



2011 Parent Handbook

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Please keep this handbook for reference.

Dear Parents:

Thank you for registering your daughter! We are very excited about the wonderful summer ahead! We have created this Parent Handbook in hopes of helping you and your daughter prepare for camp.

As part of the registration process you will be sent via email or US mail several forms and information including:

Parent Questionnaire Form

Camper Questionnaire Form

Medical Form (2 part form – a 2-page health form completed by parents, and a single-page medical form completed by health care professionals)

HB Release Form (if your camper is participating in horseback)

Whitewater Rafting Release (if your camper is participating in this activity)

Campership Donation Form

Please complete these forms and send as soon as possible! Please send in the parent form and the camper form prior to your daughter's arrival. These forms help the staff prepare and plan accordingly. The medical forms are to be filled out by your child's physician and by the parents and also returned to us prior to camp. **Campers will NOT be allowed to stay at camp unless there is a current, signed medical form on file at camp.** Also, the entire camp fee is due by May 1. Feel free to contact the camp office if you have any questions about forms or payments.

About the YWCO Camp...

The Athens YWCO Camp for Girls is owned and operated by the Young Women's Christian Organization of Athens, Ga. The camp has been in continuous operation since 1925. The original camp was located in Athens and named Jennie Arnold Edwards Camp. Due to encroaching development, the camp was moved from Athens in 1987 to the current location in Habersham County.

First and foremost, the Athens YWCO Camp for Girls is a summer camp. Hundreds of girls each summer experience the fun and magic of this place. Fun songs, special traditions, friendships, activities, and much more make this a wonderful place! Our camp facilities include 8 camper cabins, dining hall, gazebo, fieldhouse, swimming pool, art barn, administration office, housing for directors, CIT house, athletic fields, group initiatives course, horse barn, riding rings, canoe dock, and equipment sheds. Campers enjoy fun-filled days of activities located throughout our 150 acres. From the horsepark to the lake, swimming pool, and hiking trails, our camp property provides a safe, creative, relaxed atmosphere for camp life.

The YWCO Camp also hosts many retreat groups during the fall, winter, and spring. Wedding receptions, class reunions, college groups, church groups and many other types of organizations enjoy the facilities when camp is not in session. Although we enjoy the retreat business, summer camp is always number one!

Nanette Baughman has been the director since 1997. Her entire family has been a very active part of camp in the past and will be around and about again this summer.

Philosophy

The basic philosophy of the Athens YWCO Camp is to provide a quality residential camping program for girls, which will present them with opportunities to broaden and grow mentally, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially.

A policy begun in 2003 is that CELLPHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED. Here at camp, we enjoy a break from technology and want to be able to focus on activities and time spent outdoors with new friends. We understand wanting to be in touch with your camper, and we ask that communication is through letters and emails. Cell phones will be taken from the campers and held until closing day to be returned to the parent. Please see page 9 for more on communicating with your camper!

We celebrate birthdays at camp with special songs and a cake! Please let us know if your daughter will celebrate a birthday while away at camp.

Your daughter will be given a camp t-shirt, which will be worn for cabin group pictures. Campers will receive a picture of her cabin group on closing day at checkout. Once again this summer we will be offering a special discount for pre-registering for the next summer season. So, you may want to discuss this in advance with your camper so you can be prepared to receive the added discount.

Thank you for entrusting us with your precious children. We look forward to a fun, magical, memorable camp this summer!

What To Bring:

What to bring for two weeks (make adjustments one week)

10 pair shorts (one white)

11 shirts (one white)

2 pair long pants

underwear and socks

2 pair pajamas

1 sweatshirt or jacket

2 swimsuits

raincoat

6 towels, 2 washcloths

2 sets of single bed sheets

2 pillow cases/1 pillow

1 blanket

sleeping bag for campout

2 pair tennis shoes

flip flops with thick soles

1 pair water shoes (old tennis shoes
or sandals that will stay on your
feet for tubing)

tooth brush, shampoo, soap, etc.

Reusable Water Bottle

laundry bag

flashlight and batteries

bug repellent

sunscreen

For Horseback Riders

Extra long pants

Must have sturdy shoes with a heel or
riding boots

For Horseback Specialty Campers

Approved Riding Helmet (SEI or
ASTM)

Optional items

Bible or other books

Camera and film

Old costumes or odd clothes for night
programs

Stationery/pens/stamps

We recommend you pack in trunks, duffel bags, or suitcases. When packing, make a list of what your child is bringing to camp and tape it inside the top of the trunk. This can serve as a checklist when packing for home. **Do not send money, food, or cell phones- these items are not allowed at camp. Also, do not send good clothes, valuables, or mp3 players to camp- camp is not responsible if they do not make it back home.**

Lost and Found

Be sure that everything your daughter brings to camp – clothes, glasses, cameras, shoes, etc – has her name on it with permanent ink or name tags. Lost and found items are reclaimed at camp during meals. Please remind your child that she is responsible for keeping up with her things. Any lost & found articles that are requested to be mailed back will be sent COD. Again, camp is not responsible for lost, missing or broken items.

First time going to camp?

Whether or not your camper has ever been away, we would like to share some information with you to help the camp experience be a great one!

1. Don't emphasize how much you will miss your camper. Be positive about the fun things the camper and parent will be doing while apart.
2. **Please don't tell your camper that you will come get her the minute she is unhappy. Campers who are told this have a hard time thinking about anything else but going home.** Also, be sure your camper understands that she cannot call home just because she is homesick. This is part of growing up and camp staff and friends will help her overcome this. Talk to your daughter about what to expect: being part of a cabin group, keeping her cubby clean, making new friends, talking to counselors if she has any problems or concerns, trying new activities, eating meals with her cabin group, helping with clean up assignments.
3. After you meet your daughter's counselors on opening day, make your farewells brief – do not linger in the cabin. Your child will become involved more readily if you are not there.

Homesickness...

While homesickness is a natural, normal feeling – especially for children experiencing their first steps toward independence - we encourage parents not to tell their children to expect to be homesick. Rather, share with them that it is OK to miss home AND have fun. The best cure for homesickness is to get involved with other campers and activities.

Things that will help you and your child regarding homesickness:

1. Our staff is very aware of the homesick feeling some campers get. We are experienced in dealing with those feelings and will help campers learn how to cope and develop necessary self-confidence. We take pride in being able to help campers through these periods, getting them to become happy at camp and actively involved in the program.
2. Be sensitive in the letters you send to camp. Be newsy and upbeat. Please do not dwell on how much she is missed at home.
3. If things are not fine at home, please let the Camp Director know this before you leave camp. The information will be held in confidence, but forewarned is forearmed. An informed staff can minimize the stress your child may be feeling.
4. If your child writes that she is homesick, please wait for a second letter. The first two days are the most difficult adjustment period. Don't be surprised if homesickness is expressed through "My counselors hate me" or "I've been real sick" or "They won't let me eat" or "Why would you leave me here?" and other similar things. If your child is very homesick and is taking a while to get over it, the Camp Director will call you.

When your daughter is gone, it is often harder on parents than it is on the campers. But your daughter will grow in independence, successfully completing a session at camp. Thank you for helping prepare her for camp!

Returning Campers

Occasionally a camper will be more homesick the 2nd or 3rd time. This may occur because of situations or changes at home. Or sometimes this is caused by expectations of what camp will be like, and it turning out different from the previous summer. The staff, cabin mates, and activities will not be exactly the same. Help prepare your daughter by talking about how changes can be good and they make camp better! Most campers say that camp gets better every year!

A day in the life of a camper...

8:00	Breakfast
8:30	Clean-up
9:00	Devotion
9:15	Activity 1
10:20	Activity 2
11:25	Activity 3
12:30	Lunch
1:15	Rest Time
2:00	Free Swim (Unit 1) Store (Unit 2)
2:45	Free Swim (Unit 2) Store (Unit 1)
3:45	Activity 4
4:50	Activity 5
6:15	Dinner
7:00	Cabin Time
7:45	Night Program
8:50	Evening Vespers
9:00	Unit 1 Curfew
10:30	Unit 2 Curfew



Activities

Our typical day at camp revolves around the five activity classes. On the first afternoon of camp, campers will 'sign up' for activities. Campers who pre-registered for daily horseback riding will already have that activity written in on their schedule. One cabin at a time will visit the activity sign-up tables, in order of the oldest cabin to the youngest cabin. The camp directors will spend a few minutes with each camper helping her sign up for activities to fill in the blanks on her schedule. Each camper will be given a copy of her schedule, and it will be posted in her cabin.

Activity offerings may include, but definitely not limited to...

archery	pottery	Millwheel
canoeing	photography	Y-Spirit
sports and games	knitting	dance
arts and crafts	weaving	drama
outdoor living skills	swimming	cheerleading

Please discuss with your camper the possible activities she will get to choose from and let her know that she will obviously not get to sign up for all of them. All the activities are unique and fun, and help her not to worry if she does not get to sign up for exactly what she wants.

Optional activities

Several optional activities are offered: theatre arts, whitewater rafting, advanced outdoor living skills, daily horseback, and one-time horseback ride. All optional activities are available for two-week campers, and one-week campers may sign up for the one-time ride. Optional activities for horseback specialty campers are whitewater rafting and theater arts. Daily Horseback campers will go to the horse park for one activity period each day. Theatre arts campers will go off-site to attend a local play, usually on Sunday afternoon. Whitewater rafting and advanced OLS trips will be scheduled for a weekday during the session.

Mail

Each day after lunch your child's counselor will go to the camp office to collect the mail for the cabin. The counselor distributes the mail to campers during rest time. Getting mail at camp is a highlight of the day! We encourage parents to write their camper every few days as well as let family and friends know the camp address. Sending addressed stamped envelopes with your camper helps them remember to write home! Writing letters is the only way campers can communicate with you. Mail received at camp for your daughter after she has left will be forwarded to her.

Packages

Campers also love receiving fun packages at camp! Do send games, books, etc. that can be enjoyed by your child and her cabin mates. **Do not send food, candy, or gum of any kind.** Campers visit the camp store daily to purchase snacks. Food in the cabins attracts small, furry, four-legged creatures. All packages are checked for food, which will be kept in the office until closing day. Even if your child asks you to send candy, gum or food, please do not! Thank you for your assistance in this matter! Companies offering great camp care packages are: The Wrinkled Egg and Sealed with a Kiss. Information for these companies are available from camp.

Email

This summer we will again be using Bunk1 to send emails to your camper. You will receive a flyer on Opening Day with instructions for sending email. Emails sent to campers are printed out and delivered with the rest of the mail. The camp email address and the camp fax machine are strictly for office use only.

Photos

You will be able to login with information given to you on opening day and view pictures of your daughter while at camp. For a minimal price, you will also be able to purchase these pictures as photos or digital files. This service will be offered through Bunk1 as well.

Telephone

Telephones at camp are located in the camp offices and are not accessible to campers. Campers are not allowed to make or receive calls – be sure your daughter knows this prior to camp. Feel free to call Nanette or the camp office anytime if you have concerns or would like to check on your camper. We will speak with your child and/or her counselor and will call you back. The camp office number is 706-754-8528 and office hours are 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you get the answering machine during this time, we are constantly checking messages and returning calls. When you call, we may not be able to answer your question immediately, but we will call you back very soon with the answer! **Once again, campers are not allowed to have cell phones at camp.**

Important Stuff about Camp...

Opening Day

Opening Day is one of the most exciting days at camp! Although the staff spend lots of time getting ready for camp prior to opening day, the morning still consists of many preparations. Therefore, you can understand why the gate is first opened around 9:30 a.m. Yes, we know there is a line of cars at the gate, and yes we are excited that you are here, but we do not allow campers and parents to walk around camp or move into cabins early. We really appreciate your cooperation with this policy and look forward to many smooth opening days this summer!

Upon arriving at camp, you will be directed to the parking area. Campers check-in at the dining hall and receive their cabin assignment. If your child has not been put with the requested cabin mate, please calmly notify one of the directors. The camp nurse will be at check-in to collect all medicines. If someone else is picking up your child on closing day, you will need to sign a release form stating the name of who will be picking up your child.

Transportation

Transportation is available only to campers flying into or out of Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport. Campers need to arrive at the Atlanta Airport prior to 10:00 am on opening day and should leave Atlanta between 10:00 am and 12:30 pm on closing day. There is a \$50.00 transportation fee each way for this service. A staff member may meet your child at their arrival gate if your child is traveling as an unaccompanied minor and this allowed by the airline.

Closing Day

On closing day, all campers' luggage is taken to the parking area and put on the field by cabin signs. The gate will open around 9:45 a.m. and cars will be directed to park on the athletic field. If you have time, luggage may be loaded before the closing show. At 10:15 the campers will perform a closing presentation for parents. Campers will be released to parents following the show. Parents of HB campers will be met by a staff member at the field house and led to the horse park for the closing horse show (wear walking shoes). After the closing shows, parents and campers should check out at the camp store in the field house to receive cabin pictures, medications, and settle store accounts.

Pets

We are all pet lovers to different degrees. For the safety and comfort of others, please do not bring pets to camp. And if you must, leave them in your vehicle. Pets are not allowed in the dining hall (due to health department regulations) or the horse park (due to safety concerns).

Discounts

A \$15 discount is taken off your camp fee for siblings and multiple sessions. A \$40 referral discount for referring a new two-week camper and a \$20 discount to those referring a new one-week camper is also available.

Refunds

There will be no refunds for withdrawals or dismissals. No refunds will be given for cancellations made less than 2 weeks prior to session. If early withdrawal is due to illness, refunds for remaining days of session are subject to the Camp Committee's approval and will issued at the end of August.

Store

At Y-Mart, campers are able to purchase snacks, batteries, toiletries, stamps, sodas, etc. We recommend a maximum deposit of \$20 per week. The store charge is included in your balance due. Any store money not spent will be returned to you as you leave, or any money owed may be paid on closing day. Often folks donate their "leftover" store money to the counselor fund to show their appreciation of a job well done. **Please don't send cash.**

Insurance

Camp does not provide accident/medical insurance for campers. Parents' insurance is the provider and we need to have a copy (both front and back) of their insurance card. Any prescription drugs or medical bills will be charged to your camper's store bill, which should be paid on closing day.

Food

Our kitchen staff strives to serve delicious food that is healthy and kid-friendly. Most campers love our camp food, though PB&J is an option at all meals. Do not send food, gum, or candy. Campers may buy snacks during store. If your child has specific dietary needs, please inform us upon check-in.

Health

The health clinic is located in a separate building near the camper cabins. The nurse resides in the clinic and is available 24 hours a day and a local doctor is on call. Upon arrival at camp, ALL prescription and over-the-counter medications must be given to the camp nurse. No medicines are allowed in the cabins. Prescription medications must be in the original bottle with camper's name. The nurse is responsible for distributing all medicine at camp. Medications are given at mealtimes. If your daughter requires medical attention, the nurse or camp director will notify you immediately. Campers requiring medical attention are taken to PrimeCare or Habersham County Medical Center.

Gratuities

Our staff is not allowed to accept monetary gifts from parents. However, in view of the number of requests made in this area, we have created a "Counselors' Fund" in which all contributions will be used to reward our staff. This is a great use of your store refund!

Visitors

Visitors are welcome ONLY on the closing day of camp. Visitors during camp are distracting to the camp environment. On closing day after the camper presentation, family members and visitors are welcome to tour the camp.

Other Policies

We reserve the right to use any photographs, videos, writings, etc. of staff, campers and parents to promote the YWCO Camp. We are not responsible for personal belongings or money if lost. YWCO Camp reserves the right to search belongings if health or safety of the camp indicates the need.

2011 Camp Sessions and Fees

Two-Week Sessions

	Price based on reg. date	by 4/30	After 4/30
I June 6 – June 18		\$1,200	\$1,225
II June 20 – July 2		\$1,200	\$1,225
III July 4 – July 16		\$1,200	\$1,225

One-Week Sessions

	Price based on reg. date	by 4/30	After 4/30
1 June 20 – June 25		\$685	\$695
2 June 27 – July 2		\$685	\$695
3 July 11– July 16		\$685	\$695

Horseback Specialty Camp

	Price based on reg. date	by 4/30	After 4/30
HB1 June 6– June 18		\$1,450	\$1,475
HB2 June 20–July 2		\$1,450	\$1,475
HB3 July 4 – July 16		\$1,450	\$1,475
HB4 July 18–July 30		\$1,450	\$1,475

CIT Leadership Program

	Price based on reg. date	by 4/30	After 4/30
1-A June 5 – June 25		\$800	\$840
1-B June 26 - July 16		\$800	\$840
2-A June 5 – June 25		NC	
2-B June 26 – July 16		NC	

The Athens YWCO Camp for Girls is located 8 miles north of Clarkesville in Habersham County, just a mile and a half from the four-lane Highway 441.

Using an online map service such as Yahoo maps does not guarantee you will get correct directions to camp. Please use the provided directions.

Directions from Atlanta (1.5 hours):

Take I-85 North to I-985. Once you get on I-985, stay straight on the four-lane highway for 55-60 miles. Do not turn off of the four-lane! I-985 turns into Hwy 365, and then Hwy 441 joins in. Continue straight on Hwy 441 North. Pass the exits for Cornelia, Clarkesville, and Toccoa (go under overpass) - you'll eventually come to the traffic light in Hollywood at the intersection of Alt Hwy 17 with the Kangaroo Citgo and Exxon stations on your left. Continue on Hwy 441 North thru this intersection and go for 3 more miles. Turn left on G Hardman Rd. Come to immediate stop sign; go straight onto Thacker Road, crossing over Historic 441. Turnerville Post Office is on your right. From here, camp is 1.4 miles on the right. Turn right into the gravel drive. At the millwheel, go to the left and you will be directed to parking.

Directions from Athens: (1 hr 15 min)

Take Highway 441 N to Commerce, Homer, Cornelia. At Cornelia, Hwy 365 merges in. Continue north on the four-lane highway. Pass exits for Cornelia, Clarkesville, and Toccoa (go under overpass) – and follow directions above.

Lodging

Glen-Ella Springs Country Inn, Turnerville 706-754-7295

(Mention the Y Camp and receive 20% discount Sun-Thurs nights)

Stovall House, Helen 706-878-3355

Days Inn, Cornelia 706-778-7700

Comfort Inn, Cornelia 706-778-9573

Holiday Inn, Cornelia 706-778-3600

Unicoi State Park 1-800-864-7275