

STAND FIRM

Dear Camper Families,

Winter Camp 2024 is around the corner, and we are so excited to have your camper back with us. This letter is written specifically toward your perspective as a guardian sending your camper to Forest Home. It contains all the information you and your camper will need to know before sending them to camp! We hope this letter offers you clear expectations and peace of mind, knowing that your camper will have a great weekend with us! If there is anything else that comes up as you prepare for your weekend at camp, please do not hesitate to contact us!

SPIRITUAL THEME

This year, our spiritual theme is **“Stand Firm.”** Our prayer is that your campers will leave Winter Camp empowered and equipped to stand unwaveringly in the Biblical truth and promises that God has bestowed upon them. That they will navigate the trials of life with a deep understanding of who God is and how they can find their foundation in Him. Each gathering will have a different approach to “Standing Firm.”

- **“Stand Firm in Truth”** – Demonstrating to campers that there is an absolute truth and showing how to stand firmly in it.
- **“Stand Firm in Confidence”** – Giving campers the confidence and boldness to trust the truth they now know.
- **“Stand Firm in Adversity”** – Helping campers understand that while there will be attacks and storms in life, they are equipped to stand firm in the face of adversity.
- **“Stand Firm in Your Calling”** – Emphasizing that each camper has been uniquely gifted to serve the Kingdom and to find comfort in that calling.

Your camper will have an opportunity for many meaningful conversations and experiences while at camp that can lead them closer to Christ. Please join us in prayer that God would work in big ways and that campers’ lives would be changed through Him!

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VISUAL THEME

Visually, our campers will experience the “Stand Firm” theme through the approach of a winter trekking expedition. Hikers going on an adventure climbing a mountain must be prepared to take on whatever challenges they may face in that great adventure. Like that adventure one takes when traversing a mountain, campers must also be ready for the grand adventure that faces them down the mountain, as they trek through life. Here at Base Camp, campers will prepare and equip themselves to “Stand Firm” in their faith, allowing them to step out into life’s great adventures.

WEATHER

Weather at camp can be cold, rainy, and / or snowy! We cannot control the weather, but we want to do our best to help you prepare for it! It is advised that campers follow the packing list and carry a jacket on the bus so they can wear it upon arrival. Campers will be briefly waiting outside so they will want to be prepared. The ground at winter camp is usually wet, so we recommend putting sleeping bags and pillows in a waterproof bag to help keep them as dry as possible.

CELL PHONES

Forest Home is committed to providing a place of sanctuary and solitude. To help facilitate that, we encourage campers to disengage from their electronics as much as possible while at camp. We want students to enjoy the beauty of God’s creation without the distraction of social media and situations happening down the mountain. Undoubtedly, campers will want their phones so they can take pictures to post on social media. You can assure your students that our camp photographer will be taking photos all weekend, so there will be plenty of photos to share!

Additionally, cell phone service is limited up at camp and WiFi is generally not available to students. If you need to get in touch with your camper, we recommend getting in touch with your church’s Group Leader so they can either relay a message or get you connected with your camper. If needed, you can also call the Roundhouse at (909) 389-2300 and they will assist in getting your camper connected with you.

CHECK-IN / ARRIVAL

Your church’s Youth Pastor / Group Leader will oversee your group’s check-in once at camp. To make your camper’s portion of the check-in go as smoothly as possible, please follow the instructions provided from your church’s group leader. We encourage you to label your camper’s luggage with their name and church / group name. That way, if luggage gets misplaced or left behind, we can easily get it back to your camper!

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MEDICAL FORMS

Please be advised, Medical Forms are online and MUST be completed prior to campers arriving on our grounds. Campers who do not have a completed medical form will not be able to participate in camp. It is recommended that you log-in to your online account and verify that your camper has their medical form completed PRIOR to their departure. We must strictly enforce this policy, as it is not only the law, but also ensures the safety of all campers. Thank you for your cooperation.

FIRST AID

While at camp, our Health Techs and Nurses will distribute medication during each meal. The First Aid team can be found in the First Aid Station to distribute medications, provide care for illness and injuries, and respond to emergencies as needed throughout the weekend.

Each camper is required to undergo a health screening and have that information recorded on the group's Health Screening Form before arriving at camp. Please note, any ill campers or counselors should not come to camp until they are symptom free without medication for 24 hours. If a camper or counselor arrives ill or becomes ill at camp, they may be sent home, subject to the discretion of the camp nurse and first aid policies.

SENDING MEDICATION TO CAMP

The "[Sending Medications to Camp](#)" document will give you insight in what is needed to properly send medications to camp for your camper.

Everyone (guardians of your campers + you, the group leader) will benefit from watching [this short video](#) regarding sending medication to camp. We have established a new process for sending medications to camp, so please watch this video – even if you've been to camp before!

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FOOD ALLERGIES

Our Guest Dining team is passionate about providing for your camper's dietary needs during their stay and our online registration system makes the process easy and streamlined. Please ensure that all dietary requests are indicated on your camper's online registration form.

Our chefs are trained to accommodate for the following common dietary needs: gluten free, nut free, dairy intolerances, egg allergies, vegan, and vegetarian diets. If you have a dietary need other than those listed above, we require that you bring your own food items to satisfy your dining needs during your stay. For campers' safety, all of our kitchens are nut-free!

We understand many allergies can be severe, and we cannot fully guarantee that every item served is 100% free from airborne particles or other means of food allergy cross-contamination. If you have a severe or life-threatening food allergy (such as Celiac) we require that you bring your own meals in pre-portioned microwave safe containers. Bringing your own food will help limit the chance of any allergen cross-contamination. There are microwaves located in all dining facilities available for use by guests, as well as refrigerators that can be used to store food for guests with allergies. If you are bringing your own food, please bring an appropriate container for safe transport and storage that is clearly labeled with your name. Upon arriving at Forest Home, have your camper notify the Forest Home Staff of their need to store food items and they will be directed accordingly.

Lastly, there are other areas in camp that may cause allergic reactions that are out of our control (retail food locations, vending machines, snacks that other campers bring, etc.); please be mindful of this. Our desire is that every guest has a wonderful dining experience at Forest Home. If you have any questions, please contact us directly.

RECREATION

All of these options are available to your camper during free time, weather permitting:

- Canyon Park - Zipline, Giant Swing, Sky Trail
- Snow Tube Run
- Laser Tag
- Mini Golf
- The Den - Billiards, Ping Pong, Foosball, Air Hockey, etc.
- Craft Cabin (additional cost - varies by project)

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SPENDING MONEY / RETAIL OPTIONS AT CAMP

Forest Home is a cashless facility. All retail purchases must be made either by using a credit / debit card, a Forest Home giftcard, or an eGiftCard. You can visit www.foresthome.org/storecard to complete the process of loading money onto a camper's eGiftCard account. Funds are accessible through a phone number, so that campers can easily make purchases. Accounts are reloadable, refundable, and carry over from past or to future camp seasons!

If you wish to purchase a Forest Home giftcard for your camper to use, you can call the Roundhouse at (909)389-2300 and order a giftcard to have delivered to your camper while they are at camp.

While at camp, your camper can use their funds at the following locations:

- Roundhouse (gift shop): t-shirts, stickers, water bottles, hats, etc.
- Stagecoach (coffee shop): coffee, espresso drinks, lemonades, teas, blended drinks, etc.
- Clubhouse (snack bar): french fries, chicken nuggets, sodas, mozzarella sticks, milkshakes, slurpees, etc.
- Craft Cabin: painting, projects, friendship bracelets, etc.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

Your camper's experience is all-inclusive. They do not NEED to bring extra money to have a full camp-experience – all meals and most activities are paid for in your campers' registration cost. However, if your students wish to purchase drinks, snacks, FH merch, or projects in the craft cabin, extra spending money will be needed. (\$20-\$40). Please see the above section "Spending Money / Retail Options at Camp" for further explanation.

A SAFE PLACE

At Forest Home, we deeply care about the safety of our campers in every regard. For this reason, we have a closed campus. Because of space and liability issues, please do not invite anyone up to camp who is not a registered guest. Day passes are not available unless pre-arranged with the Program Director. If guardians or visitors show up to camp without the proper prior communication or check-in process, they will be asked to leave. Your cooperation with this will be extremely helpful in keeping our campers safe.

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EMERGENCIES

If there is a serious family emergency and a parent needs to contact their child while at camp, we recommend first trying to connect with your church's Group Leader. You can also contact the Forest Home Roundhouse at (909) 389-2300 and they can put them in contact with the Program Director.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to seeing your campers this winter!

Grateful to Serve,

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