

Parent FAQ's

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1. How will I know if my child is ready to go to camp?

Each child is different when it comes to being “ready” to attend camp. Our youngest campers are age 7. Questions to consider, are they looking forward to camp? Have they ever spent a night away from home? Have they attended sleep overs or have wanted to attend sleep overs? Are they showing signs of wanting more independence? Are they willing and wanting to have new experiences? The best and simplest answer to this is ask them if they want to go and try, if they respond yes then there you have it. We will take care of everything else, especially them.

2. How will I know if I am ready for my child to attend camp?

We find that most parents are never ready the first or second time, the child goes away to camp. We find that despite thinking the child is not ready it typically is the parent who is not ready. You are not unlike most parents/guardians. Ask yourself, if you are wanting for your child to have similar experiences as their peers? Do you see positive benefit from your child being among their peers on many levels? Are you in need of a week break to handle some important business, or a small vacation? This latter question is one that often parents of children with disabilities feel guilty over. Please Do Not. Part of our mission is to provide a safe fun environment, so that you the parent/guardian can take a little time for you. You will find that our seasoned parents live for this break and camp time.

3. Are there other parents I can speak with?

We will gladly set up a way that you can communicate with other parents of our campers who have attended.

4. What is the cost of camp?

The cost of attending camp is free. Year round we have supporters that do fundraisers, we accept donations, and submit grants in order to provide camp experience. We may implement a small returnable fee to hold your place for your camper. This is to cover cancellations and no shows. We have to staff based upon our expected attendance. When we have no shows and cancellations, this takes a spot that another child could have, and we are obligated to still pay staff. You will receive notification if this fee is implemented.

5. What is the application procedure?

Once you submit your completed application, it will be reviewed by the Camp Director and Medical Staff, to make sure that we can adequately provide proper care and supervision for your child. You will be contacted either if you are accepted or rejected. Once accepted you will be directed to other forms that need to be completed and submitted.

6. What other information will I need to provide?

You will need to provide Health Information, Medical Insurance information, Physician Information and Drug Lists. All of these forms will be provided.

7. Can I bring all the application and forms with me to camp?

Unless there is a special circumstance and cleared by the office manager, you will need to provide all forms prior to camp starting. The deadline will be clearly stated as to when forms are due. Failure to provide all documentation by deadline can jeopardize your slot for your camping session.

8. What if I am on the waiting list?

If you are on a waiting list, you will be notified at least 2 weeks prior to your camp session of availability if any.

9. I have multiple children will I have to submit an application for each?

Yes, each participant needs a separate application and separate forms. A file is made on each child attending.

10. What is the Staff to Camper Ratio?

At Rotary we attempt to have a 1:1 ratio of camper to staff. At times there is a 2:1 ratio. During the day when campers are in activities, they are in groups. If a Counselor is also an activity leader, the camper is within a group and there are at least 6 other counselors present. Unit Directors and Leadership Team rotate throughout the day along with volunteers. We have often more overseers that we do campers.

11. How are staff chosen and where do they come from?

Our staff has go through a lengthy application process, where interviews are conducted. There is an initial information gathering non formal interview with the Office Manager, Camp Director, or Assistant Directors. If there is an interest in pursuing an applicant there is a formal interview meeting. All Applicants must have a fingerprint and criminal background check conducted. Applicants for positions that require certifications must submit those certifications before training begins. All staff must go through and successfully complete training, before being allowed to work sessions with campers. The training session is 7-14 days depending on positions and staff rank.

Our staff primarily comes from the state of Florida. We have had staff from Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. WE have in the past hosted staff from Australia, and Europe. Most of our staff are over 19 years of age in college or professionally employed as Teachers, Coaches, Disability Services, Social Work, Art, Music and other areas of expertise. We even have some seasoned retired staff members who lend a special quality to our programming.

12. How are camp sessions divided?

Our camp sessions are based upon ages. We hold a week for different age categories. The ages will be outlined each year. Sometimes our Adult sessions are divided upon cognitive ability. This is determined by the number of applicants we have in this age category.

13. What If I have 2 or more children that fall into different age categories?

Occasionally an exception may be made to allow the children to attend the same session. However, due to our current setup, sleeping arrangements, and age separation guidelines, we will request that each child attend the sessions that fall into their age group.

Our activities sometimes change, but the level is changed for the age group. All activities are provided with proper accommodation and modification per each child's need. You may find as we have that mixing of the age groups provides a less satisfactory experience for the child.

14. Where do campers sleep?

We have cabins for boys and girls on opposite ends of camp. Staff and campers sleep in the same quarters so there is always supervision. On camping out night We provide one VERY large tent and additional small tents for the entire camp to camp out.

15. Do campers travel away from camp for trips?

On occasion we will plan a boating trip or other excursion for the campers. You will be given forms to sign stating if you grant or deny permission. No child will be able to leave camp without permission, or allowed to leave with anyone other than the designated person listed on their forms.

16. Are there religious services?

We at Rotary Youth Camp do not hold religious services of any kind. We have attendees of all faiths and respect their right to congregate during unscheduled activity time if they so choose to do so for a faithful observation.

17. What kind of food do you serve?

We do provide full nutritious meals 3 times a day, along with snacks. Breakfast varies day to day but there is cereal, pancakes, waffles, eggs, grits sausage, potatoes, fruit etc. Lunch can include sandwiches, pizza, burgers or hotdogs, etc. Dinner is provided often times by our supporting Rotarian, Church, or Organizational groups, who donate the food and their time each year. Milk is served at breakfast and lunch. We do not offer sodas to campers at all. Other beverages, such as juice, Gatorade, kool-aid, and the best H2O in unlimited quantities that we have are always offered. We encourage ample hydration with water all day every day and require that water container of some sort is carried around all day.

18. What if there are dietary restrictions?

Special diets, or dietary needs such as gluten free, vegetarian, vegan, and most food allergies can be accommodated. However, our kitchen is not kosher, and we cannot guarantee a nut free environment since we are not the only users of the facility. Therefore, regretfully, those cannot be accommodated.

We ask that you do not bring prepared meals to camp or pack snacks in your campers luggage. If there are meals you would like for us to provide please speak with the director who will happily take recipes and cook them for your camper and others.

If there is a nutrient that is hard to find or a supplement required, we may ask you to bring enough for your child to have while at camp.

19. What type of medical care do you have?

We have 24/7 nursing medical staff at camp. The staff will distribute medications and make daily reports. We have agreements with local physicians in the even we need services outside of those provided. In the

event your child needs to be seen by medical staff not at camp, or go to the emergency room you will be notified.

20. Do I need to provide auxiliary aides or equipment for my child?

Whatever assistive devices your child uses on a daily basis to carry out their life functions please bring those to camp. Please provide the proper charges for equipment, as we may not have the correct voltage or battery supply. We do provide shower chairs in each cabin area along with removable shower heads. These do not need to be supplied.

Speech boards are acceptable, however cellular enabled tablets and phones will not be allowed.

21. What kind of clothing should my camper wear while at camp?

Clothing should not be new of high fashion. Remember this is camp. We do get wet, dirty, paint, etc on our clothing. While we all want to look our best we try to look our best in our expendable clothing. Each session ends with a dance, so a nice outfit is acceptable for that event.

Please provide athletic type shoes, or complete foot covering for your child. Flip Flops and sandals or slides are highly discouraged. This aides in the prevention of injury to the feet, as well as provide better walking stabilization.

22. Can I email the Camp Director directly?

Absolutely you can email the [Camp Director](#).

23. Can I email the Office Manager directly?

Yes you can email the [Office Manager](#), with any questions or concerns you may have.

24. Do you offer tours or visits to camp?

The camp grounds are used year round by many organizations. We will happily take you on a tour when you come to camp for check in. Golf car ride around camp will be provided. We will work on trying to get a link to virtual camp map.

25. Can we tip, do you accept tips?

On Occasion there have been parents who have tipped the counselors. We do not have a no tipping policy, however There are often many people who take care of your child along with the assigned counselor. In the event there are shared responsibilities, the tip should as well be shared. Please inform the Camp Director, who will ensure that all gratuities are given to the appropriate people in proportion to service provided.