



Camp Concepts, Inc. is the umbrella company that owns and operates the camp entities of Big Oak Day Camp, Little Buds Day Camp, and Expressions Day Camp. Our leadership team has well over 150 years of combined teaching and camp administrative experience. Along with awesome campers and a great staff we have the essential ingredients for a strong camp community.

We understand the value of camp and we know how to build and implement a dynamic and diverse program that will leave long lasting memories of a wonderful summer camp experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes our camp staff structure so solid?

At Camp Concepts we have a leadership team of directors. Each director is an experienced, veteran educator who is actively teaching. Each director also has camp leadership experience. This particular team of talented and committed leaders has unprecedented teaching and camp administration experience.

Executive Director: Steve Haines

Big Oak Directors/Assistant Directors:

Steve Haines & Steve Bernardini

Little Buds Directors: Ashley Carlson and Jen Schloo

Expressions Directors: Debbie Kirk

Account Services: Linda Schloo

Administrative Coordinator: Stefanie Schloo



Little Buds and Expressions also utilize Activity leaders for many of their activities, but their staff will also lead activities as well as invited specialists and guests from the outside.

Activity Leaders: Activity leaders are usually career teachers. Their role is to lead and facilitate the games and activities throughout the day.

Counselors: Counselors are usually college age or late high school students with a displayed interest in working with kids to serve as a role model, mentor, friend and community builder.

Associate Counselor (AC): An AC is someone in their 3rd year of our leadership training program. They have previously served as a CIT & a JC and are utilized in providing excellent care of our campers. ACs are appointed by directors.

Junior Counselor (JC) : 2nd year of young leader training. JCs automatically matriculate up from role of CIT from previous summer.

Counselor In Training (CIT) 1st year of young leader training. Application process on website. Must be 14 yrs. old by the May 1 to qualify.

Will there be swimming? Yes! We have arranged for our campers to enjoy indoor swim at the beautiful nearby indoor pools at Carl Sandburg Middle School. (Little Buds does not travel off campus). Swim will be on the schedule and campers and staff take a bus or camp vans to the pool. Certified Lifeguards are on duty at these sites. Big Oak does offer swim instruction to those still gaining confidence in the water otherwise, campers may enjoy recreational swim. Big Oak campers swim 2 or 3 times per week, Expressions swim 2 x per week. Little Buds has onsite water play inflatable pools.

We encourage campers to bring bathing suits and towels everyday as we will have a **large inflatable waterslide** on campus and the possible last-minute option of adding additional indoor swim time if the weather is severe. Little Buds has their own inflatable pools and smaller waterslide for their play.

HOW IS SWIM TESTING DONE FOR BIG OAK AND EXPRESSIONS?

Every swimmer is water tested on the first day and they will be given a color coded band. Red indicates they must stay in shallow end with a flotation device and yellow means they stay in the shallow end but don't need a flotation device and they are eligible to be deep end tested. The swim test (shallow end) includes swimming 15 yd freestyle and 15 yd backstroke, they must float on their back for 30 seconds, and show they can safely go under water and emerge without problem (swallowing water, looking distressed). The test takes place in the shallow end with a certified lifeguard. Swimmers can be retested every week to see if they can improve. Flotation device is provided by the pool or camper can bring their own flotation device, but it may not be approved by the aquatics team. If the camper is given a yellow rating they can choose to deep end test. To pass the deep end test the child must jump into the pool, swim 25 yd freestyle and 25 yd backstroke continuously, tread water for 1 minute, and swim under water again showing no signs of distress. Children can test every week for this.

Children will also be given individual swimming lessons by myself or other staff members. The lessons are generally for red rated swimmers where we can take off the flotation device and practice treading water, floating on their back, freestyle, and backstroke, and going under water safely. During the lessons the guide will be within an arm's length of the swimmer. Yellow swimmers can also receive lessons if they would like and are given feedback on what they can work on to become a deep end swimmer.

Children can only jump in the pool at designated areas. These areas are generally right next to a guard or in clear view of a guard. While swimming at Pennsbury, there are certified guards provided by the YMCA and we will have at least one guard from our staff on hand as well. When at Sandburg, there will be at least 2 certified guards from our staff. We keep a ratio of 20 swimmers to 1 lifeguard and if majority of the swimmers are shallow end, we will close the deep end and have all guards focus on the shallow end.

Will lunch be provided? Yes! Our lunch is fabulous! Hot entrée choices as well as the daily option of salad bar, sandwiches, yogurt, fresh fruit. The cost of lunch is included in the camp tuition. You may pack a lunch especially if you have a picky eater or dietary restrictions.

What happens if my child gets sick or injured at camp? The majority of camp injuries are minor scrapes, bumps and bruises that can be taken care of with some TLC and a bandaid. If something more serious, you would be contacted so you could take them for further evaluation or if necessary they would transported to the nearest medical facility. If they become ill at camp, you would be contacted for them to be picked up. If sent home sick, they must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to camp.

Will transportation be available? No, we do not provide transportation to and from home. We can help assist in carpool by connecting you with local families who also seek the convenience.

What if I only want 3 or 4 days of camp? Our Little Buds program does allow for a 3 day and 5 day program option. A 4-day program can be arranged with adding a day to the 3 day option. However, our Big Oak program is a 5-full day program. The program is not pro-rate for missed days.

Do I get a refund if my child is sick or misses a day? Unfortunately, if your child misses camp due to sickness or other reason there is no refund. Please refer to our refund policy which is part of our registration process.

Will you have A.M or P.M extended service? Yes, as a convenience to families, our general camp program will begin each day at 9:00 a.m. and camper pick up will be at 3:30 p.m. For those who need to drop off or pick up outside of those operating times, we will have an add on service of convenience.

A.M. Extended care will begin at 7:00 a.m.

P.M. Extended care will be available until 5:30 p.m.

Per occasional day use for those unexpected times, simply give us a call and the service can be added on an as needed day basis. Contact Linda Schloo for this service: 215-285-2537.

You may select this service at the time of registration or may be added at any time throughout camp.

How do I reach the camp or my child during the day? You may always call the Executive Director: Steve Haines (267-261-4098), Linda Schloo (215-285-2537) or any of the Directors. Important phone numbers are listed on the Detailed Camp information page.

Will my children be transported for off campus trips? Yes. Big Oak and Expressions campers do travel off campus. Little Buds do not. Whereas we believe our on-campus program is awesome, there are times we like to give the campers a different experience or change of scenery by taking them off campus for a field trip. In such cases, campers will be transported by a local bus transportation company. Most times, admissions costs are included in the camp tuition. There may be an occasion where additional money might be needed for things not included, such as snacks, arcade games, etc. We will communicate these needs in advance. Off campus transportation is contracted through a local bus transportation company.

What will campers do on rainy days? There may be occasion when on a rainy day we treat some or all campers to an unscheduled off campus trip to somewhere such as bowling or some other indoor fun destination. These decisions are often made on the day of and therefore notification to all families may not be possible. Otherwise, we adjust and deal with the weather as best we can and sometimes that means playing in the rain and celebrating it!

What activities do campers participate in?

We do many of the traditional or usual camp activities: arts & crafts (we call it Creations) various group games, some of the major sports such as basketball, soccer, kickball, tennis baseball, volleyball, touch football, soccer, street hockey, Ga-Ga, etc. Crazy games like Double Whammy Kickball, Jurassic Park and Tchoukball to more standard activities such as nature, bowling, stream stomp, STEM, and more. With our background as Physical Education teachers and many

years of camp administrating experience we have a collection of over 100 games that are fun and have proven to be successful camp games.

We also have many non-sport related games and activities such as arts & crafts, nature crafts, science, drama, dance, baking/cooking, team building/team challenge activities, etc.

How are kids placed into groups?

Grouping of campers is always a difficult task but one that is obviously very important to the campers. Many come to camp wanting to be grouped with a good friend. We will do our best to accommodate such grouping requests. There are two main grouping solutions:

Big Oak typically groups in co-ed cluster age groups based on the grade they will be entering. We have 2 divisions: Lower Grades 1-5 & Upper Grades 6-9. Our Upper teen program also has a weekly travel destination planned.

Expressions typically has 2 co-ed divisions and is for ages 6-16.

Little Buds grouped by age at the time they enter camp. Each group has a lead counselor, CIT, JC or AC to assist.

Grouping requests- We do our best to honor grouping requests. In most cases, this is not a problem if they are going into the same grade. However, please recognize the need for the camp to be a social learning situation and sometimes groups may be at capacity or a different set of dynamics that need to be considered. It is also important for parents to realize that sometimes, what may seem like a source of comfort (to be with a friend) may actually be a social inhibitor. We find kids to be far more resilient than adults often give them credit for. Sometimes letting kids expand their social horizon and network ends up being a life-enriching, life-changing growth opportunity.

Do you have a young leader training program for those who are too old for camp? Our A2I (Aspire to Inspire) leadership training program provides practical and guided leadership development to those young leaders hoping to improve their skill and leadership. We have 3 levels: CIT (age 14) which is a volunteer position. JC (age 15 or 16) paid and AC (ages 16-17) also paid. Counselors typically are seniors in high school or college students. PA state laws permit students at the age of 14 to work. In order to do so, they must obtain a working permit from their local school district in which they live.

What other camp employment positions are available? As the camp grows, so will employment opportunities. The structure we have utilized for many years, and one that has made our structure so successful, is one that utilizes and combines experience with leadership development training. In our camp, we have many experienced teaching and camp veterans who have proven to be strong leaders. Most often, these individuals are either in an admin supervisory role or are one of our **ACTIVITY LEADERS** (those who directly facilitate games and activities). An Activity Leader has proven their ability to facilitate large group activities, a love and understanding for camper behavior and who are proven role models and decision makers. Activity Leaders may also be “specialists” which means they have a specific area of interest or certification such as: arts & crafts, dance, archery, tennis, drama, adventure activities, etc.

COUNSELORS- Counselors are those who have demonstrated a passion for working with kids. Some of our counselors may have gone through our 3-year leadership development program or may have been hired because of a personal recommendation or from prior experience in working with kids. Counselors are dynamic personalities who understand that they are to be

actively engaged with the campers in all activities. They are the cheerleader, encourager, big brother/sister, corrector, psychologist, psychiatrist, best friend, etc. They serve in many different capacities but do each role with the sole purpose of being there for their campers.

Counselors are among the most important of all roles in camp. Our counselors tend to be those who are late in high school or college/university age students. More than their age, we seek those who are dynamic and trustworthy personalities who will positively impact the lives of our campers.

How do I register? www.CampConcepts.org and complete the online registration and payment process. Registration links go live on January 1st. For your convenience, additional payments may be made online (credit card or eCheck) or by personal check. We also can arrange payment plans to help manage the cost of camp. If you need any assistance, you may contact Linda Schloo, Account Services, at 215-285-2537 or by email at accounts@campconcepts.org.

Do you provide a sibling discount? Yes! Some restrictions apply. Speak to Linda Schloo.

Apply for a Job- Visit www.CampConcepts.org and click on the “MORE” tab to access the EMPLOYMENT tab for the application.