

Mini camp Pine Creek Camp

Q. This is my child's first time at camp. How do you help first timers adjust to this new experience?

A. We don't always know that it is a camper's first time, but with this age group we are aware that it is common. We train our staff about the characteristics of this age and we create a schedule and an environment that is great for first time campers.

Q. Where are your staff members from and how are they selected and trained?

A. It's always great to see how God brings together a wonderful group of staff members each summer. They come from all over to serve at Pine Creek Camp. Last summer our staff was primarily from the Midwest, but also included a missionary's kid from Africa and a "peach" from Georgia. Staff members are carefully selected through an intense application process which includes an interview and background check. We look for those who are teachable, honest, compassionate, safety-conscious and most important who love Jesus Christ and want to tell campers about Him. Staff members must arrive two weeks before campers do for an intense two week orientation and training program that includes sessions on safety and emergency management, as well as specialized training for those leading activities like adventure or waterfront. Our counselors are hand selected each week by the spiritual leadership team. These volunteers are from churches and are background checked and trained for their responsibilities in the cabins and with the campers.

Q. What if my child gets homesick?

A. A little homesickness is to be expected of most campers. Most times it stems from being in a new environment and being unsure of what will happen. Most of the time, as they become fully involved in the camp experience, the homesickness subsides. Occasionally, homesickness may continue, and counselors are trained to help campers at times when they are particularly missing home. For campers who experience extreme homesickness and all our best methods of providing comfort and distraction have not worked, the spiritual director or program manager will call you and let you know what is happening. Together you can work out a plan that is best for your child. There are also steps you can take to minimize homesickness your child may feel. Assure her that she's going to have a wonderful time at camp, and that you'll be praying for her to have a great week. Don't tell her over and over that you'll miss her, because that may make her feel responsible to be at home for you. Maybe send a little care package in her suitcase that has a small note or a note for her to open each day she is at camp. You can also get friends and family to send postcards or letters while she is there. Most of all pray for your daughter or son.

Q. How are the sleeping accommodations at Pine Creek Camp?

A. Pine Creek has a rustic feel with cabins that are one room with 6 bunk beds to accommodate 10 campers and 2 counselors. The bathhouse is centrally located in a cluster of 6 cabins.

Q. What if my child has medications they need to bring to camp?

A. Our camp medic will be at check-in and will need any medications in the original container with the child's name clearly marked. The medic will then distribute medications at the appropriate time.

Q. Will I be notified if my child gets sick/injured at camp?

A. We will contact parents if a child becomes injured or ill and needs medical attention.