

# What Parents Need to Know

## General Information

- For **registration/sign-in and pick-up/sign-out**, here are some reminders:
  - For *overnight camps*, registration/sign-in is between 6:00pm and 7:30pm. Camper pick-up/sign-out at the end of each session is between 5:30pm and 6:15pm.
  - For *day camps*, sign-in each day between 8:45am and 9:15am. Sign-out each day between 4:00pm and 4:30pm.
- Please notify the Ranch before your registration time if your child cannot come to camp due to injury or illness.
- For **directions** to WLD Ranch, visit [www.wldranch.com/directions](http://www.wldranch.com/directions).
- You are invited to join us for our **rodeo** (6:30pm) at the end of Round-ups #1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. Supper and souvenirs can be purchased at the Chuckwagon before and throughout the rodeo.
- **Follow us on Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/WLDRanch](http://www.facebook.com/WLDRanch))! After each camp session, we will post pictures of campers and activities on Facebook.

☆Be sure your camper brings the following items to camp:

### Overnight Camper Checklist

- Bedding (sleeping bag or sheets, blanket, pillow)
- Personal articles (soap, shampoo, towels, toothbrush, plastic bathroom cup)
- Old sneakers and lots of socks
- Boots with a heel (recommended but not required for horseback riding)
- Long pants (must be worn while horse riding)
- Warm jacket or hoodie
- Rain jacket
- Bible, notebook, and pen
- Swimmies or a life jacket if learning to swim
- One piece modest bathing suit
- Sunscreen of at least SPF 15
- Bug spray

### Day Camper Checklist

- Long pants for horse riding
- One piece modest bathing suit and a towel, sandals or slip on shoes for going to the pool
- Change of clothes
- Shoes that tie on (not just flip flops or crocs)
- Sunblock and bug spray
- Water bottle
- Bible for Bible Round-up
- Bookbag to put everything in

☆Be sure your camper **DOES NOT BRING** the following items to camp:

- Immodest clothing that is not appropriate for camp activities, including but not limited to: halter tops, tube tops, short shorts, seductive shirts, two piece bathing suits, clothing that reveals undergarments, midriff shirts
- Clothing with offensive language or pictures
- Electronic devices including, but not limited to: radios, mp3 players, iPods, electronic games, **cell phones (see policy below)**, etc.
- Snacks or drinks (unless it has been preapproved due to dietary/health needs and is kept in our storage to be distributed at proper snack times from the Chuckwagon)

**Questions?** call 814-474-3414

## General Policies

- Campers will have their best camp experience when they are able to focus on fully participating in the camp program rather than becoming distracted by visitors or communication with family or friends outside of the camp context. Further, such contact tends to increase the likelihood of homesickness and can detract from the camper getting the most benefit out of the unique setting that camp provides. The combination of faith development, focused learning, friendship building, and fun is most effective when campers can be fully engaged in camp. In light of this, we have policies in place regarding visitors, communication and phone use, and working with homesick campers.
- For safety reasons, we have instituted a “limited access” policy during camp sessions, meaning only those who are approved by WLD Ranch leadership may be on property and interacting with the campers during the camp session.
  - Anyone coming on property must sign in with WLD Ranch leadership staff. This includes caseworkers who may need to interact with your camper during the camp session.
  - If your camper needs to leave his/her camp session for a doctor’s appointment, game, etc., please fill out the **Parent Request Form** during registration/sign-in.
  - *Only those on your list of individuals approved to pick up your child will be permitted to sign out your child to leave camp during the camp session or at the end of the camp session.*
- **Visitors:** For the benefit of your camper, WLD Ranch requests that family or friends *do not visit* during a camp session. In the unusual event that a visit is arranged, the arrangement must be made between WLD Ranch leadership and the parents/guardians listed on the registration form. In our experience, family visits during camp often induce homesickness and distract campers from fully enjoying their camp experience.
- **Homesickness:** If a camper becomes homesick, we will comfort and encourage the camper, helping the camper to engage in activities and enjoy the program. If the homesickness persists, we will contact the parents/guardians and discuss what you would like to decide. It will be the parents’/guardians’ decision whether the camper should attempt to stay for the camp week or whether the camper should go home. We are committed to providing the best camping experience we can and are willing to work with campers in getting them to stay. However, should a homesick camper become destructive or disruptive to the camp environment, the parents/ guardians will be asked to pick up their camper as soon as possible.
- **Communication/Phones:** Parents/guardians are welcome to send messages to campers via mail or e-mail. Parents/guardians may check on their campers during the week by contacting WLD Ranch leadership staff. Campers may not use a phone without permission from WLD Ranch leadership staff. Cabin counselors or program staff may not give permission for a camper to use a phone.
  - In general, campers are **not permitted to use the phones** at WLD Ranch. If you call to check on your camper during the camp week, WLD leadership staff will talk with the camper’s counselor and/or the camper, and then call you back with a report. In the case of a **family emergency** or if you must reach your child due to a change of plans, please follow this procedure: 1) Call WLD’s main phone (814-474-3414) and leave a message with the person who answers the phone. They will locate the appropriate leadership staff, who will deliver the message to your child. 2) If a return call is needed, WLD’s leadership staff will return your call. 3) **For a family emergency between the hours of 9:30pm and 7:00am**, call WLD’s main phone (814-474-3414) and leave a message. We will contact you as soon as we can.
  - **Overnight campers** are permitted to bring **cell phones** to stay in contact with parents/guardians during their camp sessions as long as they abide by WLD Ranch’s expectations of

cell phone use. **All cell phones are to be turned in at registration/sign-in to be stored in the camp office, NOT in the bunkhouses.** Campers can access their cell phone for 15 minutes right after lunch each day to communicate with family. **It is the responsibility of the campers to request access to their phones.** Calls are limited to communicating with family members only, not friends. Cell phone use will be supervised and phones will be returned to the staff office at the end of the call. Cell phones found in the bunkhouse will be turned in to the office and returned at the end of the camp session. WLD Ranch leadership staff will determine cell phone privileges for these campers based on circumstances. Day campers are not permitted to bring cell phones since they will be going home each day.

- Please feel free to **mail a letter** to your camper as follows:

Camper's Name
c/o WLD Ranch
7351 Woolsey Rd.
Girard, PA 16417
  
- If you want to **send an e-mail** to your overnight camper, keep the following in mind:
  - 1) E-mail for campers is a service for **overnight campers** and their families only. (Day campers are not present for mail call at supper.)
  - 2) E-mails received from persons other than the parents/guardians or e-mails in excess of 2 e-mails per day from parents/guardians will be evaluated for appropriateness and may not be distributed to campers with no notice given to the sender.
  - 3) We reserve the right to screen e-mails for appropriate content. We reserve the right not to distribute an e-mail if we find discouraging, inappropriate, or insensitive content that we believe would interfere with the camper's experience at camp.
  - 4) E-mails sent by 4pm will be distributed at supper that day; e-mails received later than this will be distributed at supper on the following day. E-mails received after 4pm on the final day of your camper's session will not be distributed to campers.
  - 5) Campers **will not** be able to respond to your e-mails but they love receiving them!
  - 6) **Send e-mails to mycamper@wldranch.com. In the subject line, put your camper's first and last name. If you remember your camper's Cabin, list that too (nothing else in the subject line, please).**
  
- **Behavior:** In the camp environment, there are standards of behavior and speech that are expected to be followed in order for the camp experience to be beneficial and enjoyable for everyone involved.
  - Campers and staff are expected to act and speak in ways that are respectful and appropriate to the camp context. This includes expectations regarding moral standards (violence, bullying, hurtful words or insults, inappropriate physical touch, sexualized conversation, etc.) and expectations regarding what is appropriate in the camp community context (limitations on physical touch, expectations about personal space, roughhousing or teasing that may seem innocent in other contexts, etc.). When a camper is made aware that a behavior or way of interacting or speaking is not appropriate at camp, the camper is expected to adjust or to stop his/her behavior or speech that has been addressed by a staff member. If the camper persists in the inappropriate behavior, parents will be contacted.
  - Campers are expected to show respect to other campers and staff, to listen to the counselors and leadership staff, and to follow the camp policies and rules during their stay at camp. Campers who choose not to listen or follow directions will be warned and face consequences (lose free time or activity privileges, etc.) if their poor behavior persists. Campers who become disruptive to the camp session will be removed from the camp program. Parents/guardians will be contacted and will be expected to pick up their camper immediately in this case.

- **Illness:** If a camper **becomes sick** during his/her stay at camp, parents/guardians will be notified immediately. For camp health reasons, parents/guardians are expected to pick-up their camper as soon as possible. If the camper recovers from his/her illness, he/she may return for the remainder of the camp week after being cleared by the camp nurse.
- **Refunds:** For campers who leave camp before their session is complete, we will follow the **refund policy** stated below:
  - If a camper leaves due to **sickness** before Wednesday supper (5:30pm), a refund of 25% of the **cost of your camp session** will be given (no refund on additional fees). After Wednesday supper (5:30pm), no refund will be given. Campers who return to camp after recovering from an illness will not receive a refund.
  - Any camper who leaves due to homesickness after direct contact with their family (cell phone use, visits, etc.) will not receive a refund. If a homesick camper who has not had contact with his/her family goes home before Wednesday supper (5:30pm), a refund of 25% of the **cost of your camp session** will be given (no refund on additional fees). After Wednesday supper (5:30pm), no refund will be given.
  - Campers sent home due to behavioral problems at camp will not receive a refund.

## Health Concerns

- Please send sheets and blankets if there is a possibility of your child **wetting the bed**. Sleeping bags are hard to put into the washer.
- All **medications** taken by mouth must be turned in to the nurse upon registration/sign-in. This includes non-prescription medicines and vitamins. All medicines should be clearly labeled with your camper's name. Include on a separate paper the name of the medicine, dosage, frequency taken, and reason (see example below).
- If your camper is taking **more than one medication** while at camp, please follow these instructions:
  - 1) Place medication in a pill organizer container like this:
 

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
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  - 2) Mark container with the camper's name.
  - 3) Be sure to list on a sheet of paper each medication, dosage, frequency (time taken), and reason for taking it.
 

Example: Medication	Dosage	Frequency/Time Taken	Reason
Adderall	10mg	Daily-breakfast	ADHD
  - 4) If your camper takes medications several times during the day, please separate each dosage into different pill organizer sections for ease of distribution. For example, medications taken Monday AM are separated from those taken Monday PM.
  - 5) Please contact WLD Ranch's nurse (814-474-3414) if you have any questions about your camper's medications.