



# SUMMER CAMP

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**Family Handbook  
2022**



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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to promote a fun program filled with wonderful activities for the children to enjoy during the summer. Our focus is to enhance the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and cultural development of each child by exercising recreational games and projects while in a natural setting. We strive to provide each child with the most remarkable summer experience!

### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY OF FILES POLICY**

Confidential information is restricted and private. Through written records and daily interactions with children and families, employees may become aware of potentially sensitive information. Employees of the Summer Camp Program shall not disclose or knowingly permit the disclosure of any information concerning the child and his/her family, directly or indirectly, to any unauthorized person.

All personal information is confidential. Reports to families on children's behavior or special difficulties shall be discussed by the Summer Camp Lead Teacher, Recreation Director or Recreation Coordinator unless they delegate this responsibility to someone else. All sharing of information done by staff should be reported to the Recreation Director as soon as possible to maintain continuity.

The Summer Camp staff will maintain the confidentiality of all children's records. Written, informed consent from a parent must be received prior to releasing any information or photographs, if applicable, from which the child might be identified, except for authorized tribal, state, and federal agencies.

### **SUMMER CAMP DESCRIPTION**

The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana will provide summer camp on Monday through Thursday for students entering 1st grade to students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade AND/OR MAX age of 13 years of age. In addition to this summer camp, students entering 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> AND/OR MAX age of 13 years of age, will have the opportunity to attend Ketkampa, which will consist of field trips / activities two (2) days per week. Both of these programs will be offered for five (5) weeks. Students meeting the age criteria may attend both Summer Camp and Ketkampa. Ketkampa kids that are not attending Summer Camp on a weekly basis will be charged \$12 per Ketkampa trip attended or \$24 per week.

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### **STAFF**

The Summer Camp will have a Lead Teacher, who is responsible for overseeing, planning, and managing the daily operations of the summer program as well as responding to parental concerns.

### **ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY**

The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana will provide summer care for Native American students entering 1st grade to students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade AND/OR MAX age of 13 years of age from federally recognized Tribes and non-Indian children who are dependents of Indian households located within St. Mary Parish. The Tribe will also offer enrollment to Summer Camp employee's children that meet the criteria. The parent or guardian of the non-Indian child must be residing with an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe to whom they are legally married. Summer Camp and/or Ketkampa will accept children of full-time Tribal employees of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana. The Tribal employee must be the natural parent or legal guardian of the child. Proof of legal guardianship must be provided with the enrollment application. To ensure the health and safety of our students and staff, spacing is limited. Applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### **ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN**

**Summer Camp:** After a family has decided to enroll a student camper, the following steps must be completed before the child's first day at the camp. These include:

1. Submission of the Enrollment Packet to the Chitimacha Recreation Department.
2. Checklist of required documentation.
  - Completed enrollment packet (one per child)
  - Proof of legal guardianship, if applicable
  - Immunization record
3. Pre-payment of the 1<sup>st</sup> week's tuition and requested field trip money.

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**HOURS OF OPERATION**

The hours of operation for Summer Camp will be:

**Monday through Thursday, 7:10 A.M. to 5:20 P.M. ARRIVAL AND PICK-UP.**

A staff member must sign (full name) the child in upon arrival and sign out upon departure. Children who leave and return to the Summer Camp during the day shall be signed in/out by a staff member. A child will not be able to leave the Summer Camp with anyone other than a designated adult. These designated adults will be listed on the Release Form. Summer Camp children may be dropped off no earlier than 7:10 A.M. If your child is dropped off earlier than 7:10 A.M. the tribe shall not be held responsible. Summer Camp children should be picked up by 5:20 P.M.

**LATE PICK-UP**

**AFTER 5:20 P.M.**

The fee for Summer Camp of \$.50 per minute per child will be assessed to anyone picking up a child after 5:20 p.m.

**AT 5:45 P.M.**

The fee will increase to \$1.00 per minute. The parent/guardian and/or the emergency contact will be contacted to pick up the child immediately. The Lead Teacher will continue to call every five (5) minutes.

**AT 6:00 P.M.**

The fee will increase to \$1.50 per minute. If contact is not made with the parent/guardian and/or emergency contact, the Recreation Coordinator will be contacted to assist with locating the summer camper's responsible party.

This fee is assessed due to having employees in attendance with your child after hours. Payment will be due within five (5) business days.

**PERMISSION FOR EARLY RELEASE**

Pertains Only to Campers Entering 7<sup>th</sup> and Entering 8<sup>th</sup> Grades AND/OR MAX of 13 years of age

For your child's safety and protection, we will need your permission to allow your child to leave early from Summer Day Camp or Ketakampa Camp. Parents or guardian will need to provide either written documentation or a phone call to the Summer Camp / Ketakampa Camp Teacher. Once a Camper leaves early, they will not be allowed to return on the day they leave early.

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**PAYMENT SCHEDULES, ABSENCES, AND WITHDRAWAL**

Outstanding balances from the prior year(s) must be remitted prior to acceptance of an enrollment packet.

Payment for Summer Camp or Ketkampa must be prepaid on either a weekly basis or paid in full at the time of registration. Those who elect to pay weekly must adhere to the pre-payment plan of paying on a Thursday for the next week. Initial payment must be paid at time of registration. Please remit all tuition payments including cash payments to the Chitimacha Recreation Department.

Once tuition payments are five (5) business days (1 week) past due, your child will not be allowed to attend Summer Camp or Ketkampa on the sixth day (6<sup>th</sup>). Dependent on whether there are children on the waiting list, and your payment is not updated within the time allotted, your child will be terminated from the program, so that we can allow a child on the waiting list to experience Summer Camp or Ketkampa. If the family decides to re-enroll the child, payment of the delinquent account must be paid in full before the child can reenter the program, providing that space is available.

Make checks, money orders, and cashier's checks payable to the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana. A \$25 fee will be assessed to all NSF checks. Should we receive a NSF check, only cashier's checks, money orders and cash will be accepted. When making a payment in cash, exact change is required. You will have seven (7) days to correct your account. After seven (7) days your account will be considered delinquent, and your child will not be able to attend until the account is updated.

We cannot credit you with absences since your child's place is reserved for him/her and our expenses continue although he/she is not present. For example:

- (1) If your child is sick and is required to stay home, or
- (2) If a student is suspended from the program for disciplinary measures. Then you will be required to pay tuition for that particular day or week.

You will receive credit for disclosure of one (1) planned vacation during the 5 weeks program. A second vacation credit **AND** the possibility of another summer camper being available to take your child's reserved spot will exempt you of payment for said time period.

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### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

When a child enrolls for one (1) or two (2) days a week, the parent needs to determine, at time of registration, the days the child will attend each week. For example, the parent may decide to send the child on Tuesday and Thursday or Monday and Wednesday. It is the responsibility of families to comply with the enrollment plan that was agreed upon at the time of enrollment. The Summer Camp Program will not be able to provide care for children who arrive on a day that is not part of the agreed upon enrollment plan.

Ketkampa is field trips / activities two days (2) per week and students may attend the entire five (5) weeks or choose which days they would prefer to attend.

### **CAMPER RULES OF CONDUCT**

The following will not be tolerated at Summer Camp:

- Bullying, Taunting, Teasing and Name Calling
- Cursing
- Interference with Staff duties.
- Harassment and/or inappropriate or indecent conduct or language.
- Use of illegal drugs, intoxicants, or weapons (anything that can be used to cause bodily harm).
- Any other conduct that may jeopardize the safety and well-being of others.

### **BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT**

Good Discipline is usually positive rather than negative in nature. Keeping children actively involved in meaningful, fun activities generally creates an environment in which problems are few and minor. Camp staff will work cooperatively to create a positive climate which minimizes the potential for inappropriate behavior. When inappropriate behavior occurs, based on the circumstance, appropriate action will be taken.

### **TERMS:**

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**CORRECTION** – Campers will be reminded of the rules and asked to follow them.

**SAFE PLACE** – Campers will be asked to “SIT OUT” (no longer than 15 minutes) in order to cool-off and calm down.

**COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS** – Serious problems will be conveyed to the parent immediately by phone. Small problems will be communicated at the end of the day. Parents will also be informed of any “safe place” period administered.

**SUSPENSION/WITHDRAWAL** – Serious or continuing problems may result in suspension and/or immediate withdrawal

**NOTE** – No refund will be issued for suspension or withdrawal.

### **SUPPLIES**

A checklist of supplies is attached to the Summer Camp Enrollment Application. Supplies should be submitted on the first day of camp.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICE**

Electronic devices will not be allowed during Summer Day Camp hours. All campers will be required to turn in their electronic devices upon arrival. Electronic devices will be returned to campers at the end of the day.

### **TOYS**

Activities will be coordinated for each day; therefore, we encourage children to leave toys at home.

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### **CLOTHING**

Washable play clothes are the most suitable. Your child may get dirty during the course of the day. Children may wear shoes with ties, Velcro, buckles, slip-on/beach shoes, and flip-flops. On designated field trip days, we recommend wearing tennis shoes for activities requiring walking and/or bike riding.

ALL children need to bring with them daily at least one change of clothes, including underwear and socks. Each item shall be marked with the child's name. These articles of clothing shall be kept in a backpack and transported each day to Summer Camp. Each child may bring a small blanket for rest time. On Thursdays, the blanket will be sent home to be washed and returned to Summer Camp for the following Monday.

### **DISMISSAL**

Summer Camp personnel will do everything they reasonably can to promote a safe, fun-filled program for the children. Any child engaging in disruptive or unsafe behavior will be counseled regarding the need to act in ways that do not interfere with or endanger other children or our staff. We expect family members to cooperate with us in this effort. On rare occasions, if a child's behavior becomes too disruptive or unsafe, and if efforts in coordination with the family have not succeeded in curtailing that behavior, the Lead Teacher, in consultation with the Recreation Director, Recreation Coordinator, Deputy Tribal Administrator and/or the Tribal Administrator reserves the right to terminate enrollment of the disruptive child. In additional cases, grounds for termination of enrollment from the program will result should any of the following occur.

1. The child threatens the safety, health and/or well-being of others.
2. Tuition is late. When tuition is five (5) business days behind schedule, the child will not be allowed to attend the center on the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) day.
3. Immunization records are incomplete and/or not updated. This only applies to students that are NOT attending the Chitimacha Tribal School.
4. Enrollment was under fraudulent circumstances.



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### **ACCIDENTS/ INJURIES**

Staff shall report any injury of a child to the Lead Teacher or Assistant Teacher, no matter how insignificant it may seem. The Lead Teacher or Assistant Teacher will determine if the parent needs to be immediately notified and if first aid should be administered. First aid kits will be available in the School Gym and Recreation Facility. Parents will be notified if a child suffers an accident while at Summer Camp, all head injuries must be reported to the parent immediately, blood not contained in an adhesive strip, broken or dislodged teeth, an impaled object, and any injury requiring professional attention. All accidents/incidents shall be written up on an accident report to be given to the parent at the end of the day. A copy of the report will be given to the parent.

To maintain a healthy environment, we will accept only well children. We are depending on you to help us maintain this policy. A child with a fever of 100°F (in mouth or ear) /99°F (under arm) or higher within the previous 24-hour period must be kept home. If your child becomes ill during the day, an adult family member will be notified and must be picked up as soon as possible. A child may return when in good health. See Illness Guidelines on page 11.

Parents must inform the Lead Teacher or Assistant Teacher immediately after a contagious illness or disease is detected. This will enable the Summer Camp staff to determine if the illness or disease has been contracted by any other children and may help in preventing the illness or disease from spreading to other children.

### **SANITATION AND ILLNESS PREVENTION**

1. Every person will be screened before entry is allowed and entry will be denied to any child or employee who meets any of the following criteria:

- A temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection
- Dry cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- In the previous 24 hours has taken fever reducing medication
- Other signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing, fatigue, or extreme/unusual fatigue.

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2. Staff and children shall wash their hands at the following times: Upon entering the facility, before preparing food and beverage items, after utilizing the restroom, before and after eating meals or snacks, after caring for a child with symptoms of a communicable disease, and anytime the hands become soiled with body fluids (urine, stool, saliva, blood, nasal discharge).
4. Noses shall be blown or wiped with disposable, one use tissues that are discarded in a plastic lined and covered garbage container.
5. Draining or oozing cuts or sores shall be covered at all times to protect from infection.
5. Staff including substitutes shall notify the director if any child in care exhibits the following illnesses or symptoms. Exclusion time periods may be extended beyond the guidelines, depending upon individual conditions.

### **MEDICATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

If prescription medication is necessary to administer to a child during the day, parents must complete and sign the attached medication authorization form. Attached to this policy is the “Administration to Administer of Medication” form. This form must be completed by the Parent/Legal Guardian and the Licensed Physician or Dentist, before the Staff at Summer Camp may administer any prescription medication to your child. Medications will not be administered without written instructions. Medicine must be in its original container with the original label. The prescribed medicine must have the child’s name, physician’s name, name of medication or prescription number, dosage directions, and dosage. Non-prescription medicine is not required to be approved or recommended by a licensed physician or dentist; however, the parent or legal guardian must sign an authorization form permitting the staff at Summer Camp to administer the non-prescription medication to the child and will be sent home at the end of the day.

Medicine will be kept locked in a secure place out of the reach of children. Medicine needing refrigeration must be stored in a leak proof bag or box and labeled for storage. For the safety of all children, medications should never be left in backpacks or on counter tops.

To ensure medicine is given in accurate dosages, parents should provide an appropriate medicine dropper or measuring spoon.

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**ILLNESS GUIDELINES**

Illness/Infection Symptom	Should child stay home?	When can child/staff come back?
Cold	NO (without fever) YES (with fever)	Refer to Fever
Diarrhea (two or more loose stools, or over and above what is normal for child)	YES	Diarrhea is resolved
Ear Infection	NO (with doctor's diagnosis)	
fever of unknown origin 100°F (in mouth or ear) 99°F (under arm)	YES	Free of fever for 24 hours and fever reducing medications have not been given in the past 8 hours, or on prescribed medication for 24 hours
Impetigo	YES	When treatment has begun
Lice	YES	After 1 treatment has been given and cleared by physician
Pink Eye	YES	24 hours after treatment has begun
Strep Throat	YES	24 hours after treatment has begun
Undiagnosed generalized rash	YES	Well or cleared by child's physician as non-contagious
Ring Worm / Skin Infections	Depends on severity but must keep area covered	Depends on severity
Any child with the sudden onset of vomiting, irritability, or excessive sleepiness	YES	Well and/or cleared by child's physician
COVID-19 positive or pending test or symptoms	YES	<b>STAFF</b> who test positive for COVID-19 will return to Camp after being cleared by the Tribe's approved doctor. <b>CHILDREN</b> who test positive will have to quarantine for 10 days since symptoms appeared and have been fever free for 24 hours.

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### **If someone is or becomes sick:**

- If COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed in a child or staff member (or anyone in their household):
  - All areas used by the person who is sick will be closed off.
  - Outside doors will be opened to increase air circulation in the areas.
  - We will wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before we clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
  - We will clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.

Once learning of a COVID-19 case in someone who has been in the facility, we will immediately notify local health officials. These officials will help administrators determine a course of action for the Summer Camp. A short term or long-term dismissal may be recommended. Parents will be notified once a determination is made.

### **IMMUNIZATION RECORD**

Summer Campers that are **NOT** enrolled at the Chitimacha Tribal School must submit a copy of their completed immunization records at time of registration.

### **ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT**

As mandated reporters, the Recreation Director, Recreation Coordinator, Lead Teacher, Assistant Teachers, and substitutes of Summer Camp are required legally and ethically to report child abuse in accordance with the Chitimacha Comprehensive Codes of Justice, Title V and in accordance with LA R.S. 14:403. The Recreation Director, Recreation Coordinator, Lead Teacher, Assistant Teachers, substitutes, or support staff will not delay reporting suspected abuse and/or neglect to the Chitimacha Human Services Department and/or the St. Mary Parish Office of Community Services. Staffs, including substitutes, are not required to report the suspected abuse/neglect to the director and/or administrators prior to reporting to the Chitimacha Human Services and/or St. Mary Parish Office of Community Services.

The staff will report any suspected abuse and/or neglect of a tribal child living on the reservation to the Chitimacha Human Services Department.

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The staff will report any suspected abuse and/or neglect of a non-tribal child, or a tribal child living off the reservation to the St. Mary Parish Office of Community Services.

The telephone numbers for the agencies are as follows:

Chitimacha Human Services  
(337) 923-7000

St. Mary Parish Office of Community Services  
(337) 828-5278

The Chitimacha Comprehensive Codes of Justice legally defines the abused and neglected child as follows:

- **Abused Child** – A child who has suffered or is likely in the immediate future to suffer serious physical or emotional harm as a result of a parent or guardian inflicting or failing to make reasonable efforts to prevent the infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child, including excessive corporal punishment or an act of sexual abuse or molestation.
- **Neglected Child** – A child:
  - whose parent or guardian fails to provide the minimal care which a reasonably prudent parent would provide in the circumstances for the subsistence, education and welfare of the child; or
  - who has special physical or mental conditions for which the child's parent or custodian neglects or refuses to provide a reasonable level of special care; or
  - Whose parent or guardian is unable to discharge his or her responsibilities to and for the child because of incarceration, hospitalization, or other physical or mental incapacity.

### **TRANSPORTATION/OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES POLICY**

We will take official field trips approved by parents. Summer Camp will use the Recreation Van the School Bus, and other Tribal Vehicles for field trips. A signed parental authorization is required for each field trip. All children shall be required to use the federally approved and properly installed passenger safety belts. Offsite activities will include at least the Lead Teacher, one (1) Assistant Teacher and two (2) Summer Camp Workers. Staff will be accessible to children at all times and provide direct supervision during the offsite activity.

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### **WATER ACTIVITIES POLICY**

The Summer Campers will make trips to the Chitimacha pool for swimming lessons and recreational swimming. When children participate in swimming lessons, they will be under the supervision of their Swimming Lessons Teacher and Swimming Lessons Assistant. For recreational swimming time, along with Lead Teacher and Assistant Teacher a certified lifeguard will be on duty to ensure the safety of all children.

### **PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN POLICY**

During the course of the program, the staff at Summer Camp will be taking digital images, photographs, videotapes, and/or audiotapes of the children for educational, memorabilia, and some decoration purposes. The family will be asked to sign a blank permission slip during the enrollment process to take digital images photographs, videotapes, and or audiotapes of their child. No child will be observed, videotaped, recorded, or photographed without the supervision of Lead Teacher and the authorization of the Recreation Coordinator.

### **THIRD PARTY RELEASE PROCEDURE**

The child can only be released to designated adults on the child's Release Form. If an adult other than individuals on the list comes to pick up a child, please contact the Lead Teacher or Assistant Teacher. Parents can add persons to the Release Form through written permission. Any additions made to the Release Form shall be signed and dated by the parent. In case of an emergency, individuals listed on the Emergency Medical Care Form can pick up a child if the parent/guardian cannot be reached. In a non-emergency situation, persons on the Emergency Medical Care Form cannot pick up a child unless they are also listed on the Release Form.

Every child enrolled at Camp must have an Emergency Medical Care Form and a Release Form on file. It is the responsibility of the family to inform the center of any changes on these forms.

The Camp will not release a child at any time to a parent or designated individual who is obviously impaired due to alcohol consumption or substance abuse (either prescribed or illegal). In the event that a parent or designated adult is impaired, the Lead Teacher or Assistant Teacher will telephone individuals from the Release Form to arrange for an alternative adult to pick up the child. If a parent or designated adult is impaired and insists that the child be released in his or her custody, the Lead Teacher or Assistant Teacher will immediately notify the Chitimacha Police.

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**NUTRITION AND FOOD GUIDELINES**

Summer Camp strives to provide children with a nutritious breakfast, lunch and snacks  
Daily:

- Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Snacks will be served mid-morning and mid-afternoon.
- All meals will be served in individual containers to be discarded after each meal.
- All meals will be served in the approved designated areas.
- Staff will wear gloves and masks while serving meals.
- The staff will monitor children closely to be sure that food and drinks are not being shared.
- The staff will not allow children to eat when walking, running, playing, lying down, or riding in vehicles.
- Drinking water shall be available indoors and outdoors to all children.
- Information regarding children's food allergies/special diets shall be prominently posted in the food prep areas. Staff shall follow these instructions.
- Children with food allergies/intolerances shall have a written statement signed by the parent indicating the specific food allergy/intolerances.

**OPEN DOOR POLICY**

Due to COVID-19, we will not have an open-door policy this year. It is our priority to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all children attending Summer Camp.

Keeping an open line of communication between the Summer Camp staff and families ensures that the best interests of the children are served. All parents are encouraged to call and send notes whenever they deem necessary.

If a parent needs to discuss a problem or needs to have a more detailed conversation with the Lead Teacher, we ask that a conference time be set up to provide time for privacy in the said matter.

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**COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

We will do our best to work with our families, however if a family should have any concerns regarding the way their child is being cared for, a problem with a staff member or substitute, or questions regarding the operations, please follow these suggestions:

1. Discuss the concern with the Lead Teacher. If the Lead Teacher is unable to help the family, then he/she will know who can help.
2. If a family still has concerns, time should be set aside to discuss the concern with the Recreation Coordinator regarding Summer Camp.

Unresolved concerns or issues can be addressed to: Deputy Tribal Administrator.