

## **“Homesick” Policy**

The staff would like you to know how we deal with children who feel homesick. Feeling “homesick” is something children often face when they are away from home for a week. The staff, when dealing with a child who feels homesick, will not immediately call the parents and ask them to pick up the child. We feel that if you signed your child up for a week of camp, you believe the experience will be beneficial for your child. We believe the same thing. That is why we as staff members volunteer a week to do this work.

Therefore, if a child feels homesick, we will attempt to work them through that feeling. We usually do that by redirecting them away from thoughts of home to the activities here at camp. Since calling home only intensifies homesick feelings, we discourage it. Our experience over the many years we have been doing this camp is that children who feel homesick usually get over it in a short period of time after getting acclimated to camp.

Our experience also shows that children, who face and deal with homesickness, usually feel a wonderful sense of accomplishment at the end of the week. They were able to do something that wasn't easy, and are better for it. In the end, you will be better for it as well, because when it comes time for your child to attend something away from home, such as a rally or even when your child goes off to college, your child will know they can do it because of their experience here.

-- Pastor Zarling, Camp Director

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