

Camper Parent FAQ

Thank you for considering Camp Conquest your child. Our hope is that it is a life-changing experience for them, and for you. Our hope and prayer is that everyone will have the best week and want to come back the next year.

Sending your child to camp can be an intimidating process for any family as it requires a great deal of trust in the program, the staff, and the overall organization. There are some specific questions we recommend you ask when assessing a camp's ability to meet your child's specialized needs.

In this FAQ section, we will try to answer all your questions about Camp Conquest.

History of Camp Conquest

Camp Conquest started as a nonprofit in 2013 by Mark and Amanda Price. Mark was a commercial insurance broker for 24 years and applies a lot of Risk Management and safety into the day-to-day operations to keep everyone safe.

Amanda is a Family Nurse Practitioner and has a practice in Arlington called Faith Family Medical. Amanda is the Medical Director at Camp Conquest and heads up the Medical Station at Camp Conquest. Along with Amanda, there will be a total of 4 – 5 medical providers in the Medical Station during each week of camp. If anyone gets sick, has a splinter, blister, stomach ache, needs medication, or talk about the cute boy in cabin 4, they are there to help and listen, day and night.

Who are the leaders during camp?

During each week of camp, the Leadership Team will consist of the following:

Mark Price - Founder and CEO

Amanda Price - Co-Founder and Medical Director

JT Dick – Camp Director

Becca Bryant – Camp Director

Brennan Bruce – Assistant Director - Girls

Kelly McClain – Assistant Director - Girls

Nathan White – Assistant Director – Guys

Bradley Pullam – Assistant Director – Guys

How do I register my child for Camp Conquest?

Go to www.campconquest.com where you will find LOTS of information, photos, videos, testimonials, and the Development tab is the future of Camp Conquest.

Under the camper section, you will find the FAQ section and a Registration button. Now, you are sending your child to Camp Conquest for a week, so we are going to be asking for lots of information so please plan on spending some time filling out the application and answering the questions. The more information you can give us, the better. Even down to how small do we

need to cut up his/her food. Once you fill it out, you only have to update the information in future years when you register your son or daughter.

We recommend you register as soon as you can. Week 2 will fill up within 72 hours.

How much does it cost for a week?

The cost for a camper is \$675. Camper registration opens in December. When you register, you must pay a \$50 registration fee to secure a spot for your camper. The balance of \$625 is due by May. There are no hidden fees. Your son or daughter will get a camp t-shirt, a backpack filled with the fun stuff they created during the week, an 8x10 colored photo of their cabin, and a fun video to watch over, and over, and over, and over. The best thing they will bring home from camp are the memories and friendships that they created at camp.

Do you offer scholarships?

Yes, we have scholarships. When you register, there is a section to apply for a scholarship. We also have partnerships with organizations and foundations that will help with scholarships.

What to expect when you arrive?

Each week of camp begins on Monday at 4:30 pm. One of the first people you will meet will be your child's counselor for the week. The counselor will help you with the luggage and get your son or daughter checked in. Your next stop will be the Medical Station to drop off all of the camper medications and to meet the medical provider assigned to your child's cabin for the week.

Then, it's off to the cabin to meet all of his/her cabin friends, counselors, and leaders. Each cabin has 6 bunk beds. There will be 5 campers on the bottom bunks, 5 counselors on the top bunks, and 2 cabin leaders. All campers within a cabin are of similar age. We won't put a 17-year-old camper in a cabin with a 9-year-old camper.

You can make the campers bed up if you like and get him/her settled in.

How long can we stay?

Supper is at 6:15, so parents will need to depart when we head up for dinner.

What if my child gets homesick?

We do get some campers that are homesick the first night and some even the second night, but it is to be expected since, for many of the campers, this is their first time to spend the night away from home. Surprisingly though, most are happy to be at camp with their new friends. We do encourage family and friends to send cards or letters to camp.

How does your camp handle homesickness and other adjustment issues?

Campers, especially first-time campers, may initially go through a short period of homesickness. For most kids, this sets in the first night of camp. As for many children with disabilities, camp is often their first experience away from home, their family, and their own bed. Typically, once the kids become engaged in activities, the homesickness subsides and the kids settle in.

However, ask the director what the process is if the kids don't seem to be settling in. Will they call you? When or at what point? It is important that the camper's first stay at camp be a successful one so that they want to continue going to camp in the future.

Despite the family's need for respite and the camp's ideal of campers staying a complete session, it is important that both families and camp staff be open to the idea of "flexing" to meet the individual needs of the child to help ensure the camp experience remains an exciting and positive one for later years.

What do the cabins look like?

Every cabin has 6 bunk beds and a nice large bathroom with 4 stalls, 4 showers, and 4 sinks. The cabins have a nice large porch on the front to sit and enjoy the view of the lake. They all have heating and air-conditioning. Several cabins have wheelchair accessibility. The new campground that we are building will be fully ADA compliant.

What does a day look like at Camp Conquest?

Campers are awake at 7:15 am. The counselor helps the camper with getting dressed, going to the bathroom, and brushing their teeth.

- 8:00 Morning songs and devotional
- 8:30 Breakfast in the Dining Hall
- 9:15 Cabin cleanup
- 10:30 First Morning activity
- 11:30 Second Morning activity
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:15 Nap Time for campers
- 2:45 Snow Cones
- 3:00 Pool time
- 5:15 Shower and dress for the nightly theme party
- 6:30 Dinner
- 7:15 Party Time
- 8:45 Songs and Wrap Up
- 9:15 Campers get ready for bed
- 9:45 Lights out

What if my son or daughter wears a diaper/ pull-up, or need help cutting up the food, feeding them, shower time, teeth brushed, or if they have an accident in bed?

No problem! We are blessed every year with an amazing team of volunteers that come from all over the country and even internationally. And they pay a fee to attend camp, each week, to help us offset the cost for meals and lodging that we pay the campground.

The volunteers range in age from 13 – 65+.

Explorers (ages 13 & 14) setup and breakdown activities and parties. In their downtime, they are assisting the counselors with their campers.

Counselors (ages 15 – 35) help the campers getting dressed, bathing, brushing, and to all of the activities. If a camper needs to go to the bathroom or the Medical Station at 2 am, the counselor and a cabin leader (third person) will take the camper to the medical station.

Cabin Moms & Cabin Dads (ages 35 – 65) are support for the cabins. They act as a third person when needed. If campers have accidents in the night, they wash the laundry for the cabins.

Media Team (15 – 65) they are taking photos and videos of everyone having fun at camp and then uploading on all of our social media sites throughout the day, every day. This way, family and friends can see how much fun we are having at camp.

Medical Team (must be a licensed nurse) The medical providers are assigned a cabin for the week and they are responsible for dispensing medications and caring for everyone at camp. Even the medical providers are volunteers and pay the same fee each week of camp.

What if my son or daughter has a feeding tube, trach, or is on insulin?

From Day 1, the leadership team at Camp Conquest made the decision that we would try to accommodate every camper that applied for Camp Conquest regardless of the medical or physical condition. We also decided that we would take campers from 6 - 60+ years of age and not age them out. Our oldest camper, Jenny, is 60 and has more energy and loves camp more than most.

Our Medical Team consists of nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and doctors.

What if we live out of state?

Over 18% of our campers come from out of state to include AR, TX, LA, OH, AL, MO, SC, and many others.

What if my son or daughter can't do an activity?

From Day 1, the leadership team at Camp Conquest made the decision that we will not introduce an activity or program unless every camper can participate. Our activities include:

Horseback riding - every camper wears a helmet and gait belt

Canoeing – every camper wears a life preserver

Zip Line – we have specialty harness chairs to accommodate all campers

Rock climbing wall – every camper wears a helmet

Swimming Pool – there are 2 lifeguards on duty and every one must pass the swim test to swim in the deep end.

Giant Swing – every camper wears a helmet

Archery – we use S.A.F.E Archery at Camp Conquest that uses colored Velcro tips.

Arts & Crafts – we have a Special Ed teacher that oversees our arts & crafts

Nightly Theme Parties – paint party, dance party, carnival party, talent shows, glow in the dark party, snores by the campfire, and many more.

What do I pack for my son or daughter?

A Camper Guide will be emailed to all parents around May 1st that will include a packing list, party list, dates/times for arrival and departure, links to our social media, and a list of things not to pack. One of the items not to pack are cell phones. Due to liability reasons, we do not allow cell phones at camp. Even volunteers and staff are not allowed to have cell phones during camp. Letters and cards are always welcome at camp. Campers love to get cards and letters.

When do I get to pick up my son or daughter at camp?

Each session of camp ends at 10:30 am on Saturday. There will be a 20-minute closing ceremony before we depart.

What if my camper needs to leave a day early?

We want every camper and volunteer to get the best experience at camp and it is best if they stay for the entire session. We ask that you make every effort to allow your son or daughter to stay the entire session. If you need to leave a day early, please notify Mark Price at markp@campconquest.com or (901) 545-CAMP (2267).

How many weeks of camp do we offer?

We currently offer 2 weeks of camp. Week 1 is for campers, ages 6 – 17 and Week 2 is for campers, ages 18 – 60+. We rent the campground where we hold camp and are only limited to the 2 weeks. We are building a campground in Millington, TN on 80 acres and the plan is to grow and add more weeks throughout the year.

What is the long term vision for Camp Conquest?

The long term plan is to offer a spring break camps, fall break camps, 9 weeks of summer camp, and Christmas break camp. The other 40 weeks will be open for disabled veterans and special/Paralympic training.

What if my son or daughter has a special diet?

We can accommodate most dietary needs, however, if you have special requests, please contact us to discuss. We had a camper

What is your camp's staff to camper ratio?

All campers will be paired up with a counselor and campers in wheelchairs will have 2 counselors.

Do you perform background checks?

We run background checks and Nationwide Sexual Offender search on anyone, volunteers and staff, 18 years or older.

Am I allowed to visit or call my child while at camp?

It is not encouraged, unless of course, it is for a specialized program or event arranged in advance. The reason for this is that kids tend to adapt to camp very well within the first day or two, especially once they get more comfortable and begin making friends and engaging in camp activities.

When parents/guardians call, they are often “kid-sick” (missing their child). The child who was well adjusted to the experience will interact with you (via phone or in person) and will typically be thrust back into homesickness themselves. One thing you can do to help prepare yourself and your child for an overnight camp stay is to “practice” before hand with short trips to other family and friends. This can really help with transition for everyone.