



FERNCLIFF
PARENT PACKET
Day Camp
2025



FERNCLIFF

SUMMER 2025



WHY FERNCLIFF SUMMER CAMP?

At Ferncliff Summer Camp, we welcome campers into a life of caring for Creation, others, and themselves. Through our nature-based camp programs, we foster a connection between campers and the natural environment - which is growing increasingly challenging for kids of today. We hike mountains, swim in the creek, fish in the lake, and learn to love and respect God's Creation. All of these activities (and more!) happen in small groups of campers with trained young adult mentors where they have an ability to develop interpersonal skills, strengthen their sense of identity, and explore their faith. Our camp programs have daily Bible studies, evening worships, and provide opportunities for campers to consider what they believe and what God is doing in their lives.

Our campers will grow up to be caretakers of Creation, peacemakers in their spaces, and faithful disciples of Christ.

WHO ARE WE?

Ferncliff is a nonprofit camp and conference center located on 1,200 acres just west of Little Rock, Arkansas. While we are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), we welcome those of all traditions and backgrounds. Since our start as a summer camp in 1937, we have grown to include year-round conference facilities, a Nature Preschool, and the Disaster Assistance Center alongside our camp programs.

PROGRAM GOALS

Ferncliff's **mission statement** is:

“As an expression of God's love, Ferncliff welcomes people into a life of caring for Creation, others, and themselves.”

After a week of camp, campers of all ages at Ferncliff will have had the opportunity to...

- Expand their independence
- Strengthen their sense of identity
- Develop interpersonal skills
- Interact with creation
- Explore their Christian faith

CONTACT FERNCLIFF

Please feel free to contact us throughout the year and during the summer with questions or concerns.

Website: www.ferncliff.org

Office: 501-821-3063 (ext. 105)

Email: Jocelyn Wildwright, Camp Director & Chaplain;
jocelyn@ferncliff.org

Cell: 501-291-0836 (Use this number for emergencies or for questions/concerns after 4:00pm)

1720 FERNCLIFF RD. LITTLE ROCK, AR 72227

2025 Ferncliff Day Camp Info

CAMP CHECK IN & CHECK OUT

When do Day Camp sessions begin and end?

Our Day Camps begin on Mondays, and run **Monday through Friday**. Unless registered for extended hours, drop off is between **8:30am and 9:00am**. Pickup is from **3:30pm to 4:00pm**. Drop-offs and pick-ups outside these windows are very difficult, as our camper groups range all over our large camp property, and may be in the water, on the top of the mountain, or out at the farm. Drop off and pickup times will be strictly enforced.

What are your options for extended hours?

Early Drop-Off at Ferncliff is available for an additional charge of \$50.00 per week from 7:30am – 8:00am Monday through Friday. *This option includes breakfast for your camper!* Late Pick-Up is available for an additional charge of \$30.00 per week from 4:00pm – 5:30 pm Monday through Friday.

What else do I need to know about drop-off and pick-up?

When dropping off and picking up your child, please stay on all camp roads and obey the camp speed limit, which is 10 miles per hour. Be aware of any animals, pedestrians, or bike riders as you drive through camp.

Prior to drop off time, staff members are busy preparing for campers, so we ask that all campers arrive during the scheduled times. In the evenings our staff members have other responsibilities and duties. As such, we cannot provide care for campers outside their scheduled pick-up times.

PREPARING FOR CAMP

Does day camp include meals?

Yes! Ferncliff Day Camp includes lunch in the Ferncliff Dining Hall, as well as morning & afternoon snacks. *No need to pack a lunch!*

What's the camper-to-counselor ratio?

Our groups follow the counselor-to-camper ratios of the American Camp Association - 1:8 for day campers under 8 years old and 1:10 for campers 9 years old and up. There will be one to three staff members with each group. All campers in a group will be the same approximate age, usually within a couple of grades. Typically, camper groups are co-ed, though occasionally, a family group may be composed of all female campers and counselors or all male campers and counselors.

Do you have medical staff on duty?

Yes. We have a registered nurse on call at all times. In addition, all of our staff are trained and certified in First Aid and CPR.

Do you have lifeguards on duty? What if my child is not a good swimmer?

Yes. We have a team of certified lifeguards on duty at all times that campers are swimming and we've got lots of opportunities for kids of all swim levels. At the beginning of the week of camp, our lifeguards have each camper complete a Skills Check - so that they're able to get a good sense of the swimming abilities of each camper and recommend areas accordingly. Our pool is a zero-entry sloped pool, with a large shallow area and a small deep area. Many of our younger campers spend the entire pool time playing in the shallow area or at the splash pad and fountains next to the pool.

We also swim in the creeks at camp. There are lots of shallow parts in our creek swim areas where kids can skip rocks, build forts, and play, as well as the deeper swimming areas. Lifeguards are on duty at all times kids are in the water - both at the pool and at the creek, and each group's camp counselors swim with the kids the entire time.

We know Ferncliff is a Presbyterian camp, but we're not Presbyterian. Can my camper still attend camp?

Of course! Campers come from many different faiths, including some who do not have a faith tradition. Our summer staff members are all Christian, but not all are Presbyterian, either. We only ask that all campers participate in the daily Bible studies and worship times that are part of our camp programs.

Can my camper's friend be in the same group as my camper?

Yes. While making new friends is an important part of the camp experience, in the registration process you will be asked if you have a buddy request. You can put in one friend's name and they can put your child's name on their registration form. We do not put larger groups together because it can put others in the group at a disadvantage; we do not want situations where, for instance, a single camper is put with a group of five campers who are already close friends.

If you have already registered for camp and would like to add a friend's name, you can do so through your online account. Log in and click on 'My Reservations' then choose the camp session. Under 'Additional Information' you can add the friend's name - just make sure to do so at least a week before camp!

What should my camper bring, and what should my camper leave at home?

See the packing list!

What if my camper loses or forgets items at camp?

We collect any items we find each week in a Lost and Found area. If you arrive home and realize something is missing, let us know! We keep lost and found items until the end of the summer before donating them to a local shelter.

Please be aware that Ferncliff is not responsible for any items that are lost or damaged while at camp. Campers are also responsible for keeping up with their own items. As noted on the packing list, do not send anything with your camper that is irreplaceable or would be devastating to get dirty.

CAMPER ACCOMMODATIONS

Can you accommodate campers with special dietary needs?

We can usually accommodate the most common dietary restrictions, including allergies. Let us know about dietary needs in advance by calling our office or emailing our director before your child comes to camp. In addition, please indicate dietary needs on the registration form. Parents of campers with allergies or dietary restrictions may bring 'safe' food for their child in a lunchbox each day or enough to be kept in the dining hall for meal times, if approved in advance.

Can you accommodate campers with special needs?

Our counselors generally are not trained with the specific skills required to work with children with special needs. In some instances, exceptions can be made after we consult with the child's parents and the child's doctors. Call our office or email our director before the summer starts so we can discuss what your camper would need to be successful at camp. Please do not send a child with special needs to camp without first consulting us.

Can you accommodate service animals?

We do accommodate staff members and campers with service animals. A service animal is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities - please note that we do not allow pets or emotional support animals at camp. Call our office or email our director before the summer starts so we can discuss what your camper and their service animal would need to be successful at camp. Please do not send a child with a service animal to camp without first consulting us. All families should be aware that their camper may be in a group with a service animal who is trained to serve a specific function for its owner. If your camper will be in a group with a service animal, you will be informed at camp registration on the first day of camp.

PAYMENT & CANCELLATION POLICY

Upon registration, a \$50 deposit is required with each Day Camp registration. The \$50 deposit is nonrefundable; however, any other payments made towards your registration are **fully refundable up to two weeks before the camp session start date**. Within two weeks of the camp session start date, **no refunds will be issued if you must cancel your registration**.

Final payment of your camp **balance is due two weeks prior to each camp session**. You can pay your balance in installments and can view your balance at any time by logging into your account.

In the event that Ferncliff must cancel a camp session, families can choose to have their payments donated to Ferncliff or fully/partially refunded.

CAMPER BEHAVIOR COVENANT

At Ferncliff, we welcome our campers into a life of caring for Creation, others, and themselves. We want every camper in our programs to have the best camp experience possible, full of fun, learning, and growth.

To ensure that we maintain a relationally safe environment and each camper is free to experience camp life to its fullest, we will not tolerate any behavior that takes that opportunity away from other campers. We will address all incidents such as bullying and irresponsible behavior, and will train the staff to recognize and respond to such behavior.

Understanding that camp is for ALL campers, any behavior deemed by the camp to be outside of the camper behavior covenant and/or unmanageable may result in any or all of the following:

1. Meeting with the group counselor, coordinator, or program director to discuss the behavior.
2. A telephone call home to the parent/guardian to discuss the behavior.
3. Being sent home from the camp session.

During registration, parents are asked to discuss this behavior covenant with their camper and sign that they have read and agree to live within the covenant stated below.

AS A CAMPER I WILL:

- Know and follow the rules of camp.
- Show respect to other campers, and try to be a friend to all. Show respect to camp staff, and cooperate fully with their instructions.
- Understand that for my safety and the safety of others, I will always stay with my group and/or in a group of three, where one of those three is a staff member.
- Communicate in a camp-appropriate manner, which means I must not use foul language or gestures, discuss topics that are not camp/age-appropriate, or raise my voice at others in anger. I understand that unwelcome teasing or other unkind behaviors are not allowed.
- Refrain from deliberately causing physical harm to other campers or staff. I understand that pushing, kicking, hitting or fighting are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Respect the property of others and camp, which includes no stealing, property damage, graffiti, or vandalism. I will only enter the cabins and buildings that I am directed to enter.
- Remember that physical displays of affection or of a romantic nature are not appropriate at camp.
- Be fully responsible for my actions and understand that irresponsible behavior will result in disciplinary conversations and possibly being sent home from camp.
- Have lots of FUN, learn, grow, and have a GREAT time!

I'll do my part to help make camp fun for everyone! As a camper, I will help hold other campers and camp staff accountable to this covenant. If I encounter others who are not following this covenant, I will share that with my counselor or coordinator.

GENERAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Children are to be kept home or will be sent home if they have any of the symptoms or illnesses listed below:

- Fever of over 100.4 degrees
- 2 or more instances of diarrhea
- 2 or more instances of vomiting in 24 hours
- Sudden and severe change in behavior
- Mouth sores or rash with fever
- Pink eye (not yet treated with drops)
- Head lice
- Active tuberculosis
- Impetigo (not yet treated)
- Strep throat (until 24 hours after antibiotic has started)
- Chicken pox
- Rubella, pertussis, mumps, or measles
- Hepatitis A

If your child is home sick, or has to miss camp for any other reason, please notify a director by email or phone call.

Staff will be monitoring children throughout the week. If any child comes down with a contagious or infectious illness or is unable to participate in the typical routine of camp, they will be isolated and their parent/caregiver will be notified and asked to pick them up.

All staff are certified in CPR/First Aid. Any child who is injured will be cared for by the staff and/or camp nurse up to their abilities. More severe injuries may need to be treated off site. Parents will be notified by phone call and/or an incident report for all injuries depending on the severity of the injury.

Medication from home will be given to children only with signed parental permission which includes date, type, drug name, time, and dosage. It must be in the original container, not have an expired date, and be labeled with the child's name. Our camp nurse may provide over-the-counter medications including but not limited to aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, claritin, zyrtec, benadryl, melatonin, pepto bismol, and cough or cold medication. These medications will be in the original container.

Children with special health care needs who require scheduled daily medications and/or emergency medications should have a care plan. A care plan will be created with a director and parent to include parameters, directions, and symptoms for needing the medications. A medication log will be kept and will include the time, date, dosage administered, and the initials of the staff who gave the medication.

There will be no refund of registration fees given for camp days missed due to illness. As a licensed child care provider, we are required to follow all health department guidelines.

2025 Ferncliff Day Camp

Drop-off & Pick-Up Info

Ferncliff Day Camps run Monday through Friday. Please stay in your vehicle when you drop off or pick up your camper. A staff member will come to you to sign your camper in and out and to walk with your camper. *We will send more information about where to go and what to expect at check-in the week prior to your camp session.*

Regular drop-off and pick-up times:

- Regular drop-off is between **8:30am and 9:00am.**
- Regular pick-up is from **3:30pm to 4:00pm.**

Early drop-off and late pick-up times:

- Early Drop-Off at Ferncliff is available for an additional charge of \$50.00 per week. *If you have registered for the early drop-off option, you may drop-off your child between **7:30am** – 8:00am. This option includes breakfast for your camper!*
- Late Pick-Up at Ferncliff is available for an additional charge of \$30.00 per week. *If you have registered for the late pick-up option, you may pick up your child between 4:00pm and **5:30pm.***

Because of staff-to-camper ratios, **we cannot accommodate any unregistered campers for Early Drop-Off or Late Pick-Up.** If you have already registered for camp and would like to add Early Drop-off or Late Pick-Up, you can do so through your online account. Log in and click on 'My Reservations' then choose the camp session. Next to Options, click the 'Edit' button and you can add options from there. Options can be edited until the Friday before your camp session at noon.

Prior to drop-off time, staff members are busy preparing for campers, so we ask that all campers arrive during the scheduled times. During the camp day, our camper groups range all over our large camp property, and may be in the water, on the top of the mountain, or out at the farm - so drop-offs and pick-ups outside of these times are very difficult. In the evenings, our staff members have other responsibilities and duties. **Please respect the published times.** Drop off and pickup times will be strictly enforced. If there is a change in the drop off or pick up times or an emergency occurs staff will notify each parent or guardian by phone, text, or email.

When dropping off and picking up your child, please stay on all camp roads and obey the camp speed limit, which is 10 miles per hour. Be aware of any animals, pedestrians, or bike riders as you drive through camp.



KANIS ROAD

DAY CAMP & DAC ENTRANCE ENTRANCE (27411 KANIS ROAD)

DISASTER ASSISTANCE CENTER (DAC)



RETREAT HOUSE

GARDEN

FARMSTEAD

RED ED SHED

NATURE PRESCHOOL (ECO CENTER)

RED FED SHED

GOATS, SHEEP, AND CHICKENS

DONKEYS

DROP OFF & PICK UP SPOT

DAY CAMP PAVILION

RED REC SHED

BATH BARN

TREEHOUSES



FERNCLIFF OUTBACK

MAP KEY

- GRAVEL ROAD
- ACCESS ROAD
- STREAM
- FOOTPATH
- DAY CAMP DRIVING LOOP
- FIRE CIRCLE
- PARKING AREA
- SITE ENTRANCE

2025 Ferncliff Day Camp Packing List

Each day, please bring to camp:

- A refillable water bottle
- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Water shoes (with a back on them)
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent
- A change of clothes (*optional*)
- Hat and sunglasses (*optional*)

Campers should wear **close-toed shoes** every day unless told otherwise by the camp staff. Campers will have opportunities to put on sunscreen and bug spray throughout the camp day, with assistance from staff, though many parents choose to apply both **before the camp day**. Campers will want to carry a comfortable backpack that fits their items. We will label camper backpacks with a **color group bag tag** when campers arrive.

Things to Leave at Home:

1. Cell phones, tablets, or other electronics
2. Clothing that cannot get dirty
3. Knives, guns, fireworks, or other weapons
4. Anything that would be devastating to lose or get damaged

Remember:

Ferncliff Day Camp does include lunch in the Ferncliff Dining Hall, as well as morning & afternoon snacks.

No need to pack a lunch!