



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

Parent Information Kit 2021

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

Dear Parents and Campers,

We are so incredibly excited to welcome you to camp this summer!! Many hours have been put into planning, working and preparing for you to have an amazing summer with us. Tekoa is such a special place and this is because of all of you. Our staff are praying for you. Our lake is being made ready. Programs are being planned.

Tekoa exists to live out our mission: Touching Hearts. Changing Lives. Sharing the Light of Christ.

We look forward to extending that mission to all of you.

Please take time to read through this material. It will answer many questions, guide your experience with us and help you have a great summer. If you have more questions, don't hesitate to reach out. We are here for you throughout this process.

A word about 2021: We are still in the midst of a global health crisis. Please know we are doing everything possible to plan a safe and fun experience for you. Check-in will be a drive-through experience this season. Sanitation is being expanded. Children will stay within family groups throughout their stay.

Make sure to get the latest updates on how camp will look here: camptekoa.org/covid

Read the details of our drive-thru check-in here: camptekoa.org/check-in

We thank you in advance for your trust of our ministry during this season. We thank you also for your patience and support as we navigate this summer. We are deeply grateful that we can run camp this season and know it takes all of us working together to achieve it.

I will see you all at Tekoa very soon! Until then, may the anticipation of camp build and may you find fond memories and future joy in your hearts!

Sharing the Light of Christ,

Rev. John Isley
Executive Director
Camp Tekoa

In order to have a smooth check-in all applicable waivers must be returned to camp within 3 weeks of the date that you register and all health information must be complete and updated in your Camp Tekoa online account when you register. All forms will be sent to you as an attachment to your confirmation email; they can be found online on the camp website under Resources, and then Forms & Discounts. Be sure to keep a copy of each completed form for your files.

These can be sent directly to Camp Tekoa via:

Mail: PO Box 1793, Flat Rock, NC 28731, Physical Address: 211 Thomas Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28739

Fax: 828-697-3288 Phone: 828-692-6516

Email: mcoates@camptekoa.org

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

All of the following policies could be amended for 2021 as we navigate the Covid-19 pandemic. Check the website for the latest information.

General Information

Registration Procedures:

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.

The following camps require waivers; these will be due within 3 weeks after you register for summer camp, unless you register after June 1.

- High School Resident Camp-White Water Rafting Waiver**
- High School Water Adventure: White Water Rafting Waiver**
- High School Expedition Extreme: Scuba Waiver and Horseback Riding Waiver**
- Middle School All Girls Explorer: White Water Rafting Waiver**
- Middle School All Girls Journey: Horseback Riding Waiver**
- Middle School All Girls Cascade: Horseback Riding Waiver**
- Breakout: White Water Rafting Waiver**
- SOAR!: Zip-line Tour Waiver**
- Barnabas Camp-Special Needs Questionnaire**

Parent/Guardian must complete, sign and date the waivers and return to camp either by mail, email or fax.

Mail: PO Box 1793, Flat Rock, NC 28731

Fax: 828-697-3288

Email: mcoates@camptekoa.org or hlane@camptekoa.org

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. All reservations MUST be made online.

There is a \$20 fee for returned checks.

Discounts and 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 Thriva Active Network. If you are waiting for a scholarship from your church make sure the payment is at Camp Tekoa prior to May 1st.

Early Registration, Full Payment, Prompt Paperwork Return Discount

All the following criteria must be met to qualify (read carefully).

*Register for a **week long overnight adventure or resident camp** on or before February 28, pay in full at the time of registration and return any applicable waivers within 3 weeks of the registration date and you will receive \$20.00 in your campers store account.

*Register for an Elementary Day, Adventure Day and or Mini Camp on or before February 28, pay in full at the time of registration and you will receive \$10.00 in your campers store account.

If you meet all the above criteria the discount will be added to your campers store account.

Cancellation Policy/Refund Policy

To cancel a registration, call our registration office at 828-692-6516 x 10. The following guidelines apply to refunds: In all cases, an attempt is made to reschedule the camper into another event.

For cancellations up to 21 days before camp, a refund will be the balance paid, minus the \$150 deposit.

There will be no refund for cancellation within 21 days of the camp event.

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.

**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.*

Waiting List Policy

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

When a space becomes available, you will receive a phone call and you will have 24 hours to let us know if you want the spot or not.

**If you no longer want your child on the waitlist, it is your responsibility to notify us.*

Cabin Mate Policy

Your Child's Cabin Mate Preference, if any:

Please indicate the full name of your child's ONE and ONLY ONE bunkmate 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 multiple 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.

Medications (Critical Information)



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 again that day. Please properly handle medications and be prepared to check them in with our nurses.

What to Bring (This can be found under Summer Camps and near the camp description for your camper's camp)

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

Elementary Day Campers

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

Adventure Day Campers

- School type Backpack
- Water Bottle (required)
- Change of clothes
- Sturdy Shoes
- Bathing Suit
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Flip Flops to wear to the water and back
- Hooded rain jacket

Personal Property and 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
- 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.

Arrival/Transportation/Safety

Check-In Procedures

Please have all forms completed and returned to camp within 3 weeks of the date you register (unless you register after June 1, and the office will give you a due date at that time). This will allow for the fastest possible check-in time and assure your child keeps their spot in camp.

This season, Check-In will be a drive through experience.
Check the latest info out here: camptekoa.org/check-in

Arrival times are staggered this season; ***please arrive at your designated time.*** If you have children in multiple categories, arrive at the oldest child's scheduled time.

Check-in times are as follows:

Adventure Campers:	Sunday 2:30-3:00 PM
Middle School TKO and High School TKO:	Sunday 3:00-3:30 PM
Mini- Camp (1 st half), Elementary Campers:	Sunday 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

Mini-Camp 2nd Half
Wednesday 4:00-4:30 PM

Day Camp
Monday through Friday 8:00 AM
Barnabas Campers: Check in On Monday from 3:30 until 4:30 PM

Arriving by Car for Resident Camp:

There will be several Camp Tekoa staff to welcome and direct you where to go once you arrive at the main gate. 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 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
- If someone other than yourself (Camper parent/guardian) will be picking up the camper at the end of the week, you will need to complete a **camper release form** upon check-in

LATE ARRIVAL POLICY:

If you know in advance that your camper will be arriving later than the normal check-in time please email Melisa Coates to let her know your campers name and planned arrival time. If you are stuck in traffic on the day of check in and or something comes up and you need to check-in later, please call Melisa Coates at 828 692 6516 x 10 and leave a message with an estimated time of arrival and your camper's name.

Arriving By Plane:

For campers who are flying, we provide a shuttle service to and from the Asheville, NC airport (AVL). Campers 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 situation 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 the emergency is on your end, please notify us at the camp office as soon as you are able:

828.692.6516

John Isley, Director, x 14

Dave Bollen Assistant Director, x 15

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. All campers will receive further written information prior to their camp session.

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.

If your camper is going to arrive after 4:30 PM, please call 828-692-6516 x10 and let camp know as soon as you are aware of the late arrival. We cannot accommodate early check-in for camp. Campers aged 18 and younger who drive to camp must store their vehicle keys with the camp director during their stay. Campers will not have access to their cars until after check-out.

Departure/Check-Out

We do not have extra staff to attend to campers whose departure is delayed. There may be an additional charge for late departures.

Check-out times are as follows:

Mini-Camp 1st Half

Wednesday 9:00-9:30 AM

Check-out times are as follows:

Adventure Campers:

Saturday 9:00-9:30 AM

Middle School TKO and High School TKO:

Saturday 9:30-10:00 AM

Mini- Camp (1st half), Elementary Campers:

Saturday 10:00 AM-10:30 AM

Day Camp

Monday through Friday 5:00 pm

Important Pick-Up Information

*Those picking up campers will also be required to present **photo identification** at the time of pick-up.

If someone other than the parent or guardian will be picking up the camper, they must be listed on the Camper Release Form. If they are not, they will not be allowed to pick-up the camper. You may complete the Camper Release Form, included in this kit, if you want others to be able to pick-up your camper.

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.

If your camper will be picked up early please complete the Camper Early Release Form that is attached to this kit. Please drop either of both of these forms off at your check-in table.

Mail

NEW!

LETTERS AND PACKAGES FROM PARENTS POLICY:

Rather than sending packages we encourage you and your family to write letters to your child. PLEASE LIMIT PACKAGES TO ONE PER CAMP SESSION. Do not send candy, baked goods, or packaged food of any kind. Food and sweets are magnets to all kinds of critters! In an effort to discourage the sending of food or candy, any received will be disposed of. Campers are offered dessert daily and special treats on occasion.

LETTERS FROM CAMPERS POLICY:

NEW!

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 have to 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.

Send postal mail to the following address:

NEW!

Your camper's name
c/o Camp Tekoa
PO Box 1793
Flat Rock, NC 28731-1793

Food Allergies: Camp Tekoa Policies and Procedures

NEW!

New in 2021: Our kitchen is now tree nut free!

Camp Tekoa is committed to giving each camper a positive and enriching camp experience. The particular 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 staff.

THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS

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

Clearly, describe the camper's food allergy on the Medical History Form and review this information. 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.

Parents are also encouraged to contact the Food Service Director directly with any concerns and meet with Food Service Director during check-in.

828-692-6516, Eleanor Trollinger. etrollinger@camptekoa.org

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.

Educate and review often with the camper the self-management of his or her food allergy.

· Camper should know:

- Safe and unsafe foods;
- Strategies for avoiding exposure to dangerous foods;
- Symptoms of allergic reactions;
- How and when to tell an adult about a possible allergic response;
- How to read a food label, especially those at the camp store.
- How to use an epinephrine auto-injector (such as EpiPen®) if applicable.

Foodservice procedures and food alternatives

Campers are called by their group numbers to go the serving line. Once at the serving line, campers are given choices as to what they do and do not want on their plates.

A full salad bar is available for both lunch and dinner.

Menus are available to parents from mid-June. Common allergens are listed, and specific ingredients for any item of concern are available on request.

During the summer season, the Camp Tekoa kitchen has a full range of allergen friendly options. Again, please contact the kitchen manager for more details.

Packing food for camp:

If the family chooses to provide alternative meals because of a medical condition or food allergy, the food must be microwave ready. Prepackaged food must include cooking instructions included. All items should have a label with the child's name. Food may be dropped off at the Kitchen during the check-in time.

*Inform your camper, specially prepared food will be available for them to pick up at the kitchen service window during meal time. This process helps reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

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

Thoroughly wash his or her hands before and after meals.

The Camper should:

- 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.

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.

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

In the event of a life-threatening food allergy emergency, Camp Tekoa's emergency action plan immediately starts which includes a call to 911.

Email/Pictures

Camper emails may be sent by a service available online through the information given to you on the day of check-in. **Due to the privacy policies, access codes cannot be given out over the phone.** Emails will be printed off Monday-Friday at 8:15 AM and delivered at lunch time. Remember 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 email access, they cannot send outgoing emails. We will also provide pictures online, however, 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. The information on how to view the photos will be sent in an email the week prior to your child's camp.

Visiting/Telephone

We discourage visits during the week your child is attending camp. This is to allow your child to build self-esteem and independence. We can make arrangements for you to tour camp prior to the summer. Just call to arrange a visit. 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. If you have additional questions not covered in this kit, please do not hesitate to contact us at 828-692-6516.

Additional Policies

1. 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.
2. **Visitors** are permitted in camp ONLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR. For the security of your child and others, we request advance notice for visits. All visitors are REQUIRED to check-in/out at the camp office and must wear a visitor's pass while on site. Costs for guest meal: \$5.00 for breakfast, \$6.00 for lunch and \$7.00 for dinner. Please give a 48 hour notice for meals and pay the Business Manager upon arrival.
3. **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.
4. **Dress Code:** 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. We have a dress code of modesty. 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.
5. **Graffiti:** We reserve the right to charge a fine or request actual clean up for violation.
6. **Discharging fire extinguishers** unnecessarily is very dangerous. A fine is charged for this act.

Financial Assistance

Camp Tekoa is dedicated to providing a 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 April 30th 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.

Camp Tekoa Store

The camp store is a fun part of every camper's Tekoa experience! Week-long overnight campers usually visit the store 3 (three) times, although some adventure campers come less often because they are off site. Adventure Day campers visit twice; Mini-campers & Elementary Day 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 25 cents to 30 dollars. Items sold in the store include: t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, hats, bandanas, blankets, water bottles, mugs, jewelry, toys, bags, carabineers, flashlights, sunglasses, 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 at least one week prior to your arrival or at check-in. If you need to add money to your camper's account by phone, please contact **Karen Rohrer at 828.692.6516 x12**. 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-in and check-out, but payment must be made using cash, check or credit/debit card as the camper's store account is not available during those times. 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 our business manager, Karen Rohrer, at least one week prior to your camper's arrival, or at check-in. Karen's phone number is 828-692-6516 x 12.

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, carabineers, pillow cases, car decals, car magnets, journals, pens, bandanas, toys, lip balm, dog tags, picture frames, 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.

LOST & FOUND POLICY

- Due to limited space and the amount of time involved in handling hundreds of lost and found items:
- 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 session 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.
- Please call our office as soon as you realize your camper is missing an item. 828 692 6516 x 21 or email hlane@camptekoa.org
- Items without names will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of each session.

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 counselor and 3-5 campers. Our larger cabins have 2-3 counselors 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 over 15 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 campers 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 school grade and gender. There is an appropriate mix of both new and former campers in each cabin. 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.**

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 14.

-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 10.

-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 mcoates@camptekoa.org. If items are found, it will be sent COD+\$5.00. The fee is usually between \$15 and \$25, but that is subject to change depending upon the US Postal Service Rates.

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 registration and pick-up 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.