

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What time is check-in and where do I go?

Check in begins at 4pm eastern daylight time. Registration takes place in our pavilion. When you park at the lodge there will be staff members there to direct you where to go.

2. What time is pick-up and where do I pick up my camper?

Pick-up begins at 5pm on Friday with the “Closing Celebration”. The closing celebration includes dinner and we ask that you please sign up the number of people you think will be joining us for dinner so we can make sure to have the appropriate amount of food. This number that you give us should NOT include your camper. The celebration and dinner usually take about an hour.

We ask that you please sign out your camper so we know they have left with the appropriate person. You should provide us with the names of people who will most likely be picking up your camper at registration. If plans change or you need to pick up your camper early please call the camp ahead of time.

For 2nd and 3rd grade explorer camps pick-up will be at 10am.

3. May I keep in touch with my camper? Should I send them with a cell phone?

We encourage you to send mail or e-mail to you camper while they are here at camp. We deliver mail on a daily basis at dinner (5pm). E-mail should be free of any attachments and should be limited to 1 page. Campers do not have the opportunity to send e-mail. The camper e-mail address is camper@pyoca.org

If you are sending mail via the US Postal Service we ask that you do not send care packages because campers are not allowed to have candy in the cabins. Campers are allowed to send letters home and can purchase stamps in the canteen.

We understand that you are concerned about your camper while they are away from home. Since Pyoca is a “place away from the busy world” we ask that you do not send a cell phone with your camper so they do not lose or damage something so valuable and can participate fully in the camping program. If your child is homesick or struggling at camp, we will call the parent listed on the registration form. Otherwise, you can assume that your camper is fine and continue to send them mail and/or email. We find that campers experience the full benefits of overnight camps when they are allowed to participate fully.

4. May I visit my camper while they are at camp?

Pyoca does not allow visitors while camp is in session. This helps protect the community that the campers have formed and helps prevent homesickness. You are encouraged to send e-mail and mail to your camper.

5. What do I do in case of an emergency?

If there is an emergency and you need to contact your camper while they are here please call our office and we will gladly assist you. If it is your camper that is having the emergency you will be contacted as soon as possible by our program director, Sean Kelley.

6. What if my camper is sick or injured?

All of our staff will be trained in first aid and CPR for the professional rescuer. Pyoca will have available an on-site health care administrator who is trained in dispensing camper medications and attending to health related issues. In addition to this administrator, Pyoca has partnered with a local, Board Certified physician who will be available for advanced medical consultation. Pyoca is located minutes away from an ambulance and only 15 miles away from a hospital emergency room.

7. How should I package my camper's medication?

For the personal safety of all campers, medications are not allowed in the cabin with the exception of inhalers. Medications must be checked in by the nurse at registration.

All medication should be packaged in the original prescription bottle or container with a current Rx label. We will not dispense any medication that is not in its original container without a faxed doctors order.

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8. What happens if there are discipline issues?

We rarely experience serious disciplinary issues because we keep campers constantly moving and engaged in various activities. However, in the event a camper acts out, we handle discipline on a case-by-case basis. Talking to campers in a fair, firm and friendly way is our first response. We communicate with you as needed and work in partnership with you to develop effective solutions. Campers who continue to have serious discipline issues might be sent home.

9. How much money should I send to camp with my camper for the canteen?

Campers are allowed to buy only one beverage and one candy or ice cream during canteen time. The typical camper usually will not spend more than \$1.50 per day. We ask that you please deposit all money into your campers canteen account so that it is not lost or stolen. Pyoca also sells t-shirts and other souvenirs in the canteen.

10. Do I need to send a camera?

We encourage campers to not bring cameras to camp. Often times they get lost and in this world of digital cameras we would not like to see such an expensive item get lost or damaged. There will be Pyoca staff taking pictures through out the week of the campers and their activities. We encourage you to buy the Pyoca slide show at the end of the week for \$3. The slide show includes over 200 pictures that you can download and print off whenever you would like.

11. What if my camper lost something at camp?

Pyoca keeps all lost and found objects for one month and then it is donated to the local Goodwill. If your camper has lost something please call or e-mail us with the name, week they were here, and a description of the item so we can look to see if we have it. We are more than happy to arrange pick-up or shipping of any item that is lost and found.

12. What does my camper need to bring with them to camp?

Since you will be sharing a room with 5-6 other people we ask that you make sure to label all of your belongings.

- Sleeping Bag and Pillow
- Appropriate camp clothing – enough for each day plus a spare or two.
- One Piece Swim Suit (no bikini's or tankini's please)
- Beach Towel
- Sunscreen
- Towels and wash cloths
- Soap and shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Flashlight
- Insect repellent
- Bible
- Notebook and pen or pencil
- Shoes (Flip Flops are NOT allowed)
- Jacket or sweatshirt
- Raingear
- Long pants (Jr. and Sr. high are required to wear these on the high ropes course)
- Medications (if any) in original prescription containers. You do not need to send over the counter medication for common ailments because Pyoca will have these available if needed.

13. What items are not allowed at Pyoca?

In order for everyone to have the best camping experience please do not send any of the following items because they might end up lost, stolen, or broken. Staff are instructed to take away these items for the week if they are found.

- Cell Phones
- I-Pod's
- CD Players
- MP3 players
- Portable gaming systems
- Food or candy (these are not allowed in the cabins because they attract insects and animals)

14. What if I can't afford the cost of camp?

We believe that camp is important for all children! We do provide camperships to those who need them but also encourage you to ask your local church first to see what they can do to help.

15. How do I get to Pyoca?

Please click on the directions tab on our website for directions.