

CAMP INFORMATION INCLUDING CAMP POLICIES, RULES AND PROCEDURES

CAMP SCHEDULES

Each week the first color pair moves down one time slot in the schedule and the rest of the color groups shift, too. We post schedules outside the Lower Elementary Building and on the Ann E. Anderson building as well as on our website at www.raintreemontessori.org. To find the schedule, click on "Camp Raintree." The schedule changes each week.

To ensure your camper gets the full camp experience and to provide a safe environment for all campers, please schedule appointments at the beginning of the day before bringing your child to camp or at the end of the day when you pick up your camper.

SAFETY AND SUPERVISION

We take roll at each activity period. When picking up your camper, always let the counselor or instructor know when your child is leaving for the day, even if it is at the regular pickup time, but especially if it is at a different time. The same applies to arrivals. You must connect with a human being at arrival and departure. All counselors and instructors have walkie-talkies, so even if the first person you see is not your child's counselor, that person can inform your child's counselor s/he has arrived, or departed.

CAMP POLICIES

- Please send your camper to Raintree in **old clothes** that are loose fitting and comfortable. Our motto for the last 37 years has been, "The business of learning is often messy." Your camper will be involved in a lot of outdoor activities that are messy and require running so please make sure she is dressed appropriately. **No flip-flops**. Shoes must have a strap on the back. The majority of our camp activities are outdoors and require your child's active participation.
- Please remind your child to **pack a healthy lunch**. No soda pop or candy, lots of fruits, veggies and healthy foods instead. Remember to put a cold pack or a frozen juice box in the lunch bag to keep food items fresh. Lunches are not refrigerated at Raintree, but are stored in camp rooms in baskets. Another lunch option is to sign up for Raintree lunches. (See Kelli.) In order to accommodate the campers who select this option, larger food orders are made so there are no refunds should a camper decide to bring his lunch. If your child has special dietary needs, please considering sending lunch instead of choosing the Raintree lunch option.
- We also have special events throughout the summer including overnight **campouts**. A Campout Registration Form will be available online in the Camp Raintree section of the website. Simply fill out the information online to register your camper for this fun activity.
- Raintree will provide the materials necessary for all camp activities with the exception of sunscreen, or an occasional recycled item for art or drama. **Please DO NOT allow your child to bring ANYTHING ELSE to camp**. Cosmetics, backpacks, games, trading cards, video games, cell phones, skateboards, and all other paraphernalia must stay at home.
- We have special Wheel Days (see schedule at the end of this letter) so campers may bring their bikes, skateboards or scooters on those days. Otherwise, please keep everything else at home. On Wheel Days, campers must wear a helmet to ride a bike, and both a helmet and kneepads to ride a scooter or skateboard. No exceptions. We have Water Days, too, requiring some type of squirting device.
- **Camp chores** are part of the camp experience at Raintree. "Leave no trace," is our motto. Campers are expected to leave each activity area better than they found it whether they are inside in the Art Studio, or outside at Raintree Pond. Although this activity takes 20 minutes and is only done once a week, it gives the campers a chance to contribute to Camp Raintree in a meaningful way.

CAMP SAFETY RULES

- As stated previously, **campers must wear either closed-toe shoes, or open sandals with a strap in the back.** No thongs, flip-flops, platform shoes, or Crocs, please. They do not allow the campers to fully participate in outdoor activities which is the beauty of Camp Raintree, the opportunity to spend so much time in nature! The safety of the campers is our first concern, and a camper with flip flops will not be allowed to participate in outdoor activities and instead sit out, or go to the library for the activity period.
- **Campers walk not run** from activity to activity.
- To protect from UV rays, **campers wear hats** outside. In the summer, campers may wear hats inside, too. We have also built shaded spots throughout the campus—over the archery area, the lunch patio/shuffle board/play area, climbing wall, and sandbox—to further protect our students from the harmful rays of the sun.
- **Campers wear sunscreen when participating in all outdoor activities. DO NOT SEND AEROSOL OR SPRAY SUNSCREEN. Please replenish our supply throughout the summer whenever you see us post a sign asking for “More Sunscreen Needed!”**
- **Campers may bring water bottles to keep hydrated.** We also have drinking fountains on the campus, and when the weather gets very hot, large thermoses are placed around the campus.
- **When arriving or leaving camp,** a camper must let the counselor or instructor know especially, if the arrival/departure time is different than their regular time.
- **We take roll every 55 minutes** at each activity session.
- An adult must accompany a camper to the pool to get swim gear.
- Campers must wear a **life vest** when fishing or boating at Raintree Pond.
- We follow the **Golden Rule** at Camp Raintree: We treat others the way we would like to be treated.

CAMP DISCIPLINE POLICY

Campers are expected to care for the Camp Raintree environment, be respectful of the camp staff, follow the camp policies and rules, show kindness toward others, and use appropriate language.

We also know the busier we keep the campers, the less time they have to get into mischief. Each camp activity room is equipped with a range of choices, not just one activity. With so much to do, we expect the campers to engage and participate. Every 55 minutes, the group moves to a new activity area with more activities to do allowing little time for misbehavior.

Even with all there is to do at Raintree, children sometimes misbehave. If this happens, counselors are trained to employ techniques to extinguish the behavior. We give campers, especially new ones, more time to familiarize themselves with Camp Raintree and our rules. The most important thing our counselors can do is to bond with them, get to know them, enlist their help, and make them feel a part of the camp experience. In this way, we often can minimize most behavior issues. If we see a pattern of misbehavior developing, parents are notified.

In the event a camper continues to misbehave, he may be asked to join another group for an activity period, or, depending upon the severity of the behavior, stay in another group for part of the day. At this point, parents will be notified by the Camp Director that the camper is not following the camp rules and the measures that have been taken to correct the behavior. Depending on the seriousness of the situation, a camper may be suspended for the day or the week.

If a camper continues to disrupt the group, compromises activities, disrespects a counselor, or disregards camp rules, we reserve the right to dismiss the camper without refund. We do not tolerate emotional or physical abuse, the threat of abuse, or any kind of emotional or psychological intimidation. We strive to maintain a peaceful camp community so that every camper can have a fun camp experience.