

CAMP DEER RUN

howdy session

2026



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welcome

Camp is almost here and it's time to start getting ready for the best week of the summer! Welcome to the Camp Deer Run Compass. This document has all of the information that you need to know to help you prepare for your camper's session at Camp Deer Run. Our goal is to make your kid's Camp experience as stress-free and fun-filled as possible, so we want to share our suggestions for exactly how to pack for your camper's session, what to expect during the session, and how you can stay connected through the whole process.

Each section of the Compass will contain helpful information about several different topics and will end with a short FAQ section with answers to the most common questions we get from our camper families before and during their Camp sessions.

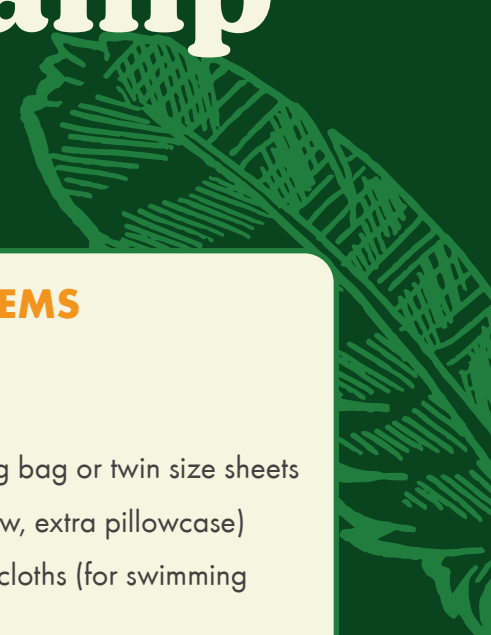
PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT FULLY BEFORE YOUR CAMPER'S SESSION. IT WILL PREVENT MANY ISSUES AND ANSWER MOST OF YOUR QUESTIONS!

We can't wait to see you all out at Camp this summer. If you ever have any questions or need any help getting ready for your session, please [contact us](#), we're happy to help! See you in the pines!



preparing for camp

PACKING LIST



CLOTHES

- Loose Fitting T-shirts
- **Modest Shorts with AT LEAST a 5 inch inseam (applies to both genders)**
- Jeans/Pants (for cookout in the woods)
- Socks
- Underwear
- Pajamas/clothes for bed
- Light Jacket or Sweatshirt
- Rain Gear
- One-Piece Swimsuit
- Theme Day Clothes (if desired)

[See our modesty guidelines for more detail.](#)

SHOES

- Closed-Toed Tennis Shoes
- Old shoes or water shoes for the creek
- Open-toed shoes or sandals (only for walking to the pool or bathhouses)
- Crocs and other similar shoes (not allowed during active Camp activities)

PERSONAL ITEMS

- Water Bottle
- Camp Chair
- Bedding (sleeping bag or twin size sheets and blanket, pillow, extra pillowcase)
- Towels and washcloths (for swimming and showering)
- Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, conditioner, deodorant
- Laundry Bag
- Bible
- Notebook, Pen or Pencils
- A good flashlight and batteries
- Box fan or clip fan (we recommend a box fan).
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- [Any necessary medications](#)

OPTIONAL

- Softball Glove
- Hammock

preparing for camp

PACKING LIST



LABELING

Please label all clothing and personal items with your camper's name or initials. When you have 10 kids living in the same cabin, things tend to get mixed up at times! The easiest way to make sure that everyone comes home with all of their things (and nobody else's) is by labeling everything! It will be a huge help to your camper when they're packing up to go home, as well as to their counselors and their cabinmates.

Camp Deer Run is happy to help you look for lost items, but we are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items. Labeling is the best way to prevent any of these issues.

PACKING TIPS

- Especially for younger campers, you can pack each day's clothes into a gallon sized zip lock bag and label each one so your camper knows what to wear and when!
- While it's great to have specific clothes and shoes for playing in the creek or getting muddy, sometimes spontaneous fun happens and no one has time to change clothes or shoes! It's always good to have some extra shirts, shorts, underwear and tennis shoes just in case.

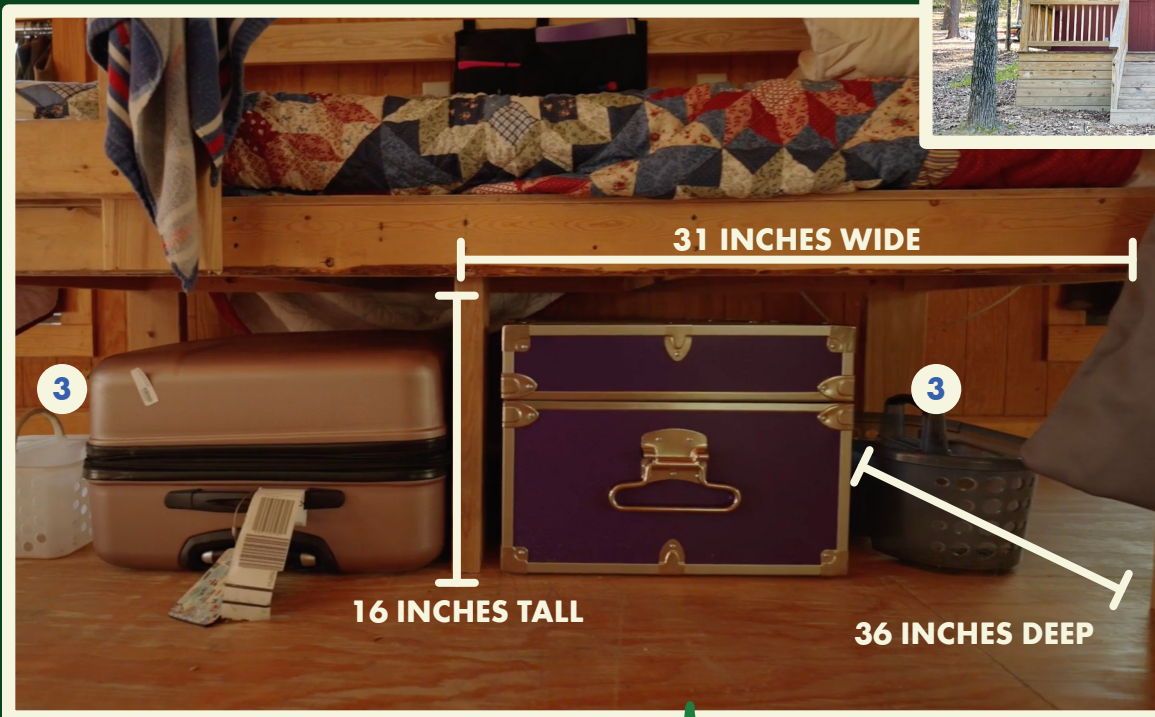
DO NOT BRING

- Electronic Devices: Cell Phones, Radios, CD or MP3 players, Handheld Gaming Devices, TVs, Laptops, Tablets, iPods, 2-way Radios, Walkie Talkies, Smart Watches, Digital Cameras with Video capability, or any handheld electronics
- Knives
- Weapons or Firearms of any kind
- Paintball/Airsoft Guns
- Fireworks, Matches or Lighters
- Bikes, Skateboards, scooters, etc.
- Pets
- Alcohol, Tobacco, Vapes, Nicotine Products, or Illegal substances
- Candy or Food Items
- Short Shorts, Bike Shorts, or Yoga Pants
- Tank Tops, Spaghetti Straps, Crop Tops
- Valuable or sentimental items

preparing for camp

BUNK SETUP

scan for a cabin tour!



preparing for camp

BUNK SETUP

All of the cabins and bunks at Camp Deer Run are arranged to ensure that everyone has ample space to store their luggage and belongings. Please refer to the photo below for a visual explanation of how your bunk at Camp Deer Run will look and the best way to store your belongings. For a video walkthrough of a Camp Deer Run cabin and bunk bed setup, [click here](#).

There is space under each bunk bed for both campers to store their belongings. We recommend bringing a trunk, storage container or a large suitcase that can be easily accessed and stored under the bunk. Every camper will have a space of at least 36" deep x 31" wide x 16" tall under their bunk for storage.

Each bunk is also fitted with a fan box¹ that is 5 ½"x27 ½" and easily fits a standard box fan. If you prefer to bring a clip-on fan, the thickness of the bed posts where a fan can be clipped is 1 ½". In years past, some parents have used bungee cords and zip ties and extension cords to set up fans for their campers. This is no longer necessary. Every bunk has a fan box where a box fan fits comfortably, and every fan box is in easy range of an outlet².

We also recommend bringing toiletries in a shower caddy³ with plenty of drainage. There is room for shower caddies under each bunk as well. Another great way to give your camper a little extra storage space is to bring a bunk bed organizer⁴ to hang on the rails of the bunk.

[Click here for a list of our recommended packing supplies!](#)

preparing for camp

MOBILE APP



We're excited to announce that we've partnered with Bunk1 to create our very own Camp Deer Run mobile app to improve your parent experience! In the Camp Deer Run app, you'll be able to see your camper's photos, send your camper BunkNotes (emails for mail call), receive important updates, and more. Use the buttons above to download the app, or search Camp Deer Run on your app store. Log in with the same credentials you used for registration!

BUNDLES:

The app platform we're utilizing has "bundles" that allow you to pay for extra BunkNotes (camper emails) or photo downloads. We prefer for no one to pay anything extra beyond their camper fees. It is a feature that we are unable to remove. Before creating the app, we arranged to pay for every camper to have free facial recognition photo matching and two BunkNote credits. **No one is required to pay anything through the app.**

BUNK NOTES:

BunkNotes are available through the app or the Bunk1 Website. BunkNotes allow parents to write a letter to their camper that will be delivered to us electronically to print and deliver at Mail Call. Every camper's registration comes with two BunkNotes for each parent (each parent must create their own Bunk1 account). If you don't see your credits in your account, please [contact Bunk1 support](#). For more details about BunkNotes, see the [Mail](#) section.

PHOTOS:

You can see photos from your camper's session on the app or at the [Bunk1 website](https://www.Bunk1.com/en/i/4020/login) (<https://www.Bunk1.com/en/i/4020/login>). If you [upload a photo of your camper](#), you can have their photos automatically matched and delivered to you through the app! Photos can be downloaded for free. There is an option to purchase high-resolution downloads of your photos. **We do not recommend paying for photos.**

ALERTS:

The app will also allow us to send you updates directly to your phone! Please enable push notifications to receive important updates about your camper's session. Through the app, you'll also have access to pre and post-camp devotionals, newsletters, and more!

APP & Bunk1 TUTORIAL:

To see a full walkthrough of the app and the Bunk1 website, scan the QR code to the right or [click here](#)! This tutorial will help you log in, navigate the app and the Bunk1 website, find photos, send BunkNotes, and more!



SUPPORT:

The office staff at Camp Deer Run cannot provide technical support for the app. The Bunk1 team is available to support you 7 days a week during the summer season. They guarantee a response within 24 hours and it's usually much quicker than that. Please call Bunk1 at 212-974-9112 or email support@Bunk1.com. For FAQ's related to the Bunk1 website and app platform, visit www.Bunk1family.com/faqs.

preparing for camp

MEDICINE

Any medication that your camper needs during their session must be given to the Camp Medical Staff upon Check-In when arriving at Camp. Here's what you need to know about packing your camper's medications:

- All medications must be in their original packaging and contain only the item identified on the container.
- If it is a prescription, the prescription label must be legible with the camper's name on it.
- The Camp Medical Staff will have access to most general over-the-counter medications like ibuprofen, aspirin, allergy medicine, cough and cold medicine, etc. Please consider leaving non-essential over-the-counter medications at home.

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

We understand that some of our campers have specific dietary restrictions, and we want to do our best to accommodate them and make sure that these restrictions don't disrupt their Camp experience.

While feeding hundreds of campers at a time, our Kitchen Staff is unable to cater to the specific dietary needs of each individual camper. To the extent that the camper has a dietary need, it will be the parent's duty to provide what is necessary for the camp session.

If your camper has medically prescribed dietary restrictions, please bring enough food for your camper to eat for the entire session. Please provide dry, microwavable, cold or otherwise easily prepared foods for your camper. Your child's counselor will assist them in preparing their meals, so it is best for the provided meals to be simple to prepare. We will store any dry goods or cold and frozen foods for your camper. All food items must be labeled with your child's name.

There will be a Staff Member available at Check-In to assist you with getting your camper's food set up.

Please note: We cannot cater to every individual parent or child's food preferences. Please only bring alternate meals for your camper if it is medically necessary. If you would like more information on the menu for your camper's session, please email office@campdeerrun.com.

preparing for camp

CHECK-IN

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

About 2 weeks before your session, each parent will receive an email with their camper(s) arrival information. The email will include your camper's assigned cabin, and group, as well as your arrival time window. This will be your guide to checking in on the first day of your camper's session. If you'd like to request a different arrival time than you are given, please email office@campdeerrun.com and we'll find a time that works for you.

UPON ARRIVAL

Please arrive as close to your designated check-in time as possible. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by our Staff and directed to park your car on Cheuk Ballfield (through the Camp sign, to the right). At your assigned time, come to the Pavilion (basketball court) for a quick check-in process.

- Check your camper(s) in with a Staff Member.
- Turn in [medications](#) to a Camp Nurse.
- Turn in [camper cell-phones](#) for safekeeping in the office until the session ends.

LUGGAGE

After completing the check-in process, please return to your car to get your camper's belongings and take them to your assigned cabin. Our Summer Staff will be ready and waiting to help you carry your camper's belongings from your vehicle to their cabin.

CABIN MOVE-IN

Campers and parents will be greeted at the cabin by the Cabin Counselor. Inside the cabin, each camper's name will be posted on their assigned bunk. We will do our best to place cabin buddies near each other. Take your time helping your camper get their bed made and their [bunk set up](#) before you say your goodbyes.

GIFT SHOP

We invite you to visit the Gift Shop at any time before or after you check in. The Gift Shop has a wide selection of Camp Deer Run merchandise and memorabilia as well as practical items like batteries, toiletries and even camp chairs. The Gift Shop is set up in the old Mess Hall building directly across from the Pavilion where you will be checking in.

SAYING GOODBYE

When you've finished setting up your camper's bunk, there's no rush to say goodbye, but we do ask that you move outside of the cabin to make room for other families who are beginning the check-in process. You're welcome to visit the Gift Shop or visit with your camper's Staff Members at this time. When you do say your goodbyes, campers will stay at their cabin, where they will hang out outside and play games with friends and Staff Members as other campers continue to arrive.

preparing for camp

FAQ

DO I NEED TO SEND MONEY WITH MY CAMPER TO THEIR SESSION?

No. Campers will not need any money during the session. Canteen and Crafts are covered by your registration fees. Some parents send their campers with money for the Gift Shop, but most will just do their shopping with their parents after check out. Please be careful sending money, as Camp Deer Run cannot be held responsible for any lost cash, checks or cards.

DO I NEED TO SEND OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION WITH MY CAMPER?

No. The Medical Staff on site will have access to most OTC medications. Please only send OTC medications if prescribed by a doctor for regular use.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CHANGE MY ARRIVAL TIME?

If you'd like to request a different arrival time than you are given, please email office@campdeerrun.com and we will find a time that works for you.

CAN I DROP MY CAMPER OFF EARLIER THAN 2:30 PM?

No. There are no checkin times prior to 2:30 pm. If you arrive earlier than 2:30 pm, there will be no one available to check you in, receive your campers medication, help your camper get moved in, or supervise your camper. We will not be able to accommodate any check-ins prior to 2:30 pm.

HOW DO I SEE PHOTOS OF MY CAMPER?

To see photos from your camper's session, download the Camp Deer Run App on your mobile device, or visit www.Bunk1.com on your desktop. Log in using your registration account.

At the end of this document there is a tutorial with screenshots to help you set up face detection in the mobile app. For a complete tutorial on using the Camp Deer Run app, including how to use the photo gallery, bunk notes, and more, please watch our [Mobile App Tutorial Video](#). Click the link or scan the QR code to watch the video now!



during the session

ACTIVITIES

FLAG DEVO

We start every day gathered around the flagpole at the center of Camp with a short, camper-led devotional. Then we send everyone off to their day with a cheer!

GROUP BIBLE

At Group Bible, campers gather with their group for a one-hour Bible lesson given by the Group Leader. It is a special time for campers to grow together, learn from each other and hear relevant messages from Scripture.

CANTEEN

Three times a day, campers get to refuel with a snack and a drink at the Canteen. At Canteen, everyone can relax and enjoy time together. Some Canteens get a special theme, like the Hawaiian Day Luau!

CRAFTS

Campers get to choose from a wide variety of handicrafts to work on during their crafts time. Crafts is all about getting creative!

SWIMMING

Campers get an hour of swim-time every day. Boys and girls swim separately. Campers must pass a swim test (swim the length of the pool unassisted) to swim without a life-jacket. Lifeguards are on duty at all swim times.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Each day has a theme, and each Group Activity revolves around the theme of the day. This is the time for activities like Capture the Flag or the Group Leader chase. Group Activity is the main event!

CABIN BIBLE

Cabin Bible is a 30 minute Bible lesson time led by each Cabin Counselor. At this time, campers have the opportunity to study God's Word with just their cabin-mates, allowing for growth and discussion in a smaller-group setting.

CABIN ACTIVITY

Counselors lead their cabin in any kind of fun outdoor activity like a hike, game, or a trip to the creek. It's a great time for the campers to just have fun with their cabin-mates.

HORSES

Howdy Session campers will enjoy a safe, age-appropriate, low-pressure, horse experience during their session. They'll get to see the horses, help feed them and brush them, and take a short ride with a staff member walking alongside.

during the session

ACTIVITIES

CRATE STACKING

We're excited to introduce a new, super fun, confidence building, low-ropes activity called Crate Stacking! Campers will wear a harness, connected to an auto-belay, and climb a wobbly stack of milk crates as high as they can go!

QUIET TIME

Each afternoon, everyone in Camp stops to spend some quiet time alone with God. It's 15 minutes to slow down, take in the beauty of creation, and just be with God. Quiet Time is a habit that we hope campers will bring home with them.

HYMN TIME

After Quiet Time every day, the entire camp comes together in the Rec Hall to sing praises to God. Many campers and Staff list this as one of their favorite parts of the day at camp. [You can stream of our Hymn Time songs here!](#)

BALL GAMES

While some groups are eating dinner, the other groups go to Ball Games. Campers play a different game each day, rotating between ball games like kickball, volleyball, dodgeball and some CDR Specials like Monkey Ball!

QUICK DIP

After dinner and ball games, everyone gets another 15 minute swim time to cool down one more time after a fun day in the woods.

COOKOUTS

On Wednesday, after Quick Dip, the whole camp splits into groups and hikes into the woods for a cookout. At cookouts, campers will play campfire games, hang out with their friends and roast hotdogs over a campfire.

WORSHIP

On Tuesday night, the whole camp gathers together for worship. Worship here is simple and short, usually only 30 minutes, consisting of a lot of singing and a scriptural message from one of our Summer Staff Members.

NIGHT GAMES

We can't go to bed without one last hoorah, so before Night Devo, campers play one last short game with their group like Freeze Tag.

NIGHT DEVO

We start the day worshiping God, and we end the day the same way. Night Devo is led by the Group Leader as the last activity of every day. Night Devo ends with our Cheukawaka Night Devo song: At Night As I Lay on My Pillow.

during the session

THEME DAYS

Each day at Camp has a theme. Along with each theme comes different group activities, fun costumes, and special traditions. For Howdy Session we've selected two of our most beloved theme days from our one and two-week sessions. Below, you'll find a short description of the theme days and some suggestions about what your camper could pack for that theme day. These suggestions are completely optional.



CAPTURE THE FLAG DAY

Put on your camo and get ready to run, hide, and find the flag! Many campers say that Capture The Flag Day is their favorite day at Camp! During Group Activity, each group plays an epic game of Capture the Flag in the woods. For Howdy Session, we'll use closer boundaries and all campers will be accompanied by at least one staff member at all times to ensure that no one gets lost!

What you could bring: All things camouflage! A long pair of pants is also helpful for avoiding thorns.



KILLI DAY

Killi Day is a celebration of nearly 70 years of tradition at Camp Deer Run. The day will revolve around traditional games that lead up to the main event: the Group Leader chase. Campers will go searching into the woods with their counselors to look for their Group Leader, find where he is hiding, and dunk him into Killi Creek.

What you could bring: Many campers end up in the creek during this activity, so pack extra clothes for Killi Day. Most campers wear their Camp Deer Run shirts and hats on Killi Day!

SAFETY NOTE

Both Group Activities for Howdy Session involve campers roaming through the Big Woods of Camp Deer Run under the supervision of their staff. During our one and two-week sessions, these activities are much more free-range, but for the Howdy Session, boundaries will be kept much closer to Camp and all campers will be closely supervised by staff at all times. Our Staff to camper ratio during Howdy Session is more than double our usual Staff to camper ratio, so campers will be accounted for and supervised at all times.

during the session

COMMUNICATION

One of the most foundational aspects of the Camp Deer Run experience is to be unplugged from the world and insulated from everything else that may be going on in the world so that campers can focus on having fun and experiencing God, pure & simple. But we also know that it's hard not to hear from them or talk to them!

We have two ways for parents to communicate with their campers during a session: traditional mail and BunkNotes (formerly email my camper). Mail will be delivered to campers at afternoon Canteen on Wednesday and Thursday.

MAIL

Campers love getting mail during their session, and a handwritten letter is a great way to send a note to your kids during camp. Please be aware that because Howdy Session is shorter, letters will likely need to be mailed before the session starts. Letters will be delivered on Wednesday and Thursday. Any letters received after Thursday will be returned to sender through USPS, but we cannot guarantee their delivery.

Please address any letters in this format:

Attn: * Camper Name * - * Camper's Cabin *
Camp Deer Run
1227 CR 4590
Winnsboro, TX 75494

Campers can receive letters, cards, and [BunkNotes](#) (see next page) during their camp session. We are unable to deliver packages to campers during Mail Call. **Please do not send anything larger than a 9 x 12 envelope.** Packages sent to campers will be held in the office until checkout.

MAIL DROPOFF

Traditional mail can be unpredictable, so we also allow parents to leave pre-written mail for their campers at check-in. There will be a table at check-in to drop off letters to be delivered to your campers throughout the week. To participate, just bring your letters labeled with your camper's name, cabin, and the day you'd like the letter to be delivered (Wednesday or Thursday). Dropoff letters are subject to the same size guidelines mentioned in the previous section.

during the session

BUNKNOTES

As a convenient alternative to mailing a letter, parents may send campers a BunkNote through the new [Camp Deer Run mobile app](#)! BunkNotes are the equivalent of our “email my camper” option from previous years, but facilitated through our app or the [Bunk1 website](https://www.Bunk1.com/en/i/4020/mybunknotes) (<https://www.Bunk1.com/en/i/4020/mybunknotes>). BunkNotes will be printed at 11:00 a.m on mail days (Wednesday and Thursday). BunkNotes received after 11:00 a.m. will be printed the following mail day. **BunkNotes received after 11:00 am on Thursday will not be delivered.**

Campers will not have access to a device to reply to your messages. Your emails are simply for their enjoyment. If your camper would like to send you correspondence from Camp, they may do so via traditional mail (we do not supply stationery or postage, please bring your own if you wish to send mail from Camp).

Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- **Your registration includes two BunkNote credits per parent, per camper.** This means that each parent can send two BunkNotes to each of your campers over the course of their session. You may purchase more BunkNotes through the app or the Bunk1 website, but during the Howdy Session there are only two mail days, and you will have two credits provided for free, so we do not recommend purchasing additional credits.
- BunkNotes are intended for parent/guardian use only. Grandparents or close relatives may be given access to send Bunk Notes but we cannot guarantee they will get the free credits in their account.
- Please note your camper’s name and cabin number in the subject line of the email.
- One-line messages will not be delivered. Please send meaningful correspondence.
- Send emails that are uplifting, encouraging and beneficial to your child’s experience.
- Please do not send pictures as a part of any emails.

Campers love receiving mail from home during their session, but as with everything at Camp, we want to make sure it adds to their experience, rather than distracting from or harming it. Please follow these guidelines to help us ensure that our Mail Call program remains beneficial and uplifting for your camper!

during the session

CELL PHONE POLICY

CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED AT CAMP DEER RUN.

For years, we have seen the massive benefit that comes with that campers will benefit from spending time away from texting, social media and constant connection. Campers will not have access to any phones during the session. However, please trust that if there is a legitimate need for your camper to call home, we will help them do that. If you have an emergency or urgent message for your camper, please call the Camp Office (903-629-7165). See the bottom of this page for more details about emergency calls.

We require all campers who bring a phone to Camp to turn in their cell phones at check-in for the entirety of the session. Cell phones can be left at home, kept by parents, or checked-in on Check-In Sunday for safekeeping in the Camp Office.

Any cell phones that are found during the session will be taken up and stored in the office. All campers' checked-in cell phones will be stored in the camp office and returned on the final day of the session.

VISITING CAMP

Due to the brevity of the Howdy Session, there will not be any visiting days. In order to give our campers the best experience, it is important to provide an environment that is set apart from their daily routines and free from distractions. We want to give every camper the best opportunity to make the most of their Camp experience, so there will be no visiting days during the shortened Howdy Session.

EMERGENCY CALLS

The Camp Office is open each day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., during which time you may call the Office (903-629-7165). If you have an emergency after the Office closes for the day or no one answers, the answering machine will give you the option to make an emergency call. Follow the instructions given by the answering machine, and your call will be forwarded to the Camp Director. We will respond to your need accordingly. Please use this option for emergencies only.

during the session

CAMP TIME

Camp Deer Run has it's own time zone! We call it "Camp Time." Camp Time is just one hour behind Central Standard Time (aka "World Time"). At the beginning of every session, we set our watches back one hour to Camp Time so that we gain "an extra hour of camp" and also achieve an even further degree of separation from the outside world. We know that can be a little confusing, but don't worry. For simplicity, **all times and schedules listed online or on Camp Deer Run documents will be in Central Standard Time.**

LEAVING CAMP EARLY

If your camper needs to leave Camp for any reason during the session, please [contact the office](#) in advance so we can have your camper ready for your arrival. You will need to sign out at the office and leave information about your return time. Please sign in at the office when you return. If your camper will not be returning, please let us know so that your camper may have all of their belongings packed and ready to go home. As stated previously, only a camper's parent or Authorized Pickup may sign a camper out.

FAQ

Why isn't my camper with their cabin buddy?

We do everything in our power to keep cabin buddies together. Generally, we place cabin buddies together if they have each requested each other and if they are within one year of each other in age. We cannot guarantee cabin buddies will be placed together if these guidelines are not met.

What if I need to change my check-in time?

If you need to change your check-in time, just email us at office@campdeerrun.com.

What if I'm not going to be the one picking up my camper?

You can always update authorized pickups or emergency contacts through your [parent dashboard](#). If you're having trouble with that, please feel free to call us at the Camp Office or send an email to office@campdeerrun.com.

camper safety

OUR COMMITMENT

It is a humbling privilege and responsibility to be entrusted with the care of your children each summer. While we pray that no disaster will ever come to Camp Deer Run, Scriptures like Proverbs 6:6-8, Proverbs 22:3, and Luke 14:28-30 make it clear that our faith does not excuse us from diligent planning and preparation, but requires it. We commit to do so for as long as Camp Deer Run remains in operation.

2026 SAFETY UPDATES

Following the tragic flooding in Central Texas in 2025 that took the lives of several children who were away at summer camp, the state legislature passed new laws to increase safety standards at youth camps in Texas. We are proud of the improvements we have made in this process and grateful for the opportunity to make Camp Deer Run a safer place for all.

We've listed the most significant new requirements and how we've addressed them below.

FLOODPLAIN BUILDINGS — Strong restrictions have been placed on buildings that are located in a FEMA-designated floodplain or within 1000ft of a designated floodway. A small portion of our property is within a designated floodplain, but none of our buildings are in that area. There are no floodways on Camp property.

Camp Deer Run is at extremely low risk of any flooding emergencies. Regardless, our staff monitors weather reports for potential risks, and we have thorough emergency action and evacuation plans in the very unlikely event of a major flood at Camp. Our Staff is fully trained to execute these plans, and campers will also receive a safety orientation on these plans at the beginning of each session.

The state of Texas requires all Youth Camps to disclose to parents and guardians the existence of any floodplain located on or adjacent to camp property. All parents will be required to affirm that they have read and acknowledged this disclosure in their registration account before their camper's session. Camp Deer Run's Emergency Action Plans, including a more detailed floodplain map, are also available to parents in their registration dashboard, on the Camp Deer Run app, and in their Bunk1 account.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM — Every camp must have a public address system to announce emergencies and activate emergency action plans. We completed the installation of our PA system in April.

FIBER-OPTIC INTERNET — Camps are required to have a fiber-optic internet connection. CDR has been connected to fiber-optic internet for a few years now, so no changes were needed.

BACKUP INTERNET SOURCE — In addition to fiber-optic internet service, camps must have a backup internet connection. We acquired this service via Starlink satellite internet.

EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS (EAPS) — Camp Deer Run already had EAPs in place, but the new legislation included major changes to EAP requirements. We have revised and updated all of our EAPs, and they were approved in April, 2026. These plans are thorough and comprehensive, and they are available to parents in their [registration dashboard](#), on the [Camp Deer Run app](#), and in their [Bunk1 account](#).

camper safety

STORM

We work hard to ensure that Camp Deer Run is a safe place, physically and spiritually. There are plenty of storms in the world, and we want to be a shelter from those storms. We train our Staff and instruct our campers based on a simple acronym: STORM. STORM stands for Stop Bullying; Touch, Talk, Territory; Obvious Safety Risks; Rule of Three; Modesty. With cooperation from campers and Staff, we can prevent a STORM at Camp Deer Run.

STOP BULLYING

Bullying is any intentional hurtful act committed by one or more persons against another. The main types of bullying include physical (punching, hitting, shoving), verbal (name calling, hurtful teasing, taunting) and relational (exclusion, humiliation, blackmailing). **No form of bullying will be tolerated at Camp Deer Run.**

Bullying is generally a pattern of behavior rather than a single event. Staff are trained to be aware of these behaviors and to intervene immediately. If bullying continues after intervention, parents will be notified and appropriate measures will be taken to rectify the issue.

TOUCH, TALK, TERRITORY

Campers and Staff must abide by boundaries in touch, talk and territory - that is, their physical interactions, their verbal interactions and where they go.

Touch

There are appropriate and inappropriate physical interactions among campers and Staff. For the safety of all, campers will be instructed on what types of physical interaction are appropriate and inappropriate at Camp. All Staff have been trained on these guidelines.

Some examples of appropriate touch are high fives, quick side hugs or putting arms around shoulders. Examples of inappropriate touch include sitting in laps, hand holding, kissing and of course, any touching in areas that would be covered by a bathing suit, etc.

Talk

Campers and Staff will refrain from speaking with vulgar language, hateful speech, racial epithets, curse words, by-words and any type of sexual references. Instead, campers and Staff should speak with positive words of encouragement that build others up. As Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt."

Territory

The living areas of the campground are separated into a boys' side of camp and a girls' side of camp. It is not appropriate for Staff or campers to be on the opposite gender's side of camp. If there is a legitimate need for going across camp, it is necessary to be accompanied by a Staff member of that gender.

It is not appropriate for campers to visit Staff-only living quarters for any reason. Staff will not allow or invite campers into Staff-only living areas.

Maintaining touch, talk and territory boundaries is a vital part of keeping our campers and Staff members safe.

OBVIOUS SAFETY RISKS

Staff are trained to be alert at all times for common sense safety risks. Campers can sometimes get carried away horseplaying or creating silly games that are not always safe, like swordfighting with sticks or swinging each other around in hammocks. Staff are always looking for obvious safety risks such as these and are trained to intervene.

camper safety

STORM

RULE OF THREE

To avoid one-on-one situations, we use the Rule of Three. Simply put, there should be three people together, not two and not one. Campers generally do not need to go alone, and they don't need to go in pairs. It is always safest for campers and Staff to be in groups of at least three. Of course, in supervised situations, campers may go alone to the restroom or to do other quick, simple tasks.

One-on-Ones

It is not appropriate for a Staff member to be completely alone with any camper for any reason. Staff members are trained to recognize and avoid these moments by moving into the open where they are in plain sight of other campers and Staff. If there is a need for one-on-one counseling, it must happen out in the open (in plain sight), not inside or behind a building. This is for the protection of both the campers and Staff.

MODESTY

Dress Code

We all have to get dressed, and we want to dress in a way that mirrors God's design and not that of the outside world. With that in mind, please bring clothes that are suitable to run and play in the woods and that "glorify God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6:20

The following guidelines apply to campers and Staff:

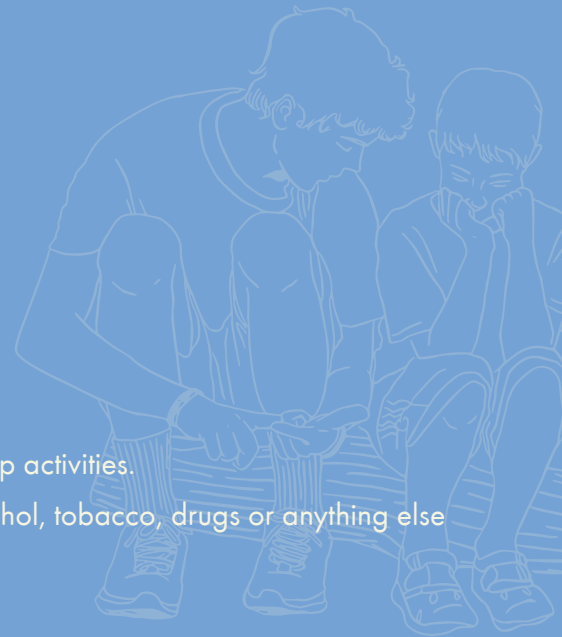
- Tight or form-fitting attire should not be worn.
- Shorts are allowed, but must have at least a 5 inch inseam.
- Loose fitting T-shirts are ideal.
- Sleeveless shirts that are neatly and closely cut under the arm are permitted.
- Tank tops are not permitted.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Flip Flops and sandals are permitted only to the pool and bathhouse.
- Crocs and other slip-ons can be worn but are not allowed during active camp activities.
- Logos or designs on attire may not include vulgar language or promote alcohol, tobacco, drugs or anything else that does not uphold the values of the Camp.

Changing and Nudity

During changing times, everyone's privacy will be respected, and no one should call attention to themselves or others while naked or changing. Campers may change discreetly in the cabin, or they may go to the bathhouse to change if they are more comfortable with that option. Regardless, campers will never be made to feel uncomfortable about where or how they change clothes. When changing clothes in the cabin, Staff will always change discreetly and with an effort not to be exposed to the campers. Staff will also immediately redirect campers who may try to be silly or playful while they or others are changing clothes.

There are no acceptable activities that occur in the nude at Camp Deer Run. Sometimes young people may find it funny to do certain activities naked, like swimming, but this is **never** acceptable at Camp Deer Run. Staff are instructed to avoid and immediately intervene in any kind of nude activities.

There are no nude activities at Camp Deer Run.



after the session

DEPARTURE

All good things must come to an end, and sadly, Camp is no exception. We hope that as your camper heads home, they're filled to the brim with fun memories, impactful lessons, and the fire of the Holy Spirit to lead them on in their faith journey. As the session comes to a close, here is everything you'll need to know about checking out, getting home, and staying connected with Camp Deer Run.

AUTHORIZED PICKUPS

During camper registration, you filled out an Authorized Pickups Form. The individuals you listed on this form are the only people other than parents who will be authorized to check out your camper.

Under NO circumstances shall any other person be permitted to do so.

Parents can update the Authorized Pickups form at any time before or during the camp session by emailing the camp office or accessing the form through the [online parent dashboard](#). If you need to update authorized pickups, please do so by 4 pm on Thursday of your session. Before your camper may be picked up by any authorized person, they will be required to show their driver's license to Staff. We understand that plans do change, and we're happy to work with you if anything unexpected comes up, but we will always prioritize camper safety.

CHECK-OUT

You will be greeted by members of our Summer Staff and directed to park your car on Cheuk Ballfield. At your designated time, please follow the signs to the Check-Out table at the Mess Hall to go through a quick Check-Out process. **You must have your driver's license or another form of government ID to check-out your camper.** We check IDs to ensure that the adult picking up each camper is on their Authorized Pickup list. We will return medications at this time too.

Campers will be waiting in a designated area with their group. Campers will be brought to the check-out table area at their assigned pick-up time so they will be ready when you arrive. After check-out, if you would like to meet and visit with your camper's friends, counselors or Group Leader, please do. There is no rush, and we encourage parents to take some time to stay and visit.

GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop will be open throughout Check-Out Friday. Campers will not be able to visit the Gift Shop before their parent arrives. The Gift Shop is located in the building directly across from the Pavilion. Our Gift Shop accepts cash, cards, and mobile payments like Apple Pay or Google Pay.

after the session

LUGGAGE

Campers will have their belongings packed up and ready to go. If your camper is a Cheukawaka or Wenachee, their luggage will be in the Pavilion. If they are a Tawaka, Nashamie or Hoche, their luggage will be with them at their designated waiting area. Summer Staff will be ready and waiting to help carry your camper's belongings to your car.

LOST AND FOUND

All lost and found will be located in the pavilion. Ask any Staff Member for help locating the lost and found. All lost and found items will be kept for 3 weeks after your session. At that time, unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity. Please contact office@campdeerrun.com for lost and found inquiries.

PHOTOS AND FEEDBACK

Shortly after your the session is over, an email will be sent to the email address provided at registration that will have a link to both a photo album and a feedback survey.

The photo link will contain every picture taken during the session - just a heads up, there are a ton! With our new [mobile app](#), it's easier to find your camper's photos when you use the facial recognition feature. [Click here for a mobile app tutorial to learn how!](#) If you prefer to look through them all the old-fashioned way, they'll be available to you through the app or Bunk1 link!

The survey link will take you to a short feedback survey. You will have the option to keep the survey anonymous or to share your contact information if you'd like us to follow up with you about your feedback. It is a short survey, but your participation is incredibly valuable to us in working to make Camp Deer Run the best experience possible. We thank you in advance for your help.

STAY CONNECTED

Your Camp experience doesn't have to end when you leave! There are several ways that you can keep connected with Camp Deer Run after you session. You are always welcome to come back and visit at any of our Middle Sundays. We also have a few ways to stay in touch virtually as well!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Camp Deer Run is active on social media posting photos, videos, announcements, and more! Follow us at @CampDeerRun on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay engaged!

HYMN TIME

We are excited to share that Camp Deer Run Hymn Time is now streaming on Spotify, Apple Music, and other major streaming services! [Click here to listen now!](#)

after the session

STAY CONNECTED

MOBILE APP

The Camp Deer Run app is for more than just the summer! Throughout the year, you can use it to see retreat and event photos, but also to receive updates, news, and resources to help your camper and your family continue the spiritual growth that began during their session! We'll be posting on the app throughout the school year, so don't forget to sign up for text alerts, keep your notifications turned on, and stay tuned!

THE RAFTERS PROJECT

The very best way to stay connected with Camp Deer Run is to join our monthly donor group, [The Rafter's Project](#). The Rafter's Project is a group of people who love the mission of Camp Deer Run and want to see God's work continue here. They ensure that the legacy of experiencing God at Camp Deer Run will continue for many generations to come and that, just as your camper did this week, thousands of campers to come will continue to paint their name in our beloved Rec Hall rafters.

[Click here to find out more](#), or scan the QR Code. If your family had a great experience at Camp, we ask that you prayerfully consider joining us and continuing God's story at Camp Deer Run!

Join the Club!



FAQ

WHAT IF I NEED TO CHANGE MY CHECK OUT TIME?

If you need to change your check-out time, just email us at office@campdeerrun.com.

HOW DO I UPDATE AUTHORIZED PICKUPS OR EMERGENCY CONTACTS?

You can always update authorized pickups or emergency contacts through your [parent dashboard](#). If you're having trouble with that, please feel free to [contact us](#).

WHAT IF MY CAMPER LEAVES SOMETHING BEHIND?

We are happy to help you find lost belongings. We will gather all lost and found and the end of each session and keep it together for 3 weeks after the end of your session. Please call us or email us at office@campdeerrun.com, and we will be glad to assist you.

WHERE DO I FIND PHOTOS FROM THE SESSION?

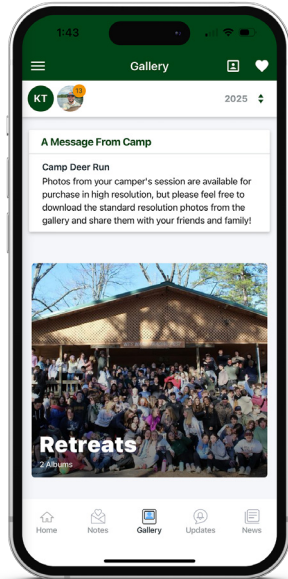
We will email all parents with a link to all the photos from their camper's session. If you do not receive the email, all photos can be found on the [Camp Deer Run app](#) or [Bunk1 website](#).

mobile app

FACE MATCHING SETUP

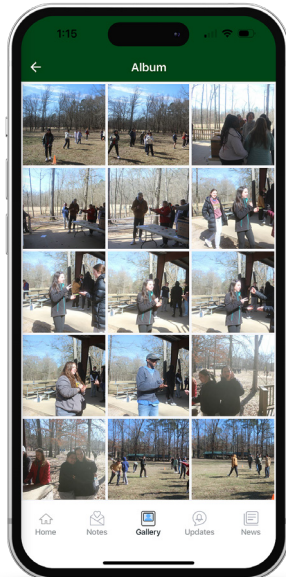
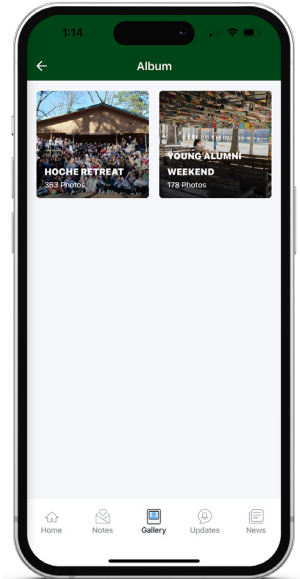
Photo Tutorial:

After logging in to your app, tap the Gallery tab at the bottom center of the screen to get started.



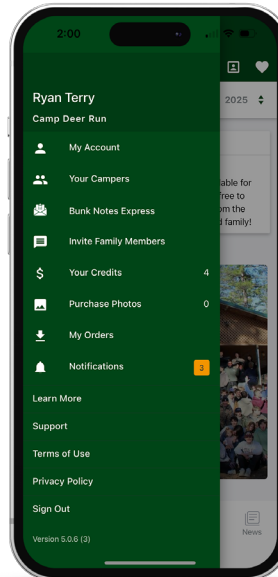
Select Album:

Photos will be sorted into Retreat or Summer Camp photos. Select the category, and then choose the album (sorted by session) that you want to see.



View Full Album:

You will now see the full gallery of photos from the album you selected. This will contain all of the photos from the session, not just your specific camper's photos.

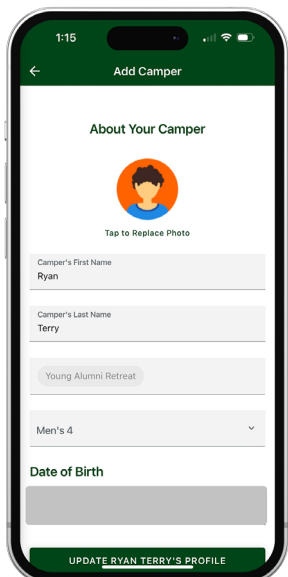


Face Matching:

To enable face matching, tap the menu icon (in the top left corner). Select "Your Campers." From there, choose the camper whose photo you're uploading.

Upload Photo:

Tap the photo icon to upload a picture of your camper. You will have the option to choose a photo from your phone or take a new picture. Make sure the picture clearly shows the camper's face and no one else's.



Select Album:

Allow a few minutes for the system to start tagging photos. You'll receive a notification if your camper is tagged. Just tap the photo icon at the top right corner of the Gallery page to see your tagged photos!

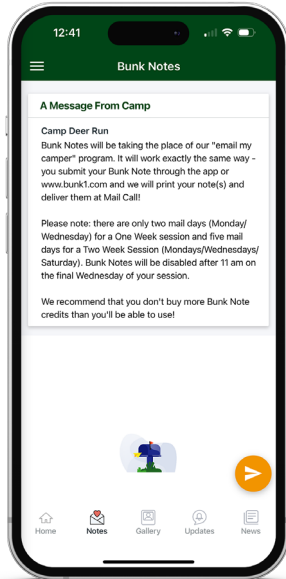


mobile app

SENDING BUNK NOTES

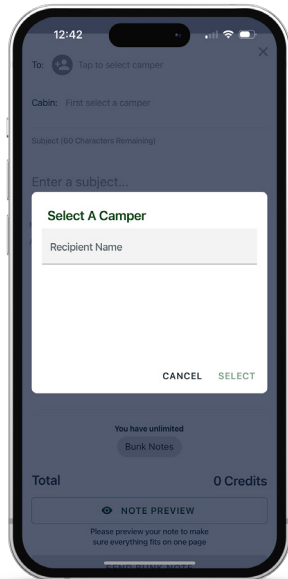
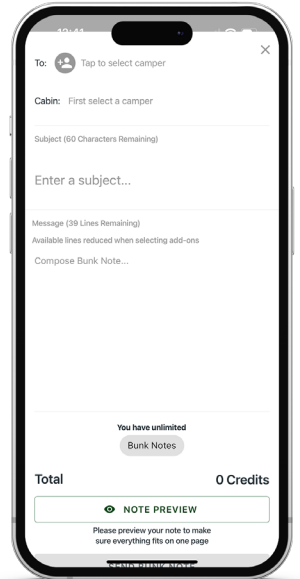
Bunk Notes:

After logging in to your app, tap the “Notes” tab on the bottom of the screen. To get started on your Bunk Note, just click the orange button in the bottom right corner of the screen.



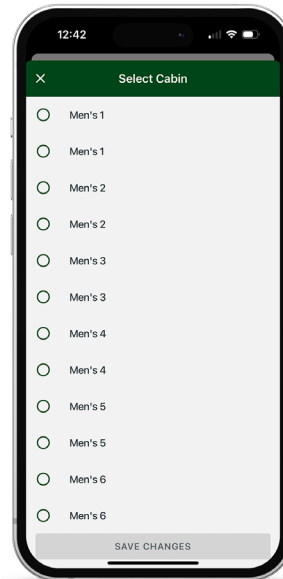
Start Your Note:

This is where you'll put in your camper's information and write your note. First, tap the top line that says “tap to select camper.”



Select Your Camper:

Type your camper's full name and then tap submit.

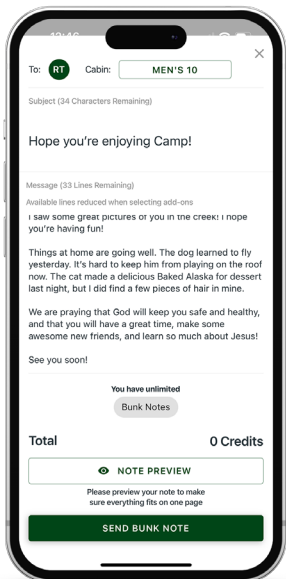


Select Your Cabin:

Next, select your camper's cabin from the list. This step is necessary so that we can sort and deliver your BunkNote!

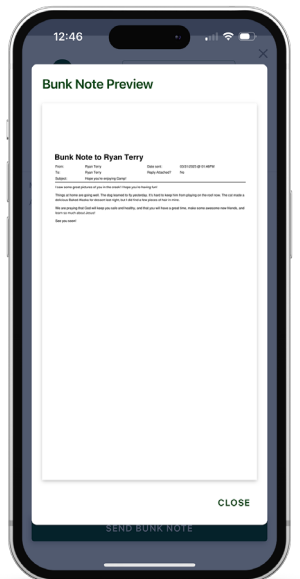
Write Your Note:

Time to craft your masterpiece! Write your note and be sure to keep it meaningful, encouraging, and appropriate! Notes are screened by our office staff for inappropriate or abusive content before they are delivered.



Preview & Send:

Once you've finished your note, you can select the “Note Preview” option to see how it will print when it's delivered. When you're done, you can close that screen and select “Send Bunk Note” and it'll be on it's way!



WE'LL SEE YOU IN THE PINES!



WWW.CAMPDEERRUN.COM