

CAMP CARAWAY - CHILDREN'S CHURCH CAMP

Parent Letter

Thank you for placing your trust in your church leaders and our staff to provide an engaging and fun camp experience for your children. We are honored to serve you and your children and are praying now for this summer!

Program

We use fun to help our campers grow in faith, build relationships, build skills and serve others. During the week adult chaperones are responsible for your child. Our carefully screened and trained staff run the programs and assist chaperones as requested. Campers are encouraged to participate in all activities to the best of their abilities. Level of participation is the choice of the camper.

Required Forms

Your church group leader will send you a link to upload your camper's photo, complete health history and waiver forms, add medications, and fill out activity sign ups. **Activity signups** are available April 1st and due 2 weeks before your camp start date. Campers can NOT come to camp without properly completed online forms. Contact your church leader with questions and if you still need assistance contact Danielle Page: dpage@caraway.org.

Pictures & Letters to Campers

Bunk1 is our media and camper communication platform! **Through your camper's registration portal, you can access Bunk1** and send your child letters. You can also view photos from the week as they are uploaded without any purchase.

Emergency Contact

We want our campers to be fully immersed in their experience at camp! As such, we do not allow campers to have cellphones or call home on their own. Their group leader or a camp administrator is able to help them call home when needed. Please provide any phone numbers you'd like us to use on your **health form** if we need to contact you with any concerns. Group chaperones will have cell phones and can deliver messages if needed as well. Thank you for honoring our no cell phone policy!

Behavior and Bullying

Our campers and adult chaperones are given clear expectations and rules for the week upon their arrival. We expect our campers and adult chaperones to follow these expectations and to treat others as they would like to be treated. Our staff is well trained in motivating and disciplining campers appropriately and will assist your church chaperones as needed. Bullying or picking of ANY kind is inexcusable and NOT tolerated here. If your camper does not follow our expectations and rules after disciplinary action, we will call you to make a plan of action.

Money

Our camp store has a store credit option which allows campers to purchase items using the money in their account without cash on hand. **Parents may add funds to the store credit on your child's registration portal before and during camp.** They will have the opportunity to visit our camp store daily to purchase optional Caraway gifts and snacks. The money you pay will stay in your child's account until they use it. Any leftover amount over \$10 will be refunded to the card you used during registration.

If you chose to send cash with your camper, please place this money in a Ziploc bag labeled with your camper's first and last name as well as the name of the church. We also receive an optional missions offering during the week to teach the importance of giving and this offering must be in the form of cash or a check. With the assistance of a chaperone, your child will be responsible for his or her money.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

The church leaders and adult chaperones that brought your child are responsible for your campers and our staff assist when requested. Our staffers are trained to approach special concerns with campers such as medical conditions, bed-wetting, or homesickness with the utmost respect and confidentiality when asked for assistance by chaperones. Please help us prepare your child for success by alerting us of any special concerns in your camper's registration. Please place all medication in a zip bag in the original packaging with your child's full name, age and group name written on the bag. Please give these medications to your group leader who will check them in with our nurse.

Bedwetting

Please document this on the health history form, so that our staff and the chaperone can be prepared to assist. We suggest you consider pull up absorbent overnight undergarments or disposable bed linen covers. Both of these can be discreetly used. If a child does soil his or her bed, our staff will discreetly assist the chaperone and camper by washing the linens and in giving the child reassurance and support when needed.

Homesickness

Homesickness is normal and many campers may experience a little homesickness at some point during their camp session. Parents can help with homesickness with patience and preparation. Encourage your child's independence throughout the year. During the week, if you are worried about how your child is, contact your church leader or us and speak to us about your child. We will gladly check on your child for you on occasion. Don't feel guilty about encouraging your child to stay at camp. Camp can be a great first step towards independence and can play an important role in the growth and development of your child.

Special Dietary Needs

At Camp Caraway, we take food allergies very seriously. Our chef and kitchen staff accommodate and provide alternative meal options as much as possible. We can typically work around most allergies including gluten, dairy, soy, nuts, egg, and corn. It is important to note that our facility is NOT a nut free, dairy free, soy-free, egg-free environment. Although our staff prepares our special diet meals on a separate counter and appliances in the kitchen, we do not have a dedicated kitchen for these meals.

If you have any questions or concerns on whether or not we can accommodate your dietary needs, please call our office during office hours from 9am - 5pm or by email to our Director of Food Service at cpowell@caraway.org. **Please make sure to communicate all allergies on your health form and call our office with more details if needed.** If we cannot provide your full dietary needs, we invite all of our guests to bring their own supply of snacks and personal meal supplements and offer a small amount of space to store refrigerated items in the Dining Hall area.