

**Frequently Asked Questions about Plantation Farm Camp**

# What should my camper bring with them on travel day?

On the travel day, all campers should carry separately, in a day pack or small carry-on, articles needed for the first night of camp: a jacket, a sleeping bag with a flashlight, pajamas, toothbrush and toothpaste.

Why do you recommend a footlocker or plastic bin for luggage?

Footlockers or trunks are the best method for sending your child’s clothes to camp, and for storing belongings while at camp. We can have extensive fog, and traditional suitcases do not keep clothes dry. If you are looking for a sturdy footlocker, try everythingsummercamp.com (800) 535-2057. Stores like Target also have inexpensive trunks or storage containers that will keep clothes dry.

How can I help ease my camper’s transition to camp?

Be open and honest on all forms to help make sure we have as much information as possible about each camper. The medical form and confidential questionnaire will only be read by the directors and the camp nurse. It is important that we have an accurate picture of what to expect with each child, so we can prepare the rest of the staff. Also, try not to introduce any major changes in the weeks leading up to camp, including changes to their schedule or medications. If there is a change close to the start of camp, please be sure to contact the office at (707) 847-3494.

What can I do to help ease homesickness?

Let your camper know that homesickness is normal, even for returning campers (or counselors!), and reassure them that they will have a great time at camp. In fact, it is not a “sickness” to miss home. We all miss home sometimes, but be sure to tell them that you hope they have a lot of fun and that you are looking forward to hearing about what they are doing while they’re at camp. Also remind them that you believe in them and that they are ready and able to spend a session at camp. Your support and confidence in their abilities goes a long way towards their success.

Can I request a tent mate?

We work very hard to pair campers with a tent mate that they will get along with. However, we also strive to pair first time campers with returning campers and to separate children who are friends from home. In the unit, children will have a lot of time to spend with old friends and to make new ones, but in order to help prevent cliques, we will make every effort not to put people together who have been tent mates before or who are close friends.

What unit will my camper be in?

# Our living units are put together so that campers are with children within their own age range, and thus units are dependent on the ages of the other campers at camp. However, we do take other factors into consideration, including school grade.

How can I contact you?

 The best time to reach someone in the office is from 9am to 5pm. However, during these hours, there may be times when we are all out and about on the farm and you will reach our answering machine. We will call you back as soon as possible. We regularly monitor the machine after hours for urgent messages. We do check email daily at info@plantationcamp.com, but if you have an urgent matter, please call (707) 847-3494.

Why can’t my camper bring an ipod, Gameboy or cell phone?

# We have several reasons why we ask you to leave all personal electronic items at home. Plantation is an amazingly beautiful place, and part of the experience is learning to appreciate the natural world around us. Our climate can include substantial fog. Dampness is not friendly to electronics devices. Electronic devices also segregate the community and isolate campers from each other. Cell phones are wonderful communication tools, but they contribute to homesickness at camp and are also a distraction from our program. Thus, we ask that children do not bring these items to camp. For those campers who are traveling on the first day of camp, our counselors will collect all phones and electronic devices at the airport. Any items at are found while at camp will be confiscated and returned to the child at the end of the session.

Why can’t we send care packages with food?

We have found that care packages of food and candy cause problems (e.g. skunks), and we ask that you please do not send them. We provide the kids with a lot of fun treats. If your child needs clothing, books, or other non-food items, please call us to let us know that you are sending a package. All packages will be opened in the office before disbursement, and all packages containing food will be disposed of. Please inform friends and family of our policy. Thank you for helping us with this.

What medical information do you require?

We require a medical exam within the 24 months prior to the start of camp. The Health Form must be completed by June 1st, 2014, with special note of any health changes. We must receive this form before your child arrives. A record of a current measles inoculation is also mandatory, and we ask your cooperation in notifying us if your child is exposed to any communicable disease prior to camp, or has any last minute health changes. This is important to the well being of our entire camp family. Also, if you will be traveling at all while your child is at camp, we must have an accurate itinerary of where we can reach you, or an alternate person, at all times, to call in emergencies.

What’s available in the Camp Store?:

Clothing and supplies such as T-shirts, hats, toiletries, stationary, stamps, stuffed animals, batteries, and more! To give parents more flexibility, you can pre-determine how much you would like your child to spend at the camp store. Prior to your child’s first day of camp, log in to your Plantation Farm Camp account and go to “View Account” to deposit funds into the Camp Store account.