

PLEASE READ THROUGH THIS EMAIL IN ITS ENTIRETY

Greetings from Camp Wakeshma

Your child has been enrolled in Camp Wakeshma and their stay with us is just around the corner! To help you prepare for camp, we have included multiple documents for you to review and complete. **Please bring completed documents with you to camp for your child's check-in. Please do not mail completed forms to camp.** You will find the items described below;

Packing List – This sheet provides recommended items to bring (and not to bring) to camp that will help ensure that your child has the most successful camp experience. We have also included a list to help prepare the parent/guardian that will be bringing a child to check-in.

Health History Form – This extremely important document needs to be filled out thoroughly and accurately. All medication must come in the original container. Medication must identify the prescribing physician (if a prescription drug), the name of the medication, the dosage, and the frequency of administration. Administration instructions must match the package or bottle exactly, unless there are written instructions/changes signed by the child's physician attached. Safety is our number one priority so if any of the medical/health requirements are not met, a child will not be checked into camp.

Camper Confidential – Information on this document will be used to aid camp staff in providing emotional safety to ensure that your child can have the best camping experience possible. This document must be filled out to check a child into camp. Please feel free to call ahead of time to discuss any information you feel administrators should be briefed on (i.e. sleepwalking, bed wetting, any physical or mental disabilities, etc.).

Camper Release – This form is essential for our check-out process. Please fill out this document completely. Campers will not be permitted to leave Camp Wakeshma without being signed-out first on their Camper Release Form. **The person that will be picking up your camper (regardless of relation) at the end of their camp session is required to provide valid identification that matches a name provided on their Camper Release Form to designated camp staff when signing your camper out.**

Please Note: If your child is enrolled in more than one session, his or her documents will be transferred to the additional session(s) for check-in. However, you will need to go through the entire check-in process for every session your child is scheduled to attend.

General Information and Helpful Tips for Parents and Campers

Camper Check-In: Sunday 2:00-4:00 pm- Please do not arrive before 2:00 pm on opening day. Gates will be locked and you will not be able to enter camp until 2:00 pm. Campers must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or pre-approved adult (family member or the parent/guardian of a fellow camper). If you are bringing a camper that is not your child, please be sure that you have the child's completed paperwork. When the gates open you will go through a series of check-in stations where your completed camper documents, store money and medications will be collected. Please note that every camper will receive a head check and will not be permitted to camp with us if lice or nits are found. Lastly, your child will receive their cabin assignment. Once your child is checked in we ask that you do not linger so that we can begin with the creation of an amazing camp experience for your child. If for any reason your child will be late checking in, please contact us ahead of time to make arrangements.

Camper Check-Out: All check-outs will be from 8:30-10:00 am. - A series of procedures will be included in the check-out process. Campers will not be permitted to leave Camp Wakeshma without being signed-out on their Camper Release Form. The person that will be picking up your camper at check-out is required to provide valid identification that matches a name provided on their Camper Release Form. Be sure your child has received their remaining camp store account balance and camp picture from their counselor before you leave. Any camp store money left behind on check-out day will be donated to camp for programming. Please join us for breakfast after you have completed the check-out process. Band, Choir, and Guitar Camp parents will enjoy a final concert at 9:30 am following the check-out process, so be sure to get to check-out on time!

Directions- We have found www.googlemaps.com to be the most helpful tool for families in locating Camp Wakeshma. Please note that Camp Wakeshma Road is referred to as Lake Shore Drive on most all direction websites. Please be sure to check on the current condition of the route in which you plan on taking to drop off and pick up your child...summer is not only a great time to camp, but also the perfect season for construction!

Office Hours- Please keep in mind our office hours (listed below) when contacting Camp Wakeshma during our summer season. However, please don't hesitate to call at any time if there is an emergency. Camp Wakeshma office phone: [\(269\) 244-5891](tel:2692445891)

Camp Wakeshma Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 am- 5:00 pm

Saturday 8:30 am- 11:00 am

Sunday 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm

Camp Store- Your child may make purchases at the camp store throughout their stay with us. Items including Camp Wakeshma apparel, snacks, arts and crafts items, etc.,

are available for purchase. During check-in you may deposit money (cash or check only) for your child to use at the camp store. At the end of the week, your child will receive his or her remaining store account balance. Please limit the amount of sweets your child brings along with them to camp. The more sweets in the cabins, the more little critters come crawling!

Homesickness- It is common for a child to experience homesickness for the first few days away from their family (especially first time campers). Since this is a healthy and normal response to being away from home, we train our staff on how to work with homesick campers to ensure that each child has the best camp experience possible. Overcoming homesickness is an important part of growing up and we help children work through this with encouragement and understanding. However, we want your child to have a fantastic camp experience, so if the homesickness persists the Director may call you to gain insight on how to best help your child. With our past experience we have found that putting children on the phone with parents typically makes the situation more difficult and increases their homesickness. When contacting your camper through letters make sure to be positive and supportive.

Camper Contact- Campers are not allowed to bring cell phones with them to Camp Wakeshma. There is no fax or email communication available. No regular on site visitation is permitted. To ensure your child gets the most of their camp experience, we ask that you use snail mail as your means of communication. It is a treat for your child to receive letters and/or a care package while attending camp. We encourage you to send mail a couple days before your child is to arrive at camp to ensure that your mail will reach them early in their session. Packages will be opened in the presence of a staff member and any "contraband" will be taken. Keep in mind that receiving a package or five letters in the same mail day will result in your child jumping off our high-dive into Corey Lake with their clothes on...a long-standing Wakeshma tradition! Please note that Camp Wakeshma is not responsible for returning mail that does not reach a camper during the duration of their stay. To send letters and packages to your camper, please use the following example...

Camper's Name - Session
59149 Camp Wakeshma Road
Three Rivers, MI 49093

Camp Closure- In the event of a camp closure (evacuation), our staff will contact the phone numbers you have provided us on your child's enrollment form. Please inform us at check-in if any of those numbers have changed. If you plan to be on vacation while your child is camping with us, please make sure that we have a way to get in touch with you.

Birthdays at Camp Wakeshma- Please inform us at check-in if your child will be celebrating a birthday during his or her stay with us. This way our staff can prepare a birthday your child will never forget!

Activities at Camp Wakeshma- The activities at Camp Wakeshma are limited to the equipment we have available at the time of your child's session. No activity is guaranteed to be available at any given session. Please contact us to find out how your help can make all of our activities available for the duration of each summer.

Help Spread the Tradition of Wakeshma- Do your friends and neighbors know about Camp Wakeshma? We thank all of you that promote our camp to others...so please keep spreading the word!

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Sincerely,

Susie and Todd Schierbeek
Executive Camp Directors

Camp Wakeshma
59149 Camp Wakeshma Road.
Three Rivers. MI 49093

[269.244.5891](tel:269.244.5891)

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www.campwakeshma.com