



2025

KODA CAMP NEWSLETTER



In this newsletter, you will find helpful information for new and returning campers. We ask that you take the time to read this over with your child to review basic rules and expectations for this summer.

Hopefully, you will end up with all of your questions answered but if you have any further questions, please feel free to email me.

We are looking forward to a great summer!!!



WHAT IS KODA CAMP?

While we are a typical summer camp filled with activities such as PE games, Arts and Crafts, Waterfront and team-building exercises, we also have activities that are unique to KODA Camp. These activities expose your child to the KODA identity and the Deaf community. We have “KODA Talks” where campers can share their experiences in having Deaf parents, appreciate their families, and build connections amongst each other. We also have “ASL Night,” which is an evening activity that varies from year to year. This activity exposes the campers to Deaf culture and the different aspects of the Deaf community.

CAMP LIFE

Life at camp is different from life at home. Preparing your camper with as much information as possible will be helpful while they are adjusting to this experience. Please share this newsletter with your camper so they can see a glimpse into what they will be doing at camp. Below we have an example of the daily schedule, a “meet the counselors,” rules and policies and a general packing list for your campers. Your campers will be sharing a living space with others and eating food that they may not eat at home so please prepare them for that.



WRITING LETTERS

In regard to contacting your camper, the daily schedule prevents regular contact with your camper. If your camper suffers serious injury or illness, you will be notified promptly. Should a serious need to communicate with your child arise, please email Michael at kodadir@campmark7.org

We love letters! Feel free to send letters (handwritten / emailed) to your camper. Campers also have the opportunity to write back. These can be scanned and sent to your email.

REGISTRATION DAY

When you arrive to Camp Mark 7 on registration day, you will be directed to park behind our pole barn. Registration begins at 1 PM in the pole barn. You will visit various stations (registrar, bank, nurse, contact info, parent night RSVP) before being able to enter the rest of campus. This is to be sure we have all the information and paperwork we need for your child.



DAILY SCHEDULE

EXAMPLE

7 AM - morning exercises
8 AM - breakfast
8:45 AM - kapers (camp chores)
9 AM - activity blocks
12 PM - lunch
1 PM - floor time
1:30 - activity blocks
4:30 PM - free time / electives
6 PM - dinner
7 PM - evening activity
9/10 PM - floor time / lights out

PARENTS NIGHT AND DEPARTURE DAY

The night before departure day, campers and their families are encouraged to join us at our annual Parent's Night. From 5-8PM, you will have a chance to see your camper and meet the counselors. We prepare a short evening program including introductions, presentations, skits and announcements. We will also show video clips of your children that were filmed during the camp session. Around 8 PM, the campers and counselors will head back to camp for their last night closing ceremony. Camp officially ends the morning after parent's night. We do ask that you pick your children up and vacate the campus by NOON that day!

KODA TEEN

Parent's night - July 31st
Departure day - August 1st

KODA YOUTH

Parent's night - August 14th
Departure day - August 15th

RULES AND POLICIES

DRESS CODE

Our counselors work hard to plan activities that are designed to be fun and active. We ask that parents and campers pack clothing that are appropriate and comfortable. Campers' clothing should reflect good taste and concern for values and standards of other campers. Inappropriate attire includes but is not limited to the following: clothing promoting alcohol, drugs or tobacco products and provocative clothing. Campers may be asked to change if counselors deem the attire to be inappropriate.

SWIMSUITS

Our goal is to provide a safe and enjoyable swimming experience while being modest in our swimwear at Camp Mark Seven. Please keep in mind that our Camp Director will have the final say in what is seen as acceptable and unacceptable.

Females

1. Acceptable Swimwear would include: one-piece swimsuits, tankinis, two-piece swimsuits with sport-style swim top, high neck tops and modest bottoms.
2. Unacceptable Swimwear would include: bikinis, tube-tops, low-cut tops or high cut bottoms, thong bottoms, bottoms with ties on the side, or any triangle top (including tankinis with triangle style tops)

Males

1. Acceptable Swimwear would include: boxer style trunks, jam trunks.
2. Unacceptable Swimwear would include: speedo-type trunks.

Suggestions

Many female campers have found that the best solution to finding an appropriate bathing suit is to wear a dark colored tank top over the swimsuit they already have. Also, sporting goods stores sell sports-style swim tops that can be worn with any bottom. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Camp Director.

CAMP BANK

Each camper is encouraged to bring between \$80 to \$100 of spending money while at camp. At registration, we will ONLY accept CASH deposits into the "Camp Bank." Throughout the session, campers will be allowed to withdraw spending money when we go into town or to the waterpark. They also have the opportunity to buy snacks and sodas daily from the camp store.

RULES AND POLICIES

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Alcohol and drugs absolutely have no place at camp. We have a STRICT NO alcohol or drug policy here at Camp Mark Seven. No alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances are to be carried onto the camp property; this includes cigarettes or any other tobacco product such as electronic cigarettes or vapes. If any camper is found to be in possession of alcohol, drugs or a controlled substance, it will be confiscated and the camper's parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up their camper immediately, no matter the time of day or night.

MEDICATIONS

All medication (both prescription and over-the-counter) must be checked in with the camp nurse at the time of registration. Prescription medicines MUST be in a Pharmacy labeled container including dosage and instructions, with the camper's name as the primary patient on the label.

FOOD AND SNACKS

The campers are fed three delicious meals each day cooked by our chef on campus. Additional snacks may be provided throughout the day. If campers are still interested in bringing additional snacks, please note that we do not allow any kind of nuts on campus. Life-threatening allergies to nuts are present at camp so we ask that you do not bring any 'products that contain' or 'may contain traces of' cashews, almonds, brazil nuts, pine nuts, walnuts, or the peanut. All snack items will be checked upon arrival and any items containing nuts will be sent home or taken and held until the end of camp. No homemade goods or snacks are permitted. This is to ensure safety.

LOST AND FOUND

Please be sure to mark all clothing with his/her/their full name when sending your child to camp. Please use his/her full name as there can be many campers with the same initials. At the end of each session, campers and parents are given an opportunity to claim the items left behind. Any items not claimed or without names are given to a charitable organization after camp.

ELECTRONIC USE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Camp Mark 7 (CM7)! We are excited to have you join us for a summer filled with fun, adventure, and new friendships. To ensure a positive and inclusive experience for all campers, we have guidelines on the use of electronic devices during your stay at camp.

PURPOSE

The primary goal of our electronics use policy is to promote face-to-face interaction, enhance the camp community, and create an environment where campers can fully engage in the camp experience. Limiting electronic device usage fosters a sense of connection, encourages outdoor activities, and allows everyone to immerse themselves in the unique opportunities that camp offers.

DEVICE RESTRICTIONS

Campers are not allowed to possess any mobile phone or personal electronic device that has access to wifi, data service, or is able to transfer data. This includes smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops, gaming consoles, and any device the Camp Director determined to be a prohibited device. If a camper is found with a personal electronic device, the item will be taken away and secured by the Camp Director. The personal device will be returned to the camper upon camp departure.

Campers who are flying to CM7 may bring their electronic devices on their journey but must turn them to the Camp Director upon arrival. CM7 will store the device in a secure location until departure from camp.

If campers need to bring a device for specific reasons (e.g., medical devices), they must obtain prior approval from the Camp Director.

ELECTRONIC USE POLICY

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

In case of an emergency, campers may use camp-provided communication devices (i.e. video phone) with the approval of camp staff.

Emergency contact information for parents/guardians will be collected during registration.

CONSEQUENCE FOR VIOLATION

Campers found in violation of the electronics use policy may face disciplinary actions, which may include a warning or, in extreme cases, removal from camp. The severity of consequences will be determined by a camp program director based on the nature and frequency of the violation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By participating in a camp program at CM7, campers and their parents/guardians acknowledge and agree to comply with the electronics use policy. Please be respectful of the rules and partner with CM7 by communicating this message at home before the camper leaves for camp. This policy is designed to ensure a positive and enriching camp experience for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation! We look forward to creating lasting memories together.

PACKING LIST

SUGGESTED PACKING

LIST

Long and short sleeved t-shirts

A pair of long pants and long sleeved shirt
for the swim test

Underwear

Socks

Pants and shorts

1-2 bathing suits

Swim towel

Shower towels

Pajamas

Sneakers

Sandals

Sweatshirt and sweatpants

Jacket

Laundry Bag

Bedding & Pillow

Sleeping bag for canoe trip

Water bottle

Flashlight

Bug Spray & Sunscreen

Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothpaste,
toothbrush, etc)

Shower caddy

Reusable water bottle



OTHER SUGGESTED ITEMS

Wallet/bag for off-campus trips

Camera

Small fan

Swim goggles

Alarm clock

Outfit for dance

Laundry detergent

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Drugs & Alcohol

Weapons

Food containing
nuts/peanuts

Electronics

Cell phones

MEET OUR KODA STAFF



Hello everyone! My name is Jared Dallos (he/him), and I am so excited to be back at CM7 for my eighth summer (2nd on staff)! I am from Chantilly, Virginia, but also go to school as an incoming sophomore at West Virginia University majoring in Sports Management with a minor in Sport Coaching. In my free time, I love to be active, whether it be hanging out with friends and family, playing a sport, or listening to music. I am definitely most excited for the evening activities, kodathalon, and simply getting to know everyone in the lobby before activities! LET'S GO.

Hello! My name is Elliott Feldman (he/him). I've lived most of my life in Maryland, but I've also spent time in Virginia and Connecticut. In my free time, I love playing video games, hanging out with my dog, and staying active with sports. I am also part of my high school's lacrosse and robotics teams. I was a camper here for six years, and I'm super excited to be joining staff for the first time this summer. I can't wait to meet all the awesome campers and help make it a great summer!





Hi everyone! I'm Claudette Bricoccoli, she/her, from Arizona. I'm entering my sophomore year at Gallaudet University. I love creative stuff like sewing, writing, and arts and crafts. I spend a lot of time thrifting with friends or working on projects. This is my first year on staff, and I'm counting down the days 'til camp. Lately I've been feeling extra Kodasick, so i'm so excited to meet everybody!

Hello everyone! My name is Carisa Hochkeppel (she/her), and I was born and raised in Worcester, Massachusetts. Both my parents are Deaf and I have one younger sister! In my free time, I love to color, make friendship bracelets, build legos, and watch Youtube! When I'm not doing that, I love to listen to music, go to concerts, be outdoors, and hang out with my friends and family! This will be my 5th summer at camp, 1st year on staff! I'm looking forward to waterpark day, ASL night, and most importantly, KODATHALON! I am so excited to meet and spend time with each and every one of you.
See you soon!





Hellllloooo! My name is Anna Lehnerz (she/her) and I'm so excited to be an assistant director at KODA camp again this summer! I'm originally from Indiana, spent the last five years in Delaware, and just moved to Baltimore, MD. I am a teacher but like to keep myself busy with running, creating, cooking, and lots of other things. I enjoy anything outdoors and connecting with people, which camp is perfect for. Can't wait to see you all soon for another memorable summer!

Hey everyone! I'm Sydney (she/her), and I'm super excited to be here. I'm from Olympia, Washington, and I'm really looking forward to a fun-filled summer. I absolutely love being outdoors, whether it's running on trails, hiking up mountains, or swimming in lakes. Spending time with my friends and family is also a huge part of my life. I also enjoy singing, playing guitar, and exploring new places when I get the chance to travel. Can't wait to meet you all!





Hello! My name is Lucas Dixon (he/him), and I'm from Springfield Virginia. I love to skateboard in my free time, wrestle for my school's varsity team, as well as spend time with friends. My friends and I really enjoy spikeball and go fishing often. This year will be my first on staff and I am looking forward to it! I can't wait to see all of you very soon!

Heyo! My name's Ayo Aina (he/him), and I'm from Columbia, Maryland. I love traveling and trying new adventurous things! It's a goal of mine to explore as much of the world as possible! When I'm out and about you'll see me hanging out with friends, meeting new people, and having a good time! I've been a camper for 5 years and this will be my first year as a counselor so as you can imagine, I'm super stoked! KODA Camp has a special place in my heart and I hope to make it just as (or more) special for the campers to come!





Hi!!! I'm Caleb, but some people like to call me CJ. I was born in D.C. but I live in Colorado Springs! I love the outdoors, and keep busy with snowboarding when winter comes around. I can't wait to be back at camp! This will be my second year as a counselor, and I'm looking forward to making so many connections this summer. So excited, can't wait to see you all soon!

Hi everyone! I'm Kalista Hughes (she/her), and I'm from Germantown, MD attending the University of Maryland as a Pre-Med Biology major! Outside of school, I love to play soccer, volleyball, or any sport, or talk about fascinating documentaries about animals and nature events! I also love to read and just lounge around. This will be my fourth year as a counselor, and I'm so excited to be back and seeing so many KODA faces! I can't wait to see you soon!





Hi everyone! My name is Samara Patterson (she/her) and I'm THRILLLED to be back for yet another year in my favorite place! I'm originally from Massachusetts but recently moved out west to beautiful Colorado! I've been adventuring in the Rocky Mountains but can't wait to be back in the Adirondacks. I'm most looking forward to canoe trips and chilling on the waterfront (and maybe getting up to some pranks) Much love and can't wait to see you soon!

Hi everyone!! I'm Kendra O'Reilly (she/her), and I'm so excited to be back at camp for another summer! I'm from Massachusetts, and this will be my 7th summer at camp and my 3rd year on staff. Camp has always been my happy place, and I truly can't wait for all the laughs, late night chats, bonfires, waterpark days, and everything in between. I feel so lucky to spend the summer with my KODA family! See you all so soon! <3





HELLO ALL!!! My name is Leah Buxbaum, I'm from Fairfax VA, and I am so so (so) excited to be back at camp:) I'm five foot four inches, I'm a leo sun pisces moon and pisces rising, I can hold my breath underwater for 15 seconds, I like talking to the raccoons that hang out in my backyard, and I try to watch a movie every day. I cannot wait to see some old faces and meet some new ones! KODA LOVE 💜

Hi! My name is Muriel Gibbons (she/her) and I'm from Worcester, Massachusetts. I love to play tennis and Field Hockey in my free time, but I also enjoy watching movies and television shows too! It's my first year on staff, after being a camper and I'm super excited for camp this summer! I can't wait to meet/see you all!





Hey everyone!! I'm Adrienne Dallos (She/Her), and I'm from Chantilly, Virginia but currently going into my second year at ECU in North Carolina, where I'm majoring in Education! I love to spend time with my friends, go to the beach, and listen to music. This will be my 8th summer at camp and my 2nd on staff. I am so excited for the canoe trips, KODAthalon, and all the dance parties we will be having! I'm so pumped to see everyone soon and be back at camp! KODAllove!!

Heyyy everyone! My name is Sonia Owens (she/her), and I am from Maryland. In my free time, I enjoy watching TV and movies, reading books, and spending time with friends. This will be my ninth summer at camp and my third on staff! I am super hyped for the waterpark, KODATHALON, and seeing all the returners and new campers!





Hello Everyone! My name is Thaddeus Gabel (He/Him) and I am from Colorado Springs, Colorado. I have lived in different areas such as the DMV, (DC, Maryland, Virginia) New York, Indiana, California and Florida. I love to be outside to hike and camp. I also enjoy playing sports and video games as I've played them my whole life. This will be my first year at camp! I am so thrilled to be a part of Camp Mark 7 KODA staff this year and to meet so many wonderful people. See you all soon!

Hey y'all! My name is Hernan Barretto Guillermo (He/Him), and i'm super excited to be back on staff! I'm from DC and I go to school in Rochester, New York. I like to spend my free time being active whether that's rock climbing or playing soccer or anything under the sun. I also love listening to music and thrifting. I'm super pumped to be back on staff and see some familiar faces but also some new ones! I can't wait to make another memorable summer!





Hello everyone! My name is Colby Wheeler (he/him) and I am from Grafton, Massachusetts. In my free time I like to go on hikes, play basketball and watch sports games. This is my second year at camp and I am very excited to come back and have another amazing year! I'm so excited and can't wait to see you guys at camp!

Hii! My name is Lauren Hlibok (She/Her) and I'm from Ellicott City, Maryland. I'm going into my second year at Hofstra University in Long Island, New York. I love to work at the pool as a lifeguard, play spike ball, and go on road trips! I'm so excited to meet everyone and be back for my 7th summer at camp, first on staff!

KODAllove!! 🤘





Howdy y'all! My name is Nate Veit (he/him), and I've spent most of my life in Austin, Texas, with my early years in New Mexico and Maryland. I love spending time in the great outdoors—whether it's hiking, swimming, or biking. I also love traveling, keeping up with football (Fly, Eagles Fly!), and playing video games with friends. I recently graduated from the great Texas A&M University (Gig 'em, Aggies!) with a degree in mechanical engineering and will be starting my career in Houston after camp. As a returning counselor, I'm excited to reconnect with familiar faces and welcome new ones—we're going to make some amazing memories together this summer!

Hey everyone! My name is Chloe Mitchiner (she/her) and I am so excited to be a part of staff this summer! I'm from Washington DC and I am currently a nursing student at the University of Vermont. In my free time I love going to the beach, scrapbooking, camping, and hanging out with friends! This will be my first summer on staff and I'm looking forward to Waterpark Day and seeing all of yall! Can't wait for the best summer ever, KODALOVE!!!





Hello hello hello!!!! Michael Conrad (he/him) here and I'm honored to spend yet another summer with you all this year as camp director! Believe it or not, this will be my 20th summer at CM7 and I have a feeling it'll be the best year yet. I grew up in Frederick, MD and currently live in Rochester, NY. I love everything about camp and would have to double the length of this newsletter just to list them all out! But if I had to choose my most favorite part of camp I'd say.... making amazing camp memories with all of you! Can't wait to see you all soon!!!! KODAllove!