

**THE SALVATION ARMY
LITTLE PINE
ISLAND CAMP**

**PARENTS
INFORMATION
PACKET**

WITNESS STATEMENT THE SALVATION ARMY LITTLE PINE ISLAND CAMP

Purpose of The Salvation Army's Camping Programs

The mission of The Salvation Army's camping program is to serve the needs of campers; physically, socially and spiritually. For physical needs, our aim is to help campers develop good health habits in cleanliness, proper rest, balanced diet, exercise and care of the body. To meet social needs, the camp provides an opportunity for each camper to contribute to and receive from a group living experience. To meet spiritual needs, the campers are encouraged to develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Since The Salvation Army is a religious organization, its camping program integrates concern for the spiritual dimension of life. We believe in God, His Word, what it teaches and a pattern of living exemplified by Jesus Christ.

Goals of The Salvation Army's Camping Programs

1. Give campers a memory-filled outdoor experience.
2. Give campers experiences they cannot have in their homes.
3. Give campers the opportunity to learn about who God is and who He has made each of them to be, especially as we model Christ-like behavior.
4. Challenge campers to do things they have never done.
5. Give each camper high expectations in personal safety and conduct and discipline.
6. Create distinct camp culture that emphasizes teamwork, pulling together and being part of God's family.
7. Give kids a break from their normal environments.

These goals are achieved through carefully selected staff, well planned programs and the highest standards of health and safety.

CAMP POLICIES

ALARM CLOCKS: Campers may bring a “wind-up” or battery operated alarm clock, but no clock radios.

ANIMAL: Do not feed or play with any wild animals. If there is a stray animal, please inform a leader.

CABIN INSPECTIONS: Cabins will be inspected each day. The cabin counselor will instruct you on the areas that are in need of cleaning and in the proper method of cleaning the cabins. Each camper is expected to help promote the cleanliness of their cabin by making their own bed and assisting in general cabin duties as assigned by the cabin counselor/leader.

CAMP HEALTH AND SAFETY: Do not take any unnecessary safety risks.

CAMP HEALTH OFFICER: The camp health officer is there for your health and welfare. All injuries and illnesses must be reported to the camp health officer, no matter how minor it may seem. All medications are to be turned into the camp health officer on the first day of camp. This includes even non-prescription items such as aspirin. The camp health officer will be available for non-emergency visits for one hour following meals and evening program/activities. All medications are to be dispensed by the camp health officer.

CAMP SPIRIT: Be pleasant under all circumstances. Do your share of camp duties well and pleasantly.

CLOTHING: Keep your clothes in your suitcases (or hung up) when not being worn.

DINING ROOM: While at the table, each camper will be courteous and use good table manners. Hands and faces must be clean and hair combed. Dishes must be taken care of as instructed after each meal. Everyone must be fully dressed in the dining room. No swimming suits will be worn at meals.

ELECTRONICS: All cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, etc. will be confiscated and returned after camp.

MONEY: No money should be kept in cabin. All money should be deposited in the camp bank at registration. This is for your own protection. The camp is NOT responsible for lost or stolen money.

SWIMMING: When a Life Guard blows the whistle for “buddy check” everyone clears the water and sits along the edge of the dock. Hold your buddy’s hand in the air and do not resume swimming until instructed to do so by a Life Guard. Appropriate footwear must be worn to and from the swimming area. If your “buddy” leaves, so must you.

SNACK SHOP: The Snack Shop operates on a wristband system and each wristband is numbered. The number is recorded with the campers name in case of loss or theft. If lost, we will assist the camper in finding it; however, if it is not found, it is non-refundable. Campers may purchase additional wristbands from the bank at designated times. Refunds will be made at the end of the camp session for the unused portion. In addition to foods items, the Snack Shop sells t-shirts, jackets, shorts, sweatshirts and other small souvenirs.

PHONES: Campers may call home, only with the supervision of their counselor or camp program directors and only in the program office. Campers are **not** allowed to have cell phones while at camp. **All** cell phones need to be turned in at registration or left with the camper’s leader or driver.

PRANKS: No pranking or hazing of any kind is tolerated. **As is the policy in public schools, the pulling of a fire alarm or prank calling of 9-1-1 will result in immediate dismissal and may result in criminal charges.**

DINING HALL

1. All campers should wait at the designated cabin meeting place for their counselor before entering the dining room and should wait to be dismissed by their counselor.
2. Campers are to sit with their counselor or designated leader.
3. Campers will stay at their tables until they are dismissed to get in the food line or leave the hall.
4. Campers receive a portion of all food served as required by the United States Department of Agriculture. On some occasions, after everyone has gone through the line and there is adequate food, seconds will be served.
5. All campers need to help with the clean-up at their table as assigned by the counselor.

Attendance of all campers, counselors, leaders and Corps Officers is required at All meals unless otherwise advised.

CAMP GROUNDS

1. The following areas and buildings are "**off limits**" except during specified times and by permission of the DYCS or Camp Administrator:
 - Camp Offices (including registration office)
 - Staff Cabins
 - Kitchen and Dining Room
 - Waterfront
 - Challenge Course
 - Little Pines Lodge
 - Maintenance and Storage Areas
2. Papers, cans, trash and other litter must be placed in the proper containers, **NOT** thrown on the ground or on the floor. Failure to dispose of trash properly will result in loss of Snack Shop privileges.
3. Careless or intentional destruction of camp property will result in expulsion from camp and/or payment for replacement or repair of property.

SWIMMING POLICY

1. All swimming will be confined to the marked and enclosed areas of the waterfront.
2. Use of the waterfront is restricted to times when the Waterfront Staff is present.
3. All campers will be classified in the following categories of ability and are restricted to their designated swimming areas:
 - No Arm Band: Indicates a non-swimmer and is confined to the shallow area.
 - Red Band: Swims two (2) widths of the swimming area and treads water for 1 minute. Red band campers may swim anywhere inside the fixed docks.
 - Blue Band: Swims four (4) widths of the swimming area and treads water for 2 minutes. Blue band campers may access all swim areas.
4. All swimmers will be checked in and out by appointed staff for each swimming period.
5. The "buddy system" will be used for all recreational swims with buddy checks held at least every 10 to 15 minutes. Instructors are responsible for their respective classes during instructional swims.
6. There are to be no swimmers under the raft or docks **at any time.**
7. Running is not allowed on the docks.
8. Swimmers are not to hang on the marker lines and docks, or to block the ladders.
9. Head first diving may be done only from the floating deep water raft. Never dive until the person ahead of you has surfaced and is clear of the diving area. Head first diving is not permitted from the fixed docks.
10. There will be no shoving from docks, rafts or piers and no dunking or hazardous horseplay in or around the swimming area.
11. Swimmers must maintain a fifteen (15) foot clearance of the diving area.
12. Entrance and exit to the waterfront are to be by gate only: not around, over or under the fences.
13. All balls and floatation supports (i.e. kick boards, floaties) are to be used inside the fixed docks only.
14. There will be no swimming by visitors without permission of Camp Administration (DYCS/DYS/Camp Director).
15. Night swims will only be conducted when proper illumination is available and then only in the red and white areas.

THESE POLICIES MAY BE MODIFIED BY THE WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTOR WITH APPROVAL FROM CAMP ADMINISTRATION WHENEVER HE/SHE DEEMS IT NECESSARY, BUT AT NO TIME WILL SWIMMERS BE SUBJECTED TO UNNECESSARY RISK.

DIRECTIONS TO LITTLE PINE ISLAND CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

From the South

Take US 131 North of Grand Rapids to the Post Road exit (next exit after West River Dr). Exit Post Road and turn left (west) on Post Road and drive till it dead ends (about a 1/3 mile). This is Pine Island Drive. Turn left on Pine Island Drive and go about 3/4 mile and the camp entrance is on the right hand side of the road, and it is marked by a sign.

From the North

Take US 131 South to the Post Road exit (first exit after 10 Mile Road/Rockford, Michigan exit). Take the Post Road exit and turn right on Post Road (gas station on right hand side). Go 1/3 mile to the dead end (which is Pine Island Drive). Turn left on Pine Island Drive and go about 3/4 mile and the camp entrance is on the right hand side of the road and it is marked by a sign.

Upon Arrival

Enter the camp and turn right into the first parking lot and meet at the Salvation Army Kroc Van (it is big white van with the Salvation Army Logo on the side of it). You will see a small building with an exterior deck at the northwest corner of the parking lot, the Kroc Van will be in that area.

SPECIAL CAMPER INFORMATION

For your child's protection . . .

. . . and ours:

CAMPER RELEASE

Campers will leave camp with the representative of the sponsoring corps/agency/unit who brought the camper to camp. If the camper is to leave camp early or with someone other than the sponsoring corps/agency/unit, approval must be cleared through the Camp Program Director (DYCS or DYS). **Other than this, the camper may only be released to the person who signed the medical emergency release form or who has been designated IN WRITING by the parent/guardian.** When a camper is departing (with the approval of the Camp Program Director), he/she must be released by the cabin counselor following the procedure used on the last day of camp. Again this is for the camper's protection.

VISITORS TO CAMP

While we do not discourage parents from visiting their children during camp, we do ask that you understand that this usually causes homesickness. If parents are coming to visit, they should see the Camp Program Director (DYCS or DYS) upon arrival at camp.

CAMPER'S CHECKLIST FOR CAMP

TO BRING

- _____ A Great Attitude
- _____ Bible
- _____ Sleeping Bag or bedding (twin size)
- _____ Pillow & Pillowcase
- _____ Prescribed Medicine for Each Day
- _____ Athletic Shoes *
- _____ Spending Money (cam shirts, pop stand)
- _____ Towels (for shower & swimming) and
- _____ Wash Cloth
- _____ Soap, deodorant, shampoo
- _____ Comb, Brush
- _____ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- _____ Laundry Bag for dirty clothes
- _____ Swimming Suit (one piece)
- _____ Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt for cool
- _____ Evenings
- _____ Clean Clothes, underwear & socks
- _____ Suntan Lotion/Mosquito Spray
- _____ Pajamas
- _____ Extra pair of shoes/tennis shoes
- _____ Flashlight
- _____ Raincoat or Umbrella

DO NOT BRING

- _____ Cell Phones
- _____ Video Games
- _____ iPods, MP3 players
- _____ Water Guns
- _____ Skateboards, roller blades
- _____ Shoes with wheels
- _____ Portable TV
- _____ Clock Radios
- _____ Pocket Knives
- _____ Weapons of any kind
- _____ Fireworks
- _____ Tobacco of any kind
- _____ Alcohol or drugs
- _____ Any other inappropriate items – If you are not sure, check with the Corps Officer

Dress Code

- No two piece bathing suits. White bathing suits must have a dark t-shirt worn over them. No midriff baring or thong suits.
- All shorts must be mid-thigh in length. Short-shorts, midriff baring clothes, spaghetti strap tops, halter tops, tube tops, and low-cut tops are **NOT** acceptable.
- Underclothing must be worn at all times (except swimming)
- T-shirts with slogans or pictures unbecoming of a Christian are not acceptable.
- T-shirts should be absent from slogans or symbols containing alcohol, drugs or violence & questionable language. Error on the side of caution with this one. If your "slogan" can be taken in more than one way, **DO NOT WEAR IT.**
- Shoes are to be worn at **ALL TIME** except when in the water or in the cabins.

***Athletic shoes are needed for daily activities.**

NOTE TO CAMPERS: Check off items as you pack them. Keep this checklist for packing at the end of camp. Please have your name on all of your items. Little Pine Island is not responsible for any lost or missing items.

REMINDER: Little Pine Island Camp does not provide sheets, pillowcases or towels for youth campers or leaders.