



## Highland Lakes Camp Outdoor Learning Center Parent Information

We want to assure you that your child's safety and well-being are our main objectives. Hopefully the following information will answer any questions you may have concerning the Outdoor Learning Center at Highland Lakes Camp.

### Camper Safety

Whether it's out on the nature trail, on the ropes course, or in the classroom, safety is our top priority. In order to ensure the safety of your sons and daughters the entrance gate to the camp will be locked each night after lights out and unlocked prior to breakfast the next morning.

During each class and activity, the OLC instructors review safety information with the students and their leaders. Students are asked to demonstrate safe conduct in all activities for their protection and the protection of their classmates.

### OLC Instructors

Our instructors come from various educational backgrounds with a wide range of experience in outdoor education, camp, and conference/retreat programs. Some of our instructors hold a valid teaching certificate while others are certified in areas such as CPR, first aid, water safety, ropes course facilitation, archery, and riflery. All instructors have been trained in curriculum content, instruction, safety policies, and procedures. As required by law, all instructors have passed a criminal and sex offender background check. In addition, all staff has successfully completed a state approved child protection training course.

### Supervision of Students

From the time students arrive on campus until they leave, students are closely supervised by both school personnel and OLC staff. Students are walked to and from each activity by camp or teaching staff. There are adults at every activity to ensure safety and to help monitor student activities.

## Visitors

Our standard policy is that parents do not visit students during their OLC experience. We take every precaution to ensure that your child stays safe and has a great experience while participating in Highland Lakes OLC. Visiting your child could cause a distraction that might take away from his or her learning experience and possibly increase the “homesickness” for your child as well as other students participating in the program. If an emergency should arise, please contact your campus teacher or administrator to receive clearance before coming to Highland Lakes Camp.

## Cell Phones

Students attending Highland Lakes OLC do not need cell phones. Outdoor learning is an extension of the classroom and just as cell phones are not necessary in the classroom, they are not necessary during OLC. Should you need to reach your student in an emergency situation, you should contact your campus teacher or administrator or call Highland Lakes Camp at 512-264-1777. We will relay the message to the campus contact person who will then contact your son or daughter.

## Meals

We strive to provide great meals for our guests. Our trained dining hall staff will prepare nutritious meals for your child during the OLC program. We will always accommodate any guest with special dietary needs. Please be sure that your school contact person is aware of any dietary or allergy needs that your child might have.

## Cabins

We have a large assortment of housing at Highland Lakes Camp. Most dorms have two sides that sleep between 30 and 46 students. The school is responsible for providing teachers or other adults as chaperones in the student cabins. All dorms are equipped with central air and heat and have multiple restroom facilities with private showers on each side. The school is responsible for screening and enlistment of all chaperones. Your school is also responsible for criminal background and sex offender checks on all adult sponsors. Our staff is on call to address any maintenance issues that might occur in order to help insure a great OLC experience for your student.

## **Medical Needs**

The Pedernales Fire Department is the first responder for Highland Lakes Camp Outdoor Learning Center. Members of our staff are trained in first aid, CPR, and AED. Individual schools have the responsibility to provide nursing staff or a designated faculty member to oversee the dispensing and administration of medications.

## **What To Bring**

The school will provide you with a list of things each student should bring. Athletic shoes or hiking shoes are essential because of the terrain the students will encounter. Don't forget to pack the water bottle and the rain jacket!