



Parent Information Guide

Camp Westminister

on Higgins Lake

"Changing Lives Since 1925"

The staff of Camp Westminister on Higgins Lake is delighted that you have selected our camp. We have been providing wonderful Christian camping adventures since 1925. Camp Westminister staff and facilities are some of the finest in the country, and we are proud and excited about the programs that we provide. To help ensure a great camp experience, please look over the information contained in this guide. If there are questions, please contact the camp office at 313-341-8969, or info@campwestminister.com.

Our Mission

Through the wonder of creation, the rich abundance of inclusiveness, and the challenge of adventure, Camp Westminister on Higgins Lake creates community and extends hospitality where all people experience the love of God.

We believe:

- The purpose of camp is to develop independent, strong, and resilient young adults through the development of life skills.
- Being unplugged and out in nature for the duration of a camp session gives children and youth a sense of well-being that lasts all year round.
- A well-trained, nurturing and fun staff who are committed to each camper and to Christ is invaluable. We hire a diverse staff who will care for and lovingly challenge your child each day of camp.
- Spiritual formation is a crucial part of each person's faith journey.
- Earthcare is vitally important! We employ the "Leave No Trace" ethic both at Camp Westminister and on all of our trips.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR CAMPERS' DEVELOPMENT

The goals of Camp Westminister's program are to...

- Invite campers into deeper faith by offering experiences where they can see, feel, and hear God around them;
- Invite campers to discover the self they are becoming by offering an environment where everyone is welcomed as they are and challenged to take their next step forward;
- Provide campers explicit opportunities to practice intentionally living in an authentic Christian community where they can develop an appreciation of diversity, stewardship of nature, and respect for others;
- Provide campers with opportunities to develop life skills that will enable them to be successful in the 21st Century.

While at Camp Westminster, each camper will...

- Work towards developing character traits that are inline with the inclusive culture of the camp;
- Follow the Essential Agreements established within their cabin groups and camp;
- Complete daily chores with their cabin and throughout camp;
- Increase verbal expression for thoughts, questions, and feelings;
- Demonstrate ability to care for self by maintaining personal hygiene and personal belonging;
- Practice hard (archery, sailing, outdoor living skills, etc.) and soft (leadership, conflict management, interpersonal communication, establishing healthy boundaries) skills.

Questions and Answers:

Should I send mail?

Yes! Please send mail, including messages of support and encouragement. You may also send small packages that include **non-food** items such as crossword puzzles, stickers, small games or toys to share with friends, etc. Candy and food will be held in the office until your camper's departure, as we must discourage furry camp creatures from sharing cabins with campers!

Because camp is short, you might want to send mail a few days prior to your camper's departure to camp. Mail will then be delivered to your camper during his/her stay at camp. Address mail to: **Camper Name, Camp Westminster, 116 Westminster Dr., Roscommon, MI 48653**. We are unable to accept camper emails at this time.

Does my camper need spending money?

Please do not send your child to camp with money. However, a deposit toward your camper's "store account" is encouraged. The amount of the store deposit is up to you, and many parents give their children the opportunity to earn this money on their own. Each day, campers are allowed to purchase one snack item and one beverage at the camp store. Souvenirs and clothing items are also available for purchase, and include t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, blankets, water bottles, and various other non-food items. Prices range from <\$1 to >\$40. **Please make the store deposit before arriving for camp, to keep check-in running smoothly!** Unused store money will be donated to the campership fund. If the amount leftover is greater than \$5, you may request a refund by mail in the fall.

If my camper must cancel, will I get a refund?

The deposit of \$150.00, or \$225.00 for a two-week camp, is non-refundable. If a cancellation is received at least 15 days before the session begins or is made for medical reasons, all fees above the \$150.00 or \$225.00 will be refunded. Fees paid may be transferred to another session, if space is available. **The deposit for bus fare cannot be refunded** because the number and size of buses chartered is based on reservations received.

How is the health of my camper cared for?

A certified Health Officer is on staff and Camp Westminster has a well-equipped health center that includes a dispensary and sick bay. Arrangements have also been made with physicians at MidMichigan Urgent Care in Houghton Lake, and Mercy Hospital in Grayling, for consultation and emergency service.

Any time a camper is referred for medical attention outside camp or is restricted from normal program participation for more than 24 hours, parents will be contacted and informed. (The camp does not contact parents about issues that are handled on site by the camp Health Officer.) Parents will be responsible for all costs incurred on behalf of the child for medical treatment and/or hospitalization resulting from any illness or for the deductible cost of an accident occurring while the child is attending Camp Westminster or traveling to and from camp.

Medications your child will need during camp must be sent in their original containers, clearly labeled with dosage instructions. All medications must be given to a member of the camp staff at check-in, and will be dispensed by the camp health officer as instructed.

What if my camper gets homesick?

Homesickness is common and natural when a person is separated from a familiar environment, and our staff is well trained in how to help homesick campers. Most affected campers get over their homesickness quickly. However, with cases that are not quickly resolved, the director will be in touch with parents. Parents can help by writing friendly and encouraging letters; not promising that the camper can come home if homesick. In some situations a parent may receive a letter that is upsetting long after the problem has been resolved. We do not allow campers to call home, but please, always feel free to call and talk with the Camp Director if there are any questions regarding your camper's well being.

What are your discipline/behavior policies?

Camp rules on proper behavior are reviewed with campers when they arrive at camp. It is assumed that campers who come to Camp Westminster are amenable to discipline and will conform to the ideals and regulations of our camping programs. The Camp Administration does reserve the right to dismiss any camper whose behavior or health might jeopardize self or others in the camp community. Any camper dismissed from camp for disciplinary reasons will forfeit any refund of fees.

When should my camper arrive and what should my camper bring to camp?

Please see the **Camper Packing List** and the **Arrival and Departure Information** sheet specific to your camper's session.

If you have further questions, please check our FAQ section at our website:
www.campwestminster.com/summercamp/frequently-asked-questions

We look forward to welcoming your camper to Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake this summer, and know that it will be a great experience!