



Building Camper's Inner Strengths through Outdoor Exploration and Adventure

Camper Information Packet



Dear Parent/Guardian and Camper,

At Red Oak Camp, our mission is simple: **To develop camper's inner strengths through outdoor exploration and adventure.** Our trained counselors and staff provide campers with activities designed to build their confidence and independent thinking skills. For over 75 years, we've been using experiential learning techniques to help today's campers grow into the leaders of tomorrow, all while building lifelong friendships and memories.

We are excited to welcome you into our camp world and share our timeless focus on nature-based experiences and learning through the adventure with you. Our campers can enjoy an organic experience that is truly unique. Red Oak promotes self-confidence, teamwork, and a love of the great outdoors that will stay with campers for a lifetime.

Please read the enclosed information carefully and save it for future reference, and be sure to complete all of the forms on CampMinder before the start of camp. We look forward to having your camper at summer camp and know that they will enjoy the adventure of camping.

Sincerely,

David Faulstich

Executive Director

Contact Camp at 440-256-0716

DIRECTIONS TO BASECAMP for RED BARN, CHINCAPIN, and RED OAK

Red Oak, Chincapin, and Red Barn is located at 9057 Kirtland-Chardon Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094.

AT BASECAMP: all guardians must remain in your vehicles throughout check-in and check-out.

To get to Base Camp from the East:

1. Take I-90 West and exit at Rt. 306.
2. Turn left on Route 306, go past Lakeland Community College, and down the big hill toward Kirtland.
3. At the bottom of the hill is a stoplight. This is the Rt. 615 Intersection. Take a left.
4. The next stoplight is the Kirtland-Chardon Rd. Intersection. Take a right.
5. Stay on Kirtland Chardon for about 3.1 miles. You will pass Penitentiary Glen Nature Reservation.
6. After you pass a fire station, the Red Oak driveway is the third driveway on the left.
7. After you pass Lake Mimi, the general parking area is on the left. Do not drive past the Science Building or down to the pool.

To get to Base Camp from the South:

1. If you are coming from Akron or other parts south, take 271 North, and follow signs to 90 East, Erie, PA.
2. Exit at Rt. 306.
3. Take a right on Route 306, go past Lakeland Community College, and down the big hill toward Kirtland.
4. At the bottom of the hill is a stoplight. This is the Rt. 615 Intersection. Take a left.
5. The next stoplight is the Kirtland-Chardon Rd. intersection. Take a right.
6. Stay on Kirtland Chardon for about 3.1 miles; you will pass Penitentiary Glen Nature Reservation.
7. After you pass a fire station, the Red Oak driveway is the third driveway on the left.
8. After you pass Lake Mimi, the general parking area is on the left. Do not drive past the Science Building or down to the pool.

To get to Base Camp from the West via 480:

1. Take I-480 E toward Youngstown.
2. Merge onto US-422 E via EXIT 26 on the LEFT toward I-271 N/ERIE PA/SOLON.
3. Merge onto I-271 EXPRESS LN N via the exit on the LEFT toward I-90/ERIE PA.
4. Continue on 90 East toward Erie, PA, and exit at Rt. 306.
5. Take a right on Route 306, go past Lakeland Community College, and down the big hill toward Kirtland.
6. At the bottom of the hill is a stoplight. This is the Rt. 615 Intersection. Take a left.
7. The next stoplight is the Kirtland-Chardon Rd. intersection. Take a right.
8. Stay on Kirtland Chardon for about 3.1 miles. You will pass Penitentiary Glen Nature Reservation.
9. After you pass a fire station, the Red Oak driveway is the third driveway on the left.
10. After you pass Lake Mimi, the general parking area is on the left. Do not drive past the Science Building or down to the pool.

To get to Base Camp, the West via 90:

1. Continue on 90 East toward Erie, PA, and exit at Rt. 306. At the 90/Rt. 2 splits in Euclid, stay on 90; don't
2. Go straight on RT. 2.
3. Take a right on Route 306, go past Lakeland Community College, and down the big hill toward Kirtland.
4. At the bottom of the hill is a stoplight. This is the Rt. 615 Intersection. Take a left.
5. The next stoplight is the Kirtland-Chardon Rd. intersection. Take a right.
6. Stay on Kirtland Chardon for about 3.1 miles. You will pass Penitentiary Glen Nature Reservation.
7. After you pass a fire station, the Red Oak driveway is the third driveway on the left.
8. After you pass Lake Mimi, the general parking area is on the left. Do not drive past the Science Building or down to the pool.

Campminder Account Information

- **Accessing Your Account:**
 - To access your CampMinder account, please visit our [website](#) and click 'Manage My Account.'
 - If you've forgotten your password, simply click 'Retrieve/Set Password' to reset it.
- **Completing Required Forms:**
 - Once logged in, go to the 'Forms & Documents' section. You will find all the forms required for your camper's participation here.
- **To add or edit authorized pickups:**
 - Go to 'Forms & Documents.' Tab and scroll down to the family form 'Authorized Grown-Ups.'

CHECK-IN TIMES FOR CAMP

Drop-off at base camp begins at **8:55 am**. The camp program starts at 9:00 am.

- (Basecamp location: please do not arrive earlier than **8:45 a.m.** for drop-off - we will ask that you to keep your **camper in your car** if you arrive earlier than **8:45. a.m.**)
- **AT BASECAMP:** all guardians must remain in your vehicles throughout check-in and check-out.

If you signed up for Bus Transportation, the bus departs Friendship Circle promptly at 8:30 am.

- (Bus location: please do not arrive earlier than **8:15 a.m.** for drop-off)

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

- All Medications must be in their original containers (over-the-counter, prescription, epi-pens, inhalers, etc.)
- **No pets** are permitted at camp - please do not bring them to pick up and drop off.
- **AT BASECAMP: all guardians must remain in your vehicles throughout check-in and check-out.**
- Absent camper families who have not communicated their absence with the camp in advance will be called by 10:30 am

If you have medications for your camper, leave them in their original containers; alert the staff person; they will come to your car to collect the medications.

PICK-UP TIMES FOR CAMP

Pick-up at base camp is 4:00 pm.

- (Basecamp location: please do not arrive earlier than **3:45 p.m.** for pick up unless you give us notice)

If you signed up for Bus Transportation, pickup at Friendship Circle can be as early as **4:05** pm but will depend on traffic.

Bus transportation service must be added before the start of camp. You can add the bus by editing your camper application and adding transportation in the additional options section.

CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

Adults picking up a camper must have a picture I.D. that will be checked against the list of authorized adults. **Any adult not on the authorized adult list (including parents) or without proper I.D. will not be allowed to pick up a camper.**

Staff will approach parents **in their cars** and guide them to their parking place. Staff will escort campers to your car. All medications must be picked up from the staff at the end of each week.

AT BASECAMP: all guardians must remain in your vehicles throughout check-in and check-out.

EARLY PICK-UP

If a camper has to leave camp during the day, campers may be picked up during the set times below; **we can not accommodate pick-up times outside these windows.** Pick-up times are 15 minutes after each period ends. This gives your camper enough time to gather belongings and head to the pickup location.

Pick-up times available:

- After 1st 10:35
- After 2nd 11:40
- After Lunch 12:20
- After 3rd 1:25
- After 4th 2:30
- After 5th 3:35

Use [this form to submit an early pick-up.](#)

BUS RULES

Please stay with your camper or carpool until the bus arrives and you have checked your camper. The bus will return to Friendship Circle in the afternoon and wait until the last child is picked up.

Use this traffic pattern:

Enter the lot from Gates Mills Blvd. Exit the lot at Shaker Blvd. Buses park toward the back of the lot. Use EXTREME CAUTION AND CARE when driving around the parking lot.

Friendship Circle asks that you do not park in restricted areas. They have programs during the day and want us to park toward the back of the lot by the buses. Keep away from the building, as their patrons should be able to park by the building. We do not want to lose the privilege of using this lot.

BUS RULES: Please read these rules with your camper.

1. All body parts and personal belongings must always remain inside the bus and in your row.
2. No throwing any objects inside the bus or out of a window.
3. Normal talking and singing are allowed. Yelling is not allowed to maintain a peaceful and respectful environment for everyone onboard.
4. Nothing is to be brought onto the bus without the approval of the bus driver. Living creatures should be left at camp.
5. You must remain seated and facing forward during the entire ride. (This is a state regulation).
6. The bus cannot stop or delay to pick up a late rider.
7. There is no eating or drinking on the Bus.
8. Use caution in the "Danger Zone" anywhere within 10 feet of the bus.
9. Do not try to pick up anything dropped underneath the bus.
10. Follow any other rules that the counselors or bus drivers create for your safety and welfare.

If your camper cannot follow these rules, they cannot take the bus to camp.

Bus Procedures

1. Campers will be assigned a seat when loading and must stay in their seat for the duration of the ride.
2. **Please wait until 4:30** before calling to ask if the bus is delayed.

PACKING FOR CAMP

Have your child help pack their camp bag. We get more lost and found because a child has no idea what their parents packed for them. They won't claim a lost and found item because they did not know they brought it to camp.

Put your child's name on their items and in her clothing. It helps us to return items to the correct person. Try to pack everything into one bag.

Campers can access cubbies to leave things at camp, although swimsuits and towels should be returned home on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and not left over the weekend.

CAMPER PACKING LIST

- ☐ Lunch
- ☐ One pair of old sturdy tennis shoes or hiking boots
- ☐ Pair of Pool Shoes (flip flops or sandals, only to be worn between the locker room and pool)
- ☐ Long Pants (mandatory for all Horseback Riding, some Hikes, and a few other activities)
 - ☐ For Horseback riding, girls must wear jeans or jodhpurs. No leggings/PJ pants etc.
- ☐ Extra change of clothes
- ☐ Raincoat
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Baseball Cap/ Hat for sun protection
- ☐ Water Bottle
- ☐ Sunscreen (non-aerosol)

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

- **All Electronics** (Cell Phones, Smart Watches, Ipods, Game Systems)
- Bottles/Glass Containers/Aerosol Cans
- Gum/Candy (In campers lunch is okay just not elsewhere on them/with them)
- Valuables
- Toys and collectibles
- Tobacco products, including cigarettes, lighters, and Juuls
- Any weapons (including pocket knives and multitools)
- Pets (this includes during check-in and check-out)
- Open-toed shoes (The only time campers can wear sandals, flip flops, etc. is to and from the pool)

- Alcohol, drugs, or any paraphernalia

PHONE CALLS

Campers do not have access to their technology. If an emergency arises at home, please contact the camp office at 440-256-0716.

VISITORS

Visitors are not permitted during the camp day. Please mark your calendars for our parents' day event on **Saturday, August 2nd**, for a chance to see our property and celebrate a successful summer! You can **register for the event** using our [Seasonal Programs Calendar](#) and also see other opportunities to come out to camp for some amazing programming for both youth and adults!

WHY A CAMPER MIGHT BE SENT HOME

On occasion, we have a camper who experiences emotional or behavioral problems while in our care. We deal with each situation individually and do what is best for all campers and children.

Camp is a place where children need to feel safe and cared for. Camp will not tolerate any forms of physical violence or hazing of campers. If the management staff of the camp thinks that a child's behavior is not suitable for camp, the parent will be asked to pick that child up as soon as possible.

If your child has to leave camp for any of the following reasons, no refund or adjustment will be issued:

- Severe homesickness
- Excessive swearing or abusive language
- Physically violent behavior towards self or another person
- Threatening violence towards another person
- Excessive non-compliance
- Self-injurious behavior
- Possession of weapons
- Possession of narcotics, alcohol or cigarettes

SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

THUNDERSTORMS AND TORNADOES

Campers will be moved to an indoor shelter if the weather becomes severe.

If there is imminent danger of a tornado, all campers are moved to the nearest appropriate shelter for safety.

During severe weather, we will not be answering the telephone! Our first concern is the campers and their safety.

If you call and do not get an answer, please DO NOT get into your car and drive to camp. Do not put yourself at risk. Leave a message and we will call back as soon as we can.

CAMP FOOD

Campers pack a lunch to camp each day. Each afternoon, the camp will provide a snack for the campers (e.g., an apple or granola bar). You CAN pack PB&J and other nut-based foods.

If your camper has medical, religious, or personal food preferences, make sure this is noted on the camper's Health Form.

Overnights

For an additional **\$75**, Campers enjoy a night of campfires, smores, and other extra-special activities!

Our campouts are from Thursday through Friday. Each program has age and gender-specific activities and sleeping areas. Campers sleep in tents; however, if the weather is a concern, we move tents to a large shelter for safety and comfort. We will provide Thursday's dinner & snack, Friday's breakfast, snack, and lunch for those who stayed overnight.

Campers can also stay at camp till 8:00 pm on Thursday to enjoy the night's activities while still sleeping at home. The cost remains the same if your camper goes home at 8:00 pm.

Our team at camp will always work to set up tent groups for your campers. Campers are only permitted to sleep alone in a tent with your permission.

How to add, remove, or edit an overnight

Overnights can be added up until Tuesday Night at 11:55 pm of that week of camp. We will email a survey out Monday afternoons, which can be filled out to add OR remove your campers overnight.

If your camper is staying overnight, they will need to pack the following:

- Tent- Your child can volunteer to bring a tent for their tent group. **(We provide a tent when required.)**
- Sleeping Bag

- Pillow
- Flashlight
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant)
- 2x Change of clothes (One for the evening and one for the next day).
- You must have long pants and a long shirt for the evening campfire
- Warm clothes
- Bug spray or lotion
- Sunscreen
- Bathing Suit and Towel

Forms

All camper forms must be completed two weeks before the start of camp. Follow the link, hit manage my account to log in to your account [HERE](#) to complete them.

HEALTH HISTORY

This form must be completed for **all campers**. The camp will not pull health forms from previous years for your camper.

Campers who do not have completed health forms before they check in will be sent home from camp unless their legal guardian is present to fill out the form before they participate in the camp program.

CAMPER INFORMATION/ALL ABOUT ME

This form is important as it helps the camp staff get to know the camper before he/she comes to camp.

CODE OF CONDUCT

This form provides a great conversation starter for you and your camper as to what is expected of them at camp. It also provides a basis for rules and behavior discussions if needed.

RELEASE

This form provides a photo release, transportation permission for field trips, and permission for your camper to participate in activities that involve risk. If you are not sure which activities this includes, please talk to the Camp office prior to check-in day, and they will answer your questions.

AUTHORIZED ADULTS

This form lets us know the list of adults who you are allowing to pick up your camper at the end of the day.

If an adult is not on this list, we can not allow them to pick up the camper. (This includes parents and other close relatives).

RIDING RELEASE (Chincapin and Lesson program only)

This form provides a release that allows your camper to participate in horseback riding activities.

SWIMMING

Campers will have the opportunity to participate in swim lessons up to a certain skill level. Some campers may test out of lessons. Lifeguards are on duty at the pool at all times it is in use. All campers will take a swimming test and only swim in areas of the pool that match their skill level.

CHORES

Each staff member will model and teach campers the proper way to care for the environment and their camp surroundings. This may include cleaning an area or completing service projects. Campers are closely monitored to ensure established health and safety procedures are used to complete tasks.

CAMP LIFE

Campers will spend most of their time in activity areas with their group. We encourage campers to continue their progress in areas that have been selected in order to develop skills and gain a sense of achievement. Swim lessons are offered for all campers up to a certain skill level. Once campers demonstrate competency, swim lessons become optional and at the discretion of the camper's parent or guardian.

Camp is split across five periods of programming each day. While our youngest campers spend their days on a set schedule, as they get older, they gain free choice built into the program.

Period Times

- 1st (9:20-10:20)
- 2nd (10:25-11:25)
- Lunch (11:30-12:05)
- 3rd (12:10-1:10)
- 4th (1:15-2:15)
- 5th (2:20-3:20)

LOST AND FOUND

Red Oak Camp cannot be held responsible for the camper's property. If your camper leaves some of their belongings at camp, contact the camp office to make arrangements for items to be picked up. Lost and found items will be held until **Labor Day**. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity at that time.

MEDICATIONS

All medications in their properly labeled original container brought to camp must be given to a director or nurse.

The camp keeps a supply of over-the-counter medications. These will be supplied by camp when needed.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Children with fevers 100° or over, with prolonged nausea or intestinal discomfort, or any kind of injury or breathing difficulty, will be admitted to the health center. When picking your camper up at the end of the day/session, you will be notified of any admittance. Under the following circumstances, you will be contacted immediately:

- Temperature at or above 100°
- Vomiting or diarrhea over 2 hours
- Any doctor visit

The camp nurse works under the supervision of the Executive Director. Campers needing additional medical attention or treatment are taken to:

Lake West
36000 Euclid Avenue
Willoughby, OH 44094

Lake Health - TriPoint
7590 Auburn Rd.
Painesville, OH 44077

HORSEBACK RIDING

Campers need **long pants (jeans or jodhpurs. No leggings/PJ pants etc.)** and boots that cover the ankle and have a heel to ride. Campers will not be permitted to ride in shorts or tennis shoes.

ASTM/SEI-approved horseback riding helmets are mandatory. If you do not own one, Red Oak provides helmets that can be borrowed; however, we strongly encourage each camper to own a riding helmet to ensure proper fit. It is recommended that helmets are purchased in person for a professional fitting.

Local tack and riding equipment stores can help provide affordable and properly fit riding helmets:

At The Barn Tack and More: 7757 Auburn Rd #18 Concord, Ohio 44077
Schneiders Saddlery: 8255 E Washington St, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
Chagrin Saddlery: 8574 E Washington St, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

We recognize that our campers value their riding experience, and we do our best to ensure that they get their time in the saddle. However, it may be necessary to alter riding times due to weather or other concerns. In such cases, alternate horse activities will be planned. Safety and good horsemanship are our first priority.

Campers will not be allowed to ride without the proper Release form completed and signed.

HIGH ROPES, RAPPELLING, AND RIFLERY

Due to the nature of these activities, they are available only to campers aged only to campers who are at least entering 5th grade and have demonstrated the appropriate maturity and ability to participate safely.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

The balance of your camper's tuition is due on Wednesdays six weeks prior to their first day of camp.

If fees have not been received by that date, we will not be able to hold their spot at camp. If full payment is not received by your camper's first day of camp, they will not be able to attend camp.

ABSENTEE POLICY

Campers who are registered for camp sessions are expected to arrive at the designated time for drop off and pick up. Campers must be checked in and out by individuals listed on the authorized adult's list. Camp personnel are responsible for campers once they complete the check-in process.

Refunds will not be given for no-shows.

Thank you, and we look forward to the best summer ever!

9057 KIRTLAND CHARDON ROAD

KIRTLAND, OHIO 44094

MARKETING@REDOAKCAMP.ORG

440.256.0716