

## **John Knox Ranch Adventure Camp Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Where will my child sleep?**

Adventure campers will sleep in provided hammocks under a roofed shelter at one of our primitive campsites. The sites have no running water or electricity.

### **What about food? Are you able to handle dietary restrictions?**

Along with some of our classic meals in the dining hall, adventure campers will get to experience a variety of campfire cooking techniques. They can expect to eat foil packs, large dutch oven stews and casseroles, new campfire desserts (we will still have s'mores too!), and so much more! We will have the ability to serve all campers with dietary restrictions as well.

### **Where will they use the bathroom?**

We have a composting toilet a short walk away from the primitive campsite. There are showers and bathroom facilities back at main camp that will also be used.

### **What about safety?**

Yes! Campers will be accompanied by trained staff members at all times. There is always some assumed risk when spending time in nature, but we have an on site nurse to take care of any more serious injuries. The Texas heat can be hard to handle sometimes, so we have swimming times every day and your campers will always have access to drinking water.

We know that your child is precious to you; they are to us as well! Thus, everything we do at camp is done with "safety first" in mind. John Knox Ranch enjoys a good relationship with both the Wimberley and Canyon Lake Fire & EMS services, so we are covered in the event that we need emergency attention. We are also accredited by the American Camp Association, which requires that camps have safety and security measures in place at every level.

### **What are the physical requirements?**

The Adventure Camp program will include more hiking and physical activity than a regular camp session. Campers need to be willing and excited to be active and outside for the majority of the week. A physical is not required but if you have any concerns about your child's ability to complete the session please contact our office before signing up and also discuss it with your child's doctor.

### **What are the age ranges of campers?**

Your child's camp session is determined by the grade they will be going into in the fall. Campers are housed with others of similar age.

### **Are there scholarships available?**

Yes! Financial assistance is available, depending on need. We do not want money to be the reason that keeps a child from experiencing summer camp at John Knox Ranch! Campers must register and pay the required deposit, then complete a scholarship request form (available through the registration portal or by calling our office).

### **What if my child gets sick or needs to take medication?**

We have a designated camp health care provider on site who is trained in first aid, and who handles all camp illnesses, injuries, and medicines. He or she is in contact with a local physician, and make sure that campers get the medical care they need. We will call you if your child is ill, and keep you updated on their condition (including if they are sick enough not to be at camp).

### **Who are your counselors?**

Counselors and camp staff are young adults who have graduated high school or are currently in college; in many cases, they are former campers who have grown up at JKR. They spend 10 days in summer staff training with us and are certified as professional rescuers in Red Cross first aid, CPR, AED, and lifeguard training.

### **Is it okay to come visit my child?**

We know that you will most likely miss your child while they are away at camp. However, visits from family are discouraged. Any time a visitor shows up, it upsets the group dynamics of the cabins, and interrupts whatever activity the campers may be enjoying at the time. If you are worried about your child, you may call the camp office, and we will visit with you about your child's situation and check on them for you. Please know that we will call you if there ever is a problem with your camper.

### **What about mail? May I send a care package?**

Yes! Campers love good, old-fashioned snail mail! We ask that you do not send food of any kind, as open food in cabins attracts ants and other critters. You may also send e-mail and purchase items from our JKR online store that will be delivered to your camper. Instructions are in the document center in the registration portal and will be given to you at check-in on the first day of camp.

### **May I leave mail/packages for my child?**

Yes. If you want to leave letters and/or cards for your camper to receive each day, we

are happy to hold those for you. We will distribute them to your camper each day, or as you direct. We ask that you do not include food of any kind, as open food in cabins attracts ants and other critters. Please bring those letters/cards/packages to registration on the first day of camp and label them accordingly.

### **How much of a role does religion play at camp?**

We are part of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). You can learn more about the beliefs of the PCUSA here (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/>). At camp, we believe that God is love. We strive to meet campers where they are, provide a safe space of love and acceptance. We have a scripture theme each summer and each cabin unit will participate in a 45 minute chaplain time each day led by an ordained PCUSA pastor or Christian educator. Chaplain time is centered on questioning and group discussion. It is not a time of Bible memorization or telling campers what to believe. At the end of the week we have a worship service in our beautiful, outdoor chapel. Just like all of our programs and activities, we invite campers to participate but we don't force them to. While we are a Presbyterian Summer Camp, we welcome campers of all faiths and no faiths to come to camp.

When does registration close?

Registration is open until camps are full. When camps fill up, we do offer a waiting list. Please contact us to inquire if a camp session you are interested in is full. **SIGN UP TODAY**, to secure your child's spot!