

# Summer Camp *Handbook*



Beckwith

10400 Beckwith Lane  
Fairhope, AL 36532  
251-928-7844

# Table of Contents

**03** Logistics

**04** Health & Safety

**05** What to Bring

**06** A Day in the Life at Camp

**07** Behavior and Discipline

**08** Camp Staff

**09** Prepare your kid for camp!

**10** Contacting Camp



# Logistics

## Payments

Camp fees are due in full by May 1. Scholarships are available to those who may have a hard time paying the full amount. Scholarship applications can be found on our website ([www.beckwithal.com/summercamp](http://www.beckwithal.com/summercamp))

## Arrival

You will be assigned a drop off time a week prior to the start of your camper's session. The time that you will be assigned will fall sometime between **3:00pm-5:00pm** on the first day of your camper's camp session. You will drive underneath the **Alves Welcome Center**, where there will be a summer staff member to check you in.

## Departure

Camper pick up is at **10:00am the last day** of your camper's camp session. Closing Eucharist (communion service) will be at 9:00am that morning, and *families are invited to attend to worship with their camper*. Upon packing up your camper's items, please make sure your camper is also leaving with their *summer camp t-shirt, a group photo, and any left over medication*.

## Lost & Found Items

If your camper leaves an item at camp, please contact the camp director at 251-928-7844. We hold all lost & found items until the week after summer camp is over for the season. After that, items are laundered and donated to a local thrift store. Beckwith is not responsible for lost or stolen items.



# Health and Safety

## Camp Nurse

Our camp nurses are licensed RNs, and stay in the Health Hut throughout the week to administer medications, provide first-aid to campers and staff, and address any medical emergencies.

## Medications

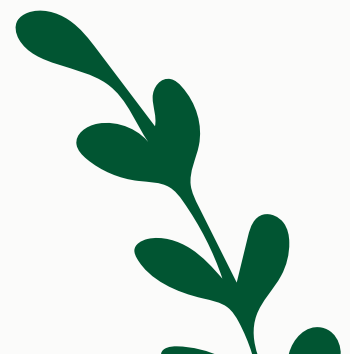
If you are sending your camper to camp with medications (either OTC or prescription), you will be directed to go to the Health Hut after dropping your camper off at their cabin. There, you will meet with the Camp Nurse to discuss medication dosage/timing, and any other concerns you might have.

Medications must be in it's original box/bottle, with the name of the camper clearly labeled. Baggies of loose medications will not be accepted by the nurse, per law.

## Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

During registration, you will be asked to list any and all allergies--this includes environmental, food, and medication allergies. You will also be asked to provide information on any dietary restrictions. This will allow our health staff, along with our kitchen staff, to be able to prepare a healthy week for your camper.

If your child's allergies or dietary restrictions change between the day that you register and the day that camp starts, you can log back into your CampWise account to make changes to the allergy section of your camper's information.





# What to Bring

(And what NOT to bring!)

## Must-Haves:

- For Summer 2023, campers should bring proof of negative COVID test (*taken within 48 hours prior to camp arrival*)
- Duffel Bag, Suitcase, Footlocker, etc.
- Sleeping bag; or Blanket, Twin Sheets, and Pillow
- Water bottle
- Raincoat
- Athletic and functional bathing suit
- Short sleeve t-shirts
- Shorts
- White shirt to tie dye
- Underwear and socks
- Shoes (at least 2 pairs, and at least one should be close-toed athletic shoes)
- Pajamas
- Towels/bath cloths
- Toiletries
- Bug Repellent and Sunscreen
- Flashlight/batteries
- A separate laundry bag or trash bag for dirty or wet clothes/towels

## Optional, but recommended:

- Camera
- Bible

**The following items will be confiscated and then returned at parent pick-up if found in camper's possession:**

- Cell phones
- iPod/MP3 player
- Tablets, computers, or other electronic devices
- Snacks (food in cabins attract bugs and mice)

**The following may result in a call to a parent to pick up their child, if found in camper's possession:**

- Weapons of any kind
- Fireworks, or any other explosives
- Tobacco, Alcohol, or any other Illegal Drugs



# A Day in the Life



## A [Typical] Daily Schedule


7:45 - Morning Worship  
8:00 - Breakfast  
9:00 - Cabin Cleanup  
9:30 - 11:45 - Activity Rotations  
12:00 - Lunch  
1:00 - Rest Time  
2:30 - Praise & Worship  
3:00 - Canteen (snack time)  
3:30 - 5:30 - Activity Periods OR  
All-Camp Activity  
6:00 - Dinner  
7:00 - Dean's Program  
8:30 - Evening Programming/Activity

## Daily Activities Include:

Arts & Crafts  
Canoeing/Kayaking  
Sailing  
High Ropes Course / Zipline  
Swimming  
Field Games/Activities

## All-Camp / Evening Activities Include:

Flashlight Tag  
Skit Night  
Camp Dance  
Station Game  
Night Swim (in Pool)





# Behavior & Discipline

## Homesickness

One of the most common behavioral issues that we experience from campers at camp is homesickness--and that is totally understandable! Sleepaway camp can be very overwhelming.

If a camper becomes homesick, our staff are trained to deflect and distract. Typically, homesickness is felt most acutely during down-time or at night when it is time to go to sleep. So, often we will ask the camper to give it one more night, or to tell them what fun activities are planned for the next day. Sometimes the camper will ask to go to the nurse where the nurse will have a creative solution (mostly "homesick potion" - which is water with a little bit of pink Himalayan salt). The placebo effect goes a long way!

Our ultimate goal with homesickness, is to get the camper to work through their worry, and to enjoy their time. In the unfortunate event that our distraction techniques do not work, we will call a parent to talk to them about how they would like to move forward.

## Bullying

An unfortunate behavioral issue that we sometimes see at camp is bullying. At Beckwith, we have a zero tolerance policy for bullying.

If a staff member witnesses bullying--or if a camper reports being bullied to the staff member--the Camp Director is immediately informed. The bully will be sat down by the Director and informed that if the behavior happens again, parents will be called, and they will go home.

## Discipline

For all other emotional/behavioral issues other than bullying and/or physical violence (if we feel a camper is a threat to themselves or to other campers or staff, they will be immediately sent home), we implement a 3-strike policy.

- 1- the camper will be corrected by their counselor
- 2- the camper will be corrected by Summer Camp Staff leadership
- 3- the Camp Director will sit down with the camper and explain that if it happens again, they will be sent home.

We want camp to be a safe and welcoming place for everyone, and we hope that these disciplinary policies will help provide that space for every camper.



# Camp Staff

## Hiring Process

- Submit application and 3 references
- Complete an interview
- References are contact
- Job offer in made
- All hired staff undergo a background check (if 18+)

## Staff Training

-Staff training is 2 weeks long, and staff receive training in the following areas:

- Sailing
- High ropes
- Activity facilitation
- Small Group facilitation
- CPR/First Aid
- Lifeguard Certification (for those who qualify)
- Safe Church, Safe Communities (this training is mandatory for anyone in the Diocese who works with youth/children)
- General training on camp practices and policies

## Cabin Staff

-Cabins are staffed with either 2 Senior Counselors (18+), or 1 Senior Counselor and 1 CIT (16+).

-Depending on the cabin/session, there also might be a volunteer Junior Counselor (10th grade & up) in the cabin as well







# What can you do to prepare you and your camper for camp

-If your camper has never spent a night away from home, now is the time to start practicing! Sleepovers at friends or cousins houses are a good start to getting campers ready to be away from parents in an overnight setting.

-Cell phones/laptops/tablets are not allowed at camp, so as your camp session gets closer, have some days spent "unplugged" so that your camper is used to not having their technology at hand.

-Please do not tell your camper that if they are having a bad time or if they get homesick that you will immediately come and get them. Obviously, if your camper is experiencing severe homesickness that cannot be assuaged, we will reach out to you. But, while intended to be comforting, the idea that they can call home at any time can often have a negative effect on their experience at camp. Part of camp is gaining new experiences and stepping outside of one's comfort zone!

-When dropping off your camper, focus more on how excited you are that they are going to have so much fun, not on how much you will miss them. Focusing on the fun sets a positive tone for the start of an exciting new week!



# Contacting Camp

We understand wanting to contact your camper while at camp!

If at any point in time there is an emergency at home and you need to contact camp, please call 251-928-7844.

If you would like to send letters to your camper, we recommend giving their counselor at drop-off a couple of letters to give to them throughout the week (mailing is technically fine, but often we receive letters well after campers have left). Please do not mail care packages, and remember to not send your camper to camp with snacks.

With a \$10 donation to our scholarship fund, you will have access to our photo portal, which will have photos uploaded to it everyday, so you can see how much fun your camper is having!

