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# Camp Cherokee Parents' Manual

A guide to assist you with your child's camping experience

Dear Parents,

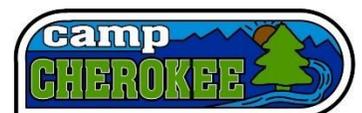
We would like to welcome you to the Cherokee family! Being a part of YMCA Camp Cherokee should be an exciting and enjoyable experience for your child as well as you, the parent! We realize that you are giving us the opportunity to have your most prized possession with us this summer. We do not take this responsibility lightly. Our purpose at Camp Cherokee is to provide a positive experience where each individual will feel comfortable and loved. We also hope they will gain a sense of independence and self-confidence. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way or answer any questions you may have that will help you get ready for the Camp Cherokee experience. We look forward to seeing you this summer! If there is any information you need that is not covered in this manual, please let us know!

Sincerely,

Will Gilmore  
Resident Camp Director

YMCA Camp Cherokee  
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Blacksburg, SC 29702  
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**Camp Cherokee Mission:** To provide individuals the opportunities to reach their potential by building self-esteem, friendships, and character through participating in activities that are in accordance with the YMCA Mission.



## Location / Directions

Camp Cherokee is located in Kings Mountain State Park in Blacksburg, South Carolina. Nestled in the 7000-acre State and National Park, Camp Cherokee has beautiful surrounding woods and a 66-acre private lake. Travelers coming from Atlanta, GA or Greenville, SC should take I-85 North to Exit 8 (Kings Mountain - Hwy 161). Turn right towards York at the top of the ramp and continue 5 miles to the entrance to Kings Mountain State Park. Turn Right and follow the signs to Camp Cherokee. Coming from Charlotte, NC travelers should take I-85 South to U.S. 161 Kings Mountain exit. Turn left towards York. The State Park entrance is located 5 miles on right. Follow signs to Camp Cherokee. Coming from Rock Hill, SC take U.S. 161 to Kings Mountain State Park (entrance on left). Follow signs to Camp Cherokee.

## Financial Concerns

The balance for registration fees is by April 15th. We DO NOT take payment at check-in on opening day. The fee includes all special programs and trips, camper t-shirt, camp photo, and daily canteen. Campers will not need additional money, unless the parents prefer they bring some or if they would like to purchase Camp Cherokee merchandise. Camp Cherokee is not responsible for money brought by campers.

## Updated Refund Policy

YMCA Camp Cherokee is here to make a positive, life-long difference for every camper. To provide maximum value to each camper's experience, we must provide the finest staff, services and special equipment. The expense to provide and maintain these features is on-going and requires careful planning. Therefore, our cancellation and refund policy is as follows:

A \$100 deposit is required to hold your Camper's spot and is non-refundable. Deposits are non-transferable from camper to camper or toward an outstanding balance. Any cancellations received prior to April 15th will be refunded minus the deposit. After April 15th, no payments will be refunded. Cancellations due to illness or accident will be refunded in full, and must be accompanied by a written statement from the child's physician. No refunds will be granted for children who are sent home during their session for misbehavior, homesickness, or other reasons beyond the Camp's control. Since camp sessions cannot be filled mid-week, no prorated fee is available for late arrival or early departure.

## Medical Forms

Each camper is required to have a medical examination by a licensed physician within 12 months prior to the camper's session. You will need to log into your account to fill out all necessary documents before your child's arrival to camp!

## Medical Policy

Minor medical issues are handled by the Health Directors that are present during the sessions. Any camper requiring additional attention will be taken to Piedmont Urgent Care on Highway 321 in York. If a child is taken to the doctor, experiences a fever of 101 or above, or other discretionary situations, the parents of the camper will be notified. In case of emergency, campers will be taken to one of the following: Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill, SC; Kings Mountain Hospital in Kings Mountain, NC; or Gaston Memorial Hospital in Gaston, NC.

## Arrival / Departure Times

Check-in will be on Sunday of the opening day of each session between 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. The gate will not open until 1:30 p.m. **CAMP CHEROKEE CANNOT ALLOW CAMPERS OR PARENTS INSIDE THE GATE UNTIL 1:30PM FOR ANY REASON.** If you are planning to “tailgate,” please plan to use the bathroom facilities at the Kings Mountain State Park Camping Area. Parents and campers should check in at the registration table where they meet their counselors. Medical forms and medication should be checked in at this time with the Health Directors. Pick-up will be the last Saturday of the session between 10 – 11 a.m. Campers will not be ready before 10 a.m. unless prior arrangements are made. Parents are encouraged to check for all of their camper’s belongings before they leave camp. First Timer’s Weekend arrival is Friday 4-6 pm and departure is on Sunday at 7 pm.

## Staff

Staff at Camp Cherokee is comprised of individuals who have a love for kids and a dedication to our Camp! Approximately 95% of each year's staff are return staff members. Each cabin has one counselor (Head, Double-Senior or Senior) and either one C.I.T. (counselor in training) or Junior Counselor. Head Counselors are rising Sophomores in college. Double-Senior Counselors are rising freshman in College. Senior Counselors are rising seniors in high school. Junior counselors are rising juniors in High School. Upper Staff members (Area Supervisors) are minimum rising juniors in College. All staff participate in an application, interview, and drug test process before being hired. Once hired, all staff members complete an extensive training session prior to the camping season. Camp Cherokee maintains a staff to camper ratio of 1:4.

## Behavior / Discipline

Campers are expected to act in accordance to the YMCA's Mission and in compliance to the four core YMCA values: responsibility, respect, honesty, and caring. Any misbehavior or disrespect to Camp Cherokee, the staff, the property, or other campers will result in the following actions:

- 1st offense: Camper behavior handled by a staff member, and conduct report will be filed.
- 2nd offense: Camper will report to the Camp Director, second conduct report will be filed, and parents will be called.
- 3rd offense: Camper will be dismissed without a refund. Parents are responsible for picking up their child.

## Communication Procedures

If you need to get a message to someone at Camp Cherokee, the following procedures may be followed: Call Camp Cherokee (803-222-2850) and leave a message with the front desk or leave a message via voice mail. In case of an emergency, you can call the Resident Camp Director on his cell phone (803-984-1713.) Campers may not receive or make calls while at Camp. It is imperative that no camper bring a cellphone to camp. Please do not allow or encourage your camper to pack their phones. They will be confiscated!

## Mail / Food Packages

Campers enjoy getting mail so feel free to write while they are at Camp. Please remember that the kids are away from home for a short period, so we encourage you to limit all packages. Food packages are highly discouraged as they will add to the cabin trash, bug problems, health issues, and cabin jealousy. This includes candy, drinks, and food. No packages/letters will be delivered to Camp Cherokee from the Rock Hill area YMCAs. If you choose to send a letter/package, please use US Postal Service or UPS. The Director may confiscate any food packages sent via mail and hold until last day of session. Campers receive plenty of food/drink through three “all you can eat” meals and a candy snack with drink daily. Camp Cherokee and the Upper Palmetto YMCA are not responsible for any lost or damaged mail, or mail received after your camper’s session has completed.

## What to Bring

The following are items you may want to bring for a one-week session, double the clothing items for a two-week session:

1 Set of Single Sheets	1 Pillow	1 Blanket or Sleeping Bag
1 Laundry Bag	8 Changes of Underwear	6 Pairs of Shorts
10 Shirts	8 Pairs of Socks	1 Pair of Long Pants
2 Pairs of shoes	1 Pair of Flip-Flops	2 Swimsuits
3 Towels	2 Washcloths	Shampoo
1 Pair of Pajamas	Insect Repellent	Personal Fan w/ Extension Cord
1 Flashlight	Body Wash	Toothbrush/Toothpaste
Comb	Deodorant	Sunscreen

## Suggested Items

These items are not required, but many campers enjoy having them during the week.

- ◆ A reusable **WATER BOTTLE!** Our summers are hot, and while we provide water stations at all activities, a personal bottle helps your child stay even more hydrated throughout the day
- ◆ An ENO or other tree hammock for use during free time and Camp Out Night.
- ◆ Wacky costume items are highly recommended, such as leis, crazy hats/socks, accessories, brightly colored items, Halloween costumes, or anything else silly your child would like to wear for the surprise evening activities.
- ◆ Camouflage attire
- ◆ One “nicer” outfit for closing banquet (collared shirt/sundress)

**DO NOT BRING:** alcohol, drugs, tobacco products including e-cigarettes, firearms, lighters, knives, fireworks, shaving cream, water guns, and expensive items such as cell phones, nice clothes, iPods, iPads, CD player/radio, portable gaming systems, A/C units, etc. Camp Cherokee is an alcohol, drug, and tobacco free environment. Possession of any of these items could be grounds for immediate dismissal. PLEASE DO NOT BRING CELL PHONES OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES!

## Activities

Campers have the opportunity to participate in various kinds of class and evening activities. They will choose their eight class periods on Sunday evenings with assistance from their counselor. First-Timer's class periods are pre-planned. Evening activities are the daily highlight and include participation from the

entire Camp. Activities may include: swimming, canoeing, sailing, rock climbing, nature hikes, archery, arts and crafts, athletics, cooking, carnivals, crafts, fishing, campfires, Olympics, dances, indoor soccer, ceramics, Rambo, talent shows, singing, vespers, and much more. All activities are dependent upon availability and class period choices.

## Confirmation of Application

Each camper will receive acknowledgment within three weeks of registering. Health forms and a Parent's Manual will be included with the confirmation. Other updated information will be mailed at a later date.

## Daily Schedule

8:00 AM	Reveille	1:30	Rest Period
8:20	Flag Pole	2:40	Third Period
8:30	Breakfast	3:30	Fourth Period
9:15	Cabin Clean-up	4:20	Cabin Time
9:45	Cabin Inspection	5:45	Flag Pole
10:10	Pow Wow	6:00	Dinner
10:40	First Period	7:00	Canteen
11:30	Second Period	7:30	Evening Activity
12:20 PM	Lunch	9:45	Devotion and Vespers
		10:00	Taps

## Lost and Found

Camp Cherokee does not keep any Lost and Found items after each session. The items collected are displayed at breakfast and are available for view during checkout on the last day of the session. If items are not claimed by the conclusion of checkout, they are taken to the Salvation Army or thrown away. Please label all your child's belongings, as this makes it easy to identify if the items are misplaced. Please check your child's baggage and cabin before departing after check-out at the end of camp. If you determine that you are missing items once you return home, your best bet is to check with the parents of the other campers from your child's cabin. After each session, all cabins are cleaned and inspected, so there will be no items left in the cabin after check-out!

## Visitation

Campers are very busy at Camp Cherokee and therefore should not have visitors. Whether they are enrolled in one week or multiple sessions, parents should not visit as this can create homesickness, even to well-adjusted kids. This will also depreciate the concept behind residential camping. Campers are not allowed to call their parents or receive phone calls during their stay for the above reasons as well. Please DO NOT allow your child to bring their cell phone!

## Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony is one of the most highlighted events of the session. Friday night, campers will gather around the flagpole after the awards banquet. The staff, dressed in ceremonial attire, perform a serious ceremony that recaps the week. Virtues are told by the Tribal Chiefs (Upper Staff.) "Outstanding braves" or honor campers are awarded at this time and several songs are sung around the campfire. The campers say their goodbyes to the staff and other campers that they have created friendships with.

## Character Development

At Camp Cherokee, we implement good character development within the staff and the campers. The following are several established programs: C.D. Club (Character Development Club) - Campers are rewarded for demonstrating the four core YMCA values (Responsibility, Respect, Honesty, and Caring); C.D. Indian Headdress-Outstanding campers-of-the-day, who exemplified one (or more) of the four core YMCA values, earn a feather with their name on it. The feather is presented to the camper in front of the entire camp and is placed on the Headdress in the Mess Hall; Thought For The Day - One counselor shares a devotional story at the beginning of Pow Wow each day; Cabin Devotions - The counselors of each cabin conduct devotions and discussion each night before bed; Daily Journal - Campers write down devotional subjects, C.D. earnings, and highlights of each day.