

Introduction

Kirklees Summer Playcamp is a voluntary organisation run by experienced volunteers including teachers and students. We hope that all the children who visit us have a fantastic time. This page provides some helpful tips on how you can prepare for your child's time on camp to make it a more enjoyable experience for both of you. More information can be obtained from our volunteers when you drop your child off at the bus station.

Activities

We have a great time at summer camp even if the weather is horrible! The staff enjoy working with children and are up for all sorts of activities. Children who come wanting to have a good time and join in will enjoy themselves. We offer a wide range of activities including archery, table football, pool, water slide, giant games, arts and crafts, team games, cycling, sports, small and large Lego and various other activities and Camp's Got Talent. The last night will feature a campfire and disco.

Weather information

The weather at camp is **highly variable** ranging from **very hot** to **very cold** and **very wet**, even during the same day. It is nearly always windy. So, your child should be well prepared for wet, hot and cold weather whatever the local forecast! Children who feel the cold may appreciate a warm hat and gloves – some of the staff do!

Tents

Each of the three nights will be spent under canvas surrounded by open countryside, sleeping in 4-person tents on roll mats on the floor. This means that your child may need to share with children they do not know. All the tents are single gender and we always put friends together.

Equipment list

Children will not need any specialist camping equipment - this will all be provided. The children have to carry their own bag down and up a steep hill so they should aim to travel light and leave expensive clothes/equipment at home.

The following items are preferable **sleeping bag, torch, sun cream**. We do not provide pillows so you can send one if needed. We have a small number of sleeping bags for children to borrow. Please label clothing, lost property is a perennial problem!

The following items are essential:

- **Sensible clothing** for **4 days** (including plenty of warm clothes)
- **Warm clothing to sleep in** (e.g. old tracksuit, fleece top and warm socks)
- **Waterproof coat**
- **Sensible footwear** (e.g. a waterproof pair and sturdy pair of trainers as the ground is uneven)
- **Flip flops or sliders** (for the shower and waterslide)
- **Soap, towel, toothbrush & toothpaste**
- **Protection from the sun** (e.g. hat, clothing which offers protection)
- **Swimming costume/trunks** (for the waterslide)
- **Plain T/shirt or top** (if your child wishes to decorate one)

The children are welcome to bring spending money but there are no shops - just a tuck shop selling sweets, crisps, drinks, glow sticks and small souvenirs. We think that £5 - £10 is a sensible amount. We place the children's money in the camp bank for safekeeping.

Mobile phones and valuables

We cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage. The children find it very difficult to look after things carefully in their tent and in the field. If you do send any valuables, we will lock them away and children can ask for them whenever they wish to use them between the hours of 9.00am and 9.00pm. Unless there is a serious problem, access to phones and games is not allowed after 9.00pm to ensure that other children are not disturbed. You might find it helpful to label important items and clothing as this makes it easier for us to return lost property.

Food and snacks

Breakfast is cereal and toast with a hot drink. Tea on the first night and lunch for days 2 and 3 is a cooked meal. Lunch on the final day and tea is sandwiches or sausage/cheese roll. At supper we serve hot chocolate and during the day there is a plentiful supply of fruit. We also have a mid-morning and afternoon break with juice. If it is very cold, we will also offer a hot drink. We provide a full vegetarian menu and we also cater for Halal and we will provide all eating equipment. If your child has further requirements, please let us know.

How we handle medical problems

We offer more than First Aid, as we try to take your place while your child is in our care. It is important that all health problems, allergies, medications and special diets are listed on your child's camp form. All medicines will be looked after and administered by the camp first aider (this includes inhalers & creams). Please send them in a bag, clearly labelled with your child's name and the dosage. **No** medicines should stay in a child's tent or bag without your written consent and the knowledge of the first aider.

Hospital visits are rare, but can happen. If your child has a mild asthma attack or relatively minor accident we will contact you to see if you wish to take your child to the hospital or doctor. We may be able to do this on your behalf. If there is a major accident, major asthma attack or sudden serious illness where we need to use an ambulance, we would phone you immediately after phoning 999. Provided that you have agreed on the camp form, we can authorise appropriate examination and emergency treatment and if necessary the administration of anaesthetics (in case of accident, or illness) to your child.

If you have agreed on the form, we will administer Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, throat lozenges, sore mouth gel or Anti-histamine to your child in cases of illness. We only give these if you have signed to give permission and we usually try simpler treatments first (see below). If you wish to be contacted before any of these are given at any time, please write to confirm this. Otherwise, we will assume that you are happy for us to go ahead. We will let you know of any treatment as you collect your child at the end of camp.

If your child:

- has a **headache**, we will a) give water and encourage them to rest, b) give paracetamol, c) contact you if they do not get better

- **feels sick / has a stomach ache**, we will a) give sips of water and encourage rest b) if they are sick or have diarrhoea they will need to come home as soon as possible
- **feels otherwise unwell** we will a) check for a temperature and give paracetamol for raised temperature or pain b) contact you if your child has not improved or is too ill to stay
- **has a minor accident** (bump or scrape), we will a) clean, cover, and check as necessary b) use an eye bath if appropriate
- **is stung by a wasp** we will a) apply ice or cold water and observe, then treat according to reaction b) if no further reaction, we will monitor c) if a more obvious reaction – pain, redness or swelling we will give Anti-histamine and contact home d) if a serious reaction we will call 999
- **is homesick** we will a) talk with them and offer support b) phone to discuss if they have not cheered up c) contact you again as needed, especially if your child is not happy

Homesickness

Children can become homesick for lots of reasons. We work very hard with your child to help them join in, enjoy themselves and feel safe. Over the years a number of homesick children have had a very good experience at camp. If your child phones home and says they are homesick please encourage them to speak to a member of staff and phone the camp leader so we can provide support as soon as possible. If your child is upset and very homesick, we will phone you even if this is after 10.30pm.

And finally.....

Summer camp is great fun – we will do our very best to make sure your child has a great time and comes home happy, excited and perhaps a little tired!