



CAMP FRIENDSHIP CAMPING COMPANY Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I qualify for Resident Rates?

If you pay a City of Gahanna water bill, you are considered a resident. You can also look up your home address on the Franklin County Auditors Website: <http://franklincountyoh.metacama.com/do/searchByAddress>

If Gahanna is listed as your tax district, you qualify for resident rates. Those who work in the city of Gahanna also qualify for the Resident Discount Rate. A pay stub or proof of employment at a Gahanna business is needed.

My child is a mature four year old who has friends that are five, can he/she attend Camp Friendship?

Camp Friendship (Discovery and Adventure) offers programming for ages 5-12. Campers must be 5 or turning 5 during their first week enrolled. Due to developmental stages of youth and recommendations of the American Camp Association, we adhere to these age restrictions to best suit our campers.

My child has special needs or behavior problems that may require extra attention; can my child still go to camp? We will make reasonable accommodations to our camp activities to ensure accessibility to all campers, as long as it does not take away from the experience of the other campers. Please contact the Camp Supervisor at 614-342-4250 prior to registering to discuss any possible accommodations and to decide the best fit for the child.

I am unable to pay for camp all at once, can I pay in installments? You are able to pay for camp registrations in installments. Installments are broken into up to four periods, paying certain percentages depending on when you register. If you choose the installment billing option, your credit card will be charged automatically when payments are due (the first business day after the 1st of the month). For more information on Installment Billing, see the Installment Billing FAQ sheet.

I am unable to afford camp, but I still want my child to attend, can you help us?

The Parks & Recreation Foundation and GRIN provide partial scholarships for up to 2 weeks of full day summer camp to Gahanna residents, based on participation in the free or reduced lunch program. Campers wishing to apply for scholarships must submit a free/reduced lunch letter from the schools, as well as a 2019 Scholarship Application. Contact the Parks & Recreation front desk at 614-342-4250 for an application and more information.

What will my child do while at camp?

- Weekly field trip
- Weekly pool day
- Programming in Outdoor Education, Arts & Creativity, and Sports & Games
- Weekly enrichment activities and character education
- Community Involvement
- All-camp activities

What hours do Gahanna's camp programs operate?

- Camp Friendship (Discovery and Adventure) programs are programmed from 9am to 3pm, Monday through Friday. We also offer before care beginning at 7am and after care ending at 6pm, and this is included in the price.
- Please see the program Parent Handbook for more information about drop off and pick up.

Can we request that my child and his/her friend be put in the same color group?

Assuming your child and their friend are close in age, there is a good chance that they will end up in the same color group, but there is no guarantee. Due to the different developmental stages of each age group and staff to camper ratios set by our accrediting body, color groups are based on camper age. That being said, even if camper friends are placed in different color groups, they will still have plenty of chances to interact during before and after care, in sessions, and at lunch. You can certainly let us know your preference, but we can't make any promises. Besides, we firmly believe that camp is a great place to make new friends, so encourage your camper to do so!

Can we request that my child and his/her friend go on the field trip on the same day?

Due to the large number of campers at Camp Hannah – Discovery, different color groups go on field trips different days. Color group numbers are based on ages and strict staff to camper ratios we must follow for our American Camp Association accreditation. That being said, campers should stay with their group and go on their assigned field trip day as much as possible. Requests for alternate field trip days can be made to the Camp Director, but we can't make any promises that accommodations will be able to be made. All campers at Camp Friendship – Adventure travel for off-site experiences on the same day.

Do you provide lunch or snacks?

- Camp **DOES NOT** provide lunch. It is your responsibility to send a substantial, packed, **NON-REFRIGERATED** lunch with your camper each day. We do provide one afternoon snack.
 - Keep in mind that children are much more active at camp than at school, and need more energy! Please send more food than you would in a normal school lunch; while we do provide an afternoon snack, it's not a bad idea to send along a morning snack or extra snacks as well, particularly if your child is a picky eater.

What should my camper bring to camp?

Each day, please send the following to camp with your child:

- Small backpack to put everything in
- Closed toe shoes
- Refillable water bottle – with camper's name on it!
- Non-refrigerated, substantial Lunch as specified for designated program
- Complete change of clothes
- Any necessary medications (check these in with Camp Staff the first day of your child being enrolled)
- Swimsuit and towel on pool day and occasionally field trip day.
- Anything else that is noted on the weekly newsletter

We will make every effort to notify you ahead of time if campers are likely to get wet or dirty (water games, creek, etc.), but please know that it is ALWAYS POSSIBLE at camp. Make it a habit to include a change of

clothes and/or extra shoes in your camper's backpack. We feel that if your camper does not come home dirty, sweaty, or wet (and tired!), we aren't doing our jobs!

What should we leave at home?

Campers are NOT to bring any personal belongings or money to camp, including but not limited to the following:

- Personal Sports Equipment
- Animals
- Electronic Devices (hand held video games, iPods, etc)
- Money
- Trading Cards, Collectibles, Toys, Stuffed Animals, Blankets
- Alcohol and/or Drugs
- Weapons

How are camp staff screened and selected?

Gahanna Parks & Recreation Camps take pride in maintaining one of the best and most qualified camp staff in the area. Camp Staff members are selected for their experience and passion for working with children. Many are education majors in college or currently licensed/certified teachers, social workers, or recreation programmers, and all meet the following requirements to be employed at Gahanna Parks & Recreation Camps:

- At least 18 years of age
- Successful interview with the Recreation Supervisor (Camp Director)
- Two positive reference checks and verification of previous work history for all new Camp Staff
- Negative drug screen
- No record in the National Sex Offender Public Database
- No more than 6 points on driver's license
- No criminal record on BCI fingerprint background check or FBI background check if lived out of state in past five years.
- Year-round camp staff who are continually employed by the City receive a BCI fingerprint background check and driver's license check annually.

What's with the t-shirt?

One t-shirt is provided to each camper. Additional t-shirts can be purchased for \$10.00 each from camp staff.

Camp Friendship (Discovery and Adventure) campers must wear this t-shirt on every field trip day throughout the summer. Campers who are not dressed in their t-shirt on field trip days will be required to purchase an additional shirt in order to attend the field trip. ***For the health and safety of all participants, t-shirts cannot be worn, washed and returned.***

I am on the waitlist for camp, now what?

When a space becomes available in the session you would like to register for, we will call and/or email you to let you know that there is a space available for your child. You will be given 48 hours to respond, before your spot is offered to the next child on the list.

Still Have Questions?

Reach out to Parks & Recreation Staff at 614-342-4250 or email sarah.mill@gahanna.gov.