

Camp Store Accounts

Campers will have daily access to the camp store during the week where they can buy snacks and drinks. During arrival and pickup the camp store will be open to purchase “souvenir items” such as t-shirts, hats, stuffed animals and more. If you would like your camper to be able to make purchases in the camp store, **please deposit money into their camp store accounts.** We strongly prefer that campers not carry cash because cash gets lost or misplaced and cannot be effectively accounted for.

A deposit can be made to a camper’s Camp Store account online or at registration upon arrival for camp. Money remaining in the account can be used on the day of departure. Any funds remaining after departure go into Camp Allegheny’s Campership fund to help send campers to camp.

Photo Album

Our online photo album was a huge hit!

Camp Allegheny’s photo album is a PASS Gallery Album. This new photo album has multiple features that will make the experience of getting a Photo Album much more rewarding for parents and grandparents!

- ***Pictures through the week!***

Parents and grandparents will be able to see pictures of their child’s event updated after every full day of camp! That means that on Tuesday you will get to see pictures of what your camper did Monday!

- ***Any Device, Any Time***

PASS Gallery has an app for Android and iOS as well as being accessible through any contemporary web browser (eg. Chrome, MS Edge, Firefox, Safari). You can browse the photos and download any of them you want, right from your computer, laptop, or phone.

- ***Keep Downloaded Photos***

You can download any of the photos you see and they are yours to keep.

- ***Purchase Physical Prints***

PASS Gallery offers a store interface on which you can buy various prints of your favorite pictures, right from the app or web page. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Camp Allegheny,

as well. You really wish you had that photo printed on a canvas to hang on your wall? Well, now you can!

Every camper will receive the photo pass for free! Emails will be sent the week of their event to the email listed at registration.

Dietary Restrictions

Camp Allegheny works closely with the parents to care for the dietary needs of our campers. If your child or youth has dietary restrictions, **please contact our Food Service Director** at Lorie@campallegheny.org or by calling 814-754-5122. Please contact camp a minimum of one week prior to your child's event to ensure our ability to care for your child.

Arrival and Departure

Arrival

Check-in opens at 3:00 PM at Heartwood Dining Hall and will close at 5:00 PM for Sunday arrival. If you arrive before 3:00PM, you may have to wait. We are keeping our staggered drop off times to avoid long lines, **you will receive an email 1 week prior to your event with the specific drop off time.**

If you are a Wednesday 1/2-week arrival, please check in from 9-10 AM.

For arrival, please be sure to bring:

1. **Medications** – in original packaging and, if prescription, with the prescription label on the bottle.
2. **Paperwork** – *All health forms and waivers must be completed on CampBrain registration prior to your arrival.*
3. **Unpaid Balances** – If you arrive on Sunday with an unpaid balance it must be paid at that time.
 1. **Churches and Agencies** – If a church or agency has told you they will be paying your balance, please bring a letter from that church or agency stating as much.
 2. For a full explanation of our payment policies, please see our **Registration/ Payment/ Cancellation Policies** document on www.campallegheny.org/summer-forms/

Departure

You will receive an email reminding you about pickup procedures during the week your child is at camp. Here's what you need to know:

1. **Parent Picnic at 5:00PM on Friday** – Campers will get to enjoy a picnic dinner with their parents before pick up. RSVP is required at arrival drop off.
2. **Pickup by 6:30 PM** – if you are not coming to the Parent Picnic please be sure to pick your camper up at their lodge by 6:30PM.
3. **Tuesday Pick up-** If your child is attending a ½ week camp with a Tuesday pick up; pick up time will be from 6:30-7:00 PM
4. **Early Departures should be done BEFORE Friday dinner at 5:30 PM** – In the interests of keeping campers safe, early pickups should be done before 5:30 PM. There is a lot that goes on between 5 PM and the parent presentation and it creates a very chaotic situation for our campers and counselors alike if people are trying to sign out at that time. We are still responsible for the safety of ALL of the children during that time. Thank you for understanding.

Also, please communicate with the office (info@campallegheny.org) before noon on Thursday if you need to pick your camper up before 5:30PM.

5. **Pickup Person Communicated** – On arrival day, the person dropping off your camper will be asked to list one or two individuals who will be picking up your child. If your Pickup Person changes during the week, please communicate that in writing (email is fine) before noon on Friday.
6. **Photo ID** – We cannot release a camper without seeing photo ID. Please be sure your pickup person brings that with them on Friday.

Camper Communications

Campers are not permitted to have cell phones during their time at camp and unless there is something exceptional that has happened (eg. a death in the family), we generally do not allow them to make phone calls home. This does not mean that they cannot contact you and that you cannot contact them, however! We strongly encourage you to do so with the following means!

Camper Email

You can **email your child** at www.campallegheny.org/camperemail/. Emails are delivered once daily. Emails are usually printed at least an hour or two before the meal at which they are delivered, so please plan your communications accordingly if it is important they get it on a specific day.

Camper Mail

You can send your child mail using the following address:

CAMPER NAME

EVENT NAME (ex. Pony, wrangler, allegheny xperience)

100 Camp Allegheny Dr.

Stoystown, PA 15563-8823

Please **do not mail them any items that should not be brought to camp in the first place.** Camp Allegheny reserves the right to inspect packages that are sent to campers.

Letters Home

Getting a letter from your camper is GREAT! If you would like to hear directly from your camper it is a good practice to **send pre-addressed, pre-stamped envelopes** with your camper. While we stay busy, there will be time for them to write home if they would like to do so. Pre-stamped envelopes **are available for purchase in the Camp Store** as well.

Preparing for Camp

Here are a few tips for things to do (and not to do) ahead of time to help your camper have the BEST camp experience.

Please Do

- Have your camper **stay away from home** at least once or twice before camp starts. Sleepovers with friends or grandparents help them get used to sleeping away from home.
- **Promise to write** to your camper. Whether a quick word or a longer letter, campers love to know you are thinking about them!
- **Talk positively about camp** as you get ready for camp. Let campers share their excitement and their concerns openly, but don't dwell on the negative.
- **Pack using the "What to Bring" list.** You can find the list on www.campallegheny.org/summer-forms/
- **Label everything.** Counselors make every effort to help campers keep their things together. This is easier for their child if they know that the PJs (or whatever) that look just like their new friend's are labeled.

Please Do Not

- **Pack a cell phone or promise that they can call home.** We do not allow campers to call home. Homesickness is normal for the first night or two. For most campers, calling home ensures that homesickness is a problem throughout the entire week.

- **Introduce the idea of homesickness** or tell them that they can leave any time. While you *can* pick them up, planting this idea will all but ensure that you *will* be picking them up, and probably the second day.
- **Send food or snacks** or anything else listed as “What You Need to Leave at Home” on the “What to Bring” document. (www.campalleggheny.org/summer-forms/)

There are plenty of other great “First Time” camper parent tips and tricks out there! If you are nervous, that is NORMAL. We take seriously the fact that you are entrusting us with the most precious part of your life! Here are a few other articles with great things to help you and your child have a great camp experience!

[Mental Preparedness for “First Time” Camper Parents](#) – *Tips for Trips and Camps Blog*

[Talking about Camp with Your First-Time Camper](#) – American Camp Association

Other great articles at [American Camp Association Parent Blog](#)

Registration/ Payment/ Cancellation Policies

Please be aware of the policies regarding registration, cancellation, and payment. You can read our policy document on our website here: www.campalleggheny.org/summer-forms/