



Summer Camp 2017 Preparation/Packing Guide



WHAT TO BRING:

CLOTHING

- o 2 pairs of shoes
- o Undergarments/socks
- o Pajamas
- o Clothing for cool nights (5 nights)
- o Clothing for hot days (6 days)
- o Raincoat/poncho
- o Swimsuit (must be one-piece and appropriate for a co-ed Christian environment)
- o Beach towel

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- o Camera
- o Fishing gear (not to be used by other campers or staff)

SLEEPING GEAR

- o Sleeping bag or sheets and blanket
- o Pillow
- o Extra blanket for cool nights
- o **Please send freshly laundered sleeping gear**

PERSONAL ITEMS

- o Soap and Shampoo
- o Toothbrush & toothpaste
- o 2 Towels & Washcloths
- o Comb/Brush
- o A bucket or pail to carry shower items to/ from showers & cabins.
- o Shower footwear if desired
- o Hygiene products
- o Laundry Bag
- o Water bottle

OTHER ITEMS

- o Bible
- o Insect repellent
- o Sun screen
- o Pre-addressed, stamped envelopes
- o Medications, in original containers
- o Completed and signed forms

If your camper does not have a Bible, please contact Camp Aldersgate and we'll have one for them at check-in.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- o Cell phones
Aldersgate is a cell-phone-free environment. We ask that campers and staff alike do not use cell phones while at camp. In case of emergency, families can be contacted by staff using the camp's phone. In order to resist distraction, help with home-sickness, and not misplace expensive items, we ask that campers leave cell phones at home. Please feel free to contact the Camp Director for more information.
- o MP-3 players / I-pods / multi-media equipment of any kind.
- o Laptop Computers
- o Food / Candy (unless arrangements are made ahead of time for medical reasons)
- o Electronic Equipment (digital cameras allowed as long as they are not a cell phone's camera)
- o Medications not in original containers
- o Fireworks
- o Tobacco
- o Personal sports equipment
- o Alcohol, Illegal Drugs/ Paraphernalia
- o Pets
- o Weapons of any kind
- o Knives (unless in fishing gear and must be turned into camp staff immediately upon check-in.)
- o Campers who wish to drive themselves to camp must contact the Camp Director first.

SENDING MAIL AND E-MAIL TO CAMP:

Campers (and their counselors) LOVE to receive mail! So feel free to send letters and packages, but NO candy or food. **Share this with friends and family so they can send your camper notes of encouragement and well-wishes.** Mail is usually delivered once a day. Campers may only use the U.S. Post to respond.

E-mail: You will receive instructions at check-in on how to send your camper e-mail.

U.S. Post (snail mail):

Camper's Name (or counselor if sending them an encouraging letter),
Cabin #
Camp Aldersgate
3276 Dyewood Road
Carrollton, OH 44615

Remember, it can take a few days for a letter to get to the site, so write letters early — even before your camper leaves home. We are happy to take letters on check-in day to be delivered later in the week!

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CHECK-IN & DEPARTURE

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS:

3:15 Orientation with the Camp Director for new families to Camp Aldersgate

4:00 Check-in — You can anticipate at least a thirty to forty-five minute process (with the first 15 to 20 minutes being outside in the sun). You'll visit the check-in table where we collect additional information from parents/guardians and campers. After your health center screening, it's time to move-in and then all non-campers head home. We are scheduled to start our first ALL-Camp activity at 5:30, so please try to arrive for check-in as near 4:00 as you can, thank you.

LAST DAY OF CAMP:

5:00 Closing Parent Program -- You can anticipate a 30 minute experience. We wait for the majority of parents to arrive, so please arrive promptly. We will ask you to wait on your camper before retrieving items from their cabins. We notice a significant increase in lost and found when campers don't help retrieve their belongings.

Camp Aldersgate does not assume responsibility for lost, damaged, stolen, or missing items, so please put your camper's name on all personal items and take careful consideration when packing.

Camp is a place for exploring and playing hard. Campers should be able to get wet and dirty without undue concern for clothing. Old clothes are the best option.

DO NOT MAIL HEALTH FORM!
Bring it, and all prescription and non-prescription medication in original containers, to check-in.

Traveling to Camp

Camp Aldersgate is very easy to get to.....if you are aware of two things!

- 1) When you are following your GPS, or printing directions to get here, if your route takes you on Dewdrop Road, we recommend finding another route. Road is a bold term for Dewdrop, it is rather more of a path through the woods.
- 2) When you do arrive at Aldersgate main entrance, do not be alarmed when you find you must first travel through FFA Camp Muskingum. Just follow the signs to get to Camp Aldersgate. We love our neighbors!

Tips for a successful camp experience:

- In the days leading up to camp, encourage your camper by explaining how proud you are of them for taking this step. Frequent and short conversations are normally best and highly recommended.
- Tell them you can't wait to see them on the last day of camp. Don't worry, they will not feel as if you are abandoning them. Remember, camp is an amazing opportunity for children to practice what you have been teaching them. Let them know that they will be doing new things, that the camp staff cares for them, and that getting used to the new routine, beds, meals, friends, and everything will take some time, even 2 to 3 days. Let them know you are proud of them for their bravery and strength in going on this amazing adventure. Let them know you will miss them, and this feeling is normal for them and you. But, reinforce that camp is important, fun, and most importantly..... safe.
- Explain to them that their counselor and the Camp Director are here to keep them safe, help them have fun, make new friends, and grow in their faith. Tell them that if they are feeling scared, homesick or bad in any way to tell their counselor or the Camp Director so we can help them. One way to reinforce in them that you trust us is by not sending a cell phone. Keeping cell phones out of camp lets your camper know that you trust them, and most importantly, that you trust us to help them when they need it.
- For many reasons, we are unable to allow campers to call home. Please don't tell a camper "if you want to come home, tell the camp staff to call, and I'll come and get you." This is negative empowerment, only teaching children to run from their problems. However, encourage them to discuss their feelings with the camp staff, and we will of course call you. We will NEVER force a child to stay at camp. As camping and youth development professionals, we want your child to develop independence in a healthy, safe, and natural way.
- If you still have concerns, questions, or would like additional information or advice on preparing yourself and your camper for the camp experience contact the Camp Director, Dan Bajc.

Ways of Giving Back

Thank you for registering your camper for Summer Camp. Since you have already registered, you probably already know what makes camp so powerful. Just in case, here is our answer when we are asked, "Why Camp?"

Transformed Lives - At Aldersgate, young people have the mental room to consider some of the most important issues of life, and to discover the truth that God loves them and has an amazing plan for their lives.

Nature and Adventure – Aldersgate is set on beautiful Leesville Lake. Campers explore nature, participate in new adventures and test their limits in a healthy environment surrounded by the beauty of God's creation.

Temporary Community - In a setting separate from their daily routine, with an opportunity to shed the expectations and pressures of others, campers are free to truly be themselves.

Lifelong Friendships - Good friends who exert positive peer pressure can make all the difference in a kid's life. Friendships with caring adults and other campers can last a lifetime and provide a connection that helps young people navigate the challenges of life.

Adult Mentors - At Aldersgate, caring adults, counselors and mentors help campers think through decisions and experiences in a way that will prepare them for their future.

If able, would you consider one of these 2 Ways to Give?

- A full or partial campership to help a child go to camp that otherwise could not afford this powerful experience
- A gift to Aldersgate Annual Campaign to help with projects that make our facilities and programs even better for all, check out our newsletter on our website for current projects we are raising funds for.

To give, mail your tax-deductible gift to 3276 Dyewood Rd SW, Carrollton, OH 44615

CONTACT US:

Email: info@campaldersgate.org Phone: (330) 627-4369 Toll Free: (866) 627-4369 www.campaldersgate.org

Dan Bajc, Camp Director