



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Camp Carter

Outdoor Education

Parent Planning Packet

The Y: We're for Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility

Camp Carter YMCA

6200 Sand Springs Road

Fort Worth, Texas 76114

www.campcarter.org

Phone: 817-738-9241

Fax: 817-731-1673

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Outdoor Education Program at Camp Carter YMCA offers a unique opportunity for students to experience classroom lessons in a hands-on, natural environment. Our curriculum covers the following subject areas:

- Ecology
- Natural History
- Team-building
- Outdoor Recreation

At Camp Carter, we are devoted to bringing the outdoors back into the classroom. Our Outdoor Education Instructors (Naturalists) actively include students in the learning process through nature journaling, outdoor activities and group discussions. Students of every educational level and social background can benefit from an experience at Camp Carter YMCA. During their time in the outdoor education program, students begin to better understand, appreciate and respect their roles in the environment.

The following pages will help to familiarize you with your child's visit to Camp Carter. I have included information about our staff, our facilities, what your child needs to bring to camp, release forms, mail and phone calls, the camp store and a typical daily schedule. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Camp Carter at 817-738-9241.

Sincerely,

Sarah Nanney

Outdoor Education Coordinator

The Staff

At Camp Carter, we believe the key to a successful camp program is a responsible, caring and knowledgeable staff. Our staff-members are carefully selected to ensure that your child has a safe and enjoyable experience. All Outdoor Education Instructors (Naturalists) have a college degree in science, education or recreation and experience working with youth in the outdoors. Each Naturalist is certified in CPR, First Aid and canoeing instructions. Our equestrian instructors are Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) certified. All staff-members are highly trained not only to teach and instruct classes and activities, but also to help ensure the health and safety of all participants.

The Facilities

If your child is staying overnight during his or her visit, he or she will stay in our modern cabins. Our cabins are duplex-style with two large sleeping areas. Each room sleeps up to twelve people. A common living area adjoins the two sides and includes a table, benches and a fireplace. All cabins are fully heated and air-conditioned and have two showers and toilets per side.

Students are served meals in our dining hall. Our kitchen staff prepares healthy, fresh and “kid-friendly” meals. A salad bar is provided during lunch and dinner, and a cereal bar is provided during breakfast. We require all students to drink at least one full glass of water at every meal to prevent dehydration. After a student drinks at least one full glass of water, he or she may have juice. If your child has any special dietary needs, please inform Camp Carter at least one week prior to arrival.

Camp Store

Your child may have the opportunity to visit our Camp Store during his or her stay at Camp Carter. We sell drinks, snacks, t-shirts, hats and other souvenirs. Store items range in price from \$0.50 to \$30.00.

Mail and Phone Calls

We strongly encourage parents to send mail to their children while at camp. Remember to stay positive and be creative. We recommend sending the letter before your child leaves for camp to ensure it arrives while he or she is here. Please address all letters as follows:

Child's Name, School's Name

Camp Carter YMCA

6200 Sand Springs Road

Fort Worth, Texas 76114

Students will not have access to camp phones to call home except in the event of an emergency. Our camp office is open 8:30 am to 5:30 pm weekdays. The office phone number is 817-738-9241. We have an answering system after 5:30 pm that is checked regularly. In the case of an after-hours emergency, please leave a message, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Sample Program Schedule (Day Trip)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 9:30-10:00 | Arrive at Camp Carter/Unload in the picnic area/Introductions |
| 10:00-10:45 | Activity 1 |
| 10:45-11:30 | Activity 2 |
| 11:30-12:00 | Packed Lunch in Picnic Area |
| 12:00-12:45 | Activity 3 |
| 12:45-1:30 | Activity 4 |
| 1:30 | Depart for School |

Sample Program Schedule (Extended Day Trip)

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 9:15-9:30 am | Arrive at Camp Carter/ Unload at the picnic pavilion |
| 9:30-10:30 | Activity 1 |
| 10:35-11:35 | Activity 2 |
| 11:40-12:40 | Activity 3 |
| 12:40-1:40 | Packed lunch in the picnic area |
| 1:45-2:45 | Activity 4 |
| 2:50-3:50 | Activity 5 |
| 3:55-4:55 | Activity 6 |
| 5:00-5:30 | Free Time/Load Buses and Depart for School |

Sample Program Schedule (Overnight Trip)

| | |
|----------|--|
| 7:00 am | Rise and Shine! |
| 7:45 am | Flag Raising/Kitchen Patrol Duty |
| 8:00 am | Breakfast |
| 9:30 am | Activity 1 |
| 10:45 am | Activity 2 |
| 11:45 am | Kitchen Patrol Duty |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 pm | Cabin Time |
| 2:00 pm | Activity 3 |
| 3:00 pm | Activity 4 |
| 4:30 pm | Camp Store |
| 5:00 pm | Free Time |
| 5:45 pm | Flag Lowering/Kitchen Patrol Duty |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner |
| 7:30 pm | Evening Activities (Night Hikes, Campfires and/or Games) |
| 9:00 pm | Cabin Time |
| 10:00 pm | Lights Out! |

What to Bring

Necessary:

Sleeping bag or blanket and sheet
Pillow
Sleepwear
One or two pairs of closed-toed shoes
Daily changes of socks and underwear
Heavy and light shirts
Shorts in warm weather
Several pairs of pants or jeans
Rain gear
Hat
Gloves or mittens in cold weather
Plastic bag for dirty clothes
Toothpaste and toothbrush
Soap
Bath towel
Sunscreen
Brush and/or comb
Shampoo
Shower shoes
Water bottle
Flashlight

Optional:

Binoculars
Compass
Book or reading material
Bathrobe
Insect repellent
Fishing equipment
Disposable camera
Money for the camp store

Do Not Bring:

Electronic games
Cell phones
Knives
Firearms or archery equipment
Chewing gum
Jewelry or valuables
Matches or lighters
Food (including soda and candy)

We recommend that your child does not bring new or nice clothing. Clothing is likely to become dirty or even damaged during activities.

Camp Carter is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Outdoor Education Guidelines

- The Outdoor Education Program at Camp Carter is an educational experience. Learning is a top priority during all our classes and activities. Students and chaperones should be prepared for this experience.
- Teachers and chaperones are responsible for supervising students at all times, even when a Naturalist is present. This includes classes, meals, free time and cabin time.
- Cabins should be kept clean and tidy. Bunk beds are arranged according to fire regulations. If you need something, please ask the Outdoor Education Coordinator. Decorations may be used in the buildings, but nothing can be taped, glued, stapled, nailed or otherwise adhered to painted surfaces. All decorations must be removed and disposed of upon departure of the building. Please do not leave graffiti on buildings or furniture. Please take the time to leave each cabin and building in the same condition in which you find it. Your school will be held responsible for any loss or damage to camp property or equipment and will be expected to pay to replace such items.
- Camp Carter cares about the environment. We have provided trash cans and recycling bins around the camp grounds, and we ask that you use these to help keep our facilities and natural surroundings clean. We also want to be conservative with the amount of gas, electricity and water we use. Please remember that conserving energy and water also helps us to keep rental costs down.
- During your stay at Camp Carter, there may be more than one group present. Please be respectful of other groups' privacy and space. No one should ever enter a building that is not designated for his or her group's use, unless told otherwise by camp staff.
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, fireworks and pets are not allowed at Camp Carter. Our camp grounds are smoke-free for the comfort and safety of all our participants. Your observation of this is greatly appreciated.

- Campfires are only allowed in designated fire rings at each cabin. We ask that you do not cut wood from live trees. Bonfires are prohibited at Camp Carter. Please be sure to completely extinguish fires before leaving them unattended.
- The plumbing system at Camp Carter is connected to septic tanks for sewage disposal. Please DO NOT put paper towels, sanitary napkins, food waste, grease or other similar substances down the drains or toilets. Failure to follow this rule could result in the toilets backing up into the cabins.
- We ask that all adults drive and park in designated areas only. Participants are urged to walk from place to place while in camp, unless they have limited mobility. Please travel at a slow speed throughout camp and remain on the road. The speed limit at camp is 10 mph. No one should be riding in the beds of pickup trucks on camp grounds. Please do not park on grass, unless told otherwise by camp staff.
- Archery, swimming, canoeing, horseback riding and the challenge course are allowed only as part of your scheduled class time. These activities must be supervised by trained staff and are not available during free time. Swimming is not allowed in the lake or river.

We look forward to having you and hope that you enjoy your stay!