



Summer 2024 Parent Handbook

Unplug. Disconnect. Grow.

WELCOME

Dear Parents,

This handbook is a resource for you and your camper(s). Please take the time to review the handbook in its entirety. We know it's a lot of information, but it's important that you and your camper are familiar with our policies and procedures before they arrive at camp.

In addition, there are specific sections that we encourage you to review again as particular events approach, such as Packing, Arrival Day, and Visiting Day. You will typically receive an email reminder from camp when it is time to look at these sections.

Our camp policies operate to ensure the health, safety, and happiness of your camper. They are based on knowledge gained through our experience and reason. We understand that you may have questions about some of our policies, so please don't hesitate to contact us. We are always available to provide additional information or to address any particular concerns you may have.

We look forward to welcoming your camper(s) to camp this summer!

Sincerely,
SLC Staff

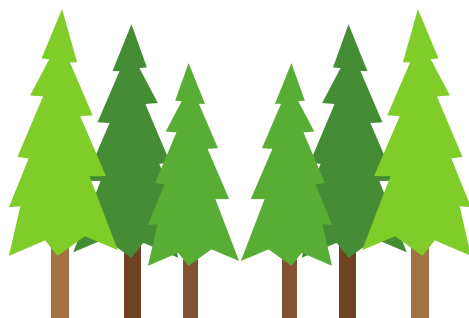


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SLC: A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Inclusion: At SLC, we pride ourselves on being a warm, welcoming, and inclusive community. We are fortunate to have people who come from diverse backgrounds and experiences who attend and work at our camp. Inclusion is built on the premise that all children should be valued for their unique abilities and included as essential members of a community. Sometimes, the things that make our campers feel different at home are the very same things that make them feel special at camp. SLC celebrates all personalities, empowering campers to appreciate their own unique gifts and become the best version of themselves.

Camper Care Team: Camp is filled with opportunities for a fun, magical summer. Camp is also a highly structured environment where every waking moment has social, emotional, and behavioral demands. This can be stressful at times. Our Camper Care Team is available to support your camper.

SLC's Camper Care Team includes a variety of mental health professionals. Personable and experienced, these specialists help watch for and address any potential issues, from homesickness to social dynamics. Campers know them as friendly listeners who can help them think through challenges, while counselors turn to them for advice on supporting their campers.



FIRST-TIME CAMPERS

New Family Orientation & Tour Day: This is an opportunity to tour the grounds with staff who can answer your questions, as well as a chance for your child to meet other new children of the same age. One of the highlights is a one-hour presentation by the Camp Director and other senior staff on sending a child to camp for the first time. If you have specific medical questions or adjustment issues you are concerned about, you will also have an opportunity to speak to our Health Director, an experienced member of our nursing staff, or one of our social workers or other senior staff. You will receive an invitation to this event with more details in advance.

In the meantime, please read the article below for helpful hints on getting your child prepared for camp:

LEARN MORE >>

[6 Tips for Parents of First-Time Campers](#)



PRACTICE INDEPENDENCE BEFORE CAMP

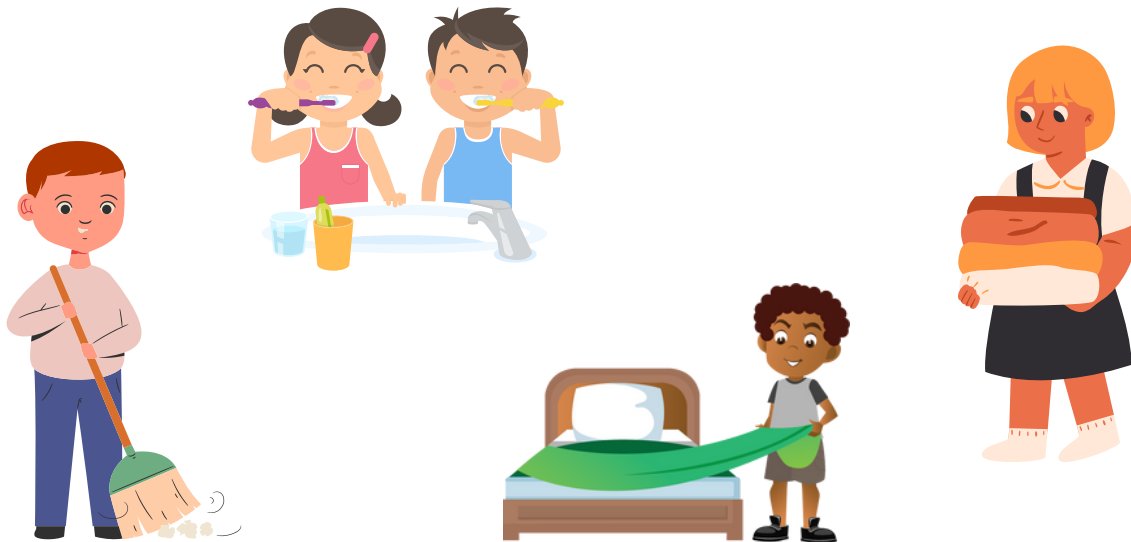
Camp is a transformative experience. You will see positive changes in your camper when they return home. They will develop a new level of independence, continue to establish themselves as an individual, and have a greater sense of self.

Set your campers up for success at camp. Talk about and practice skills during the school year help to develop independence and self-advocacy. We can support and guide your campers; however, a foundational understanding of the following skills will help their adjustment to camp tremendously:

- Shower and brush teeth without assistance
- Serve themselves food and help clean the table
- Be able to identify their own belongings and put their belongings away
- Put their dirty clothes in a laundry bag
- Make their bed

LEARN MORE >>

[Empower Your Child for Sleepaway Camp Growth](#)



GETTING TO KNOW OUR CAMPERS

The better we know our campers, the better we can create a positive environment for them. This means that you need to trust us as partners in your child's well-being.

It is imperative that we have complete and accurate information about your camper's physical health, mental health, educational health, and social health. When you provide this information to us, it is only shared with the staff members who are working with your child.

Disclosure of such information significantly increases your camper's chances for success and happiness at camp. On the other hand, withholding valuable information impacts our ability to care for your camper appropriately.

Working together, we will develop a Camper Care Plan for your child. This is the BEST way to ensure a successful camp experience.

Specifically, we need to be informed about:

- Medical issue/recent hospitalizations
- Changes to medications, including if a camper has been taken off a medication for the summer or recently changed a dosage. Changes to medications/stopping medications may add to stress while adjusting to camp life.
- Changes in family or social circumstances, such as moving, new school divorce, illness, death, new friend group
- IEP or 504 plan-school based services



GROUPING AT CAMP

Campers are grouped by current grade level:

Mainside Campers

Mountainview: Grades 1-4
Mini Camp: Grades 1-4
Get Your Feet Wet: Grades K-4
Rookie Day: Grades K-5
Lower Seniors: Grade 5
Upper Seniors: Grade 6

Teenside Campers

Lower Teens: Grades 7-8
Upper Teens: Grades 9-10
Leadership: Grade 10
(Application and Interview Required)

At SLC, we strive to create balanced groups that will function well together. We consider a variety of factors, such as the ratio of new campers to returning campers and matching campers based on their interests.

We recognize that nurturing lifelong friendships is a valuable benefit of the SLC experience. At the same time, we believe that making new friends is equally important.

Grouping Requests: The request limit is two per camper, but we cannot guarantee that every request will be honored. However, in most cases, at least one request is granted. When a grouping request is honored, it means the two campers will be in the same group -- but not necessarily in the same cabin within that group.

Group Changes: We make every effort to create as much balance in our groups as possible and to create groups that we believe will function well together. Nevertheless, it is rare that eight to thirteen children live together in perfect harmony. Part of the camp experience is learning how to get along and make decisions and compromises with a group. This is an important life skill that enhances a child's likelihood for future success. We therefore resist changing groups when conflicts arise, preferring to help children work them out, if possible. We make switches only in cases of serious personality conflicts, and then only if there is an open space in another group or someone who we feel can be switched without creating other problems.



MEDICAL FORMS / MEDICATIONS

Medical Forms: Under state law, every child must have had a medical examination within the past year. We must receive a medical form for every child before the start of camp. Children will not be accepted on arrival day if this form has not been submitted. The medical form can be accessed via the parent portal through [CampInTouch](#).

Vaccinations: It is required and necessary that your camper has received the immunizations that are listed on the medical form. The physician must indicate the dates of immunizations. This is a requirement of the New York State Department of Health. Your child will be excluded from camp unless the immunization form is completed and returned to us PRIOR to the start of camp.

Medications: We require all campers who take prescriptions, vitamins, supplements and over-the-counter medications daily to participate in the Drug World Pharmacy medication service, which will package your child's medication in daily blister-packs. The only exception is if the pharmacy notifies us that they are unable to accept your insurance or fill a particular medication, at which point our Health Center Director will reach out. Forms for Drug World can be found on your dashboard in the [CampInTouch](#) account.

PLEASE NOTE:

**All families must fill out a medication form,
even if a camper is not taking daily medication.**

**This will expedite the process,
should a camper need medication while at camp.**



MEDICAL CARE AT CAMP

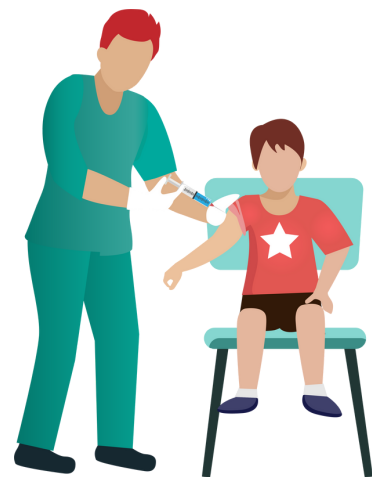
The SLC Health Center handles any physical issue and ailment. In addition to our staff of experienced nurses available 24/7, our camp physician has office hours three times a week, and is on call the rest of the time. The health center is also a 20-bed overnight facility. Whenever needed, we can take campers out of camp for x-rays, lab work, or other procedures. SLC provides all in-camp medical care. If your child is sent out of camp, your insurance will be billed.

We can treat routine stomach aches, sore throats, headaches, scrapes, rashes, and bruises. If symptoms linger, we may seek outside medical care or recommend that you arrange to do so at home. If in the judgment of medical staff and the Camp Director your camper should not remain in camp, we will require that your camper be taken home.

A health and safety orientation will be given during the first forty-eight hours covering such topics as daily hygiene, Lyme disease prevention, poison ivy identification, avoiding wildlife, appropriate behavior of staff and campers, safety rules, and what to do in the event of a problem, illness, or injury.

- If your camper has a routine illness or injury, we will treat it at camp and when they are able, they will return to their group.
- If your child needs to be kept in the Health Center overnight, requires a prescription medication, or must be taken for medical care out of camp, we will call to let you know.
- Parents who are called because their child is in the Health Center overnight or requires medical care out of camp may ask to speak with their child.
- If your camper begins to menstruate for the first time, their Unit Supervisor will give you a call. You can speak with your camper too.

Allergies and Special Conditions: Please consult with our Health Director and Camper Care Team in advance if your camper has a serious allergy or specific medical condition. The camp environment is rugged, and it is in your camper's best interest to make sure that we can accommodate them. It is important that we understand your camper's needs, the required medical instructions, and have a written plan before camp starts.



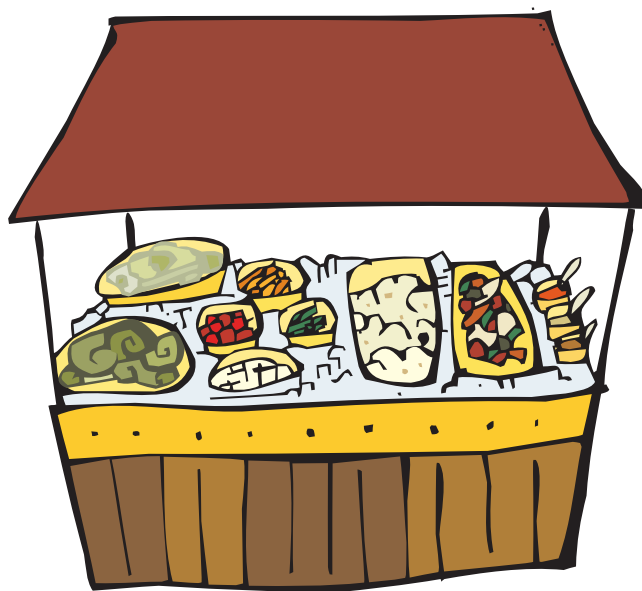
DINING HALL AND FOOD ALLERGIES

SLC's kosher kitchen offers food that is delicious, healthy, and kid-friendly, with lots of options.

- During breakfast, there is a breakfast bar with fresh fruit, an assortment of yogurts, and other healthy options.
- At every lunch and dinner, we offer a pasta bar and a salad bar with fresh vegetables and salads. Vegetarian options are always available.
- SLC also offers soy butter as an option during meals. Soy butter and jelly are a staple of camp life at SLC and a popular alternative for campers who do not like a particular meal.
- Themed dinners and barbeques add even more variety.
- Fresh fruit is available throughout the day.
- Snack is served daily.

Food Allergies: We can accommodate most allergies and many special diets, with advance notice. We post on a large board in the dining hall showing allergy information for each meal. Please contact Sheryl, the Camp Director, if your child's diet requires extra care.

Click here to view a [sample menu](#).



PACKING FOR CAMP

Packing Lists

- [4-8 Week Sessions](#)
- [Mini-Camp](#)
- [Get Your Feet Wet](#)

Luggage and Tagging

Please do not send hard trunks to camp. Instead, we request you pack your camper using duffle bags. These are easier for us to store during the summer. Please make sure the following items are easily accessible in your camper's luggage, as in right on top:

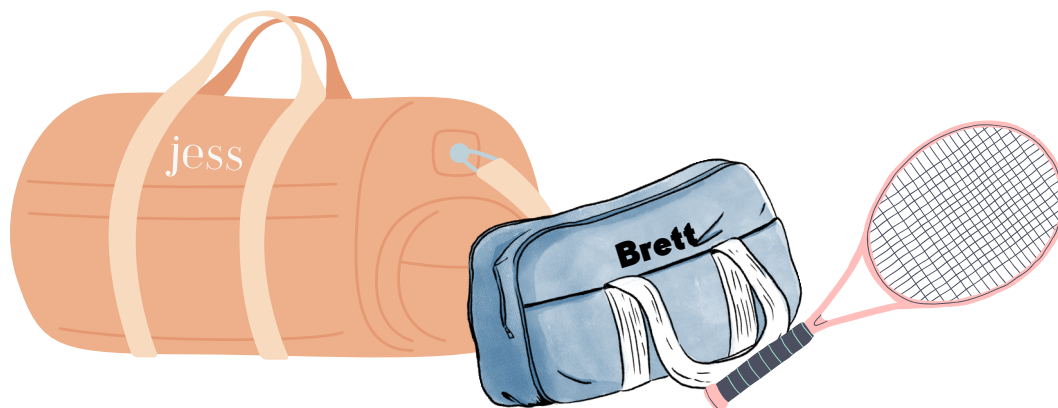
- a rain jacket
- a bathing suit
- a towel

Three luggage tags for each camper will be sent in the mail. If you have more than one camper, please see the back of the tags for their corresponding names. These tags enable us to get your child's luggage to their living area efficiently on the first day of camp. Luggage tags are needed for all luggage.

Instructions for labeling your child's luggage: each piece of luggage should be labeled in three ways:

1. With the SLC color coded luggage tag attached on the outside of each bag,
2. With a standard luggage tag that has your child's name,
3. Plus, as a precaution, place a piece of paper inside each bag with your child's name and grade, in case the outside tags fall off.

Please feel free to call our office or email [Abbe](#) with any questions about the tags or packing.



WHAT NOT TO BRING

Items to Leave at Home

Please refrain from bringing the following items to camp:

- Jewelry
- Expensive Clothing
- Other Expensive or Sentimental Items

These items are not permitted at camp:

- Cell Phones
- Large Fans
- Hot Pots or Plates
- Electric Blankets
- Heating Pads
- Music with explicit lyrics
- Violent games
- Food (not allowed on Mainside)



Strictly Prohibited Items

Campers will be sent home without a refund if they bring the following items to camp:

- Any device that connects to the internet
- Cigarettes/Vape Pens
- Matches/ Lighters
- Fireworks
- Drugs, including OTC medications such as Tylenol, Advil, etc.
- Alcohol
- Camping Knives
- Weapons of Any Kind
- Other dangerous instruments that can be used to harm themselves, others, or camp property



SPENDING MONEY

Visits to the canteen for snacks are covered by camp tuition. Campers therefore do not need any spending money in camp.

Campers will go on at least one trip per session. While the cost of trips outside of camp is also covered by your tuition, you may want to provide spending money for trips to use for souvenirs or snacks.

Should you want your camper to have spending money for trips, please give the money to your child before camp. On the first day, the supervisors will collect any money that campers wish to keep in the safe. You should encourage your child to take advantage of this.

If you have a younger child and are concerned he/she may lose the money, you may mail a check to camp IN ADVANCE, labeled "spending money for trips." Then, your child will be given cash on the day of the trip.

We regret that we are unable to accept spending money directly from parents on Arrival Day or at Bus Drop Off, since it will slow down the process. With so much going on, money handled during these critical times is too easily misplaced.

We recommended the following amounts per session for spending money:

- Mountainview: \$20
- Seniors: \$30
- Teens: \$50

Please do not send more than the recommended amounts.



LAUNDRY & LABELING

Laundry

Weekly laundry service is provided. It is not recommended for delicate clothing, expensive clothing, or clothing that has never been washed. We find that younger children tend to run out of clothing faster, so you may want to consider this when packing.

Camp is not responsible for clothing that is lost or damaged in the laundry. Please make sure that everything is labeled!

Labeling Clothes

It is highly recommended that every item brought to camp be labeled! There are many ways to label clothing. A permanent marker is one. Another is using iron-on or stamp-on labels. There are many options to choose from.

Lost & Found

There is a Lost and Found both in the Main office and in the Teen office. When a lost item is labeled, we make every effort to proactively return the item to the camper.



FOOD IN CABINS

Mainside Cabins

We do not allow food to be kept in Mainside camper cabins.

Food that is brought to camp by Mainside campers, food that is sent by mail, or food left on Visiting Day will be confiscated by SLC's Leadership Team. Counselors will not hold any food for campers. Please avoid an upsetting experience for your campers ... do not send them any food.

Teenside Cabins

Teens who decide to bring food are asked to bring only kosher, nut-free food out of respect for bunkmates, and to bring an airtight container (27-1/8" x 16" x 6-1/4" h) for storage. All food must fit in this airtight container. We will donate excess food to a local community food pantry.

Soda/Energy Drinks

We eliminated soda from the canteen as part of our commitment to healthier food and beverages for our campers. Soda and energy drinks are no longer permitted in camp. Please do not send them with/for your child.



TECHNOLOGY POLICY: BEING UNPLUGGED

Campers are not permitted to have cell phones or any touch-screen devices at camp including smart watches with internet access. We take pride in our ability to foster relationships and build a strong community, and place a huge emphasis on being “in the moment”. We rely on your partnership to provide this essential opportunity for our campers. Campers may be sent home for violating this policy.

Phones are permitted for campers arriving by bus or plane, but must be handed into staff upon arrival at camp.

Laptops and Other Devices with Wireless Internet Access

We do not allow Wi-Fi-enabled devices at camp, including personal computers, iPhones, watches, video games, and some iPods. If you are unsure, please call and ask.

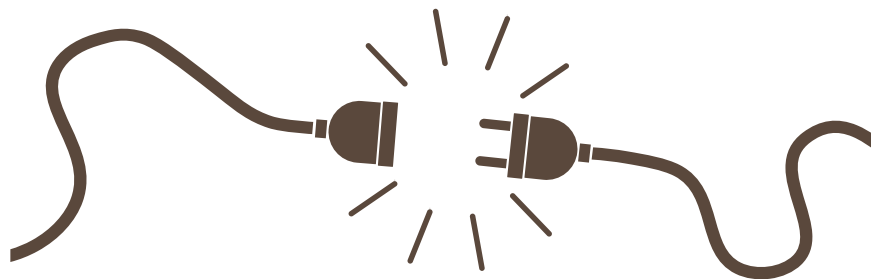
Technology That Doesn't Allow Wireless Internet Access

Camp discourages bringing this equipment to camp because it is easily damaged, lost, or stolen.

Please discuss these policies with your campers and partner with us to help them succeed. Consider alternatives that encourage interaction such as MadLibs, cards, Uno, checkers, dominoes, jacks, pickup sticks, etc. We are confident these policies will improve the quality of the overall camp experience.

LEARN MORE >>

[Top 6 Reasons to Unplug at SLC](#)



GETTING TO CAMP

Car Drop-Off

- You'll receive a reminder a few weeks before the first day of camp confirming that we are expecting you by car and letting you know what time to arrive.
- All luggage must be closed, securely tied, and have three (3) labels, each showing your child's NAME, ADDRESS, and GRADE. Follow the instructions below to help us deliver it to your child's correct unit. Soft luggage only.
- Upon arrival at camp, you'll be met by a staff member who will direct you to the appropriate drop-off point.
- You'll have a moment for a hug goodbye.
- A staff member will walk your camper to their designated unit area to meet new campers, reunite with old friends, and engage in group games.

Bus Drop-Off

- You'll receive an email a few weeks before the first day of camp with directions to the bus stop you have selected. Check this letter when it arrives to make sure it shows the location you want, and call camp immediately if you feel an error has been made or if you want to make a change.
- You will meet the bus at the designated location. Please be on time!
- All luggage must be closed, securely tied, and have three (3) labels, each showing your child's NAME, ADDRESS, and GRADE. Follow the instructions below to help us deliver it to your child's correct unit. Soft luggage only.
- A staff member will greet you and get your camper situated on the bus.
- Parents are not allowed to board the bus.
- All luggage will be loaded under the bus.
- A big hug/kiss and a wave goodbye upon bus departure.

NOTE: Each piece of luggage should be labeled in three ways:

- With the SLC color coded luggage tag attached on the outside of each bag,
- With a standard luggage tag that has your child's name,
- Plus, as a precaution, place a piece of paper inside each bag with your child's name and grade, in case the outside tags fall off.



COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CAMPER

Reaching Out to Your Camper: Your camper needs to receive regular correspondence from you to feel comfortable at camp. Their faces light up when receiving mail. Please stay connected over the summer, but try not to make home seem *too* exciting. Mail/Email is distributed to campers daily.

Snail Mail: We recommend sending your first letter a week before your camper arrives. A letter on the first day is exciting and helps set the tone for a successful camp transition. A snail mail letter may take 4 days to reach your camper.

Mailed letters should be addressed as follows:

Camper Name
Surprise Lake Camp
382 Lake Surprise Road
Cold Spring, NY 10516
Unit Name (This info will be sent with luggage tags)

Email: An email sent via your CamplnTouch account typically takes 1 day to reach your camper. If you choose to send an email to your camper via CamplnTouch and want to receive an email response, please check the appropriate box at the bottom of the email. A second blank page will be printed, and your camper can send a handwritten response to you. The handwritten response will be scanned by the office staff and an email notification will be sent to your CamplnTouch account.

Camper Letter Writing: Campers are required to write a letter home every Wednesday & Sunday. The letters are mailed the following day.

Phone Call Policy: Our standard policy is that campers do not receive phone calls or call home while at Surprise Lake Camp. Exceptions: Birthdays! You and your family may arrange to have a phone call with your camper on their birthday by contacting the unit supervisor in advance.

Birthdays at Camp: Speaking of birthdays ... birthdays at camp are always fun! The entire dining room sings to your camper and then your camper gets to "Skip Around the Room." Campers celebrate with their group with birthday cupcakes.



SUMMER COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF

Summer Camp Contact Info (mid-June to Labor Day)

Phone: 845-265-3616

Fax: 646-582-0138

Address: 382 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516

[Email](#)

The Camp office is open from 7:30 am to 9:30 pm when camp is in session. You can leave a message when the camp office is closed. It is always possible to reach one of the directors if there is an emergency after 9:30 pm when camp is in session.

Weekly Note from Unit Supervisor: Unit supervisors will send out a weekly email on Fridays to let you know what your camper's unit has been up to the previous week. This is a general email and is not camper-specific.

Contact Your Camper's Unit Supervisor: You should also expect an introductory email from your child's unit supervisor prior to the start of camp. For most inquiries involving how your child is doing at camp, the best person to speak with is the unit supervisor since this is the person who works with your child. If you have any concerns and would like to contact your camper's unit supervisor, you may either email them (a list of email addresses will be sent prior to Arrival Day), or leave a phone message for them by calling the camp office at 845-265-3616, and they will return your call as soon as they are able to. If you become aware of a problem your child is having, call and speak with your child's unit supervisor. Understand that this is a person who works in the field. Typically, you will leave a message and await a return phone call, which may take up to several hours. Discuss the situation with the unit supervisor and figure out together whether it requires intervention and if so, what a good strategy would be.

Contact Your Camper's Division Head: If you have not received a satisfactory response from your camper's Unit Supervisor, you may reach out to your camper's Division Head:

Mainside: [Dena Stevenson](#)

Teenside: [Robbie Bloom](#)



LEARN MORE >>

[If kids can get Homesick, Can Parents Get Kidsick?](#)



VISITING DAYS

Visiting Days for the Summer of 2024 are Sundays, July 14 and Aug 11 from 10 am-4pm. You will receive an email reminder two weeks beforehand. When you arrive, we will give you a printed handout listing our scheduled activities for the day.

Bring Your Only Your Immediate Family Members

Visiting Day is a busy and exciting time for our camp community. Happy families reconnect and enjoy their afternoon together, eating delicious treats, chatting, and participating in activities together. Visitors who are not related to current campers will be asked to leave. We apologize in advance, but the action-packed day filled with families makes it impossible to permit others. For security reasons, you will need to submit a list of those attending prior to Visiting Day.

Wear Sturdy Shoes

We are situated on terrain that may include irregularities, tree roots, rocks and other characteristics that make mobility more difficult. We strongly suggest that you and your guests take extra care when walking across our campus. We also suggest that sturdy walking shoes be worn when visiting camp -- NO SANDALS OR FLIP-FLOPS.

Bring a Bathing Suit

Have fun with your camper and enjoy the pool or row boating on the lake. A simple test is required to swim in the deep water. Let your camper be the expert. Have them explain our waterfront rules.

Bring a Cold Picnic Lunch

Families bring picnic lunches, folding chairs, and blankets. Some families even bring tents to shield themselves from the sun! Alcoholic beverages are not permitted. Grills are not permitted either, as hot coals are a fire hazard, and the smoke irritates other guests.

Keep Pets at Home

Absolutely no pets are allowed at camp. Do not leave pets in your car either. It is extremely dangerous. You will not be allowed to remain at camp if you bring a pet.



VISITING DAY RULES

Drive slow and steady on our roads: Visiting Day produces a lot of extra traffic on Lake Surprise Road. For your safety, and out of respect to our neighbors, all of whom cherish their peace and solitude, please drive extremely slowly! Be very courteous; it is not necessary to honk your horn around blind turns.

Visiting Day begins at 10 am: We do not allow anyone in camp prior to 9:30 am to park.

Campers are not permitted to leave camp: You will visit with your camper(s) only at camp.

Meet Your Camper at the Welcome Desk: We take the safety of our campers seriously and require that you will sign them into your care for the afternoon:

- Your campers remain with their units until you sign them into your care.
- Report to the Welcome Desk to sign out your camper. You will meet your camper's Unit Supervisor and we will bring your camper(s) to the Welcome Desk to spend Visiting Day with you and your family at camp.

Visiting Day ends at 4 pm: We appreciate your attention to this time so we can account for all the campers and get them settled back into their groups in time for dinner.

No smoking at camp: Visitors are only permitted to smoke/vape in the camp's two designated smoking areas: Mainside, by the canteen, and Teenside, behind the kitchen.

Visiting Day is held rain or shine: Please plan/dress accordingly.

Mainside campers cannot keep food in their cabins: Please do not leave any food with your Mainside camper because it will be taken away.

Staff tipping is not permitted: Surprise Lake Camp has a "no tipping policy." Our counselors are instructed to neither solicit nor accept gratuities or "tips". Instead, please consider a contribution to the [SLC Scholarship Fund](#) in the counselor's honor. When we receive donations, the counselor receives a letter from camp thanking them for their excellent work, and this letter is placed in their staff file.

LEARN MORE >>

[The Importance of teaching Kids Giving](#)



TUITION POLICIES

Payment Schedule:

- You may pay in full or make equal monthly payments, from October 1, 2023, through May 1, 2024.
- Camper tuition must be paid in full by May 1, 2024, and is not refundable after that date.

Tuition Refunds: For campers on the Waiting List (those not able to be placed in the desired session at camp), full refunds will be given at any time you choose to be removed from the list or are unable to be placed.

A refund, on a pro-rated basis, will be made for a camper who is withdrawn from Camp for a medical reason.

When No Refunds Will Be Issued: No refunds will be issued under the following circumstances:

- Camper is withdrawn for any non-medical issue including, but not limited to, camper homesickness
- Camper's refusal or inability to participate in normal activities at camp
- Camper's violation of any rules, regulations, or policies at camp for which the camper has been provided notice, and as described in our other written policies.

Our guidelines for acceptance and participation in camp are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, religion, or national origin.



CAMPINTOUCH

[CampInTouch](#) is used for all form submissions and to help you feel connected with your camper all summer.

- Your account was set up when you submitted your enrollment application.
- If you do not remember your password, click on the 'Retrieve/Set password' link.
- Enter the same email address you used when registering for camp. *Note – if you enter a different email address, you will not be able to log in.
- Click "Send E-mail." You will then be notified by CampMinder that a link has been sent to your email. You must access this link from your email within 1 hour.
- After clicking on the link, you will be directed to the "Security Update" page where you must provide 2 security questions and answers.
- Set and confirm your new password and agree to the terms of service.
- You will now be logged in to your account!
- If you forget your password at any point throughout the summer, you will be able to retrieve it through the same process, as outlined above.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I view pictures?

- There is no cost to view pictures.
- After signing in, click on the Photo Gallery button.
- Photos are kept in folders found on the left side of the page below the words "Image Folders".
- Click on any folder to see the pictures within that folder.
- You can even purchase prints and other photo gifts i.e., t-shirts, mugs, or your favorite pictures!

Can other relatives use photo and email services?

- Certainly. Once you set up your account, you can invite others to access these services by creating a guest account.

What do I do if I lost my username and password?

- Please visit [this page](#) and click on the link "Lost Your Password?" You will receive an email with your username and password within a few minutes.



CAMPANION MOBILE APP

SLC strives to bring parents closer to their camper's experience, and this summer we're using an amazing new app called Companion to do just that. The best things about it? It helps with all of your pre-camp preparations, and you get fun updates and photos of your camper right on your phone. Companion makes you feel closer to your camper's experience than ever before.

To get started, follow these simple steps:

- Download the [Companion app](#)
- Use your CamplnTouch Account email address and password to log in
- Complete forms online and upload completed paperwork right in the app
- Upload a training photo of your child, which enables the app to send you photos of your camper over the summer.
- Ensure you have push notification enabled within your phone settings so you can receive important updates from camp all year long!
- We'll be sharing photos all summer long, and Companion's facial recognition technology automatically searches for campers and tags them for you to view in the app. This saves you time sifting through hundreds of photos.

Photos: Once you've logged in, you'll see an option to upload a training photo of your child. This enables the technology to identify your campers and receive notifications whenever they appear in camp photos. You need to upload a new training photo to make sure the app is searching for the most accurate images of your camper, even if you used Companion last summer,

If you choose not to opt in, you can still find photos of your kids the old -fashioned way by viewing photos in your [CamplnTouch](#) account.

E-Letters: Companion makes sending letters easier than ever. Using the Letters feature in the app, you'll be able to write emails to your camper as often as you want. We'll also upload handwritten replies/messages from your camper, which you can read right in the app.

Forms:

- Go to the three lines at the top left and select Forms.
- Choose your camper. You'll see your list of forms, which are complete and incomplete. You will repeat this process for each camper.
- Fill out all necessary forms and upload any related documents. Some forms need to be downloaded -first and then uploaded via Companion.



SLC CODE OF CONDUCT

Surprise Lake Camp is proud of its ability to foster relationships and build community. We teach Jewish values and ask that our campers have respect for themselves, for others, and our environment.

We believe that setting expectations and holding our campers accountable contributes to their emotional, spiritual, and intellectual growth. We know that it makes SLC a healthier place for our community.

We ask that Mainside campers review the Code of Conduct before arriving at camp. The Teen Code of Conduct is designed as a contract and requires the camper and parent/guardian's signature.

Both can be found in the forms section of your [CampInTouch](#) account.

Violations of these rules will be reviewed by the supervisory staff and/or camp directors to determine appropriate consequences.

Consequences may include a camper being sent home from camp without a refund, specifically, when a camper's behavior interferes with the ability of others to enjoy the camp experience, or when they develop into a pattern of problems.

The Teenside Code of Conduct is a required form that must be signed. It can be found in your Camp InTouch account.

THERE IS NO REFUND GIVEN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES FOR A CAMPER WHO IS SENT HOME FOR VIOLATING THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

Vandalism and Graffiti Policy: Families will be billed for any damage to camp property intentionally caused by campers. This includes writing names on cabins or beds. The minimum charge is \$25. Please discuss this with your camper to avoid this extra expense.



COMING BACK HOME

Car Departure: If you are driving your camper home, you will receive a reminder email about departure day a week in advance. It will confirm your camper's pick-up time. When you pick up your camper, please make sure you have every piece of luggage and any medications your child has not finished. Often in the excitement of being reunited, families leave bags behind—indeed, this happens more often than you might imagine.

Bus Departure: If your camper is returning home by bus, we will provide an estimated time of arrival once the buses are on the road.

Camper and Family Experience Feedback: We are committed to our camp community. We operate with a growth mindset, ALL feedback provides us with learning opportunities, and we thank you in advance for helping us improve. Please give us a call or send an email if you want to discuss your camper's experience. We would love to hear from you.

You will be asked to complete an online survey. Please complete this survey with your camper. Their specific and detailed answers assist us in continuing to develop our program areas and facilities.

Thank You: Thank You for placing your confidence in Surprise Lake Camp. SLC is a safe place, a summer home, where campers can take healthy risks and explore themselves in a way that is different from anywhere else on Earth. We look forward to sharing Surprise Lake Camp with your camper. Here's to another fantastic summer around the lake.

LEARN MORE >>

[Lean Into Summer Camp Gains this School Year](#)



OFF-SEASON CONTACT WITH STAFF

Our campers and staff develop strong, personal connections with one another throughout the summer. The relationship that develops is a professional friendship different from a friendship with their peers. Staff members become role models for their campers and are seen as trusted adults. We believe that maintaining boundaries is the best way to preserve the professional friendship staff members have with their campers.

Our policy is that:

- Staff members and their campers should not visit one another after camp is over.
- Staff members must obtain permission from you before exchanging text messages, emails, and/or phone calls with campers. While this communication is generally healthy and positive, and while we hand-pick our staff and consider them outstanding, we cannot guarantee their behavior when they are not under our supervision and program structure. We believe it is important for you to know if communication is taking place and to take responsibility for monitoring it.
- Staff members do not communicate/follow campers on social media platforms (& vice-versa). We do not believe our campers should have access to the type of personal information that often appears in social media. We are unable to monitor this, so you should discuss this with your camper.

Please tell us if you become aware of any violations of these policies or have any questions about them.



SLC GLOSSARY

Hafsakah	Rest Hour after Lunch
Israel Day	Special event when campers engage in special activities to help them connect with Israeli culture.
Motzi	Prayer before meals
Nestling	Campers cross arms and sing the SLC camp song, a special bonding experience.
Olympics	SLC's version of color war -- a full-on, action-packed experience, lasting roughly a day and a half.
Overnight	Overnight camp out, lead by our Teva staff. Each group goes once per session, except Get Your Feet Wet.
Roundup	Morning circle when Mainside campers gather and sing songs.
Shabbat	Day of rest. Friday dinner, Friday night, and Saturday morning services. Campers wear white on Friday nights.



SLC GLOSSARY

CONTINUED

Shabbat Walk	After Saturday services, campers have the opportunity to spend supervised, unstructured time with campers in other groups, often siblings or other family members.
Shmira	Staff member assigned to supervise campers at night after evening activity.
Shomrei Adamah Day	Earth Day at SLC, when campers engage in special activities to help deepen their relationship with nature and animals.
Teva	Nature activities at SLC, including overnights, wilderness skills and animal care.
Values Beads	Campers earn value beads representing each of SLC's five values: Community, Courage, Compassion, Gratitude, and Grit. Campers must be nominated by another camper or by a staff member and get to wear their bead on a necklace provided by camp.
Whamventure	Whammy is SLC's resident hike leader. He takes our groups hiking, based on age and ability. We often call them Whamventures.
Whammy Mix	A top-secret, proprietary recipe for Chex Mix, created by Whammy and brought on hikes as a snack.

