

The Center

The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community
Parish and Community Center Foundation

12700 Southwest Highway • Palos Park, Illinois 60464

Telephone: (708) 361-3650 • Fax: (708) 361-2811

www.thecenterpalos.org

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DAVID F. SANDERS, *Executive Director*

REV. CHRISTINE HOPKINS, *Pastoral Director*

Dear Extreme Farm Explorer Families,

Thank you for registering for our Extreme Farm Explorers day camp program! We are looking forward to sharing an exciting experience with you this summer!

This online packet includes three forms which need to be completed before the first day of camp. These forms need to be filled out by parents or legal guardians so please make arrangements before the first day of camp if someone other than a parent/guardian will be dropping your camper off. Feel free to email them back to me any time before the start of the session - this will help our check in process to go as quickly as possible. Also, your camp balance, if you still have one, is due no later than June 1st.

Extreme Farm Explorers Camp will be held Sunday through Friday. Our first night of camp will begin at 5pm on Sunday. Please bring your campers to the farm pavilion for check in. This first evening of camp will consist of an all camp dinner in the dining room, a bunch of name and get-to-know-you games and a bon fire with camp songs and smores! You campers will be ready for pick up at 9pm, at the farm pavilion.

Monday - Thursday, camp drop off and pick up will also be at the farm pavilion at 9am and 9pm. Lunch and dinner will be served daily in the dining room. Friday, camp will begin at 9am and goes until 5pm that evening. We ask that parents join us for an end of camp program at the farm that evening.

All campers should come dressed for the out of doors, keeping in mind that horseback riding requires long pants and sturdy soled shoes or boots. I recommend wearing jeans and gym shoes daily as we will be on the go for the entire day however if you wish to send your camper in shorts and sandals, please make sure to pack riding clothes. Campers without long pants and riding shoes will not be permitted to ride. We do require that all campers wear an approved horseback riding helmet while riding. We have plenty for everyone however if you would like your child to use their own helmet just send it along daily.

Campers are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle with them daily and also a spare change of clothes, just in case! We will have a designated area for each camper's cabin to store belongings. Also, each camper will need to have a white tshirt that they will use to Tie Dye. A reminder notice will go home the day before the tie dye activity but feel free to bring it on Monday and we will hold on to it until needed. (Please be sure to label all personal belongings)

We are so looking forward to these adventure and nature filled days with your child. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions you may have.

Thank you and see you at Extreme Farm Explorers Summer Camp!

Amy DiDominicis
Camp Director

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A special letter to campers and their parents at The Center, regarding...

A Commitment to Live Cooperatively...

The Summer Camp programs at The Center are an opportunity to live, learn, work, play, and grow in a special environment where everyone and everything is cared for and respected. This is something our camping program takes great pride in and have embraced for over 80 years.

Modern American culture is challenging. We are surrounded by images of life in the fast lane. TV programs, movies, news, and modern music often promote an irreverent disrespectful, sometimes violent, view of people and traditional values and ideals. Our society invites us to live a high and fast lifestyle which can jeopardize the foundations on which compassionate and cooperative character is built.

The Center is quite a contrast to that high and fast culture. Our programs promote a high respect and concern for all people and all of nature. We are asking you to discuss this code of conduct as a family and to make a commitment to uphold these values, behaviors and policies which are expected of young people at The Center.

At The Center we want every camper to have the best camp session possible; full of fun, learning and growth. To ensure that we maintain a relationally safe environment and each camper is free to experience camp life to its fullest, we cannot tolerate any behavior that takes that opportunity away from other campers. We will be addressing all incidents such as bullying and irresponsible behavior seriously, and will train the staff to recognize and deal effectively with such behavior. Understanding that camp is for ALL campers, any behavior deemed by the camp to be outside of the camper code of conduct and/or unmanageable may result in any or all of the following: 1. Meeting with the cabin counselor, program director, or camp director to discuss the behavior. 2. A telephone call home to the parent/guardian to discuss the behavior. 3. Being dismissed from the camp program.

Summer Campers Agree to:

- Show respect to other campers, and treat them as well as I would like to be treated. I will try to be a friend to all.
- Show respect and care to all farm animals and nature.
- Have FUN, but never at the expense of others.
- Respect the rights and privacy of others and treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- Communicate in an appropriate manner, which means I must not use foul language or gestures, harsh words or tone of voice.
- Resolve all conflicts through talking and use of good communication.
- Conduct myself responsibly. I understand that unwelcome teasing or other unkind behaviors are not allowed.
- Refrain from deliberately causing bodily harm to other campers or staff. I understand that pushing, kicking, hitting or fighting are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Respect the property of others and camp, which includes no stealing, property damage, graffiti, or vandalism.
- Refrain from all physical displays of affection and understand that gestures of a romantic nature are not allowed under any circumstance.

- Be fully responsible for my actions and understand that irresponsible behavior will result in disciplinary action or dismissal from camp.
- Dress appropriately – no clothing with alcohol or drug related slogans or vulgarity and make sure all parts that should be covered, are covered.
- Uphold the technology free camp environment which includes no cell phones.
- Know and follow the rules of camp.
- Have lots of FUN, learn, grow, and have a GREAT time!

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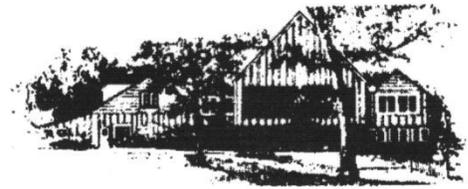
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Camp Health Policies at The Center

Dear Parents,

If your child needs medical treatment outside the realm of our in camp treatment options, we will contact you. If you are unreachable, we will seek medical help as we deem necessary for your child's welfare. If we take your child to the Palos Community Hospital or Primary Care Center, they will make every effort to reach you and will treat your child without your consent only if life or limb are threatened according to the decision of the attending physician.

If life or limb are not threatened, your child may wait for a painfully long time while the hospital tries to reach you. Therefore, it is very important to inform us of phone numbers where you can be reached while your child is at camp.

In house camp treatment and health care policies include the administration of Motrin, Tylenol, antibiotic ointment, hydrocortisone cream, oral and cream Benadryl, insect repellent containing DEET, prescription medication that is prescribed to the camper, and other over the counter medications that come with parent consent.

Parents will be notified of illness or injury to campers in the following cases: sustained or recurring temperature over 101 degrees F, injury or illness needing the care of a physician, any other unusual illness, injury, or behavior that the camp director believes the parent would want to know or for which the parent has specifically requested notification.

The enclosed forms (Health history and Parental release) are very important for us to have on file. All completed forms are due back at The Center no later than June 1st. Please be conscientious about this deadline so that we have adequate time to be well prepared and organized for your child's camp experience

Thank you.

Amy DiDominicis
Camp Director