



CAMP
GRADY
SPRUCE



2026 Parent Handbook

WHERE **SUMMERS** TURN INTO **STORIES**

www.campgradyspruce.org

Welcome to Camp Grady Spruce

It is our mission to deliver exceptional outdoor programs that inspire, build and strengthen relationships with God, His creation and each other.



Our Core Values

Throughout your child's time at camp, these four core values will be exemplified and spoken about in almost every activity or event in which they participate. We hope that your child comes home with new skills and will talk to you about all the awesome new activities that they participate in while they were away at camp. More importantly, we hope that you as a parent will see a change in your child when they return home, because they have a better understanding of the values listed.

RESPECT

CARING

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

WHAT TO BRING

CLOTHES

- Underwear (10)
- Socks (10)
- Jeans/Pants (2)
- Sweatshirt
- Bathing Suit (2) (NO string bikinis are allowed at camp.)
- T-Shirts (9)
- Shorts (9)
- Pajamas (2)
- Sandals with secure backs or Water Shoes
- Tennis/Closed toe shoes
- Hat/cap
- Plain white T-shirt for TIE DYE
- T-shirt and pair of shorts that can get TRASHED!
- One outfit that goes with the "theme of the week"

BEDDING

- 1 set of twin sheets
- Blanket/comforter
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow

TOILETRIES

- Shampoo/Conditioner/Soap
- Lip Balm
- Beach towel AND bath towel
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Floss
- Sunscreen
- Lotion
- Brush/Comb
- OTHER:
- Water bottle
- Backpack
- Flashlight/batteries
- Sunglasses
- Stationary/stamps
- Disposable camera
- Paperback book/playing cards

ITEMS TO LEAVE AT HOME

- Food and candy
- Personal recreation equipment (wakeboards, life jackets, etc)
- Electronics: Cell Phones**, video games, digital and video cameras
- Jewelry/valuables
- Anything that you or your campers would be upset if it became: scratched, stained, battered, broken, lost or unrecognizable.

Camp is not responsible or liable for damaged, lost, stolen or left behind items.

If a camper brings the following items, they will be sent home and no refund will be given:

- Tobacco products
- Alcohol/drugs
- Knives
- Fireworks
- Firearms/weapons
- Pets

Absolutely NO cell phones will be allowed at camp - NO EXCEPTIONS. Staff will confiscate phones and parents will be responsible for picking phones up at the end of the week.

Pro Tip
Label all items with your camper's name!

OPENING & CLOSING DAY

Opening Day Check-In Sunday 2:00-3:30pm

Stop 1 !!
Welcome Center

Stop 2
Camp Store

Stop 3
Cabin

When you arrive at your cabin, your camper will meet their Counselors and a lice check will be done.

You are more than welcome to help your camper(s) move in!



Closing Day Check-Out

Saturday 9:00-10:30am

CAMPER HEALTH & WELLNESS



Bringing Medications to Camp

Campers are not allowed to keep ANY medication in their cabin. Medications brought to camp will be stored and administered in the Clinic. Please bring all medication in a sealed/ziploc bag labeled with camper's name.

Medication will be collected at check-in and returned at check-out.

- RX Medications: The medication must be in the original packaging with pharmacy label for dosing instructions with the camper's name. Our Camp Staff CANNOT accept or administer any medications that are not properly labeled as this violates the law. This includes pills, liquids, inhalers and injectables.
- OTC Medications: Campers who take over the counter meds for occasional symptomatic relief NEED TO BRING these medications with them to camp. OTC medication should also be brought to camp in its original packaging and will be collected at check-in.
- Asthma Inhalers: Are kept with Counselors and or activity leaders at all times.
- Epi Pens: Please check the expiration date prior to arriving at camp. Epi Pens are kept with Counselors and or activity leaders at all times.

IMPORTANT

Camp is not the time to experiment with new medications or the time to put your camper on a "medication vacation." This is especially true for campers with ADD/ADHD. We have found that because of the structured camp schedule these campers have a better experience if they stay on their medication while at camp.

SAFETY INFORMATION



At Camp Grady Spruce, our goal is for every parent and guardian to be able to walk onto our property and drop off your campers with no fear. Facilities and policies have been constructed to provide a thorough and consistent safe environment. To make sure you know that your camper is in safe hands here are few fast facts that will help ease your mind!

American Camp Association Accredited

Camp Grady Spruce is accredited by The American Camp Association (ACA). The ACA Accreditation covers over 300 standards in areas such as staff selection, safety rules, programs, health & sanitation and administration. This accreditation is voluntary, and we hope that it assures you that we are committed to a safe, nurturing environment for your children. For more information on ACA Accreditation please visit www.acacamps.org

Ratios

We have an overall staff-to-camper ratio of 1 to 8. Your camper's cabin will have at least two staff members at all times.

Camp Grady Spruce Staff

We carefully select the men and women of our staff because we expect them to be the best role models for your campers. Each staff member attends a 2-week orientation where they are extensively trained on counseling skills, safety procedures, child abuse, first aid/CPR and activity skills. Staff forms a strong, committed team with a single focus: a safe summer filled with fun, learning and growth opportunities for each camper.

Water Activities and Life Jackets

Camp Grady Spruce is known for its awesome waterfront! Due to the large number of activities that take place on Possum Kingdom Lake, we pride ourselves on our waterfront safety measures. All waterfront activities are supervised by YMCA Certified Lifeguards. These lifeguards participate in weekly training and drills so that their safety skills remain sharp throughout summer. In addition, because our waterfront is on a lake, it is YMCA policy that every camper wears a life jacket when they are in the water.

CABIN ASSIGNMENTS & CABIN MATE REQUESTS



Camp Grady Spruce assigns cabins based on age. We encourage campers to attend camp without cabin mate requests. It is our experience that cabin placement has little to do with your camper's success at camp. If you would like to make a request, please understand that while we will do our best to accommodate requests, we do not guarantee that requests will be honored.

Cabin Mate Requests

YOU MUST USE the buddy request field during online registration. Please do not call or email your request. The requests must be submitted more than 2 weeks prior to the start of your camp session. After that time, no changes are allowed. All placements are revealed on Opening Day and are final.

- **Mutual**: Both campers request each other AND are the same age. If campers in of different age (no more than one year difference) mutually request each other, the older camper will be placed in a younger cabin. Please keep in mind your camper may be with an entire cabin of younger campers if you make a mutual request.
- **Anti-Request**: (USE CAREFULLY) - THIS IS HONORED BEFORE ANY OTHER CABIN-MATE REQUEST. If you DO NOT think it is best that your camper be placed with a particular camper we will make sure that the campers aren't placed together. While we will not share this information freely, there may be circumstances where it is necessary to reveal this information to address cabin placement questions.

CABIN REQUESTS must be made in the "BUDDY REQUEST" field during online registration.

Requests must be submitted more than 2 weeks prior to the start of your child's session.

KEEPING UP WITH YOUR CAMPER

Though you won't be able to call or visit your camper during their stay, we do have a few options to stay in touch with your child while at camp.

CAMPERS LOVE MAIL!



It takes time, but a handwritten letter from Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, etc can make all the difference in the world! Here are some tips to make corresponding with your child more successful.

Helpful Tips

- ADDRESS LETTERS as following:
Camper First Name & Last Name
Camp Grady Spruce [Insert Week Theme]
3000 Park Rd 36
Graford, TX 76449
- Mail your first letter BEFORE CAMP STARTS. This ensures that your letter will reach camp for your camper's session.
- You can also drop off letters on Opening Day. Please make sure to mark which day you would like your letters to be delivered.
- KEEP LETTERS POSITIVE! Don't focus on what your campers are missing at home; focus on how much fun they must be having!
- Letters and emails from Bunk1 are NOT the place to share sad news.
- Provide your camper with pre-addressed/stamped envelopes to send mail home!

Camp Grady Spruce has a strict NO FOOD, CANDY or BEVERAGE policy for care packages. Any food and beverage items sent to camp will be disposed of at our discretion and will not be returned to the sender.

KEEPING UP WITH YOUR CAMPER

CONT'D

Camp Grady Spruce uses Bunk1 to keep parents and campers in touch! Parents can view photos of camp's day-to-day activities and even send Bunk Notes (emails) to campers.



Please visit www.Bunk1.com to become a registered user. After creating an account you will need to provide the Bunk1 invitation code to access the week's photos. This code will be provided in the pre-camp arrival email, which is sent to the primary email address listed in your Y account.

Every night, Camp Staff uploads photos to Bunk1 from that day. Internet at camp is slow to say the least, so please be patient with photos being uploaded. The best time to check for photos is in the morning!

We make every effort to include each child on Bunk1. If you have a camera-shy camper, call us and we'll make a special effort to find him/her with the camera.

Bunk Notes can be purchased in a minimum packet of five. Camp staff will print off Bunk Notes each day and deliver them at Mail Time.



CAMPER BEHAVIOR POLICY

Please go over the following section with your camper so that they are aware of the standards they will be held to while at camp.

Admission as a Camp Grady Spruce camper carries many privileges and responsibilities. We expect campers to participate in the total life of camp and to co-exist in a cooperative spirit. Camp Grady Spruce reserves the right to warn, suspend or dismiss any program participant from our programs and facilities without a refund. The following are grounds for dismissal:

- 1. Camper who is found with tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or weapons on property.**
- 2. Camper behavior or discipline problem that affects our work with other campers, or their enjoyment of Camp Grady Spruce, and we have exhausted all options.**
- 3. Camper behavior poses a threat to self or others.**
- 4. Camper behavior is determined to be inappropriate within the scope and spirit of YMCA values and the mission statement.**



Our goal is for your camper to have an incredible summer experience. With the help of their counselors, cabin mates and peers, campers face the challenges that camp life brings and learn important lessons about themselves.

We are so excited that you and your family are joining us for the journey!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Camp Food Services

Three hearty and well-balanced meals are served each day. Each meal has fresh fruit and a salad bar is available for lunch and dinner. Cabins sit together and eat as a cabin group.

If your camper has special food needs or concerns including food allergies (i.e. gluten, lactose intolerance, etc) or preferences (i.e. vegetarian), please be sure to complete the respective fields in the online registration process.

Camp Grady Spruce is nut-free during summer camp. We do offer a peanut butter alternative, Sun Butter, for Sun Butter and Jelly Sandwiches!

Birthdays at Camp

Camp is an incredible place to celebrate a birthday. We will make sure that it is an unforgettable day. We do provide a birthday dessert to each camper for their birthday. If you would like to send a "Birthday Party in a Box" (i.e. balloons, decorations, party hats, etc), please give this to the mail table at check-in.



HOW TO CONTACT US

WHERE WE ARE



Camp Address:

YMCA Camp Grady Spruce
3000 Park Rd 36
Graford, TX 76449

WHO TO CONTACT

Summer Camp Director:

Kelly Townsend
ktownsend@ymcadallas.org

Executive Director:

Lewis Knisley
lknisley@ymcadallas.org

