

Southern California District Children's Camp 2010

Karisa May - Director
Debbie Crittenden – Assistant Director

Staff Orientation Handbook

Please take the time to read this entire document and send a confirmation of completion to me at SCDchildrencamp@gmail.com.

You will be invited to a staff orientation prior to camp in order to help lower the expenses of holding an on-site Sunday meeting. Registration begins at 10 am on Monday.

All staff should be at camp by 9am for staff meeting in cabin 45, upper campground.

Any questions about camp, please call me at 760-729-0231 x 220 or email me at the above address.

A word about cell phones

Cellular phones cause grief at camp for a variety of reasons:

- First is their ability to interrupt anything sacred
- Second is their ability to stress our kids who may have never been away from home before. Phones CREATE home-sickness!
- Third is their ability to distract their owners from the task they are assigned, which is to be at camp for the whole week.

What I am about to say about cell phones is serious and I expect it to be done while you are at camp. We have a week, away from the world; away from families and the good things that it represents and the difficult things that it represents. I would like to keep the world off the mountain for our week together.

What that means is I don't want you using your cellular phone.

Leave your cellular phone at home, or in your car, or in my care. That is my preference. But, if you are over 21 and feel that you must have it, there are rules that go with its usage at camp:

These are the rules:

1. They must remain on silent and out of sight at all times!
2. Emergency Calls may be made from Emerson Hall only.
3. Your campers are not allowed to use them for anything period. No calls, no pictures, no texting. They are for your use alone.
4. Your use of your phone is very limited. Your reason for being at camp is to minister to these campers, not text your friends, or whatever else you do with your phone. During the day usage, when you are with your campers is prohibited.
5. Phones used as morning alarms should be REPLACED by standard alarm clocks. This use makes them a visible reminder of home and is highly destructive!

Your reason for being at camp is to minister to these campers. Any attention to a phone inhibits your effective ministry. Therefore, please abide by all the rules. Any questions, ask before camp.

COUNSELOR/ASSISTANT COVENANT

From: Karisa May – Director

This is my first year as Children’s Camp Director. I want to communicate through this covenant my love for Jesus Christ, my appreciation to you, and my desire that each child that comes to camp to know Jesus Christ in His fullness.

Let me begin by stating that I am grateful for your commitment to camp. I know that many of you take time off to be here and I am extremely thankful. Since we are all on the same team together let me help you with the idea of a covenant. A covenant in Scripture is a powerful ideal between people and God. It is not merely a contract but much more. It is a spiritual agreement. I use this word because I believe in the importance of our calling this week. I believe eternity is at stake here and we are to be serious about loving kids, loving each other, and loving God. Here are some of the things that I want us to covenant with God to do together.

Counselors/Assistants – By agreement with the camp, campers are to have adult supervision twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, there is no exception to this rule. You need to know where they are and what they are doing, as reasonably as possible. The biggest concern we have is their safety and well-being. These children come to us innocent, let’s send them home innocent. As counselors you have the biggest and hardest task here, you are the direct interaction with our campers and you can make or break their week at camp. Make it your responsibility to be the very best counselor these kids have ever had, be involved in their lives.

The Schedule –To every great week there is a plan. For our week to work I create a “schedule” of activities and events that I would like for you and your campers to participate in. When you arrive at camp, I will provide you with a schedule and tell you what group you are connected to.

When you find out what group you are in, be mindful of where you are supposed to be and what time you are supposed to be there. Try not to be late, or overly delayed. Remember that an adult is to be with your campers at all times. Breaks can be taken at different times of the day when there is a responsible adult to cover for you, you can have security, other counselors cover for you, many take a break when the kids are in the pool.

The executive staff is here for you as well as for the kids, please utilize them, they are awesome and loving people.

Purpose – We have a purpose here. The purpose is first Jesus and the second is our ministry to these kids that Jesus has entrusted us with for one week. That’s all we get here in the mountains. I am inflexible in achieving this purpose, introducing children to Jesus at camp, helping them to see their connection to the body of Christ and encouraging them to live a life pleasing to Jesus when they go down the hill. That is a tall order for one week, but it is our purpose. To that end, I expect staff to be Christ-like and to be mindful of our purpose.

My covenant with you is this: I will be praying for you each day. What you do is important. I can organize and lead the camp, but I cannot do what you do every day with all of these wonderful kids. We are deliberate in what we do and we have laid a good foundation for this camp. Let’s have fun at camp and lead our children to Christ.

Core Values of Children's Camp

1. We believe that every child should be loved.
Children's camp is meant to be an environment of compassion and caring. Many of our children have never had someone love them like Christ loves. It is our opportunity to be that to our campers.
2. We believe that every staff person must be someone of godly character.
We have just a few hours to make an impression of a lifetime on children who come to camp. We are Christian in name, Nazarene in belief. We believe in holiness of heart and holiness in lifestyle, where modesty is more important than cute, respect more important than fun. Children don't need us to be popular; they need us to live Christ through our example.
3. We believe that during camp our focus is on Christ and on the children.
Staff is invited to camp with the expectation that they are not there for themselves but for the children. We will be involved as they are involved. We will honor as we expect the children to honor. We will allow God to work in our lives as He works in theirs.

Mission Statement:

For the week we are with the children from around our District:

To glorify God by presenting Christ to children through our love, our lives, and our words, and to invite every child to love Christ with all their heart, soul, body and mind.

How to be a great counselor

***New this year**

Here are a few guidelines to help you be a great counselor for the week.

1. ***Attend the regional training meeting** in your area.
2. ***Prepare a bring a “cabin box”** containing most or all of the following: Frisbee, jump rope, poster board, construction paper, masking tape, markers, safety scissors, clothes pins, laundry line, nerf balls, soft “water balls,” thematic décor, art supplies, toys, etc. (No water guns or canons), flashlight, first aid kit, sunscreen, bug spray, group bandana or identifying marker. Be creative here!
3. ***Be at counselor meeting 9 am on Monday**. Then, be in your cabin to greet each camper at 10am Monday. After greeting your campers, lead them in doing something fun together.
4. Be responsible for the overall emotional and spiritual well being, as well as the discipline of your cabin on the first day. Be sensitive to their needs, and remember you are the adult.
5. Learn the campers’ names before dinner the first evening. Encourage the kids to get acquainted with each other. Name games are helpful.
6. Explain to your kids how camp works, showers, meals, pool, and chapel are some of the things to cover. The rules are fairly easy: 1. ***Nothing scary, nothing mean**. 2. Campers must be under the supervision of an adult at all times. 3. Campers may not leave the campground for any reason. 4. No electronics, period.
7. Be careful how you “control” the campers. You may not use physical punishment at all, nor are you to be embarrassing any camper for punishment purposes. Be consistent and patient. Be Christ-like in your attitude and words. If you find you have a camper that needs some individual care, please contact any member of staff and we will step in and walk alongside you.
8. Come to camp as prepared as possible to have fun for the week. The title of our camp this week is **Mission Is-Possible**. I encourage you to have as many “**sacred agent**” things as possible for your cabin to decorate, dress-up with or to have fun with.
9. **HYDRATION is KEY**. **Beginning Monday at 10am, insist that your campers drink water at 15-30 minute intervals**. Idyllwild is high and hot. Heat illness comes quickly.
10. **Restroom note: Plan and stop at facilities PRIOR to Chapel**. Campers should not leave during chapel for any reason. Help them to be successful in this, and be sensitive to real needs. To dissuade abuse of exceptions, campers who **MUST** leave chapel, must see the Dean or Director before stepping away.

CAMP REGISTRAR INFORMATION

Personal Money

- a. The large envelope you will receive, marked with your cabin number, is your cabin's money packet and contains 10 to 11 envelopes to be used for your campers' monies. As your assigned campers arrive at your cabin on Monday, ask for all of their money. Explain that this is so their money will not be lost or stolen. Let them see you put their money in separate envelopes and put their names and the amount on the outside. The money packet with the envelopes is then to be given to the Camp Registrar, for safekeeping. **Counselors please put the entire amount in the envelope and please do not make change. Mark the envelope and the registrar will take care of it.**
- b. Money packets are available at snack time, Camp Security monitors the envelopes and brings them back to the snack bar each day. Your campers will have access to their money at the snack bar daily.
- c. On Friday morning at breakfast, pick up your cabin's money packet from the Camp Registrar and return to the camper any money remaining.

II. Camp Picture

- a. The camp picture will be taken in the Rock Bowl on Monday. See the camp schedule for time.
- b. You are to indicate on your camper's picture envelope if you want a camp picture. Campers must pay for their pictures. The name of each camper who has paid for pictures must be written on the outside of the envelope. Yours is free, please let us know if you want one; there is no cost to you.
- c. Pictures are distributed as soon as we receive them.

III. Cabin Assignments

- a. Make sure that all of your assigned campers have reported and that the information on your cabin list is correct. Contact the Camp Registrar immediately if there is a problem.
- b. Campers are not allowed to change from their assigned cabins without the approval of the Director, Assistant Director and Camp Registrar.

IV. Stamps – Can be purchased from the Camp Registrar.

V. Medicines – Campers and staff are not allowed to have medicines with them. All medicines are to be given to the Camp Nurse upon arrival with names and instructions for use.

VI. Cell Phones – Please NO cell phones at camp.

VII. Places where things are expected to happen -

- Crafts – Craft building
- Chapel – Gilboa Hall
- Sports – Meadow TBA
- Archery – Meadow below pool
- Funtime – Rock bowl
- Snacks – Administration building main campground.

We will provide some snacks for staff in Emerson lodge throughout the week. Emerson Lodge is central to all staff support.

DINING HALL PROCEDURES

- A. Each camper is issued a wristband for the meals throughout the week. Campers are to have their wristbands on at all times and they are checked at the door of the dining hall.
- B. Before each meal, campers will wait outside the dining hall until the doors are opened. Middler campers line up at the middle door. Preteen campers line up at the west door (closest to the fire bowl). When the doors open, campers walk in and sit at their tables with their counselors.
- C. Cabin assistants are to sit with their cabins and counselors during meal times. Each cabin will have an assigned table.
- D. All other assistants are to be available to help by being spread out throughout the dining hall. Help counselors and cabin assistants by pouring beverages and getting campers situated. In other words, everyone works together to make mealtimes work.
- E. Each mealtime, we will switch which camp is asked to get their food first. Monday's lunch will begin with the Middler camp. This seemed to be the quickest and fairest way to serve food.
- F. The Cabin Counselor will get food for their table for the first round. After that, Counselors may select campers to get refills for their cabin's table.
- G. When campers are finished eating, each table is responsible for their cleanup per the kitchen staff's instruction. After the table is cleared and campers are seated, Camp Security or Executive Staff will dismiss tables.
- H. Please direct any and all questions or concerns about the dining hall and food to our Kitchen Liaison, Karisa or Debbie and not the dining hall employees.

Medical

- A. All medical supplies and medicines are handled by the Camp Nurse. All campers' medicines will be dispensed by the Camp Nurse.
- B. All medical decisions will be made by the Camp Nurse, please contact her with any concerns and questions.

Camp Mail

Mail will be distributed to cabin groups at Funtime – during the beginning of it; be on time.

Lost and Found

Please turn all lost-and-found items in to the Nurse's station in each camp. They will be picked up and placed outside of the cafeteria for pickup.

Runs to Town

There will be periodic runs to town. If anything is needed, we will obtain it for you. You are not supposed to leave the campus. Please stay on the campground all week. It is important for the safety of our camp that you allow someone else to run errands for you. Please contact any of the camp executive staff if you need something.

FRIDAY MORNING CHECK-OUT

Please set your rise and shine time to assure your cabin time to complete the following:

7:15 AM Rise and Shine

Pack & Clean out your cabin and shower area completely!
(Sweep & empty cabin trash cans into large trash cans outside)
Pick up all trash in the immediate area.

All luggage and “stuff” stacked OUTSIDE your cabin during initial cleaning.
Girls’ luggage in Gilboa Camp will be loaded on a vehicle and hauled up to the main camp to be sorted with other luggage from same church.
All other luggage will be taken by the campers from their cabin to the basketball court main camp to be sorted by church for pickup.
(Please try to group luggage according to the church)

After luggage is moved, take your cabin to your assigned areas and clean assigned campground area of all paper scraps.

Middler Boys – From the parking lot in the main camp, the basketball court, in front and back of the middler boy cabins, around the nurses station to the just past the dinning hall.

Middler Girls – All around the middler girl cabins to the garden in front of the dining hall. From the dining hall to front of McNeil hall.

Preteen Boys – All around the preteen boys cabins, playground, and archery range.

Preteen Girls- All around the preteen girls cabins, craft building, Gilboa Hall, swimming pool area, Emerson lodge to McNeil Hall.

9:00 AM Breakfast.

After breakfast, campers and staff will be directed to any areas that need to have additional attention.

10:00 AM Camp Closing at the Rock Bowl.

10:30 AM Campers will be released from the Rock Bowl when their transportation arrives. Counselors should stay with their campers until the last one is picked up.