

Parent and Family Handbook

Summer 2022

Important Information! Do not discard!

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# 

# **ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK**

Hello Families,

Thank you for your interest in sending your child(ren) to summer camp at Sherwood Forest. At camp, your child(ren) will have the chance to develop independence, experience outdoor fun and adventure, relax, unplug, and make life-long friendships.

Summer camp provides an amazing opportunity for kids to be kids, to face challenges, make mistakes, to learn, and to grow. You are giving your child(ren) the space and encouragement to live and thrive in a unique environment away from home. They will be given the space to grow in confidence and independence. They will play, laugh, sing, and maybe even cry. You are giving your child(ren) a truly magical experience which will allow them to explore and become their best selves.

In order to help prepare you and your child(ren) for the camp experience, we put together this handbook with detailed information on our summer camp program. It is important that you take time to review this handbook in entirety with your child(ren) and any other family members/guardians involved in their lives BEFORE making the decision to send them to camp this summer. This handbook includes details on program qualifications, eligibility, camp expectations, health care at camp, and important information on keeping in touch throughout the summer.

After you have reviewed the entire handbook with your child(ren), speak to them about the expectations of life at camp. If you and your child(ren) agree that summer camp combined with our year-round programming is a good fit for them, then please take time to complete the application required for attendance. If you have questions about summer camp or Sherwood Forest’s programs or policies, call our office at 314-644-3322.

Sincerely,

Alexis Newsome, M.A.



Camp Director

Sherwood Forest Leadership Grad ‘01

2nd Generation Sherwood Forest Camper

Current Camp Parent

# **OUR MISSION**

At Sherwood Forest, we provide dynamic programs and immersive outdoor experiences that inspire and empower youth from under-resourced communities to discover their resilience, prepare for their future, and embrace their civic responsibility.

Sherwood Forest serves child(ren) and families from under-resourced communities in the St. Louis area. A child(ren) who begins our programs at the end of first grade has the opportunity to “grow up” at Sherwood Forest over the next 11 years. We strive to establish and sustain long-term relationships with our campers, their families, and the agencies and schools that serve them.

By balancing traditional camp adventures with evidence-based programs that reinforce and support school-year learning, Sherwood Forest connects with, educates, and inspires the youth of St. Louis. And in doing so, we help kids discover the best in themselves.

# 

# **2022 SUMMER CAMP DATES**

Note: Grade refers to the grade your child(ren) will complete during the 2021/2022 school year, just prior to attending camp for the summer.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SUMMER CAMP | |
| ***Mini Camp:*** *1st/2nd Graders (All genders)* | June 8th- June 12th ~ 5 days |
| **Explorer Camp Session 1:**  3rd - 5th Graders who identify as female  **Leadership Camp Session 1:**  6th – 9th Graders who identify as female  **Explorer Camp Session 2:**  3rd - 5th Graders who identify as male  **Leadership Camp Session 2:**  6th – 9th Graders who identify as male  ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ | June 17th – July 1st ~ 15 days  June 17th – July 10th ~ 24 days  July 16th – July 30th ~ 15 days  July 16th – August 8th ~ 24 days |

## 

## **Changes due to Possible Infectious Diseases**

Staggered End Date – All campers will arrive at camp on the same day in order to establish a “camp bubble”. However, different age groups will have different session lengths and end dates. Please, pay close attention to the end date for your camper and keep in mind that if you have campers in different grades they may have different end dates.

**Note:** For more information on how we will handle any Infectious Diseases at camp, please refer to the Infectious Diseases section of this handbook.

## **Program Registration Information**

*Return Campers* – Return campers are given first priority in registering for camp. Please do not delay in submitting application materials though, as spaces cannot be held.

*New Campers* – Applications for new campers may be completed at any point. New campers will automatically be placed on the waitlist until a space becomes available. Once new camper registration has been confirmed, you will receive information about upcoming year-round programing. 80% of our spaces are reserved for children who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

***The deadline to register your child(ren) for camp is May 21st, 2022. All paperwork must be completed and submitted at least one week prior to your child(ren) arriving at camp. \*\*Space is limited, so please do not wait to register your child, as we cannot guarantee availability.\*\****

## **Orientations**

All campers are required to complete an orientation in order to attend summer camp in 2022.

*New Campers* – New Camper Orientation is designed to help you and your camper learn more about camp before the summer begins. We will review the basics of camp life, show pictures of camp, and answer questions from campers and their families. This year we will also include specific information about how we will manage health and safety in light of Infectious Diseases.

*Return Campers* – Return Camper Orientation will review any program changes for Summer 2022, including specific information about how we are managing health and safety in light of Infectious Diseases.

## **Interviews**

In order to best prepare you and your child(ren) for camp, all first time campers in 3rd grade or above and their parent/guardians, must participate in an interview with our staff. Interviews help us get to know your camper and help your camper get to know us.

All first year 6th grade & 7th grade campers whether first time campers or returning campers, must have a one-on-one interview with a member of camp staff.

Interviews will be scheduled once we have received your completed application materials. Please note that this is *mandatory* for any new campers in 3rd – 5th grade, all 6th grade campers, and any new 7th grade campers.

## **2022 QUEST SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS**

Whether your child(ren) has been attending Sherwood Forest for years or this will be your first summer with us, we want to keep you informed of how our program is growing and changing. We also want to make sure you understand how each year of our program builds upon the previous years.

Our goal is that once a child(ren) joins the Sherwood Forest family, they grows up with us, graduates from high school, attends and graduates from college or trade school, and, as an adult, has the skills needed to achieve their dreams.

Our programs are designed with this goal in mind, and we work closely with education experts, artists, teachers, and other youth development professionals to provide child(ren) with new, innovative, and exciting opportunities. We believe that connections with nature are critical experiences for child(ren) and our programs focus on providing new and challenging activities in the natural environment. Please note, that we do not intentionally kill our critter and creature friends, but we do relocate them when we find them in our living spaces.

Below is a brief description of our summer camp programs. Child(ren) can attend Sherwood Forest as first-time campers from 1st through 7th grade.

* **Discovery** – Mini Camp -1st and 2nd graders: Five days and four nights
  + Designed as an introduction to residential camping. Child(ren) this age have not spent many nights (if any) away from home or family, so this program is designed to help them take their first steps towards independence.
  + Campers live in a cabin of groups six to nine with two or three counselors.
  + They focus on discovering the joys of camping through a variety of activities.
  + They participate in activities as a group and are exposed to a variety of the activities we offer.
* **Explorers** - 3rd graders, two-week program
  + Introduction to residential camping - designed to help them take their first steps towards independence.
  + They focus on discovering the joys of camping through a variety of activities.
  + Participate in our 3rd grade Book Club designed to make reading come alive at camp.
  + Year-round activities can include hikes in local parks, read aloud events, trash bash events at camp etc
* **Explorers –** 4th and 5th grader, two-week program
  + **4th Grade –** An overall focus on helping our campers develop connections to camp, their peers, and the natural environment.
    - Focuses on scientific exploration with a focus on nature and the outdoors.
    - Go on overnight trips on our camp property to build their skills and comfort level in the outdoors.
    - Year-round activities can include, full day hikes in local parks, outdoor environmental science events, and trips to camp during the school year.
  + **5th Grade –** An overall focus on developing independence through camp and wilderness experiences.
    - Work on the skills they will need to be successful in the Leadership Training Program
    - Build on the 4th grade program through a focus on learning in nature and the outdoors.
    - Continue overnight trips in camp as well as venture out of camp on overnight and day trips.
    - Demonstrate their ability to be independent, make decisions, set goals, and work to achieve those goals. Year-round activities can include, exploring local parks, trips to the Science Center, animal sanctuaries and trash bash trips at camp.
* **Leadership Training Program** – 6th-9th graders, 3 ½ week program
  + Throughout their four years in the Leadership Training program, youth work on the following skills: responsibility, self-discipline, effective communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. The Leadership Training Program is a year-round program, anchored in a residential summer camp experience. Youth in this program are expected to fully participate in all components.
  + **Challenge** (6th grade) – An overall focus on identifying individual strengths and gaining a greater understanding of oneself.
    - During the school year, campers will participate in several outdoor hiking experiences.
    - They work to discover their personal strengths and assets as well as areas for growth and learning. Campers do this through intensive outdoor-focused experiences that encourage them to stretch their comfort zones and explore new aspects of themselves.
    - Team building or outdoor survival skill development designed to help them be better equipped for their multi-day wilderness trips.
  + **Trek** (7th grade) – An overall focus on helping youth feel competent in their ability to lead, make decisions, and work as part of a team to achieve a larger goal.
    - Trek is the second year of the Leadership Training program and is the last year we will accept new campers.
    - This program focuses on helping our campers accomplish a large goal as a team or camp community.
    - During the school year, campers will participate in several outdoor hiking experiences to prepare for the summer.
  + **Adventure** (8th grade) **–** An overall focus on helping youth learn about their local communities and their role within those communities.
    - Campers begin to look at themselves as part of a community and examine how they can use their individual and team strengths to benefit that community.
    - They begin thinking about their lives during and after high school.
    - All campers moving into Adventure must complete an individual interview and written personal statement prior to participating in any year-round activities.
  + **Journey (9th grade) –** An overall focus on helping youth identify their interests for life after high school and continue learning about their role with local and national communities.
    - Campers begin to look beyond their local community and more towards their country.
    - They participate in service projects, college tours, and historical site visits.
    - As the final year of the Leadership Training Program, Journey campers are seen as role models in our camp community and as such we hold them to high standards of responsibility, decision-making, and leadership.
    - All campers moving into Journey must complete their goals and objectives while at camp, with a staff member.

# **REGISTERING FOR CAMP**

## **When to apply**

The application process for camp begins in early December, but we continue to accept applications on a “rolling” basis. Spaces are open to returning campers first. We then consider the applications of campers who were on the wait list the previous summer and the applications of new campers whose siblings attend or have attended camp. Priority is given to those campers who qualify for the Summer Food Service Program. Finally, applications of new campers are considered. Our goal is to allocate at least 80% of our spaces to campers who qualify for the Summer Food Service Program. Applications will be accepted until all spaces are filled or until May 21st whichever comes first. Child(ren) will be placed on a waiting list if all spaces are full when their application is received. Do not wait to apply for your child(ren) to attend camp due to financial concerns. Please call us if you are worried about how to pay for camp.

## **Fees**

The fees for Summer 2022 are as follows:

* 1st & 2nd grade session (1 week) - $35, which includes a non-refundable registration fee of $5.
* 3rd - 5th grade session (2 ½ weeks) - $50, which includes a non-refundable registration fee of $5.
* 6th - 9th grade session (3 weeks) - $75, which includes a non-refundable registration fee of $5.

*\* Do not wait to apply due to financial concerns. We never want finances to be a barrier to child(ren) attending camp. Please call us or include a note with your child(ren)’s application if you are worried about how to pay for camp \**

## **Donations**

Did you know that the actual cost of camp is roughly $300 per camper per day? That means a 15-day session actually costs approximately $4,500 and a 24-day session costs $7,200 per child. Your child(ren)’s camp fee only covers a small portion of this cost. Please join with others in our community by contributing to our scholarship fund. If you choose to do so, please mark the amount you would like to contribute on the back of the application. A contribution of any size is welcome. Every dollar helps!

## **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**

The Summer Food Service Program is similar to the school lunch program and helps to offset the cost of food for child(ren) while they are at camp. In order for our program to receive funding, we must have an Income Eligibility Form completed by each family and signed by an adult household member. You need to complete the form even if you do not think your family will qualify.

Your family does not have to qualify for your child(ren) to attend camp, although priority is given to child(ren) whose families do qualify. The fee for summer camp is the same for all campers. There is no additional charge for food if your child(ren) does not qualify. All campers share in the same family-style meals. Additional information can be found on the letter with the Income Eligibility Form.

## **Application Process**

Sit down with your child(ren) and review all the information included in the program description and parent handbook. Make sure to review the expectations for the program for which they are applying. Additional information about the programs may be found on our website or you can contact our office.

If they are still interested, complete and return the items listed below. Make sure to include all information needed for your child(ren)’s program, based on the grade they will complete during the 2021/2022 school year just prior to attending camp for the summer. A separate application is needed for each child.

***All campers need the following in order to apply for summer camp:***

* Your child(ren) must first, and foremost, want to attend summer camp.
* Completed application (paper and/or online) signed by parent/guardian. Please make sure there is an answer for every question! If it is not, the application is incomplete and will not be accepted.
* Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Income Eligibility Form (one form per family with ALL family members listed) – this is mandatory, even if you do not qualify. This is used to determine income eligibility for our program.
* Health History Form signed by a parent or guardian, including the child’s immunization record (either completed as part of the Health Form or attached copy of your child’s immunization record.)
* Copy of Health Insurance Card (front and back) if the child is covered by health insurance or Medicaid. If child is covered by primary and secondary insurance, please include copies of both cards. Make sure all copies are labeled with your child’s name and birth date. If your child does not have insurance, please note that on application.
* Camper Conduct Policy
* Camp Participation Waiver
* COVID-19 Testing Release
* Illinois Campers Only: Title XX Form
* 6th through 9th grade campers will complete their “Goals and Objective Form” while at camp
* 8th and 9th grade campers must also submit a “Personal Statement” form

We will contact you within three weeks of receiving of your child(ren)’s application to confirm receipt, let you know the status of the application, ask any additional questions, and/or set-up an interview between your child(ren) and a staff member.

* All new campers must participate in a new camper conversation (aka convos).
* All new or returning campers entering the Leadership Training Program for the first time must take part in one individual interview, which will include parent orientation.
* All campers who are on conditional return MUST meet with a member of our program team to discuss any concerns from their previous camp experiences. A parent or guardian must attend the discussion as well. You will be contacted individually if this applies to your camper.

After additional information has been gathered, eligibity has been confirmed and all interviews (when applicable) have been completed, we will confirm your child(ren)’s placement in a camp program in writing via email, postcard, or letter.

At least three weeks prior to your child(ren)’s camp session, we will send a letter with last-minute details.

***\* Do not wait to apply for your child(ren) to attend camp due to financial concerns. Please call us or include a note with your child(ren)’s application if you are worried about how to pay for camp.***

# **LIFE AT CAMP**

We believe that the summer camp experience is important for all child(ren) and hope that this is an experience your child(ren) loves. Participating in Sherwood Forest year-round programming is a commitment, and it is important that you talk with your child(ren) about the expectations of camp life and whether it is a good fit for them.

## **Eligibility**

Sherwood Forest’s Quest program is designed for child(ren) in 1st-9th graders who live in the St. Louis region.

In order to be eligible for our programs, campers should live in one of the following counties – St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jefferson County, Franklin County, St. Charles County, St. Clair County (IL), or Madison County (IL).

Sherwood Forests reserves 80% of our spaces for children from low-income families. This is defined by a child(ren)’s qualification for the Summer Food Service Program. Campers who do not qualify for this program are able to attend camp, but priority is given to those who do qualify.

It is also a requirement that campers themselves have a strong interest in going to camp. Regardless of a parent/guardians wish for their child(ren) to go to camp, if a child does not want to come to camp, they will struggle to adjust to camp life and, in some cases, might never fully adjust. ***Please be sure to discuss camp thoroughly with your child(ren), to make certain that they want to attend camp.***

In addition to a desire to attend camp, child(ren) must be able to demonstrate behavior that is safe and appropriate for their age. We are not a therapeutic camp. While we will work with child(ren) to help them transition to camp life, we are not able to manage behaviors that make camp an unsafe environment for your child(ren) and other child(ren).

**What qualities help child(ren) succeed at camp?**

* ability to live in close quarters with other child(ren)
* ability get along well with other child(ren)
* ability to take direction from young adults and/or adults who are not part of their family
* ability to take responsibility and consequences for their actions
* ability to care for themselves independently
* ability to verbally express their needs
* willingness to try new things and accept new experiences
* have respect for other camper’s belongings and personal space

**Eligibility is contingent on campers completing all steps of the application process.** All campers attending camp for the first time must participate in a new camper convos. Those entering the Leadership Training Program for the first time will complete an individual interview (see page 6).If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact the Camp Director for clarification before your child(ren) applies.

## **Camp Communication**

Prior to the start of the camp session, you will be contacted by our Camp Nurse and/or your child(ren)’s Village Director. You may also be contacted by our Wellness Health Specialist if you have identified any behavioral, mental health, or cognitive needs on your camper’s application or health form. This communication is important in helping us better prepare for the best camp experience possible for your child.

During the summer, you may be contacted by the Camp Nurse or Wellness Health Specialist, and you will likely hear from your child(ren)’s Village Director periodically. While at camp, we do not permit campers to use the telephone to speak to their family members or guardians as this can increase feelings of homesickness and cause campers to make poor behavior decisions. It is also important that campers learn how to work through challenges and solve problems on their own or with the support of adults outside of their family. This is valuable skill that has shown to increase positive outcomes, particularly as they transition into young adulthood.

If an issue arises at camp, your child(ren)’s Village Director or the Camp Director will contact you to communicate any challenges and/or to seek advice on how challenges have been managed successfully at home. Our goal is help your child(ren) build the skills to work through difficult situations while gaining confidence and independence.

If there is an emergency at home please contact the Camp Director, who will help to facilitate communication between you and your child.

## **Camper Conduct**

We believe that all campers have the right to a safe, fun, and memorable camping experience. We expect campers to be respectful, responsible, and cooperative. In order for this experience to be positive for your child(ren), it is important that both you and your child(ren) understand Sherwood Forest’s rules of conduct and what is expected of campers in terms of their behavior.

**•You AND your child(ren) MUST read, discuss, and sign the Camper Conduct and Behavior Policy Agreement (a copy of the agreement is included below for your reference).**

**•Consequences will be enforced. These may include taking time out, losing privileges, or, if deemed necessary by the Camp Director, dismissal from camp. Sherwood Forest will not refund fees if your child(ren) is sent home for behavior issues.**

**•Please do not make plans to be out-of-town while your child(ren) is at camp. If your child(ren) needs to return home for any reason while at camp, we cannot keep them on site and you must be available to take them home. If we cannot reach you, we will release him/her to another parent/guardian or emergency contact.**

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**Camper Conduct and Behavior Policy**

At Sherwood Forest, we believe that all child(ren) have the right to a safe, fun, and memorable camping experience. We expect campers to be respectful, responsible, and cooperative. We want campers to make friends, learn and try new things, and to have fun. In order to create a positive camp culture, it is important that every member of our camp community commit to the following conduct and behavioral expectations. **Every parent/guardian is required to read the following information with his/her camper, sign, and return the Camper Conduct and Behavior Policy to Sherwood Forest. (This must be on file prior to the start of camp.)**

Campers are encouraged to practice positive social skills which allow them to resolve conflicts and meet their needs without the use of harmful or destructive behaviors. When disciplinary situations occur, staff will work with campers to help them understand why their behavior is inappropriate. They will then help campers identify alternative behaviors that are appropriate for camp. We recognize that campers may have coping strategies and conflict management techniques that work for them at school or at home and staff will attempt to utilize these strategies and techniques as much as possible and in ways that are appropriate for camp.

**Campers are expected to:**

•Follow all camp rules and directions given by staff.

•Respect fellow campers and staff members, including personal space, belongings, choices, opinions, and lifestyles.

•Respect camp property, equipment, and natural resources.

•Use appropriate language – swearing, cursing, or offensive/lewd jokes are not permitted.

•Talk through conflicts and challenges.

•Take responsibility for their actions.

•Contribute to the camp community through supporting their peers, helping with group chores, and reflecting the Sherwood Forest values.

## **Bullying Policy**

Sherwood Forest defines bullying as repeated aggressive behavior and/or language with the intent of asserting power and/or control over another individual. We expect all members of our community to be respectful towards one another, therefore we take all incidents of bullying very seriously. If a camper has difficulty meeting this expectation, disciplinary action will be taken.

If a camper violates any part of the Camper Conduct and Behavior Policy, we will:

1) Remind and Correct - We will discuss our concerns with campers and redirect their behaviors.

2) Consequences - We will invoke disciplinary actions. (i.e. loss of privileges or time out from an activity). At Sherwood Forest Camp we do not use any form of punishment. We use logical consequences to help campers learn more appropriate behavioral responses.

3) We will call parent(s)/legal guardian and if deemed necessary by the Camp Director, the camper may be dismissed from camp.

## **Immediate Dismissal**

Our staff reserves the right to immediately dismiss campers whose behavior endangers the safety of themselves or others, thereby bypassing some of the disciplinary steps outlined above.

Immediate Dismissal Examples:

1) Any child(ren) who brings a weapon to camp.

2) Any child(ren) who brings illegal substances or paraphernalia, alcoholic beverages, or tobacco products to camp.

3) Any child(ren) who makes a credible threat to hurt themselves or others.

4) Any child(ren) who seriously and/or intentionally harms themselves or others.

5) Any child(ren) who verbally or physically abuses fellow campers or staff.

**Parent/Guardian Role in Camper Conduct**

Families must review the Camper Conduct Policy with their child(ren) and ensure that campers and parents/guardians are aware of the behavioral expectations as well as the disciplinary process, including reasons for immediate dismissal from camp.

## **Camp Site**

Our camp is located 110 miles south of St. Louis on 478 acres of wooded and rugged hills and valleys. There are four villages at camp: one village has cabins with attached bathrooms, and the other three villages have separate but central washhouse facilities.

All villages have electricity; bathroom facilities have electricity, hot and cold running water, individual shower stalls, and flush toilets. While some cabins are accessible to persons with limited mobility, our entire campsite is not. The terrain is hilly and rugged; we walk on wooded trails or dirt roads everywhere we go in camp.



## **Wilderness Experiences**

At Sherwood Forest, we believe in the power of nature and the importance of learning about the natural environment. This is a key component of our programs, and wilderness experiences are at the heart of all that we do. All campers at Sherwood Forest participate in overnight camping trips. Overnights include short trips up the camp valley lasting one night, or they can be extended hiking or river trips lasting up to eleven days in length. Please refer to the description of the program (see page 2-8) in which your child(ren) will participate for specific details of their age appropriate trip(s).

While at camp, we will help your child(ren) prepare for these trips through participation in the following activities: swimming, canoeing, and outdoor living skills (setting up a tent or tarp shelter, building a fire, cooking over a fire, etc.).

Wilderness experiences are a mandatory part of the camping experience. If your child(ren) refuses to participate in the overnight trips or hikes, they may be dismissed from camp. Please discuss with your child(ren) before coming to camp that they will be expected to hike, sleep, eat and go to the bathroom in the outdoors at some point during the summer.

Some considerations to discuss with your child(ren):

• Campers in grades 3rd – 9th grade will be camping – this includes sleeping outside on overnight trips.

• Your child(ren) is expected to participate in these trips and overnight excursions. ***They are not optional.***

• There will be bugs and other critters outside. Most of these critters are not harmful in any way and we will educate campers on which ones to look out for.

• Your child(ren) will be cooking meals and eating outside on these trips.

• These trips require learning to use pit toilets, or digging small holes for using the bathroom. Please discuss this with your child(ren) and make sure they are comfortable with this.

•Overnights and campouts will happen even in some types of inclement weather, including rain.

## **Swimming and Water Safety**

When arriving at camp, all campers are required to take a test to assess their swimming ability. Depending on their swimming skills, campers wear a “deep water band” signifying the depth of water they are allowed to swim in.

Any camper in grades 1st – 9thwho does not receive their “deep water band” during the swim test will be required to take swim lessons while at camp. Please note that this is a required program component for any camper who does not pass the basic swim test. It is important that all people learn to be safe around bodies of water, and child(ren) in our programs will be participating in a variety of activities that are water based, including swimming, canoeing, funyaking, and more.

While at camp, any time child(ren) participate in water activities (at the pool, lake, or on river trips), they will be supervised by certified lifeguards. **Campers will not be made to swim in any areas they are uncomfortable with, however, aquatic activities are a major component of our program.**

All child(ren) in 3rd through 9th grade will participate in at least one canoeing activity. Campers in 5th – 7th grade may also be participating in overnight canoe trips on the Black or Current Rivers. If you or your child(ren) is uncomfortable with this, please contact our camp office to discuss the program further. Although campers are required to wear personal flotation devices (PFDs, aka lifejackets) when canoeing or participating in activities on a lake or river, campers participating in river trips will need to demonstrate mastery of specific swimming and canoeing skills before participating in these trips.

## **Typical Daily Schedule**

The following is an example of a typical daily schedule. The schedule is subject to change based on weather, infection diseases (such as Covid-19), activity availability, or other factors.

7:00 am – Wake Up and Morning Routine

8:00 am – Breakfast Time

9:00 am – 9:45 – Cabin Clean-up

10:00 am – 12:15pm – Morning Activities

12:30 pm – Lunch Time

1:30 pm – 2:30 – Siesta

2:45 pm – 5:15 – Afternoon Activities

5:30 pm – Clean-up from Afternoon

6:00 pm – Dinner Time

7:30 pm – Evening Activity

9:00 pm – Get Ready for Bed

\*Please note: This schedule is subject to change as we finalize our procedures related to Infectious Diseases.

## **Program Activities**

Each camp program is geared to campers’ abilities, interests, needs, and skill development. Sherwood Forest Camp offers a wide range of activities. The following is a sample of the activities we offer:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Tango Tower (climbing) * Library / Reading * Archery * Field Games * Backpacking * Swimming * Canoeing | * Funyaks (Kayaking for kids) * Outdoor Cooking * Hikes & Nature Games * Ropes Course * Orienteering * Adventure Sports * Campcraft Skills | * Ceramics and pottery * Drawing * Painting * Tie Dye * Music * Dance * Gardening |

*\*\*Activities offered are subject to change based upon campers’ interests, artists-in-residence, and staff specialties.*

All activities are led and instructed by trained staff members. Some activities may require additional supervision depending on safety regulations and/or optimal instruction ratios. Attendance is taken at each activity to ensure that all campers are accounted for at all times.

## **Food Service**

Three healthy, balanced meals are provided each day. Fresh fruit is also available to campers at all times throughout the day if they need an additional snack. Meals are served family-style and campers eat each meal with their cabin groups.

**Dietary Restrictions**

Our kitchen staff is able to accommodate most special dietary needs related to food allergies, but not those related to food preferences. Please make sure to note allergies on your camper’s Health History Form. All dietary restrictions must be listed on the Health Form. We will be unable to accommodate any restrictions not listed. Vegetarian alternatives are available for campers and staff. **Due to the requirements of the Summer Food Service Program, we are unable to accommodate vegans.**

If your child(ren) is a picky eater, please review the following details with them:

* Each meal time, campers will be served a complete and balanced meal. The kitchen will not provide alternative meal items for campers who do not like what is being served. Alternatives will only be provided for those with dietary restrictions per the Health History Form.
* Campers are encouraged to try everything. Part of the camp experience is trying new things, which includes meal times. Your child(ren)’s counselors will encourage them to try all food that is being served.

\*Please call us if your child(ren) has a gluten allergy. We will need to discuss whether appropriate accommodations can be made.\*

## **Laundry**

Laundry is done roughly once a week and sent out to a local laundromat. Laundry days are scheduled by village and length of stay at camp. Campers should bring at least 10 days’ worth of clothing to ensure that they have plenty of clean clothes in between laundry days. Mini Campers do not do laundry while at camp.

Number of laundry days per session is as follows:

• 3rd grade – 1 laundry day

• 4th/5th grade – 1 laundry day

• 6th-9th grade – 3 laundry days

Camper’s clothes are washed with the rest of their cabin group, therefore it is very important all clothing is labeled.

**Labeling Belongings**

**Please mark ALL of your child(ren)’s belongings with their FIRST and LAST name in permanent marker.** Because laundry is done by cabin group and village, your child(ren)’s clothing will be mixed with other campers’ clothing. It is your child(ren)’s responsibility to care for their belongings while at camp and to claim them when they return to the village. Part of learning to be independent is learning to be responsible for one’s personal belongings.

We will have up to 300 people at camp at one time, many with the same initials. Clothing items only marked with initials will likely be misplaced. Even though items come back from being washed, you would not believe the number of items that go unclaimed in a village that later, at home, are claimed to “have been lost in the laundry”. (We also find a large number of socks around camp. By the end of the session it is impressive that anyone is wearing socks at all. But we digress…)

**Allergies and Health Concerns**

If your child(ren) has a specific, diagnosed, medical reason to have their laundry washed separately, Sherwood Forest will accommodate this (such as eczema – **this must be noted on your child(ren)’s health form).** However, any laundry detergent used must be dye-free, scent-free, hypoallergenic, and provided to Sherwood Forest. Any other laundry detergent that is sent will be disposed of.

**Sherwood Forest will NOT be held responsible for lost or damaged items. Do not send anything that, if ruined or lost, would cause you or your child(ren) to become upset. DO NOT send new items to camp. Clothing and shoes will get dirty and many campers will misplace items over the summer.**

***\*Please refer to page 20 for more information on packing for camp\****

## **Camper Supervision**

**Villages and Cabins**

Campers live in cabin groups of six to nine with other campers who are the same identifying gender and grade in school. Groups have two or three leaders; in some groups one of the leaders may be a high school student in a junior staff or Counselor-in-Training role. Groups Leaders who live in the same cabin as campers will be the same gender, however, we do have mixed gender group leaders. Cabin groups are organized into Villages based on gender and grade. Each Village is then overseen by a Village Director who ensures that cabin and village life is running smoothly. Village Directors are also the main point of contact for families if they have questions or concerns about their camper’s experience.

**General**

Campers must be within eyeshot and/or earshot of staff at all times. Most of the time, campers are within the immediate proximity of one of more staff members. However, there are brief periods of time during the day and evening activities when staff members in the general vicinity supervise campers. For example, if we are playing a running game and your camper happens to be faster than their group leaders .

**Camp Store**

Your child(ren) may want to bring home something to help them remember camp. We sell a variety of souvenirs such as t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and/or carabiners (key chain/hook), ranging in price from 50¢ to $25. Purchasing something from the store is optional, so you should not feel obligated to send your child(ren) to camp with Camp Store money.

## **Birthdays at Camp**

If your child(ren) will be celebrating their birthday at camp, know that we will make it a fun, memorable experience. If you would like to send your child(ren) a birthday package or card, please send it well in advance of their birthday. Write on the outside “Birthday card/package. Please deliver on (date)”. We will hold this mail to ensure it is delivered at the appropriate time. Do not send food, snacks, or gum/candies/mints to camp (see page 24).

# **HEALTH CARE**

Your child(ren)’s health and safety is our top priority while they are at camp. It is critical that we have accurate information in order to best support them throughout their stay at camp. Please review this section carefully and contact our St. Louis office with any questions you might have before camp begins.

## **Health Care at Camp**

In 2019, Sherwood Forest built a brand new health lodge, the Comfort Lodge, to better serve the health needs of our campers. The Comfort Lodge is staffed by a registered nurse while child(ren) are at camp in the summer. During some sessions, a student nurse, and/or EMT may also be in residence. Our health care staff follows health care protocols that have been approved by a licensed physician. When necessary, our Camp Nurse consults with a licensed physician.

The nearest hospital is in Arcadia Valley, about 30 minutes from camp. Reynolds County, where the camp is located, provides ambulance service, and the camp is a member of Air Evac Lifeteam.

Insect bites, headaches, minor poison ivy, upset stomachs, cuts and scrapes, etc., are considered routine medical care. It is our policy to contact parents only if a child(ren) experiences illness or injury requiring more than routine medical care. Please remember that your child(ren) is our first concern. First, we will seek the necessary treatment; then, we will follow-up with you. Please feel free to contact the Camp Director or Camp Nurse to ask any questions about your child(ren)’s healthcare. Please be sure you have provided accurate contact information and two additional emergency contacts who will be available while your child(ren) is at camp.

## **Health Form**

Health history information must be up-to-date and submitted to the camp office with your child(ren)’s application, and may be updated prior to your child(ren) coming to camp. Campers have a mandatory health screening at the beginning of the session and/or prior to getting on the bus which is performed by our nursing team.

Please carefully and completely answer each question on the Health History Form. We ask these questions so we can provide the best care possible for your child(ren). If you have any concerns about the physical and/or behavioral/emotional needs of your camper, please let us know. It is very important for us to know these concerns so that we can make a plan prior to their arrival at camp.

Our goal is to work with you to provide the best possible camp experience for your child(ren). ***Physical and/or behavioral diagnoses do not automatically disqualify your child(ren) from attending camp, however, we will want to discuss how these diagnoses may impact your child(ren)’s camp experience.*** We must have an updated Health History Form completed and signed each year. The form is not complete without a copy of current immunization records or immunization dates written on the health form and a copy of your child(ren)’s health insurance card, if applicable. Please write your child(ren)’s name and birth date on the copy of their health insurance card.

Please send a written update to the Camp Nurse if your child(ren)’s medical status changes prior to his/her arrival at camp. Changes include: medication changes, recent illness or injury, onset of menstrual cycle, etc.

## **Immunizations**

The safety and health of our campers and staff are priorities for Sherwood Forest. Each year, the American Academy of Pediatrics publishes a “Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule.” Pediatricians across North America consider this the standard of care. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has established vaccine standards for both children and adults. The routine vaccination of all campers and staff is an important public health matter especially in the confined environment of a residential summer camp with round-the-clock communal living where illnesses spread much more easily.

All those who are attending Sherwood Forest Camp, including campers, program participants, and staff, are required to have age appropriate vaccines as outlined by the Missouri Department of Public Health & Senior Services (Missouri Statute 167.181).

<https://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/immunizations/pdf/2022schoolrequirements.pdf> These immunizations are also required for students to attend school in Missouri.

All campers, program participants, and staff must present documentation of up-to-date immunization status, including month, day, and year of each immunization before arriving at Sherwood Forest.

Required immunizations should be administered according to the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Schedule, including all spacing, (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>)

To attend, campers and program participants "in progress" must have an Immunization In Progress form (Imm.P.14) on file. In progress means that a child has begun the vaccine series and has an appointment for the next dose. (i.e., vaccine series was started but the child is not yet eligible to receive the next dose in the series.)

Religious (Imm.P.11A) and Medical (Imm.P.12) exemptions are allowed and will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The appropriate exemption card and approval for accommodation must be on file prior to arriving at Sherwood Forest.

## **Medication Procedures**

**We ask you to pre-pack the first three (3) days of your child(ren)’s medication.** The nurse will prepare the remaining days of medication following camp procedures once your child(ren) is at camp. This will help the health team sort quickly through all this important information while still delivering medication in a timely manner.

About three weeks before camp, we will mail you pre-labeled envelopes for this purpose and directions for how to prepare them. Each envelope is labeled with the day of camp and identifies the time of day it is administered.

Please make sure that remaining medication is sent to camp in the original container(s) showing your child(ren)’s name, and ensure that you have sent enough for the entire session. Do not send expired medication. On the Health History Form, please write explicit instructions for dispensing and/or using the medication. If your child(ren) has over-the-counter medication (including vitamins, creams, and herbal remedies) it must also be in the original containers with explicit written directives for use.

Place all envelopes and the remainder of your child(ren)’s medication in sufficient quantities for their entire stay in a Ziploc bag. **Please make sure each medication and the ziplock bag is clearly labeled with your child(ren)’s name in black marker.** This medication should be given to our nursing team at your child(ren)’s designated bus stop. During our check-in procedures at camp, the Camp Nurse will go over medications with campers. Medications are securely kept in the Health Lodge and dispensed according to prescription or written health care procedures. Exceptions are made for items such as rescue inhalers, epi-pens, and prescribed face wash and/or ointments, which will be logged by the Camp Nurse, and may be returned to campers to be used as needed.

Important things to note:

* If your child(ren) takes medication during the school year, please send that medication to camp. Camp is a structured environment and it is important that medications taken during school continue. If you have questions about this, please contact our office.
* If your child(ren) uses an inhaler, we strongly encourage you to send a back-up inhaler for safekeeping in the Health Center.
* Please do not send incidentals such as Tylenol, Advil, etc. unless your child(ren) takes them on a regular basis, as we stock these in the Health Center. You may send these (along with specific written instructions) if your child(ren) does takes them on a regular basis.

## **Feminine Hygiene**

If you have a camper who has recently started their period or may be starting their period soon, please include this information on the Health History Form and pack the enough sanitary napkins/tampons for their entire stay.

If your camper starts their period at camp, our nursing team will contact you to discuss how we can support your camper in personal care.

Please speak with your camper prior to them coming to camp about their personal care should they start their period. Even for campers who have gotten their period before, managing it at camp can be uncomfortable due to the communal living accommodations. Make sure they know they can speak with their Group Leaders or the Nursing staff if they have any questions or concerns.

Note for 6th and 7th grade campers – Challenge and Trek involve multi-day wilderness trips with limited access to running water. Managing a period in the wilderness can be tricky, so please make sure your camper knows to speak with her Group Leaders if she has her period during her wilderness trip.

## **Health Insurance**

If your child(ren) has health insurance or Medicaid, please provide a copy of their health insurance card labeled with their name and birth date. Sherwood Forest’s medical insurance is secondary coverage; if a camper requires medical treatment and has medical insurance, the parent will be billed as having primary coverage.

## **Emergency Contacts**

On both the Application and Health History Form, we request two emergency contacts. This needs to be someone other than a parent or guardian who will be available while your child(ren) is at camp and able to take care of your child(ren) should they need to return home. By listing someone as an Emergency Contact you are providing consent that we may release your child(ren) into their custody. Please be assured that we will try first to contact you as a parent or guardian, but if we are unable to reach you, we will try the emergency contact.

## **Traveling While Child(ren) is at Camp**

If you must be out of town or you will be unavailable while your child(ren) is at camp, please make sure to notify camp in writing and let us know who we should contact in your absence. This person must be able to competently talk about your child(ren) and take care of your child(ren) if they must return home. If your child(ren) needs to return home for any reason, your emergency contact must be able to take them. Please do not make plans to travel if you have no one who can watch your child(ren) while you are away.

**Please provide the following information, in writing, to camp if you must travel while your child(ren) is at camp.**

• Dates and length of time out of town

• Location and/or estimate of how long it would take for you to return home

• Contact Name

• Contact Phone number

• Contact relationship to camper

## **Sunscreen**

We provide sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection for your child(ren) to use while at camp. We constantly remind campers to wear and reapply sunscreen, but we are not able to individually monitor each child(ren) to ensure that they are reapplying as needed. Although all counselors and staff are persistent about this issue, we ask that you to talk to your child(ren) about this before they arrive at camp. Teach them the importance of applying sunscreen often and liberally. This includes our campers of color as well. It is a common misconception that people of color do not need sunscreen. All individuals, no matter the color of their skin, do need to apply sunscreen and will be asked to do so at camp.

## **Bedwetting**

Child(ren) play hard at camp and are often so tired that they do not wake up in the middle of the night to use the restroom. We know this is a very personal issue, but if your child(ren) struggles with this issue at all, please be sure to note it on their Application and Health History Form, along with any strategies that have worked at home. Please discuss the situation with your child(ren)’s doctor, as there are medications that may help. If medication is not recommended, please consider sending them with some Goodnights or other form of night time pull-ups to wear to bed at camp. Even if this is not a regular occurrence, please discuss with your child(ren) what they should do if they do have an accident while at camp. Let your child(ren) know that if they have an accident which leaks onto their clothes or sheets, they should let their counselor know right away.

Note: Please include a history of bedwetting if it has occurred in the past year. Bedwetting may occur at camp due to changes in environment and routine, even if not regularly occurring at home.

## **Mental, Emotional, Social, Health**

In order to provide a safe, healthy, and fun camp experience, we believe it is important to understand the behavioral, emotional, and mental health needs of your camper. If your child(ren) has been diagnosed with any behavioral or mental health conditions, please disclose this information on their Health History Form and Application. ***A diagnosis does not automatically disqualify your child(ren) from attending camp.*** We have had many campers with diagnosed conditions such as ADD/ADHD, Oppositional Defiance Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder, and mild Autism, to name a few. We have also had campers with adverse childhood experiences and histories of trauma. Each child’s experience of their condition, diagnosis, or situation is different and it is important that we get to know your child(ren) and how best to support them throughout their time at camp.

Prior to camp starting, a member of our staff may call you to discuss any behavioral or mental health needs noted on your child(ren)’s Application or Health History Form. In some cases, we will complete an Individual Camper Plan that is designed to provide more specific information for supporting your child(ren) while at camp.

Although camp is a fun and exciting place for campers, changes in routine and environment can cause some behavioral and mental health concerns to worsen or become more prevalent. Do not be surprised if we call you with reports of a behavior that is not common at home or that methods of handling a behavior are not as successful at camp. Our goal will always be to work with you and your child(ren) to establish management techniques that help your child(ren) be successful at camp.

If your child(ren) has diagnosed or undiagnosed behavioral, emotional, social, or mental health challenges, please talk with them about how camp may impact their management techniques and coping strategies. Some strategies that work at home, may not work at camp. Campers should not feel bad or be discouraged if they have new or additional challenges while at camp. However, they must be willing to work with their Group Leaders and/or our Wellness Health team to establish new strategies that are better suited for camp.

Please keep in mind that in some cases Sherwood Forest is not the right fit for your camper. In this situation, we will do our best to recommend some alternative services, youth programs, or camps that are able to better meet the needs of your camper.

If you have any questions or concerns about managing your child(ren)’s behavioral, emotional, or mental health needs at camp, please contact the Camp Director.

# **INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CAMP**

Summer 2022 might look very different due to the possibility of Infectious Diseases (such as Covid-19). If Infection Disease(s) are a concern, Sherwood Forest may implement any or all of the following steps. At Sherwood Forest, we believe that camp is an invaluable experience that your camper needs now more than ever. As such, we may take additional precautions to ensure that we can run in-person. It is important that you and your camper review all the changes and precautions that may be implemented to limit the spread of Infectious Diseases and are fully aware of how camp may look different. Following is a list of possible changes.

## **Establishing a “Bubble”**

Per recommendations from the Center or Disease Control and the American Camp Association, Sherwood Forest may establish a “Camp Bubble” within the first 2 weeks of campers arriving at camp. During this 2 week period, we would be following strict social distancing and quarantining measures, including limiting access in and out of camp. At the end of the first 2 weeks, we will test all individuals living in the camp bubble and may decide to lift some social distancing measures, however we would continue to limit access in and out of camp.

## **Pod Method**

A major element of successful social distancing at camps, has been to create pods. If necessary, each camper will be placed in a pod around whom they do not need to social distance. For ease and convenience, pods will be divided by cabin groups. Campers will be able to freely interact with their fellow campers and Group Leaders who are living in their cabin group and do not need to wear masks while in their sleeping quarters.

During the first 2 weeks of camp (if applicable for your camper), pods may be required to follow strict social distancing measures anytime they are outside of their cabin, (this includes in the washhouse (if separate building from cabin), in the village, and in common spaces). At the end of the first 2 weeks, we may decide to lift social distancing measures to allow pods to interact with others in their village, meaning campers can freely interact with other campers and staff in their village and campers do not need to follow social distancing measures in the washhouse (if separate building from cabin).

If any health concerns arise after the first 2 weeks, we will revert back to the strict pod method.

## **Social Distancing at Camp**

Our best social distancing tool is following the “Pod Method” as described previously. We may also be following basic social distancing measures, outlined as follows:

• Outside – Whenever possible, campers will participate in activities outside. Since a large part of camp is spending time in nature, many of our activities are already set up to follow this guideline. Some activities that typically take place indoors may be moved outdoors, for example, meal times.

• Distanced – The CDC currently recommends that individuals outside of pods maintain 6-feet of distance. While at camp, pods will be scheduled to be in different places at different times to ensure they can stay easily distanced from each other. In situations that require pods to be in the same place, such as meal times or campfires, pods will have assigned locations or seating that is at least 6-feet away from another pod.

• Masked – All campers and staff may be required to wear a face mask when they are outside of their pods. Face masks will be provided for all campers and a strict laundry routine will be followed to ensure the cleanliness of face masks.

We understand that following these guidelines while at camp feels weird and uncomfortable. However, to maintain a healthy camp community these measures are a vital part of camp for Summer 2022.

## **Testing**

Regular testing is an important part of monitoring and tracking Infectious Diseases in our camp community. We will be working with local health officials to make test available to all individuals within our camp bubble. If we believe testing will be necessary this summer, you will receive an Infectious Disease and Camp Update packet in early spring that will include additional details about testing.

## **Preparing For Camp**

The easiest way to ensure that camp remains free of Infectious Diseases is to take extreme precautions prior to attending camp. We recommend that your child(ren) and your family plan to quarantine for the 2 weeks prior to your child(ren) attending camp. This includes:

• Limiting interactions with people outside of your household.

• Limiting unnecessary trips outside of your home.

• Limiting unnecessary social interactions outside of your household.

• Wearing a mask anytime you leave your house and may be around other people.

We recognize that some of these guidelines may be difficult to follow, as such we ask that you do your best given your family or household circumstances.

## **Screening**

All campers will be screened for Infectious Diseases before getting on the bus to camp. Screening will include, at minimum, a questionnaire and temperature check. You will receive an Infectious Disease and Camp Update packet in early spring that will include additional details about screening.

# **PACKING FOR CAMP**

## **Packing List**

This list will give you an idea of items necessary for time spent at camp, as well as the number of clothing articles that would be a comfortable amount to bring.

This list will give you an idea of items to pack for camp, as well as the number of each items that will be a reasonable amount to bring. During Explorer and Leadership sessions, laundry will be sent out to a laundromat, and extra clothing is available for use while at camp. It is our experience that Mini Campers change their clothes frequently, so even though their session is only five days, please send extra outfits. Since campers are outdoors all day, their clothing will get dirty and muddy. Therefore, **DO NOT SEND NEW CLOTHES TO CAMP. DO NOT SEND ANYTHING THAT, IF RUINED, WOULD CAUSE YOU OR YOUR CHILD TO BECOME UPSET.** Please have your child(ren) help to pack for camp. Besides this being a great skill for your child(ren) to develop, this will help with “lost and found” as your child(ren) will know what they brought to camp.

**Clothing**

2 pairs of closed toe shoes (see footwear below)

1 pair sport sandal/water shoes (see footwear below)

1 pair shower shoes – Flip flops may ONLY be worn in the shower

10 pairs of socks (see footwear below)

10 pairs of underwear

8-10 bras or undershirts (if worn)

10 shorts

3 pair jeans or long pants

10 shirts or blouses

3 pair of pajamas

1 sweater or hoody

1 light weight jacket

1 raincoat or poncho

2 Swim suits or trunks

**Personal Care**

2 bath towels

1 swim towel

2 washcloths and/or loofa

1 pillow

1 pillowcase

Shampoo & Conditioner

Soap/body wash

Deodorant

1 comb and/or brush

Hair care products

Lotion (enough for your child’s stay)

1 toothbrush

Toothpaste

1 bottle bug repellent (lotion preferred, no aerosol)

Medication (enough for your child’s entire stay- all meds will go to our Nurses)

Nail Clippers (optional)

**Other Items**

Stuffed animal for bed (Optional)

1 flashlight or headlamp

Batteries for flashlight

1 disposable camera (Optional but comes in handy)

Small Portable Battery powered fan (optional)

Sanitary napkins and/or tampons (enough for your child’s entire stay)

Laundry Bag

Hats and/or bandannas (optional)

Hiking boots (optional- see footwear below)

Sleeping bag- only if your child prefers to use their own (and you already have one) to sleep in the cabin with they may bring it.

During the session, laundry will be sent out to a laundromat, and extra clothing is available for use while at camp. Since campers are outdoors all day, their clothing will get dirty and muddy. Therefore, **DO NOT SEND NEW CLOTHES TO CAMP. DO NOT SEND ANYTHING THAT, IF RUINED, WOULD CAUSE YOU OR YOUR CAMPER(S) TO BECOME UPSET.** Please have your child(ren) help to pack for camp. Besides this being a great skill for your child(ren) to develop, this will help with “lost and found” as your child(ren) will know what he/she brought to camp.

Flip flops may ONLY be worn in the shower. Sport sandals (e.i Crocs or some form of) with a heel strap may be worn around camp or as water shoes. Please note that many camp activities require campers to wear closed-toe shoes (read more about footwear below).

**All bedding is furnished by the camp EXCEPT pillows and pillowcases.**

Items that **SHOULD NOT** come to camp include:

* any type of electronics (cell phones, iPods, game systems, CD players, radios, laptops, mini DVD players)
* food of any kind (including gum)
* scented items (perfumes, lotions, soaps, shampoos etc. as they tend to attract bugs)
* weapons (including hunting knives and pocket knives)

Any of these items sent to camp WILL BE CONFISCATED and kept in the camp office until the session ends.

**Electronics**

## Campers may **not** bring cell phones, texting devices, iPods, game systems, CD players, tablets, radios, laptops, mini DVD players, etc. These items are expensive, we do not have a way to store them, and we will not be responsible for their care. They MUST be left at home. Other rechargeable items or items requiring an outlet (i.e. watches, fans, etc.) should not be brought to camp since there are limited electrical outlets in the cabins.

## **Labeling your child(ren)’s clothing**

## Please mark ALL of your child(ren)’s belongings with his/her FULL NAME in permanent marker. Laundry is done by cabin group and village, which means that your child(ren)’s clothing will get mixed in with any one of the other 48 campers’ clothing. IT IS YOUR CHILD(REN)’S RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR THEIR BELONGINGS WHILE AT CAMP.

Jane Smith

JS

**Sherwood Forest Camp will NOT be held responsible for lost or damaged items.**

## **Footwear**

Sherwood Forest Camp is located in the Ozark woodlands. Our campsite has pathways and trails, most of which are not paved. All campers will be participating in some hiking and overnight camping trips, which require proper footwear. House shoes (like Converse or Vans) are unsafe and not considered appropriate footwear for camp. Please send light weight hiking boots or running shoes that are appropriate for camp activities. In addition to hiking, your child(ren) will have the opportunity to participate in river and canoeing trips. Please send water shoes or sandals with a heel strap that can be worn during these activities.

Socks are an important component of safety during hiking trips. We ask that you pack at least one pair of polyester or wool socks. Cotton socks hold moisture and can cause discomfort or blisters. Water shoes and hiking or running shoes can be found at stores like Wal-Mart for relatively low costs. If you are unable to send these items, please let us know so that we can make provisions to ensure your child(ren)’s safety on their trips by providing proper footwear.

## **Cameras**

If child(ren) would like to bring a camera to camp, it must be a disposable camera. Cameras have a tendency to get dropped (often into the lake), dirty, lost, or broken while at camp. Sherwood Forest will not be held responsible for lost or damaged items. If you do choose to send a camera that requires batteries, remember to send lots of regular (not rechargeable) batteries, as there are limited electrical outlets in the cabins.

## **Cell Phones**

Campers may not bring cell phones or texting devices to camp. Besides the obvious reasons (cell phones are expensive, they can get lost or broken at camp, and there are limited electrical outlets in the cabins) there is an even more important reason we do not allow cell phones at camp.

When you and your child(ren) decide they want to attend Sherwood Forest, you are entrusting us with their care. One of our goals is to help your child(ren) learn to trust other caring adults, and to find solutions to challenges on their own. This is an important step as your child(ren) develops independence, conflict resolution skills, and increased self-confidence. A cell phone provides quick access to a parent, and often the parent, rather than the child, finds a solution to the problem the child may be experiencing. Sending your child(ren) with a cell phone to camp is telling the camper, “I don’t trust camp and I don’t think you are able to handle situations on your own.”

Please help your child(ren) develop independence by talking with them before they leave for camp about who they can talk to if they have a problem or face a challenging situation. Cabin counselors (aka group leaders), Village Directors, activity instructors, camper care team members, and/or the Camp Director are always available to the campers to hear their concerns, and if a child(ren) is not sure they were heard by a certain individual, they should ask for help from another adult. Let your child(ren) know why you support our “no cell phone” policy. Camp is a low-tech environment where child(ren) develop the life skills necessary to be successful adults.

Please ask for your child(ren)’s cell phone before you place them on the bus. If your child(ren) brings a cell phone or texting device to camp, the cell phone will be taken away and kept in the camp office for the duration of camp.

# **PREPARING FOR CAMP**

## **My child(ren) wants to go to camp, but they are nervous**

Take a moment to talk with your camper, ask what they are concerned about, and reassure them. If your camper has questions that you don’t know the answer to, call us! Answering their questions will set their mind at ease as they prepare for camp. Do NOT tell your child(ren) that if they do not like camp or become homesick that they can call or write you and you will come get them. This guarantees that your child will not work to resolve the issue that is bothering them, and/or prevents them from working through and managing strong emotions.

## **Transportation**

We provide transportation to and from camp by bus and/or camp vans. Once at camp, campers may be transported to or from camp activities off-site, or to and from the local health clinic. Only staff members at least 21 years of age, whose driving records have been checked and approved by our insurance company, and who have successfully completed Camp Driver Training are allowed to drive camp vehicles and transport children.

**Bus Stop Location and Departure Times**

• Holman Middle School,11055 St. Charles Rock Road – 8:00 am

• Kingshighway Entrance at Tower Grove Park - 8:15 am

•AT&T Parking Lot, 3270 Telegraph Road – 9:30 am

• If parent/guardian is driving the camper to camp, they need to arrive at 11:30 a.m.

\*Pick up times are listed above. Please note that camp is a roughly 2-hour drive from St. Louis.\*

Please have your child(ren) at the bus stop at least 20 minutes prior to the listed departure times so that the buses can leave promptly. At each bus stop, camper luggage will be inspected by trained Bed Bug sniffing Dogs provided by Rottler Pest Control. This process helps us to ensure that no bed bug infestations occur at camp. It is a simple process where the trained dogs will sniff your child(ren)’s belongings. If any bed bugs are found on luggage, the luggage will be treated privately. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 314-644-3322. Also, make sure your child(ren) eats breakfast and uses the restroom before boarding the bus, since food and drink are not allowed on the bus, and the ride to camp is approximately 2 ½ hours. A letter will be sent two weeks before the session begins to remind you about last minute details.

The buses will return to St. Louis around 4:45 (give or take 20-30 minutes) on the last day of each session, but this will depend on traffic and road/weather conditions. All campers will return in the late afternoon/early evening on their return date. If there are any changes to times or locations, this will be communicated to families via our email system and/or phone calls. Please be sure we have current contact information for your family on file.

In case of a vehicular emergency or accident, Sherwood Forest staff will implement emergency procedures for which they have been trained. Staff will stop the vehicle and move child(ren) to safety and then contact emergency first responders. After this point, they will contact our Camp Director. You will be informed of any incident that occurs.

We will send a postcard a week prior to your child(ren)’s return home with an estimated return time. Campers usually arrive within 15 minutes of the estimated time, but they can arrive early or be delayed because of traffic. Campers will be returned to their originally scheduled pick-up location. Please call the main office 314-644-3322 at least 48 hours prior to camper departure to change a pick-up or drop-off location. Make sure you gather all your child(ren)’s belongings before you leave the bus stop! Items left at the bus stop may be thrown away or donated elsewhere at the discretion of the camp staff.

# **PARENT INFORMATION FOR WHILE YOUR CHILD(REN) IS AT CAMP**

## **Camp Contact Information**

St. Louis Office

Sherwood Forest 314-644-3322

2708 Sutton Boulevard 314-644-3330 fax

St. Louis, Missouri 63143 www.sherwoodforeststl.org....programs@sherwoodforeststl.org

Camp Office ~ This is where you can write to your child(ren) (see below).

Sherwood Forest Camp 573-637-2476

P.O. Box 210 573-637-2478 fax

Lesterville, MO 63654 camp@sherwoodforeststl.org

If you provide us with a working email address, we may send periodic emails. Please add camp@sherwoodforeststl.org and programs@sherwoodforeststl.org to your email contacts so you can receive these message.

## **Packages**

Please feel free to send a package to your child(ren) while they are at camp, but don’t feel obligated to do so. Campers love getting care packages, and you are more than welcome to send them.

What should you send in a care package? Good items to send include the following suggestions:

* Nail polish
* Cards or games
* T-shirts or cloths
* Stuffed animals
* Toothbrushes
* Any other random or fun toy or trinket! If you have questions about items, just call our office.
* Stickers

CANDY

GUM  
CANDY

GUM

GUM  
CANDY

SNACKS

GUM  
CANDY

FOOD

GUM  
CANDY

* Small toys
* Bubbles
* Coloring Books or crafts
* Pictures from home
* Flashlights and batteries
* Swim toys
* Hat or bandana

Do **NOT** send food or snacks/candy/gum/mints.

We serve three healthy meals a day and snacks are available as well. Food outside of the kitchen tends to attract animals to the cabins, and trust us: campers don’t like sharing their cabins with ants, mice and raccoons.

**If food is brought or mailed to camp, it will be thrown away**. Sherwood Forest does not allow outside food into camp and will not be responsible for food items sent to camp.

## **Letters and Emails**

Your child(ren) will be looking forward to letters or notes from home. From St. Louis, mail takes approximately 3 – 4 days to arrive at camp. Please send a cheerful letter, postcard, or email (camp@sherwoodforeststl.org) at least once during the session and more often if possible. If possible, we encourage you to send your child(ren) a letter, note, card, or email at least one week before they arrive at camp. That way they will have a little something from home right when they arrive. This is how you should address the envelope:

{Your Child’s Name}

Sherwood Forest Camp

P.O. Box 210

Lesterville, MO 63654

You can send your camper a letter via email to camp@sherwoodforeststl.org. They will be printed and delivered to campers daily before meal times. ***The subject of your email should be your child’s first and last name.*** Please note that your camper will not be able to respond via email.

**Please do not relay disturbing news,** such as hospitalization, death or illness of a pet and/or family member, to your child(ren) in a letter. Please call us if you have something important to tell your child(ren) and the Camp Director will advise you as to how best to handle the situation.

While at camp, we encourage campers to write letters home. However, we cannot make campers write lengthy or detailed letters if they do not want to. Do not be surprised if the letters you receive are short. It doesn’t mean your child(ren) does not have a lot to say, it just means they are too busy having fun! Do not misinterpret a child saying “I miss you” as a plea to come.

## **Homesickness**

Our staff is trained to work with children and be sensitive to their needs. It is common for children to experience some homesickness as they adjust to camp life. They may even write and ask you to come get them. If this happens, do not be alarmed. Homesickness usually doesn’t last long, and successfully overcoming it is an important life skill. Please remember that any letter you receive was written three or four days earlier, and your child has likely resolved the issue by the time you hear about it. If you do receive a “homesick” letter, first, take a deep breath, and remember this is very common when children are away from home. Then, call camp at 573-637-2476 and ask to speak with our Camp Director or your child’s Village Director.

Sometimes campers write home the moment they are presented with a challenging situation. Remember, mail takes three or four days to reach St. Louis, so often by the time you are reading the letter the concern has been resolved and has been totally forgotten. However, please call us right away to make sure the problem has been addressed, even if your child writes, “please don’t call camp.”

Prepare your child(ren) to be successful. Before they leave for camp, reassure them about the fact that they may miss home, but camp will be a great experience and a lot of fun. Make sure they understand that they will not be able to call home or return home and that there is not a “trial period” at camp. Do NOT say, “Just try it, if you don’t like camp, I will come and get you.” Be positive, saying things like:

* “I know you are going to have fun.”
* “I can’t wait to hear about all the things you did and learned.”
* “I want to hear all about your cabin, camping trip, Tango Tower experience, etc.”

Please make sure your child(ren) wants to come to camp and involve them in the process of getting ready for camp. Allow them to help pack their suitcase and locate the supplies they need. If you receive a letter from your child that they are homesick, please read the section above and then call camp at 573-637-2476. Ask to speak with our Camp Director or Village Director. **Please do not respond with a letter stating, “If you continue to be unhappy, homesick, etc., you can come home.”** This always guarantees that your child will not work to resolve the issue that is bothering them.

Remember that camp is an opportunity for your child(ren) to grow as an individual by learning to trust other caring adults and to find solutions to challenges on their own. When you and your child(ren) decide that they will participate in our program they are committing to staying at camp for the entire session. Your child(ren) missing home or you missing your child(ren) are not reasons to pick your child(ren) up from camp. If, at any point, you choose to pick up your child(ren) from camp, please consider the long- term effects that this might have on your child(ren), such as their confidence in dealing with adverse situations, their ability to develop independence, and their ability to successfully be away from home. And, please keep in mind that it will greatly diminish the chance of being able to return to camp in future summers.

## **Common Parent Feelings when a Child is Away**

Please also consider how having your child(ren) away from home may affect your feelings. It is completely normal for parents/guardians to really miss their child(ren) and to worry about them throughout the summer. But please do not allow these feelings to influence your child(ren)’s camp experience. Children are not in their normal routine; they are likely excited about swimming, fishing, or outdoor cooking while at camp and, although they may miss you, they are also having fun. Please write or email your child(ren) a letter or call us and ask to speak to your child(ren)’s Village Director. Please do not assume that just because you are really missing your child(ren) that they miserable and need you to come and get them.

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## **Receiving Phone Calls from Camp**

While your child(ren) is at camp, please accept unidentified calls in case we are trying to reach you. Please ask the person you’ve identified as the emergency contact to also accept unidentified calls. Cell phones are not permitted for any camper, regardless of age.

## **Who should I call when I have a question?**

If you are wondering how your child(ren) is doing during camp, please call camp at 573-637-2476. Ask for their Village Director or the Camp Director. Please note that the Village Director and Camp Director may not be readily available, as they are most likely out around camp property. However our Office Manager will take a message and get it to them.

If you have a bus stop change, please call and speak to our Registration Coordinator or Camp Director Make sure you notify us of any changes at least 48 hours prior to the stop by calling the St. Louis office at 314-644-3322.

If your child(ren) forgot an item or you have a letter or package that needs to go to camp, please call the main office at 314-644-3322.

## **Telephoning and Visiting Camp**

Because many child(ren) need a period of time to adjust to camp, we’ve found that phone calls and visits from parents/guardians during the brief time that child(ren) are at camp tend to make that adjustment more difficult. Therefore, child(ren) are not allowed to make or receive phone calls while at camp or on trips. However, please feel free to call your child(ren)’s Village Director or the Camp Director at 573-637-2476 at any time to discuss your child(ren)’s experience while they are at camp.

Due to our Infectious Disease restrictions and guidelines, this summer visitors of any kind may not be allowed. For the health and safety of all individuals in camp, it is important that we are able to effectively maintain a camp bubble which involves limiting access in and out of camp. If you are concerned about this limited access, remember, you are helping your child(ren) develop independence by letting them know that they can be away from you for a few weeks, and that you can be away from them. This is a great step in helping them grow up.

\*\*Note: Please show this handbook to all friends and family members (including joint- or non-custodial parents, grandparents, etc.) who are close to your child(ren) and may want to be informed about his/her summer plans. With your permission, we are happy to talk to them by phone or via zoom about the program before your child(ren) leaves for camp.

# **STAYING IN TOUCH AFTER CAMP**

## **Campers and Staff Members Staying in Touch After Camp**

Because campers and staff members live together at camp, in an environment like no other, it is natural that strong bonds will develop. At camp, it is staff members’ full-time responsibility to live, work, and interact with the campers. After camp, staff members resume their busy lives as students and young professionals. We tell staff members that communicating with campers outside of camp or camp-sponsored events requires the permission of the camper’s parent/guardian and of Sherwood Forest Camp.

You, as parent/guardian, assume full responsibility for monitoring and supervising camper/staff relationships that continue outside of camp or camp-sponsored events. We tell staff members that they may not “friend” or “follow” campers on Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, or other forms of social media. Please make sure your camper understands these policies. We do not want any hurt feelings when a staff member does not respond to their request(s).

As a parent/guardian, please become a “fan” of Sherwood Forest on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on current Sherwood events. You can find our pages at [www.facebook.com/sherwoodforestcamp](http://www.facebook.com/sherwoodforestcamp).

## **Sharing Photos of Camp**

We know that campers love to capture their memories of camp in photographs. **They should not post any pictures from camp on the internet (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, etc).** This policy is in place to protect any families who do not wish to have their child(ren)’s photograph shared. Please make sure your child(ren) understands this policy. Members of the Sherwood Forest professional staff and volunteers may take pictures for publicity purposes while your child(ren) is at camp. If your child(ren)’s picture should not be used for publicity purposes, please mark the appropriate box on their camp application. Remember, permission will be assumed if not specifically denied.

# **LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST**

## **American Camp Association**

Sherwood Forest, and many of its staff, are members of, and accredited by the American Camp Association and meets or exceeds standards that address site and facilities, food service, transportation, health and wellness, human resources, operational management, and programs.

## **United Way of Greater St. Louis**

Sherwood Forest is a proud agency partner of the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

## **In the Event of a Crisis**

In our ever-changing world, crises can occur with or without warning. For many years, Sherwood Forest Camp has had plans to respond to natural disasters such as severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and floods. When any crisis occurs, parents’ first thoughts are of their child(ren)’s safety and well-being. We are committed to helping our campers respond to difficult situations. Our emergency plan also includes responses in case of a national crisis. Here are the key areas covered in our emergency plan to respond to a national crisis:

• Steps to provide extended care (supervision, food, healthcare, and shelter) for all those at camp in case transportation is delayed for short or long periods of time.

• Communication between camp and St. Louis to notify families on the status of their child(ren) and the general status of camp.

• Providing an extended camp experience that is fun and reassuring.

• Working with the American Red Cross and other disaster preparedness programs.

The threat of a national crisis that directly affects your child(ren)’s stay at camp is very small. However, we feel it is better to be prepared and to let you know what our plans are, just in case.

## 

## **Need Additional Information?**

If you have any questions about the registration process, programs or services of Sherwood Forest, you may speak with the Camp Director or a member of our Program Team. During the summer, they can be reached at 573-637-2476 typically between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. In the fall, winter and spring, they can be reached at 314-644-3322. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If your child(ren) is not eligible for Sherwood Forest’s camp program, or it is not a good fit, please check out our partner organizations to find other camp options:

Blue Print 4 Summer (St. Louis Only) – [www.blueprint4.com](http://www.blueprint4.com)

American Camp Association (Nation Wide) – find.acacamps.org

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION SUMMER CAMP**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SUMMER CAMP | |
| ***Mini Camp:*** *1st/2nd Graders (All genders)* | June 8th- June 12th ~ 5 days |
| **Explorer Camp Session 1:**  3rd - 5th Graders who identify as female  **Leadership Camp Session 1:**  6th – 9th Graders who identify as female  **Explorer Camp Session 2:**  3rd - 5th Graders who identify as male  **Leadership Camp Session 2:**  6th – 9th Graders who identify as male  ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ | June 17th – July 1st ~ 15 days  June 17th – July 10th ~ 24 days  July 16th – July 30th ~ 15 days  July 16th – August 8th ~ 24 days |

Don’t forget to label tags with your child’s full name!

GUM  
CANDY

**Bus Stop Information**

**Bus Stop Location and Departure Times**

* Holman Middle School,11055 St. Charles Rock Road – 8:00 am
* Kingshighway Entrance at Tower Grove Park - 8:15 am
* AT&T Parking Lot, 3270 Telegraph Road – 9:30 am
* If parent/guardian is driving the camper to camp, they need to arrive at 11:30 a.m.

Jane Smith

JS

**Contact Information**

**St. Louis Office**

Sherwood Forest

314-644-3322

2708 Sutton Boulevard

St. Louis, Missouri 63143

314-644-3330 fax

www.sherwoodforeststl.org

[programs@sherwoodforeststl.org](mailto:programs@sherwoodforeststl.org)

**Camp Office**

Sherwood Forest Camp

573-637-2476

P.O. Box 210

Lesterville, MO 63654

573-637-2478 fax

[camp@sherwoodforeststl.org](mailto:camp@sherwoodforeststl.org)

