



CAMP LOUCON
8044 ANNETA RD.
LEITCHFIELD, KY 42754
(270) 242 - 7160

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to have your child at Camp Loucon this summer! Although you won't be attending with your camper, as the parent, you play a vital role in the success of your child's camp experience. This letter will provide you with important information regarding camp logistics, as well as give you some tips on making camp a great experience for your child.

PACKING & PREPARING

- Pack with your camper so that they know what's in their suitcase.
- Send comfortable clothes that can get dirty.
- Send a bag for dirty laundry in the suitcase and explain its purpose.
- Write your camper's name on the tags of items with a laundry marker.
- Pack lots of socks and encourage them to wear them with all shoes to reduce toe injuries.
- Please do not bring any valuables that could be lost or damaged. We can't guarantee they'll find their way home!

What to Pack:

Older clothes*

Bible

Pillow and twin bedding

Bathroom toiletries

A caddy to carry toiletries

Rain jacket

Swimsuit

Towel for the pool

Bath towel

Sunscreen

Bug spray

Flashlight

Athletic shoes (2 pair)

Flip flops for pool/shower

Hat/sunglasses

Small tote bag for pool

Water bottle

*Middle School camps will need a set of old clothes for messy games. You might not want these back!

What NOT to Pack:

Weapons/knives/fireworks

iPods/music players

Tablets/computers/cell phones

Money/Valuables

Snacks/candy/gum

Fans (we have A/C!)

Video games

Alcohol/drugs/tobacco

Peanut/tree nut products

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs are not allowed or tolerated at any time. If your camper does not abide by this rule, you will be called to pick them up. A random search of possessions may be done if the Director and Dean feel it is necessary.

CAMP LOUCON EXISTS TO:

KINDLE COMMUNITY CREATE DISCIPLES DEVELOP LEADERS

Phone: (270) 242 - 7160

Fax: (270) 242 - 7313

email: info@loucon.org

MEDICATION AT CAMP

All medication, whether prescription or over the counter, is handled by Loucon's summer health care team. They will be present at Check-In to log medication, store it, and see that your camper receives the right amount at the correct intervals. Medication must be in its original container and prescriptions must be in the name of the child. Please only send the amount of medication that will be needed during your camper's stay.

CANTEEN MONEY

In addition to the three kid-friendly meals campers receive each day, they will have the option to choose something from the canteen once daily. Options will include juices and healthy snacks along with sodas, candy bars, and ice cream. In the past, parents added any amount of canteen money to their child's account and the camper chose how they'd like to spend it throughout the week. To save everyone the confusion that comes along with this system, we have moved to a canteen fee that is the same for all campers in a camp (i.e. all Adventure campers will pay the same fee, all Discovery campers, etc.) and includes two snacks and two drinks per day for each camper. In addition to canteen time, some camps will have a pre-determined snack at another time of day. Your kids won't go hungry, we promise!

All campers will receive a t-shirt at the end of the week, but there will also be merchandise for sale at Check-In and at the end of the week at the canteen. Items include hats, sweatshirts, drawstring bags, t-shirts, photo albums, water bottles, flashlights, journals, and stuffed animals and range from \$3 to \$30 in price. Cash or check is the preferred method of payment for merchandise.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

It's very important that your camper arrives and departs at the specified times for their camp. All camps will begin at 5:00 pm Central Time on the date listed, with the exception of Explorer Camp, Day Camps, and Vacation Retreat. Explorer Camp and Vacation Retreat will begin at 10:00 am. All camps will end at 10:00 am on the date noted in the camp schedule with the exception of Day Camps.

Please remember that Loucon is in the Central time zone. Check-In will be held at the Dining Hall. On the last day of camp, follow the posted signs for your child's camp to pick up your camper.

FOR PERFORMANCE CAMPS (CREATIVE MINISTRIES AND ALL MUSIC TRACK CAMPERS):

Your child's camp will end with a presentation that begins at 10:00am on Friday. Check-Out will begin at 9:30am, will stop at 10:00am, and then resume after the performance. All campers must be signed out before they leave. If you have a camper in the performance, you will go directly to Turner Lodge where the performance will be held to sign out your child. If you have another child in a different camp that week, you may sign them out prior to the performance and have them attend with you.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CAMPER WHILE AT CAMP

We strongly encourage you to write to your camper, either by mail or email. Many campers get notes and cards, and it can be disappointing for those that do not. This is a great way for extended family members and friends to get involved in your child's camp experience. Please write upbeat messages! Realize that your child may have moments of homesickness, and a sad letter from home may encourage those feelings. Campers may send mail from the camp office, so pack stationary and stamps if your child is interested in doing so.

- 1) For mail: Please write the name of the specific camp on the outside of the envelope, in addition to your camper's name and Camp Loucon's address (ex. Adventure, Jr. High, etc.) You may leave mail in the office when you drop off your child or you may send mail, but remember to mail it BEFORE your child leaves home so that they will receive it in time. You can even write "Day 1", etc. on the envelope and we will sort it appropriately.
- 2) For Campergrams: You may send messages to your child via an online form using a link that will be provided at Check-In for free. Campers will receive printed Campergrams once a day during Mail Call.

To see what's happening at camp, check out camploucon.smugmug.com and use the access code you receive at Check-In to see plenty of pictures. You can also check our Facebook page, where we will post a few pictures each day.

PHONE CALLS

The camp office phone line is monitored 24 hours a day in case of family emergencies. The phone is transferred to one of the camp directors during the evening. We discourage calls from family members as it can interrupt the camp experience and often bring on homesickness; however, they're your kids! We will arrange a time for you to speak to your child if necessary. If a child is homesick, we will communicate this with you and allow you to decide if speaking with them is the right choice in that circumstance.

All calls will go through the camp director. If you receive a call related to homesickness, it is often best to encourage your child to stay and to enjoy their experience; however, sometimes a camper may need to come home. Try to do what is best for your child. The director may give you advice, but the decision for your child to stay or come home is yours. In order to maintain the camp experience and protect campers from outside distractions, campers are not allowed to have cell phones. Cell phones that are brought to camp will be held in the office and returned at the end of the week. We are happy to discuss this policy with you if you have questions.

HOMESICKNESS PREVENTION

Although it sounds contrary to logic, do not talk about homesickness with your child prior to coming to camp. Rather, talk about how much fun they will have and set them up for success through your encouragement. If homesickness happens, our camp staff will work you're your camper and call you when appropriate. Do not suggest to your child that he or she can call home if homesick.

If your child is a first time camper, help them to know what to expect by talking with them about activities, lodging, making friends, rules, and particularly spiritual emphasis and development. Encourage them to learn as much as possible and let it be known that you are excited to hear about it when they return home.

Finally, pray with your camper about camp. Pray for safety and health so that they will not miss out on anything, for friends who will have a positive impact on your child's life, and for their counselor and camp staff. We appreciate and need your prayer support too.

LOUCON'S RULES & DRESS CODE

Campers are expected to abide by the following rules:

- Treat others with respect
- Follow directions
- Ask for help with problems
- Take care of camp and your personal items
- Clean up after yourself
- Follow Loucon's Dress Code
- Respect other people's property
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
- Love God and your neighbor

Campers are expected to abide by the following dress code:

- Socks should be worn with all shoes
- Shorts should extend past the camper's fingertips with arms by their side.
- Sleeveless shirts may be worn as long as the strap is wider than 3 of the camper's fingers and does not have large arm holes
- Midriffs must be covered
- Underwear must be covered
- One-piece swimsuits are required
- Clothing with slogans promoting alcohol, sex, tobacco, drugs, profanity, or death themes are not permitted

IF YOUR CHURCH IS HELPING TO PAY

If your church is paying a portion of your camper's fees, AND you did not indicate this on your camper's registration form, you must contact the Loucon office directly.

FOR GREAT OUTDOORS CAMPERS

In order to participate in special Great Outdoors activities, Great Outdoors 1, 2, 3, & 4 campers need to return the following forms prior to camp. Great Outdoors campers will find these forms attached to the email that contained this letter; if for some reason your camper is registered for Great Outdoors and these forms were not attached, please contact the Loucon office.

- Ocoee Rafting (OAR) participant/liability/risk form
- Caving form

- Loucon liability form

LOUCON'S WORLD RELIEF EFFORTS

Since 2005, Loucon has collected donations for world relief and ministry projects. Campers and their families have helped send over 600 health kits to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) for hurricane and tsunami victims, helped raise over \$1,200 for Heifer International, and most recently helped to fund Kittinger Cottage, a free place for pastors and their families to rest and reconnect with God and their family at Loucon.

This year, World Relief donations will be used to support the ministry of The Foundry, a faith based community development center located in the West End of Bowling Green, KY. The vision of the Foundry is to raise leaders for the community from the children of the West End. Their desire is to serve and support the residents of the community in ways that bring about life, love, and hope. We hope you will join us in our effort to support The Foundry by making a donation at Check-In.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

We at Camp Loucon desire for every camper to know God and to experience the life He has for them. To make this happen, Loucon focuses on being:

- God centered
- Neighbor driven
- Growth focused

Camp helps build values and skills in a supervised, positive environment with controlled boundaries. Camp is about relationships, getting along, belonging, and feeling capable and significant. Most importantly, your camper will have the opportunity to grow in their relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. We are grateful for the opportunity to know and work with your child; with your help, we will do all we can to make this one of the most memorable experiences of your child's life. Thank you for choosing Loucon, and we'll see you soon!

God Bless You,
Warren Hopper, Director & the Loucon Staff

WHEN YOUR CAMPER COMES HOME: A LETTER TO PARENTS

Plan the day of your child's arrival at home, knowing that your child may be out of sorts and tired. Camp days are full of high-level activity times. Facing home and a sudden change of pace often causes one to turn from a near-perfect angel into a grouch!

Your child may not be as delighted to see you as you are to see them. Besides going home, children are saying goodbye to their counselors and new friends.

When you arrive home be sure to provide extra time for rest and sleep. It would be nice if the child could be excused from chores for an additional 24 hours before resuming their normal routine and responsibilities.

Listen diligently as your youngster shares what happened. Ask questions and be interested, but don't probe. For the child who is quiet, reserved, and doesn't open up easily, allow time for him or her to do so. It's fun to share what the family did while the child was away, then to ask your child to share in return.

Your child may come home with the attitude of everything being ideal at camp. Such statements as "Our youth group's not much fun, but at camp...", or "I don't want to go to Sunday school. My teacher's not like my counselor at camp." Patiently wait out the comments. Things will die down. Allow your youngster to write to the people he or she "fell in love with". For the younger children, it is often their counselors; for older teens, it may be other campers. Eventually things will return to normal.

If you find your child mentioning one particular staff member who was an excellent role model, encourage your child to write and thank that person for what it meant. Many of our staff members have been greatly encouraged because a camper of a previous week wrote a note of thanks.

Please keep in mind that Loucon hires an amazing set of staff and counselors; however we do not supervise them outside of the camp experience. We do background checks, follow up with their references, and evaluate them through an interview process. We are confident that they are wholehearted followers of Christ. However, as a parent you should keep an eye on how your child interacts with their friends, online contacts, and those they met at camp, including staff and counselors. Ensure that any continued relationships/conversations with camp staff after summer camp are appropriate. This has not been a problem for us in the past, but in today's world one cannot be too careful.

Be interested in what decisions or commitments your child may have made at camp. Allow time to share those decisions without giving your young person the third degree. Upon arrival home, he or she may be on a spiritual high. Help your camper realize that whether they are up or down on the spiritual roller coaster, the commitment still stands.

We will notify your church if your child indicated they made a decision about their faith. If this happens, please do not attack your child because you learned about the decision through other sources.

The period after camp is a great time to begin a new prayer time with your child and help them follow through with commitments made at camp. The realness of the time at camp will be much more a part of daily life six months later if God is a daily part of the process.

Once again, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to know and work with your child. We hope to see them again next year!

Warren Hopper, Director and all of the Loucon staff