

CANOE CREATION SUMMER CAMP FAQS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are the Canoe Creation staff?

Canoe Creation staff are the Parker Family (Al, Amy, Abe, Joe, Anna, and Grace) as well as seasonal River Guides and River Interns that are hired because of their faith in Christ, their interest in God's creation, and their love for kids. All are trained in moving water safety, back country first aid & CPR, devotional leadership, nature interpretation, and camper welfare. Each adult that will be working with campers has to pass an FBI fingerprint criminal background check.

What kind of food will campers eat?

Food are all prepackaged, fully cooked or are dried and spoil resistant staples. The Camp Menu is available for parents concerned about nutrients or special diet restrictions. Examples of meals include – Breakfast: Toast & Gravy, Oatmeal, Granola, Sausage, Eggs, and Fruit. Lunches: PBJ & Cheese Sandwiches, Crackers, Jerky, Fruit, GORP, and Canned Meats. Suppers: Camp Stew, Pita, Dried Beef, Beans, Rice, Noodles, and Corn Mush. In addition, cooler food drops throughout the week will provide milk, cheese, hot dogs, fresh veggies and other cold items to supplement the typical river camp foods. Some of these items may be on your river rat list of what to bring to help supplement the food stores. On special occasions, campers may eat edible wild plants and fish they collect with the help of knowledgeable staff.

Can I call them at camp?

We do not encourage phone contact during camp to avoid homesickness problems. Even if your camper would not be homesick, others may have it brought to mind if some campers are talking with their parents. Also, cell phones will not often receive in river valleys and chances are they will get wet. You can send your camper an email to staff@canoecreation.org. Emails for campers will be checked by our roving staff member only once on the second to last day of the camp. In case of emergency contacts we will have one staff checking email and phone messages daily.

What about homesickness?

The best remedy for homesickness is prevention by keeping everyone busy and involved. River camps offer plenty of involvement and the fun staff keep everyone active. In case of severe issues, you will be contacted immediately.

What about special needs?

Special needs campers are welcome to join in. However, they will need to be able to do some strenuous paddling and hiking at times. We believe its important for young people to develop friendships with everyone, regardless of our weaknesses. If your child has special medical needs, please call the Canoe Creation staff and talk it over with them and be sure to note any concerns you have on their registration forms.

What activities are coed?

Sleeping arrangements are in tents or tarps in separate areas of the campsite for girls and boys. Devotion times may be separate for girl and boy groups, but worship will be coed. All other activities will be coed as well. Campers are not permitted to roam on their own.

How do you deal with teen romances?

We encourage campers that begin to show interest or tendencies to spend more time with one person of the opposite sex to use this camp time as a time for friendships with everyone. Their counselors will stress that the best marriages start with good friends and that this camp time is not for romance.

If the staff believe that campers can not adhere to this, we will send campers home prematurely.

What if my child doesn't know anyone?

Most summer camp kids come without knowing others and its a great chance to learn friend-making skills. Our counselor staff are trained to be on the lookout for those that seem left out and will encourage them to join in and will request the aid of other campers to include them. The great thing about a Christian camp is that those issues that might normally exclude people tend to present opportunities to live as Christ taught us to be. By the end of the week you can rest assured that your camper will have made some new life-long friends.

Are there camperships available?

All of our camps are discounted to about half of the price that it costs to do business. We depend on donations to keep prices at this amount. Canoe creation camps are for everyone and if you are not able to afford the cost of camp, then contact us and we can discuss some campership options that might be available to you. If you are able to share what God has given you to enable others to enjoy Canoe Creation camps then please prayerfully consider donating to the campership fund.

Where do they go to the bathroom?

Campsites will be both at campgrounds and primitive settings. So your camper will be using everything from modern toilets to "cat-hole" sites. Counselors will teach all the campers of their own sex the hows and wheres of woods toilet and cleanliness. Sanitary water, sanitizer, and soap all are available and their use is encouraged frequently since river water can harbor bacteria. Any river showers will be with water that has been heated over a fire and properly sterilized. Living simply will teach your campers that our real needs are not always the same as the comforts that we are used to.

Do they need to be advanced swimmers?

No. Campers are all required to wear proper life jackets (PFDs) when canoeing, swimming, or near water areas. Staff are trained in aquatic safety, swim testing, and rescue. If your camper is a non-swimmer or a weak swimmer, this camp will give them a chance to improve their skills if they want to. We do not do our summer camps on dangerous rivers, high water events, or anything over a class II rapid (International Scale of River Difficulty classes I through VI – Class II is only moderate maneuvering). All rapids are assessed by the abilities of the least able member of the party. Dangerous situations will be bypassed on the shore.

Where do we drop off/pick up our campers?

Since Canoe Creation Summer Camps are mobile we establish sites for each put in and take out for parents to drop off their campers and get to know the camp staff and for collecting your hardened river rats at the camps end. See the itinerary for the locations of all put in sites, take out sites, and camp sites.