



HERE ARE THE FAQs! (Frequently Asked Questions)

As the time nears for camp, we know many parents beginning having all these unanswered questions pop in their head about their child's upcoming experience, especially if it is their first time at camp. We would like to put your mind at ease about a lot of the questions you might have about camp. If your question is not answered below, please never hesitate to give us a call or email Britney@seekersprings.com.

Who should I contact if I have concerns? Who is in charge of camp?

Terry Slawson is our executive director and has been since Seeker Springs began back in 1997. Prior to becoming the director, Terry was a youth minister for 10 years and also worked as a camp counselor during college. Learn more about Terry and the history of Seeker Springs at seekersprings.com/about-us.

Elizabeth McFarland is our Ministry Coordinator and is in charge of the day-to-day operations of camp. Elizabeth began working at Seeker Springs in 2010 as a summer camp counselor. She now is with us full time and directs our After School Camp and coordinates all of other ministries.

Britney Wheat is our Office & Outreach Coordinator. She has been on staff since 2014 but she is our director's daughter and has grown up at camp. She is available in the office daily to answer your calls and emails.

Terry, Elizabeth, and Britney are all available if you have any questions or concerns before, during, or after camp. Please let us know if we can help you in any way!

What if I have a question or concern after office hours?

We are on call 24/7 during overnight camps. You can call the office anytime and leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. You may also email Britney@seekersprings.com anytime.

Is it okay if my child brings a cell phone just in case?

We have a "no-cell phone" policy at camp for our campers. Cell phones are expensive and can get lost or stolen. The physical camp environment is not friendly to such devices. There is also a fundamental problem with children having cell phones at camp, and that is trust. When children

come to camp they and you are making a leap of faith by transferring their primary care from you, as their parents to us and our camp staff. As children learn to trust other caring adults, they grow and learn, little by little, to solve some of their own challenges. This is one of the many benefits of a camp experience. It is one important way for your children to learn to become resilient. Contacting you by phone essentially means they have not made this transition. It keeps us from getting to problems that may arise and addressing them quickly. Sending a cell phone to camp is like saying to your child that you as the parent have not truly come to peace with the notion of them being in our care. We agree to let you know if your child is experiencing a challenge in their adjustment to camp and are willing to let them call home if we think it is necessary. You can help by talking with your child before they leave for camp, and telling them that there is always someone they can reach out to, whether it is their group leader, one of our lead staff, or even the camp director. We are all here to help, but if you don't trust us, your children certainly won't. Thank you for your understanding of this policy.

What if my child gets homesick?

We understand that the first day or two at camp can be difficult for both the child and the parents, especially if it is your child's first time at camp. Homesickness (though we very rarely experience real homesickness) usually stems from being in a new environment and being unsure of what will happen. This is a temporary situation and clears up as soon as your child discovers the excitement of camp activities.

The best preparation for homesickness is a positive family attitude about camp, discussion about what to expect, and gentle encouragement that missing home is "ok". Please do not tell your child that if they get homesick, you will come and get them. This invariably sets the child up for failure, if they know this "out" is available to them. This preparation beforehand will usually suffice to give your child the tools needed to make the camp transition a valuable growth experience.

What is canteen? And how much money should I send?

Each day at camp we open our canteen store for campers to purchase drinks and snacks. We have candy, chips, soft drinks, etc. All items are \$1 or less. We limit the about campers can purchase each day to 2 snacks and 1 drink, so we typically recommend \$2-\$3 per day. We do open canteen store twice a day for overnight camps so overnight campers may want to bring a little more. Canteen money can also be used at our camp store. Campers can purchase Seeker Springs hats, sunglasses, water bottle, etc. A list of items and prices is available on at seekersprings.com/summer-camps

Canteen money is not required. We do have free snacks available for campers without canteen money (usually crackers, cookies, or granola bars).

Where does mission's money go?

Each year our staff chooses a ministry to support. We will send out more information about who we are supporting closer to the start of camp. Parents can choose to prepay mission's money during registration or send money with campers. We also have the option of donating any remaining canteen money at the end of the week to missions. Mission's money is not required.

Can I send mail to my child during camp?

If your child is coming to one of our overnight camps, you are welcome to send them mail, but it is not required! Letters or cards only please!

What type of rules and regulations do you have? How are staff trained to handle discipline situations?

We try to have as few rules as possible at camp, holding fast to the idea that if we accentuate the positive, we'll eliminate the negative. However, the absolute safety of each camper must be assured within an environment that is wholesome and Christian.

Our staff are trained to deal with discipline situations. We view discipline as a teaching opportunity that is to be done out of love, not punishment. If a staff member is not able to correct and redirect then our lead staff will step in to assist. If a child's behavior continues to be an issue, parents will be contacted and camper may be asked to leave camp.

What if my child gets sick at camp? What if my child has medications that need to be taken at camp?

We have a licensed nurse practitioner on call during all camps. If your child gets sick or is not feeling well, the nurse or camp staff will contact you. All medicines must be turned in to the camp nurse on the first day of camp. She will oversee distribution of medicines to assure correct doses are given at the correct times. The camp nurse will be available at check-in on the first day of camp to discuss any medical needs your child may have while at camp.

When do I need to make final payment for camp? What is the cancellation policy if I need to cancel my child's registration?

Our policy is a \$25 non-refundable deposit is required upon registration in order to hold your child's spot for camp. Final balance is due no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of camp. Once final payment deadline has past, there will be no refunds if you decide to cancel your child's registration. If cancellation takes place prior to final balance deadline (2 weeks before the start of camp), then we will refund everything to you except the \$25 non-refundable deposit.