



Touching hearts. Changing lives.
Sharing the light of Christ.

Parent Information Kit 2025

What you need to know for your camper's registration and camp.

Dear Parents and Campers,

The following information will help prepare you and your child for an amazing experience in God's creation this summer. We believe every child has the opportunity to grow in their faith, develop skills, explore healthy risks, and learn to live in community here at camp. To uphold this community, we need your help. ***Please take time to review this important information.***

We do not take lightly the trust you are instilling in Tekoa to provide life-changing opportunities to your child. Thank you. We are praying for a wonderful summer and amazing experiences.

If you have further questions or concerns, please reach out to us here at camp. See you at the Lake soon!

Sharing the Light of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John".

Rev. John Isley
Executive Director
Camp Tekoa

Tekoa Goals and Objectives

Vision & Goals:

- To share the Light of Christ
- To help build a stronger generation of Christians in the world today
- To understand and practice servant leadership
- To provide a Christ-centered organization
- To provide a fun and engaging environment for all ages

Objectives:

Children and Youth: To be a Christian role model for every camper, allowing them to see Christ in us and through us. Through the camp experience and partnering with churches, we will help campers connect what they learn at camp and apply it to their personal walk with Christ. To offer social opportunities and programs that challenge campers to recognize their spiritual gifts, to be in service to those in need, to build Christ centered friendships, to enjoy each day and look for the best in everyone, and to emulate Christ-like leadership.

Parents: To be a partner in the parenting process by (a) listening to the needs and feedback of parents, in order to develop the very best programs for kids that will foster physical, spiritual, and mental growth, by (b) recruiting and hiring extraordinary summer staff, and by (c) holding them to high standards as they serve in loco parentis.

How the objectives and goals will be met:

1. By recruiting, training, and supporting the best Christian college and high school students to serve on our summer staff team. In order to be a servant leader and watch over campers throughout the summer, staff are trained in the following areas: leading bible studies and devotions, group dynamics, age and faith development, CPR and First Aid, emergency response, age appropriate games, behavior management, proper social interaction, Safe Sanctuaries, team building and many other areas. Returning staff members serve as mentors, leaders, and encouragers to new staff members. Regardless of the number of summers a staff member has served, each new summer offers up the opportunity to be part of "NEW" team focused on the mission of Tekoa.
2. We will provide opportunities for campers to participate in faith building activities through opening and closing campfire services, morning devotion time, time with the pastor of the week, evening cabin devotions and sharing time, quiet time/personal reflection, blessings for meals, word of the day, etc.
3. Campers will be challenged to examine their own Christian walk and how to put their faith into action through personal and group experiences. Recreational experiences include: camp traditions like our closing candlelight service where all campers are challenged to go out into the world and Share the Light of Christ, challenge course elements, swimming, boating,

canoeing, hiking, nature students, community service, talent shows, campouts, arts and crafts, adventure activities and much more. Our staff members are taught to look for “God Moments” throughout the day and to encourage discussion about how the activities relate back to our walk with Christ.

4. We will be good stewards of all our facilities and grounds. Through a regular maintenance schedule and attentiveness to detail, we will strive to keep our facilities clean and in excellent working order. We will constantly look for areas of improvement and value the input we receive from summer campers, camper parents, and retreat guests throughout the year. The work will be accomplished through our full-time staff, mission teams, local churches, volunteers, and many others. By partnering with churches throughout our conference to not only use our facilities for retreats and other outings but to support their conference camp through donations and volunteer hours, we are serving together as one body in Christ.

REGISTRATION

Camp Tekoa only accepts online registrations. Registrations are accepted and camp sessions are filled in the order registrations are received. If your choice of camp is full, please see our waiting list policy below.

Deposit: A minimum \$150 non-refundable and non-transferable deposit by electronic check, Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express is required online to reserve a camp session. There is a \$25 fee for returned checks.

Payment Plans: Payment plans are available during registration. Based on when you register you may be able to select installment payments for up to 4 months and all balances must be made by May 1st.

Final Payment: If the full balance of camp is not paid by May 1st, the payment will be drafted from the original form of payment through Active Network. If you are awaiting a scholarship from your church make sure the payment is received by Camp Tekoa prior to May 1st.

Service Fee: If your final payment fails for any reason, or if your payment is not received by May 1st, a \$50 service fee will be charged to your account on May 2nd.

Cabin Mate Policy

Please indicate the full name of your child’s ONE and ONLY ONE cabinmate preference. The child must be registered for the same camp and camp week. The request must be reciprocal (in other words the other camper must request your camper too). **Camp Tekoa will not honor group requests.** Confusion and disappointment at check-in can be avoided if parents help choose their child’s one cabin mate and make sure it is reciprocal. Please call if you do not clearly understand this policy. There will be no changes to cabin mate assignments at the time of Check-In.

Waiting List Policy

If your camp of choice is full, you may elect to place your child's name on a waiting list through the registration system.

If you happen to find yourself on the waitlist for any of our camps, the process of contacting you for an opening has been automated. You will no longer receive phone calls announcing availability. When a spot becomes available the system will send you an email and you will have 24 hours to respond to the email. If you do not respond within that 24 hour time frame your camper will be removed from the waitlist automatically. Please make sure that you have hlane@camptekoa.org in your address book, so that you do not miss any of these important messages. **If you no longer want your child on the waitlist, it is your responsibility to notify us.*

Cancellations and Refunds:

Cancellation Policy:

1. For cancellations up to 21 days before camp, a refund will be given of the balance paid, minus the \$150 deposit.
2. There will be no refund for cancellation within 21 days of the camp event.
3. Once the camp session begins, there are no refunds. (*Campers who are sent home during camp due to illness, inappropriate behavior, or homesickness are not eligible for a refund.*)
4. The camp director reserves the right to dismiss any camper whose conduct becomes in any way detrimental to the best interests of other campers. No refunds will be given in these cases.

Options for Cancellation:

Self- Cancellation before April 25th: Use the self-cancellation option in Active (Registration System). You can now cancel your own registration until April 25th.

After April 25th: all cancellations or changes must be made by contacting the office.

Switching Weeks/Camps:

If you would like to transfer/ switch into a different camp or week, please contact our office at 828-692-6516.

Financial Assistance:

Camp Tekoa is dedicated to providing youth with a meaningful camp experience—the “Tekoa Experience.” No child should be excluded from this experience due to financial concerns.

Camper families who cannot afford the full fee should first contact their church about financial support. If the camper’s family and local church cannot cover the event fee, partial scholarships are available from the Tekoa Scholarship Fund. You may also make payments up until the May 1st deadline, when full payment is required on all registrations.

Families/Individuals requesting a scholarship MUST complete a Scholarship Request Form. This form must be completed in full and must be signed by parent/guardian AND your minister or sponsoring agency representative. Submit prior to or after you register and pay the \$150 deposit fee. Please contact the Registration Office if you have questions regarding scholarship assistance.

Waivers for Adventure Camps:

The following camps require waivers; these will be due by March 1st, unless you register after June 1 (in which case they are due immediately). All of these can be found on our website and are attached to your confirmation email after registration. The link to our website is: <https://camptekoa.org/resources/forms>

High School TKO -White Water Rafting
High School Water Adventure: Nantahala White Water Rafting
Expedition Extreme: Scuba Diving and Horseback Riding
Explorer: White Water Rafting
Journey: Horseback Riding
Cascade: Horseback Riding
Breakout: White Water Rafting
Voyage: USA Rafting
River Runner: USA Rafting
Leap: The Gorge Zip-line
Barnabas: Special Needs Questionnaire

These forms will be emailed to the primary parent on the registration in January. The forms and signatures are completed electronically directly on the form. Some third-party vendors, (for example Scuba Diving and Amazing Race) may also require additional forms/documents to be completed prior to camp. If so, we will reach out to you directly if your camper falls into this category.

If you choose not to use the electronic signature, then you will be required to print, sign and return before March 1st.

Mail: PO Box 1793, Flat Rock, NC 28731
Fax: 828-697-3288
Email: hlane@camptekoa.org or mcoates@camptekoa.org

Camp Tekoa Store:

The camp store is a fun part of every camper's Tekoa experience! Week-long overnight campers usually visit the store 2 (two) times, although some adventure campers come less often because they are off site so much. Day Campers and Mini campers visit once. Store times are scheduled activities. Your camper will visit the store with his/her family group.

The Camp Tekoa store has items ranging from 3 to 50 dollars. Items sold in the store include t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, hats, bandanas, blankets, water bottles, mugs, jewelry, toys, stuffed animals, bags, carabiners, flashlights, stickers, postcards, toiletries, snacks, candy, drinks, etc. We restrict each camper to 1 drink, 1 candy & 1 snack during each scheduled visit.

Camp Tekoa requests that overnight campers prepay into their store accounts. You can prepay when you register, by phone two weeks prior to your arrival or at check-in. If you need to add money to your camper's account by phone, please contact **Holly Lane at 828.692.6516 x111.** Please ensure your camper has the funds you would like them to have, as we are unable to accept additions to their store account while they are at camp.

The average camper store account is \$30, although there is a wide variation among campers. If your camper has \$1 or more in his/her account at the end of their camp, we will refund it to them at check-out. If they have less than \$1, we transfer the money to our scholarship fund.

Store purchases can be made during check-out, but payment must be made using cash, check or credit/debit card as the camper's store account is not available during that time. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

Camp Tekoa Gift Bags:

Camp Tekoa offers gift bags so your campers know you are thinking about them. Gift bags cost \$25 and have a retail value of \$25-\$35. Gift bags can be purchased when you register, by contacting Holly Lane at 828-692-6516 x 111 two weeks prior to your camper's arrival, or at check-in.

Every item in the gift bag has Tekoa's name or logo on it, but contents vary somewhat by age and gender. Gift bag items change each year, but have included water bottles, mugs, tumblers, stickers, tattoos, note pads, note cards, lanyards, carabiners, playing cards, car decals, car magnets, journals, pens, bandanas, toys, lip balm, dog tags, picture frames, drawstring backpacks, flashlights, etc.

If your camper is coming to multiple camps, we recommend that you purchase a gift bag for only one camp. We repeat items in the gift bag and they would receive some duplicate items if you purchase a gift bag for each camp.

Emergency/Sickness

Camp Tekoa's Infirmary is open and staffed 24 hours a day for medical situations. Our practice is to contact parents when there is concern about a camper's health and/or when a situation is not progressing as expected. In the event of an emergency and/or accident, parents or guardians will be contacted immediately. Only the Director, Assistant Director, Nurse on Duty, Program Intern, or Day Camp Director (for day campers), will make the phone call in the event of an emergency. If your child is taken to a medical facility, your family's accident/health medical insurance will be billed, and you will be advised of and billed for any other medical expenses such as special medication and/or supplies advised by the physician. IF it is determined that a camper is to be sick for more than 24 hours, parents/guardians will be asked to pick their child up from camp.

CHECK IN / ARRIVAL

Please have all forms completed and returned to camp by March 1st (unless you register after June 1, as all forms will be due immediately). This will allow for the fastest possible check-in time and ensure your child keeps their spot in the camp.

Check-In Procedures:

Check-in is a drive through experience. There will be several Camp Tekoa staff to welcome and direct you where to go once you arrive. Please be aware that traffic will sometimes back up on Thomas Road (the road leading up to the camp entrance). No parking is permitted on Thomas Road or on the shoulder of Thomas Road.

Safety Information:

Speed Limit in Camp is 10 mph

There is one entrance and one exit, all traffic will flow in one

direction Camp Tekoa is Tobacco Free Site, No smoking is permitted

CHECK IN TIMES/DAYS:

Arrival times are staggered to help reduce delays. We cannot accommodate early check-in for camp.

For multiple campers, use the youngest camper's age to determine check in time.

Elementary TKO and Mini-Camp (1st half): Sunday 3:00 - 3:30 PM

Middle School TKO and MS Adventure: Sunday 3:30 - 4:00 PM

High School TKO and HS Adventure: Sunday 4:00 - 4:30 PM

Mini-Camp 2nd Half:	Wednesday 4:00 – 4:30 PM
Day Camp:	Monday - Friday 8:00 AM
Barnabas Campers:	Monday 3:30 until 4:30 PM

LATE ARRIVALS:

If you know in advance that your camper will be arriving later than the normal check-in time please email Holly Lane to let her know your camper's name and planned arrival time. If you find you will be late on the day of check in and or something comes up and you need to check-in later, please call Holly Lane at 828 692 6516 x 111 and leave a message with an estimated time of arrival and your Camper’s name.

****Note regarding student drivers:**

Camper's aged 18 and younger who drive to camp must store their vehicle keys with the camp director during their stay. Camper's will not have access to their cars until after check-out.

Arriving By Plane:

For campers who are flying, we provide a shuttle service to and from the Asheville, NC airport (AVL) for a fee. Arrangements for pick up must be made in advance of the camper’s arrival. Please contact the office at 828-692-6516 to discuss prior to booking the flight.

Camper's ages 7-12 must travel with an Unaccompanied Minor Form purchased at the time reservations are made. Please prepay for this service. Before completing the Unaccompanied Minor Form, please contact our office for the name and address of the camp personnel who will meet your child at the airport.

Safety Information:

There will always be 2 Camp Tekoa staff members who will greet camper(s) at the airport

The names of the Camp Tekoa staff will be provided to you within 24 hours of your arrival

Camp Tekoa staff will always be wearing a Camp Tekoa Staff shirt and a name badge
Your camper should carry a list of emergency phone numbers, including Camp Tekoa’s number
Once your camper(s) arrives safely and is in the care of the Camp Tekoa staff, will contact you via phone/text

Please remind your camper of the following before riding in a camp vehicle:

1. Remain seated at all times.
2. Keep hands and arms inside the vehicle.
3. Wear seat belts at all times.
4. Keep noise level down.
5. Please don’t throw any objects inside or outside the vehicle.
6. Passengers should load and exit the vehicle under the direction of a Tekoa Staff.
7. If the vehicle makes an emergency stop, passengers will follow directions of the staff member.

8. Keep exit doors clear of equipment and passengers.
9. Pick up all personal trash before exiting the vehicle

In the event there is an emergency which causes a delay in the pick-up/drop-off time by Camp Tekoa, you will be contacted by phone as soon as possible.

If you experience an emergency which alters the pick up time, please notify us at the camp office as soon as you are able: **828.692.6516** John Isley, Director, x 114

Round trip tickets, passports, money, and Unaccompanied Minor forms will be collected and placed in the camp safe until departure. International campers should be sure to contact us to make special arrangements.

Departure: On Closing Day, all campers check out of camp between the hours of 9:00 a.m., until 10:30 a.m. Please schedule your departure flight between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please purchase a return unaccompanied minor form if required by your airline. If your camper is an unaccompanied minor, please contact the camp office prior to departure to obtain the name of the person taking your child to the airport.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CAMPER (what to do / what not to do)

LETTERS AND PACKAGES FROM PARENTS:

Rather than sending packages we encourage you and your family to write letters to your child. **PLEASE LIMIT PACKAGES TO ONE PER WEEK.** If you have more than one package, please save them for the camper's ride home. Do not send candy, baked goods, or packaged food of any kind. Food and sweets are magnets to all kinds of critters! To discourage the sending of food or candy, any received will be disposed of. Campers are offered dessert daily and special treats on occasion.

Camper Mail will be collected at check in. Please mark each item with the camper's name, group number (provided at check in) and the day of the week you'd like it to be delivered.

Note: mail is only delivered Monday-Friday.

If you plan to send a letter through the US Postal Service, please make sure it is postmarked two weeks in advance of their arrival. Letters that arrive after they have departed are not forwarded on to the camper. Send postal mail to the following address: Your camper's name c/o Camp Tekoa PO Box 1793 Flat Rock, NC 28731-1793

EMAIL:

The information on how to send emails will be provided to you the week prior to your child's camp. **Due to the privacy policies, access codes cannot be given out over the phone.** Emails will be printed Monday-Friday at 8:15 AM and delivered at dinner. Remember the cut-off is 8:15 AM. Make sure to send in time for it to be delivered on the day you want it delivered. Campers do not have the ability to send outgoing emails.

LETTERS FROM CAMPERS:

If you wish for your campers to write home be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope with them. Each summer we receive letters back that are addressed incorrectly by our campers. These letters are precious but due to time, cost, and the inability to determine who to send them to we must throw them away. This can be avoided, and you can receive these letters by helping your campers out with stamps, self-addressed envelopes and stationary.

CAMPER PHOTOS:

The information on how to view the photos will be provided to you the week prior to your child's camp. Due to the number of campers and activities that we have, your child may or may not be photographed. Unfortunately, the photo software does not allow us to create photo groups for easier searching. By the end of the week, we strive to have at least one photo of each camper.

Photos of adventure campers typically will not be uploaded until late Friday since many of these camps are offsite for much of the week.

VISITING/CALLS HOME:

We discourage visits during the week your child is attending camp. This is to allow your child to build self-esteem and independence. You can tour camp prior to summer by contacting our office to schedule the tour. If you have any questions about your camper or the camp experience while your child is at camp, please feel free to call Camp Tekoa. Your child is not accessible by phone unless it is an emergency. Please do not promise your child that he/she can call home as campers do not have access to the telephone.

GETTING READY FOR CAMP (YEAH!!!!)

“Tekoappropriate” Dress Code: We have a dress code of modesty. Nothing with slogans promoting alcohol, sex, tobacco, drugs, profanity, or death themes. One-piece swimsuits for girls (tankinis are two-pieces and are not allowed); swim trunks instead of briefs for boys. You may wear a t-shirt over your swimsuit for swimming, if you wish. Girls should not wear sports bras alone, tops too short to tuck in, short shorts, or tight clothes. Tank tops are ok, but should not be underwear style, or show belly or bra. Guys do not go shirtless except at appropriate sports, nor should their underwear ever show. No underwear style tank tops. Shoes, shirts, and pants/shorts are to be worn in the dining hall, as required by the Health Department. Sandals are permitted. Closed-toed shoes are needed for some activities.

What to Bring: <https://camptekoa.org/resources/packing-lists>

Note: there are very specific packing lists for adventure camps on our website. Please review these.

Overnight Campers

- Prescription Medications (pack separately and label to give to the nurse upon arrival).
- 6 clothing outfits (include underwear and socks). Labeled with your campers first and last name. -One pair of long pants
- Jacket/Sweatshirts
- Pajamas
- 2 Pairs of shoes (Tennis shoes/water shoes)
- Swimsuit-Females must bring a one piece
- Rain gear
- School backpack (optional)
- Pillow and Sleeping Bag
- Twin sheets and blanket (optional)
- Towel (bath and beach)
- Bible (label inside) and pen or pencil, composition book or journal
- Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Water Bottle (required)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Plastic or Mesh Bag for dirty/wet items

Day Campers

- School type Backpack
- Water Bottle (required)
- Change of clothes
- Sturdy shoes
- Packed lunch (NUT FREE and with name on container)
- Bathing suit
- Towel
- Flip Flops to wear to the water and back
- Sunscreen
- Hooded rain jacket

What NOT to Bring:

Camp Tekoa prohibits the use of the following and is not responsible loss, damage, or theft, if any of the following items are brought to camp:

- Alcohol, tobacco, drugs, any type of smoking device
- Vehicles
- Skateboards
- Devices that play video
- Personal Sports Equipment (Fishing gear is the only exception/ A staff person will assist in storing the gear)
- Devices that connect to the internet
- Televisions or DVD players
- Fans that plug into an outlet
- No clothing with slogans promoting alcohol, Sex, tobacco, drugs, profanity, or death themes
- Video cameras, Video games (including handheld)
- Cell Phones **
- Computers, Ipads, Ipods, Tablets, e-readers, smart watches
- Knives, Firearms, or other weapons
- Pets of any kind
- Matches or Lighters
- Aerosol Cans
- Walkie Talkies
- Food, Candy or Gum
- Expensive Cameras, jewelry and /or watches

**Campers traveling to camp by plane are welcome to have cell phones while traveling. Please label and turn the cell phone in at the Camp office for safekeeping, upon arrival.

HEALTHCARE AND FOOD ALLERGIES ****NEW****

Camp Tekoa cannot accept ANY medication that is not in the original container. If this happens at check in parents will be asked to bring back the correct medication in the original container that day. Please plan ahead to have all camper medications in their original containers (both prescription and non-prescription) to be check in with our nurses.

Food Allergies Camp Tekoa Policies and Procedures:

Our kitchen is **tree nut free!**

Camp Tekoa is committed to giving each camper a positive and enriching camp experience. The dietary needs related to food allergies of any camper should not in any way take away from that experience.

Attending a summer camp program at Camp Tekoa establishes a partnership between Parents, their child, and Camp Tekoa. All will have a rewarding and successful experience by the establishment of a circle of protection in which all parties have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Please understand that no outside food is allowed to be brought to camp unless it's specifically related to a food allergy.

Should you have any questions about this information, or the specific needs of your child, please do not hesitate to contact our food service director at etrollinger@camptekoa.org.

THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS

As a vital partner in the circle of protection the parents will;

1. Clearly, describe the camper's food allergy on the Medical History Form and review this information.
 - a. If necessary, attach a detailed explanation of the type of symptoms. List foods to which the camper is allergic, and the specific symptoms typically experienced during an allergic reaction.
 - b. Parents are also encouraged to contact the Food Service Director directly with any concerns:
Eleanor Trollinger. etrollinger@camptekoa.org
 - c. Make sure your child knows his/her food allergies, the symptoms, and signs of a possible allergic or anaphylactic reaction, as well as the emergency procedure.
2. Educate and review often with the camper the self-management of his or her food allergy.
Camper should know:
 - a. Safe and unsafe foods;
 - b. Strategies for avoiding exposure to dangerous foods;

- c. Symptoms of allergic reactions;
- d. How and when to tell an adult about a possible allergic response;
- e. How to read a food label, especially those at the camp store.
- f. How to use an epinephrine auto-injector (such as EpiPen®) if applicable.

THE ROLE OF THE CAMPER

As a vital partner in the circle of protection the camper will:

- Thoroughly wash his or her hands before and after meals
- NEVER trade food with other campers.
- Not eat anything with unknown ingredients.
- Read every label and check with a counselor when purchasing food at the camp store.
- Be proactive in the management of mild reactions, such as seeking help if an allergic reaction is suspected
- Tell their counselor, or the closest staff member, if an allergy reaction seems to be starting, even if there is no visible appearance of allergic response.
- NOT go off alone if symptoms are beginning.

THE ROLE OF FOOD SERVICE

- A list of allergens is posted near the serving line at each meal. To discuss specific concerns please contact of Food Service Manager: Eleanor at etrollinger@camptekoa.org.
- Campers are called by their group numbers to go to the serving line. Once at the serving line, campers are given choices as to what they do and do not want on their plates.
- During the summer season, the Camp Tekoa kitchen has a full range of allergen friendly options. For example, a full salad bar is available for both lunch and dinner. Again, please contact the kitchen manager for more details.

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN:

If a camper is accidentally exposed and experiences a reaction, the camper will receive treatment by the Nurse on duty. The nurse will administer any drug or substance prescribed by a doctor to relieve the effects of the allergen. In the event of a life-threatening food allergy emergency, Camp Tekoa's emergency action plan immediately starts which includes a call to 911.

You, the parent, will be notified by phone of the incident and the care provided.

CHECK OUT/DEPARTURE:

PHOTO ID is required and MUST MATCH those listed on the registration as the primary or secondary parent.

If picking up multiple campers, use the youngest camper's age to determine pick up time.

Elementary TKO and Mini (2nd half): Saturday 9:00 - 9:30 AM

Middle School TKO and Adventure: Saturday 9:30 - 10:00 AM

High School TKO and Adventure: Saturday 10:00- 10:30 AM

Day Camp: Monday-Friday 4:30 PM

1. If someone other than the parent or guardian, listed on the registration, will pick up the camper, **a signed Camper Release Form must be completed for authorization**. We will NOT release a camper to anyone who is not authorized by the parent/guardian on the registration. You may complete the Camper Release Form on this link

<https://camptekoa.org/resources/forms>

2. In the event a camper(s) is not picked up at the end of the designated check-out time for mini-camp, day camp and or 1 week camps, a Camp Tekoa staff person will call the parent/guardian to verify pick-up status. The parent/guardian will be contacted first and if not reached, we will begin calling emergency numbers listed on the camper registration form.

3. If your camper will be picked up early (the last early check out is by 7pm on Friday – early check out is not available on Saturdays) please complete the Camper Early Release Form that can be found at this link: <https://camptekoa.org/resources/forms>.

LOST & FOUND

- CAMP TEKOA is not responsible for items left behind, lost, or stolen.
- Parents are urged to label all clothing and personal items with a permanent marker with the camper's full name, not just initials.
- Items found during each week of camp are displayed at closing ceremonies.
- Items with First and Last names will be held for 7 days. Any items not claimed after 7 days will be given to charitable organizations. Parents will be responsible for the cost (shipping and handling) of mailing any items.
- Email a description of ALL the items left behind to hlane@camptekoa.org. If items are found parents will pay for shipping and handling through the United States Postal Service.
- Items without names will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of each week.

Additional Policies/Information:

- Should there be reasonable or probable cause, for the health and safety of all campers and staff, your camper may be asked to inventory his/her belongings in the presence of administrative staff.
- **Regarding friendships:** Camp Tekoa emphasizes friendships at camp rather than “relationships” and we do not allow PDA (public/private displays of affection) that go beyond friendship. Campers will be dismissed for inappropriate sexual behavior.
- **Graffiti:** We reserve the right to charge a fine or request actual clean up for violation.
- **Discharging fire extinguishers** unnecessarily is very dangerous. A fine is charged for this act.

For more policies please visit this link: <https://camptekoa.org/resources/general-policies>

Frequently Asked Questions

Is Camp Tekoa an accredited camp? Camp Tekoa is accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). This means that Camp Tekoa submitted to a thorough (250 standards) review of its operation by the ACA, from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. The ACA collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and other youth-serving agencies to ensure that current practices at Camp Tekoa reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation. At Camp Tekoa, we are committed to maintaining the highest levels of safety.

What medical information is REQUIRED? All families are required to complete the Health History Form that is a part of the registration when they register. IF there are any changes to immunization records, it is the parent's responsibility to update the online records at least one week prior to the child's arrival at camp. **We will not keep any paper copies of immunizations that are mailed in, they must be entered online.**

Can my child leave with someone other than myself? ALL families are required to complete a camper release form. A camper WILL NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, be released to any person other than the child's parent/guardian without any express written consent to do so by one of the camper's parent/guardians. Verbal permission will not be accepted. The Camper Release Form has a section to authorize who may take your child out of camp.

Does my child need medical insurance? Yes. As part of the registration process, we will need the name of your insurance company, member i.d., # group #, and telephone #. You and your medical insurance are responsible for all expenses for medical care for your child. Doctor visits, x-rays, other medical treatment, and hospitalization will be billed directly to you or your medical insurance company. Medication will be charged to your account. If there are any copays for treatment and/or medications or other out-of-pocket expenses, please be prepared to reimburse Camp Tekoa.

What is the food like? Our delicious meals are served buffet and we eat them in a large dining hall. In addition to the main meal, there is fruit and cereal bar for breakfast and a salad bar for lunch and dinner. There is also a vegetarian option at every meal. By offering a variety of choices and providing healthy, quality food, we keep everyone happy.

What are the cabins like? All cabins have bunk beds, screens, and fans. Many have their own bathrooms. Our smaller cabins house 1 Family Group Leader and 3-7 campers. Our larger cabins have 2-3 Family Group Leaders and 8-12 campers. For those cabins without bathrooms, there are several central bath-houses with hot and cold running water, sinks, toilets, and individual shower stalls.

What safety measures do you take at the waterfront? We have many lifeguards at Camp Tekoa. One or more lifeguard monitors every waterfront activity. During designated swim times, we use a combination of the buddy system and the buddy board. During staff orientation,

lifeguards are trained in a variety of swimming and boating rescue skills. Campers must wear lifejackets when participating in boating activities.

Is my child required to have a certain swimming ability? Each camper's swimming ability will be evaluated prior to the first swim session. Any camper can participate in the "shallow water swim." To participate in the "deep water swim" a camper must swim from one end of the dock to the other without stopping and then tread water for 1 minute.

What sort of medical facilities do you have? Our infirmary is staffed 24 hours a day by one of our registered nurses. They give prescribed medications and provide routine medical care. A local doctor is available for consultation and to provide additional treatment. If needed, an ambulance and paramedics are just a few miles away. The local hospital is Pardee Hospital. This is located within 15 minutes of camp.

Where do campers come from? Many are from the East Coast, but we have campers from all over the US and several foreign countries.

How are campers assigned to cabins? Children are grouped in cabins by age and gender. In our TKO camps we strive to make sure no one is ever alone in a cabin with others who bring a friend, but occasionally we may not have a choice depending upon the population for that week and that camp. Campers may request to be in the same cabin with a friend. **ONLY 1 CABINMATE REQUEST PER CHILD WILL BE HONORED AND IT MUST BE MUTUAL. We will not group beyond 1 mutual.**

What camp rules should I review with my child before camp? Camp Tekoa is a camp with few rules. Campers have a great deal of freedom and many opportunities to make their own decisions. We only require that they meet the follow three expectations:

- *Have Fun (get the most out of your camp experience.)
- *Have Respect (For yourself, others, and their property.)
- *Be Safe (in all you do at camp)

In summary, we expect our campers to treat others and their property as they would like to be treated. We have wonderful children and staff at Camp Tekoa. By sharing these expectations with your child before they arrive at camp, they will be assured of a great camp experience.

If there is an emergency at camp or home, how do I get in touch with my child?

-Personal emergencies: If any family needs to contact camp or their child because of a personal emergency, we can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 828-692-6516 x 114.

-Emergency at Camp-In the unlikely event an emergency occurs that affects all of camp, we will make every effort to provide information as soon as possible.

-Our initial contact will be by email. Please make sure we have your current email address. You update your email address by logging into your account or by calling our office. 828-692-6516 x 111.

-Any urgent email messages will come from jisley@camptekoa.org. Be sure your spam filter is not blocking this address. (Add it to your address book.)

-Information may also be posted on our website. Go to www.camptekoa.org, look for any emergency information that will be posted on our homepage.

-Finally, we may also contact you by phone, either by voice or text message. Please check your email, your cell phone, and our website before you call us.

-National or Regional Emergency-The same as an Emergency at Camp.

Do I really have to label ALL of my child's belongings? Each summer we donate numerous lost and found items to charitable organizations. Although this is a great use for these items, we really want your child's belongings to return home with them. PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING with permanent markers or name labels. Make a list of what your child packed and give it to them to check off when they pack to go home. Please check the lost and found before departing to avoid arriving home and finding something has been left behind. We DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY SHIP lost and found items home. Email a description of ALL the items left behind to hlane@camptekoa.org. If items are found parents will pay for shipping and handling through the United States Postal Service.

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Fireworks: Camper use of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or fireworks of any kind is strictly prohibited and grounds for immediate dismissal without a refund. This includes the use of matches or lighters in a dangerous manner.

What are the grounds for dismissal from camp? Any camper who poses a danger to themselves or others will be asked to leave camp. Additionally, any camper who interferes with the enjoyment of camp by others will also be asked to leave. In these situations, no refund will be issued.

Does my child have access to computers or T.V.? Because there is so much to do at Camp Tekoa, computers, TV, and video games are not a part of our program.

Can I bring my pet to camp? No pets are allowed with campers during their stay at camp, except those assisting persons with special needs. Pets brought on site during check in and check out must be contained and on a leash.

How can I help eliminate erosion at Camp Tekoa? Gravel and large rocks are placed for erosion control.

Please refrain from throwing rocks, large or small.