



FUN FOR A SUMMER LESSONS FOR A LIFETIME

2023 Overnight Camp Parent Handbook
YMCA Camp Tippecanoe



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

81300 Stewart Rd, Tippecanoe, OH 44699
www.ycamptipp.org • 740.922.0679





Dear Summer Camp Parents,

On behalf of the Camp Tippecanoe Staff, I would like to thank you for allowing YMCA Camp Tippecanoe to be part of your child's summer. Our goal is to provide a quality camp experience to the families in our community. We strive to ensure that you and your child will have a positive experience this summer and build long-lasting relationships.

Please take a few moments to read through this guide with your child. It will help familiarize you and your child with our policies and procedures, as well as explain details about payments, packing lists, and more.

We realize you have a choice when it comes to you and your family's recreational and camping needs, and we thank you for choosing YMCA Camp Tippecanoe. We are looking forward to a great camping season!

Sincerely,

Heidi Wilson
VP of Childcare and Camping
hwilson@ymcastark.org
330 491 9622

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MISSION STATEMENT & OBJECTIVES

Mission Statement:

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Goals & Objectives:

Our cause is for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Our camp programs, as part of the YMCA, reflect these values and are designed to help our campers grow physically, mentally, and spiritually within a fun camp environment. Well-trained camp staff act as a catalyst for the development in your child as they lead the campers in challenging activities.

All YMCA camps are designed to meet the following goals and are established for our three causes. Each camper will:

- Grow personally
 - Learn values
 - Improve personal and family relationships
 - Appreciate diversity
 - Become better leaders and supporters
 - Develop specific skills and assets
 - Have fun
-

Character Development

At the YMCA, character development and values are a part of who we are. At our YMCA, that means more than just activities. We believe character development is an important challenge for all of us – staff, volunteers, members, participants, and parents – to accept and demonstrate the positive values of caring, respect, honesty, and responsibility.

The YMCA also adopts the practices of the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets that help young people make wise decisions, choose positive paths, and grow up competent, caring, and responsible. The assets are grouped into eight categories:

1. Support
2. Empowerment
3. Boundaries and Expectations
4. Constructive Use of Time
5. Commitment to Learning
6. Positive Values
7. Social Competencies
8. Positive Identity

TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

7:15 am	Wake Up
7:45 am	Flag Raising
8:00 am	Breakfast
9:15 am	Character Development
10:00 am	Activities Electives
12:00 pm	Swimming
1:00 pm	Lunch Village Time Camp
2:30 pm	Beautification Trading Post Camper's Choice
5:45 pm	Trailblazer Games
6:00 pm	Activities & Electives
7:00 pm	Flag Lowering
8:30 pm	Dinner
8:45 pm	Evening Activity
9:45 pm	Nightly Nonsense In Cabin Lights Out

CAMP TIPP ELECTIVES

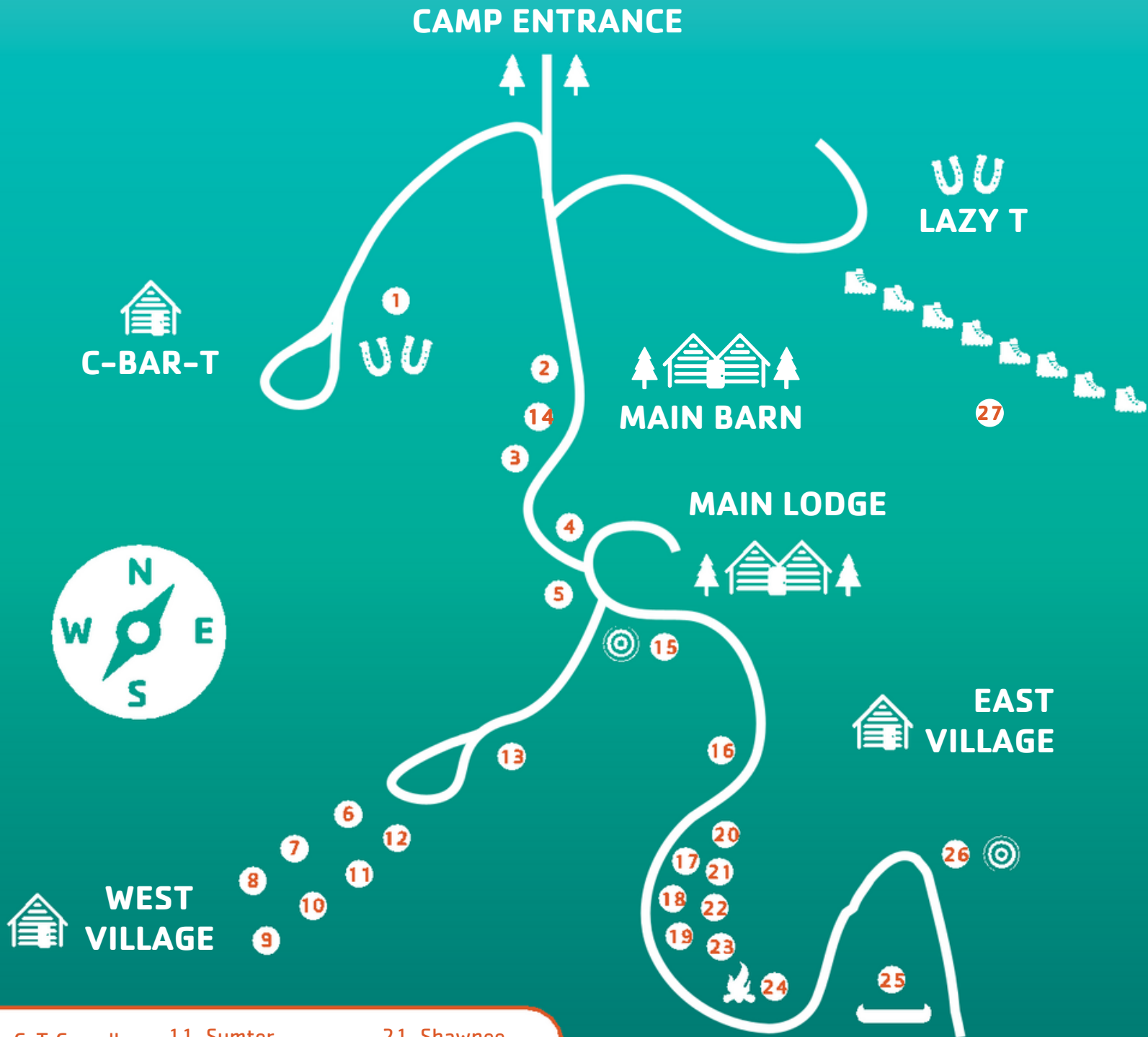
- Archery
- Arts and Crafts
- BBs
- Canoeing
- Four Square
- Gaga Ball
- Hiking
- Horse Riding
- Kayaking
- Low Ropes
- Nature Lodge
- Sail Boating
- Slip N Slide
- Swimming
- Tie Dye
- Zip Line



Want to see what your kids are up to at Camp Tipp?

Visit:
waldo.photos/galleries

YMCA CAMP TIPPECANOE



- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. C-T Corral | 11. Sumter | 21. Shawnee |
| 2. Maintenance | 12. Custer | 22. Huron |
| 3. Staff House | 13. Camp Office | 23. Erie |
| 4. Bear's Den | 14. Main Camp Fire | 24. Crow |
| 5. Bathrooms | 15. Archery | 25. Boathouse |
| 6. Pitt | 16. Nature Center | 26. BB Range |
| 7. Niagra | 17. Bathrooms | 27. Fox Fire Ridge |
| 8. Dodge | 18. Sioux | |
| 9. Carson | 19. Apache | |
| 10. Laramie | 20. Commanche | |

REGISTRATION & PAPERWORK

How to Register

All registrations require a completed registration form per camper and a \$75 non-refundable deposit per camper per program.

1. Register online at www.ycamptipp.org or at app.campdoc.com/register/camptippecanoe

The deposit is applied to your total camp fee and reserves your camper a spot for that registered session.

Balances must be paid in full two weeks prior to camp; campers with outstanding balances at check-in must

pay their balance before attending their session. You may make payments on the balance anytime prior to the deadline.

For your convenience, our registration website will email payment reminders with balance included. You can pay balances through this web site. Payment plans can be set up at the time of registration.

Required Paperwork

To ensure that our staff is well-informed on how to best care for your child, we ask that you complete all forms at least two weeks prior to arrival at camp.

Please complete all online forms at app.campdoc.com/register/camptippecanoe

Financial Assistance

We promise to not turn anyone away due to an inability to pay. We provide financial assistance through our Annual Campaign to help families in need. Assistance is determined using Federal Income guidelines. All families awarded assistance are still asked to pay the \$75 non-refundable deposit and the remaining balance is based upon qualified amount. Financial assistance can be applied to a maximum of two weeks of camp. Applications for financial assistance are available at ymcastark.org or by contacting us at 330.499.2587 or by email at ycamptipp@ymcastark.org. All financial assistance applications must be sent to the Registration Office at least three weeks prior to desired camp session.

Transfer Policy

Transfers from one session to another will only be made if space is available, with at least one week's notice. Should your camper not be able to attend their session, you can transfer their payments to a sibling.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

- Your deposit is non-refundable and applies to current year only.
- Full refunds can be made when a written notice is received at the North Canton YMCA with at least 30 days notice prior to arrival.
No refunds will be granted within the 30 days prior to arrival at camp. The only exception is for a medical reason; full refunds can be made at any time prior to arrival only when a physician's written notice is received. Campers sent home by staff due to medical reasons are refunded on a pro-rated basis.
No refunds are granted for homesickness or disruptive behavior that results in a camper being sent home.
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CHECK IN & CHECK OUT

Sunday Check In

Check In is 3:00pm–5:00pm every Sunday. Exception: Mini Camp Check In is on Wednesday from 3:00pm–5:00pm.

Our staff will greet you along the road with instructions for luggage drop off, parking information, and camper Check In.

Here is what you can expect upon your arrival:

- Meet our staff at the pavilion to drop off luggage.
- Meet with our nursing staff for a brief health screening. You will also turn in medications at this time.
- Say goodbye to your camper until Saturday morning!

Saturday Check Out

Check Out is at 10:00am every Saturday.

Our staff will greet you along the road to give you Check Out instructions.

Remember:

- Have your Photo ID ready as it is required for Check Out.
- The Trading Post will be open during Check Out to purchase items and spend remaining balances. All unspent balances will be donated to the Counselor Appreciation Fund.
- Check out with the Nurse to receive your camper's health report and any additional medication from the week.
- Once you sign out your camper, your camper is in your care.

TRADING POST CAMP STORE

What is the Trading Post?

The Trading Post is our camp store, filled with healthy snacks, keepsakes, clothing, and other goodies. The Trading Post is open for purchases during Check In, Check Out, and throughout the camp session.

How does the Trading Post work?

- Campers can make purchases at the Trading Post through their **Spending Account**. The Spending Account is a "charge" account used for all Trading Post purchases while at camp. You deposit money into your child's Spending Account before camp (or at Check In) so your child can purchase items throughout their week at camp.
- Deposit money into your child's Spending Account by filling out the app.campdoc.com/register/camptippecanoe at time of registration.
- Campers are encouraged to keep to a daily limit. **\$25** is suggested for a weekly account, or **\$50** for a two-week camp session.

How do I send my child a Care Package?

Care packages are encouraged for campers during their stay. You are welcome to supply your own care package in a shoe-box sized plastic container. Fill it with favorite trinkets, playing cards, snacks, and other treasures for your child. We will deliver your care package to your child on Wednesday of their camp session.

Don't have time to put together a care package? No worries!

We have care packages available for purchase from the Trading Post for \$25.

- Purchase care packages at app.campdoc.com/register/camptippecanoe at time of registration.
- Care package includes a 2022 t-shirt, water bottle, and additional Camp merch from the Trading Post!

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Health Lodge

Our staff is First Aid and CPR certified as well as prepared to handle minor cuts and bruises. Any health concern beyond what a counselor can handle is directed to the Health Lodge. Our Camp Health Staff handles and directs all health concerns alongside the Camp Director in the following manner:

- Parents are contacted when a camper stays in the Health Lodge or gets more than a scrape or bruise. Campers spending more than 12 hours in the Health Lodge will be asked to be picked up to go home. Refunds are given on a pro-rated basis.
- In the case of serious illness or accident involving your child, we make every effort to immediately contact you with the status of your camper. However if we cannot, camp staff will act on your behalf with medical personnel. You will be promptly notified with updates.

For the safety of your camper, please include all health history, immunization records, medical insurance, and Dr. information in your camper's Health Information Form, sent to you in your welcome email.

Prescription Medications

All prescription medications need to remain in their original prescription containers and will be dispensed by the Camp Nurse. Please send clear directions with all medications. All medicine will be given according to the label on the prescription container unless otherwise authorized by the child's physician.

Severe Weather Policy

Under severe weather warnings, all camp activities are suspended and campers are moved inside to safe locations. Campers will remain inside safe locations until warnings are lifted or an all clear is given by the Camp Director or Safety Officer. Camp uses FEMA disaster standards and practices for emergency and severe weather situations. In the case of severe weather at camp, we work with the YMCA of Central Stark County Corporate Staff to post notices on social media, website, and email to all camper parents.

Homesickness

Temporary homesickness is normal, particularly for a new camper. Our staff makes every effort to help campers make friends and create a comfortable cabin atmosphere. With proper handling by the staff, campers, and parents, homesickness can be overcome. Here's how you can help:

- Campers love to hear from you; write them letters ahead of time to mail to camp.
- Do not discuss homesickness with campers before camp starts.
- Send along a favorite toy, stuffed animal, or book to help them feel "at home."
- Do not let your camper know that he/she can call home; our staff does not encourage this action.
- Contact the Camp Director if you have any specific concerns.

Often it is the parents who are "child sick" and this reflects onto the camper. We ask that you allow staff to effectively work with your camper to overcome homesickness and be comfortable at camp. If there are repeated cases of homesickness with your camper, the Camp Director will determine if a call home is necessary. A call home is the last step our staff takes while dealing with homesickness. Please note that campers picked up and returned home due to homesickness will not receive a refund.

ACCOMMODATIONS & BEHAVIOR POLICIES

Dietary Needs / Requests

We do our best to accommodate special dietary needs and requests for your camper. Our camp cook will be available to discuss the menu for your camper's session and work with you to make accommodations as necessary. Campers with severe food allergies or major health concerns are also permitted to send food to camp, at the parent's expense. If providing food for your camper, please provide their daily menu with portions for your camper along with any written instructions that may be necessary. **All dietary needs/requests must be sent to ycamptipp@ymcastark.org at least two weeks prior to arrival at camp.**

Special Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Considerations

Our caring and experienced staff are trained to work with kids from all backgrounds and treat every camper with equality. In order to accomplish this goal, we need your help by:

- being honest and detailed when filling out the Camper Profile & Release Form
- informing us of any special emotional/behavioral/mental considerations for your child
- not removing your child from his/her behavioral medications while at camp

Campers found to be beyond the scope of our staff will be asked to leave camp for the safety and best interest of everyone at camp. The Camp Director will work with parents/guardians to find a camp that best fits the needs of your child.

Behavior Policies

Camp staff focus on bringing campers together to create a community in a positive atmosphere. However, at times, disruptive behavior can arise among one or a few campers. Our staff is trained on how to deal with these types of problems on a case-by-case basis using positive reinforcement tactics and Character Profile sheets within a 3-instance methodology. The concept is to use good character profiling to create awareness and reinforce positive behaviors. Camp has established two classifications of unacceptable behavior for our campers and how to deal with them:

General Disruptive Behavior (GDB): includes but is not limited to profanity, verbal abuse, uncooperative attitude, and bullying. GDB instances are dealt with in the following manner:

1. Counselors discuss the instance with the camper using a Character Profile sheet. The goal is to tie the behavior to one of the six Pillars of Character and re-focus attention on that character pillar and achieving a character goal.
2. Should further problems persist, a Leadership Director or the Camp Director is notified and involved in the process. The original Character Profile is reviewed and a new Character Profile is created.
3. If above actions fails to correct behaviors, parents are notified of the problem. Parents and the Camp Director discuss the behavior and agree on a plan to modify behavior.
4. If disruptive behavior continues after #3, parents are notified and dismissal from camp may occur.

Dangerous Behavior and Actions (DBA): includes but not limited to theft, physical violence, property damage, assault of any type, possession of illegal items, or continual cabin or program disruptive behavior. We have a zero tolerance for violence and bullying. Campers that have DBA are brought to the attention of the Camp Director immediately, parents are notified, and dismissal from camp may occur.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP



Packing Tips

- **Campers are not permitted to have cell phones on camp, so they can connect with each other and the nature that surrounds them.**
- Pack with your camper so you both know what is going to camp.
- Campers get dirty and messy - pack old clothes and shoes!
- Mark all items, clothes, suitcases, and bags with your camper's first and last name. We are not responsible for lost items; a Lost & Found station is set up at Check Out for you to look for items that may be your camper's. All Lost & Found items left at camp are donated to a charitable cause after one month if unclaimed.
- Do not pack electronic items, cell phones, valuables, firearms, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, aerosol cans of any kind, or pets.
No food in the cabins please. You can pack food in your camper's care package (more info about care packages on page 9).
- If your camper will be with us for multiple weeks, please pack enough to last those weeks. Laundry service is NOT available.

Suggested Items for One Week of Camp

- ◇ T-Shirts (8)
- ◇ Shorts (8)
- ◇ Jeans/Pants (2-3 pair)
- ◇ Long-sleeved Shirt (1)
- ◇ Pajamas (3)
- ◇ Lightweight Jacket & Rain Coat (1)
- ◇ Swimsuit (2)
- ◇ Underwear (8)
- ◇ Socks (8-10 pair)
- ◇ Sneakers (2)
- ◇ Sandals with Heel Strap
- ◇ Water Shoes
- ◇ Backpack or Bag
- ◇ Hat or Ball Cap
- ◇ Flip Flops for Shower
- ◇ Sunglasses
- ◇ Beach Towel
- ◇ Pillow and Case
- ◇ Sleeping Bag or Bedding
- ◇ Dirty Laundry Bag
- ◇ Tote for Bathroom
- ◇ Shampoo/Soap/Deodorant
- ◇ Tooth Brush and Paste
- ◇ Towels and Washcloths (3-4)
- ◇ Sunscreen
- ◇ Bug Spray
- ◇ Flashlight and Batteries
- ◇ Water Bottle (Very Important!)
- ◇ Stationary/Stamps/Postcards (if desired)
- ◇ Stuffed Animal for Bed Time

Extra Items for Specialty Camps (Horse, Ridge, Expeditioners)

- ◇ Jeans/Long Pants for Riding, No Leggings (3-4)
- ◇ Heeled Shoes for Riding
- ◇ Helmet (Camp Can Supply if Necessary)
- ◇ Socks (3-4 pair)
- ◇ Fleece/Wool Top (2-3)
- ◇ Bandanas (4-5)
- ◇ Sleeping Bag for Ridge and Expeditioners
- ◇ Sleeping Pad
- ◇ Large Backpack or Duffel Bag
- ◇ Mess Kit and Utensils (camp can provide)
- ◇ Journal/Book/Magazine

COMMUNICATION

Staff Contact Information

Nick Menster
General Email

Camp Program Director

nmenster@ymcastark.org
ycamptipp@ymcastark.org

740.922.0679

Staying in Touch with Your Camper

Mail:

You are welcome to mail letters to your camper, just be sure to mail it early so it is received during their stay. Please address it in the format below:

Your Camper's Name, Camp Week
YMCA Camp Tippecanoe
81300 Stewart Rd
Tippecanoe, OH 44699

Photo Gallery: See what's happening at camp in our private photo gallery! Visit: waldo.photos/galleries

Phone: Phone calls to your camper are discouraged. Campers are not permitted to have cell phones on camp so they can connect with each other and the nature that surrounds them. Campers are not permitted to call home without the supervision of the Camp Director or other Leadership Staff member.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do you have a Lost & Found?

Yes we do! We encourage you to label all of your camper's belongings when packing, so if an item is lost it is easily identified. YMCA Camp Tippecanoe cannot be held accountable or responsible for any lost items during your camper's session. We do our best to gather lost items at the end of the session after Check Out. If an item is labeled, we will contact you to coordinate returning it to you. All unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable cause after one month.

Is there a swim test?

Yes, all campers must pass a swim test to enter the swim area or use the inflatable. Campers can take the deep water or shallow water test. A successful attempt on either test will result in your camper receiving a colored wrist band and swim tag that designates the appropriate swim area. The swim test is not required to use watercraft, but all campers must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) while using any watercraft.

Is there an age limit for any activities?

Campers wishing to go on the zip-line or the inflatable must be at least 10 years old.

Is there any equipment required for horse camp?

Helmets are provided by camp, but please make sure your camper has proper attire, including long jeans (not leggings) and hard-soled heeled shoes that cover the entire foot.

My camper is not signed up for Horse Camp, but wants to ride a horse. Will they be able to?

Yes! Campers not enrolled in Horse Camp will still be given the opportunity to ride a horse during the week if they choose. Please just be sure they have proper attire, including long jeans (not leggings) and hard-soled heeled shoes that cover the entire foot. They must also have a signed Horse Waiver on file.