18
Facebook	18

Who May Come to Camp?

COVID TESTING – at the time of publication NY State has not yet published guidelines requiring testing for summer camps. We will follow the guidelines when they are published and post an update on our website and Facebook page.

Camp is open to all children regardless of race, religion, culture or economic status.

Campers should want to come to camp by their own choice, without coercion.

Campers should be able to manage their personal hygiene, including showering, toileting, and tooth brushing. We cannot accommodate or provide personal care aides.

Campers need to be able to indicate to a staff member, the Camp Director or the Nurse if they are feeling unwell in any way, or if someone or something is bothering them in any way.

Immunizations

Camp is required to collect immunization records on all campers. In general we recommend that campers follow the guidelines for schools in NY State.

Medications

Campers' medication regimen should remain the same as in school. Campers who are in the middle of a significant medication change should not come to camp.

Allergies / Illness

Campers need to be able to self-monitor their own exposure to potential allergens, and be able to ask in those situations when they are not sure if something is potentially hazardous to them. Campers must be able to self-disclose to staff if they feel they are experiencing an allergic reaction or illness. Campers with allergies that are so severe that they cannot be in a room with peanuts, peanut butter or wheat products would not be safe attending camp.

Food

Our menus are published on our Facebook site each week. We offer a lot of choices. In addition to a well-balanced meal, we also offer cold cereal, oat meal packets, toast, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and cheese sandwiches at every meal. Most lunches and dinners also offer a rice bowl and a salad bar in addition to the meal.

We can usually accommodate a lactose-free diet and a regular vegetarian diet. We do not have the ability to accommodate a vegan diet or a gluten-free diet. We do not accept boxes of food from home. If a camper refuses to eat three meals in a row we will call the parent to discuss the situation.

Diabetics

Insulin-dependent diabetics need to be well-controlled and have two years of successful experience on their insulin regimen before they may attend camp. All diabetics, including non-insulin-dependent diabetics need to be able to self-monitor their own diet and cooperate with their parents' and doctor's wishes for their dietary plan. Specifically, sneaking candy and snacks can create an unsafe situation and may result in a camper being sent home.

IEP

If your camper has an IEP please provide a copy along with your health form.

Openness to Catholicism

Camp Turner is a Catholic Camp. We expect to provide campers with a positive experience of the Catholic Church. Campers should be willing to **attend** Mass with the camp community and attend all prayer experiences including morning and evening prayers, grace before meals, etc. Our staff will not proselytize campers.

Ability to walk is recommended

Our buildings are ADA compliant. The forest is not. We recommend that the camper be able to walk over uneven terrain and through the woods. Most of our activities require that a camper be able to walk (sports, hikes, games, etc.)

Sick campers at check in

Campers are screened at check in for signs of communicable conditions such as colds, flu, or fever. If a camper has the potential to spread illness we ask that parents reschedule for another session. Camp Turner will offer a pro-rated credit toward use on a future session in this case.

Emergency Parent Contact

A parent, or a designee of the parent, must be available to contact and or pick up a camper in the event of emergency.

Emergency Transportation

In most cases camp will not transport a camper to a hospital. They parent or an ambulance must transport if needed. There are rare exceptions – e.g. an airway issue where EMS may not be a timely choice.

Stability

Campers need to know home is stable while they are away. Please do not move your primary residence while your child is at camp.

Mandatory Paperwork

The ***Camp Turner Health Forms*** are due at least 7 days before the camper's scheduled arrival. We do not accept substitute forms. Please follow all of the instructions in the Confirmation Email you received immediately after registration, or on the first page of the ***Camp Turner Health Form***.

We **do not accept substitute Health Forms**. Some doctors will tell you that you do not need the Camp Turner forms, that the Doctor's camp forms are sufficient. **This is false**. We will not accept your camper without the Camp Turner forms.

Refund / Cancellation Policy

Refund / Cancellation Policy

A deposit of \$50 is required with your registration if registering before the *Paid in Full Cutoff Date two weeks before your session arrival date*. After this ***Paid in Full Cutoff Date*** payment in full is expected with registration.

Refund / Cancellation Policy

Cancellation at least 30 days prior to arrival will receive a full refund. Cancellations at least 14 days in advance will receive a refund less the deposit. As of 10 days before arrival the reservation is fully confirmed and payment in full is expected; payments will not be refunded unless the camper becomes injured or contagious to other campers (with a doctor's note). In the case of verifiable illness or injury a credit less the deposit may be issued for use on a future session. Once camper checks in at camp, no refund or credit will be issued. If a camper leaves sick during a session a pro-rated credit on a future session may be offered. Campers registering for a session within 10 days of arrival are expected to pay in full. Full payment is due upon arrival unless prior arrangements are made with the Camp Director.

If the state shuts us down due to pandemic all but \$25 is refundable. The \$25 is already used covering registration costs and credit card processing.

Temporary Checkout

Camp Turner does not offer temporary check out. Once a camper checks out he or she may not return the same session. A pro-rated discount may be offered for another session.

Check Out due to homesickness or illness

Check out must occur between 9 am and 8 pm. Camp will not check out campers after 8 pm.

Late Payments

Final payment for a session is due at the time of arrival. There will be a charge of 1.0% of the outstanding balance per month after a camper has checked in.

Illness during a camping session

Sometimes campers get sick. If the illness is minor campers will be allowed a respite within the health center. These respite times, like all other treatments, are recorded in the Health Center Walk-in Log, and reported to parents on an index card at Check-Out.

If, in the determination of the Camp Nurse, the camper has a condition that requires medical attention, or if the camper does not appear to be able to be well enough to return for meaningful participation in the camp program without risk to themselves before the end of the session, or if the camper's condition appears to be contagious to others, parents will be called to pick up the camper. Parents are expected to be available to pick up a camper within 6 hours of notification. Families will receive a pro-rated credit toward a future session for time missed.

Behavior Expectations

Campers are expected to:

- listen to and follow the guidance of all staff members
- treat others and the property of others with kindness and respect
- participate fully in camp activities
- maintain personal possessions and area in a neat and clean manner
- treat the property of camp and the state park with care respect
- leave all electronics, cell phones, CD and MP3 players home
- report bullying, meanness or disrespectful behavior to administration or staff
- tell staff if an activity makes them afraid or uncomfortable
- tell staff or the nurse if they are hurt or not feeling well
- try to make new friends and try new activities

Failure to comply with these expectations could result in removal from the program.

Campers have the right to refuse to participate in activities.

Bullying and Meanness

All staff receives training in bullying and meanness prevention during their training week from a professional social worker. The staff is trained to be alert to such behaviors but cannot catch everything. You and I have all experienced meanness and of course been guilty of it at one time or other ourselves. Bullying is repeated meanness against the same target over a period of time. It may be physical, emotional, or social. In order to best prevent bullying and meanness I need your cooperation.

Please meet with your camper before camp or on the way to camp to discuss the topic of **meanness**. First, make it clear that you do not want your camper to be mean in any way to anyone and that they could be sent home for being mean. [Even meek, mild mannered children may sometimes take the opportunity to “try on” new personalities from time to time, especially if in a new setting.]

Second, ask your camper to tell a counselor if campers are mean to them, or tell a member of administration if staff is mean to them.

Third, and most importantly, please ask your camper to stand up and report meanness to others that they may witness. Peer reporting is essential to ending bullying and meanness.

Campers may report to the nurse, the Director, Program Director, or any adult they trust. Everyone is trained to take reports seriously and to elevate them for investigation and response.

If your camper is uncomfortable talking about a problem we have a new “Tell Us” box in the dining hall. They can slip a note in. Positive stories can also be shared in this way.

Parents, please have this conversation with your children. It will help make our community stronger.

Cabins and Cabin Mates

Our cabins are duplexes. One side of a duplex is a cabin group. Cabin groups eat, sleep and generally hang together except during club periods when campers choose their activities. Most session there will be 2 staff and up to ten campers in a cabin group. The campers will always be of a single gender. They should always be near the same age (within two years).

Campers are assigned to cabins by gender and age. For example, you can typically expect to find boys of similar age in one cabin.

Cabin Mates

One of the greatest benefits of camp is meeting new friends. Another great benefit is the ability for children to “try on” new personalities – to literally break free of the stereotypical expectations of their everyday school personas – and be someone they want to be. Both of these benefits are diminished if campers come with friends from home. A third benefit is the freedom to choose any activity they want. All of these are benefits are curtailed if they come with a close friend.

We do generally honor cabin mate requests. We are one of the few camps that do so. Requests are not guaranteed, but, if a pair, or group of three campers request each other, we will do our best to put them together for no charge. Groups of more than three will not be honored, as they tend to upset the balance of a cabin group. We will not offer refunds based on cabin mate problems. Campers must be of the same gender and within twelve months of the same age. Requests must be reciprocal. There are times when they are not!

When we pair cabin mates the older camper will always move into the cabin with the younger camper. We will not move campers up a cabin in age.

NOTE – arrival procedures below are for “normal” times. The state will soon publish new guidelines for arrival procedures during the pandemic. You will receive an email with revised arrival procedures prior to arrival.

Arrival Procedures

Check-in at Camp – plan for approximately 60 minutes.

Arrive at Summer Camp at **2:00 PM**. (WinterCamp, 10 AM).

Please do not be early. We cannot accept campers before scheduled check-in time.

The speed limit in camp is 5 MPH.

All drivers are asked to please park along the **OUTSIDE** edge of the driveway, parallel with the gravel road.

Do not park on the inside edge of the drive or in the circle with the cross.

Do **NOT** pull onto the grass or up to the cabin doors.

DO NOT turn perpendicular to the road (avoid having to back up)

Enter the DINING HALL through the double doors near on the front of the building.

In line:

Complete initial the *Initial Health Screening Form*. Camper’s temperature will be taken here.

Nurses Table:

Confirm all Required Paperwork is on file.

Medication Collection

Medication must be in original containers, with original label, accompanied by separate written orders. There is no need to send over-the-counter medications that are listed on the Health Form as stock medications.

Administration Table

Make final payments if necessary.

Receive cabin assignment.

Receive copy of Check in Notes with information about:

how to access your online account

how to view the photos in your online account

how to send one way emails from your online account

Canteen Window

Make CANTEEN deposit. Initiate debit card, buy goodies.

Please do not skip the window! Campers feel bad when their parent is the only one to not leave them some spending money!

Move in:

Bring camper and **Check-in form** to assigned cabin.

Meet the very friendly Cabin Counselor.

Share ideas and information or leave a note with the counselor to help in the care of your child.

Surrender the *Check-in Form* to the counselor!
DO NOT DRIVE AWAY WITH THE GREEN FORM

Departure of Parents: Please depart or pull behind the Dining Hall by 3:30 PM for summer camp or 11:15 am for WinterCamp. We cannot begin the program with cars in the circle.

Departure Procedures

THERE IS NO BUS HOME FOR THE SUMMER OF 2019. ALL CAMPERS MUST BE PICKED UP AT CAMP.

For security reasons, and for the integrity of the program, no check-outs are allowed between 2 and 6 PM on check-out day. See below for details regarding early checkout.

Table 1: Stop at the nurse's table to collect Health Center Report and collect medications.

Table 2: **Show identification** and sign check out form.

Table 3: Stop at Canteen to collect refund, purchase goodies or donate to our scholarship fund.

Table 4: Bring check out form to the cabin and give it to the counselor in exchange for your child.

NOTE: Campers will not be allowed to leave the porch until the form is given to the counselor.

Late Departure Fee:

Parents arriving after 7:15 PM to pick up their camper will be charged \$25 per quarter hour.

Bus Stop Check Out

THERE IS NO BUS HOME FOR THE SUMMER OF 2019. ALL CAMPERS MUST BE PICKED UP AT CAMP.

Be sure whoever is picking up the camper was listed on the green **Check-in Form** when the camper was dropped off. Show Photo ID. Ask the counselor on the bus about canteen refund and medication returns; they should have these. Your camper may then help you load luggage into your vehicle.

Left Luggage / Lost and Found

Parents – please inventory your campers' luggage before you leave. Every session we have luggage left behind. If this occurs we will send the left luggage on the bus to the bus stop the following week. If you attend the last session we will bring left luggage to Fisher Bus in Hamburg, and then back to camp the following week. The same applies to lost and found items.

Early Check out on Fridays

Avoid the line. Early Check-OUT (between 1:30 and 2:00 PM) is available for an **additional fee (per family.)** This must be pre-arranged at least 48 hours in advance. Park behind the Dining Hall and report to the office for early check-out. For security reasons there will be no check-out between 2:00 and 6 PM on Fridays.

Going home Early for other reasons...

For a variety of reasons a camper just may not be able to complete the week. If this is the case, parents will be encouraged to take the camper home without an early check out fee. In years past, people used to regard leaving early as a failure of the camp, the camper or the parents. This is no longer the case. We understand and respect that sometimes the best thing is to be at home. However, we cannot refund camper fees after check-in. If the camper is sent home with a communicable condition (for the safety of the camp community) a pro-rated credit toward a future visit may be offered.

For reasons discussed above, if you need to pick up a camper for any reason, we will need you to call in advance, follow established check-out protocols, and meet your camper and a member of administration in the dining hall away from other campers. **Campers will not be released to someone not listed on the check-out form. Campers will not be checked out from anywhere except at the office or dining hall or camp office.**

Check Out due to homesickness or illness Check out must occur between 9 am and 8 pm. Camp will not check out campers after 8 pm.

Campers who are expelled for behavior reasons will not receive a credit or refund.

Off Site Check-Out

For the safety and security of all campers, this will not happen, except at the bus-stop. Please do not show up at the beach or other camp activities outside of camp to pick up your camper. We are not equipped to properly check out your camp outside of camp. We will not release your camper in this way.

Late Check-in

The program begins at 4 pm. If checking-in after 4 pm for summer camp or 11:30 am for WinterCamp, please park behind the Dining Hall and report to the office. Since the program starts at 4 pm staff will be busy and you may have to wait until they are available for late check-in.

Confidentiality

Camp Turner is HIPAA compliant. Information on the Health Form is confidential. Small amounts of information will be shared with those directly caring for your camper on a need to know basis only.

Counselors do not have easy access to medical records. Therefore, parents are encouraged to write brief letters of advice to their camper's cabin counselor. You may hand them directly to your camper's counselor at the cabin when you drop them off.

Medications

All medications must be turned in at Check-in, except epi-pens and emergency asthma inhalers like albuterol. **Please do not send basic over the counter medications that camp stocks. These are listed in the Health Form.**

We can only give medications authorized by your physician on the Health Form or separate written order. **Labels DO NOT count as written orders** – we must have separate written orders, either written on the Camp Turner Health form or Doctor's Script or letterhead. Orders must be current.

Medications may only be sent in their **original containers with original labeling**. Please send a sufficient amount for the whole week. If additional medications are required, or if we need authorization for something the Doctor has not authorized, you will be called.

Emergency Contact

As part of the TERMS OF SERVICE parents agree to be accessible in the event of an emergency. This also means that someone MUST be available to pick camper up mid-session in the event of injury/sickness or other emergency.

What to pack

Please send your campers with sufficient supplies for their entire stay at camp. We have very limited laundry resources (enough to handle incontinence issues) and cannot launder clothing for campers during the week. Things like rain jackets, bug spray, sun screen, water bottles and boots with a good heel (for riding) are required. Things do not need to be expensive. A \$3 rain poncho is great for a week at camp. A 24 oz. bottle of water from any grocery or drug store can be labeled and refilled all week as a water bottle. Large draw-string trash bags are fine laundry bags. There are no specific

requirements for luggage, but using small bags that fit under our low beds seems to work best. It's most convenient to have underwear and socks in one small bag, toiletries in another, shirts in a third, etc. Please label all belongings.

Kids will change their clothing a lot. (Please let us know if your child returns home with all the underwear you packed still clean). It is cool in the morning and then warms up. Campers will wear both shorts and long pants on the same day, both short sleeves and long sleeves in the same day. Evenings cool off and the woods are full of bugs. We like campers to wear long sleeves in the woods and for cooler evening activities. Sometimes it gets muddy. Feet get wet, and extra socks are good.

Flip Flops

Flip Flops are the most popular footwear of the day and are allowed in the shower house, at the beach, at activities around the circle, in Arts and Crafts, and in the Dining Hall. Because of the gravel roads and many holes, flip flops are not allowed anywhere elsewhere.

Hiking

Campers are allowed to hike in sneakers or boots. Campers are not allowed to hike in flip flops or Crocs.

Boots

Campers are not allowed to ride in sneakers, flip flops or crocks. Good, sturdy hiking boots work fine and are much more versatile other places in camp and in sloppy weather year round. Something with a good heel or adequate volume to prevent slipping through a stirrup is recommended. You do NOT need riding boots.

Water Bottles

All campers and staff are required to carry their own water bottles all day long. For health reasons, campers are not allowed to share water bottles!

PLEASE
Label everything you send to camp!!!
WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT
TO RETURN LABELED ITEMS.

Packing List (Summer)

Wintercamp Packing List will be posted separately on the website.

- 1 Raincoat or Poncho
- 1 Jacket or Sweater
- 1 Pair of Hiking boots with a heel – for both hiking and riding
- 1 or 2 pairs of sneakers
- 1 pair shower shoes (flip flops)
- 1 pair rain boots (recommended)
- 5 pairs of shorts
- 3+ pairs of pants
- 6 T-shirts
- 3+ long sleeve shirts
- 8 pairs socks
- 8 pair underwear
- 1 or 2 swimsuits
- 1 beach towel
- 3 sets pajamas
- 1 hat (recommend for sunny activities)
- 1 sleeping bag (useful both on the bed and on sleep outs)
- 1 pillow and pillowcase
- twin size sheet (optional, some campers prefer these on the beds)
- Blanket (optional)
- 3 bath towel 3 hand towels
- 5 washcloths
- toothpaste
- toothbrush (with case)
- deodorant
- insect repellent (30% deet recommended)
- sun block (SPF 50 recommended)
- soap
- comb/brush
- shampoo/conditioner (unscented recommended)
- personal care items
- flashlight and batteries (smaller is better)
- 1 water bottle
- pens and pencils
- laundry bag
- stamps (campers should write home)
- stationery
- tissues / handkerchief
- canteen money
- reading materials
- Eye Protection is recommended for chopping, wood shop and some craft activities
- Work gloves are recommended for several activities
- Some campers choose to dress up for mass. This is neither required or recommended

More Packing Tips:

- * **Please mark all items clearly with the camper's name.** We will return found items that are marked.
- * Campers do not have access to laundry facilities (except during 2 week sessions).
- * Staff will launder soiled sleeping bags.
- * Clothing does get ruined at camp. Don't bring valuable things! Camp is not responsible for items which are lost, or ruined.
- * Sharing water bottles can make campers sick and is not allowed. Campers must have their own.
- * Long pants are required for horses and activities in the woods. Long sleeves are required for most evening activities and activities in the woods.
- * Parents are asked to be aware of what campers pack.
- * Sunscreen, bug spray and a hat to protect from the sun are highly recommended.
- * Campers need to bring sturdy boots with a one inch heel to wear in the horse corral. The heel should prevent feet from sliding through a stirrup. We recommend sturdy hiking boots. They are useful for both hiking and riding, as well as sloppy weather next winter.
- * Plan to unpack in the garage after camp. Laundry bags will be filled with damp, stinky clothing. It's a sign we had a lot of fun.

Label everything you send to camp!!!

YOU MAY ALSO BRING (at your own risk)

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (especially guitars and harmonicas!)

Games which involve 2 or more people.

A good attitude and an open mind.

Call if you have other ideas but are unsure.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING

If these items are brought to camp counselors are asked to keep them safe and return them at the end of the week.

- o Cell phones – campers may call home through the office if necessary. Parents may also call and ask to speak to campers at any time before 9:30 pm. We will bring them to the office to speak with you.
- o Cameras (campers may not take pictures). We have a free daily picture gallery you may view. It is curated and edited for content to keep everyone safe.
- o Electronic equipment or games
- o MP3 / CD players, I-pods
- o Hunting or fishing equipment
- o Knives
- o Archery equipment
- o Expensive jewelry or valuables you cannot afford to lose
- o Clothing which depicts use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco
- o Money (aside from what is deposited in the canteen)
- o Inflatable for the beach – the park does not allow them
- o Snacks – to help keep animals out of cabins, we ask that you please do not pack snacks. All food is eaten in the dining hall or designated picnic areas.

Cameras / cell phones DO NOT BRING THESE!!!

We take plenty of pictures which can be viewed and downloaded. More importantly, our staff ensures that only appropriate pictures are taken. Campers do not necessarily do this. There have been problems at other camps with campers taking inappropriate photos and posting them to the internet. We hope to avoid that. Cell phones enable inappropriate photos to be posted even faster.

Directions to Camp

Please see the website for directions to camp. That is updated more frequently with detour and construction information. Click the compass on the bottom of the webpage page.

Visiting Campers

Parents may not visit campers during their stay at camp, but you may check them out early if necessary. Parents visiting camp is the leading cause of homesickness both in their own children and in other children in the same cabin. If your child is doing poorly at camp we will call you. If you need, you may call and speak with your camper. We recommend that you speak to his / her counselor first.

Campers Calling Home

Campers may make or receive calls at the office between the hours of **9 am and 8 pm**. No telephone contact will be initiated outside of these hours unless there is an emergency. Access to the telephone may be delayed or pre-empted by other emergencies or the regular business of camp. Conversations will be limited to parents only and limited to 5 minutes at which time the parents will be able to speak with the director.

Campers needing to call home should tell their counselor, who will arrange a call through the director. If that fails the camper should tell the Program Director, Camp Director or Nurse. Normally, in the course of the request, the counselor, director or nurse will try to identify and solve any difficulties the camper may be having. In some cases this will result in the problem being solved without the camper needing to call home.

In some cases checking in with a parent helps alleviate a specific concern (is my dog okay?, did my sister get back from Europe?, is grandma feeling better?). In cases of homesickness, speaking with parents almost always makes the situation much less manageable. Parents are the best judge of their children, so we hope to rely on the judgment of parents as to what will be best for the campers.

I can honestly tell you that most times parents are more homesick than children. I get it. Parents want to talk to their kids so they, the parents, can feel better. Please know that many times this helps the parent and unsettles the child. We will allow it and acknowledge that it is your right, but please ask yourself first, 'who am I making this call for'? Will it help my child? If not, just enjoy the photo gallery and maybe talk to your child's camp counselor.

Email to Campers

DO NOT send email to campers through the main camp mailbox (gmail). This mail will not be delivered to campers, or even checked that regularly during a camping session. You may send email to campers through our one-way email service. A block of 5 one-way emails sells for \$5.00. You may buy additional blocks if you wish. **Email will be printed at 10 am and delivered after lunch each day.** Emails sent after 10 am will be printed the following day. If it's after 10 am on check out day, it is too late to send. We do not have the facilities for campers to email you back.

Mail, Email, Care Packages

US Mail address: Camp Turner, PO Box 264, Salamanca, NY 14779.

FEDEX or UPS: Camp Turner, 9150 ASP 3, Salamanca, NY 14779 (recommended). Do not use this address for US mail – it will not be delivered.

We recommend FEDEX and UPS because they will bring packages directly to camp. US mail does not recognize camp as a legal address and will not deliver packages to camp. We have to go to Salamanca to pick them up, so delivery may be delayed.

Writing to Campers

Please write letters of encouragement and well wishes to your campers. Tell them you love them and are thinking about them. Tell them you are jealous of all the fun they are having at camp. Tell them you will go for Pizza and buy them a gallon of cola on the way home (they don't get much here). Please do not mention, even in jest, what are missing at home. Do not tell them how their dog is depressed without them, that their fish died, how their little brother beat their high score on X-box 360, or, that their boyfriend / girlfriend started dating someone else while they were gone! Yikes! Letters such as these are the second leading cause of homesickness at camp. Please see the section on homesickness in this document.

Care Packages

Are pretty cool, but present difficulties. First of all, we really feed the campers plenty. All meals are served "all you care to eat." There are snacks. And canteen. Because of animals, we do not allow food in the cabins. Please use discretion and send enough for everyone in the cabin. The admin team is quite fond of cookies, doughnuts and high end coffee.

Camper's Outgoing Mail

Campers are strongly encouraged to write home to you first thing Sunday Night. They are encouraged to write again during Siesta on Tuesdays. We cannot force campers to write. Older campers especially may refuse. The fear of the unknown, new people and a new place often manifests itself in letters home the first night. Don't panic. Any homesickness expressed at this time is quite normal and usually clears up by the Tuesday letter.

Campers are asked to seal their letters and drop them in the CT mail box located in the hallway of the dining hall. We take all mail to the post office in Salamanca. Delivery may take several days.

If you have younger campers you may wish to pre-address and stamp envelopes for them – or, even better, take the opportunity to do it with them at home so they learn. Many forget their address when it comes time to write, or do not know how to format the address on the envelope. This sometimes results in misdirected mail.

Office Hours

The phone is not monitored between 8:00 PM and 9:00 AM. All calls received after 8:00 PM will be returned after 9 AM the next camp day. Please limit phone calls to during office hours, unless there is an emergency.

The office is closed from Friday at 7:30 PM through Sunday at 1 PM each week. Calls received while we are closed will normally be returned Sunday evening.

We do not have call waiting. If you receive a busy signal or the call goes to voice mail, we are either on the line with another person or out looking after campers.

Telephone

Director's Summer Phone: 716-354-4555
Billing Inquiries / Requests: 716-354-4555.
Fax Line – 716-354-2055.

Photo Gallery

Our online photo gallery is free and somewhat secure. Parents who hold accounts may view photos of their own session or invite a relative, through an internal account invitation, to view photos of that session. We take over 150 pictures per full day. Sundays and Fridays there are fewer pictures because they are shorter days. We begin uploading at about 10 pm.

It can take up to two hours for all the pictures to upload. The posted pictures are small. You may download high resolution photos for a small charge (see registration system for prices).

We cannot guarantee that every camper is photographed every day. Some campers duck when the camera is near. Others may be edited out if something inappropriate appears in the shot (bunny ears, gang signs, unfortunate wardrobe angles) etc.)

Camp Turner does not provide computer technical assistance or computer tutoring. We will provide login information to account holders, but you must be able to operate your computer or find someone on your end who can help. Offering this sort of help takes one of our staff from where they belong – running the program for your child.

Internet

Sometimes the internet “goes down”. In this case we cannot uphold our promise to upload photos or print emails every day. Photos will be uploaded and one-way email delivered when internet service is restored.

Food Service & Dietary Needs

The menu for each week will be posted during Check-in and posted on facebook. Cafeteria style meals are “all you care to eat”. In addition to our fabulous entrees,, we offer:

Salad bar is available at lunch and supper except during picnics.

A cereal bar is available at all meals except picnics.

White and wheat toast is available at every meal.

Buttered noodles or Rice is available at all indoor lunches and dinners.

Peanut butter and Jelly or Cheese Sandwiches are available at all meals.

Campers need to be able to eat the food that camp provides. We can provide alternative options for those with lactose intolerance, basic vegetarian needs and those who simply do not like our main entree selection.

Gluten Free: We now stock gluten free rolls and bread. With the salad bar and careful choices from the existing menu campers can eat well at most meals. Parents may send supplemental items to be stored in our pantry for their camper.

Vegan: “Regular vegetarians” do pretty well with our standard menu. Vegan have more difficulty. Parents are welcome to send vegan options to store in our pantry for their campers use.

If a camper refuses to eat three meals in a row we will call parents for advice on a strategy to best ensure the camper’s health.

Peanut Butter and other nut products are used in our kitchen and served as an alternative choice to some entrées. We can restrict campers from eating peanut butter and other peanut products if the camper is allergic, but, if the camper cannot be in a facility that contains peanut products the camper should not attend.

The Camp Store

Also called the Canteen, the camp store is a small souvenir and snack shop. We offer candy, pop, ice cream novelties, and souvenirs. The souvenir offerings vary from year to year but usually include tee-shirts, hoodies, flashlights, tooth brushes, baseball caps, laundry bags, aprons, coffee mugs, soup mugs, travel mugs, stuffed animals, cabin portraits, rain ponchos, stamps, sunscreen, bug spray and other memorabilia.

The store works on a debit card system. Parents deposit money into the Canteen at Check-in. The average deposit is \$25. You may choose to deposit as much or as little as you like. Each time a camper visits the amount spent is crossed off the card. At the end of the week you may claim the remainder or donate it to our Campership fund. Campers are not asked to donate; this is left up to parents.

Parents are asked not to leave cash with campers. No good comes from this. There is nowhere to spend cash in camp. It can be lost or stolen. If, in the unlikely event a camper chose to run away, they could get a lot farther with cash in their pocket. Campers who go on field trips will be taken care of financially if the need arises.

Friends of Camp Turner, Inc.

The Friends of Camp Turner is our much esteemed alumni and booster organization. Anyone is welcomed to join, especially former staff and campers. The "Friends" sponsor social events and fundraising activities to support our Campership and summer program. For information, or for an Application for financial assistance, please visit: www.friendsofcampturner.org.

Alumni Visitation

Former campers and staff are welcomed to visit camp, arriving no earlier than 9 AM and departing by 8 PM. Visitors MUST check in at the office. Visitors may visit the director and off duty staff in approved areas. Prior reservations are required if you wish to dine with us. Guests other than legal guardians may not visit campers, or on-duty staff. Visitors will be invited and encouraged to join our alumni organization.

We do NOT accept overnight visitors during the summer camping season.

Payments / Online Account

Everyone who registers (signs up) – either online or through the mail – will have an online account. Your account user name is the email address you provided with registration. You will receive a password by email after your registration is complete.

Those who register after June 15 are asked to pay in full, or to call for other arrangements if necessary. June 15 is not a registration deadline! We accept campers up to 7 days before the start of each session.

Those who sign up earlier are welcomed to spread payments out over many months. You will receive an email reminder 30 days and 10 days before final payment is due. You will also receive a reminder on the due date if not already paid.

We love your personal checks. If, after signing up with your credit card, you are able to pay your balance with a paper check, camp will save almost 3% in credit card processing fees. This helps us minimize price increases. The savings go into making the program better.

Online Photo Gallery

Our online photo gallery is now **free** with your paid registration. You will only be able to view photos from your session(s), not all sessions. You must have an account with us to view photos. You access the gallery through your account with your user name and password. You may invite others to share your account. The gallery for each session will not be up until after 11 pm the first day of each session. You cannot log in until the first pictures are posted.

You will receive a flyer at check-in, explaining how to access the photo gallery, send one way emails, make payments, add sessions, etc.

Email to campers (one way email)

Campers may receive one way email (summer camp only, not available during wintercamp). Parents may purchase emails credits - \$5.00 for five emails. Emails must be sent through the one way email service. Access this by logging in to your account.

Staff Screening Procedures

Camp Turner follow the following hiring procedures.

1. All employees and volunteers who work with children are screened through a uniform employment application, personal interview, character reference checks as well as a criminal background check prior to employment or volunteer service. The criminal background checks are conducted by a reputable third party vendor and report felonies and misdemeanors, convictions and disposition of each record from individual county courts, state repositories, state databases or and federal courts. The check includes the New York State Sex Offender Registry to ensure that applicants are checked against Level 1, 2 and 3 offenders listed in the state registry.
2. All staff participate in a week-long staff training which include our Safe Environment policies and Code of Conduct; behavior management and intervention; bullying identification, intervention and reporting; camper supervision guidelines , incident reporting, risk management, Wilderness First Aid Level 1, American Heart Association's CPR, AED, epi-pen administration, and Universal, Precautions; campers' special needs, and more.
3. All staff are aware that campers must be supervised at, all times, and most importantly, staff is properly trained so that, for the safety of all involved, no one is ever alone with a child.
4. All employees and all volunteers must take a three-hour training called Protecting God's Children™, which trains adults in recognizing the signs of abuse and reporting procedures. This program includes a continuing education component of monthly training bulletins.
5. All employees are trained in and must agree in writing to uphold the Code of Conduct.
5. Employees and volunteers not in compliance with the above Safe Environment mandates are notified that their status is suspended and are not allowed to work with children or youth until they are in compliance.
6. Any reports of misconduct are taken seriously. The person in question (employee, volunteer, or clergy) is immediately placed on administrative leave until a thorough investigation has been made which is coordinated through the Our Lady of Victory Charities and the local police authorities.

Relationships Outside of Camp

Staff are discouraged from relationships with campers outside of camp (except for relatives and pre-existing relationships). If you know of Camp Turner staff members who are involved in an inappropriate relationship with a camper outside of camp – in real life or through social media - and would like help with the matter please let me (the Camp Director) know. Likewise, if I see anything untoward I will call parents and ask if they know of and approve of the relationship.

Group Rentals

Camp Turner is available for rental YEAR ROUND!

All cabins are fully WINTERIZED. Youth groups, family reunions, retreat groups and conferences are welcome. Our dining hall and commercial kitchen are fully equipped for your convenience. You can rent the kitchen and cook for yourself, or opt for our fabulous catering. Save money and clean up after your own group, or opt to have our staff clean after your stay. We are located on great hiking, cross country and snowmobile trails. We are 33 minutes from the slopes in Ellicottville. Please visit our web site at www.campturner.com or call for more information. [Special rates available for Catholic Youth Groups.]

Catering

You will be surprised by the food you will enjoy here. Some sample menu suggestions are available on the website in the rental section, but we can customize a menu for your particular needs. Table linens are also available for rental. We will compete with any establishment in Western New York in both quality and price.

Please see other documents on our website.

Facebook

For weekly menus, arrival and departure information, bus updates and daily news, please visit and like our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Camp.Turner.Official.Site>