

CAMP RIVERLEA PARENT NEWS

Welcome to the 46th season at Camp Riverlea!

Dear Camp families,

We are excited to welcome you into our 2017 Riverlea community! Many of you are returning camp families, and about a third will be with us for the first time. We are excited to catch up with all of our amazing returning campers, to learn about their school year and to find new ways to help them grow and have fun at camp. And there are a bunch of new campers to meet! That so many new families want to be a part of this community is wonderful. We cannot wait to meet our new campers, to see them experience the magic of Riverlea, and to connect them to the amazing campers and staff already here. When we think of Riverlea, we think of the community. Some of our closest friends come from camp. At Riverlea, we connect and grow deep and meaningful friendships that last we hope will last a lifetime. Our hope is to continue the Riverlea tradition of being a camp where people return year after year to be in a beautiful place with people who bring out the best in one another. Decades from now, we hope everyone at camp this summer still has an enduring sense of positive connection to this community and place. On our website you can learn more about our staff and programming, as well as find other helpful information to prepare for and learn about Riverlea. We cannot wait to see everyone at camp!

-Joe Harris, Owner / Camp Director ; Ben Harris and Annie Giarla, Program Directors

Contact information

Please contact the Program Director, **Ben Harris**, about groups, activities, transportation, absences, medication, etc. or anything to do with day-to-day camp. Phone: **919-477-8739**, Email: programdirector@campriverlea.com

Please contact the Camp Owner and Business Director **Joe and Fran Harris** about registration, payment, and health forms: (770) 380-1383 Fran's cell, campersupport@campriverlea.com

Directions

From US I-85, take the Guess Rd. exit traveling north. Follow Guess Rd. approximately 8 miles to South Lowell Rd, turn right. Look for the sign for the camp entrance approximately 1/2 mile down on the right. The address is 8302 South Lowell Road, Bahama, NC 27503.

Clothes and Belongings

Please label all belongings clearly with campers' first and last names.

Every day, campers should wear/bring:

1. Comfortable clothes, each item labeled with camper's full name.
2. **Closed-toe shoes.** (Flip-flops and sandals are not appropriate for running and playing at camp.)
3. **Lunch** packed in a small lunchbox. We provide refrigeration for lunches and cannot fit large lunchboxes. Garbage-free lunches are strongly encouraged; please use reusable containers if possible.
4. Towel
5. Playing cards or book for rest hour (optional)

Campers should bring the following to camp on the first day to leave at camp in their own cubby:

1. Bathing suit (individual hooks provided to dry at camp)
2. River shoes (closed-toe water shoes or tennis shoes to use in nature class.)
3. Spare clothes (optional)

Campers are asked NOT to bring:

1. Electronics, including toys, games, and phones
2. Jewelry or anything of value that would be missed if it were lost
3. Candy, gum
4. Toys, trading cards

Camp Cook-Out and Sleep-Out

Campers enjoy staying at camp for dinner cooked over a campfire each session. The dates for these events are:

Session I **Thursday, June 22, 2017**

Session II **Thursday, July 13, 2017**

Session III **Thursday, July 27, 2017**

Campers who have completed third grade or higher (Trolls, Tooks, Ents, Striders) are invited to stay for a campfire program and sleep out under the stars after the Session I and Session III cookouts, June 22 and July 27. Additional details and permission forms will be emailed out during the first week of each session.

Transportation

Camp Riverlea utilizes school buses and school bus drivers for transporting campers. Parents can also drive their children to and from Riverlea. Departure and arrival times are as follows:

DUKE BUS: **AM:** 8:25 / **PM:** 4:35. Located at Crest Street Park near the intersection of Erwin and Fulton, behind the VA.

FOREST HILLS BUS: **AM:** 8:20 / **PM:** 4:30. Located at gravel lot on East Forest Hills Blvd, behind the tennis courts at Forest Hills Park near the intersection with University Drive.

GUESS ROAD BUS: **AM:** 8:30 / **PM:** 4:30. Located at the Sears Automotive at Northgate, near the intersection of Lancaster and Guess.

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PARENT TRANSPORTATION: **AM:** 9:00 / **PM:** 4:00 Riverlea driveway.

Arrival and Departure

At the bus stop, parents park their cars and escort their children to the designated loading area to be supervised by a counselor. Counselors will delay departure time by 5 minutes to await an absent camper, but will then proceed to camp. Campers who are driven to camp are dropped off at the entrance to check in with a counselor. Upon arriving at afternoon pick-up locations, children are dismissed to the loading area. Parents park cars, pick up campers from the designated loading area, and escort them to the car. Campers will not be allowed to run through the parking lot. A counselor will be present until the last parent arrives. In the event of a delay in pick-up of 15 minutes or longer, parents are asked to compensate counselors as a courtesy at the rate of \$20/hour.

Bus Assignments

Campers who take Riverlea transportation pre-select a bus stop and are assigned to a camp bus. Transportation assignments may be amended before the beginning of camp. If there is any change in pick-up arrangements, we ask that parents provide notification via a written note or email to Ben at programdirector@campriverlea.com.

Bus Safety Guidelines

1. Stay seated until the vehicle arrives at its destination.
2. Do not put any objects or body parts out of the windows.
3. Ask staff members to open or close windows.
4. Keep voices down and avoid screaming or loud noises.
5. Posted passenger seating limits must be followed.
6. Board and leave the vehicles when told to do so by the counselor.
7. Rowdy or disruptive behavior is not tolerated on camp vehicles. Parents will be notified when persistent disruptions occur, and if the behavior continues following parent notification, a camper may lose the privilege to ride a camp vehicle.
8. Eating on camp vehicles is not allowed due to food allergies.
9. Follow directions given by counselors and drivers.

Behavior Expectations

Camp Riverlea is a community where campers practice good manners and obey rules. Camp staff members emphasize positive values such as cooperation, sharing, and kindness. Repeated misbehavior that negatively affects the group will not be tolerated. Should a camper continue to break camp rules despite consequences, the Program Director and/or Director will communicate with the camper's parents. Violent, disruptive behavior may warrant dismissal from camp at the discretion of the Director and Program Director.

Camper Release

Campers who are brought to camp late or picked up early are required to sign in. Parents are asked to check in with the administrative staff in the Shire (main lodge) upon arrival and prior to picking up or dropping off campers. Please give notification if a camper will be picked up at camp or at the bus stop by someone other than the child's legal guardian. During the first week of camp, bus counselors are encouraged to get to know and easily identify the guardians and will not release campers to unauthorized persons and until signed out by that authorized person.

Absence

Please contact Camp Riverlea as soon as you are aware that your child will be absent from camp. Absentees are recorded on a daily log by transportation staff. Campers who are absent without explanation are contacted by phone by the administrative staff. Please email Ben or call the main camp number to report an absence.

Visitors

Parents are welcome to visit camp! Upon entering camp, all visitors must check in with the Program Director and sign in at the main entrance. Advance notice of a visit is appreciated.

Medication Management

All medications (prescription and over the counter) must be given to the first aid manager on the first day of camp. Please label them with camper's name and dosage instructions. They are to be administered solely by the first aid manager or program director. They are kept in a locked cabinet, and staff and campers are notified that all medications are to be administered only by the first aid manager or program director. Prescription medicine is administered under the directions provided by a licensed physician.

Emergency Healthcare Personnel

EMS is provided by the Lebanon Fire Station as first responders. They are located approximately five minutes away. Camp Riverlea has a pediatric EMT on call who is available to provide medical advice if necessary.

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First Aid

Camp Riverlea is equipped to provide first aid. One staff member is an EMT and there are many administrators and counselors certified in first aid and CPR throughout camp.

Permission to Treat

All parents and guardians of campers sign a "permission to treat" section on their health forms. This permission covers medical attention needed at camp or on camp vehicles. The program director or first aid manager will call parents/guardians in case of a camper's serious injury or illness. Parents/guardians or secondary emergency contact people are spoken with directly as soon as possible in cases medical concern.

Heat Advisory

Camp Riverlea has prepared an alternate schedule and a full day of water activities for any camp day where a heat advisory is in effect. Campers are provided with water to drink, activities are planned in shaded areas, and the chance to cool off by getting wet is provided in every class. In addition, an extra free swim is scheduled for hot days.

Lice Policy and Tick Check

If lice or nits are observed on a camper's head, parents will be notified by the phone and should follow standard lice treatments at home. If a child has lice, we will not send them home, but we do require that they receive over-the-counter treatment before returning to camp. Please refer to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC for more information. To help prevent the spread of lice, we teach the children not to share items such as hats, brushes, and towels. Please notify us if your child has recently been treated for lice.

Counselors check campers' heads for ticks at the end of each camp day. We recommend an additional check for ticks every evening.

Safety Regulations

Children receive quality supervision in all activities at Camp Riverlea, with a ratio of one counselor per 4 or 5 campers. Campers learn guidelines for camp and specific departments during their first day and/or first class in specific departments. Safety regulations for specific departments are posted in those departments.

Emergency Procedures

In case of implementation of the Emergency Plan, the boat air horn will be blown in continuous blasts. At the sound of the air horn, all staff and campers report immediately to the porch of the lodge to check for absences, call for help if needed, and prepare for evacuation if needed. If a camper should get lost, the Director would organize teams of staff members to search the camp. In order to prepare for the unexpected, we practice our emergency drills each summer, and have a fire drill once per session.

Riverlea's Mission

Camp Riverlea provides a planned program where children continue to develop as fully self-actualizing people as they learn and perfect new skills, broaden their range of personal experiences and learn how to live more effectively in their world. Emphasis in camp is on interpersonal relationships, greater knowledge and appreciation of the outdoors world of nature, and skill achievement judged by individual progress, not through rigid competition with others. Campers will have the opportunity, under skilled leadership, to increase their skills in archery, arts and crafts, athletics, agriculture, drama, golf, kayaking/canoeing, music, nature, swimming, and tennis. Children are grouped by age, and the groups are named for characters in J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*:

Hobbits: Pre-Kindergarten (age 5)

Baggins: completed Kindergarten (age 6)

Dobbers: completed First grade (age 7)

Pippins: completed Second grade (age 8)

Trolls: completed Third grade (age 9)

Tooks: completed Fourth grade (age 10)

Ents: completed Fifth grade (age 11)

Striders: completed Sixth grade (age 12)

Parent Evaluation

We welcome parent input and suggestions for the camp program and take seriously parent support and concern in improving our program. On our website under the 'about us' tab, there's an anonymous feedback form. Of course, you're also welcome to contact Program Director Ben Harris to provide informal or formal assessment of your child's experience at Camp Riverlea.

We look forward to a great summer!