

CAMP FERN LEGACY

# PARENT GUIDE



[www.campfern.org](http://www.campfern.org)



# WELCOME HOME!

We are so excited for you to get to Camp this summer. We are thrilled for you to join our Camp Fern Legacy family, and we can't wait to start making memories to last a lifetime! If you need anything along the way, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help!

*Erica*

Executive Director  
Erica@campfern.org

*Suzy*

Director of Recruitment &  
Development  
Suzy@campfern.org

*Duval*

Director of Boys Camp &  
Head of Riding  
Duval@campfern.org

# MEET THE TEAM



## Meet Our Directors

Erica Olsen, Executive Director | [Erica@campfern.org](mailto:Erica@campfern.org)

Suzy Littlejohn Watts, Director of Recruitment & Development | [Suzy@campfern.org](mailto:Suzy@campfern.org)

Duval Hilbert, Director of Boys Camp & Head of Riding | [Duval@campfern.org](mailto:Duval@campfern.org)

## Our Counselors

Our cabin and activities counselors are the backbone of Camp. Many of them grew up here on our historical campgrounds. Living in a cabin setting with co-counselor(s) and 8-12 campers, they serve as a role model for your campers and fellow staff. They develop strong relationships with campers and play a vital role in the overall camp experience. A Camp Fern Legacy counselor makes a real impact and becomes a hero to so many kids. The best camp counselors have strong character, a good-attitude, and are selfless and servant-hearted, always placing the needs of others before their own.

## Our Board

Trey Price, Board President

Justin Davis, Vice President

Kathryn Lake, Treasurer

Dr. Andy Clark, Medical Director

John Littlejohn

Frances Smith Jackson

Sydney Seid-Davis

Contact: [Board@CampFern.org](mailto:Board@CampFern.org)

# KEY DATES

## GIRLS' CAMP

### FORMS & PAYMENT

DUE MARCH 1

### GC4: 4 Weeks

Sunday, June 2 - Saturday, June 29  
CA Colorado Trip - June 30 - July 6

### GC1: 2 Weeks

Sunday, June 2 - Saturday, June 15

### GC2: 2 Weeks

Sunday, June 16 - Saturday, June 29

## BOYS' CAMP

### FORMS & PAYMENT

DUE MARCH 1

### BC4: 4 Weeks

Sunday, June 30 - Saturday, July 27

### BC1: 2 Weeks

Sunday, June 30 - Saturday, July 13

### BC2: 2 Weeks

Sunday, July 14 - Saturday, July 27

### A Note on Forms & Payments:

**For registrations after 3/1, deposits will be due upon sign up. A member of our staff will contact you to make arrangements for tuition payments that will be due before arrival.**

Forms are available through the Forms & Documents section in your CampInTouch account or the Companion App. Access real time statements and update payment methods through the financial management tab. If you need to make alternative arrangements or have any questions, please contact us. We are here to help!



## COMMUNICATION

### PHONE

(903) 742-4321

### PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1046 Camp Road  
Marshall, TX 75672

### WEBSITE & EMAIL

[www.campfern.org](http://www.campfern.org)  
[info@campfern.org](mailto:info@campfern.org)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[@camp.fern.legacy](https://www.instagram.com/camp.fern.legacy)

# ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

## 4-WEEK SESSIONS

### OPENING DAY SUNDAYS

#### GATES OPEN 2PM

Nurses will be available to receive medications and complete wellness & head checks before coming to camp. If you or your camper are feeling sick or have been exposed to anyone who is sick we ask that you don't come on camp, and call us to make other arrangements.

Upon entrance to our historic campground, purchase packages that will be delivered to your campers. Say hello to old friends and meet some new, and let us help you unload. We encourage you to show your camper around the cabin, make their bed and help them get settled. There are closets and cubbies available in the cabin to store towels and toiletries.

Please leave all pets at home.

Gates close at 4PM .



### CLOSING DAY SATURDAYS

#### GATES OPEN 9:30AM

Campers will meet you at their cabin. Look forward to a war canoe race at the waterfront and the opportunity to see some of the skills your camper has picked up while at camp.

We will send out specific information about closing day as those approach. Expect to visit with directors and counselors about your camper's experience, grab any completed crafts projects, check out your meds from the nurse, and sign up for next summer! Please leave all pets at home.

Gates close at noon.



# ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

## 1ST 2-WEEK SESSIONS

**GC1 & BC1**

### OPENING DAY SUNDAYS

#### GATES OPEN AT 2:00

Nurses will be available to receive medications and complete wellness & head checks before coming to camp. If you or your camper are feeling sick or have been exposed to anyone who is sick we ask that you don't come on camp, and call us to make other arrangements. Upon entrance to our historic campground, purchase packages that will be delivered to your campers Sunday night after tribe drawing, say hello to old friends and meet some new, and let us help you unload. We encourage you to show your camper around the cabin, make their bed and help them get settled. There are closets and cubbies available in the cabin to store towels and toiletries. Please leave all pets at home. Gates close at 4PM.

### CLOSING DAY SATURDAYS

#### GATES OPEN 9:30AM

Please pull up to the circle drive on the left, just in front of the riflery range. All of your camper's belongings will be there, and our counselors are happy to help you load your vehicle.

This is not a visitation day for four-week campers.



# ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

## 2ND 2-WEEK SESSIONS

**GC2 & BC2**

### OPENING DAY SUNDAYS

#### ARRIVE BETWEEN 2:30-3:00 PM

Check in at Magnolia Manor. Purchase packages that will be delivered to your campers. Move into the cabin at 3:00. We ask that you leave camp by 3:30, after you have unloaded your campers' belongings and set them up, so we can get your camper right into the fun!

This is not a visitation day for four-week campers. Look forward to socializing with new and old friends during closing day.

### CLOSING DAY SATURDAYS

#### GATES OPEN 9:30AM

Campers will meet you at their cabin. Look forward to a war canoe race at the waterfront and the opportunity to see some of the skills your camper has picked up while at camp.

We will send out specific information about closing day as those approach. Expect to visit with directors and counselors about your camper's experience, grab any completed crafts projects, check out your meds from the nurse, and sign up for next summer! Please leave all pets at home.

Gates close at noon.

# HEALTH & WELLNESS



## MEDICATION

All medication (Prescription & Over-The-Counter) must be in original container, including inhalers & EpiPens, with clear dosing instructions on packaging. No tablets or capsules can be altered in any way by staff.

Camp Fern Legacy does not allow any vitamins or supplements unless a written prescription is provided by their physician. We are well stocked with OTC medications your camper might need while they are here.

## BEFORE CAMP

- Enter all medications (Rx & OTC) in your camper's health form prior to camp.
- If you have medications to bring, complete the additional medication form.
- Put all meds in Ziploc bag labeled with your camper's full name. Do not put in their trunk. For the safety of our campers & staff, there are NO medications allowed in cabins.
- A healthy camp starts at home. Please ensure that your camper arrives healthy and rested. If your camper isn't feeling well on opening day, contact us, so we can make alternative arrangements for their arrival.
- Talk with your camper about your expectations prior to arrival. This helps ensure they will apply their own sunscreen, understand the importance of hydration, brushing their teeth, taking showers, and changing their clothes.
- Also remember to talk about the emotional side of camp. Homesickness is a natural feeling, and our staff is here to support their experience. Remind your camper that we're here for them, so if they're having trouble, let us know.



# HEALTH & WELLNESS



## AT CAMP: OPENING & CLOSING DAY

The nurse is available for consultation on opening and closing day. We encourage you to get to know our medical staff!

### Opening Day

- Temperature checks and head checks are required before entry and provided by Camp Fern Legacy.
- Give ALL medications directly to the Nurse during check-in with your completed medication form. If necessary, include an extra set of glasses or contact lenses. That way if a pair is lost, they have a backup!

### Closing Day

- You can pick up meds when you check your camper out from the infirmary table on closing day.
- Any additional charges for medications such as antibiotics, doctors visits, etc. will be deducted from your store balance.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## 01 STORE

You have already submitted a refundable \$100 store credit for your camper as part of the tuition.

Potential charges include:

- Unforeseen medical expenses
- Achievement pins and patches for camper pennant
- Specialized Craft Projects
- Lifeguarding if not prepaid

If your camper needs a hygiene item during camp, the nurse will have necessary items available free of charge.

You'll have the option to purchase Tribe packages (required for new campers) and other optional packages with all the best camp gear. These will also come out of your store account balance. Leftover balances will be credited back to your account or feel free to donate to CFL!

## 02 CABIN ASSIGNMENTS

While we do our best to honor your cabin requests, they are not guaranteed. Cabin placement is done by the directors based primarily on grade and age. The request form is located in the forms and documents section of the Companion App and your CampInTouch account. It is updatable and will become inactive 2 weeks before your session starts. If you would like to discuss specific requests, please feel free to give us a call.



## 03 BUNK SELECTION

Bunk selection is done in the cabin on opening day. Campers draw for a top or bottom bunk based on their preference. This encourages our campers to get to know new friends in their cabin. There are closets and cubbies available in the cabin to store towels and toiletries. Trunks need to fit under the bunks. See the packing list for a complete view of what you need to pack for a successful summer at Fern!





**CARNIVAL 2024!**

# RODEO

**Giddy up for the first ever  
Camp Fern Legacy Rodeo!**

**Time to hitch up the stick ponies and don those  
spurs and cowboy hats for a rodeo-themed  
carnival celebration. Break out the western wear!**

This evening activity takes place only for the  
following sessions: GC4, GC1, BC4, BC1

# COMMUNICATION



## CAMPINTOUCH & CAMPANION

Download the Campanion Mobile App to complete all forms, submit payment, get summer updates and view camper photos to download and share. This is exclusively for parents. Want to give another person access? Create and manage your guest accounts through your CampInTouch account by scrolling to the "Online Community" section and clicking "Guest Accounts". Invite friends & family to log in with their own guest account. As your guest, they will be able to read news, view photos, and send emails with your permission. Please do not share your login information.

## Newsletter, Microposts & Photos

Our goal is to post a daily newsletter and photos by 2:00pm every day. You can access through either CampInTouch or Campanion App.

Expect to hear from us via microposts or text if we are unable to post for any reason or if we experience inclement weather. Make sure you have the notifications turned on, and/or opt in to texting during registration..

# COMMUNICATION

## MORE ON PHOTOS

Photos are available on both the Companion App & CampInTouch. You should see photos of your camper every few days, but some play a game of dodging the camera. We will do our best to keep you up to date with how we are doing, but as always, contact us directly via email or phone if you have an immediate concern.

## Email, Mail & Packages

Campers LOVE mail of all kinds!

- Emails - Purchase "Camp Stamps" through CampInTouch. These credits will allow you to email your camper via the Companion App or within CampInTouch. We receive a bundle of emails at midnight and deliver at rest hour the following day. Guest accounts can also send emails with parent permission.
- Snail Mail - Remember this can be slow, so allow 3-5 days for arrival and discontinue sending mail the last week of camp.
- Label any prewritten letters or packages with camper's full name and delivery date. We are happy to help you save some postage here.
- We allow campers to receive up to 1 package per week, and we ask that they are no bigger than a shoe box. Counselors check all packages in the presence of camper and remove all restricted items if present.

Please see what NOT to bring for a list of these items. Note that campers cannot call or email you while they are at camp. You will hear from their counselors, individually, throughout the session about how your camper is doing. We also encourage our campers to write to you and send notes via snail mail. Just remember if you get a sad letter, you are nervous, need to check in, or just want an update – feel free to call us during regular office hours and we will get back to you as soon as possible!

# BEFORE CAMP TIPS

## ESPECIALLY FOR 1ST TIME CAMPERS

1

### **Talk About Independence**

While you are packing, talk with your camper about taking care of themselves – they will apply their own sunscreen, the importance of hydration, brushing their teeth, taking showers, and changing their clothes.

2

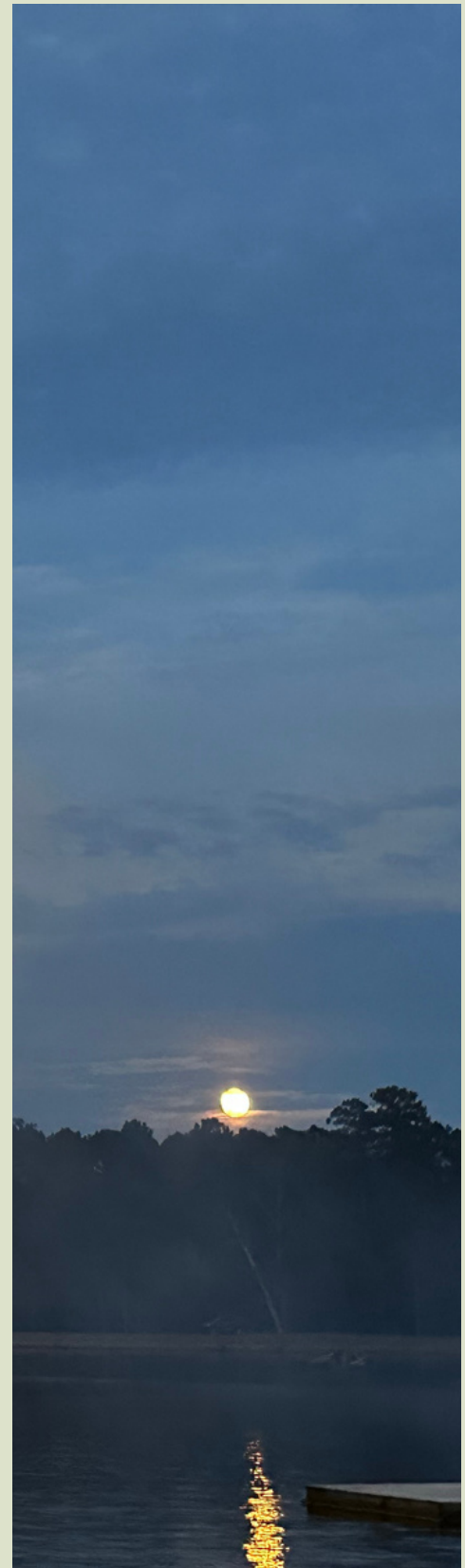
### **Why Camp Fern Legacy?**

Remember those objectives for the summer you mentioned in the application? Talk about those too. Share your experiences along the way. Tell them why you chose Camp Fern Legacy.

3

### **OK the Feelings**

Remember to talk about the emotional side of camp - homesickness is a natural feeling, and our staff is here to support every camper's experience. Remind your camper that we are here for them, so if they are having trouble, let us know.





# 4

## Build Resilience

Please do not "promise to pick them up if...". Talk about ways they can cope with feelings they may experience while they are away. Moving through and overcoming these feelings, like homesickness, provides lifelong skills. Your camper will gain resiliency, confidence, and a sense of accomplishment. Encourage your campers with something positive, and let them know you believe in their ability to persevere.



# 5

## We're a Team!

Bedwetting, a recent divorce, a death in the family, routine medications, sleep walking and other personal information are treated with confidentiality. We need to work together to make this experience a positive one for our campers, so it is crucial that we strategize together and get the proper plan in place. Please email us ASAP to start this dialogue.

Honest communications with the directors and medical staff about special circumstances or accommodations which may impact their experience need to happen before camp.



# PACKING LIST

*"When you pack together and take your time, your excitement about summer camp can rub off on your child while also ensuring that nothing is forgotten when it comes to checking off your summer camp packing list." Chris Thurber, The Summer Camp Handbook*

Don't Forget:

- Show your camper where you put everything while you are packing and getting settled in the cabin. Better yet, teach your camper how to organize their trunk from the get-go to set them up for success. Please avoid packing in baggies for days of the week.
- Label everything! Some people like printed tags, but a Sharpie works great too (and will not sweat off). Just make sure everything you send has at least your camper's initials. We will have a lost and found fashion show at least once a week.
- Pack all clothes in the trunk, linens in laundry bag, extras in the other laundry bag, toiletries in a caddie, and you should be all set. Your camper will be given a shelf in a closet and a cubby to store toiletries.
- Linens, water bottles, and flashlights can blend in with others' things so again, LABEL EVERYTHING!!!!

✓	BASICS	QTY
	Trunk: No larger than 32"Lx18"Wx 16.5H"	1
	Laundry Bags for a week's worth of laundry	2
	Pillow	1
	Flashlight or head lamp with extra batteries	1
	Personal Fan (Clip-On Preferred) with extension cord for Bunk	1
	String Backpack	1
	Water Bottle - all parts LABELED	2
	Favorite "Stuffie" or Picture from Home	1
	Postage Stamps & Stationary	
	Mattress Pad / Egg Crate (Twin or Cot sized)	1

✓	SHOES	QTY
	Flip flops, Aqua Socks, or Chacos	1
	Waterproof Rubber Rain Boots	1
	Boots with a heel (leather and/or hard sole) for riding	1
	Tennis Shoes	2

✓	LINENS	QTY
	Twin or Cot Sized Sheet Set (Flat & Fitted) *Pack more for campers with enuresis	2
	Pillowcase	2
	Blanket - lightweight	1
	Bath Towels. Pro tip - pack thin/cheap towels so they'll dry out on clothesline	3
	Towel Wrap for To & From Shower	2
	Beach Towel: The more unique they are the more likely they are to come home	3



# PACKING LIST CONT.

✓	CLOTHING**	QTY	✓	TOILETRIES	QTY
	Underwear & Undergarments - Feel Free to pack extra	10		Shower caddy or toiletry bag. Our showers and bathrooms are separate from the cabin, make sure it fits everything your camper needs to shower.	1
	Socks	15 Pairs		Toothbrush & Cover	2
	T-Shirts	10		Full-Size Toothpaste	1
	Shorts	10		Floss	1
	Jeans/Long Pants	4-6		Hair Brush or Comb	1
	Sweatshirt/Long Sleeve Shirt	1-2		Hair ties & detangler if needed	++
	Pajamas	2-4		Deodorant	1
	Rash Guard	2-4		Lotion	1
	Swimsuits***	2-4		Sunscreen (1/week is a good rule of thumb)	2-4
	Hat	1		Insect Repellent	1
	Rain Jacket or Poncho	1		Nail File & Clippers	1
	Plain Whites: T-Shirt/Polo and shorts, skirt or dress for Sundays & Banquet	2			

✓	OPTIONAL	QTY
	Nola Campers Only - A special outfit for your night out!	1
	Extra Whites for Tie Dye	2
	Sleeping Bag	1
	Hammocks	
	Entertainment: Playing Cards, Books, musical instrument, etc.	
	Electronics that do NOT connect to internet - those that do will be taken up	
	Wacky Gear for Fun Camp Days: America Mondays, Tie-dye Tuesdays, Wildlife and High Five Wednesdays, Twin Thursday, Funky Pattern Fridays. Some of our campers bring fun dress ups, and some just get creative with what comes in their trunk.	
	4 Week, GC1, and BC1 Only: Carnival Theme Outfit	
	Personal Activity Equipment - Tennis Raquet, Riding Helmet, Riding Chaps, Goggles/Swim Cap	

**LABEL EVERYTHING!!!**



# FINAL NOTES ON PACKING

\*For campers with enuresis, please pack extra sheets and talk with your camper about what to do if this occurs while at camp. Let them know that it is ok and to notify a counselor, so we can replace their sheets discreetly and sanitize their mattress. Also, please notify their counselor and the nurse if you have not listed it on their health form.

\*\*Pack breathable or moisture-wicking fabrics to help prevent heat rash.

\*\*\*Bathing Suits: Remember that we swim, canoe, and ski on Fern Lake. Please consider that all bathing suits need to be functional and conducive to an active environment. No strings, attached or tied. If you think it could fall off when you dive, don't bring it!

We recommend leaving all valuables at home. If you are going to be upset if it is lost or broken, please do not bring it. Camp Fern Legacy cannot be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

## **DO NOT BRING:**

Food, gum, candy, soft drinks, phones, electronics with touch screen or internet capabilities (including apple watches, hot spots, PSP's and electric games, TVs, walkie talkies, refrigerators, laptops, iPad,/Tablet), valuables & illicit substances, lighters, matches, vapes, guns, knives.

## **NO CELL PHONES AT CAMP**

Parents, confirm you have your camper's cell phone in your possession before you leave camp on opening day.

Please remember that Camp Fern Legacy is a summer camp immersed in nature. We ask that campers come ready to disconnect for the few weeks they are here and abandon some of the luxuries of home to live a simpler lifestyle, keeping with our natural environment, where safety is our primary concern.

**ANY OF THESE ITEMS DISCOVERED ON CAMP WILL BE CONFISCATED AND NOT RETURNED TO THE CAMPER UNTIL CLOSING DAY.**

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*Since the 1860's, a few weeks in the woods have taught kids to face new situations, make their way among strangers, solve their own problems – and live another, more authentic life.*

- COHEN, R. (JULY 8, 2022) THE LIFE LESSONS OF SUMMER CAMP. THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

