



## Luther Crest Bible Camp

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# Letter to Parents

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Parents & Guardians,

Giving your child to the care of other people is perhaps the greatest act of trust a parent can give. We aim to do everything we can do to earn and keep that trust and know we cannot do this without your help. We want to be partners with you, to ensure your children continue to have the safest, most wholesome experience with us as possible.

Is this your child's first time away from family for an extended period of time? Is it your first time with your children away for an extended time? Are there uncertainties about what will happen or how you will make it through the week?

It is natural to feel anxiety when separated from those we love - let your child know this. As older people, we usually know how to deal with this; oftentimes, younger people do not. What follows are a few suggestions for you to prepare your child for their week with us:

- Talk about camp now so they can get used to the idea of being away from home.
- Ask questions. Discuss what camp might be like and what they might expect. Focus on all those things your child loves to do.
- Allow them to help choose and pack what they will bring to camp.
- Send self-addressed stamped envelopes or postcards with your child so they can write home.
- Send along a picture of the family.

Homesick campers may become withdrawn, quiet and melancholy. They may become very active and rambunctious or may even act out in anger. We try to let them know we understand what they are feeling, and how to appropriately deal with their feelings. We keep them busy with the normal flow of the daily schedule, rather than allowing them to stay in their cabin or in our health center. We also realize there are real symptoms, aches and pains that can accompany homesickness.

On a related issue, we have a “**no cell phone**” policy at camp. Cell phones can get lost or stolen. A larger problem with campers having cell phones at camp is that of trust. When children come to camp, they – and you – are making a leap of faith, transferring primary care from you to us and their counselors. As children learn to trust other caring adults, they grow and learn to solve their own challenges. Sending a cell phone to camp could send a message to your child that you, as a parent, do not really trust the care we will provide and may prevent us from being aware of and addressing concerns that might arise while they are at camp.

Because of the number of campers and the type of outdoor experience we want to provide, we do not have telephones or e-mail readily available for our campers to use. Please do not promise your child that they will be able to talk to you whenever they want to during the week. We will do our best to ensure that your child receives mail and e-mails sent from you, and if your child gets homesick, we may contact you to let your child talk to you on the phone.

Talk with your child before they leave for camp. Tell them that there is always someone here they can reach out to.

Camp can be just as tough for parents as for their children. Send or Email them a letter or two, but instead of telling them you “miss” them, tell them you love them. Thank you for being a partner with us in making your child's camp experience a success!