

CAMP FERN LEGACY

PARENT GUIDE



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!

Sarah

Executive Director
sarah@campfern.org

Suzy

Recruitment & Development
suzy@campfern.org

Sophie

GC Program Director
sophie@campfern.org

William

BC Program Director
wharrell@campfern.org

MEET THE TEAM



Meet Our Directors

Sarah Hoffman, Executive Director | sarah@campfern.org

Suzy Littlejohn Watts, Recruitment & Development |

Suzy@campfern.org

Sophie Ledbetter, GC Program Director | sophie@campfern.org

William Harrell, BC Program Director | wharrell@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

Justin Davis, Board President

Frances Jackson, Vice President

Trey Price, Treasurer

Dr. Andy Clark, Medical Director

Kathryn Lake

McHugh Lee

John Littlejohn

Sydney Seid-Davis

Contact: Board@CampFern.org

KEY DATES

GIRLS' CAMP

FORMS & PAYMENT

DUE MARCH 1

GC4: 4 Weeks

Sunday, May 31 - Saturday, June 27

GC1: 2 Weeks

Sunday, May 31 - Saturday, June 13

GC2: 2 Weeks

Sunday, June 14 - Saturday, June 27

CA Trip: Wilderness Trek, NM

Sunday, June 28 - Saturday, July 4

BOYS' CAMP

FORMS & PAYMENT

DUE MARCH 1

BC4: 4 Weeks

Sunday, June 28 - Saturday, July 25

BC1: 2 Weeks

Sunday, June 28 - Saturday, July 11

BC2: 2 Weeks

Sunday, July 12 - Saturday, July 25

CA TRIP: WILDERNESS TREK, CO

Sunday, June 28 - Saturday, July 4

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
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 2 PM

Camp Physicians and 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, 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.

CLOSING DAY SATURDAYS

GATES OPEN 10:00 - 11:00 AM

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 - 3:30 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 camp physician and 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.

Please note CFL policy regarding campers under the care of a physician or mental health professional for behavioral conditions. In order for CFL to provide the best environment for your camper, their physician or mental health professional must also complete and sign the form.

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



MENTAL HEALTH & PROVIDER CLEARANCE

If your camper is under the care of a physician or mental health professional for emotional or behavioral needs (including ADHD, anxiety, depression, or medications), a supplemental form must be completed and signed by their provider prior to camp.

This helps ensure your camper is prepared for the camp environment and allows our team to best support their experience. For the safety of all campers, provider approval is required before arrival. We encourage families to begin this process early, as provider appointments can be difficult to secure closer to camp. Open communication helps us work together to create a positive and successful summer for your camper.

AT CAMP: OPENING & CLOSING DAY

The camp physicians and nurses are available for consultation on opening and closing day. We encourage you to get to know our medical staff!

All medication updates or changes must be communicated and completed prior to arrival at camp. This ensures our medical team has time to review and prepare accordingly, rather than making adjustments during check-in.

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.

Closing Day

- You can pick up meds when you check 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 \$150 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!





CFL will host a “FERN ROCKS!” themed carnival In 2026, where every moment is a celebration of fun, laughter, and joy. Grab your favorite rock and roll costume and join us for the fun!

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

COMMUNICATION



CAMPINTOUCH & CAMPANION

Download the Companion 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 Companion 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.
- Packages- We allow campers to receive up to 1 package per session, no bigger than a shoe box. Amazon packages will NOT be accepted. If your camper receives more than one package per session, We will hold the packages until the end of camp. We encourage packages to be need based.

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.





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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. All items must fit in trunk or two laundry bags (30"x 40"). No drawers or additional storage items. 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 16H"	1
	Laundry Bag (30"x40") for a weeks worth of clothes	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	

	SHOES	QTY
	One pair of 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	
Mattress Pad / Egg Crate (Twin or Cot sized)					
Hammocks					
Entertainment: Playing Cards, Books, musical instrument, etc.					
Electronics that do NOT connect to internet - those that do will be taken up					
Wacky Wear- We love for our campers to wear silly and fun clothing! Boys tend to enjoy "America Mondays," and girls love carnival themed shirts or swimsuits. Costumes and funky clothes are always optional.					
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.

