



Q. I only saw day kamp prices by week. Can I sign my child up by day?

A. We charge by the week. A child may attend fewer than 5 days but the full week's registration fee applies. We do not have the ability to spread a one-week registration fee over additional weeks (e.g., Monday only attendance).

Q. Where will my child sleep?

A. Kampers reside in our lodges with beds, bathrooms, and common living spaces.

Q. My child has dietary restrictions. Should I send food with him or her?

A. This is generally unnecessary. We routinely accommodate food allergy, vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, lactose-free, and any combination thereof dietary needs. Share these needs during completion of the health questions in CampDoc, our online medical records management system. If we have concerns or questions we will contact you. However, if you feel more comfortable sending food or snacks, that's ok too. Just plan on turning the food over to our kitchen staff during check-in. All meals and snacks are served in the Dining Hall. Your child's food will be made available to him or her at the appropriate times. We have a strict policy of no food or snacks in the lodges.

Q. My child will be bringing medications and/or vitamins (supplements) to kamp. How should these be packaged?

A. All prescription or over the counter medications as well as vitamins and supplements must be in their original container. You should only send as many doses as your child will need during their stay at kamp—plus one or two in case they drop one and can't find it. The Kamp Nurse will collect these during check-in. No medications, vitamins, or supplements should be taken to the lodges.

Q. This is my child's first time spending a night away from home. Can I text/call my child to reassure him or her...or can they text/call me? I'm worried he or she will get homesick.

A. It is not uncommon for parents to feel more anxiety about their child's first experience at kamp than the camper actually does. Our counselors train for helping campers adjust to being at kamp, making new friends, and coping with "missing home." We refer to it as "missing home" rather than homesickness because well... no one is actually sick... and everyone including staff miss home, whether a little or a lot, during the summer.

We do not permit campers to have or use cell phones during kamp. Vanderkamp provides an invaluable opportunity for children, youth, and young adults to unplug, destress, slow down, and live in the moment with their fellow campers.

It is extremely rare for a child or youth to miss home to the point they cannot make the adjustment and find enjoyment at kamp. Research shows that talking to a parent more often than not makes feelings of missing home worse... and at that point the child is no longer willing or able to try to continue staying at kamp. We will contact you if there is ever a serious concern for your child's safety, health, or wellbeing.

Q. How can I communicate with my child during his or her kamp program?



A. We encourage you to pack postcards, stationary, envelopes and stamps so your child can keep you updated on all the fun they are having, the friends they are making, and yes... that they love and miss you... and the family pets.

Kampers love to get mail! You can send letters or packages. Please be mindful that your kamper is living in community with others—it's always nice to send enough of a special snack or treat to share if you can.

Your kamper cannot email you as we would never be able to accommodate or facilitate the logistics of granting all kampers access to a computer. However, if you wish to email your kamper, you can send a message to them at vkcenter@vk.org. Please put your child's name in the subject line, "Kamper Mail for _____." We will be sure to deliver it to them the next time they come to the Dining Hall.

Q. What savings do you offer for kamp?

A. We offer multiple session, multiple sibling and bring a NEW friend savings for both day kamp and sleep-over kamp programs (approximately \$20 per youth/per session for sleep-over kamp programs). These savings cannot be combined. Only Early Bird Savings (payment in full by midnight May 4th, 2019) can be combined with one of the above savings opportunities. Each savings opportunity is 5% of the kamp registration cost. Unlike many summer camps, Vanderkamp offers these savings **on each** of the multiple sessions, multiple siblings, or friends.

Q. What qualifies as a "New" Friend to receive this savings opportunity?

A. A Vanderkamper (any youth who attended one of our kamp programs in the past) brings a youth who has never attended Vanderkamp before. Both kampers would receive the savings benefit.

Q. Why do you avoid use of the term "discount?"

A. Our Vanderkampers will tell you that we have a "no discount" policy, which refers to never devaluing another person by saying something hurtful or treating them unkindly. We are all equally valued as the unique individuals that we are. We believe this concept applies to kamp as a whole. We believe in the quality and value of Vanderkamp's summer programs... so why would we devalue them?

Q. What does it cost to send my youth to kamp?

A. The bottom line is this... Vanderkamp's policy is to never turn a youth away due to an inability to pay nor must any family bear the indignity of proving their need. So... the cost of kamp is what a family and their church or any other sponsoring organization can contribute. Vanderkamp fundraises throughout the year to provide kampership assistance to those families who need it.

Q. What is the registration fee for kamp?

A. \$425 for Uniquely Vanderkamp Programs (Ninja, Free to Be You and Me, Adventures in Middle Earth), Ridiculous and Outrageous. \$650 for CIT Programs and \$275 for Teen Mission Week.

Q. I've heard people talk about the "true cost" of kamp. What does that mean?



A. There are direct costs (staff, food, utilities) associated with every kamper's experience. There are also overhead costs associated with every kamper's experience (maintenance, overhead, program equipment). The true cost of kamp takes both of these types of expenses into account. We estimate the true cost of a kamper to be approximately \$675.00 per session (with the exclusion of programs that involve out of kamp trips and unique expenses). We believe most families could not afford to pay the true cost of kamp so we work very hard to keep our costs down and charge only to cover direct expenses.

Q. How do I apply for Kampership assistance for my youth or young adult?

A. During the registration process, complete the Kampership Request form.

Q. Do I need to have a church or sponsoring organization contribution to be eligible for kampership assistance?

A. No.

Q. Do you give 100% kamperships?

A. No. We believe that every family should take pride investing in sending their child or youth to kamp.

Q. What if you run out of kampership funds?

A. We will always do our best to accommodate every youth and young adult who wants to attend kamp. If our existing kampership fund were to be depleted, we would do additional fundraising.

Q. How to I request transportation assistance for my child?

A. During the online registration process, complete the transportation questions on the Information for Counselors about My Child form.

Q. Will my youth or young adult feel out of place at a Christian kamp session if they don't attend church regularly... or ever?

A. Not at all. Everyone is accepted for who they are and where they are on their faith journeys. That goes for staff, volunteers, and kampers alike. All we ask is that your child be open to learning more about the Christian faith and participate in Bible study and worship in ways that are comfortable and meaningful for them.

Q. I heard you offer Communion during Christian sleep-over kamp sessions but I do not believe my youth or young adult is ready for this experience. Do they have to take Communion?

A. No. Communion is voluntary and done in a manner that does not draw attention to anyone who opts out.

Q. My family is not Christian but my child is interested in one of your Christian day kamp or sleep-over kamp programs. Can he or she attend?

A. Absolutely! All we ask is that they be open to learning about the Christian faith and participate in Bible study and worship in ways that are comfortable and meaningful for them... which can be just observing and asking questions or sharing comparisons with their faith beliefs and traditions.



Vanderkamp is not a conversion camp and is open and welcoming to ALL youth. Parents can view a sample of this year's Christian curriculum, Fearless Faith, on our website. We strive to live, learn, play, and pray together in a Christian community of peace, love, and acceptance of one another while demonstrating the values of caring, respect, and responsibility for ourselves, others, and the world around us.

Q. I understand that you provide bedding for kampers but my youth or young adult cannot sleep without their special (fill in the blank: blanket, pillow, stuffed animal). Can he or she bring it?

A. Yes. However, no personal bedding or stuffed animals should be taken into the lodges. Call or email the office to make arrangements to turn the item in at check-in. Staff will run the item through a hot dryer for one hour and deliver the item to the kamper that evening.

Q. Why don't you allow kampers to bring personal bedding into the lodges?

A. Several years ago bed bugs were discovered in a lodge at Vanderkamp. We took the precaution of hiring a professional pest control company to treat all our lodges at that time which involved the use of harsh chemical treatments and was very expensive. So today Vanderkamp contracts with a commercial linen service, Ameripride, to provide all bedding, towels and washcloths for sleep-over kampers and overnight rental guests. We also spray pillow covers and mattress covers with an H1N1 hospital grade antiseptic between use to reduce the likelihood of communicable disease or parasite transmission. Your kamper's health, wellbeing, and comfort are a top priority at Vanderkamp! We want their experience to be a positive one!