

Walden-pedia

Your Go-To Guide for Camp Walden's Policies

Nut/ Peanut Policy

Camp Walden is a tree nut/peanut free camp. Due to how prevalent and life threatening nut allergies have become, we are insisting that campers refrain from bringing any products that may contain traces of tree nuts/peanuts or tree nut/peanut oil in them to camp. Please read your labels carefully before packing snacks for the bus. If the label says "may be manufactured in a facility (or on equipment) where nuts/peanuts are processed" - please do not send that item with your child. Home baked goods or bakery items are not permitted as there is no guarantee that they are nut free. Any products that are in question will be removed from the site by a staff member.

Bunk Parties and Food Policy

We do have bunk parties the first 3 nights of camp and 3 nights after visiting day. During that time, we allow campers to share nut/peanut free snacks that they bring to camp. After 3 nights, all leftover items will be pooled together and donated to a local food pantry. Other than those days, no food or candy will be permitted in the bunk and not outside food will be allowed to be consumed in the Dining Hall.

PLEASE NOTE: We do not allow campers to exchange food for money. If a camper is found to be selling food, that camper will have to go home for 3 nights. Parents will have to make arrangements to pick up and return their camper to camp. This rule will be enforced for ALL campers and there will be no exceptions.

Bunk Gifts

Please do not send a wrapped present in your child's luggage. This will allow campers to immerse themselves more easily in to camp life, rather than focusing on home. We will not put wrapped presents on children's beds for their arrival.

Package Policy



Camp Walden has a NO PACKAGE policy. If your child has forgotten something, please call us. If we can easily replace it locally, it will be much faster than shipping a package. If it is a specific item that cannot be purchased locally, call us so we can approve the receipt of the item. All approved packages will be opened and inspected. Do not send any food because your camper will not be able to receive it. **Flat envelopes with magazines and reading material will be considered as packages, and will not be permitted.** Please let relatives know as well so that they are not disappointed to hear that the camper did not receive the package. We do make an exception for birthday presents, as long as they do not include food. Please understand that this is in the best interest of all of our campers.

Please do NOT send the following items (even for bunk parties):
*Drinks/Drink powders (ie. Gatorade, Soda, Protein Drinks, Hot Chocolate, etc.)
*Ramen Noodles, Cup of Soups, Easy Mac, etc.
*Baked Goods

Money at Camp and Additional Money for Trips

Each session Camp Walden plans off-camp trips to such places as Great Escape/Splashwater Kingdom. We purchase all entry tickets needed as well as give each camper \$20 per trip for food, snacks, drinks, etc. throughout the day. If you would like your camper to receive an additional \$20 spending money for these trips, please select the recommended trip money when you fill out your Additional Options Form. Most parents do select the extra trip money for their camper. Please do not send any extra cash with your camper. Teens/CITs who take overnight trips may bring extra money but please store it in the office for safekeeping. We are not responsible for any money kept in the bunks.

Inappropriate Behavior

We reserve the right to immediately send home any camper who engages in fighting, taunting, bullying or who is emotionally, verbally or physically threatening to another camper or staff member. Any camper found in possession of alcohol, tobacco products, vaping products, weapons and/or any illegal drugs including prescription and over the counter medications not turned over to the health center upon arrival to camp, will immediately be sent home. In these above situations, the camper will be isolated from their group until parents pick up their child. There will be no warnings, second chances, or refunds of any kind.

Gratuities and Gifts

Counselors are not to be tipped or given gifts under any circumstances. There is much that is undesirable about the practice of tipping. Our policy states that no member of our staff is permitted to accept tips. Please help us adhere to this policy.

Canteen

Canteen is available a few times each week for our campers to have a special snack and drink. There is no additional canteen fee.

Time to Unplug...

Camp Walden's Electronics Policy



Camp is a time for our campers to “unplug”. It is a gift for our children to have this time without access to phones, internet, and gaming devices. However, the only way that we can really make this happen is to have parents partner with us to ensure that each child leaves their technology at home.

The only electronics campers can bring to camp are basic MP3 players that only play music. Only specific kinds of iPods are allowed at camp: iPod Shuffle, iPod Nano, iPod Classic, or any inexpensive MP3 player that does not have video/internet capabilities or games. We are hoping to be able to keep the iPods/MP3 players in camp because we love music being a part of our campers' and staff's summer experience. It is essential that we work together with families to have the music while leaving the other technology at home.

If a camper is found in possession of an electronic device that is not allowed at camp (and has not been turned in upon arrival), that camper will have to go home for three (3) nights. Parents will have to make arrangements to pick up and return their camper to camp. This rule will be enforced for ALL campers and there will be no exceptions. Please note that all devices that are collected upon arrival will be returned to the camper on the date of departure. We will not be mailing those devices home earlier.

As we know, most of you strongly agree - technology really can change the positive nature of the camp experience. We want to preserve the focus being on campers and staff interacting together. If a child needs to reach a parent or anyone else, our administrative team will assist them in that process. If your child is flying to camp and you wish for them to have a cell phone while traveling, you must indicate so on the Camper/Parent Contract. When your child arrives at camp, we will place the cell phone in safekeeping and return it to him/her when they leave camp.



We say YES to the following:

- MP3 Player (music only)
- iPod devices that do not have Wi-Fi/Internet connection (music only)

* All other applications must be deleted prior to camp.
(No movies and/or television shows on any device)

We say NO to the following:

- Cell phone
- Laptop
- E-Reader/Tablet/iPad
- iPod Touch/Gaming Devices
- Selfie Sticks
- GoPro/ Wearable Video Camera
- Apple Watches/Fitbits



Other Electrical Policies

For safety reasons, we do not allow multi-plug power strips, extension cords or hair straighteners/ curling devices in camp. If a camper is found in possession of an electrical device that is not allowed at camp, it will be taken away and stored in the office until their date of departure. We will not be mailing those devices home earlier.

Inappropriate Use of the Internet During the School Year

A camper that singles out another person or group in a negative way, either verbally or in writing (via email, instant messaging or online social networking sites) will not be allowed to attend camp. It is against camp policy for campers and staff to speak or write disparaging comments about Camp Walden, campers, staff, directors, programs or policies, either in paper or electronically, especially on any social networking sites, including ones that are password protected. As we all know, the internet is much more public than people often realize. We encourage you to monitor your child's social networking sites and help identify and remove inappropriate pictures, language and/or any hurtful comments. Furthermore, out of respect for the privacy of all members in our camp community, campers and staff may not take videos at camp.