

Preparing Your Camper For An Overnight

Spending the night away from home can make anyone nervous, especially a night outside under the stars in the middle of the woods. It is enough to fill any child or parent with concern. But it can also be one of the best nights of your child's life. Here are a few suggestions to make your child's overnight the amazing experience so many campers have shared before.

Be willing to say no if you feel your camper is not ready. If you or your child thinks they are not ready for an overnight, chances are they are not. They may get swept up in the excitement without really thinking about the fact they will be away from home... sleeping outside... in the woods.

Keep your attitude positive. If you worry about the overnight, your child will worry about the overnight. Instead of telling them they can call home if they get scared, or you will pick them up if they want, focus on the positive aspects of the evening; hanging out with friends, swimming, hiking, sitting around the campfire making s'mores and having the biggest sleepover they have ever had.

Do not make deals. By telling your child they can call you, or you will come pick them up, know for sure they will call you and ask to be picked up. If you keep accentuating the positive, you'll give them no reason to call or get picked up.

No cell phones. If your child needs to get in contact with you, we will make sure they do so. Cell phones create an easy out for a camper that is a little homesick. Campers who take the time to participate in the nightly activities generally end up having so much fun, it never occurs to them they are homesick.

Do not worry. We will call you with any significant concerns or problems which arise. If you do become worried, please call the North office (310) 472-7474 x 132. We ask you to let us check on your child first and report back to you about their attitude. By talking to them yourself, you only increase the chance of promoting homesickness.

