CAMP SPEARHEAD

"More than just a camp"



2025 SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

Updated Feb. 2025

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

Since 1968 Camp Spearhead has endeavored to provide an environment of understanding and unconditional acceptance for children and adults with special needs. We are excited you have chosen (or are considering) to send your camper to Camp Spearhead. Caring for a loved one with special needs -whether they are your son, daughter, brother, sister, or resident of your group home – requires understanding, patience, and acceptance. We assure you that this is what campers receive from us while in our care. *The trust you place in us to do that is great and we are grateful to all who have confidence in the care provided by our staff.*

This guide is designed to answer many of your questions about the summer camp season. In addition to the information contained in this guide you will also find helpful information at www.campspearhead.org. Every camper is unique so you may have unique questions that are not addressed in this guide. We also encourage and welcome camp tours.

Please contact us with any questions you may have.

(864) 836-8028 – Summer season office (May-July)

(864) 288-6470 – Year round office (August-April)

campspearhead@greenvillecounty.org







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The Mission...

The mission of Camp Spearhead is to create and maintain an environment of understanding and unconditional acceptance for children and adults with disabilities and special needs.

We accomplish this mission primarily through relationship building facilitated by our Cabin Counselors and Support Staff. Campers have the opportunity to participate in many exciting activities such as archery, swimming, canoeing, fishing, challenge course, and more. As important as these activities are to the camper, we view them as a means to an end – they are tools that enable us to:

- Improve independence
- Promote physical activity and develop leisure skills and interests
- Develop social skills
- Provide respite for parents and caregivers
- Create connection and friendship

PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT OF UNDERSTANDING & UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE IS OUR HEARTBEAT!

Who Can Attend?

Camp Spearhead serves children and adults with special needs. Campers must be 8 years old – there is no upper age limit. Camp Spearhead reserves the right to determine eligibility of potential campers. Eligibility is determined through applications and, if necessary, through interviews with the potential camper and parent/caregiver. Any camper, regardless or age or ability level, is eligible for any week of camp. All applications are completed online and made available each March on our website. **Please note that it is an application, not a registration, and does not guarantee enrollment.** After applying you will receive communication via email regarding your camper's application.

Email Verification

If your camper is enrolled in a week of Camp, you will *receive a link via Greenville County Parks & Rec's registration system requesting that you verify your email. This is required for every GCPRT customer and ensures that you receive all communications regarding your camper's enrollments, fees, payments, and camp reminders. It also provides the opportunity for families to set up an account and pay their camper fees online if they choose. Be sure to click the link to verify your email address as soon as you receive it.

*Sender is *donotreply@greenvillecounty.org* so be sure to check your spam folder if you don't receive it.

Fees & Payments

Camp Spearhead fees are based on residency and are due two weeks prior to the camper's arrival (no deposit is required). For details about this year's fees please visit www.campspearhead.org. Fees can be paid at our GCPRT Administrative Office using cash, check, or credit card, or be paid online. You may arrange to have fees drafted from your account on the assigned due dates by selecting the AutoPay option on your Camper Application. **You must submit a completed AutoPay Authorization Form and have a credit card on file in order to have fees drafted.** No payments can be made until you have received a Confirmation Form from Camp Spearhead.

Online Payments

Camp Fees can easily be paid online 24/7 using WebTrac. Please visit www.campspearhead.org and follow these steps to pay online:

1. Be sure you have verified your email through GCPRT.
2. Click the *Make a Payment* button at the top of the page.
3. Log in with your existing WebTrac username and password OR choose the option from the box below that corresponds to you. If you lose your information, please call *864-288-6470* to have a reset link emailed to you.
4. Select *My Account* under the Greenville Rec logo.
5. Click *Pay Balances* from the drop down menu. If your camper has been enrolled in a Camp Spearhead activity, your balance will be shown and can be paid in full or in installments until the due date.






Cancellation Policy

All fees are due on or before the designated due date, two weeks prior to the camper's arrival. Cancellation with 2 or more weeks notice prior to the week of Camp will result in a full refund minus a $25 processing fee. Cancellations made fewer than 2 weeks prior to the camper's arrival will result in a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued for campers who fail to provide notice.

OFFICE USE ONLY
Date: _____
By: _____

For security and protection of your financial information
RETURN BY U.S. MAIL OR HAND DELIVER ONLY

Greenville County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

4806 Old Spartanburg Road
Taylors, SC 29687

Credit/Debit Card Auto Draft Authorization Form

Customer Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Payment Information

I authorize Greenville County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism to automatically charge my credit/debit card on file for any Camp Spearhead fees, including Summer Camp, The Weekend Program, and/or merchandise. I understand that my credit card will be charged on the due dates specified for each program. I understand that in the event my card is declined, it is my responsibility to submit payment by the close of business on the due date of the incurred charge. I agree that I will pay for these purchases in accordance with the issuing bank cardholder's agreement.

Cardholder's signature: Date:

_____ _____

Credit Card Information

Please print.

Cardholder's name: Cardholder's Zip Code (required)

_____ (from credit card billing address) _____

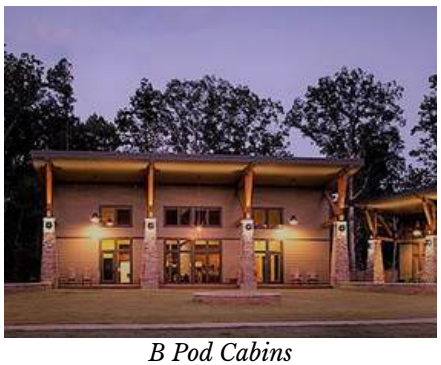
(as it appears on the credit card)

Destroyed After System Entry

Credit Card Number: _____ Expires: _____

Location & Facilities

Camp Spearhead began in 1968 at Paris Mountain State Park, but our current home is located within Pleasant Ridge County Park, just off Hwy 11, in Marietta, SC. The facility was built with campers in the forefront, creating a space where campers can move safely and easily throughout our site. **For GPS directions, please use 4232 Hwy 11, Marietta, SC 29661, instead of "Camp Spearhead" to ensure you arrive at the correct location.**



B Pod Cabins



Know Boundaries Challenge Course and Hammock Hangout



Zero depth entry pool & Fireside hall

Camp Activities

We have much to offer our campers! We strive to accommodate the activity requests of campers and their parents/caregivers, however, because of how many different activities we have and because of variables not within our control such as weather; participation in certain activities cannot be guaranteed. Here are just a few of the activities offered at Camp Spearhead:

- Fishing
- Gem Mining
- Hayrides
- Dance
- Arts & Crafts
- Archery/Slingshots
- Tie-Dye
- Spearhead Speedway
- Drum circle
- Canoeing
- Swimming
- BINGO
- Outdoor Bowling
- Challenge Course
- Campfire & S'mores
- Golf cart rides



Getting around Camp

Because of the diverse population we serve, many of our campers use mobility devices at camp. To ensure that we are properly prepared to meet your camper's needs, please remember that getting around at camp can be very different than home since we are outdoors most of the day often moving longer distances than many campers are used to. **For everyone's safety, we are NOT permitted to push campers on Rollators.** Campers who have difficulty getting to and from activities using their rollator/walker (either due to distance or sensitivity to heat) should use a wheelchair at camp. Please help us ensure your camper has the opportunity to participate by accurately indicating their mobility needs on their application, including whether they need a staff member to push their chair. You may always reach out to us with questions or to provide additional information.

All wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility aids must be provided by the camper.

Camp Drop Off & Pickup

We try to streamline our arrival and departure process as much as possible in a way that allows families to feel confident when they drop off/pickup, but also ensures that our lines move quickly and families are not kept waiting.

Drop off for all camp weeks is on **Monday from 9-11am**. Families are met by staff members who will help take camper belongings to their cabin. If your camper has medications, a family member or caregiver will need to check in at the Camper Care Center so that our healthcare team can review medications and any health concerns (such as food allergies, seizures, etc.) with you. After a quick health check and photo, you will have the opportunity to get your camper settled before saying goodbye. This is a great time to give your counselors more detailed information about your camper and ask any questions you may have. We ask that families not linger too long as it slows down our check-in process and can make goodbyes more difficult for first time campers.



Camper pickup is on **Friday from 9-11am**. Families pick their camper up in front of their cabins where staff will have belongings out and ready to load.

Failure to pick up your camper by 11am on Friday will result in a late fee of $25/hr or portion thereof.

Communicating with your Camper

We know that leaving your camper for a week in the care of others can sometimes feel strange, especially for first time families. We embrace this opportunity for campers to unplug from their daily life and dive into camp while families get some well needed respite time. It also provides our campers the opportunity to experience some independence. Because of this, we ask that all communication come through the office and not through the cabins. Our campers love to get messages from home, so families are encouraged to send an email to their camper throughout the week using campspearhead@greenvillecounty.org. (*No snail mail, please*). Camper emails are printed daily and passed to the cabins. **Please note that counselors are not permitted to text/call parents and caregivers during camp sessions**. We promise your camper is in good hands, but should you have a concern or need to check in, don't hesitate to call our front office at 864-836-8028 and speak to one of our Admin Staff. If illness or other need arises, an Administrator or the RN will contact you directly using the contact information provided in your camper's application.

Daily Schedule

Our schedule allows us to squeeze in as much activity as possible into each day. Below is a sample daily schedule for a cabin. Most activities are conducted outside as long as weather permits. Please note that this is only a sample and actual schedules are subject to change as needed.

7:30am	Rise & Shine
7:50am	Flag Raising
8:00am	BREAKFAST
9:30am	Morning Activities
12:00pm	LUNCH
1:00pm	Rest Time
3:00pm	Canteen
3:30pm	Afternoon Activities
5:30pm	DINNER
6:30pm	Evening Program
9:00pm	In Cabins
9:30pm	Lights Out



Talent Show

One of Camp Spearhead's most memorable and long-standing traditions is our weekly Thursday night Talent Show. Every camper has the opportunity to step into the spotlight and display their talents in front of friends, family, and former staff. Talent shows are open to the public and held at Fireside Hall beginning at 6:30pm. Visitors are asked to sign in upon arrival. If you plan to attend and would like to take your camper home on Thursday night, please email us at campspearhead@greenvillecounty.org by Thursday morning so staff can have your camper's belongings and medications ready ahead of time. Always notify a staff member before leaving with your camper.





Weekly Videos & Social Media

We love to record the fun that our campers are having during their time with us, and while we can't capture every camper's unique experience, we are able to share snippets of what a week of Camp is like. At the end of our Talent Show, we present a weekly video of the faces and activities that made that week special. Videos are then uploaded to YouTube for campers and families to enjoy throughout the year. These videos are also great resources for first time camper families to get an idea of what a week at Camp will look like.

We also utilize our Camp Spearhead Facebook Group as a means to share photos and short videos here and there throughout the summer. Because of the busy nature of Camp, we cannot guarantee that your camper's photograph will be posted on social media. We encourage all families to join our group to stay up to date on Camp information as well as with off season activities such as The Weekend Program and Spearhead Family Escape.









Meals

Our Food Service staff provides nutritious, balanced, and tasty meals. A salad bar, fruit, and a vegetarian option are offered at every meal and further accommodations are made as necessary. Common accommodations include preparing meals for campers requiring mechanical soft or pureed foods. Gluten-free and diabetic diets may be accommodated if noted on the Camper Application and discussed with our staff prior to camp arrival. Clear communication is vital to ensuring necessary dietary accommodations are made. Please do not hesitate to contact us about any dietary needs. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate personal food preferences, but we're confident the variety of options we serve provides something for everyone.

Packing for Camp

Apart from your camper's clothing, bedding, hygeine supplies, and medication, no other personal property is needed for your camper to participate fully.

PLEASE LABEL CAMPER BELONGS WITH THEIR NAME BEFORE ARRIVAL INCLUDING ALL CLOTHING, TOILETRIES, BEDDING, AND TOWELS.

- 7 Complete sets of clothing *(more if camper soils clothing frequently)*
- Bath towels & washcloths
- Pillow, twin sheet, and blanket/sleeping bag *(only mattress provided)*
- Swimsuit and pool towel *(rash guards and sun shirts strongly encouraged for sun protection)*
- Hygiene items including: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, hairbrush/comb, etc.
- Shaving items *if applicable*
- Feminine items *if applicable*
- Sweatshirt/jacket
- Raincoat or poncho
- Sunscreen & Bug Spray *(We are outdoors most of the day! Hats are encouraged to prevent sunburn)*
- White t-shirt for tie-dye
- 1 pair of closed toed shoes *(required for Challenge Course and Archery)*
- Necessary medications *(please do not pack in camper bags)*

Please DO NOT SEND:

Money, CD/DVD Players, handheld gaming systems, cell phones, IPads (unless necessary for communication), watches or other valuables with your camper.

Camp Spearhead Lost and Found Policy

We make every effort to return each camper home with their personal belongings. Please label **EVERYTHING** you send with your camper's first and last name. Please be careful about sending items of great value. Camp Spearhead cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged items.

Healthcare

Camper Care Center



Our Healthcare Team consists of an RN or Paramedic who is on site 24 hours/day and four Medications Technicians who receive, inventory, and administer all camper medications. Additionally, all Camp staff are certified in CPR/First Aid/AED and there are three AED's on site. The RN is the manager of all camper health needs that may arise. Be sure to review any concerns you may have with the RN at check in. The RN will use their professional training as well as consultation with a Camp Administrator to determine if/when parents/caregivers should be notified regarding camper health issues. However, we follow a "when in doubt make the call" practice. We are concerned with the health and safety of all campers and staff. Because of the group nature of living at camp in cabins, and because isolation undermines the purpose of the camp experience, if a camper is deemed to be contagious we will call to arrange for the camper to be picked up. This, of course, is never our desire, but maintaining the health of all is vital.







Camper Medications

Medication Administration is a critical aspect of healthcare. To help ensure the safety of all campers, no medications (whether for campers OR staff) are stored in the cabins. In order to have the most up-to-date camper medication information, registration of medications is NOT done at the time of submitting the Camper Application. Instead, Health & Medication Registration Forms are sent out at least two weeks prior to your camper's arrival. You will be sent a link to register your camper in our Online Health Registration System. You will then have the opportunity to include and schedule any medications that your Camper may take. **All campers must be registered in our Online Health Registration System regardless of whether or not they take medications.** You will also receive information regarding how to prepackage and presort your camper's medications at that time. Failure to complete camper's Health Registration prior to arrival will result in an extended wait time at Camper Check-In

Packing & Sorting Camper Medications

Camper medications (except liquids, topicals, etc.) must be brought to Camp pre-sorted and pre-packaged. This greatly speeds up our Check-In Process.

Before coming to Camp, medications should be pre-packaged, sorted, and organized by the day & time they are to be administered *(pre-breakfast, breakfast, lunch, dinner, bedtime).* **Bring ONLY the medication needed for the week.**

- **Do not pack your camper's meds in their suitcase. All medications must come through our Camper Care Center.**
- Med-Minders, blister packs, and pill pouches are great ways to dose medications for camp. Medications should be accompanied by the camper's full name, day of the week and time to be administered. Pill bottles are not permitted.
- When possible, only send essential medications. Camp weeks are relatively short (4 nights). If campers can go without a particular medication (non-essential meds like vitamins, etc.) it helps both medications check-in on Monday mornings and medications administration during the week run more quickly and smoothly.

Sample Packaging/Sorting

















Behavior Management

Many campers are still developing appropriate behaviors. Our desire is to partner with you and work together to see great strides made in specific areas your camper may need to improve. The Spearhead environment is one of understanding and unconditional acceptance but that does not mean any and all behavior can be tolerated. A guiding principle when considering the behavior of a camper is the health, safety, and general well-being of other campers and our staff. One way in which you can partner with us to ensure good behavior is to communicate to us any behavior issues you are currently working on with your camper prior to their arrival. This ensures we are properly staffed and prepared to help your camper work through any challenges that may arise.

Campers whose behavior severely disrupts the overall operation of camp, or that jeopardizes the health, safety, and/or the general well-being of other campers and our staff may be sent home.

We strive to focus on positive reinforcement of good behavior rather than punishment for undesired behavior. While this is not an exhaustive list of action steps, the following may give you a better idea of our approach to behavior management.

We strive to:



- Set clear rules and expectations.
- Be fair and consistent.
- Focus on and reinforce positive behavior.
- Use positive language.
- Understand the behavior.
- Pick our battles.
- Consider special circumstances.
- Anticipate triggers (loud activities, heat, overstimulation, etc.) and avoid/prepare for them.

Meet Our Team



Josh Wall, CTRS, CPRP
Camp Director
Therapeutics Program Manager



Madison Bates, CTRS
Camp Programs Leader
Area Director Special Oly. Greenville



Jessie Garris
Camp Registrar, Scholarships
Therapeutics Specialist & Fundraising



Grant Spikes
Camp Programs Leader
The Weekend Program Coordinator



Marty Daigle
Camp Healthcare Administrator
PRCRC Facility Manager



Sara McDaniel
Camp Programs Leader
PRCRC Program Coordinator



Ginger Davis
Camp Programs Leader
PRCRC Events Coordinator



Becky Harvey
Camp Kitchen Manager
PRCRC Food Service Manager



Tom Llewellyn
Camp Facility Maintenance
PRCRC Maintenance Coordinator

Frequently Asked Questions

How will I receive my information prior to camp?

All communication prior to camp is done via email using the email address listed on your camper's application. Please check your email regularly so you do not miss important information. Be sure emails from us don't go to your spam folder. Please call 864-288-6470 if you are not receiving emails.

Do you have a scholarship program?

If you need scholarship assistance, please contact Jessie Garris by calling (864) 467-3322 or emailing jgarris@greenvillecounty.org

Can I do a tour before signing my camper up for camp?

We love meeting potential new campers and their families and it is our pleasure to share the Spearhead story and the wonderful facilities we are fortunate to have. Please email campspearhead@greenvillecounty.org if this is of interest to you.

Who takes care of medical needs?

Campers' medical needs are met by our healthcare team which includes an RN or Paramedic and four Medications Technicians. Additionally, all Camp staff are certified in CPR/AED/First Aid. Some campers have needs that may technically be considered medical needs but are so routine for them that they are met by non-medical caregivers regularly in the home setting. In such cases we prefer needs like this to be handled in the cabin by our Cabin Counselors as matters of daily, routine care. Please contact us for discussion about your camper's particular need.

Can we phone or visit loved ones at camp?

An integral part of the camp experience is the sense of "getting away from it all." In effort to protect this component of the camp experience we ask that visits be limited to our Thursday night Talent Show when family, friends, and former staff are invited to share in the fun. If you would like to send notes of encouragement to your camper during their week you may email them to: campspearhead@greenvillecounty.org. Emails will be printed and given to your camper's counselor who will either give it to your camper or read it to them. Please call 864-836-8028 if you need to speak with an Administrator. **Counselors are not permitted to call or text parents & caregivers.**

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the ratio of staff to campers?

To help ensure a safe, fulfilling, and fun week of camp we maintain a staff to camper ratio of better than 1:2.

Will my camper receive a t-shirt?

Every camper receives a camp t-shirt at the end of their Camp session.

Can campers request cabin mates?

Yes, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to place your camper with their friend; however, we promise to do our best.

I will not be the person picking up my camper at the end of the camp week. Do I need to notify the Camp office?

There is a section in the Camper Application for listing people approved for picking up your camper. For anyone not listed in the Camper Application, YES, you will need to notify the camp office in writing – please send to campspearhead@greenvillecounty.org







Thank You!

This guide is an effort to answer as many questions as you may have. We recognize each camper is unique and each camper has different needs. Our desire is to partner with you to achieve the best camp experience possible. We encourage and welcome you to contact us to discuss the needs of your camper further.

Year-Round Office (August-April)
Greenville County Parks, Recreation & Tourism
4806 Old Spartanburg Road
Taylors, SC 29687
(864) 288-6470

Summer Camp Season Office (May-July)
Pleasant Ridge County Park
4232 Highway 11
Marietta, SC 29661
(864) 836-8028

campspearhead@greenvillecounty.org



