

## Camp Esquagama Parent Handbook 2021

*Thank you for choosing Camp Esquagama for your camper's summer experience. We believe that one week can leave an everlasting positive impact on a child's world. Generations of campers have created lifelong friendships, build self-confidence, develop new skills, and most importantly have fun just being a kid. Our staff provide a safe and supportive environment as your child shares in teambuilding experiences and individual growth through exciting activities new and old. The community that your camper will join cannot be matched anywhere else. Please read all of the following instructions and suggestions so that you and your camper are ready for a fun and safe summer camp experience. If at any time you have questions concerning your child, the camp, the program, etc., please feel free to contact us in the camp office.*

### **REGISTRATION QUESTIONS**

There are two ways to register for camp. Online or Over the Phone. We have partnered with CampDoc's to utilize their Electronic Health Record System and Online Registration System. If you need assistance, you may call us at **(218)-865-6589** or email our Camp Director at [robert@campesquagama.com](mailto:robert@campesquagama.com) with any questions you may have. We can assist in registering and filling out information for your camper over the phone as well.

### **PAYMENTS & FEES**

All fees are to be paid by the first day of your child's selected camp week. If you have any questions about your account please contact us at **(218)-865-6589** or email our Camp Director at [robert@campesquagama.com](mailto:robert@campesquagama.com) with any questions you may have.

Fees may be paid by mail to:

**Camp Esquagama  
4913 Pine Lane  
Gilbert, MN 55741**

Please make checks payable to Camp Esquagama.

Credit Cards can be accepted when you register online or over the phone by calling our Camp Director.

### **REFER-A-FRIEND**

We believe that the summer camp experience is enhanced when it is shared with friends and siblings. If a brand new camper to Camp Esquagama registers states that you referred them, then both you and the other camper will receive a \$50 discount for overnight camps and \$20 discount for day camp. You may refer multiple campers and receive the discount for each camper who registers!

### **ATTENDING ANOTHER SESSION**

If your camper enjoyed their week of camp so much that they want to come back, don't worry, we generally still have limited availability for later sessions. Campers cannot stay over at camp between sessions except for our Leadership Development Camp which runs for two full weeks.

### **MEDICATIONS**

Medications must be brought in their original bottles. Only send what is needed for the week.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

Are asked to be made as soon as possible to make the space available for any campers on a waiting list. There is no fee for a cancellation or to transfer your camper's registration to a different week that has availability.

## **TELEPHONE CALLS**

When your child is at camp, you may contact our camp office with any questions and/or concerns you may have. We'll check on your child and get back to you. Camp is a busy place so we ask that you give us time to respond. Please do not suggest that your camper may call home during the week as this often leads to an increase in campers feeling homesick. **Please do not send your camper with a cell phone.** If spotted, we will lock it in the office for safe keeping and return it on check-out.

## **CAMP MAIL**

We strongly encourage our parents and campers to communicate through mail. We encourage your letters to reflect an interest in what is happening at camp and also some news from home. You may either send your camper a letter or package in the mail to the camp address with your camper's name as the recipient or write an email to **robert@campesquagama** and it will be handed out the following day. **Please Note**, it can take 2-3 business days for mail to arrive so make sure to mail stuff so that it arrives before the last day of the session.

Sometimes campers don't write home during their week at camp and that is often a good thing. That generally means that they are busy participating in many activities and are fully immersed in a positive camp environment. To make it easier for your camper to write home, please send them with pre-stamped envelopes with your home address on them.

## **CAMP VISITS**

Because of the nature of the camp program, we prefer parents/guardians visit camp on the first and last day of camp. This year especially we are restricting who comes into camp during the week to keep our camp bubble safe as part of our Covid-19 prevention.

## **CANTEEN**

Starting in 2018, canteen is now included in the camp tuition. There is no longer any need to make a canteen deposit or for campers to worry about their canteen balance. Each camper will be limited to a max of 3 snack items a day. The canteen will still have camper favorite ice creams and candy bars, but will also start carrying healthier snack and drink options. This year, Camp is not opening its camp store on Friday, so there will not be any additional memorabilia or camp swag outside of our summer camp t-shirt this year.

## **PLEASE DO NOT SEND!!!**

Radios, CD/MP3 players, iPods, Tablets, Lap Tops, Cell Phones, Electronical Gaming Devices, Snacks, Beverages, Knives, Weapons, Sports Equipment, or any other personal valuable items. If found, items will be held in the Camp Office until pick-up day. If knives, weapons, drugs, or alcohol are brought to camp parents will be called immediately. Camp Esquagama is not responsible for any damages, lost, or stolen items.

## **LOST & FOUND**

To assist in seeing that your camper brings back all of the items brought to camp, please mark everything with the camp's name. Lost and Found Items will be on display at the end of camp that parents are recommended to view before departing. Camp Esquagama retains all items through October before donating any remaining items to the Good Will or Salvation Army. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to arrange pick-up or shipping of any items at camp.

## **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION**

In the event of an illness, accident, or injury, camp administration or the director will notify parents/guardians as soon as the camper's safety or care is assured. Please make sure we have home, cell, work, and emergency contact numbers in the event that you cannot be reached.

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN DROP-OFF/PICK-UP INFORMATION**

Only names provided upon registration will be allowed to check-in/check-out a camper and may be asked to provide a valid ID for proof. Information of other individuals with permission must be provided to the Camp Office before a camper will be allowed to leave camp

## **PLEASE READ AS THIS HAS CHANGED FOR THE SUMMER!!!**

### *Overnight Camp Programs*

<https://calendly.com/campesquagama-1935>

- As part of Camp Esquagama's Covid-19 prevention plan, this summer we are organizing scheduled drop-off and pick-up times for our overnight campers to reduce the total number of people arriving at a single time, as well as to prevent families from needing to wait in line for an extensive amount of time.
- Arrival times are set every 5 minutes with the length of the check-in to take about 20-25 minutes in total. Checking will take place next to the front gate in the parking lot. This year we are asking families to give their hugs and say their goodbyes at the front gate as our amazing staff welcoming them and help them settle into their cabins. If you have multiple campers you are checking in, please select on time slot for each camper.
- In addition to our Covid-19 prevention plan, Camp Esquagama will be testing every overnight camper with the use of the CUE Health COVID-19 rapid molecular test. Campers who are fully vaccinated will not be tested as long as they present Camp Esquagama with their vaccination card for documentation. In addition, campers who have tested positive within 90 days to the start of camp will not be tested. They must present the official lab results for documentation.
- For this summer if a camper tests positive at check-in, they will unfortunately not be able to attend camp. Camp Esquagama will maintain its lenient refund policy and grant a full refund on the card used to pay for camp.
- This summer welcomes a number of new factors into running camp this summer and we appreciate all your patience and willingness to work with us as we prepare to welcome campers back new and old for a safe and fun summer 2021!
- Check-Out on Friday will be between 1:30pm and 5:00pm. When you arrive, please wait outside and check-out. Your camper will be released shortly after where you can learn all the fun things they did at camp!
- Check-in for overnight campers will be available the Monday before the start of their session. We thank you for your patience as we work out the early technical difficulties

### *Day Camp Program (onsite pick-up/drop-off)*

You should arrive each day of the camp session between 7:15am and 7:50am to check-in. Check-in will be at the front gate or at the deck facing the lake of the main lodge (weather dependent). Check-out each day is between 4:15pm and 5:00pm at the front gate or at the deck facing the lake of the main lodge (weather dependent). You will check your child out before picking them up from their counselors. On the last day of camp, check-out will begin at 1:30pm and end at 5:00pm.

## **BEHAVIOR**

Camp Esquagama expects that campers act with the utmost respect and behavior toward all others at camp. Camp Esquagama reserves the right to send a camper home at his/her parent's/guardian/s expense. If a camper is sent home, total Camp Fee is NOT refundable. Campers may be charged for damages to camp or personal property for which they are responsible.

### **ADDITIONAL COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES!!!**

- Our program will look different this year for many of our campers. To keep our camp community as safe and healthy as possible, our campers will enjoy their favorite activities in their cabin through the week as part of an activity rotation with the other cabins.
- The majority of our activities will be outdoors and spread all over camp. With guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC, our campers do not need to wear a mask while outdoors or indoors if it is only their cabin group or outdoors and socially distant from another cabin group. If there is a case where more than one cabin is indoor the same building, ALL campers and staff will be asked to wear a mask. An example of this is if there is a major storm and all of camp is sheltered in the lower level of the lodge.
- TESTING
  - Camp Esquagama will be testing every overnight camper with the use of the CUE Health COVID-19 rapid molecular test. Campers who are fully vaccinated will not be tested as long as they present Camp Esquagama with their vaccination card for documentation. In addition, campers who have tested positive within 90 days to the start of camp will not be tested. They must present the official lab results for documentation.
  - Camp Esquagama is not testing Day Campers, unless they begin to show signs or symptoms during camp. Day Camp Program is completely separate from overnight so there is no close contact.
- POSITIVE TEST...
  - For this summer if a camper tests positive at check-in, they will unfortunately not be able to attend camp. Camp Esquagama will maintain its lenient refund policy and grant a full refund on the card used to pay for camp.
  - If a camper tests positive during camp, the camper family will be informed and be asked to pick-up their camper as soon as possible. The camper will need to quarantine with supervision from the Camp Nurse and an additional staff member, until their guardian's arrival. If a positive test is concluded in your camper's cabin, all campers who are not fully vaccinated or have tested positive within 90 days prior, additionally will need to go home and quarantine according to the CDC guidelines.
- Check-Out on Friday will be between 1:30pm and 5:00pm. When you arrive, please wait outside and check-out. Your camper will be released shortly after where you can learn all the fun things they did at camp! This means there is no end of week closing ceremony, nor the camp store availability of Friday.

***If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact our Camp Director at (218)-865-6589 or [robert@campesquagama.com](mailto:robert@campesquagama.com). We hope you have a wonderful day!***