



2023 Parent Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to have your child at Loucon this summer! Although you won't be attending with your camper, as the parent, you play a vital role in the success of your child's camp experience. This letter will provide you with important information regarding camp logistics, as well as give you tips on making camp a great experience for your child. This year camp will begin the return to our regular offerings; however, we've also learned a few great things along the way that we'll live into this summer.

Packing & Preparing

- Pack with your camper so they know what's in their luggage.
- Send comfortable clothes that can get dirty.
- Send a bag for dirty laundry in the suitcase and explain its purpose.
- Write your camper's name on the tags of items with a laundry marker.
- Pack lots of socks and encourage them to wear them with all shoes to reduce toe injuries.
- Please do not bring any valuables that could be lost or damaged. We cannot guarantee they'll find their way home!

What to Pack

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Water Bottle | Older clothes | Swimsuit (one piece) | Hat / sunglasses |
| Shoes (2 pair) | Pillow & twin bedding | Bathroom toiletries | Caddy/bag for toiletries |
| Towels (pool & shower) | Hat / Sunglasses | Sunscreen | Bug Spray |
| Flip Flops (pool/shower) | Flashlight | Rain jacket | Swim goggles |

What to Leave at home

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Phones | Electronic devices | Music devices | Fans (we have A/C!) |
| Snacks, candy, gum | Peanut/Tree nut products | Alcohol/drugs/tobacco | Weapons/knives/etc. |

Illegal Substances

Alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs are not allowed or tolerated at any time. If your camper does not abide by this rule, you will be called to pick them up. A random search of possessions may be done if the Director deems it necessary.

Medication at Camp

All medication, whether prescription or over the counter, is handled by Loucon's summer healthcare team. They will be present at Check-in to log medication, store it, and to see that your camper receives the correct amount at the proper intervals. Medication must be in its original container and prescriptions must have the name of the child. Please only send the amount of medication they will need during their camp. You'll receive a form to fill out prior to camp. Please bring this with you for check-in.

Canteen (Snacks & Merchandise)

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There is no need for your camper to bring money to camp. Snacks will be provided daily as a part of the camper fees. Campers will receive a camp t-shirt and some of our younger campers will receive a drawstring bag to help them with their camp experience.

Camper Check-In (Arrival)

Upon your arrival at Loucon follow the signs and the guidance of our summer staff. They'll direct you down the path to check-in. You will follow a loop drive for both check-in and drop-off. You'll be able to stay in your car throughout the process. Last year, this system helped make the check-in process smooth and cut down on homesickness. Plan to say your goodbyes while in the car. Our staff will help make your campers beds. If you want to get out of your car and help them to the cabin you are able to do that this year. If you do, we ask that you pull out of the car line to keep traffic flowing and that you limit your time so campers can begin to engage with all we have in store for their week. We will stagger arrival times based upon camper grades; however, we'll also make special accommodations for those families sending multiple campers to different age camps. Arrival times are;

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| ● Senior High Campers | (9 th -12 th graders) | 4:00 PM Central Time |
| ● Junior High Campers | (7 th -8 th graders) | 4:30 PM Central Time |
| ● Adventure Campers | (5 th -6 th graders) | 5:00 PM Central Time |
| ● Discovery Campers | (3 rd -4 th graders) | 5:30 PM Central Time |

**Loucon is in the
Central
Time Zone**

Camper Check-Out (Departure)

On the last day of camp, follow the posted signs for your child's camp to pick up your camper. We'll do another drive through loop version where families can stay in the vehicle. Upon arrival in your camper's area a Loucon staff member will ask your camper's name, verify your photo I.D., have you sign for medications, and they'll send for your camper. Check out is at 10:00 AM Central Time. You may arrive as early as 9:30 AM. If you need an earlier check-out please contact the office in advance.

Camper Pictures (see your camper's experience)

The best way to watch your child's camper experience is by utilizing the online gallery or phone app created by Waldophotos.com/galleries. Loucon will provide an access code at Check-in as a reminder. You will see lots of pictures of what our campers are doing, and hopefully, you'll see a few of your individual child through the week. Waldo utilizes facial recognition. There will be times when we are outdoors and distanced that this technology will notify you if we submit a picture of your child. It does require you to provide a good, recent close-up picture of your camper. You may also choose to follow Loucon's Facebook or Instagram where we'll post a few pictures each day.

Basic Loucon Rules

Here are some basic rules Loucon expects all of our campers to abide by during their week of camp;

- Treat others how you would want to be treated, with respect.
- Follow the guidance and directions of your counselors and the camp staff.
- As for help with problems or needs you have
- Take care of camp, your fellow campers, their belongings and your personal belongings
- Clean up after yourself
- Love God and your Neighbor

Loucon Dress Code



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Loucon's dress code was created to promote safety, modesty, and to ensure positive experiences.

- Socks should be worn with all shoes to prevent blistering and toe injuries.
- Shorts should extend past the camper's fingertips with arms by their side.
- Sleeveless shirts may be worn as long as the strap is wider than 3 of the camper's fingers and does not have large arm holes.
- Midriffs must be covered
- Underwear must be covered
- One piece swimsuits are required
- Clothing with slogans promoting alcohol, sex, tobacco, drugs, profanity, or death themes are not permitted.

Communication with your camper

We strongly encourage you to write your camper, either by mail or email. Many campers get notes and cards, and it can be disappointing for those who do not. This is a great way for extended family members and friends to get involved in your child's camp experience. Please write upbeat messages! It is important to recognize that your child may have moments of homesickness and a sad letter from home may further encourage those feelings. Campers may send mail from the camp office, so pack stationary and stamps if your child is interested in writing home!

- **Snail Mail:** Write the name of your child's specific camp on the outside of the envelope in addition to your camper's name and the camp address (i.e. Adventure 1, Jr. High 1, etc.). You may leave mail with staff during check-in or send by mail. If sending via the post office be sure to mail it BEFORE your child leaves home so it will arrive in time. You may also want to write "Day 1", etc. on the envelope if you want them to receive the letters on a specific day. The camp address is 8044 Anneta Road, Leitchfield, KY 42754.
- **Camper-grams:** You may send emails or CAMPER-Grams to your child online using a link that Loucon will provide at check-in. This is a free service. Your camper will receive printed Camper-grams once a day during mail call.
- **Phone Calls:** Loucon's office phone line, 270-242-7160, is monitored 24 hours a day during summer camp in case of family emergencies. The phone is transferred to one of the directors during the evening. We discourage calls to campers as it can interrupt the camp experience and foster homesickness. We will arrange a time for you to speak to your child if necessary. If a child is homesick, we will communicate this with you and allow you to decide if speaking with them is the best decision for your child. If you receive a call regarding homesickness please encourage your child to stay and enjoy this opportunity. The camp director may give you some guidance; however, the decision about if your child will stay at camp or not is that of the parent/guardian. Campers are not allowed to have cell phones at camp. Cell phones brought to camp will be held in the office and returned at the end of the week. This is to protect campers from outside distractions and to help them to disconnect from the world in order to connect with God and the camp community. If there is a need for your camper to call home on a regular basis please communicate with us in advance so we can discuss what's possible.

Homesickness Prevention

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Although it sounds contrary to logic, do not talk about homesickness with your child prior to coming to camp. Rather, talk about how much fun they will have and set them up for success through your encouragement. If homesickness occurs, our camp staff will work with your camper and we call when appropriate. Do not suggest to your child to call home if they are homesick.

If this is your child's first camp experience help them to know what to expect by talking with them about activities, lodging, making friends, rules, and the opportunity for spiritual growth. Encourage them to learn as much as possible and let it be known that you are excited to hear all about their experience when they return home.

Finally, pray with your camper about camp. Pray for safety and health, so they can enjoy all camp has to offer. Pray for friends who will have a positive impact on your child's life. Pray for their counselor that they may help your child grow.

Camper Fees & Scholarships

Loucon requires final camper fee payment by May 10th or at the time of registration if the camper is registered after May 15th. If your church is helping to pay your camper fees please communicate this directly with the camp office, Info@Loucon.org or 270-242-7160, so we can ensure we are charging you correctly.

Loucon has scholarships available for camper families experiencing hardship. Contact us if you need a link to our online scholarship application. We don't want to turn anyone away due to financial hardship.

What Loucon's About

Loucon desires that everyone who enters our gates would know God and that they would experience the abundant life Jesus came to give. To make this happen Loucon focuses on being;

- God-Centered
- Neighbor Driven
- Growth Focused

Loucon helps campers build values and skills in a supervised, positive environment with controlled boundaries. Camp is about relationships, getting along, belonging, and feeling capable and significant. Most importantly, your camper will have the opportunity to grow in their relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. We are grateful for the opportunity to know and work with your child. With your help, we will do all we can to make this one of the most memorable experiences of your child's life. Thank you for choosing Loucon. We'll see you this summer!

God Bless You,
The Loucon Staff



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WHEN YOUR CAMPER COMES HOME: A LETTER TO PARENTS

Plan the day of your child's arrival at home, knowing that your child may be out of sorts and tired. Camp days are full of high-level activity times. Facing home and a sudden change of pace often causes one to turn from a near-perfect angel into a grouch!

Your child may not be as delighted to see you as you are to see them. Besides going home, children are saying goodbye to their counselors and new friends.

When you arrive home be sure to provide extra time for rest and sleep. It would be nice if the child could be excused from chores for an additional 24 hours before resuming their normal routine and responsibilities.

Listen diligently as your youngster shares what happened. Ask questions and be interested, but don't probe. For the child who is quiet, reserved, and doesn't open up easily, allow time for him or her to do so. It's fun to share what the family did while the child was away, then to ask your child to share in return.

Your child may come home with the attitude of everything being ideal at camp. Such statements as "Our youth group's not much fun, but at camp...", or "I don't want to go to Sunday school. My teacher's not like my counselor at camp." Patiently wait out the comments. Things will die down. Allow your youngster to write to the people he or she "fell in love with". For the younger children, it is often their counselors; for older teens, it may be other campers. Eventually things will return to normal.

If you find your child mentioning one particular staff member who was an excellent role model, encourage your child to write and thank that person for what it meant. Many of our staff members have been greatly encouraged because a camper of a previous week wrote a note of thanks.

Please keep in mind that Loucon hires an amazing set of staff and counselors; however we do not supervise them outside of the camp experience. We do background checks, follow up with their references, and evaluate them through an interview process. We are confident that they are wholehearted followers of Christ. However, as a parent you should keep an eye on how your child interacts with their friends, online contacts, and those they met at camp, including staff and counselors. Ensure that any continued relationships/conversations with camp staff after summer camp are appropriate. This has not been a problem for us in the past, but in today's world one cannot be too careful.

Be interested in what decisions or commitments your child may have made at camp. Allow time to share those decisions without giving your young person the third degree. Upon arrival home, he or she may be on a spiritual high. Help your camper

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realize that whether they are up or down on the spiritual roller coaster, the commitment still stands.

We will notify your church if your child indicated they made a decision about their faith. If this happens, please do not attack your child because you learned about the decision through other sources.

The period after camp is a great time to begin a new prayer time with your child and help them follow through with commitments made at camp. The realness of the time at camp will be much more a part of daily life six months later if God is a daily part of the process.

Once again, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to know and work with your child. We hope to see them again next year!

The Loucon Staff