Day Camp Parent Handbook

**Mission**

Our mission is to assist churches and communities throughout New England in building stronger families and individuals by providing programs that will develop Christian character and promote a balanced lifestyle from a Biblical perspective.

**Sample Schedule**

 8:00 – 8:30 Drop-off & Free-time

(Available activities: free play, group games, crafts)

8:30 – 9:00 Morning Meeting & Prayer

9:00 – 9:45 Chapel (Upbeat worship music and a brief, interactive Bible lesson)

9:45 – 10:00 Snack (Menu is posted on Facebook and in e-mail)

10:00 – 11:30 Elective (Options may include rock wall, zipline, archery, air rifles, sports, water games, wilderness, drama, arts and crafts, worship music and more)

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch (Menu is posted on Facebook and in parent e-mail)

12:30 – 3:30 Waterfront & Small Group Time/Camp Store

3:30 – 4:00 Pick-up & Free-time

**Drop-off Procedure**

 Please enter through the green gate on the main driveway and a staff member will direct you to a lane. Your child may exit the vehicle when it is safe. Please do not drive away until you have signed in your child with a staff member. If you need to speak to a staff member, please make an appointment or park at the office and check-in there. The speed limit at camp is 3 mph.

**Pick-up Procedure**

 Please enter through the green gate on the main driveway and a staff member will direct you to a lane. Have your ID ready. A staff member will check your ID and have you sign out your child. Your child will be escorted to your vehicle after a staff member has verified your ID. **\*Pick-up person MUST match the information you provide or they will be redirected to wait at the office while we call to verify\*** The speed limit at camp is 3 mph.

**Early Pick-up/Late Arrival**

When arriving outside of our regular drop-off or pick-up times, please check in at the office before dropping off or picking up your child. If picking up during waterfront time, pick-up may be delayed due to campers being away from main camp.

**What to Bring**

Close-toed shoes

 Reusable water bottle

 Rain coat/sweatshirt

 Bathing suit & towel

 Sunscreen

 Bugspray

 At least 2 face masks

**What Not to Bring**

 Electronics (including cell phones, ipods, tablets, etc.)

Weapons

 Drugs, Alcohol or tobacco products

 Pets

 Valuable Items

**Lost & Found**

 Please label ALL camper items. Camp Fireside is not responsible for lost or broken property. There will be a lost and found album on our Camp Fireside Facebook page. Please comment if you see an item that belongs to your camper.

**Camper Behavior Policy**

 Camp Fireside strives to be a place where all campers and staff feel welcome and loved. Our number one rule is to live in a way that honors Christ by treating others the way that we want to be treated. If a discipline issue arises, the following steps may be taken:

* Verbal warning
* Removal from an activity/loss of a privilege
* Camper discussion with a director
* Director discussion with a parent
* Suspension from camp
* Expulsion from camp

Discipline Issues may include:

* Being disrespectful, verbally or physically aggressive toward staff or campers
* Failure to obey the rules of camp and/or submit to the authority of a staff member
* Running away from staff members
* Damaging or destroying property
* Bullying
* Creating an unsafe situation for oneself or other campers

**Payment Policy**

Payments are preferred at least by the Friday before the start of the program. Checks and credit cards can be accepted through CampMinder. All payments must be made before the start of the program Monday morning or the first day attending. Campers who have not paid in full will not be allowed to attend until full payment has been received.

**Cancellation Policy**

All deposits are non-refundable after June 1st. Cancellations must be made 5 days prior to the start of the registered program. If a cancellation is made with less than 5 days notice or the camper is a no-show, the registered party will be financially responsible for the balance due for the registered week. Campers with an outstanding balance will not be permitted to attend until the balance is paid or a plan for payment has been established.

**Profile Completion**

A camper’s profile must be at 100% in order to attend camp. Specifically all health forms must be properly and completely filled out with the appropriate signature and date. The Camper release section must also be completed without exception. Any camper who is missing a key component of their CampInTouch profile will not be allowed to attend until it is completed. No alterations to camper profiles can be made by parents after June 1st in order to maintain accurate records. If a change is required they must request the change through email.

**Emergency Communication Plan**

In the case of an emergency that may affect all campers, parents will be notified as soon as possible of the nature of the event and the status of their camper. Contact of parents may be delayed if the emergency requires the full attention of the staff. Mass communication may be used initially to update the status of campers. For severe weather and minor events, updates may be made to social media and through email. Incoming phone calls will be answered if possible. Emergencies that affect individual campers will be relayed by phone through the emergency contacts provided.

**Health & Safety**

Illness: Any camper with an active infectious illness should not attend camp. Camp Fireside does not have the facilities to care and treat for an ill day camper for an extended amount of time. Due to our program, staffing, and activity level, ill campers should stay home. Camp Fireside reserves the right to turn away or send home any camper that is too sick to participate in the program. All campers and staff may be screened for communicable diseases according to CDC and DHHS guidelines.

Safety: Camp Fireside has implemented policies and trained our staff to foster a culture of safety. Parents and campers must abide by our policies and safety procedures. Any parent or camper who violates our policies may be removed from the property.

No visitor or camper parent is allowed to enter the property (outside of normal pick up and drop off periods) without checking into the office.

All staff is trained in First Aid and CPR. Currently, we also have a staff Paramedic to aid in medical issues. If staff determine that a camper needs advanced care either an ambulance will be called or the parent may be called, depending on the severity of the medical issue. Camp Fireside’s preferred hospital is Frisbie Memorial Hospital. All campers will be transported to FMH unless another facility would be more appropriate. Depending on the severity of the issue parents may be consulted on a destination hospital. FMH contact number: (603) 332-5211

Cleanliness is an important component of our Health and Safety plan. All common areas will be regularly cleaned and sanitized before and after camper use. Proper hand hygiene before snacks and meals and after trips into the woods and swimming area will be enforced.