

Venture Camp Parent Guide

SUMMER CAMP OFFICE HOURS

June 19-August 12, 2016
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday - Office Closed
Sunday - 1:30 - 6:30 PM

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Closed Saturday and Sunday
218-575-2240
www.shamineau.org

We look forward to having you join us at Camp Shamineau this summer! This parent guide contains information that you need to know to prepare your child for summer camp. Feel free to contact us in the camp office during our regular office hours if you have any questions.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK - We want to hear from parents of campers and even campers themselves as they are a great resource of how we are doing and how we can better serve you in the future. Please call or write us with any concerns, questions or ideas on how to improve.

WHAT IS VENTURE CAMP? HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR CAMP?

Venture camp is:

- Orienteering
- High Ropes Course Skills
- Outdoor Cooking - Most of your meals are over and open fire
- Fishing Skills - catching, cleaning, cooking
- Waterfront Skills - canoeing, sailing, snorkeling, paddle boarding
- Reading the Weather
- Hiking
- Wilderness Survival
- Hunting - catching, cleaning, cooking

WHAT TIME IS CHECK IN? (for Sunday - Friday camps)

4:00 Arrive at Camp

Follow the signs for parking. Campers will be given their cabin assignments in the parking lot unless there is a balance on their account.

Go to the gym ONLY if you need:

- To pay your camp bill.
- To drop off mail or packages for your camper.
- To turn in all your medications (prescription and over-the-counter) to the nurse.

5:00 PM - Campers begin their camp tour with their cabin

How to Avoid Lines at Check-In

- **Pay your bill before you arrive.** Final payments are due 2 weeks prior to your camper's event. If you register online you can pay your balance online.

WHAT TIME IS CHECK OUT? (for Sunday - Friday camps)

Optional Friday Activities for families and those picking up campers. Reservations NOT necessary for these activities.

- 11:00 AM - Meet the directors and camp tour - meet by the gym
- 12:00 PM - Free Lunch in our Dining Hall
- 12:45 PM - Closing chapel

2:00 PM Pack up and head for home!

Campers' luggage will be at the gym, sorted by cabins. **Campers will only be released to someone listed on their registration forms as an approved person to pick up the child.** If you are not personally picking up your child at camp or at the bus make sure that you have listed the person picking up your child on your child's record. We will not release your child to someone not listed on their record as an approved pick up person. **PARENTS WHO ARE PICKING UP THEIR CHILD MUST ALSO BE LISTED ON THE FORM.**

LATE ARRIVAL AT CHECK IN

If you do not think you will make it to camp by the end of check-in (5:00 PM) please notify the camp office.

EARLY DEPARTURE

We do realize that due to schedule conflicts a child might need to be picked up from camp earlier than the usual check out time. However, we would ask as a general rule that you do not check out your camper early unless it is absolutely necessary. On Friday mornings campers are still on a regular schedule finishing up their skills classes for the week as well as getting ready to leave. The camp staff is also busy preparing all the details that go into the last day of camp and getting campers ready to leave. If your child needs to be picked up before the scheduled check out time, please contact the camp office at least 2 days ahead of time. Thank you for your consideration.

WHEN IS THE BALANCE DUE ON MY CAMPER'S ACCOUNT?

Your balance is due 2 weeks prior to your camp session. Payment options...

- 1). If you registered online you can pay online by going back into your child's record and click on the gray "Make a Payment" button in the Financial section.
- 2). You can call the camp office and pay with a credit card over the phone.
- 3). You can mail a check to our office: PO Box 244, Motley, MN 56466.

HOW DO I PUT MONEY IN MY CHILD'S SPENDING MONEY ACCOUNT?

Venture campers do not spend much time at the main camp so their spending needs are pretty minimal. They will need to keep track of their own spending money.

HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY DOES MY CAMPER NEED?

A typical amount of spending money would be \$20-40, but Venture campers are not on the mainland for most of the week so their spending will be minimal. The Gift/Snack Shoppe is open during check in and check out for you to purchase items such as t-shirts or sweatshirts for your camper. It is also open each day during Free Time. It features postcards, t-shirts (from \$10-\$15) sweatshirts (from \$25-\$40) and much more!

PICTURES

During each camp session our photographer takes a great photo of each cabin group. These **cabin pictures** will be available at no cost for you to download and print. You will be emailed a link at the end of your child's camp week to use to access these pictures.

"HOW TO" ONLINE... This section is for those who registered their campers online. If you registered with a paper form you will need to call our office to make changes.

I FORGOT MY USERNAME AND PASSWORD. NOW WHAT DO I DO?

Call the camp office and we will help you reset it. **DO NOT** create a new record with new usernames and passwords as you will end up with duplicate accounts and that is very confusing!

To add a Bus Ride

Log in to your camper's account.

In the "Enrollment" box on the right side of the screen click the "Sub Program" button.

Check the Sub Program(s) you want to add or subtract; Bus Ride.

Be sure to click "Save" to save your choices.

To add an "approved pick up person" to your child's record

Log in to your camper's account.

In the "Forms" box on the right side of the screen click on "Approved Person to Pick up Camper from Camp".

Make any changes in the box provided for this information.

To add or change a Cabin Mate request

Log in to your camper's account.

Find the "Optional" box on lower right side of the screen.

Make your changes in the Cabin Mate section of the box. You will not be able to make Cabin Mate changes online beginning 10 days before the start of your camper's camp due to housing assignments. **If you have any**

Cabin Mate changes to make 2-10 days prior to your child's camp please call our office and we can make those changes over the phone. We will house campers with up to 2 friends and reserve the right to separate large groups if needed.

HOW DO I CREATE AN ONLINE ACCOUNT IF I REGISTERED WITH A PAPER FORM IN THE PAST?

We would love to help you create an online account if you registered with a paper form in the past. Just give us a call and we can set that up for you.

GETTING TO CAMP

Directions to Camp - 2345 Ridge Rd, Motley, MN. Camp Shamineau is located about an hour north of St Cloud (just south of Motley) on Highway 10. Watch for the "Camp Shamineau" or "Ridge Road" signs at mile marker 120. Camp Shamineau is 1 1/2 miles east of Highway 10 on Ridge Road.

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION?

- **Cancellations will be only refunded 1/2 of their bus fee.**
- The bus pick up and drop off is at New Hope Church - 4225 Gettysburg Ave N., New Hope, MN 55428 (Cty Rd 9 and Hwy 169)
- Campers taking the bus to camp should be at New Hope Church no later than 1:45 PM on SUNDAY.
- Bus riders are to be picked up from the church at 4:00 on FRIDAY. Be prepared to wait there if traffic delays their arrival.
- On Friday parents (or preapproved pick-up persons) will have to check in with the Camp Shamineau representative before the camper is released to them at New Hope Church.
- No stops are made for bathrooms or food. The bus is equipped with a restroom.
- You must reserve a spot at least 5 days prior to your camp week to ride the bus. Call the camp office to add the bus to your registration. **DO NOT** call New Hope Church.

- Bus transportation is not available FROM camp for Cowpoke 4 campers.
- If we do not have enough riders to hire a bus we will transport campers in a Camp Shamineau van with Camp Shamineau staff drivers.

HOW DO YOU HANDLE MY CHILD'S HEALTH NEEDS?

We take every precaution to ensure the health and safety of each camper. Your child's health is our nurses' main concern. Campers are welcome to see them at any time. We want to keep campers healthy and happy so they can have a great week of camp! Should your child require off-camp care, every attempt will be made to contact you first.

- **Each camper is required to submit the completed medical information form.** If you register online this form is part of your registration process. If you use the paper registration you will need to fill out the paper form.
- A well equipped Health Center is located on site and staffed by medical personnel.
- Clinics and emergency room care are located within 12 miles of camp and many of our staff are Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders.
- Camp Shamineau carries secondary medical coverage on campers. Medical bills resulting from injury while at camp must first be submitted to the camper's personal medical insurer.

Medications

When packing, have all medications in a zipper locking bag clearly marked with the camper's name. All medication (prescriptions, vitamins, over the counter medications, etc) must be turned in to the Venture Directors during check in and will be administered as scheduled. Medications will be returned to campers prior to departure. Campers with inhalers should bring two, one to keep in their cabin and one to leave with the Venture Directors. Bring an anaphylactic kit for severe allergies.

Special Dietary Needs

We often have campers with special dietary needs and our Food Service works to accommodate them as much as possible. Parents of campers with serious food allergies or dietary concerns are asked to call camp to discuss the menu with the Food Service Director 2 weeks prior to their child's camp date. Special dietary items needed by your camper will be kept in the camp kitchen.

Poison Ivy

Let your campers know that Poison Ivy grows abundantly in our area. Help them learn to identify it and encourage them to stay on well-traveled paths. Campers should always wash well after being in areas of possible poison ivy contact or use an alcohol-based waterless hand sanitizer. This will neutralize the oils on the skin.

HOW DO I CONTACT MY CAMPER DURING THE WEEK?

Venture Campers will be offsite much of the week but will be able to get mail at times during their Venture experience.

Phones

At Camp Shamineau campers are only permitted to make or receive phone calls in emergency situations. Campers will also not be allowed to keep cell phones. Parents are requested to call for campers only in the case of an emergency. After 5:00 PM an answering machine will provide an emergency number. A Camp Shamineau staff member will answer this phone after hours. This after-hours phone is for emergencies only.

Visitors

Due to the brief stay the campers have at camp there are no scheduled visiting days during the week. For security purposes visitors are not encouraged.

Camper Emails!

We will be accepting emails this year for campers. Emails can be sent to: **shamineaucamper@gmail.com**. Be sure to put your camper's full name in the subject line of the email. Emails will be printed off each morning at 9:00 AM and delivered to campers during mail call. Due to system constraints campers will not be able to respond to your emails and the office staff will not be able to reply to emails directed to your camper. We also would request that you don't send multiple emails each day. With 300-350 campers here each week we just don't have the staffing to print off hundreds of emails each day. Keep your emails positive and encouraging as that will help keep your camper from feeling homesick.

Mail/Packages

Campers love to receive letters and packages while at camp. If you are sending mail or a package be sure to allow at least 3-4 days for the mail to arrive.

Address your mail: Camp Shamineau
 Camper's Name
 PO Box 244
 Motley, MN 56466

For letters or packages going through the US Post Office please use our PO Box number, NOT the street address. We pick up our mail each morning at the post office and they prefer our box number.

If you are sending a package through FedEx or UPS you will need to use our location address: 2345 Ridge Rd.

Many parents bring their camper packages and letters with them when they drop their camper off at camp. We will keep your camper's letters and packages in our office and deliver them during the week. Be sure they are well marked with your child's name and drop them off at check in.

STAFF SELECTION AND TRAINING

All staff are chosen on the basis of their personal commitment to Jesus Christ, maturity, character and love for kids. Staff attend a minimum of a week-long training session and are regularly evaluated. If you like you can check out our Summer Staff Application with its extensive questions in the "Forms" section of our website. Interviews, references and background checks are part of our hiring process.

FOLLOW UP

While your child has been at camp they have learned a lot about God and their personal relationship with Him. It doesn't stop there. We want them to continue growing in that relationship long after their time here is done. We believe that for your child to continue growing spiritually they need to be connected with a local church who will encourage, support and challenge them in their faith. Camp is just a step in the process.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO PACK FOR CAMP?

Bringing what your child needs can help to ensure a good camp experience. **Remember to mark all clothing and gear with the camper's name using nametags or permanent ink. If an item ends up in our lost and found we will then know who to contact to return it.** Keep in mind that no laundry service is available.

When it comes to clothing, pack items that are modest. To us this means that swimwear adequately covers a camper's body, pants stay up, and we don't see their underwear. All girls should pack a one-piece swimsuit or modest tankini since most camp water activities are very active. Clothing that advertises alcohol or tobacco products is not allowed. If you don't think something will be right for camp, you should leave it at home. If a camper is wearing something that is inappropriate camp staff will ask them to change.

Be sure to pack typical camp clothes - the kind you could afford to lose and don't mind getting really dirty!

Days can be very hot and nights can get cool, so pack accordingly. Due to the active nature of camp, all campers must have at least one pair of athletic/tennis shoes. Campers planning to ride horses must wear long pants with boots or lace-tied shoes.

- Backpack large enough to pack overnight and personal belongings
- Jeans/Shorts
- Water Bottle
- Swimsuits (for girls - one-piece or modest tankini only)
- T-shirts/personal clothes
- Sweatshirt/Jacket
- Athletic/running Shoes
- Sleeping Bag/Pillow
- Towels/Toiletries
- Bible/Notebook/Pens
- Stamps/Envelopes/Postcards for letters home
- Optional items: camera, fishing equipment, sun block, flashlight, bug spray
- **DO NOT BRING NICE CLOTHES!** Bring biodegradable soap and shampoo as showers are a jump in the lake.

LOST AND FOUND

Mark all items with your child's full name with permanent ink. All items are discarded after 10 days.

It is your responsibility to call camp and give us a detailed description of your lost items. If the reported items are found we will call to make arrangements for your payment of the packing and shipping costs. Any towels, socks, undergarments, pillows, toiletries and wet or foul smelling items will be discarded immediately.

DO NOT BRING

Excessive snacks, music devices, cell phones, electronic games, immodest clothing, weapons of any kind, alcohol, fireworks, expensive items/clothing. If they are brought they may be collected, stored, and if appropriate, returned at the end of the week. Camp Shamineau is not responsible for lost, broken or stolen items brought by campers.

Venture Typical Schedule

8:30am Breakfast

8:30 Cabin Clean Up

9:30 Morning Devotions

10:00 Group Activity/Skills Classes

12:30pm Lunch

1:30 Skills Class

2:30 Group Adventure - varies each day

6:00 Supper

Evening - Chapel and Evening Activities, the time varies with the day

11:00 Time for Bed!

CAMP ACCREDITATION

Shamineau Ministries is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America, but campers of all beliefs and denominations are welcome. Christ and a personal relationship with Him are the core beliefs communicated.

Camp Shamineau is accredited by CCCA, Christian Camp and Conference Association. Key staff members have certifications within their area of expertise. Many of our staff are Emergency Medical Technicians, certified First Responders and Fire Fighters.