

The Southwest Preteen Camp is modeled after a family campout. Preteens and their parents/guardians can experience camp together. Preteens will have a full roster of activities during the day while parents can serve on staff and/or take advantage of daily lectures offered by some of the local elders.

What is the camp facility like?

Estrella Mountain Regional Park is easily accessible from the I-10 freeway (less than 10 minutes from the exit ramp) yet tucked into the beautiful Estrella mountains. Our group campsite has the following:

- Flush toilets
- Running water & potable tap water
- Fire rings, charcoal grills, & picnic tables
- Flat ground for tent-camping, room for pop-up campers, and parking spaces for RVs
- Huge grassy field with nearby playground (for the pre-preteens)
- Convenient access to local stores & freeway

What do I need to do as a parent?

Because the Southwest Preteen Camp is modeled after a family campout, parents or guardians must attend camp with their children. It is okay if parents would like to send their child to camp with another person (ie, adult sibling, family member, church member, etc). Either the parents, legal, or temporary guardians will be responsible for the child in the following areas:

- Arrange transportation for your child(ren) to and from camp. If you are traveling some distance, we recommend talking with other parents from your area to organize carpools or caravans. Camp will not be providing vans or shuttles.
- Provide sleeping arrangements for yourself and your child(ren). Suggested sleeping arrangements include tents, pop-up campers, or RVs. There are parking spaces for RVs but no hook-ups or dump stations.
- Provide food for yourself and your child(ren). Cooking facilities available at the campground include charcoal grills, fire rings, & picnic tables. There is grocery shopping within a reasonable distance, but please plan to bring sufficient food and water for the duration of camp. Potable tap water is available on site.

What should I expect from Camp?

For the preteens, we will provide a full roster of activities including Christian living, compass checks, horseback riding, a hay ride, rock climbing, arts & crafts, field games, campfire activities, and more. Day counselors will oversee the children throughout the day's activities.

For parents or staff, we will also provide interactive seminars on pertinent subjects presented by local elders.

Who can come to camp?

Children from the ages of 4 to 12 are welcome to apply as campers. The family style format allows us to accept campers as young as 4 years old as long as they are potty trained. Younger children can also come with their families. If there are several children under 4 years old, we will also provide care/assistance/activities. (Please let us know if you plan to bring a child younger than 4 so that we can plan accordingly.)

Older children (over age 13) are encouraged to apply for teen staff. Teen staff are not required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian; they will, however, be supervised by a staff mentor while at camp. Meals will be provided for teen staff not accompanied by their parents.

Parents and adults are a vital part of camp. Whether you are accompanying a child or are just interested in serving at camp, we are looking for adults to serve as staff.

We are looking for staff members in the following areas:

- One adult activity lead and one or more teen assistants per activity.
- One adult day counselor and one teen assistant per group of children.
- One or more nurse or first-aid equipped individuals.
- Two or more designated cooks for the teen staff.

What should we bring?

This is not an exhaustive list, but covers the bases for basic supplies you will need at camp. If you forget something or find that you need an item once you arrive at camp, we are less than 10 minutes away from a local grocery store and a Super Walmart.

Items to bring:

General:

- Bible & notebook
- Backpack/Daypack
- 1-2 water bottles (please plan on each person drinking 1 gallon of water per day)

Clothing:

- Clothes for each day (5 days, 4 nights; average temperatures range from the mid-60's down to upper-30's with a possibility of rain. Please pack accordingly.)
- Sunscreen & sun hat
- Jacket & warm hat
- Sneakers (1 - 2 pairs)
- Plastic/laundry bag for wet/dirty clothes

Toiletries:

- Insect repellent (hanging dryer sheets works well to keep bugs out of tents)
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Soap & shampoo
- Hair brush/comb
- 2-3 towels & washcloths/disposable wipes
- Solar shower (optional; there are no showering facilities on site)

Camping Items:

- Sleeping quarters (tent, pop-up camper, or RV)
- Sleeping bag (or warm blankets & sheets)
- Pillow
- Ground pad, cot, air mattress, or sufficient cushioning for sleeping on
- Flashlight or headlamp w/ extra batteries
- Camping chairs

Food Items:

- Food for 12 meals, plus snacks (We will provide campfire snacks)
- Drinking water (1 gallon per person per day. Onsite water is city/tap water.)
- Cooler for food and ice
- Propane stove or charcoal & fire starting equipment for onsite grills
- Cookware & cooking utensils
- Eating dishes and utensils (can be disposable)
- Dishwashing supplies

What SHOULDN'T we bring?

The focus of camp is to have a safe and God-centered environment. We find that some items can detract from this goal. If you do happen to pack any of these items for your trip, we ask that you not have them accessible for your kids during camp, including during the evening.

- Personal music players: Radio, iPod, CD, MP3 players, etc...
- Personal gaming systems: Nintendo DS, Sony PSP, iPad, iPod Touch, etc...
- Cell Phones*
- Knives**
- Firearms, fireworks, sparklers,
- Inappropriate clothing (suggestive/disrespectful slogans or images, overly revealing)

*We understand parents may need to use their cell phones. This is okay, but we request that you use them in as discrete a manner as possible (away from activities, in private quarters, or during the evening).

**We understand that we are camping and that pocket knives may be very handy. We ask that any personal kind of knife be kept to a "pocket" size and that it be used by adults only. Kitchen knives are also acceptable when used appropriately for cooking and food preparation.