



2022 VOLUNTEER WELCOME PACKET

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CAMP BLESSING TEXAS

LOVE ACCEPTANCE FUN

7227 CAMP BLESSING LANE
BRENHAM, TX 77833

Welcome to Camp Blessing Texas

Dear VOLUNTEERS,

SUMMER is almost here, are you ready? We are so excited to see you this summer. In the details below, you'll find info about your arrival, packing list, camp theme, COVID precautions, and so much more. Please read through this packet thoroughly.

Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have. We can't wait to see you at Camp Blessing for summer!

Blessings,

CAMP BLESSING TEAM



7227 CAMP BLESSING LANE, BRENHAM, TX 77833

FREEDOM

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

-Galatians 5:13

SCHEDULE

Term 1 : May 30 – June 4

Term 2 : June 6-11

Term 3 : June 13-18

Term 4 : June 20-25

Term 5 : June 27-July 2

Term 6 : July 4-9

Term 7 : July 11-16

Term 8 : July 18-23

Term 9 : July 25-30

Term 10 : Aug 1-6

WHAT TO BRING

- Bedding: twin sheets, blanket or sleeping bag, and pillow
- Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine products, briefs
- Swimsuit (one-piece for girls)
- Shoes: closed-toed shoes (must have socks); open-toed shoes if desired
- Shirts: T-shirts, long-sleeve shirts, hoodie or jacket, AND rain poncho (**no spaghetti straps, tight-fitting shirts, or shirts that completely cover shorts**)
- Shorts/Pants: must be at least fingertip length, no skirts or skorts.
- Appropriate sleepwear
- Sunscreen, hats, sun glasses, and bug spray
- Shower towel and pool towel
- Water bottle
- Flashlight
- Dirty laundry bag
- Bible, journal and pen
- Themed Event Attire (see below)

Drop off & Pick up

Drop off

Monday between 2-3pm CDT

Pick Up

Saturday between 12:15pm-12:30pm

****We understand that this is an exciting time, but we ask that you please respect the drop-off and pick-up times*

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THEMED EVENTS

- Volunteer Arrival: Sporty (this attire could get stained or dirty)
- Carnival Night: Circus Theme
- Messy Games/Coffee House: Hawaiian (This attire could get stained or dirty)
- Talent Show : Outer Space
- Cross Carry: Nice Casual

DO NOT BRING

- iPad/iPod or other electronic device (unless primary communication device)
- Gaming Systems
- Fireworks
- Candy, Food, Sodas, or other drinks
- Valuables
- Cameras

EXTRA NOTES

- Try and keep ALL luggage down to 1-2 bags or a trunk with no loose items.
- Please label all bags and individual items
- Theme Costumes: Get CREATIVE.
- All cell phones will be collected and stored in the camp office for the duration of each term. (it is best to leave these at home)
- The Camp Store will be open on arrival and closing.

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CBTX Volunteer Dress Code

NOTE: NEW CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

We strive to glorify Jesus Christ in everything we do. We especially want Campers to see our Staff and Volunteers as living examples of Christ. We have specific policies designed to allow you to understand what we believe is right and true in the eyes of our Lord. These policies are also designed for your safety and wellness during camp. If you have any questions about these policies, please call or email us.

Alcohol, Illegal Drugs & Tobacco: Our Staff does not condone or personally use illegal drugs or tobacco. We do not condone the abuse of alcohol or allow for drunkenness.

Sexual Behavior: We love all of God's people and we know sin takes many forms. We do not condone premarital sex and homosexual relationships in accordance with God's laws.

General Appearance: Everyone should keep a neat appearance. If you have long hair, it's recommended to keep it in a ponytail for your safety.

Shirts: T-shirts should reflect a Christian image and not have inscriptions or advertising for questionable products (i.e., beer products or slanderous sayings). No spaghetti-strap, tight-fitting, or low-cut shirts. Straps on shirts must be at least the width of two fingers and completely cover bra straps. Shirts must cover the abdomen, even when hands are lifted in the air.

Shorts/Pants: Our standard length for shorts is finger-tip length. Shorts must also be loose-fitting. No shorts or pants with words across the seat are to be worn at any time. Shorts must be visible under longer shirts. Leggings are appropriate only if and when front and back areas are completely covered.

Shoes: Shoes must be worn at all times. Closed toed shoes must be worn at horses, no exceptions. Closed-toe shoes or shoes with a strap going across the top of the foot and around the heel (i.e., Chacos or Tevas) are required during all activities, with the exception of to and from the pool.

Swimsuits: Men must wear swim trunks (no Speedos). Women must wear modest one-piece swimsuits. Two-piece swimsuits will be permitted provided they completely cover the abdomen area even with hands in the air. No low-cut swimsuits are to be worn. If necessary, girls may wear shirts over their swimsuits as long as the shirts are not white. It is highly recommended for girls to wear shorts over their swimsuit.

Tattoos & Body Piercings: While at camp, it is suggested that all piercings be removed for safety reasons. If you do not choose to remove, please only use studs. Our volunteers will wear no naval, eyebrow, or tongue jewelry at camp (this is a safety issue). At the discretion of the camp directors, any tattoo that may be viewed as inappropriate will need to be covered at all times.

Cell Phones & Laptop: To avoid distraction and fully immerse yourself in the Blessing experience, laptops are not to be brought to camp. We do not allow the use of cell phones at camp for any reason. If you need to make an emergency call, there are phones available. (Exceptions are made to this policy for group leaders and adult leaders - 30 and over).

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CBTX Code of Conduct

Everyone at Camp Blessing is expected to follow our Code of Conduct explicitly - it's comprehensive and falls into three main categories:

1. Physical Safety & Security: Always respect the other person's physical boundaries. Camp is not the place for physical relationships of any kind.

PHYSICAL SAFETY & SECURITY

- No kissing.
- No sharing of shower or bathroom stalls.
- Everyone sleeps in his/her own bed.
- No hitting, kicking, slapping, or punching.
- No tickling or touching of private areas.
- No touching of private areas (this includes slapping someone on the rear).
- No physically demeaning humor (wedgies etc.).
- No walking about cabin without covering private areas (not even Campers of the same sex).

2. Verbal Communication: Always use appropriate verbal communication. There are no exceptions.
Staff Specific: While everyone on camp property is expected to follow the Code of Conduct outlined regarding physical boundaries and verbal communication, there are additional stated exceptions specifically for Staff.

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

- No lying.
- No gossiping.
- No name calling of any kind (even jokingly).
- No talking about another's physical body.
- No profane language or use of slang terms.
- No discussions of a sexual nature.

3. VOLUNTEER STAFF SPECIFIC

- No Camper or volunteer is to be taken off alone.
- Do not give individual gifts of a personal nature to Campers.
- Do not show favoritism to a particular Camper.
- One-on-one counseling or private conversation is to be done in a public setting (seen but not necessarily heard).
- Volunteers should always hold other volunteers accountable.
- Volunteer Staff should be above reproach at all times.
- ***Open Door Meeting Policy:*** No Volunteer Staff should be with a member of the opposite gender behind a closed door or private area at any time. If a one-on-one meeting is required, it should be done in a clear, visible place where others are present.

CONSEQUENCES: Any infraction of the above policy will be immediate grounds for dismissal with no chance for re-hire or return to Camp Blessing. A violation of one of these policies might not only be misunderstood by youth/Staff but could result in legal consequences.

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Guidelines for Appropriate Conduct with Campers - 3 T's

TALK

Appropriate:

- ***Verbal praise for achievement or behavior***
- ***Verbal encouragement***
- ***Scripturally based teaching (non-sexual)***

Not Appropriate:

- ***Compliments or questions relating to physique or body development***
- ***Sexual jokes, homosexual innuendos, or bathroom humor***
- ***Swearing or vulgar language***
- ***Verbal harassment or abuse***
- ***Individual secrets or special gifts***
- ***Sexual coaching or conversation***

TERRITORY

Appropriate:

- ***Public one-on-one interaction***
- ***Group or public environment***

Not Appropriate:

- ***Sitting or lying on a bed with a minor***
- ***Private one-on-one interactions***

TOUCH

Appropriate:

- ***Handshakes and highfives***
- ***Walking hand-in-hand with Campers***
- ***Short, congratulatory or greeting hugs***
- ***Arm around the shoulders***
- ***Piggybacks with young Campers***
- ***Leg sitting with Campers***

Not Appropriate:

- ***Intimate wrestling or tickling***
- ***Private back rubs, arm tickles, massages, etc.***
- ***Touching of private parts***
- ***Touching a child in anger, disgust, or frustration***
- ***Frontal hugs with opposite sex***
- ***Sexual embraces***
- ***Lap sitting***
- ***Kissing***

Conduct with Campers Continued

Additional Guidelines: Modesty dictates that Campers, Volunteers, and Summer Staff never sit around or walk without a towel or clothing covering private areas. Towels must be worn at all times when going to or from the shower. NO EXCEPTIONS! It is against policy to display sexual body parts intentionally—even if it's a joke.

As a ministry caring for individuals with special needs, we know that some of our Campers will require an additional level of personal care assistance with hygiene during their time at Camp Blessing. We take this responsibility very seriously. We are very careful in how we train our Staff and Volunteers to modestly administer personal care if needed. Two caregivers are required to be present at all times for safety, this includes during hygiene administration. If a Camper requires additional assistance in their daily living activities and you would like more information on how we train or administer this care, we would be more than happy to speak with you. Please call the office.

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CBTX Safety Policy

3-6-0 Standard

Based on our Code of Conduct, the following rules and boundaries have been established in order for our Campers, Volunteers, and Summer Staff to have a safe, secure, and enjoyable experience at Camp Blessing. Understanding and following these rules/boundaries will help everyone have the time of their life at camp!

“3” RULES

First :Recognize unacceptable behavior. You must know and understand the Code of Conduct so you can easily recognize what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior. The 6 Boundaries outlined below will help too.

Second :Resist unacceptable behavior. No Camper, Volunteers, or Summer Staff should ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe at camp. Everyone has the right to say NO and remove themselves from the situation or distance themselves from the person making them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Third :Report what makes you feel uncomfortable or if a rule has been broken.

How to Report

- Tell Cabin Leader or the Camp Director.*
- Tell a member of the Medical Team in the Clinic.*
- Call 1-800-4-A-CHILD.*

“6” BOUNDARIES

1. Modesty: Private body parts should be covered at ALL times (swimming, to/from shower, dressing, etc.) NO EXCEPTIONS. Never display your private body parts to anyone or touch someone else's.

2. One-on-ones: You should NEVER be alone with a Camper or youth where others are not present. There should always be a third person present or in view. Never tell a Camper a secret or tell them “not to tell”. We have no secrets at Camp Blessing Texas. NONE.

3. Good Touch vs. Bad Touch: Appropriate touch includes high-fives, short side hugs, arm around the shoulders, etc. and makes your Camper or peer feel safe and encouraged. Inappropriate touch is any touch that makes your Camper or peer feel uncomfortable (touching private parts, hitting, pushing, lap sitting, etc.) Refer to the Code of Conduct for additional examples.

4. Good Talk vs. Bad Talk: Always encourage one another with positive, pure, uplifting speech. Negative, disrespectful, sexual, and/or profane language will not be tolerated.

5. Bullying: Camp Blessing has zero tolerance for bullying. If you are bullying someone (or they perceive you to be) and they ask you to stop, you MUST stop. If you observe or are the target of bullying, report it immediately. 6. Your Territory: Your body, your space, your stuff, your bed are off-limits to everyone else. No one should be in your territory without your permission and you should not be in their territory without theirs.

“O” (ZERO) TOLERANCE

If you decide not to abide by these rules and boundaries, you may be immediately dismissed from camp.



NOTE: #2 is sensory room and General store is now #9

COVID-19 POLICIES

The COVID-19 pandemic is ever changing, and protocols are rapidly adapting. As a result, we are committed to communicate our efforts to keep our campers, volunteers and staff healthy and safe so families can make informed decisions about sending their beloved family member to camp. We are focused on taking all reasonable measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We have been networking with other like-minded camps in Texas and across the country for best practices.

Here are the key elements of our policy:

- We will require an acknowledgement verifying that the participant obtained a negative COVID test within 72 hours prior to their arrival at camp. Please note that a child-friendly saliva test for COVID-19 is available at most local pharmacies.*
- We encourage all campers and volunteers to avoid large groups or other activities that would increase exposure to COVID-19 in the week leading up to camp.*
- We will have a fully staffed clinic oriented to the unique aspects of the pandemic.*
- Every staff, volunteer and camper will be monitored for suspected COVID-19. Suspicion will lead to a requirement to be picked up and transferred to home for medical assessment. We will not be performing COVID testing at camp for pragmatic reasons.*
- We will be monitoring Texas state and CDC guidelines as the pandemic changes. We are committed to holding camp this summer and will communicate and modifications or changes to the guidelines proactively with camper and volunteer families.*
- The CBTX medical directors are committed to work with camp leadership to orient the clinic staff to the key elements of safety with regard to the pandemic. They invite questions from camper and volunteer families.*

Additionally, we have taken measures to monitor and address symptomatic campers with appropriate protocols to isolate, confirm, respond, and remove any camper, volunteer or staff member with suspected COVID-19. You can view the additional measures we're taking by reviewing our FAQs on our website.

Ultimately, the choice for your camper or volunteer to attend Camp Blessing is a personal one, and you are in control. Camp Blessing by its very nature exposes campers in a rather intimate way to each other and staff. We encourage each family to evaluate these risks and if needed, consult with their physician to determine if the associated risks are acceptable.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we plan for an amazing summer!

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