

LETTER TO FAMILIES OF YOUTH CAMPERS – Instructions & Sample

OVERVIEW OF CONTENTS:

- Introduction to Co-Directors
 - Introduction to Theme and Program
 - Arrival Day & Time with any special notes
 - Departure Day & Time with any special notes
 - Packing for Camp – **highlights for your week, not the whole list**
 - Link to appropriate packing list
 - Where to direct program-related questions
 - Where to direct fee, policy and site questions
- UltraCamp is our registration program. However, that name does not show up anywhere in camper promotion, registration, etc.
 - When creating your letter, or editing this one, keep in mind that UltraCamp does not recognize most “special” items such as fun fonts, points, dashes, etc. If you want to emphasize something - use **BOLD** type. Use regular single spacing, not modified spacing.
 - Your letter is due to Mark at mark@pilgrim-firs.org a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the start of your session.
 - The **aqua highlighting** indicated section that need to be personalized for your session.

SAMPLE LETTER: -----

Hello **Intermediate** Campers & Families!

Let's start with introductions. We are your co-directors, Lauralee (she/her) and Shirley(she/her). We are super excited about sharing a week at N-Sid-Sen with you... and getting a little fruity!

Note to EDs: *The theme that summer focused on the Fruits of the Spirit.*

Lauralee's favorite fruit are pineapple and kiwi. She has an extensive background working with youth in a variety of settings - church school, daycare, as a nanny, and assisting in her kids' classrooms. She is newer to overnight camp and excited about crafting and diving into the lessons of the week. Lauralee is a member of Shalom UCC in Richland, where she serves as the Administrative Director.

Shirley's favorite fruit are blackberries and pomegranate. She is a recently retired UCC and YMCA camp director. Her favorite camp activities include cookouts, campfires and everything water-related. She is especially excited about getting back to N-Sid-Sen, meeting all the cool campers and growing together. Shirley is a member of Fautleroy Church, UCC in West Seattle.

Having a great time, making new friends and connecting with God, our best selves and nature -that's what we are anticipating during our week together. This year's theme explores the fruit of the spirit. We will delve into how these attributes prepare us to be in community, honor creation, and grow in our faith by recognizing the gifts that surround us.

Note to EDs: If your event has a swim test or other potentially overwhelming activity almost immediately upon arrival it would be good to mention that here and provide applicable information. The same goes for any major activities that may be happening later in the week (e.g., Water Olympics, a float trip, etc.). Youth with anxiety benefit from knowing about big events in advance. This notification can help them to adequately prepare mentally and/or with the right tools/equipment.

We have some great resources to help you prepare for camp. Check out these resources:

Pre-Camp Information for Families

Clothing & Equipment List

Note to EDs: Check back in mid-April. Links to these two resources will be added after the pieces are complete.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PRECAUTIONS: Please help us keep COVID & other bugs out of camp!

Campers and leaders are all strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated.

Prior to camp, campers and families should avoid situations that might lead to infections.

Campers should only come to camp if they feel healthy and have no concerning symptoms. For example, congestion and a runny nose are concerning, but if they are directly related to regular allergies, they are no longer symptoms of concern.

Contact the camp office and/or Mark at executivedirector@pilgrim-firs.org if there are concerns regarding infectious diseases.

Masking is welcome and currently optional.

CAMPER CHECK-IN: Sunday, July 1st from 3-4pm (This is earlier than in previous years.)

MEDICATION: Keep medication in its ORIGINAL PACKAGING, and WITH YOU for check-in, not in a suitcase.

For more details, check the **Pre-Camp Information for Families** on the camp websites.

Note to EDs: Again, check back in mid-April. A link to this piece will be added after the document is updated.

CAMPER PICK-UP: Saturday, July 7th at 11:00 am

Please do not arrive early, as we want to utilize every available minute that we can with your camper(s)!

Completion of the Pick-Up Authorization section of the online registration packet is required for all youth campers, including teens driving themselves. Please double-check that you have included EVERYONE who might pick up your child. And, Parents – remember to list yourselves, if there is any chance you might be picking up your camper.

Please alert the people you have authorized to bring Photo ID, such as a driver's license. It will be needed to sign out the camper.

PACKING FOR CAMP:

Please refer to the Clothing & Equipment List which includes a list of "What NOT to Bring to Camp."

Remember a sturdy WATER BOTTLE.

Bring shoes with CLOSED TOES.

Note to Eds: Add any items you would like campers to bring that are not already on the general session list. Examples include pre-washed cotton items to tie-dye, empty tin cans for a project, etc.

TEMPERATURE ALERT: We are expecting temperatures in the 80s-low 90s during the day and in the 50s-60s at night. Pack accordingly.

Please leave CELL PHONES, DIGITAL CAMERAS and FOOD at home.

Program Questions: If you have questions about the program or camper concerns that might arise, such as possible homesickness or a fear of the dark, please contact [Lauralee\(lauraleepapenfuss@gmail.com\)](mailto:lauraleepapenfuss@gmail.com) or Shirley (shjasmussen@gmail.com).

Site, Facility and Dietary Questions: Contact the camp directly at randy@n-sid-sen.org. (or executivedirector@pilgrim-firs.org for Pilgrim Firs camps)

Any Special Needs: Contact Mark at executivedirector@pilgrim-firs.org

We're excited and we hope you are too!!

See you soon at N-Sid-Sen,
[Lauralee and Shirley, your Intermediate Camp Co-Directors](#)
