PARENT HANDBOOK

RESIDENTIAL SUMMER CAMPS



SUMMER
2027

CEDARKIRK
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

a place apart to build up the body of Christ in love



OUR CONTACT

+813-685-4224

www.cedarkirk.org

1920 Streetman Drive
Lithia, FL 33547

WELCOME TO CEDARKIRK SUMMER CAMPS



We are excited you are including Cedarkirk in your summer plans! We have a fantastic program planned that will provide your camper with an unforgettable camp experience.

This handbook is designed to orient you to Cedarkirk's summer programs, to address questions you may have, and to present some of the things your child will experience at Cedarkirk this summer.

Many people come together each year to make our programs happen. From year-round staff to volunteers, each of us loves outdoor ministry and brings a variety of experiences and expertise to make camp a special, safe, and meaningful place for every camper. Many more people uphold our ministry throughout the year with gifts of time, money, and prayer and help ensure that your child's time at camp is truly memorable!

If you have any questions about Cedarkirk or its residential camp programs after reading this handbook, please contact us. Additionally, if you would like to help serve with us this summer as a volunteer nurse or worship leader, we would love to speak with you.

We look forward to meeting you this summer and getting to know your camper

Blessings and peace,

Matt Shick
Executive Director

Mandy Goff
Program Director

WHO'S WHO AT CEDARKIRK?

Leadership Staff

Business Manager:	Debbie Campos
Food Service Director:	Jackie Butler
Program Director:	Mandy Goff
Executive Director:	Matt Shick



Summer Staff

We hire a team of energetic and dedicated young adults who are selected because they are committed to caring for your camper and shaping and upholding the values of Christian community that define a Cedarkirk summer program.

All counselors go through an extensive hiring process which includes personal interviews, a variety of background checks (including a state and national fingerprint screening), and twelve days of intensive staff training.

Our staff are equipped with the skills necessary to create a physically and emotionally safe environment in which all campers can thrive, grow, and have fun.

Volunteers



Each week a few volunteers (pastors, youth directors, Christian educators, nurses, paramedics) give of their time to live and laugh alongside our campers and staff and to lead worship based on the summer's theme and to uphold the health of our summer camp community.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

cedarkirk.campbrainregistration.com

Submit All Forms

In addition to the forms completed during registration, a copy of the camper's health insurance card is required for attendance at Cedarkirk. These must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the start of your camper's program.

Camp balances must be paid by June 1.

Help Your Camper Pack

Work with your camper to select and pack the clothing and items on the packing list. Your camper will be aware of what they have brought for the week. You can talk with them about what they can expect at camp and discuss any fears or concerns they may have about being away from home.

2027 Residential Camp What-to-Bring List





WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Sunday Check In Times

SHL & CIT Campers: check in from 3:00-3:30 at the Pavilion.
Elementary School Campers: check in from 4:00-4:30 at the Pavilion.
Middle & High School Campers: check in from 4:30-5:00 at the Pavilion.
Reach Out Campers: check in from 4:00-5:00 at Pine Lodge

If you are dropping off campers in multiple age groups you may drop off your campers any time between 4:00 and 5:00.

STEP 1 Arrive & Park

Staff will direct you to a location to park. You and your camper(s) will proceed to the Pavilion (Pine Lodge for Reach Out) to be greeted and begin check-in. Please leave luggage in your vehicle.

STEP 2 Verify Info

We'll verify your required paperwork and confirm authorized pickup contacts. If your camper brought medication, we'll also make sure your Medication Administration Record (MAR) form is ready for Med Drop coming up in Step 4.

STEP 3 Group Assignment

Find out who your camper's counselors will be for the week and where they'll be sleeping! Next, head to Med Drop if you brought medications, or stop by the Camp Store before heading outside!

STEP 4 Med Drop

If your camper has brought medications with them, they will be turned in and recorded next. We log all medications (even OTC meds) and store them securely in our first aid center. If you have any information you'd like to share with our health officer, you may do so at this time.

STEP 5 Join The Group

Head to your car to gather your camper's luggage, then meet their counselors and group under the Pavilion. Staff will help move all belongings to the living space once the entire group has arrived!

STEP 6 Goodbye!

Give final hugs, wish your camper an awesome week, and say your goodbyes before heading out!



DEPARTURE DETAILS



Camper Pickup & Closing Program

All camp programs end at 2:30. We will have a brief closing program to recap the week, introduce some staff, sing a song or two, and thank your campers for the joy, energy, and love they filled camp with! If you are able, please be present to support your camper during this important time of closure.

Pickup Process

Immediately following the Closing Program you will be able to sign your camper out from their counselors. **Remember that we require you to present a photo ID in order to sign a camper out.** After signing your camper out you may pick up their luggage from their group's luggage area, grab a famous Cedarkirk cookie, check out the camp store, and head out!

Lost & Found

Please make sure you have collected all of your camper's duffels, suitcases, pillows, dirty clothes bags, etc. Any lost and found items will be held for two weeks in our lost and found closet and then disposed of or donated to a local charity. If you get home and find you're missing something, please call or email us (813.685.4224 x2; camps@cedarkirk. org).

On The Way Home...

Listen to all of the stories your camper has to tell you about the new friends they made, the challenges they overcame, and the things they learned in worship and Bible study!

A DAY IN THE LIFE...

Of A Cedarkirk Camper

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

[For a Junior Camper]

8:00	Wake Up!
8:30	Breakfast
9:00	Morning Watch
9:30	Bible Study
10:10	Cabin Clean Up & Capers
11:00	Activity Block 1*
12:30	Lunch
1:00	Song Time
1:30	Rest Time
2:30	Activity Block 2*
4:00	Activity Block 3*
5:30	Dinner
6:15	Evening Activity
7:20	Free Time / Village Rec
8:10	Worship
8:40	Snack
9:00	Shower / Get ready for bed









*Group Activity Blocks May Include:

During their stay at Cedarkirk, **Junior Campers** participate in a wide array of activities, including canoeing, shark's teeth hunting, arts and crafts, water games, swimming at the pool, field games, the low ropes initiatives course, the zip line, and the climbing wall.

Middle and High School Campers enjoy these activities as well, but their age group also unlocks high-adventure challenges reserved for older campers—including archery, the full High Ropes Challenge Course (for campers 12 and older), and an additional evening activity block.

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

[For a Middle or High School Camper]

8:00	Wake Up!
8:30	Breakfast
9:00	Morning Watch
9:30	Bible Study
10:10	Cabin Clean Up & Capers
11:00	Activity Block 1*
12:30	Lunch
1:00	Song Time
1:30	Rest Time
2:30	Activity Block 2*
4:00	Activity Block 3*
5:30	Dinner
6:15	Evening Activity
7:20	Free Time / Village Rec
8:10	Worship
8:50	Snack / Activity Block 4*
10:00	Shower / Get ready for bed

PARENT FAQ

Have a Question Before Camp?

We know sending your camper to camp comes with lots of questions! We have compiled a list of our most frequently asked questions—covering topics from home sickness and medical needs to daily life—on our website.

If you still can't find what you need, please feel free to reach out directly to our Program Director Mandy at mandy@cedarkirk.org or by phone at 813-685-4224 ext. 2

CEDARKIRK "A PLACE APART"

We intentionally offer a screen-free environment so campers can disconnect from digital distractions and connect deeply with God, nature, and new friends.
To protect this experience, campers may not bring web-connected devices or electronics to camp.

Please leave these at home:

- Cell phones & smartphones
- Smartwatches / cellular-connected watches (Apple Watch, Gizmo, etc.)
- Tablets, iPads, Kindles, e-readers, laptops, or handheld gaming devices

A Special Note to Parents/Guardians: Partnering With Us

Please do not hide or pack cell phones or smart devices in your camper's luggage.

- Group Disruption: Hidden devices break trust, create division in the cabin, and cause tension among campers. It forces counselors to police technology rather than mentor your camper.
- How to Stay Connected: Parent/Guardians can send daily emails to their camper throughout the week! Campers can also write reply letters on an email sheet, which our staff scan and email back to you so you can hear all about their camp adventures.

Rest assured: If your camper is struggling or if an urgent situation arises, our staff will contact you directly. You can also reach our office anytime at 813.685.4224 x2 to pass along a message.

Thank you for helping us keep Cedarkirk a place apart!