

2012 Frequently Asked Questions About 4-H Camp Cherry Lake

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Camper Orientation:

All campers and counselors will attend the **Camp Orientation** meeting that will be held **Tuesday July 17, 6:00 pm** at the Duval Extension Office at 1010 north Mc Duff Ave., Jacksonville. This will be your opportunity to meet the Counselors and ask questions about camp.

What is the 4-H camp mission, philosophy, and program emphasis?

The mission of the Florida 4-H camping program is to help develop life skills in youth through experiential education in a camping environment. Research has shown camping helps kids build life skills in a safe atmosphere while having fun. We offer outdoor adventure, environmental education and more, geared toward the positive growth of our youth.

Who works at 4-H Camp?

Each camp has a permanent Resident Director and seasonal program director to facilitate camp activities. Summer camp program staff are hired based on experience and qualifications, and screened through personal interviews, reference checks and background checks. All staff members participate in intensive pre-camp training to prepare them for the camping season. Program staff comes from the U.S. and overseas, bringing diversity and cultural richness to the 4-H camping experience. The 4-H Camp Cherry Lake Resident Director is, Neva Baltzell

How are behavioral and disciplinary problems handled at 4-H camp?

Behavioral expectations and consequences are communicated through the 4-H Code-of-Conduct, which campers and parents/guardians must sign prior to camp. During camp, expectations for behavior are reviewed the first day, and good behavior is facilitated through positive reinforcement and role-modeling. Corporal punishment is never allowed at 4-H camp. Contact your local 4-H Extension Agent for more information regarding this question.

How do I send mail to my child at camp?

Camper mail is distributed every day, usually during mealtimes. To ensure mail is received before the end of the camp week, please place items in the mail the *weekend before* your child attends camp, no later than the Monday of camp week. Camper names should be clearly legible. All mail arriving later than your child's Friday departure from camp will be returned to sender. Camp address is: 4-H Camp Cherry Lake, 3861 NE Cherry Lake Circle, Madison, FL 32340. The phone # is (850) 929-4429

In the event of an emergency at home, how do I contact my child?

Please call the camp's main office number (850) 929-4429 in the event of an emergency. County extension staff will be able to bring your child to the office for the call. Each facility's voicemail offers a secondary phone number to call for emergencies occurring outside of normal office hours.

Can my child have a cell phone?

I know in this technology age it is difficult for youth to not be in contact via cell phone. Camp is a unique environment. We are trying to help youth develop life skills at camp including independence and self-reliance. Often time's homesickness, which is a normal part of a week at camp, can be worsened by talking to mom and

dad. We respect and appreciate the wonderful relationship youth and families have, but if our campers are to enjoy camp fully they must be able to develop this independence. If there is an emergency or we are concerned about the youth's well-being, campers will be allowed to call home. Cell phone will be taken to be returned at the conclusion of Camp if the policy is violated. I understand that if there is an emergency and I cannot reach my child on their cell phone, I may contact the camp

Can I pick my child up early from camp?

For safety reasons and so all campers may enjoy the entire 4-H camping experience, campers are encouraged to arrive on time, not miss mid-week days, or leave camp early. We enjoy having each camper fully participate from the beginning to the closing of each camp week. A Camp Release authorization form must be completed in full for someone other than the signing parent to pick up a child from camp. Drivers licenses ID will be required by anyone picking up early. Full time participation is strongly encouraged.

Why aren't cell phones, MP3's, IPODs, Gameboys, and other electronics allowed at camp?

Use of personal electronic devices during camp encourages campers to be solitary and sedentary, which clashes with what camp is all about -- developing social skills, building new relationships, sharing traditions, appreciating nature, and being physically active. At camp, these expensive items get lost, broken, stolen or dropped in the water and in the case of phones shared with other campers, resulting in charges you weren't expecting. More importantly, a child who is focused on using the device may miss out on learning something new, or worse, may lose concentration during an activity and be injured. We believe camp without electronics is the best policy for everyone involved.

For more information, please visit the Florida 4-H Camping website at <http://www.florida4h.org/camps/>