

Notes to Parents



The First Day:

We know dropping a child off at camp can be traumatic for some parents and sometimes difficult for campers. When you arrive, you will be directed to the dining hall where check-in takes place. After meeting with Camp Director Haru Thompson and the Nurse, one of your child's counselors will be called up to escort you to the bunk. It is best to leave as soon as your child is settled in their bunk so that they can begin to adjust. Check-in time is somewhat chaotic, but once everyone arrives, we spend most of the first day with a swim test, a tour for new campers, a quick overview of the camp rules and then a series of bunk activities to help everyone learn names and make friends.

Homesickness:

Some campers may experience short periods of homesickness. This is normal for young children who haven't spent time away from home before. If it persists, we will notify parents about our concerns by phone. We have learned that it is important to listen with compassion to a child's feelings but also to help them focus on the positive aspects of camp, fun activities, new friends etc. Please help us by not making any "private deals" with your child like "if you're unhappy I will drive right up and get you." We know how difficult it is for parents to not give in to a sad child's demands to go home. However, I could share with you many examples of parents helping their children by being supportive, yet clear, about their desire to have the child adjust to camp life.

Homesickness most often lasts a day or two before a child again turns its positive attention toward camp life. We do recognize that in some extreme cases campers may not respond even with the help of their parents and may need to be reunited with their families as soon as possible. This is rare indeed, but we do our best to put the safety of the child first.

Phone Calls:

While not encouraged, parents who need to call camp to talk to their child should try to call during meal times when campers are close by a phone. Breakfast is from 7:30-8:00 (Pacific Time), lunch is 12:30-1:30 and dinner is 6:10-7:10. Please only call your child if it is very important that you speak to them. If you are the parent of a first-time camper, and want to know how your child is doing, we recommend that you speak to one of their counselors first. Camp is a safe environment for emotional growth and campers often do better if they feel like they're "on their own". If there is a pressing need, campers can call home with the camp director's permission.

Mail:

Mail call is a big event at camp so we encourage you to write your camper frequently. Try to be sure they receive a letter in the first few days of camp. Hopefully, your child will reward your generous correspondence with long descriptive letters sent in your direction.

Some campers beg their parents for packages of goodies sent to them at camp. In the past, counselors have complained to me that too much candy and sweets. Our Mailing address that would get faster to your child is 5665 friars rd apt 209 San Diego, CA. 92110 or 416W San Ysidro Blvd. Suite L PMB 1250, San Ysidro CA. 92173.