

McKinley Elementary

# 5TH GRADE CAMP MARSTON

May 1-3, 2026

Julian, CA

*Time in nature together;  
memories that last a lifetime...*

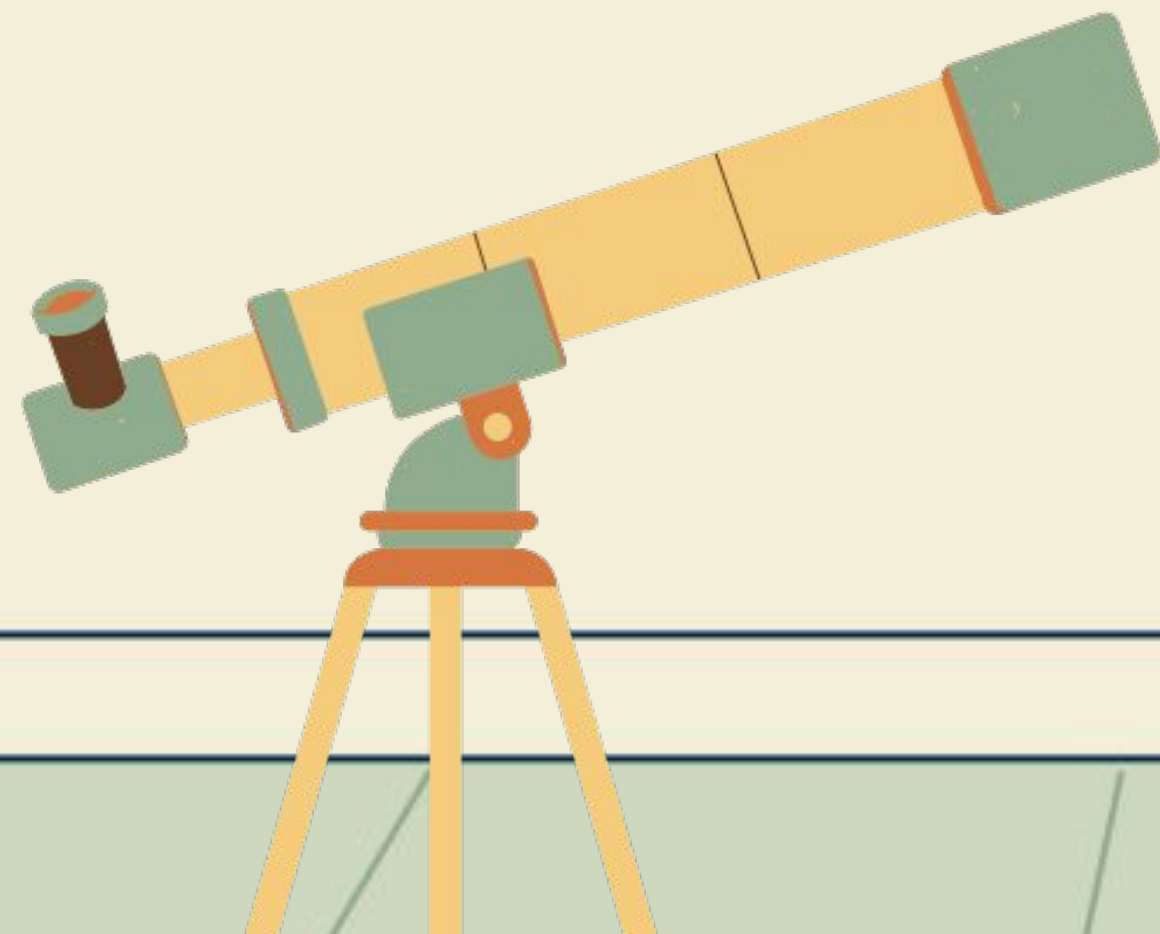




# Our Intention

To keep children safe while also allowing them to exercise some new freedoms before middle school.

....and to help them have an EPIC TIME!



# Camp Basics

- ❑ Cost of Camp : \$205 per student (scholarships available)
- ❑ Leave directly from McKinley on Friday at 3 pm. Return to school around 1 pm on Sunday.
- ❑ Parents / chaperones drive kids to and from camp (non-school activity)
- ❑ Estimated 70-80 students
- ❑ One parent chaperone per 4-6 students
- ❑ Camp Marston YMCA staff organize everything: activities, buffet meals, campfires and stories, hikes, etc
- ❑ Students can “free range” between organized activities (e.g. archery) and unsupervised activities (e.g. gaga-ball) while chaperones loosely keep track of their assigned students.

# Transportation

- Students will be transported to and from camp by the chaperones
- All drivers will need to provide a copy of their drivers license and valid insurance card
- All students will be departing McKinley on Friday, May 1 immediately following school. Driver/Chaperones and students will meet in the back teacher lot (Redwood Street).
- We will depart Camp Marston around 11:30 am on Sunday and expect to return back to McKinley (meet at the yoga statue) at 1 pm.
- All students will need to be checked out by their chaperone before being released to their parent or guardian.



# Full Schedule

## Friday

Students bring bags to school in the morning (or night before if arranged)

3 pm Meet in teacher parking lot (Redwood St).  
Chaperones drive students to camp.

4:30 pm Check into rooms

5:30pm Dinner \* /Orientation

7 pm Night Hike

9 pm Quiet hours begin

## Saturday

7 am Quiet hours end

8 am Breakfast\*

9 am Open Activities

12 pm Lunch\*, Quiet Time

2 pm Open Activities

5:30 pm Dinner\*

7 pm Campfire / Telescopes

9 pm Quiet hours begin

## Sunday

7 am Quiet hours end

8 am Breakfast\*

10:30 am Check-out of rooms

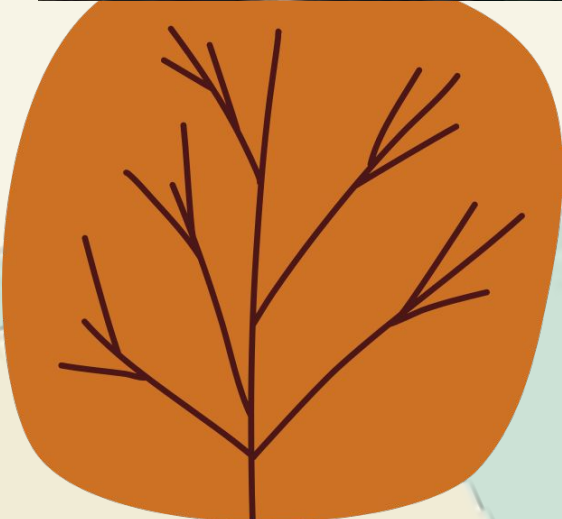
11:30 am Leave Camp

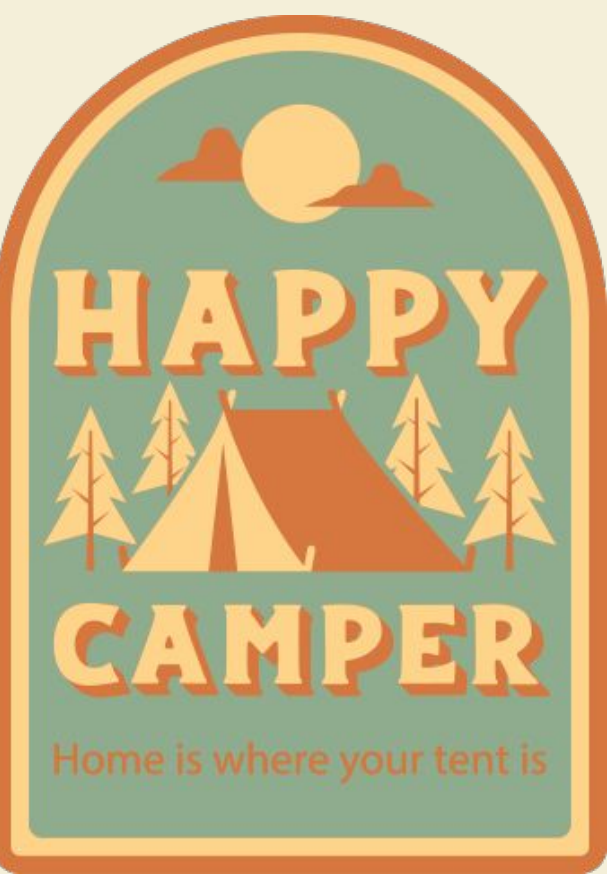
1 pm Arrive at  
McKinley  
(Yoga statue)

*\*Mandatory Activities*



BRUCE GRANT





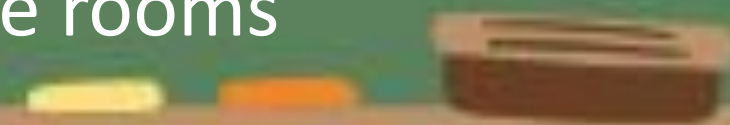
# Camp “Open” Activities

## Supervised:

- Archery
- Climbing Tower
- Marksmanship range (bb guns)
- Paintball slingshots
- Candle-making
- Grown-up led hike

## UNSupervised:

- Fishing
- Bouldering wall
- Indoor rec room (foosball, ping-pong, board games)
- Outdoor Rec : basketball, sand volleyball, horse shoes, soccer, frisbee golf, Gaga ball
- Quiet time in lodge, nature center or archive rooms



# Lodging and Facilities

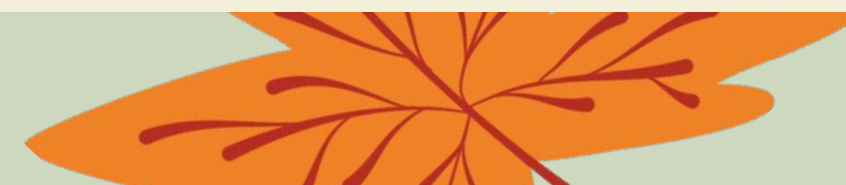
- Dining Hall
- Indoor Recreation area with ping pong, foosball tables, and board games
- Athletic fields
- Forested hiking trails
- Outdoor program areas (Climbing tower, archery, candle making...)
- Lake Jessop (Fishing only - bring your poles)
- 10 Sleeping lodges with 4 bedrooms each (6 beds/room), 2 restrooms off the hallway and a common room with a fireplace and couches

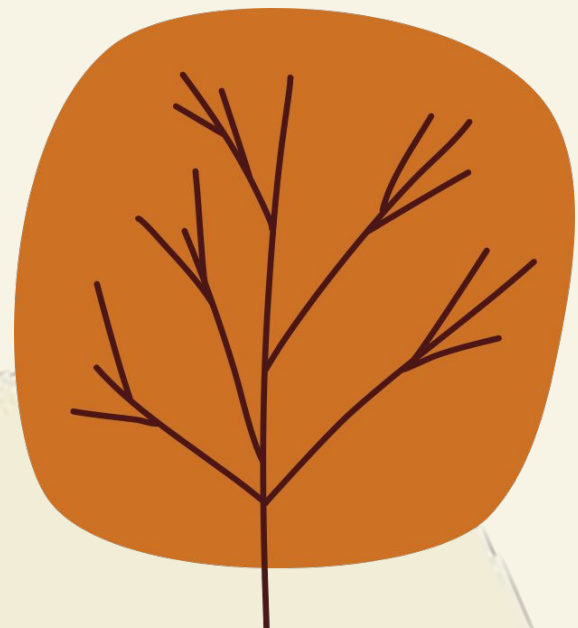
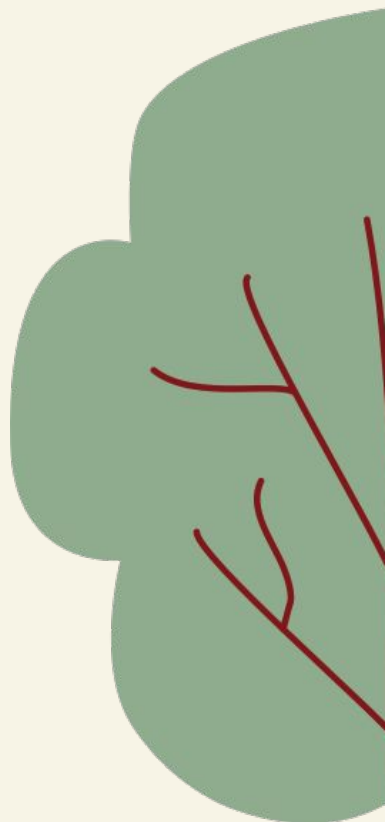


# Bunking/ Sleeping Arrangements



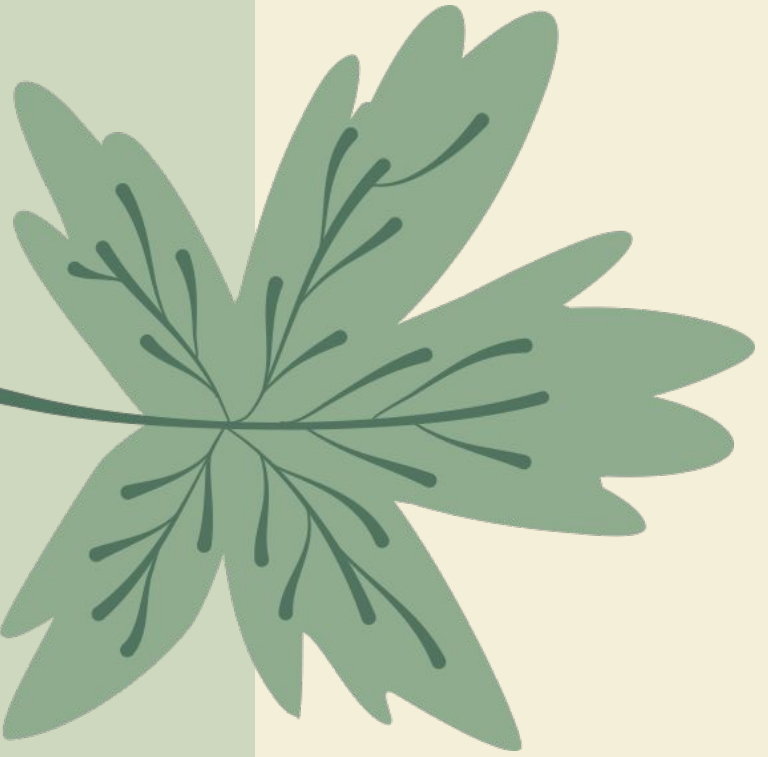
- Lodges have 4 bedrooms with 6 beds each (3 bunk beds), 2 restrooms off the hallway and a common room with a fireplace and couches.
- We will have 4 Lodges: 2 Girls and 2 Boys Lodges with 4-6 students in each of 3 rooms and 2-4 Parent Chaperones in the remaining room.
- Lodges are heated with individual bathroom and shower stalls.
- Students can request 3-4 people to lodge with.
- There is no guarantee students will bunk with their requested friends; however, we will do our best to see that every student has a positive friendship connection in their lodge.

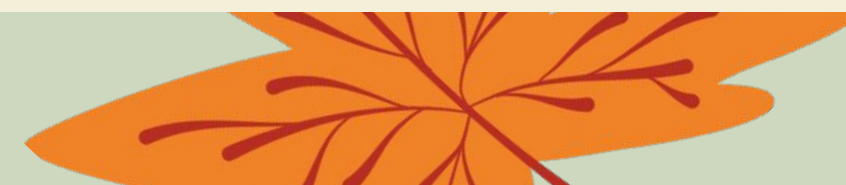






# Parent Chaperones

- 
- Will be an active role.
  - Chaperones have not been identified.
    - If you are worried your child will not attend camp without you, email Julie Christie and Tracie Stender asap to discuss.
  - All Chaperones need D level clearance through the school.
  - Chaperones will need to attend a Zoom meeting the week before Camp.
  - Cost for chaperones is \$205 per adult.



# SUPPORT

1. CPR-certified parent on-site with access to all emergency contact information, local hospitals and known health conditions or allergies of each child.
  - a. We have a nurse coming!
2. Dietary restrictions, allergies and medications can be accommodated.
3. Designated Emotional Support volunteers (TBD)
4. You can communicate with the Camp Leads (Julie and Tracie) or your child's Chaperone before and/or during Camp.
5. Contact Julie and Tracy at [jules.christie12@gmail.com](mailto:jules.christie12@gmail.com) and [tracie.stender@gmail.com](mailto:tracie.stender@gmail.com) with any questions.

Contact information for all support roles will be given out at Camp Orientation in April.



# BEHAVIOR & DEVICES

The kids will sign an expected behavior policy prior to camp.

If your child misbehaves, chaperones may call you to come pick them up at any time during the trip.

Please remind your child to be on their best behavior.

## NO DEVICES

This includes smart-watches. If you feel strongly that your child must take a device please contact us via email:

[jules.christie12@gmail.com](mailto:jules.christie12@gmail.com) and  
[tracie.stender@gmail.com](mailto:tracie.stender@gmail.com)





# Packing List

- **PILLOW & SLEEPING BAG:** A fitted sheet for bed is nice but not necessary.
- **TOWEL & TOILETRIES** - keep it simple
- **WATER BOTTLE!** There will be water available but no cups or bottles.
- **SUN PROTECTION.** Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, etc.
- **CLOTHES FOR THREE DAYS. CHECK THE WEATHER THE DAY BEFORE.** Warm jacket, warm hat, rain jacket or poncho, short and/or long sleeve shirts, pants, shorts, hoodies, socks and underwear
- **SHOES.** Closed toe shoes required; waterproof shoes (optional)



## OPTIONAL

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Flip flops for shower
- Board games, cards, books, things to do in your Lodge
- Sports/games equipment. Camp has a variety of sports equipment but you might like to bring a few outdoor games of your own
- Laundry bag
- Fishing poles and bait (catch and release fishing allowed at the Lake)

## • NO CAMERA OR MONEY NEEDED

The camp store is not available and chaperones will be taking photos.

*\* IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A SLEEPING BAG OR WARM JACKET WE WILL BE ORGANIZING A SWAP. SIGN-UP TO BORROW / LOAN AN ITEM ON THE REGISTRATION FORM!*



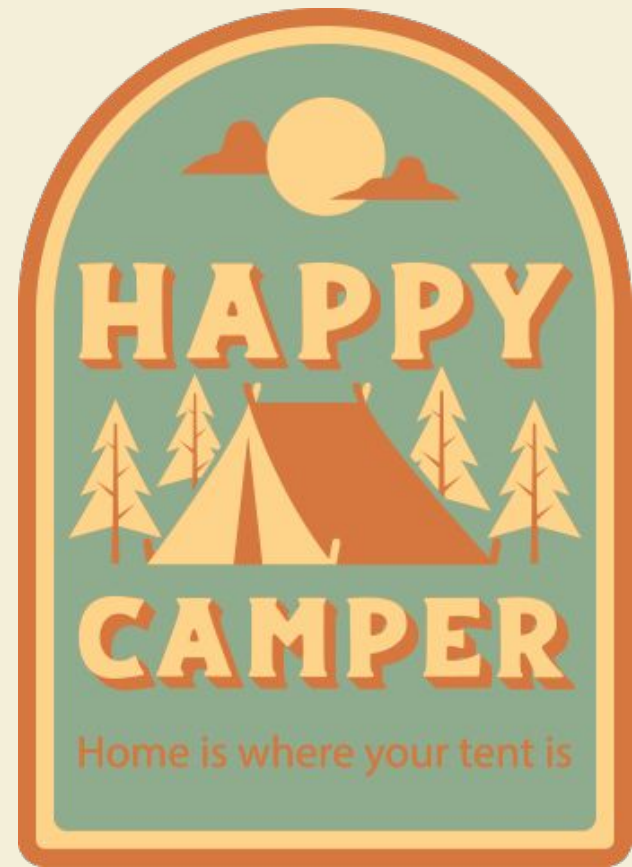
## NOT PERMITTED

Electronic devices of any kind  
(ie. cell phones, smart watches, ipads, etc)  
Illegal drugs, alcohol  
Pets  
Gum  
Candy  
Weapons  
Candles  
Valuables



# HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- **Fill out the registration form by the deadline! 27 March.**
- **Be crystal clear on all allergies, especially food allergies.**
- **Donations for:**
  - **Snacks**, e.g. chips/bars/etc.
  - **Camp supplies**, e.g. wipes, sunscreen, bandaids, etc.
  - **Gear**, e.g. sleeping bags, fitted sheets, etc.
- **A committee member will send out an email with a sign up sheet for these items in the next month.**
- **Day of volunteers:**
  - We need a few parents to help organize the kids and bags into the cars after school Friday.
- **Parents**
  - Talk to your child about camp! Make sure they are comfortable and ready to have fun!
  - Coordinate with your appointed driver for gear drop off
    - Thursday night, before school Friday, or after school Friday



# REGISTER BY MARCH 27

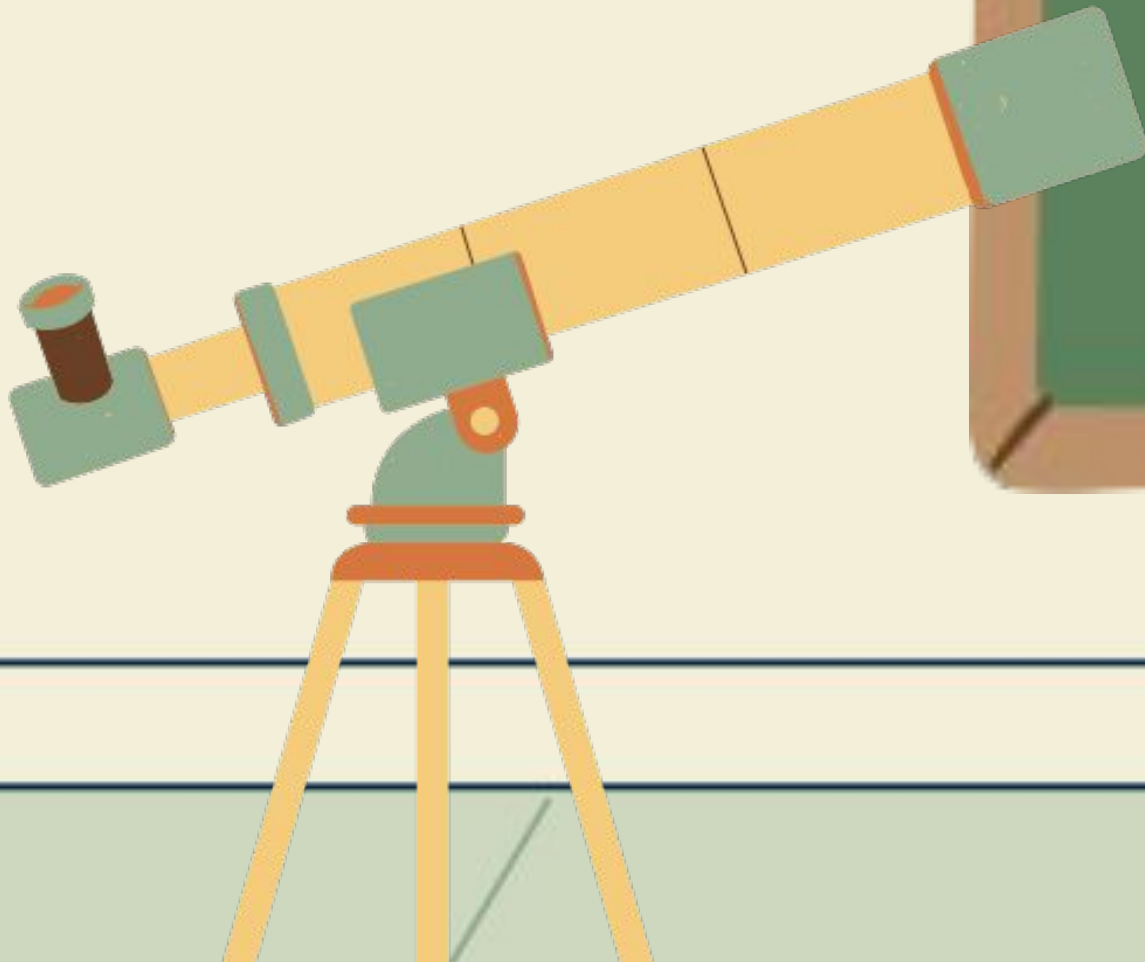
We hope you join us!

Last year, almost every 5th Grader went to Camp!

- ✓ Register online:  
[mckinleyptc.org/5th-grade-camp/](https://mckinleyptc.org/5th-grade-camp/)
- ✓ Health & waiver forms will be available in classrooms on Monday, 16 March
- ✓ Health & waiver forms must be turned in to your teacher



**Mandatory Camp Orientation Zoom:**  
**April TBD**



# Camp FAQs

**Can we bring sound machines?** There are some things that we will need to leave behind that make us feel comfortable when we sleep and this will be one of them. Unless everyone in your cabin agrees to using the sound machine, we will need to spend two nights without it and then return home to all of our comforts after a very short weekend at camp.

**Do we need to bring equipment?** Please bring any frisbees/fishing poles/balls/gloves....that you will want to play with. The YMCA has some but if you want to be sure to have the ball you want, then you should bring it. They do not have fishing poles. Make sure to talk with your child about keeping track of any equipment he/she brings.

**Can we bring food?** Food and drinks for the drive up and down are dependent on the driver, but we will be providing snacks for all campers when we are at Marston. The snacks will be kept in the cabins and students will have access to them with your chaperone.

**Can we bring paper and books?** Yes, feel free to bring any materials that you enjoy and can travel easily.

**What if we have dietary needs/allergies?** When you fill out the YMCA camper forms you will fill-in that information and they will serve food that your child can eat.

**Do we need to eat the food during breakfast, lunch and dinner?** No one will make your child eat anything they don't want to eat. It is up to them to listen to their body and give their body the fuel it needs to stay healthy while at camp. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are "activities" that everyone must attend no matter what.

**Are there showers?** Yes, there are shower stalls in the bathrooms in each lodge. We will encourage every child to shower at least once.

**What if my child needs a scholarship?** When you register for camp, you will request a scholarship in the amounts listed ranging from full scholarship to partial scholarships.

**If I request a scholarship for a certain amount will I receive that exact amount?** Our hope is that we are able to financially cover everyone who makes a scholarship request. Once registration closes on March 27, we will look at the scholarship requests and see if we have enough in the Fifth Grade Budget to cover everyone's request. If not, we will cover the highest percentage possible for all who made a request.

**What if my fifth grader needs some items off of the packing list?** We will have a list of items, such as sleeping bags, flashlights, warm jackets, available to borrow from other Mckinley families. We will also have basic toiletries and first aid for anyone who needs to supplement their packing list or for anyone who forgets an item off the list.

**Can the kids take naps?** Except during the Saturday midday quiet time, we will be keeping the kids out of the cabins and engaged in activities or hanging at any of the outdoor gathering places. Chaperones will periodically check the cabins for stragglers. If the kids need a snack or first aid, a chaperone will accompany them.

**What happens if my fifth grader gets sick?** We will have a registered nurse who will help assess how to best care for your fifth grader and we will contact you for your guidance. We may ask you to come and pick up your fifth grader.

**What if I have medications/vitamins that I take on a daily basis?** We will have a registered nurse who will be in charge of administering meds/vitamins while at camp. These items will be on the registration forms.

**What if my 5th grader has a really difficult time being away?** We have a high chaperone to student ratio (about 1:5), and can assist any student. We can also facilitate phone calls to parents, if need be.

**How does my student get a hold of me at camp if needed?** All chaperones will have cell phones available should your student need to contact you. Every parent will have the cell phone number and email of your child's assigned chaperone/s.

**Do chaperones pay the fee on the same website?** Similar to the student registration form, chaperones will complete a separate registration form and will have an opportunity to request a scholarship.

**What if I don't have fishing poles?** We encourage you to borrow one from a family friend, but the YMCA does not provide fishing poles.

**Do we need to bring bait?** Yes. Please arrange with your chaperone in the event the bait needs to be refrigerated or is smelly.

**Is it mandatory to shower?** It is not mandatory to shower but we will highly encourage each kid to shower at least once.

**Is there a max # of students?** No, there is room for every student! There is a limit to how many chaperones we can have, however.

**Are chaperones first come first serve?** We prioritize parents who are on the committee, followed by any students who wouldn't come to camp unless their grown-up joined them. **BUT WE REALLY NEED SOME DADS TO VOLUNTEER!**

**Can we help raise funds for camp? Can we do a pop up lemonade stand?** Yes! The corner of the joint use park is a great place to do that. Technically it is neither school property nor park property. Feel free to also reach out to Brijet Myers and Sarah Vatch to coordinate fundraising opportunities.

**Can you address the safety of archery/bb guns, paintball, and the lake?** The Camp Marston staff takes safety very seriously and they supervise these activities vigilantly. If an activity is open, there is a Camp Marston staff member present. We will also have chaperones loosely at each location (we tend to trail behind our group of assigned kids). There is no lifeguard on duty at the lake! It's important for the kids to know there is no swimming and no canoeing, but there will be chaperones in the area.

**Are we able to receive photos of our student during camp?** Feel free to coordinate photo sharing with your student's chaperone. We may also create a shared photo album for all chaperones to share their photos.