



2010 Welcome Tips and Camp Rules

Since camp will be a new place filled with new people for many of our campers, we provide the following information to help introduce parents and campers to Hidden Pines Ranch. If you think of anything questions that are not addressed here, please don't hesitate to call us.

LESSONS: Hidden Pines Ranch provides lessons of many kinds for your child. Campers will be scheduled for Christian faith building, swimming, horseback riding, archery and tennis. If you do not want your child to participate in an activity, please make us aware of your wishes in writing or by completing the "activities restrictions" section on the Health and Medical Information page of your registration packet. In the absence of your written request(s), we will gently encourage campers to experience the variety of activities we offer, and even inspire them to conquer personal challenges. Five days/week campers are scheduled for two lessons per activity each week; three days/week campers are scheduled for one lesson per activity each week.

TELEPHONE MESSAGES: In the event you receive our voice messaging system, and choose to leave a message, be assured that we will return your call as soon as possible.

HOURS: The camp activity hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We encourage campers to arrive at 8:20 a.m. It is important that campers be present for announcements and activities that are a part of morning and afternoon flag gatherings which begin at 8:20 a.m. and 3:50 p.m. respectively. Extended day hours begin at 7:00 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. Please be mindful of these hours as a courtesy to our staff.

FIRST DAY There will be a lot of excitement! Your child will meet his/her counselor and the other campers in their group. Please be careful not to block the circle – pull ahead as far as possible and park on the grass. The driveway is a two-way access and the speed limit on the driveway is "SLOW" (10 MPH) ALWAYS! If a line of cars forms, please stay in line unless directed otherwise.

PARKING: You are always welcome to park and take more time to drop your child off in the morning or avoid two-way traffic on the driveway in the afternoon. To park, just follow the sign to staff parking – carefully turning left at the fork about halfway up the driveway. Park anywhere in the pasture/parking area.

ARRIVAL: Please drop campers at the circle drive in the morning. Campers arriving before 8:15 a.m. will need to sign-in with the supervising extended-day counselor. Campers arriving between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. will be greeted by camp staff who will help them locate their group counselor. Please do not park or block the flow of traffic, and do your best to keep the drop-off process moving.

DEPARTURE: The first car in line will be directed to STOP at top of the wooded drive by the swing set (forming a line of cars as close to the right side of the driveway as possible) until motioned to proceed forward at the conclusion of "closing flag". Staff will assist campers in meeting their "ride" by the tennis court after the driver has made the circle and come to a stop as directed by the camp staff. Campers are not to cross the blacktop to meet their "ride."

VISITING: Parents are always welcome to visit their child at camp, and when you visit, please sign in at the camp office and pick up a visitor tag. It is not possible for us, however, to allow campers to invite friends or relatives to attend camp with them.

EARLY PICK-UP: If you need to pick your child up earlier than the normal departure time, please park (follow parking instructions above) and come to the camp office to sign your child out. Please let us and your child know in advance of your plans to pick your child up early, so they may be back from more remote activity areas and ready for early departure.

LOST & FOUND items are kept in the area between the garage and the pole barn. Please take frequent opportunities to re-collect your child(ren)'s belongings. Each year a large number of unlabeled towels, clothing and footwear items are donated to various missions by September 1.

SWIMMING POOL: When it comes to our swimming pool, following the rules is a sure way to reach the right balance between safety and fun at camp. We appreciate your assistance reviewing the following rules with your children:

- No sharp or glass objects in the pool area
- Campers must shower before entering the pool
- No swimming if you have or suspect you have a communicable disease
- No swimming if you have open blisters or cuts
- No spitting, spouting water by mouth, or blowing your nose in the pool
- No running or rough play, except supervised water sports, are allowed in the pool area
- Visit the satellites before using the pool. The pool is never to be used as a toilet.
- No diving. At the time our pool was constructed, its dimensions were adequate for head-first diving. However, Minnesota Public Pool Rules now require a depth of 8½ feet for diving, and since our pool is 7½ feet deep, head first diving is not allowed. This rule is strictly enforced by our lifeguards and look-outs.

Please LABEL EVERYTHING to ensure that your child's belongings are easily identified.

WHAT TO BRING: Water Bottle

Lockers or baskets are provided for storage during the camp season

Rain gear

Insect Repellent

Lunch (Insulated bags work well) Milk is provided at camp.

Backpack or Bag that can hang (to keep your belongings together)

Swimsuit, Towel

Waterproof Sunscreen, and Earplugs (if you need them)

BIKING: Helmets are required for all bike riding. Camp has a limited number of helmets for shared use. Horseback riding helmets are provided.

TENNIS: Tennis Racket Label it please! Camp does have some rackets.

Tennis Shoes (a must for tennis and other camp activities)

RIDING: Sturdy Shoes with Heels. Camp has some and helmets are provided.

Long Pants for horseback riding that can be worn over shorts or swimsuit. Camp has some for sharing.

PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING HE/SHE BRINGS AND WEARS INCLUDING TOWELS, SOCKS, AND UNDERWEAR that seem to get lost coming and going from the dressing rooms! (Many campers wear their swimsuits under their clothes each day and leave socks and/or underwear at home. This minimizes the lost and found hunt.)

WHAT NOT TO BRING: We ask that campers do not bring valuable sports equipment or personal belongings to camp, as we can not be responsible for lost or damaged items. Alcohol, drugs, your pets & weapons are also not allowed at Hidden Pines Ranch.

LUNCHES: Please mark individual lunch items that need refrigeration with the camper's name and give to a counselor at arrival. Your help in controlling waste is appreciated. Prepackaged lunch options are very convenient; however they do generate a great deal of garbage and waste. Please help us keep waste to a minimum.

MEDICATIONS: All medications should be turned into the office in its original container (no envelopes, plastic bags etc), with written directions for use.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CAMP:

1.) If a camper will be absent. Call before 8:30 a.m. if possible. If no phone call is made, camp will call to address the absentee camper.

2.) If a camper has special needs/concerns. Please let us know before camp starts.

If you have any questions, please contact us at anytime. We look forward to sharing a GREAT summer with you at Hidden Pines Ranch!