



The Prepared Camper

Getting My Camper Ready

Thank you for trusting us with your child. We are looking forward to having them at camp!

What to Send? Please work with your child so they will know what is packed. We recommend sending older clothing, comfortable shoes, and other items that are replaceable if they get lost or ruined. Talk with your child about how to manage their belongings in a shared living environment. *A recommended packing list can be found at the end of this document.*

All clothing should be modest. No short shorts/skirts/tight apparel, exposure of underclothing, or two piece/immodest one-piece swim suits/trunks. A covering/shirt must be worn to and from the pool over swim-gear. For safety reasons, footwear is required except at designated times.

What Not to Send? Please see the packing list at the end of this document for a list of what not to bring.

What About Money for Missions?

Most camp sessions will hear daily from our missionary in residence. Campers are encouraged (if possible) to bring cash to give during missions to help support their work.

What About Money for Canteen/Camp Store? Most camp sessions have a daily canteen time where they can buy one food and one drink item; the majority of items are \$2 or less each. Please bring \$1 bills if at all possible. Camp store will be open at check-in and check-out, we accept cash or card.

What to Expect at THE ARK?

Food: We will have assigned eating times and areas for each camp session. 3 meals a day will be served.

Food Allergies: If your student has a food allergy, it is your responsibility to contact THE ARK Kitchen Staff no later than two weeks prior to the camp start date. We cannot accommodate all allergies. We can provide a menu for the days your student will be onsite. It is possible you will need to supplement menu items for your student.

Sickness: Our policy is to isolate and send campers home who have a temp over 100 degrees Fahrenheit or who are vomiting. If a camper is showing signs of illness, they will be brought to a camp student nurse and screened. Parents will be contacted if pick-up is necessary.

Homesickness: Occasionally, campers have a hard time being away from home. Generally speaking, it is our policy that campers are not allowed to use the phone. It is best *not* to focus on homesickness in your discussions beforehand. If a child becomes homesick, the faculty and staff/interns will work with them to help get them through their homesickness. If that's not possible, a faculty or staff member will notify a parent/guardian.

Bathing/Hygiene/Cleaning: Campers are encouraged to change their clothes, brush their teeth, and keep reasonably clean each day. Campers are asked to keep their living, eating, and playing spaces picked up.

Behavior: Courtesy, listening, respect, good manners and a cooperative attitude are expected of all campers. Everyone must stay on the grounds and abide by the schedule unless excused by the dean. **For overnight camps, we strongly discourage campers from leaving for ballgames and activities.** The possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs is prohibited. No food or drink (other than water) is permitted in the cabins/sleeping areas. Physical violence, hazing, and fighting are not permitted. Campers are expected to respect each other and be good stewards of the property.

Pictures: Pictures will be available online through www.thearkcm.org. The link can be found at the top of the home page: click on Summer Camps, then Summer Camp Photos. These will not be available until AFTER your child's session is over. In an effort to protect our campers, we will only post pictures after the session has ended.

Faith Decisions: If your child expresses a desire to accept Jesus and to be baptized, the dean will call you to discuss the decision. Baptisms typically occur on the last day of camp. It is THE ARK's policy that children under the age of 18 must have at least one parent's/guardian's permission to be baptized at THE ARK. Specific information about baptisms and times TBD.

What To Do Before Arriving?

⇒ 7 days before arriving please ensure in our online registration system that:

- ⇒ All payments are made (A \$25 late fee will be added if not paid ahead)
- ⇒ All forms/release waivers are signed
- ⇒ Any prescription medication and dosages are up to date
- ⇒ The list of approved over the counter medications for your student is accurate. *(Unless it's uncommon, please do not bring over the counter medicines. THE ARK has an ample supplies of OTC medications.)*

- ⇒ Make sure that campers have what is on the packing list.
- ⇒ Please bring any medication in the original bottle/ packaging and make sure your child's name is on it.

What To Do When We Get There?

- ⇒ Check-in will be inside the Conference Center. **Most** sessions will check in at 5pm.
- ⇒ Leave luggage in the vehicle until fully signed in.
- ⇒ Bring medications in with you to check-in.
- ⇒ **Note Writing Station:** Before and after Check-in, the Note-Writing station will be available in the Conference Center by the Welcome Desk to write notes and schedule their delivery during your camper's stay. Fold your message and label it with your camper's name, the program name (Extremes, Jungle Huts, etc.), and the cabin number if applicable. Place it in the correct box and we will deliver it accordingly. (Note: We don't deliver mail on the last day of camp sessions.)

Free Summer Theme T-Shirt

If you register your camper ONLINE by April 30th, he/she will receive a free t-shirt sometime during their camp session.

While Your Camper is Gone

Send Mail: Campers love to get mail! Email is available online through www.thearkcm.org. The link can be found at the top of the home page under summer camps/camper email.

Pray: There is one very powerful thing that you can do for your child while they are gone – **pray!** Pray for your child's spiritual development and health while they are away. Pray for THE ARK staff and faculty.

When Do I Pick Them Up?

Most camp sessions will check-out at 4:30 at the Conference Center on the final day of camp. There are a few exceptions to this. Please check the website at www.thearkcm.org for those times.

What Should I Expect After Camp

Your child will be tired after you pick him/her up. Going home is a sudden change of pace. Campers are also leaving behind friends. Don't be offended if your child isn't as happy to see you as you are to see him/her. When your child is ready to talk about the experience, listen closely and ask open-ended questions to encourage your child to share. For example, you can ask your child to tell you about his/her favorite activity, favorite person, and what his/her most difficult time was.

How Can I Encourage Growth?

Whether your child made a decision to follow Christ while at THE ARK or not, your child needs to continue a growing process once at home. We encourage you to pray for and with your child. Help them find devotional material and teach them how to study the Bible so they can have a daily time with God. If your child isn't already connected with a local church, take this opportunity to find a church the whole family can attend. If there is any way THE ARK can help, please let us know.

How Do We Get There?

THE ARK Christian Ministries is located at

3522 N 1000 W 27, Converse, IN 46919

phone: (765) 395-3638 • fax: (765) 395-3819

From the Wabash Area and North:

Drive south on SR 13. Turn right on 400 N and go 2 miles. Turn left on County Line Road (1000 W/1100 E). THE ARK is located .5 mile on the left.

From the Indianapolis Area and South:

Take I-69 to SR 18 West. Travel through Marion to Oak Hill School. Turn right onto SR 13. Turn left at 300 N and go 2 miles to the T. Turn right on County Line Road 1000. THE ARK is located .5 miles on the right.

From the Kokomo Area and West:

Take US 31 to Hwy 35/22 and travel east through Greentown. Turn left onto 1350 E (Old 513) and travel to SR 18 East. At SR 18, turn right and go about 1 mile to County Line Road (1000 W/1100E) and turn left at the car wash sign.

THE ARK is located 1.5 miles on the right.

From the Anderson Area and East:

Travel North on SR 9 to SR 26 and turn left. Turn right on SR 13 North to SR 18. Turn left on SR 18 travel to Converse. Turn right on County Line Road (1000 W/1100 E) at the car wash sign. THE ARK is located 1.5 miles on the right.

2024 Packing List for Camp Sessions

ALL OVERNIGHT CAMPERS

- One change of clothes for each day at camp
- Jacket/rain gear or hooded sweatshirt
- Closed toe shoes for recreation time
- Shower gear
- Towel and washcloth
- Swimsuit (one-piece/modest trunks) & cover-up
- Beach towel
- Bible, pen, & notebook
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Bedding (pillow & sleeping bag or twin sheets/blanket)
- Money for missions, canteen, & camp store if desired
- Trash bag for dirty clothes
- Pajamas/sleepwear
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen (optional)
- Long pants
- Water Bottle

EXTRA JUNGLE AND THAI HUT GEAR

- A few more changes of *old* clothes
- Water shoes or sandals
- Flip flops or slides for around camp
- Travel bag or back pack for shower gear
- Hat (optional)
- Clothes for night games (optional)

ALL CAMPERS – DO NOT BRING

- × All personal electronic musical devices
 - × Cell phones
 - × Comics or books
 - × Electronic games
 - × Two-piece/immodest swimsuits
 - × Firearms, knives, and fireworks
 - × Two-way radios
 - × Food (Dietary needs and Wilderness-Adventures excluded)
 - × Tobacco, drugs, alcohol, vapes, e-cigs
- Bringing certain items could result in dismissal

ALL DAY CAMPERS

- Water bottle
- Swimsuit and towel
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray if desired
- Money for missions, canteen, and camp store if desired
- Small backpack/bag to carry everything in
- Dress for the weather

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES FOR ALL HORSE CAMPERS

- Extra change of clothes
- Old tennis shoes/muck boots/or cowboy boots to wear when working with the horses (no types of sandals are allowed)
- Shoes/sandals to wear when not with the horses

WILDERNESS ADVENTURE TRIPS

Check the website and watch for an email from your dean.

