



Blue Star Camps

2013 Parent Handbook

Important Reminders!

<u>ONLINE Camp Store</u> Orders Due:	Wednesday, May 15, 2013
Tuition & Fees Balance Due:	Wednesday, May 1, 2013
Travel Forms Due (all sessions):	Wednesday, May 1, 2013
Housing Requests Due (Online):	Wednesday, May 1, 2013
Submission of Prescriptions to Walgreens <i>Meds4Camp</i> First, Six-Week and Season Campers Second Session Campers All Blue Star Health Forms Due For First, Six-Week and Season Campers	Wednesday, May 1, 2013 Friday, June 7, 2013 Wednesday, May 1, 2013
All other camp forms due	Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Our Contact Information

P.O. BOX 1029 * HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28793

TEL: 828-692-3591 * **CAMP IN TOUCH ONLY FAX BACK FORMS TO 828-707-9598 ***

Please do not use this bar-coded fax number for any other office communication

Our South Florida Office is open through May 6: TEL: 954-963-4494 * FAX: 954-963-2145

Main Office Email: info@bluestarcamps.com

Health Center Email: healthcenter@bluestarcamps.com

Business Office Email: businessoffice@bluestarcamps.com

Transportation Email: transportation@bluestarcamps.com

www.bluestarcamps.com

Welcome!

Welcome to Blue Star! We are counting down the days 'til the start of camp! We have an amazing 66th season planned with exciting new programs and spectacular special events. Along with our excellent team of staff, we are looking forward to creating what will be a fantastic, fun-filled and memorable camp experience for your child(ren).

This booklet contains important information that will help you and your child(ren) prepare for their stay at camp. The safety and well-being of your child is our first priority; therefore, we ask that you read this information carefully.

We have tried to anticipate all of your questions about camp – how to prepare, what to expect and even how to get here! Look through this handbook for important information you will need to know about your camper's stay at Blue Star.

As part of our on-going efforts to “Go Green”, we have streamlined our Pre-Camp Kit. For returning families, you will find that many of the traditional forms you have filled out in the past are now online. While we are moving in the right direction, there are still however, some forms that you will need to fill out the ‘old-fashioned’ way. Some forms will be available online for you to print out and return, too. In advance, we thank you for your assistance in completing the variety of forms on time.

Please return the Medical Form and any other forms and waivers that apply to your camper(s) by **May 15** so our records will be complete. If you would like clarification on anything, please do not hesitate to call us at either 954-963-4494 (until May 6) or 828-692-3591 (year-round). You may also email us at info@bluestarcamps.com. We are always here to help!

Thank you in advance for your cooperation on all of the items listed in our “Parent Handbook” which really does help us to offer the best camp experience for our campers. We look forward to sharing a safe, fun and meaningful summer of Blue Star *Magic* with your family!

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WHAT ARE MY NEXT IMPORTANT STEPS...FORMS!

So you have enrolled your camper(s) at Blue Star and are now wondering, what is next? There are a number of **paper** and **online** forms to fill out to ensure that your camper(s) gets the most out of their Blue Star experience.

We send important documents to you via the U.S. Mail that need to be filled out and returned to us no later than May 1st (Medical Forms (15th), Transportation Forms, and Camper Confidential).

We would appreciate your cooperation in mailing all of these forms in the specially provided envelopes that we have provided to you. Please mail only the information requested by Walgreens (green papers) for your camper's medication to Walgreens in the green envelope. DO NOT mail any other Blue Star paperwork to them.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO [SUBMIT YOUR ONLINE CAMP STORE ORDER \(click here\) by May 15.](#)

Important Paper Forms

- **Physical Examination/Authorization Form (required)**
- **Camper Immunization Form (required)**
- **Confidential Camper Profile Form (required)**
- **Travel Arrival and Departure Forms (required)**
- **Visitor Weekend Form (6 and 8 week campers)**

Please note that Blue Star's color -coded baggage tags will be mailed to you with the Transportation forms.

FORMS DASHBOARD

You will find all the other necessary forms **online**. These forms can be printed out and sent to our offices or filled out and submitted online. Go **online** to <http://bluestarcamps.com> and login. If you do not know your password, click on the "retrieve password" link on the Login page.

Once logged in, you will find a section called **Forms Dashboard** and link called **Applications, Forms and Documents**. There you will find our **online** forms, download-able PDF forms, **required** forms and **optional** forms which are labeled as such. Here is detailed information about each form. As we receive and check-in your paper forms and online forms, your **Forms Dashboard** will be updated to note which **required** or **optional** items we have received for each camper in your family.

1. Fee-based OPTIONS and ACTIVITIES ONLINE FORM: If you would like to enroll your camper in additional activities (additional fees apply) such as Private Tennis Lessons, Horseback Riding, Elementary Tutoring and/or Water Ski, please use the Additional Options Online Forms to tell us how many lessons/ trips of each you would like for your camper. We will charge your account now for the Additional activities you

have selected for your camper. If your camper takes fewer lessons, we will issue you a credit on your camper's final camp statement at the end of the summer.

“OPTION CAMPERS” - CAN MY CHILD EXTEND HIS OR HER STAY? HOW IS THE 2013 SEASON STRUCTURED DIFFERENTLY?

In order to not interrupt the flow of second session, we are no longer offering an option for campers to mid-session (after our first session begins) extend their stay at camp from four (4) weeks to six (6) weeks.

If you are interested in changing your camper from four weeks to six weeks, this will be treated as a “change of session” and must occur in advance of the start of the summer. **The deadline to change your camper’s session from four weeks to six weeks is May 31.**

You may give your camper the ***Option to Extend*** from either four weeks to eight weeks or six weeks to eight weeks. Giving permission to stay does not guarantee that a space will be available for your child. During the third week of the First Session, we will make you aware of your child’s wishes so that you can make plans for Visitor’s Weekend should your child be able to remain for the additional weeks.

As a natural consequence of having happy campers, we always have children who would like to stay longer than they thought when they initially enrolled. Should your camper remain with us for additional weeks, the additional tuition will be billed at the more advantageous rate. The Business Office will call you with the amount and you may pay by credit card or a check. The additional tuition will be due before the extension is confirmed.

Permission to extend from four weeks to the FULL season or from six weeks to the FULL season can be completed on-line on your Forms Dashboard.

Additional Options Descriptions:

THE BLUE STAR WATER SKI TRIP (optional)

Come ski with us this summer on the beautiful and nearby Lake Bowen. Learn to wakeboard, water ski, kneeboard and slalom. Already a skier? Our water ski staff will help you perfect your style. Blue Star offers personalized instruction for Pioneer, Senior and Teen Village campers of all abilities where safety is our top priority. Blue Star’s Water Ski Team is comprised of certified USA Water Ski instructors and certified Boat Drivers using two Ski Nautique boats. Each half-day Blue Star Water Ski Experience costs \$35; includes transportation, and all gear. **Please indicate ONLINE how many Water Ski Trips you would like your camper to enjoy – maximum of four for each session. We guarantee one trip and** will do our best to provide campers with the number of water ski experiences booked.

PRIVATE TENNIS LESSONS WITH TENNIS PRO (optional): Tennis lessons, in a group format, are offered to all campers as part of our regular “options” at no additional charge. Private tennis lessons are available at a charge of \$25.00 per half-hour lesson. We offer a starting package of 8 lessons but campers can take up to 24 lessons in longer sessions. **Please indicate ONLINE how many lessons you would like your camper to take.**

HORSEBACK RIDING PROGRAM (optional):

Blue Star offers a premier ENGLISH RIDING program with a diverse string of well-schooled horses, Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) instructors and extensive facilities. We are committed to offering a wide-ranging horseback riding program at all levels from beginner to advanced riders and maintain our own string of horses year-round to ensure a high quality and consistent program for your campers throughout their camp career. The group horseback riding classes are comprised of small groups and include formal ring instruction as well as horse care. With a maximum of three students to one instructor ratio (3:1) in each class, campers get attention that is more individual. Campers are taught theory, how to walk, trot, canter, jump and participate in trail rides. Campers earn CHA certificates at four instructional levels. During the summer, campers have the opportunity to participate in Blue Star’s In – Camp Riding Show. Advanced riders may have the opportunity to compete in off-camp local riding shows. Trips may also be scheduled to *Found Feather Farm* www.foundfeatherfarm.com. **Please refer to the Horseback Riding Instruction Profile PDF for important details and required clothing.**

Indicate **ONLINE** how many horseback-riding lessons you would like your camper to take this summer (minimum required lessons is 8 each session). We request that parents also download, fill out and return by mail a [Horseback Riding Instruction profile form](#) for each camper taking Riding lessons.

PRICING:

Group Lessons (suggested 8 per session) with a camper-instructor ratio of 2:1 or 3:1. Includes a specially designed Horseback Riding Club T Shirt and admission to field trip sites if applicable.

\$280 for eight one-hour lessons (\$35 per lesson). Each additional hour lesson over the package of eight is \$35 each. Any out of camp trip will be counted as two lessons.

Private Lessons (one instructor/one camper and subject to availability) Private lessons can be booked independently of the group package. Each private lesson is \$65 per one-hour lesson and there is a minimum requirement of two lessons. Your camper will also receive a specially designed Horseback Riding Club T Shirt.

NEW: Trail Ride Experience (only available to children not signed up for group and/or private lessons). This Trail Ride is designed to be an introductory experience. You may give permission for your child to have 1, 2 or 3 rides; subject to availability. \$35 per ride

ADDING ADDITIONAL LESSONS: There are often times when campers express a desire to take additional lessons. To help us to better meet you and your camper's goals for their Horseback experience at Blue Star, please provide online the following information to us.

ONLINE QUESTIONS:

In the event that my camper would like to take additional lessons:

A: Please contact me before adding additional lessons either by email or phone:

B: In the event that my camper would like to add additional lessons, you do not need to contact me. Please indicate on the Online Form the additional number of lessons (2, 4, 6) or unlimited.

I understand I will not be contacted by camp in advance of the lessons being charged to my account. I also understand that the majority of my camper's lessons may take place in the first one to two weeks in order to leave space for the extra lessons in the last two weeks.

C: I would prefer not to be called regarding additional options (my child is not able to sign up for additional lessons.

The cost of all lessons and trail rides includes the use of an SEI/ASTM approved helmet.

The [Horseback Riding Instruction profile form](#) must be completed for all campers wishing to take riding lessons and/or trail rides and mailed back to us.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (ONLY) ACADEMIC TUTORING (optional)

Blue Star is happy to once again have a qualified and experienced **elementary school** teacher on our staff to serve as a private tutor for campers who request this service. Lessons are \$25 per half hour. Most campers sign up for a minimum of 1 lesson per week. Tutoring will be offered primarily in reading, spelling, language arts, and mathematics. Please download, fill out and return the [Academic Tutoring Profile](#) form (WHICH MUST BE MAILED BACK TO US, so we can ensure that your academic tutoring goals for your camper are met. We will try to schedule these classes so as to interfere as little as possible with your child's camping program. Scheduling of classes will usually occur during rest periods, free time, twilight, in-house options, cleanup or health call in order not to conflict with major cabin and camp activities. *Please send all applicable books, workbooks, and materials needed by your child.* The tutor can provide supplementary materials as well.

Please indicate **ONLINE how many Elementary School Academic Tutoring Lessons you wish your camper to have during their session (a maximum of two per week is permitted).**

2. **Online Housing Requests Form (Optional Bunk Requests):** We recognize that one important part of camp is making new friends. With this in mind, we will do our best to ensure that, if on a mutual basis, **ONE cabin-mate choice is honored**. Cabin placements are finalized just prior to your child's arrival at camp but all requests are due by May 1. Please help us honor your request by getting requests to us early. **We will be unable to honor housing requests submitted after May 1. We try to honor old friendships and encourage new ones and create a cabin group that will enable a fabulous experience for each child. Remember that we are only able to honor one mutual positive request per camper. Please be sure to list your camper's requests in order of importance.**

Occasionally, requests are made which, when considered in light of the circumstances, are not in the best interest of the camper or individual camp. If this should occur, we may contact you to discuss alternatives. **Please indicate your Camper's Bunk Requests ONLINE via the online Bunk Request Form on the *Forms Dashboard*.**

3. **Camper Profile/ Additional Questions (required):** Please remember to answer all the following "additional questions" to complete your camper's online profile. These required forms are necessary so that we can carry out your wishes concerning various aspects of your camper's experience while at camp. Please also complete and mail back the **Confidential Camper Evaluation (purple document)**. Also online are:

- **Dry Cleaning Permission (optional):** The camp tuition includes laundry service and linen supply. If your child has some garments, which require dry cleaning, there is an extra charge for this service. **We strongly discourage sending clothes which require dry cleaning.**
- **Kashrut on Trips (optional):** Blue Star offers kosher food on all out-of-camp trips but since many campers do not keep kosher away from home, we allow them to stop at Burger King on their way home from certain field trips. If you do not wish for your camper to eat at Burger King, please indicate on this online permission form that you require that your camper eat a kosher meal on their out-of-camp trip and we will ensure that a kosher meal is packed for them.
- **Senior Camper Waterfront Permission (required):** **Please indicate whether your Senior camper is required to take swim instruction in order to pass Level IV or beyond.** Swim Instruction is a mandatory part of the waterfront program for both Juniors and Pioneers. For Seniors, swimming instruction may be mandatory for those campers who have yet to master the skills required to pass American Red Cross Level IV ([Click here to refer to "Learn to Swim Level IV" PDF](#) from the American Red Cross). Parents of Senior campers who wish their children to receive instruction in order to pass Level IV will need to indicate this requirement on this online form. Otherwise, Senior campers will be exempt from the instructional swim program. All campers will have a "free swim" period where they may choose to participate in water team sports and the other activities offered at the waterfront, which includes our "state of the art" waterslides, water mats, tetherball, volleyball, ping-pong, swim team practice or aqua aerobics.
- **Tennis Equipment Repair (optional):** Occasionally a camper breaks a string or needs miscellaneous tennis racquet repair. If you would like to grant permission for your camper to have their tennis racquet repaired at an additional charge (up to a \$50 limitation), please indicate your permission on this form.
- **Permission to Fast on Tisha B'Av -Senior and Teen Village Campers Only (optional):** Applies only to campers ages 13 and older enrolled for the second, six or eight week sessions.

4. **Online Health History (required for all campers):** Parents must complete an online health history for each of their campers. Click on the link to this **ONLINE FORM** on the **FORMS DASHBOARD**. Submit camper health history, medication information, immunization history, emotional/mental health history, allergies and other health information online. This must be completed by May 15 in order to allow adequate time for our medical staff to review all camper health information prior to camp and prepare to meet their individual medical needs.
5. **How to Order Mandatory Unit Dosed Medications for your Camper (required if your camper takes medications while at camp):** Please call the office if you need additional forms or email Dick Weaver, the Walgreens pharmacist, at rxm.09930@store.walgreens.com
6. **Physical Examination and Authorization PAPER Form (required):** The Physical Examination and Authorization forms need to be fully completed, signed by a physician and returned no later than 4 weeks prior to the start of your camper's session. Our camp medical staff reviews each form in order to be aware of our campers' needs before they arrive at camp. We require that all campers have a physical examination by licensed medical personnel; within 6 months prior to attending camp. Parents must also sign the box labeled "Authorization of Medical Treatment" on the front page. **State of Florida parents MAY NOT use the "State of Florida School Entry Health Exam" form in place of a camp physical examination.**

Your signature is also required in Step 3 if your camper takes a medication on a regular basis.

7. **Visitor's Weekend Form (required for 6 and 8 week campers):** The Visitor Weekend period for our six and eight week campers is Friday morning, July 5 through Sunday afternoon, July 7, 2013. Parents of 6 and 8 week campers should mail this form (downloadable) to us in order to let us know what their plans are for their campers. **Your child will not be allowed to leave camp with another pre-designated family without your written permission.**

CAMPER SPENDING MONEY

We maintain a custodial spending money account for each camper. See the Spending Money form on your [Forms Dashboard](#) for more information. Note that staff members are not permitted to shop in town for campers. Please make your final payments no later than May 15th. All camp store and spending monies must be received prior to your child's arrival at camp.

IMPORTANT CAMP INFORMATION

SAFETY AT CAMP

Safety is given top priority at camp. Facilities and policies have been constructed to provide a thorough and consistent safety program. During Orientation and Staff Training, all staff are trained in safety rules and expectations for all aspects of camp life. Safety regulations are posted and practiced by all campers and staff. Please talk to your campers about the importance of following safety rules and appropriate risk-taking. All campers and staff may not bring anything to camp that is dangerous and could cause injury or destroy property. Those who bring illegal drugs, alcohol, fireworks or weapons of any kind will be dismissed.

ACCREDITATION AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION

Blue Star Camps is accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). Accreditation covers over 300 standards in areas such as staff selection, safety rules, program, health and sanitation and administration. Standards are evaluated and updated regularly. Blue Star Camps is permitted to operate by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Health & Natural Resources, which inspects our Camp at least annually. The American Camp Association is a 7,000 member, not-for-profit organization whose membership encompasses all segments of the camp movement including non-profit agencies, private entrepreneurs, religiously affiliated organizations and public/municipal agencies. Rodger Popkin is a Past National President of ACA.

DEDICATED CAMP COUNSELORS AND STAFF

Blue Star Camps carefully selects the men and women of our staff for their interest and commitment to working with children. All staff applicants must undergo a full interview as well as turn in references. Background checks are also completed on each staff member.

Staff members attend an intense orientation, which emphasizes counseling skills, group dynamics, safety procedures and activity skills. Our summer staff is a committed team with a single focus: a safe and fun-filled summer for each camper.

Camp guidelines do not allow “tipping” or “gratuities” for any staff member. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

INSURANCE

While enrolled in camp, your camper’s family health and accident guidelines and prescription card cover them. In case of accident or illness, the Health Center Administrator needs all insurance information in order to complete the paperwork as quickly as possible. Parents are responsible for payment of all medical bills. Please be certain that we have your complete insurance information on the salmon Health Center forms and a current copy of both sides of your insurance card attached as indicated. Campers without insurance and all international campers must have a credit card on file at camp to cover any fees associated with any medical charges. All co-pays will be automatically charged at the time of service.

MEDICATIONS

Campers **may not** keep medications in their cabins. If your child requires medication while at camp, Health Center Staff will administer these medications. When out of camp, the counselor administers the doses required. We require that you provide the medications to us in *Unit Dose Packaging* (pills and liquids only). **Please refer to the previously mailed Walgreens *Meds4Camp* packet which will assist you in this requirement.**

If your son or daughter takes a behavior modification medication such as Ritalin, please do not take them off the medication while they are at camp.

LAUNDRY AND LINEN SERVICE

Your camper's laundry is sent to a commercial laundry company once a week. All campers are required to have TWO Blue Star Dirty Duds Laundry Bags (please order them via our ONLINE Camp Store). Please pre-wash all camp clothes. Most fading, shrinking and bleeding of colors occurs in the first few washes. Camper laundry is washed in hot water. We do not take responsibility for shrinking of clothing, fading of clothing, mildew, fraying, items left in pockets or damage these items may cause, damage to ornaments attached to clothing, or clothing damaged by other articles in the laundry that are decorated with puff or iridescent paint. The heat of dryers may cause these products to become sticky and adhere to other clothes. We do not recommend sending any clothing that requires dry cleaning. If you do send clothing that requires dry cleaning, please authorize your camper to incur dry cleaning charges. All charges will be posted to your camper account and automatically charged to your credit card on file. See the [Forms Dashboard](#) for the [online Additional Questions form](#) to give your camper permission to purchase dry-cleaning.

Camp tuition includes the use of Blue Star's linens, towels, pillows and blankets. Campers change their linen weekly and 2 or 3 fresh towels are provided to each camper daily. Please DO NOT send personal linens, egg crate foam pads, personal towels, personal blankets or personal pillows. If you elect to send these items, please understand we cannot be held responsible for any items you send of this nature; if sent in camper packages, they will be confiscated and not returned.

Please mark or label your child's FULL name (not their initials) on all items of clothing and equipment. The collar or waistband of most clothing articles and inside hats/shoes works well. Mark names clearly on items such as tennis rackets, cameras, teddy bears and flashlights. Do not forget to mark duffle bags too! Name labels for labeling clothing and gear may be purchased from LabelDaddy at: www.BLUESTAR.labeldaddy.com.

PLEASE NOTE - BLUE STAR CAMPS DOES NOT REIMBURSE FAMILIES FOR LOST ARTICLES OF CLOTHING.

PACKAGES AT CAMP

Campers are allowed one package per session. Six and eight week campers may receive TWO packages during the summer season. First Class postage is presently 46¢. The Blue Star guideline is that any mail, excluding packages, will be accepted if the postage rate is below the FLAT RATE Priority Mail rate of \$5.60. It is convenient and acceptable to use the USPS Priority Mail Envelope *PM_EP14F* daily if you wish; there is no limitation to the number of these envelopes you may send. Any postal item with postage greater than \$5.60 will be considered a "package" and will be returned if your camper has already received a package during the camp session. "Camper Cabin" packages will be considered as the one package for the camper of the sending family.

Packages sent the first week of camp containing forgotten items will be considered as your camper's package; please keep this (and the 50 lb per bag rule) in mind as you pack the duffle bags for camp.

Remember that anything mailed via Express USPS Mail™ UPS or FedEx is considered a package. Please be aware that additional packages will be returned to the sender. **Blue Star has guidelines prohibiting packages that contain food items.** We appreciate your compliance. Please do send the following items: books and magazines, stationery, and small games.

Additionally, mail received via overnight service (as stated above) is handled the same way as traditional US Mail delivery and will be delivered along with daily camper mail. Note that FedEx DOES NOT service our area location with morning deliveries. Therefore, if you decide to send your one package FedEx or UPS, it does not guarantee it will be delivered to your camper the next day.

Please coordinate the mailing of your camper's one package with each member of his/her family. This will help to eliminate any confusion.

ITEMS THAT SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO CAMP – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

TV's, fans, skateboards, rollerblades, roller-sneakers, water-guns, pets, bicycles, lamps, cell phones/picture phones, portable DVD players, laptops, I-Pads or Kindle Fires, small electrical appliances, crock-pots, toaster ovens, waffle makers or other kitchen appliances, inappropriate media (magazines, pictures, etc.), glow-sticks, water balloons and crazy string are NOT necessary for a fun-filled summer at camp. Do not send them to camp with your camper or include them in the package you mail as they will be removed and not returned. If a camper has any of these "extras" in camp, the item (s) will be removed from the cabin.

Please understand that some of these items are not only a distraction for campers, they are potentially dangerous when used in a camp setting. Electrical outlets and capacities in our cabins are not set up to handle the voltage required for some of the items mentioned above and injury or burns may be sustained by use of such items. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our camp community safe and free from the above listed items.

Please read carefully Blue Star Camps' Policies on Technology

TECHNOLOGY AT CAMP

Camp should be an "unplugged" experience and the focus should always be on connecting with camp friends, staff and the beautiful natural surroundings. Items that interfere with the goals of our camp community have no place in the camp setting.

Please read the following carefully to familiarize yourself with what items are deemed camp appropriate and which items should not be sent to camp under any circumstance. In the interest of preserving the integrity of the camp experience, cell phones are not allowed at camp. If your camper brings a cell phone, it will be removed from the cabin and kept in "valuables" in the bookkeeping office until departure day. If your camper relies on his/her cell phone to serve as an MP3 player, camera or book reading device, please evaluate this potential problem ahead of time as we do not make any exceptions.

All cell phones (regardless of what their intended use may be) are not allowed at camp.

Laptops, I-Pads, Kindle Fires and portable DVD players are also not allowed. Bringing an I-Pad or I-pod touch to camp is strongly discouraged.

We do acknowledge that there are some items that campers may wish to bring with them for use in the cabin during "downtime." **Unfortunately, many items campers may bring for "downtime" (hand-held games, e-readers, I-pods, I-pads or I-touches) are now almost always internet connectable.**

Since we do not want to ban the use of items like these when they are for camp appropriate activities like reading a book or listening to music, we do reluctantly allow their use during quiet time in the cabin. **Internet that is available at camp in order to assist various areas or camp offices in running effectively is locked and cannot be accessed by campers. Passwords are protected and kept from the campers. In order to insure that campers are not able to access the internet on out of camp trips, ALL items that fall into this category and can connect to the internet may be taken away for the duration of the trip since we are unable to monitor their access to Wi-Fi hot-spots when in the general public. Your camper may be asked to leave such an item at camp or the counselor may confiscate the item for the duration of the trip.**

IF your camper's e-reader or music listening device is either an I-Pad or Kindle Fire (with built in Wi-Fi), it is not allowed at camp since both of those items have the potential to have built in Wi-Fi.

Please understand, we feel it is of the utmost importance that campers at Blue Star are able to actually "disconnect" from the outside world when at camp. Being able to connect to the internet, check email, face book accounts and generally browse as they see fit degrades their camp experience. **If any of the above items are used in ways that are not in line with our technology policies such as accessing the internet or watching TV show and movies, they may be confiscated at any time during the summer.**

We trust that you will discuss with your campers what are considered reasonable uses for items like this while at camp. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us achieve our goals for an "unplugged" camp experience. Please free to contact us with any questions you may have about this topic.

Additionally, we know that these items are expensive, fragile and not easy to replace. Blue Star is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items of this nature. They are not necessary for a happy camp experience but if you elect to send your camper with any of the items listed, please know that you are doing so at your own risk.

GRANNY SARA'S CAMP STORE:

We are pleased to offer innovative camp store services at Granny Sara's Camp Store. All Blue Star campers are scheduled to visit the Camp Store two or three times a week for treats as well as any sundry items (such as stamps, toothpaste, soap) they may need to purchase.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS & IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Camp sportswear and Blue Star laundry bags, shoe bags and other gear is sold exclusively by Blue Star ([please visit the online camp store on our website](#)). Returning campers may use T-shirts and laundry bags from previous years.

PLEASE ORDER YOUR CAMP T-SHIRTS, LAUNDRY BAGS AND OTHER GEAR NO LATER THAN May 15 FROM OUR WEBSITE.

We are happy to offer nutritious snacks as well as ice cream, candy and sodas at Granny's. We limit the number of treats a camper may buy in any one visit to the store. Reasonable sundry purchases will not be restricted and, unless you instruct us otherwise, campers will be permitted to charge one T-shirt or souvenir from a performer per season.

The weekly food and beverage limits are as follows:

- For Junior Campers: 6 items per week
- For Pioneer Campers: 6 items per week
- For Senior Campers: 9 items per week
- For Teen Village Campers: 12 items per week

A camp store fee of \$50.00 per session (\$75.00 for the six-week session) will be charged to your child's account to cover purchases during their summer stay. **This fee will be due May 1** along with your tuition balance. Any unused portion of this fee will be credited to you on your final camp statement. Should your camper charge purchases greater than this fee, the additional charges will be reflected on your final camp statement. Please note that **camp store funds may not be used for out-of-camp spending money.**

DVD Yearbook: Each year, we offer DVD Yearbooks that record all of the special memories of each summer for \$25. If you would prefer to not purchase the DVD Yearbook, please email Marsha Silverman at marsha@bluestarcamps.com or call her at 828-348-2921 to let her know you would like to opt-out.

BIRTHDAYS AT CAMP

If your camper celebrates a birthday while at camp, it will be celebrated in the dining hall with a cake for the whole cabin group. Campers with birthdays during the summer also receive recognition from camp friends. We encourage you to send birthday cards and emails to your child. You may also want to send a package that is special for your camper's birthday. Please remember that there is only one package per session, so be sure to plan accordingly. Your camper's birthday will be treated as a special day at camp!

CAMPER UNIT ROSTER

A unit roster will be mailed to your home at the end of your camper's session. Your camper's home address will be included in this unit roster unless you asked us to withhold this information on your camper on their enrollment form. If you are uncertain as to what you indicated on the enrollment form or do not wish to have your family's contact information disclosed to their fellow campers or staff members in their unit, please email us at info@bluestarcamps.com and we will honor your request.

CANDY, FOOD AND BEVERAGES

In an effort to build a strong cabin community, we ask that no candy, food or beverages (including bottled water) be brought or sent to camp for the following reasons:

1. We are diligent in observing the Dietary Laws. In addition, some campers have critical food allergies.
2. Food in the cabin attracts mice and other living animals looking for a nice resort setting.
3. Snacks are offered at milk call and a limited amount of candy and soda are available for purchase at Granny Sara's store.
4. Our mountain water is better than any water you may purchase... and better still... it is free! Please be sure to send your child with a water bottle that they may refill at one of our 32 water fountains throughout the campus.
5. It undermines the cabin community if a few campers have special food and others do not.
6. Camp is a group experience. Anything that detracts from "equality" and "fairness" should be avoided.

LIST OF WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

Required for camp

Ω Available at [Blue Star's Camp Store](#)

CLOTHING BATHROOM ITEMS

Please note that Juniors and Pioneers may need more clothing than listed

- 14 shirts or T-shirts (**1 red, 1 blue, 1 white**)
- Ω # 3 Blue Star T-shirts
- 3 jeans or long pants
- 14 shorts
- 2-3 nice outfits for socials or special events
- 1 medium weight jacket or windbreaker
- 1 bathrobe or beach robe
- 2-3 nice outfits for Shabbat (blue and white please) services
- 3 sets of sleepwear
- 14 pair of underwear
- 14 pair of socks
- Ω 3 sweatshirts or sweaters
- 1 raincoat or poncho with hood
- 3 bathing suits (**at least 4 for Pioneers & Juniors**)
- 2 white T-Shirts for Arts & Crafts
- 1 hat for sun protection

SHOES

- 1 pair of athletic shoes
- 1 pair of Teva™-style sandals or aqua socks for waterfront
- 1 pair of dress flats with back for socials (optional)

OTHER

- Ω 1 shoe bag for shoes and other small items
- Ω# 2 Blue Star laundry bags
- 1 Sleeping bag (for outdoor use)
- Ω Flashlight and batteries
- Ω Stationery and stamps
- Ω 1 Water bottle
- 1 Crazy Creek™ style chair
- Hand sanitizer

- soap and soap dish
- Ω toothbrush and holder
- drinking cup
- Ω tissues
- Ω comb and brush
- Ω shampoo
- Ω deodorant
- Ω sun screen

OPTIONAL

- books and magazines
- small toys and games
- tennis racquet and balls
- softball glove
- Ω inexpensive camera
- small musical instruments (no pianos or amplifiers please)
- autograph book
- hair dryer
- address book
- costumes for special events

Please do not send "Flip-flops", slide-in sandals without ankle straps, high-heeled shoes and platform shoes that compromise safety and increase falls, sprains, and fractures. For safety purposes, campers are not allowed to wear these types of shoes at camp.

ITEMS REQUIRED FOR HORSEBACK RIDING (See [horseback form](#))

CLOTHING AND SHOES

Send clothing items that campers can really play in. Campers will get involved in activities in a “hands-on” way, and their clothing may show wear and tear. Please send extra white T-shirts for Paint Tag , tye-dye and other art projects.

In our ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and happy camp environment for your children, we have found it necessary to implement a “shoe policy” at Blue Star. The policy applies to both campers and staff.

Lace-up athletic shoes, aqua socks for the waterfront, Crocs and Teva-style or Birkenstocks which have an ankle strap for support are OK to wear at camp. Flip flops, slide-in sandals and shoes without ankle straps, high heels, platform sandals and shoes and sneakers with roller wheels are not permitted. Additionally retrofitted shoes with string, elastic, ribbon, etc. are not considered safe footwear for camp.

For safety reasons, please do not send toiletries in glass containers (i.e. perfume or cologne). A toiletries basket is helpful in carrying toiletries to the shower facilities (Senior Boys, Teen Village). *Also, please review the Airline Carry-On Policies by visiting the Transportation Security Administration website (www.tsa.gov) for up-to-date information if flying.* Camp is not responsible for lost or damaged articles including sports equipment.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

As you prepare to pack your campers for their summer at camp, please remember that storage space in camper cabins is very limited. Please only send the suggested amount of clothing and other items to camp. We really appreciate your cooperation! **Remember - strict baggage limits will be enforced.**

HELPFUL GUIDELINES FOR PACKING

- Please mark all items clearly with camper's FIRST AND LAST NAME. Use name tapes or indelible marker. (We recommend <http://www.labeldaddy.com/?c=bluestar> for labels)
- Only send clothing that will not fade, shrink, or transfer color to white items.
- For the trip to camp, campers will need to carry a **small** tote bag with a few articles of clothing, a bathing suit, and bathroom articles so that if luggage is delayed, campers will have most of what they need to participate on arrival and opening day. Please see travel instructions for those traveling by plane.
- For safety reasons, it is important for campers to wear our camp T-shirts on trips out of camp. We require each camper to have three Blue Star T-shirts, which can be purchased through the Blue Star Camp Store.
- On Shabbat and other special occasions, campers are asked to wear our camp colors - blue and white.
- Campers may bring two or three nicer outfits for socials and special events.
- Expensive or new clothing is not needed or recommended for camp.
- Remember that the Camp furnishes blankets, pillows, linens, and towels. Towels, personal sheets, blankets or egg crates and mattress pads should not be brought to camp. Unfortunately, our camp laundry is unable to launder

these items. Please understand that if you send these items with your camper, they will be merged with similar items in our laundry and may not be returned at the end of the summer.

- Juniors and Pioneers may need slightly more clothes than listed. For example, they swim twice a day and we recommend that you send at least four swim suits with them so that they have adequate time to dry between swim periods.
- ***TV's, fans, skateboards, rollerblades, roller-sneakers, water-guns, pets, bicycles, lamps, cell phones/picture phones, portable DVD players, laptops, small electrical appliances, crock-pots, toaster ovens, waffle makers or other kitchen appliances, inappropriate media (magazines, pictures and the like, glow-sticks, water balloons and crazy string are NOT necessary for a fun-filled summer at camp.*** We thank you for not sending items like these as they really do detract from the camp experience.

BLUE STAR'S TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

TRAVELING TO CAMP

In the US Mail packet, you will find the pertinent Travel Forms. **(Additional copies of these forms are available ONLINE under FORMS DASHBOARD)** We need the Travel Forms returned to us by May 1 for EVERY camper who attends Blue Star this summer – even if you have previously emailed an itinerary or if you are driving to/from camp. This allows camp to know exactly when, where and how to expect your child's arrival and departure and to make appropriate arrangements.

You will receive a confirmation of your child's return home travel plans shortly before the end of their camping session. Please contact us immediately if the information is not accurate.

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND AIRLINE POLICIES REGARDING UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Many airlines require a special "Unaccompanied Minor" (UM) ticket to be purchased for minors traveling without an adult. Before buying your camper's ticket to camp, camp parents need to make sure to check with their airline (and any subsidiary airlines used) and understand Unaccompanied Minor (children traveling without an adult) ticket rules, policies and procedures unique to each airline or airlines used.

You should list the following on the 'release to' Unaccompanied Minor form for the way to camp:

**Allison Marks/ Blue Star Camps
179 Blue Star Way
Hendersonville, NC 28739
828-692-3591**

For the return from camp information, list the person who will meet your child at the gate. If we are required to pay for this service at the airport, your credit card will automatically be charged. If your child will be picked up at camp or met by someone other than a parent, written permission from you must be provided to camp prior to departure day.

IMPORTANT BAGGAGE SHIPMENT INFORMATION

The prime focus of our camp staff assigned to airports is the safe departure of our campers; many are flying as unaccompanied minors. We do not want staff distracted paying baggage fees or any other duties that can easily be avoided. The FedEx ground service eliminates these challenges and increases our ability to safely accompany our campers to their correct flights on time.

Many camps in Western North Carolina share departure dates, and the airlines cannot (or will not) accommodate last minute credit card charges for the fees required for un-prepaid or overweight camper baggage. The mistake that parents often make causes the required payment to be made in "cash" and often delays the outbound camper and their baggage.

Please be aware of the airlines' ever changing luggage size and weight policies. To give you more options, Blue Star has arranged with Integrated Freight Logistics, to pre-ship camper's luggage "door to door" using FedEx Ground Service. For information on this service, please visit <http://shiptoscamp.com/bluestar> and click **on our Blue Star logo**.

BAGGAGE AND SHIPPING TAGS

Specific color-coded baggage tags will be mailed with the transportation forms. Whether you fly or drive, please attach the tags to all duffel bags. Our CAMP SPECIFIC (i.e. pink for Pioneer Girls, blue for Pioneer Boys, etc.) tags allow camp and airport baggage handlers to easily recognize camp luggage as well as identify lost baggage. PLEASE REMOVE ALL OTHER TAGS – ESPECIALLY TAGS FROM PAST SEASONS AT CAMP.

DUFFEL BAGS (preferred camp luggage) IMPORTANT SIZE AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

The airlines have tightened restrictions on baggage. Carry-on bags must be smaller than 22" x 14" x 9" and must weigh less than 40 pounds. Checked bags may not exceed 62" (height + width + length) and must weigh less than 50 pounds. Bags exceeding these standards will result in extra charges such as \$100 charge (for 51-70 pounds) and a \$200 charge (71-100 pounds). Please limit carry-on bags to what your child can easily carry and ensure that it is within the proper size limitations.

REMEMBER: PAY YOUR CHILD'S LUGGAGE FEES FOR THE RETURN TRIP WHEN YOU CHECK IN. ATTACH THE RECEIPT TO A COPY OF THE E-TICKET AND SEND TO CAMP.

We suggest that you pack your child a little snack (no liquids) and give them a little travel money for unexpected layovers, food, beverage, etc.

AREA INFORMATION FOR VACATIONERS

Are you bringing a camper to Blue Star and perhaps planning to stay and visit our beautiful mountains for a while? Western North Carolina is for everyone. For over a hundred and fifty years, Hendersonville and Asheville have hosted visitors at the many excellent resorts, hotels and restaurants in the area. We hope the following suggestions will be helpful to you as you think about and plan your mountain get-away!

We have reserved hotel rooms, for Blue Star families, that offer affordable comfort, service and convenience with a heap of Southern hospitality. You can choose from a selection of cabin rentals, condominium options, inns or bed and breakfasts below. However if you are looking for a more luxurious experience, you may want to look at these hotels and inns:

Grove Park Inn www.groveparkinn.com

Grand Bohemian www.bohemianhotelasheville.com

Inn on Biltmore Estate www.biltmore.com

We have arranged special rates with the following hotels; the rates vary by property and dates.

Mountain Lodge – Hendersonville/Flat Rock – Beautiful Suites www.mountainlodgeflatrock.com

Mountain Inn and Suites – Hendersonville – Same property site as the Lodge

Call 828-693-9910 for the Lodge and 828-692-7772 for the Inn

Hampton Inn and Suites and Homewood Suites – Discounted rate of 12% off best available rate. Call the hotel DIRECTLY and ask for the 'CAMPS' rate.

Asheville Homewood Suites by Hilton on Tunnel Road	828-252-5400
Hampton Inn – Biltmore Square	828-667-2022
Hampton Inn Asheville – Tunnel Road	828-255-9220
Hampton Inn and Suites – Asheville Airport	828-687-0806
Hampton Inn Hendersonville – Sugarloaf Road	828-697-2333

Courtyard by Marriott – Asheville	828-252-5831
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Springhill Suites by Marriott – Asheville	828-252-5831
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For both the Courtyard and Marriott, you must call the designated number and ask to speak to Christy Champ.

Inn on Church (Bed and Breakfast) Hendersonville 20% discount	828-696-2001
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"The Camp" – Vacation Rentals Bat Cave, NC www.thecampnc.com	828-252-2345
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Hendersonville's Official Website

www.historichendersonville.org

Asheville's Official Website

www.exploreasheville.com

Servicing airports are Asheville (**AVL**) NC, Charlotte (**CLT**) NC and Greenville/Spartanburg (**GSP**) SC

It is our hope that as you decide on your campers' mode of transportation to camp this summer, you will consider all there is to **do and see** in our mountains. We have included in this packet, some of the things families may choose to do in Hendersonville, Flat Rock, Asheville and the surrounding areas.

Family Fun and Activities in Western North Carolina

Downtown Asheville:

Bookstore/Cafe – Malaprops

Restaurants – Tupelo Honey, Early Girl Eatery and the Market Place (Wall Street)

Grove Arcade (walk around it)

Art Galleries – Blue Spiral and Haen Gallery – Broadway Avenue

For When the Kids are in Camp!

Carmel's – Outside Grove Cafe for lunch

Bistro 1896

Double Decker Coffee Company

French Bread Chocolate Lounge

Local Brews – French Broad Brewery, Pisgah Brewery or Highland Gaelic Ale

The River District – Artist Studios

Asheville:

Biltmore Estate – including the largest privately owned home in America. Horseback riding on the grounds is available but you must pre-book.

Across the street is the Biltmore Village and New Morning Gallery.

An interesting virtual exhibit to view is *The Family Store* – a history of Jewish business in downtown Asheville – 1880 – 1990. http://toto.lib.unca.edu/web_exhibits/family_store/default_family_store.htm

The Family Store: A History of Jewish Businesses, 1880-1990, is a 12-panel exhibit that was displayed in a variety of locations in downtown Asheville in the fall of 2006 and spring 2007.

Tours of Asheville:

LaZoom Tours – Historic Comedy Tour – 828-225-6932 www.lazoomtours.com

Historic Trolley Tours – 828-681-8585 www.ashevilletrolleytours.com

Asheville Restaurants:

Zambra – Tapas – lunch/dinner

Laughing Seed – Vegetarian – lunch/dinner

Mela – Indian – lunch/dinner

Limonos – Mexican-Californian – lunch/dinner

Wasabi – sushi, lunch/dinner

Rezaz – Mediterranean, lunch/dinner

Chelsea's and the Village Tea Room – lunch

Fig – bistro, lunch, dinner

Corner Kitchen – American/Southern, lunch/dinner

Mellow Mushroom (pizza)

Luella's BBQ

Frankie Bones (1960's era) – lunch/dinner

12 Bones - lunch

Early Girl – Breakfast/lunch/dinner

Chocolate Yummies!

French Broad Chocolate Lounge on Lexington
The Chocolate Fetish on Haywood

For the children: Fun Depot (like a small scale Dave and Busters) and The Health Adventure at Biltmore Square Mall

Black Mountain: was home to the famous Black Mountain College and is now home to many famous American artists.

Weaverville: MIYA Gallery; home of famous potter Rob Mangum
Check out the Well Bred Cafe – the owner used to own Well Bred Loaf in NYC

Blue Ridge Parkway:

Milepost 383 – The Folk Art Center
Milepost 364 – Craggy Gardens
Milepost 355 – Mt. Mitchell

Outdoor Adventure

DuPont Forest/Pisgah Forest /Sliding Rock/Bridal Veil Falls
Appalachian Trail
Jump Off Rock Park
Chimney Rock Park
Grandfather Mountain
Mount Mitchell State Park
WNC Nature Center and Arboretum
Holmes Educational State Forest
Cherokee Indian Reservation
Harrah's Cherokee Casino
Cradle of Forestry
Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Hendersonville/ Flat Rock/Brevard

Walking tours - www.dhinc.org
Bicycling - www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle
Flat Rock Playhouse - www.flatrockplayhouse.org
The Carl Sandburg Home
Brevard Music Center

VISITING CAMP

For parents of our four-week campers, you may visit camp on the opening and closing day of each session. On those days, there is plenty of time to meet with camp staff, see the camp facilities and meet cabin mates. The Visitor Weekend period for our six and eight -week campers is Friday morning, July 5 through Sunday afternoon, July 7, 2013. The [Visitor's Weekend Form](#) (must be mailed back) is available [ONLINE](#) on the [FORMS DASHBOARD](#).

Camp Tours for Prospective Camp Families

If you have friends interested in touring camp, we are happy to provide **weekday** visits by appointment. Please advise them to call in advance to set up this appointment.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CAMPER

CONTACT FROM CAMP

Your camper will be encouraged to write home at least once a week. Actually, in order to be admitted to the Dining halls on Friday night, they must "turn in" a letter. Please remember that we do not monitor campers' mail, so envelopes may not always contain whole letters, or children may write to friends instead of family as one of their letters. Our campers often become so involved in their activities that they may fall behind in their letter writing.

You will receive an *Introductory* letter from your camper's counselors (by U.S. Mail) after your child arrives and a *Camp Session Summary* after the end of camp. If your camper travels to camp via plane, you will receive a safe-arrival call once he/she arrives in camp and is checked in by his/her Camp Leader.

Please make sure that we have your correct email address on file and **that you have allowed your server to accept our mail** for any interim camp-wide news.

The Main Office is open from 9:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Saturday and until 7:00pm on Sundays to answer any of your questions.

DOs:

- Write letters by hand.
- Allow plenty of time for snail mail to work. So that they will have mail waiting for them when they arrive, send the first letter to your child several days before they leave home at the address below minus the cabin number which will be known after arrival. Please write your child at least 2 or 3 times a week and ask friends and relatives to write as well.
- **Address letters to: CAMPER'S FULL NAME, CABIN NUMBER (known after arrival), BLUE STAR CAMPS, P.O. BOX 1029, HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28793**
- Send cheerful letters with a focus on camp activities and programs.
- Send one-way emails via CampInTouch.

ONLINE PHOTOS and EMAILING YOUR CAMPER

- 1) Go to www.bluestarcamps.com
- 2) Log In
- 3) If you cannot remember your password, click on the link “retrieve password” and follow instructions to have a password reminder emailed to you. If you are locked out of your account, call us and we can assist you.
- 4) You must have a credit card on file with CampInTouch provider (not Blue Star) to purchase Camp Stamps (for sending emails) or Photos from our online camp community vendor, CampInTouch.
- 5) Once you log on, you can update your camper’s information; read the online Camp Newspaper; view photos and videos; email your camper and more!
- 6) Please note: You must email your camper from your registered email address in order for them to receive your email. Email from any other account will fail as a security precaution.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS OR CASH TO BLUE STAR FOR PAYMENT OF THIS SERVICE. ALL PAYMENT IS MADE DIRECTLY THROUGH YOUR CAMP IN TOUCH ACCOUNT TO THE SERVICE PROVIDER.

CAMPER PHOTOS

We make a concentrated effort to upload as many camper photos as possible. However, please understand that the photographers are also often the activity leaders and focus first on maintaining the campers’ safety and fun. Thank you in advance for your patience.

- The Photo section of our site allows you to mark favorites, view, buy and share photos, as well as view slideshows. *Click the icons* below each photo to perform these actions.
- When you click the **Add to Favorites** icon, the photo will be added to your Favorites page (if highlighted, the photo is already a favorite).
- Clicking the **Email** icon allows you to send a photo to family or friends.
- The **Zoom** icon enlarges the image and gives you the option of viewing the photos as a slideshow. Click the **Download** icon to purchase and download a hi-resolution image. If highlighted, you have already downloaded the image.
- Click the **Cart** icon to add a photo to your shopping cart so you can order a print or gift (if highlighted, the photo is already in your cart).
- All of the photos you view online are **available for purchase** as prints, digital downloads, or even on gift items such as t-shirts, calendars, or mouse pads. In order to buy prints or gift items, you must first add the photos to your cart.
- A great suggestion is to always put the photos that you buy or like in your **My Favorites** section. That way even after you have purchased a photo you can quickly find it again. Once you purchase photos from your cart, your cart is empty.
- Please download or purchase the photos you want to keep as souvenirs. CampMinder does not always keep the photographs online at the end of the current camp season.
- **It is suggested that you carefully look at your shopping cart before you purchase what you have chosen and be aware of the cost you will be automatically charged for.** Blue Star Camps is not responsible for these charges nor do we have any control over them.

Web-Based Newspaper, Camp Blog, Facebook Page and Twitter

A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AT CAMP

Learn about the exciting activities going on at camp. See what is happening at camp daily - from birthdays to camp-wide events and evening programs to options. Please enjoy this complimentary opportunity to view the fun and excitement at Camp. Registered camp parents can invite family members and friends as well via our Web Newspaper, Camp Blog, Facebook Page and Twitter by adding these family members or friends as Guests online. Just click the "Guests" link and follow the steps online. We post most days except for Shabbat.

CAMP OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

CAMP OFFICE E-MAIL

Camp parents are able to contact the various offices at camp, i.e. main office, business office, transportation office, and the health center via email. Here are the office email addresses:

Main Office - mainoffice@bluestarcamps.com (Camp Directors and/or general questions)

Health Center – healthcenter@bluestarcamps.com (health questions)

Business Office – businessoffice@bluestarcamps.com (enrollment and financial questions)

Transportation – transportation@bluestarcamps.com (questions about travel to or from camp)

TELEPHONE AND FAXES

We want to be available and responsive to your questions and concerns throughout the summer. To that end, our phone system offers direct access and voice mail in many of the administrative offices at camp. We hope this will make it easier for you to be in touch with us. **The best way to call your child's Camp Leader, counselors or us is to call the Main Office at 828-692-3591 and press "0"**. Here is a summary of some of the options from which you will be able to choose starting in May. Please note that administrative offices have varying office hours.

- Main Office (Camp Directors, general camp questions) – Press "0"
- Business Office (financial) – Press "1"
- Transportation Office (travel) – Press "2"
- Health Center – (medical) Press "3"

Campers will not have access to a telephone to make calls. Your cooperation in explaining this to your child is appreciated. Should you wish for "first hand" information about your child's ongoing camp experience, we encourage you to call the office (not on the first day please!) and we will be happy to arrange a phone conversation. Please understand that our camp facsimile (Fax) machine (828-692-7030) is for business purposes only.

Homesickness and Making the Adjustment to Camp

We know that one of every parent's greatest concerns is that their camper may experience some homesickness upon arriving at camp. Most of the time what children are actually experiencing when they feel "homesick" is anxiety over being in an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people. What they are usually "yearning" for is the reassurance and confidence they feel when they are with you. It is normal to feel uneasy in these circumstances and it is our goal to help each camper adjust to their new surroundings and enjoy camp life to the fullest.

As adults, we all know that growth and self-confidence are achieved by successfully navigating new and challenging experiences. A sense of independence and confidence are among the many positive outcomes that children gain from their time at camp. In order to assist your camper in the process of achieving these benchmarks, we have put together some "tips" that will help give your camper the assurance and encouragement they need from you as they set out on their Blue Star adventure.

1. Please read all the materials and communications we send you and carefully follow the suggestions on arrival times, items to pack, etc. If you are well oriented, chances are your camper will feel less stress about their adjustment to camp.
2. Help your camper choose some fun activities to look forward to.
3. Keep up their excitement and help them set personal goals for the summer.
4. Encourage them to make new friends and try new things.
5. Please let your campers know whom to go to with problems or questions: the counselors, Unit Leader or Camp Leader. It is very important that campers feel supported by the staff at camp and know that they can trust us to resolve these concerns they may have.
6. If you will be away from home, campers should know how to write you; tell them you have given the camp your temporary address and phone number in case you need to be contacted.
7. If you or your camper are having misgivings about camp or have had consistent difficulties with overnight stays in the past, please call us and speak to a director for advice on resolving these issues before camp starts.
8. Be clear that coming home early is not an option. Trying to calm your children's fears by inferring that coming home if they do not like camp is an option, will overwhelm your camper and severely hamper their ability to adjust to camp life.
9. Avoid sending letters telling your camper what they are missing at home or expressing your own sadness concerning your child's being away from home. Sharing these subjects will only make their adjustment to camp more difficult. Focus on the positive and ask questions about camp life.
10. In our experience, a camper's feelings of homesickness will go away, especially with their parents' encouragement. Your gift to your children, in addition to sending them to camp, is to give them the proper tools to have a successful summer.

Please remind your camper (and yourself) that camp is a "big time fun adventure". Convey your confidence in the staff at camp to resolve any small issues and encourage your child to trust that Blue Star will be a safe and friendly place for them. Blue Star strives to be a place that can help children create their own "happy wisdom". As always, we look forward to sharing a wonderful summer with you and your family!

FORMS CHECKLIST

FORMS TO BE MAILED IN –

- Camper Confidential Form **(Mailed)**
- Completed Physical Examination/Authorization form **(Mailed)**
- Completed Immunization Form **(Mailed)**
- Travel Arrival and Departure forms **(Mailed)** **(PDF form is also ONLINE)**
- Visitor's Weekend Form (6 and 8 week campers) **(Mailed)** **(PDF form is also ONLINE)**
- Horseback Riding Lessons (Please download and mail **Horseback Instruction Form**)
(OPTIONAL PAID ELECTIVE)

ON-LINE FORMS – Due May 1st

- Additional Optional Activities (additional fees apply)
 - Private Tennis Lessons (OPTIONAL)
 - Academic Tutoring (OPTIONAL)
 - The Blue Star Water Ski Experience (OPTIONAL)
 - Horseback Riding Program (OPTIONAL)
 - Camper Discretionary Spending Money (Please download and FAX BACK)
(MANDATORY)
- Online Health History (required)
- Senior Camp (rising 7,8,9th graders) Instructional Swim Required form (required)
- Dry Cleaning Permission (optional)
- Tripping and Kashrut (optional)
- Permission to Fast on Tisha B'Av (Optional for Seniors and Teen Village Campers)
- Rafting Waiver Forms – **Required for ALL Grades 4,5,6 and Six and Eight Week Seniors (FAX BACK)**
- Opt Out of Special Moments* DVD Purchase (optional)
- CAMP STORE ORDER FORM - DUE May 15**
(Found on Blue Star's website)

COUNTDOWN TO CAMP...

ONE WEEK PRIOR TO CAMP

- Parents – mail (snail mail) a letter to your camper so he/she will have mail the first day of camp.
- Give the camp address to family and friends who may wish to write (please remind them of the package guidelines)
- Buy a package of CampStamps online from CampMinder and send an initial email to your camper that will arrive with the first day's mail call.
- Ensure that any necessary medications have already been unit dosed and sent to camp in advance of your camper.
- Affix the proper color-coded baggage tags to your camper's soft-sided duffle bags.
- Last minute questions? Email your Camp Directors at fun@bluestarcamps.com or call us at 828-692-3591. We are here to help!

THE NIGHT BEFORE CAMP

- If traveling by plane, reconfirm the itinerary and departing airport. Ensure your child will not be carrying any liquids through the security checkpoint.
- If traveling by car, do you have the directions with you? Program your GPS to 927 Crab Creek Rd Hendersonville 28739....BUT we are a little bit before it on the left hand side. **Our physical address is 179 Blue Star Way but GPS devices do not always recognize it.**
- Are you excited??!!??

LETTERS AND PACKAGES **US MAIL**

Camper Name (Cabin #)
Blue Star Camps
PO BOX 1029
Hendersonville, NC **28793**

FedEx/UPS

Camper Name (Cabin #)
Blue Star Camps
179 Blue Star Way
Hendersonville, NC **28739**