

Parent Information Packet

Drop off/ pick up time- Arrivals are on Sunday afternoon between 3:00- 5:00, and pick up are on Saturday at 11:00 in the morning.

Getting to camp- Our camp is located about 90 minutes North of NYC. Most families can drive to camp, but about 30 campers fly to camp from around the country and around the world. We pick teenagers up at all New York airports and bring them to camp for a fee of \$150.00 one way. We use a limo service to pick campers up and we have a counselor at the airport meeting them and escorting them to the limo. We do the same thing for departing campers.

Things to bring- We do laundry for campers staying for all four weeks, so if your child is staying for two weeks we ask you to pack enough clothes for their time at camp. Below is a list of items we recommend packing. If you forget to pack anything we will make certain your child has what they need to be comfortable. For campers staying all four weeks, we send their laundry out at no charge. You do not have to label clothes, as it is washed in individual loads. We recommend using soft duffel bags rather than hard suitcases when packing for camp. Regarding bedding, everyone sleeps on twin beds and you can bring sheets and blankets, a sleeping bag, or both. Although it is usually pretty hot while we are at camp, some nights can get a little chilly.

(Please add the list of things to bring that I mailed to you.)

Safety/Supervision- While our camp has a “free” feeling, we are also a closely supervised camp with clear boundaries and some rules to help keep everyone safe.

Camper Population- Over the course of the summer we expect to have about 300 teenagers come to camp, with an average of about 150 teenagers per session. Our breakdown is usually pretty even in age range from 13-17, and we generally have more girls than boys, (about 60/40). Traditionally about 70% come for one of our two weeks options and the other 30% come for one week or all four. Generally over half the teenagers are coming to camp for the first time.

Housing- We have very comfortable cabins with five to eight teenagers per cabin. All campers are placed by age and gender, and we generally have two counselors per cabin and there is always a counselor sleeping in the cabin. We do accommodate housing requests whenever possible.

Alcohol and drugs- We have a zero tolerance towards both alcohol and drugs and if we find camper with either they are sent home immediately.

Cell Phones- We do not allow campers to keep cell phones at camp, unless they take out the sim card and only use it as a camera. While many camps are giving in on cell phone policies, we think it is better for campers to communicate with the people right in front of them, and not spend their day texting or calling friends. All campers can use our phones to call home during their second week at camp. Please know that you are welcome to call anytime and if there is anything going on with your child that you should know about, please be assured that we will call you.

Things not to bring- While all the cabins have lights, they do not have electric outlets, so things like hair dryers, and curling irons should be left at home. We also do not recommend sending your child with anything extremely valuable. We have everything your child will need in the way of yoga stuff, sports equipment and art supplies. We have some musical instruments, (guitars, keyboard, drums), but if you know your child will want to play their own instrument in classes and shows than by all means bring them.

Selecting activities- We offer over 50 activities every day, and campers select four of them daily. Two of them are intensives and continue from Monday to Friday, and the other two change daily. We alternate sign ups by group each day, so campers who are last to sign up for intensives one week, are first the next. We try to offer our most popular activities very often. Sundays at camp we sleep a little later and have a less programmed day.

Medications- There is no stigma in taking medications at camp and we dispense medications at each meal and at bedtime. Whenever possible we ask that you use a service called CampMeds to fill your prescriptions, it costs \$50.00, but it makes dispensing medications a lot easier for our nurses.

Money- Unless your child is flying to camp, you really do not have to leave them with money. We provide stamps for free and there is nothing to buy at camp and we do not go on any outings.

Missing home- I think our camp is very good at helping kids make connections and fast friendships, but It is common for first time campers to experience some homesickness the first few days. Our experienced staff can help your child through this transition.

Food- We have great food at camp and there are always plenty of choices for picky eaters.

Visiting- We don't really have a "visiting day", but for campers staying all four weeks, parents are welcome to come on the Saturday after the first two weeks. It is definitely not necessary and usually less than half the parents come to visit.

Contacting Us

We encourage letter writing and our address at camp is:

Teen Name
Odyssey Teen Camp
115 Camp Road
Holmes, NY 12531