



After School by Camp Fire

Parent Handbook

2022-2023 School Year

Camp Fire Georgia

92 Camp Toccoa Drive

Toccoa, GA 30577

Office: 706-886-2457

maria@campfirega.org

Welcome to the Camp Fire Georgia family!

Camp Fire programs provide youth with a safe and supportive environment where they have the opportunity to make new friends, try new activities and learn skills that they will carry with them for a lifetime. At Camp Fire, we encourage youth to find their spark, lift their voice and discover who they are.

At Camp Fire, it's more than just activities and play; all programs are outcome based. With a safe and supportive environment, children can fully engage in activities and are provided with leadership opportunities. Our Leaders support our participants in lifting their voices. Youth are encouraged to explore their natural sense of curiosity and find their own sparks.

In Camp Fire, positive intercultural relationships are fostered. All children and families are welcome regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or other aspect of diversity.

our promise

Young people want to shape the world.

Camp Fire provides the opportunity to find their spark, lift their voice, and discover who they are.

In Camp Fire, it begins *now*.

Hours of Operation:

Big A Elementary: End of school day – 5:45 pm.

Liberty, & Toccoa Elementary Schools: End of school day – 6:00 pm Students in the 5th grade will be transported to Toccoa Elementary each day.

After School by Camp Fire does not meet on Early Release Days.

Tuition Pricing and Membership Fees:

Annual Camp Fire Georgia Membership Fee: \$25.00/year

After-School \$50.00/week

Automatic Withdrawal

Registration for *After School by Camp Fire* can be done online at <http://www.campfirega.org>.

Weekly tuition will be debited from the account on file every Thursday for the upcoming week.

All registrations and tuition payments must be done online and are automatically debited each Thursday.

Absences

\$50 per week is charged regardless of how many days the child attended within a week. On days there is no school scheduled a \$10 credit will be given.

Prorated Tuition

Attendance begins on the Monday of the week. If you register at the beginning of the school year, this will be Monday, August 8. If you register after that date, please assume the following Monday for your start date. Camp Fire Georgia must be able to ensure adequate staffing as program attendance increases. Automatic debits to your card on file will begin on Thursday, August 11, 2022, or the Thursday of the first full week your child attends *After School by Camp Fire*. Should we be able to start your child mid-week after receiving your registration, you will be notified.

Declined Tuition Charges

Camp Fire Georgia's system will run the credit card on file weekly for the following week's payment. An email will be sent to the account holder each time a charge is declined. If tuition fees are not paid by Monday of the current week, your child may not be able to return until the balance is paid in full.

Recordkeeping

You are encouraged to maintain your own payment records for accounting purposes. All past payment information can be accessed through your Configio account, which is set up when you register a child in a Camp Fire program for the first time.

Attendance Policy

For the safety of your child and to avoid unnecessary staff worry, parents must call Camp Fire Georgia at 706-886-2457 **by 1:00pm** or email maria@campfirega.org each day to report their child's absence from the ***After School by Camp Fire*** program. Fees will not be prorated for days a child is absent.

School Cancellation/Delayed Start/Inclement Weather

There will be no ***After School by Camp Fire*** program on holidays, snow days, or days when school is dismissed due to inclement weather.

Camp Fire Georgia will adhere to the Stephens County Public Schools decision regarding cancellation. Should school be closed early due to severe weather, ***After School by Camp Fire*** will not be held. Parents will not be charged under these circumstances and a fee adjustment will be made at the rate of \$10 per day. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to pick up the child from school. If school is held, but Stephens County cancels system-wide after school programs, that will include ***After School by Camp Fire***.

Stephens County school closings are announced by:

- WNEG Radio 630 AM
- A SchoolMessenger call will be sent from the superintendent
- A message will be posted on SCSS Facebook page
- SCSS website will be updated with closing/delay information

Severe Thunderstorm Watch or Warning

If ***After School by Camp Fire*** is in session when the watch or warning is issued, the program will remain open. The Leaders and Assistants will follow the safety precautions as outlined in the school district's policies.

Tornado Watch

Participants remain in the care of the Leaders and Assistants, who will take the prescribed safety precautions. If it is safe to do so, youth will be released to parents or other designated adults upon request.

Tornado Warning

Participants remain in the care of the Leaders and Assistants. All will remain in the building and shelter in designated areas. Youth may be detained beyond the usual dismissal time if necessary. If it is safe to do so, youth will be released to parents or other designated adults upon request.

Other Natural or Man-Made Disasters

Youth remain in the care of the Leaders and Assistants, who will follow the safety precautions as dictated by the circumstances of the emergency. In general, staff and participants will shelter in place unless it becomes unsafe to stay in the building. If circumstances require, a lock-down procedure will be initiated. If it is safe to do so, participants will be released to parents or other designated adults upon request.

Lockdown Procedures

In conjunction with Stephens County Schools, lockdown procedures are in place in case of an active shooter or other human threat. Our procedures are based on recommendations by the *Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency*.

- Level 1 (possible threat outside) – All exterior doors are locked; parents must present their Photo ID through the door; Camp Fire staff and participants stay in one room.
- Level 2 (possible threat inside) – Movement is restricted; exterior and interior doors are locked; Camp Fire staff and participants stay in one room. No admittance until cleared by law enforcement.
- Level 3 (Active threat inside) – Staff and participants will go to an interior room with limited access to the outside, and the door will be locked. Lights will be off and Camp Fire staff and participants will hide.

Late Pick-up Policy

After School by Camp Fire at Big A Elementary ends at 5:45 pm. Liberty and Toccoa Elementary Schools ends at 6:00 pm. **A \$1.00 per minute late fee will be charged to the card on file for any late pickups.** The Stephens County Sheriff's department will be contacted for any children not picked up within 45 minutes of the pick-up time.

Authorized Pick-up

- All authorized persons (including parents) must show valid identification at pick-up each day throughout the duration of the school year. Please provide written notification if you wish to change or add authorized persons either in person the day before or via email.
- If there are custody issues involving your child, please provide court documentation indicating who may or may not pick up your child.
- No child will be allowed to leave the facility without being escorted by the parent/guardian or other authorized person.
- Students enrolled in ***After School by Camp Fire*** will not be released to anyone under the age of 16.

Playground Weather Policy

Camp Fire knows that getting outside is critical to positive youth development, which is why we do our best to get our participants outside every day. Weather guidelines set forth by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning are observed. Participants will not go outside if the wind chill factor is less than 36°F, which means an air temperature of 40° F or more and wind speed of 15 mph or more. We ask that all participants be dressed appropriately for weather conditions.

Health and Wellness

- Children who are sick should be kept at home. The state's current communicable disease chart of recommendations for exclusion of sick children from the center and their readmission shall be followed. A participant will not be accepted or allowed to remain in the program if the child has the equivalent of a one hundred and one (101°) degrees or higher temperature and other contagious symptoms such as, but not limited to: a rash, diarrhea, vomiting, a sore throat or discharge from the eyes.
- Camp Fire Leaders will contact the parent/guardian regarding any incidents, including illnesses, injuries, adverse reactions to medications, etc.
- Before any medication is dispensed to a child, written authorization from the parent or guardian must be obtained. This must include: date, name of child, name of medication, dosages, date and time of day medication is to be given. Medicine must be in the original container labeled with the child's name. Prescription medication must be received in its original container.
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Contact

- It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to keep records current to reflect any significant changes as they occur including telephone numbers, work location, emergency contacts, child's physician, child's health status, new allergies, etc.
- **After School by Camp Fire** uses 3 points of contact to relay information about the program: A Leader or Assistant will inform you personally and/or hand you a note; an email through Configio to the email address provided; lastly, written communication at the door.
- We will limit communications to important and relevant information so parents can stay up to date with Camp Fire Georgia without overwhelming you.

Code of Conduct

Children are expected to adhere to all school and district policies. **After School by Camp Fire** will adhere to the policies of the school and district, as well. The Code of Conduct is to ensure each child's behavior is consistent with school rules.

Clothing & Personal Belongings

- Children participate in play and should dress accordingly. All items (clothing, school supplies, etc.) should be marked with the child's first and last name.
- **After School by Camp Fire** is not responsible for the loss or damage of personal belongings. Parents are discouraged from allowing their children to bring personal toys, electronics, or other items to the program. Our programs provide developmentally appropriate activities for all age groups as well as the opportunity for individual free play to keep children safe and happy.
- Cell phones, tablets and other devices should be turned off and stored in the bottom of the child's backpack. If children need to contact their parents by phone, the Leader will initiate the contact using the program phone.
- We reserve the right to confiscate any item(s) that serve as a distraction during program time. Leaders or Assistants will return these item(s) to the parent at the end of the day.

Guidance & Discipline Practice Policy

After School by Camp Fire will help children develop the internal control needed to manage themselves. Therefore, we use the following positive guidance techniques:

- Modeling appropriate behaviors.
- Setting clear and reasonable limits that protect the child's safety and welfare, the rights of others and the environment.
- Acknowledging appropriate behavior.
- Encouraging verbalization and problem solving by providing positive suggestions, choices and/or redirection.

When a discipline problem occurs and persists, the following actions may be taken:

- The Site Director will complete an Incident Report Form and discuss with the parent and child.
- Parents will be called for a conference.
- Parents may be called to pick up their child for the day.
- A behavior agreement may be completed outlining the unacceptable behavior and consequences.
- The child may be suspended or released from the program at the discretion of the **After School by Camp Fire** Coordinator or the Executive Director.

Behavior

Our program cannot accommodate participants who display chronic or severely disruptive behavior. Such behavior will be grounds for dismissal from the program. This behavior is defined as verbal or physical activity, which may include, but is not limited to:

Behavior that requires constant attention from the staff.

- Behavior that is destructive in nature.
- Behavior that continually ignores or disobeys.
- Students will be dismissed without warning from programs for behavior that inflicts physical or emotional harm to anyone (i.e. verbally or physically threatening behavior, fighting, etc.).

Corporal Punishment

Camp Fire Georgia has a strict policy against corporal punishment. Under no circumstances will corporal punishment be allowed within programs operated by Camp Fire Georgia. The staff of any Camp Fire Georgia program shall not use, nor permit any person to use corporal or other cruel, harsh, or unusual punishment, or any humiliating or frightening method to control the actions of any child or group of children.

Accommodations

Camp fire is an inclusive organization that welcomes children with various cognitive and social abilities. We maintain ratios of 1:15 or less. Participants should be able to fully function in a group of up to 15 children with structure and clear limits. If any accommodations are needed, please discuss with the ***After School by Camp Fire*** Coordinator prior to registration to ensure such accommodations can be made.

Homework

Opportunity is given for participants to work on homework. Though every effort is made to ensure completeness and accuracy of the homework, it is the parents/guardians' responsibility to follow-up to ensure homework has been completed and is accurate.

At ***After School by Camp Fire***, collaborative relationship between parents/guardians, students and staff is important. Leaders and Assistants will make homework time as productive as possible.

Snacks

A snack will be provided each day as part of the program. If your child has an allergy for which an accommodation is needed, please provide documentation from a doctor stating the nature and severity of the allergy. An appropriate snack will be provided. Students are asked to bring a water bottle each day.

The Role of Parents in Camp Fire Georgia's Programs

At Camp Fire Georgia, parents/ guardians are recognized as their children's first and most committed teachers and advocates, and that children benefit the most when the adults in their lives—parents, teachers, and program leaders—work together.

Here are some ways you can help your child succeed in ***After School by Camp Fire***:

- When you come in to pick up your children, talk with the staff, even if it's only for a few moments.
- Talk with your child every day about what they did in Camp Fire. Ask open ended questions to get them talking about their day.
- Work with the staff to address any behavior or health issues or concerns that you may have about your child.
- Communicate regularly with the staff to share ideas, questions, or concerns.