

What to Expect your First Year at Camp

Congratulations! Your child has completed kindergarten and are now ready to spend their first summer at day camp! If this is your first child in camp, you may be wondering what to expect. You've done your research. You've read all about the camp, the official stuff like the rules and regulations and the FAQ. You know the drill, but are wondering what it will really be like for your child.

Well, here's the lowdown.

- Your child will have an awesome time, most of the time. All kids are different. Some kids love the camp experience. Others, not so much. Be prepared for your child to tell you they love camp one day or week, and hate it the next. Just let your child experience camp for themselves and let them tell you about their day. The good and the bad. Then, don't be shy! Send a quick email to the camp staff asking how your child is doing. They're happy to tell you and to help your child settle into camp.
- Your child will be exhausted at the end of most days! Camp is non-stop fun. And while it is fun, that can lead to very tired children. So, while it is the summer, continue to make sure they get a good night's sleep to wake up ready to tackle the next day.
- Your child will be starving at the end of some days. Playing all day takes up a lot of energy! Be sure to send lots of good healthy snacks, especially fruit and veggies that replenish water!
- You're going to think you're leaving your child at Fort Knox. You must sign your child in and, gasp(!), show ID to get them back out. What the Heck?? It's my child. I know them, and they know me. True, but summer is short. Our sign-in table staff rotate, and it's not possible for them to instantly recognize 70 new kids and twice as many parents and guardians every week of the summer. This rule is purely for the safety of all the children of the camp because, frankly, we love them almost as much as you do.
- Your child is likely to lose track of their things during their time at camp. 70 kids a week = chaos at least part of the time. While our monitors are pretty good at picking up loose items, they don't always know who owns what. So, label everything! We have a continual fundraising account with [Mabel's Labels](#) if this helps. We also keep a lost-and-found bin that you should sift through at the end of every week your child is at camp.
- Your child will very likely cry on their last day of camp, as will our staff. Because, as stated above, we love your children almost as much as you do. All we want is for your children to have the BEST day camp experience ever and, if we're all crying on that last day, we've all done our job right.

Now that you know what to expect, don't forget to **register**!!

That's right, you register for summer camp in March/April. It takes a lot of planning to host the camp each summer, between securing activities and hiring staff. We need to know in April how many kids will be attending each week. So, while we know it's a pain to plan your summer in April, if you want very specific weeks for your child, you must register at the AGM. See you there!

Get all your official registration information on our website at: <http://www.campdejournorval.org/>