



The Prepared Camper

Getting My Camper(s) Ready



What to Send?

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 must be modest. Shorts and skirts should be below fingertips with hands at sides. No tight apparel, exposure of underclothing, plunging necklines, sagging and low-riding pants, spaghetti strap tank tops, two piece or immodest one-piece swim suits. A covering must be worn to and from the pool. (Guys wear shirts.) Any child/teen with apparel considered inappropriate by staff will be required to change. For safety reasons, footwear is required to be worn except at designated times.

If you send medicines with your child, **do not** place them in luggage. At Check-In, ALL medicines must be given to the nurse in their original containers with instructions.



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?

Campers can use cash for missions and canteen purchases. Talk to your child about your expectations of the money sent with them for these purposes. Your child can help in providing money for camp by doing extra cleaning jobs around the house or recycling aluminum cans. Before sending your child to camp, talk with your child about giving money to support missionary work all over the world. The opportunity for your child to purchase snacks and refreshments at the Canteen could happen daily or one to two times during their stay at camp.

Most items at the canteen are \$1.00 or less.



What to Expect?

Food: Our food service team provides a variety of great foods for campers to eat; cereal or PBJ are available upon request. Campers are responsible for getting their food and putting up their dirty dishes when they are finished eating.

Sickness: If your child gets sick or injured while they are at camp we will call you to keep you informed. It is our policy to send a camper home if they vomit or have a fever. We will work to see that your child is well cared for.



Homesickness: Occasionally, campers have a hard time being away from home. 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 & staff will work with them to help get them through their homesickness.

Bathing/Hygiene: The camp has showers. Jungle and Thai Hut campers shower at the pool house. Campers are encouraged to change their clothes, brush their teeth, and keep reasonably clean each day.

Cleaning: Campers are asked to keep their living, eating, and playing spaces clean.

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. The possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited. No food or drink is permitted in the cabins. Physical violence, hazing, and fighting are not permitted. Campers are expected to respect each other and be good stewards of the camp property.

Any camper found outside the cabins after lights out, without permission, who refuses to cooperate, or who poses a threat to other campers will be sent home without a refund. Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) will be notified and expected to honor this action by picking up their child promptly.



Pictures: Pictures will be available for purchase online through www.thearkcm.org.

The link can be found at the top of the home page: click on Summer Camps, then Photo Gallery. 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 they have left the property.

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 around 3:30 pm. Family and friends are encouraged to attend. You may choose to wait until after camp to talk with a minister from your church about it. It is THE ARK's policy that children under the age of 18 must have their parents'/guardians' permission to be baptized at THE ARK.



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When to Arrive?

Ziba, Hands & Feet, and ALL Day camps will have registration at 9:00am on the day of their check-in. All other camps check-in at 5:00pm. (A more detailed time list is located on page 3). Check-In

will not start early, but you are welcome to come early and visit the Camp Store or walk around the grounds. If you are dropping off campers who are not yours, please make sure all forms and balances are taken care of prior to check-in.

What To Do When We Get There?

- ⇒ Please park and leave your camper's luggage in your vehicle except for medications, payment, and forms.
- ⇒ Check-in for most sessions are in the Conference Center.
- ⇒ There will be one line to begin the Check-in process.

Please bring with you to check in:

- ⇒ Medications - Prescription and Over-the-Counter Bagged in original containers
- ⇒ Payment for Balance Due (if applicable): Check, cash, or credit card. (NOTE: THE ARK pays a 4-5% fee for every credit card transaction. To avoid the fee, use check or cash options.)

Note Writing Station

Before and after Check-in, the Note-Writing station will be available 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.



Camp Store & T-Shirt

If you registered your camper ONLINE before April 30th, he/she will receive a free THE ARK Christian Ministries t-shirt. During Check-in, go to the Camp Store to pick-up your child's free t-shirt. The Camp Store is open during check-in and check-out days only.

Some material in this document adapted from: Evans, Cheri. (1997). "Preparing Your Child for Camp." CCA Focus Series 10.

While Your Camper is Gone

Send Mail: Campers love to get mail! Mail can be sent via USPS or email.

USPS Mail: Please include camper's name, name of session, cabin # (if applicable) and camp date.

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.

Note: All mail received after 9:00 am on Check-Out day will not be delivered.

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?

Check-out is at 4:30 pm. except for horse day camps, which will check-out at 5:00 pm each day. When you arrive, you may find your camper's luggage and load it. Any sessions including campers 5th grade and under will have a secure check-out. Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) must show a photo ID, present the parent pick-up card and sign the release form before the camper will be released. Check-out will not be gin early and is usually done in 30 minutes or less.

Before you leave, please...

- ⇒ pick up any leftover medication from the nurse
- ⇒ check the lost and found table

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. Asking questions like these may help the conversation.

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.



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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.

Summer Camp Sessions Check-In & Check-Out Times

In general, camp sessions check in at 5:00 PM and check out at 4:30 PM unless specifically noted below.

Special Note: Some of our camp sessions do travel offsite for fun, service or adventure.

Quest Day Camp

Arrive at 9:00 AM Depart at 4:30 PM

Jungle Huts and Thai Huts

First Day- Check in at 5:00 PM

Last Day- Check out at 4:30 PM

High School & Junior High Wilderness

First Day- Check in at 5:00

PM Last Day- Check out at 4:30 PM

Hands and Feet and Ziba

First Day- Check in at 9:00 AM

Last Day- Check out at 4:30 PM

Horse Day Camps:

Arrive at 9:00 AM Depart at 5:00 PM each day

Quest Overnights, Extremes, SHIFT, Edge, Merge, Hoofprints Overnights, Intro to Wilderness, SHINE, Nerve to Serve (Work Study)

First Day- Check in at 5:00 PM

Last Day- Check out at 4:30 PM

Mephibosheth Camps run on their own time schedule. Please visit www.mm-abilities.org for more info.

Packing List for Camp Sessions

OVERNIGHT CAMPERS

- ☐ One change of clothes for each day
- ☐ Jacket and 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, and notebook
- ☐ Flashlight & extra batteries
- ☐ Bedding (pillow and sleeping bag or sheets)
- ☐ Money for missions & canteen
- ☐ Trash bag for dirty clothes (pre-labeled)
- ☐ Pajamas/sleepwear
- ☐ Bug spray
- ☐ Sun block (optional)
- ☐ Long pants (**Splat & Horse campers only**)
- ☐ Reusable water bottle

EXTRA JUNGLE AND THAI HUT GEAR

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

DO NOT BRING

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

FOR DAY CAMPS

- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Beach towel
- ☐ Bible, pen, and notebook
- ☐ Money for missions
- ☐ Small backpack/bag to carry everything in
- ☐ Long pants (**Horse campers only**)

WILDERNESS TRIPS

- ☐ One change of clothes per day of trip (do not bring good clothes)
- ☐ Pajamas/sleepwear
- ☐ Shower gear and carrying bag
- ☐ Towel and washcloth
- ☐ Jacket and/or hooded sweatshirt
- ☐ *Sleeping bag (Temperature appropriate)
- ☐ *Sleeping pad
- ☐ Trash bags for dirty clothes (pre-labeled)
- ☐ Bible, notebook, and pen
- ☐ Camera (optional)
- ☐ Money for missions
- ☐ Money for fast food stops
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ☐ Old tennis shoes or river sandals that can get wet
- ☐ Comfortable hiking shoes
- ☐ 3-4 pair synthetic hiking socks
- ☐ Swimsuit (one-piece/modest trunks) & cover-up
- ☐ Extra layers that are long and/or warm
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Snacks (trail mix, energy bars, etc.)
- ☐ *Water bottle or canteen
- ☐ 2 handkerchiefs
- ☐ 2 empty 2-liter bottles to carry water
- ☐ *Personal cup, plate, or silverware.

You may not have all of the items on this list. The items listed with an (*) the camp has extras of that you may borrow when you arrive at camp.

