

YMCA Camp Thunderbird 2012 Resident Camp Parent Guide



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www.campthunderbird.org



Camp Philosophy

YMCA Camp Thunderbird's 76-year history is richly immersed in YMCA tradition. Our 1.7 miles of pristine shoreline coupled with over 100 wooded acres of site property creates the perfect backdrop supporting young people as they seek to recognize the connection between God, nature, and their daily lives. It is our goal to engage staff members who model sound Christian values so as to enhance the lives of campers while supporting their growth in the character traits recognized by the YMCA – honesty, respect, responsibility, caring and faith.

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte welcomes children of all faiths as well as no faith at all. Our goal is to be the most welcoming, inclusive organization anywhere. Our hope is that each child would feel their own great values as a child of God, as a result of their YMCA camping experience. It is our desire that each child would know that "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." We celebrate the individual value and accomplishments of each child and expect our leaders to be not only strong role models, but spiritual encouragers.

We are all children of God, and at Camp we have a unique opportunity to explore what that means, in a safe, supportive, and enriching environment. We look forward to sharing life-long experiences with your child while growing in spirit, mind and body at YMCA Camp Thunderbird.

Cabin Assignments

One of the benefits of a camp experience involves meeting and making new friends from different communities, countries, and cultures. We will carefully consider **TWO MUTUAL** friend requests for campers within one year or one grade apart. Camp Thunderbird directors reserve the right to place each camper in the cabin they feel is best. While careful consideration is given to requests, the final decision rests with the directors. Groups of more than four campers, requesting each other, are split into two groups and placed in two different cabins. Campers staying multiple sessions are often moved to a different cabin for their second session due to the likely shift in ages in the cabins. Specific concerns about cabin assignments should be sent to Camp Thunderbird in writing. Parents can also call the Cabin Life Coordinator to discuss special situations at least three weeks before the session begins. Cabin assignments are posted on the camp website www.campthunderbird.org **by 5:00pm on the Monday prior to the start of your session.** You will receive an email with the password to login and check cabin assignments. **Cabin assignments and password will not be given out over the phone for privacy reasons.** Whenever possible, phone calls to families are made when there are last minute changes. Cabin assignments can be double-checked at the front gate upon arrival.

Laundry and Lost and Found

A commercial laundry service is provided for campers during two week sessions. Laundry is sent away from camp on the first Thursday of the session and is returned on Saturday, thereby making it a necessity that campers have a seven-day supply of all laundry items for the session. However, campers may elect to bring sufficient clothing for the entire 13-day session and decline the opportunity to send laundry off camp. It is important to note that all items sent to the laundry must be clearly labeled with the camper's name and will be packaged in a laundry bag to be provided by camp. **Although there is no fee for laundry, most campers will elect not to use the camp laundry service. Laundry service is not available during one week sessions.**

Campers should avoid bringing valuable items to camp, and should label all personal items clearly with first and last names. Attempts will be made to return all lost and found items to the campers. However, this is not possible unless items are clearly labeled. Items not claimed will be held for two weeks before being donated to a local charity. Any items found in advance of the last day of camp will be available for parents to preview on closing day. **An email will be sent to the campers whose names are on their items. Any personal items left at camp will be shipped back to the camper at the expense of the camper's family.**

Footlockers – Luggage

We ask when possible that campers use a footlocker, a plastic container, or large (oversized) duffle bag for packing. These will slide underneath the bunk bed, which is 24 inches off the floor. Place a list in the top of the trunk so that counselors can help campers maintain their possessions. All luggage accompanying campers by plane will be handled and charged according to airline fees. Trunks sent ahead should be shipped FedEx or UPS. Trunks are delivered to cabins prior to the camper's arrival. We recommend ordering return shipment tags ahead to avoid delays in getting trunks home or the camp will ship trunks via FedEx for a charge. All return shipment tags should be given to the counselors upon arrival.

Birthdays

Many campers celebrate their birthday while they are at Thunderbird! On the camper's birthday, they are recognized and sung to in front of the entire camp at either lunch or dinner. Campers are presented a special birthday dessert that is for the entire cabin group.

What to Bring

All items that are brought to camp should be labeled with the camper's full name. It is a great idea to label small things too, like toothpaste and washcloths! Camp provides all necessary equipment for all activities and camp trips with the exception of horseback riding. **CAMPERS TAKING HORSEBACK RIDING MUST BRING THEIR OWN HARD SOLE SHOES WITH A HEEL (or tennis shoes) AND LONG PANTS IN ORDER TO RIDE!** Some campers prefer to bring their own tennis rackets, skis, roller blades, etc., although plenty of excellent equipment is always available! Please remember, Camp Thunderbird is not responsible for personal recreation equipment.

YMCA Camp Thunderbird is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items.

What To Bring To Camp!

Please Note: Cabin Counselors will make every effort to help your camper keep up with their belongings. Please consider this when making decisions of what to pack for camp.

Copy of Health Form	(2) Swimsuits (See Guidelines)	Stationary
(2) Pillow Cases	Sweat Shirt	Sunscreen
(2) Single Sheets	Raincoat	Small Flashlight
(1) Pillow	Shirts	Water bottle
Blanket	Shorts	Long Pants (required for riders)
Bath Towels	Water Shoes	Underclothing
Beach Towels	Tennis Shoes	Shower Caddy
Washcloths	Old Clothes	

Optional Items

T-Shirt and shorts for messy games
Talent Show Items
Personal Equipment for Activities
One Nicer Outfit for Closing Banquet
Book or Magazines
Rainy Day Games, Cards
Small Clip-On Fan (electric) – All cabins are air conditioned except for Cabins 17-22

What NOT To Bring

If any of these items listed below are found, they will be confiscated and returned to the parent/guardian on closing day.

IPods, CD Players, mp3 players	Fireworks
Knives	Firearms
Cash	Candy/Food
Electronic Games	Laptop Computers or any device with web access
Cell Phone	Tobacco Products
Pets	Camper's Vehicles

INAPPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Please examine your camper's selection of clothing which might carry offensive slogans or symbols. In a large camp community, these items can result in discord between campers. Our goal is to create a community where all persons feel welcomed and accepted.

Swimwear Guidelines

Swimwear should provide complete coverage, fasten securely and be designed for active wear. Two piece suits are allowed if they have one tie and are accompanied by another fastener. No triangle bikini tops and bottoms that tie are allowed. If the camper does not come to camp with an appropriate suit, a t-shirt will be required.

Cabins

Each cabin will house eight to fourteen campers plus two to four staff, depending on the cabin size. All cabins are air conditioned except for Cabins 17 – 22. These cabins are open air cabins. You may bring an electrical small clip-on fan.

Food and Candy

Please do not send any food or candy due to squirrels getting into the cabins in search of food. Any food or candy received at camp will be taken. Please remember that campers have access to snacks at the canteen each evening after dinner.

Change-Over Session Weekend

Only campers attending multiple consecutive sessions may choose to participate in specially planned camp programs by registering (on the application or at Check-In on Opening Day) for Change-Over Weekend. The break usually includes trips to restaurants, water activities at camp, movies, and time for relaxing! This small group of campers also has the opportunity to move into their new cabins if they are being reassigned for the upcoming session. Parents who choose to take their campers out of camp for change-over, must pick them up during normal Closing Day pick-up times and drop them back off during the normal camp drop-off. **Due to limited number of staff during these changeovers, participation in any part of the program will result in full billing for the change-over session.**

Transportation and Arrival

YMCA Camp Thunderbird has enclosed a travel worksheet for you to return if your camper plans to arrive by airplane. The Travel Worksheet needs to be returned to camp by **May 1st or no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of your camp session.** Thunderbird staff will meet campers at Charlotte Douglas International Airport in Charlotte, North Carolina or Signature Flight Support in Rock Hill, South Carolina for private airplanes. Campers are also returned to these airports on Closing Day as requested by parents. A Thunderbird staff member and/or airline personnel will stay with the campers until they board their plane. Please plan for your camper to arrive on commercial transportation on Opening Day (Sunday) between 1:00pm and 5:00pm. Commercial Departures should be scheduled for Closing Day (Friday) between 7:00am and 12:00pm. Any arrivals or departures outside of those times will result in an extra fee charged to your account. Campers arriving without their parents will call home to confirm their arrival. Return travel tickets, travel money, and all travel documents will be collected by camp staff for safe keeping in the Thunderbird office. Any travel schedule changes should be directed to the Transportation Coordinator at 704-716-4100.

If your camper is under the age of twelve, a **mandatory Unaccompanied Minor** fee needs to be paid at the time of purchasing the ticket. Your camper WILL NOT be able to board the plane in Charlotte without the Unaccompanied Minor fee paid for in advance. Every airline has a different unaccompanied minor policy, and it is the family's responsibility to check with their airline. Please also include "YMCA Camp Thunderbird Staff Member" on the unaccompanied minor form as to who is picking them up.

Shipping Luggage

Due to limited space on camp vehicles and airport safety regulations, we ask that large pieces of luggage be shipped to and from camp. YMCA Camp Thunderbird is an authorized FedEx shipping location. All luggage shipped from camp will be charged to your credit card, please use the enclosed Luggage Shipment Authorization Form. Be sure that all pre-paid labels are given to the accounting staff in the dining hall on opening day. Any changes in luggage shipping should be directed to the Transportation Coordinator at 704.716.4100.

Directions

YMCA Camp Thunderbird is located just south of Charlotte, North Carolina and is accessible by Interstate 77 or Interstate 85. Camp Thunderbird is approximately six hours from the D.C. area, four hours from Atlanta, and two hours from Greensboro, NC.

FROM NORTH (via I-85 or I-77): Proceed South on I-85 or I-77 to Charlotte, North Carolina. In Charlotte, travel south on I-77 toward Columbia/Rock Hill. Take the Carowinds Blvd. Exit #90, turn right off the ramp onto Carowinds Blvd. (See FROM CAROWINDS below)

From SOUTH (via I-77): Proceed North towards Charlotte on I-77 nine miles past Rock Hill, South Carolina. Take the Carowinds Blvd. Exit #90 and turn left off the ramp towards Carowinds. (See FROM CAROWINDS below)

FROM CAROWINDS: Go through four traffic lights and at the fifth light turn left on Route 49 (Tryon St. South). Continue six miles into South Carolina. After you cross the bridge and enter into South Carolina, turn left at the first stop light onto Heritage Drive. Then take the next left (before the guard gate) onto Thunderbird Lane. Welcome to YMCA Camp Thunderbird!

FROM SOUTH (via I-85): Follow I-85 North towards Charlotte, North Carolina. Take the exit for SC-5, Exit #102 towards Rock Hill. Take a Left on SC-49. Turn Left onto Hands Mill Hwy SC-274, turn slight right onto SC-49. Take a right onto Heritage Drive, take the next left (before the guard gate) onto Thunderbird Lane. Welcome to YMCA Camp Thunderbird!

Recommended nearby Hotels for Parents

The Hilton Garden Inn	704-970-5000	Comfort Inn at Carowinds	803-548-5200
Sheraton at Charlotte Airport	704-392-1200	Sleep Inn at Carowinds	803-547-2300
Double Tree Charlotte Airport	704-357-9100		

Atlanta Transportation Service

YMCA Camp Thunderbird provides bus transportation service to the Perimeter Mall in Atlanta, Georgia. This service is offered for Sessions 2, 3, 4, and 5 on closing Friday. You can register (\$150.00) for this service by calling the camp office at 704-716-4100 or at the accounting table on opening day in the Dining Hall. Arrival at the Perimeter Mall will be between 1pm and 2pm at the **northeast parking lot**. Lunch is provided in route and Camp Staff will accompany the campers for the entire trip. Any travel changes need to be directed to the Transportation Coordinator at 704-716-4100 or email at transportation@campthunderbird.org.

Opening Day – Sunday 1:00pm – 4:00pm – CABINS WILL BE LOCKED UNTIL 1:00PM

Opening Day is an exciting time for everyone! When you arrive, you will be greeted by a staff member at the Thunderbird front gate. There you can re-confirm your cabin number and get directions to your cabin. Please locate the registration tent near your camper's cabin to sign in. Staff is available to help you move into your cabin and your cabin counselor will be waiting in your cabin to meet you and welcome you to camp! After moving into your cabin, please proceed to the Dining Hall where you can meet the Directors, purchase items from the camp store, and more. The nurses will have a table where you need to check-in all medicines including prescription and over the counter medicines. Accounting questions can be asked at the accounting table where you can double-check what has been paid and what extra activities you are signed up for. **Please feed your camper on opening day, as the first meal is not until dinner Sunday night.** By 4:30pm parents should depart and campers will begin their Opening Day activities, which include camp tours, swim evaluations, health screening, cabin photos, dinner, opening campfire and more!

Closing Day – Friday 9:00am – 11:00am

Parents are required to sign out their campers from the cabin on closing day. Parents must give written permission for anyone else to pick up their child. **Photo identification will be required to pick up a camper that is not your child.** Campers leaving by airplane or bus will be signed out by the Thunderbird staff member taking them out of camp. This policy is for the protection of all of our campers. Campers picked up after 11:00am will be subject to a late pick-up fee.

Health Center

Campers who are not feeling well have the opportunity to visit the Health Center after breakfast or after dinner. In the event that a camp doctor is not present in camp, doctors are always on call in Charlotte. The Health Center is staffed and opened 24 hours a day for urgent medical situations. In the event that a camper spends the night in the Health Center or there is a serious situation, parents will be called. Cabin counselors inspect campers daily for cleanliness, cuts, sunburn, insect bites, etc. To ensure good health and ability to enter into normal camp activities, parents must complete the enclosed Health History Form, have the medical doctor complete and sign the Medical Record Form, and return this form to YMCA Camp Thunderbird by **May 1st**. **We will not accept faxes.** The doctor's signature verifies that he/she has examined your child within the past year; substitute forms or incomplete forms are not admissible. Accident insurance is not included in the camp fee. Camp is not responsible for eyeglasses that are lost or broken at camp.

Medications

Campers are required to check-in all medicines (both prescription and over the counter) in the Dining Hall with nurses upon arrival into camp. **No medications are allowed in cabins, with the exception of inhalers for some asthmatics and epi-pens.** Camper medications are dispensed at each meal by registered nurses. South Carolina State Law stipulates that only medications prescribed by your health care provider may be dispensed at camp. This includes, but not limited to, any maintenance medications, behavioral disorder medications, antibiotics, herbal/homeopathic medicines, vitamins, ear/eye drops, inhalers, and epinephrine ("epi") pens. All medicines must be in their **ORIGINAL CONTAINER** noting RX number, camper name, physician name, and dosage. We recommend that you only bring the amount needed for the duration of camp plus 1 extra dose. The Camp Health Center stocks a variety of over the counter medications (OTC); however, if your child requires a specific OTC or vitamin on a daily basis, you must provide the medication in the **original and unopened container and be noted by your physician on the health form as a necessary daily medication.** All unclaimed medications will be thrown away. We will NOT mail home any medications. All prescription medications and/or hospital care during camp will be billed to the "Responsible Party" at the close of the camp session. If you have any questions, email healthcenter@campthunderbird.org

Behavioral Medications

We want your camper to be successful at camp. While we think of camp as being a relaxing and fun time, it is important to remember that campers are learning new skills, having lots of new social interactions, and need to concentrate on instructions from counselors not only in the cabin but during activities as well. In keeping with The American Academy of Pediatrics and The American Camping Association joint policy statement; we are requiring all campers who normally take psychotropic medicines and are in long-term psychotropic therapy to not have elective interruption of their medicines while at camp. ("Med Holiday")

Health Assessments

As an ACA Accredited Camp, we are required to screen all campers for good health prior to admission. We require that no campers come to camp ill or with any contagious condition. Your camper needs to be fever free for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medicine. We reserve the right to send your camper home for illness. If you have any questions regarding the health of your child prior to camp, please feel free to contact the Head Nurse at 803-831-9203 or email healthcenter@campthunderbid.org.

Ear Drops

Otitis Externa or Swimmers Ear is a common condition seen at camp due to the amount of time the campers spend in the water. **In order to decrease the risk of infection camp provides drops daily.** These drops are a mixture of rubbing alcohol and white vinegar. The purpose of the drops is to dry the camper's ear canal and create an uncomfortable environment for bacteria to grow. Please inform the camp if your camper has ear tubes.

Thunder-Wear

The Birds Nest (camp store) is open to Parents and Campers on Opening and Closing Day's. Items include T-shirts, shorts, hats, sweatshirts, water bottles, Crazy Creek chairs, and much more! The Birds Nest is located in the Dining Hall.

First Time Campers – Homesickness

First time campers often experience homesickness. Parents can help the adjustment of their campers by leaving them on a positive note. Make sure to set your camper up for success by letting them know you expect them to have fun. Help them to set some goals for camp; meeting new people, learning something new, etc., before you leave; and be enthusiastic about their time at camp. "Childsick" parents often lead to homesick campers. **It is best not to ever promise a camper they can come home if they do not like camp.** The Thunderbird Staff is well trained to help campers adjust to camp by immediately involving them in goal setting, team building and fun activities. Parental support and encouragement are crucial to the happiness of the child; *Thunderbird has an extremely high success rate of working with campers when parents work with us.* Head Counselors contact parents if a child is homesick to let them know that we are working through the problem. Encouraging comments in letters ("we know you are working hard to have fun," "it is OK to miss home but we want you to have fun," "we look forward to hearing about your achievements," "have fun at camp because you are not missing out on anything here") are also helpful in the process. Though homesickness is common in first-time campers, it is usually short-lived due to all the fun people and dynamic activities at Thunderbird!

Visitation and Phone Calls

Visitation for parents with campers attending **multiple consecutive sessions** is scheduled **between change-over weekends**. For campers attending only one session, there is NO visitation but letters and emails are welcomed and encouraged! Parents are also invited to inspect the facilities and meet the staff on Opening and Closing days. Due to the volume of campers, Thunderbird does not permit campers to make or receive phone calls. Especially when campers are homesick, we have found that calls from home prolong the camper's adjustment to camp life. If an emergency situation arises at home we ask that parents contact one of the camp directors. Directors will gladly assist you and your camper in every situation.

Camper Mail and Email

We encourage families and friends to write to their camper. We ask that every mailed item be labeled with the **camper's name and cabin number**. During two-week sessions, campers are asked weekly to write home and are provided a stamped post card. Also, during two-week sessions, counselors write a letter to each camper's parents regarding their child's experience; usually this letter arrives home during the second week of camp. Campers can also receive email at campers@campthunderbird.org. **Please put the camper's name and cabin number on the subject line.** Camp Thunderbird email is complimentary and is printed once daily then delivered with the regular mail, usually at lunch time. All major package delivery companies (UPS, FedEx) service Thunderbird. Packages are delivered each day. We ask that packages not contain food. Information about companies that provide pre-made care packages for all ages can be found at www.campthunderbird.org.

Refund Policy

All balances for all sessions must be paid by May 1, 2012. A deposit refund of \$50 per session will be made if camp is notified in writing of cancellation prior to December 31, 2011. Cancellation after January 1, 2012 you forfeit the full deposit per session that you cancel. All changes and cancellations must be made **IN WRITING** either through US Mail, Fax, 980-235-7025 Attn: Resident Camp Registrar, or Email: campthunderbirdregistrar@ymcacharlotte.org. **"Responsible Party" will be accountable for the balance of their session if they do not follow the cancellation timeline stated above.** If the camper suffers an illness or injury, a signed letter on physician letterhead from a medical doctor will warrant a full refund up until the camper begins.

Camp Canteen

The camp canteen is open each evening for campers. Soft drinks, healthy snack choices, bottled water, chips, pretzels and candy are options for campers. Choices are limited to one drink and one snack per visit. Cost for this is included in your camp fees. Your camper does **NOT** need to bring any extra money for canteen.

Discipline

Camp rules are designed to enhance the happiness and safety of all campers. Head Counselors will contact parents to let them know if there is an on-going behavior problem. Campers who do not demonstrate appropriate behavior, in the judgment of the directors, will be sent home from camp. **Early dismissal from camp will not warrant the refund of fees.**

Meals

Appealing and nutritious meals are prepared under the careful supervision of our trained dietary staff and satisfy the hearty appetites of campers and staff. Fresh fruit, cereal, hot breakfasts and vegetables are offered every day. A salad bar is available to accommodate most lunches and dinners. Soup bar, potato bar, pasta bar and fruit bar are camper favorites. At mealtime, as well as with all other camper activities, mature and knowledgeable counselors gently guide campers toward healthy and appropriate choices. Vegetarian options are always available. Other special dietary needs should be indicated on the Camper Confidential form. Thunderbird maintains a Grade "A" rating from the South Carolina Board of Health and a registered dietician approves all camp meals. **Any food allergies and/or diet concerns email our food service director at café@campthunderbird.org. We strongly discourage families from sending pizza to their campers. Pizza deliveries disrupt the camp environment and introduce visitors (delivery person) to camp.**

Special Ski and Horseback Riding

These two specialized programs provide an excellent opportunity for campers of all skill levels to participate at a more intense level. Both fill quickly and require extra fees to participate.

Special Ski: Skiers do not need extra equipment but often choose to bring a personal ski or wakeboard. Special Ski takes the place of three land activities. Skiers participate in competition level ski boats and visit more secluded coves for individual instruction. Two week campers typically have five skiers in a boat for a three hour instruction session with one counselor four times per session. One week campers have two three hour sessions. Campers who do not take special ski still have the opportunity to ski every other day for one hour and fifteen minutes, in the regular program.

Horseback Riding: Riders need to bring long pants and hard soled, heeled shoes for riding (or tennis shoes). Horseback Riding takes the place of two land activities. Two week session campers will ride four times and one week campers will ride two times. Each riding session is two hours. Instructors evaluate riders initially and work with similar level riders in one of the three Camp Thunderbird riding rings. English style riding is taught.

Daily Schedule

Campers have an "A" schedule and a "B" schedule. The schedules alternate so that they are able to get to all of their activities four times for a two week session and twice during a one week session. Activities are sometimes preempted by inclement weather or out of camp trips. **There are three free days in each two week session for campers to participate in activities they particularly like or those they did not choose.** Campers are able to choose ten land activities they would like. Out of those ten activities, they will be assigned six as part of their "A" day and "B" day schedule. **Land activity request forms should be turned in to the camp office by May 1st.**

Note: On "A" days, campers will have half of their land and water activities, and on "B" days they have the other half of their land and water activities. However, campers do swim every day. Campers will spend half of their day at their water activities with their cabin, and the other half at their scheduled land activities. Campers will find out their land activities at opening campfire on Sunday night. At their scheduled activities and on free days, campers are able to work on cards for their bandanas. On free days, they are able to go to any activity that is open that they especially enjoy, or attend activities that they are not regularly scheduled for.

Typical Two Week Session

Sunday – Campers Arrive!
Monday – “A” Day
Tuesday - “B” Day
Wednesday – “A” Day
Thursday – “B” Day
Friday – “A” Day
Saturday – FREE DAY
Sunday – FREE DAY
Monday – “B” Day
Tuesday – “A” Day
Wednesday – “B” Day
Thursday – FREE DAY
Friday – Campers Go Home

Typical One Week Session

Sunday – Campers Arrive!
Monday – “A” Day
Tuesday – “B” Day
Wednesday – “A” Day
Thursday – “B” Day
Friday – Campers Go Home

Typical Daily Schedule

7:30 Reveille, Rise and Shine! Cabin clean up, prepare for breakfast
8:20 Camp-wide headcount, flag raising and blessing
8:30 Breakfast is served!
9:15 **Morning Activities**
Younger camp attends three water activities as a cabin group
Older camp has three of their scheduled one hour land activities
12:15 Return to cabins and prepare for lunch
12:40 Camp-wide headcount and blessing, Lunch is served!
1:15 Return to cabins for rest period – Campers can read, write letters, etc.
2:30 **Afternoon Activities**
Older camp attends three water activities as a cabin group
Younger camp has three of their scheduled one hour land activities
5:30 Return to cabins and prepare for dinner
5:55 Camp-wide headcount, flag lowering and blessing
6:00 Dinner is served!
6:45 Supervised free time for campers
Canteen is open for snacks
7:45 Meet at the amphitheater for camp-wide headcount
8:00 Evening Program begins
9:30 Return to cabins and prepare for bed, showers and nightly cabin devotions
10:15 Taps and Lights Out

Bandanas

Bandanas are a special tradition at Camp Thunderbird! The bandana system was developed to reward campers for hard work as well as goal setting in all of the various activities. Each activity has four levels in place that campers can strive for. When beginner level requirements are met at an activity, the camper is rewarded a red card. Intermediate level rates a blue card, advanced level accomplishments receive a silver card and the gold card is for passing expert level requirements. Cards are available at most land and water activities. Points are given for every card (red=1, blue=2, silver=3, and gold=4). Camper's points are kept on record year after year so that they can return to camp and resume their progress. The bandanas are awarded on the final night of camp at a traditional camp wide bandana ceremony. It often takes a camper more than one summer to complete a bandana other than the red bandana. In order to be eligible for any bandana, campers must show good citizenship in their activities and in their cabin by demonstrating caring, honesty, respect, faith and responsibility. Gold bandana and Double Gold recipients are recognized (name and year) on a large plaque board that hangs in the Thunderbird Dining Hall.

Red Bandana = 12 points

Blue Bandana = 36 points

Silver Bandana = 72 points

Gold Bandana = 120 points

Double Gold Bandana = 240 points

Out of Camp Trips

Full day trips include, White Water Adventure, White Water Kayak, Caving, Rock Climbing, Carowinds, NASCAR Experience, and NASCAR Ride Along. Half day trips include Golf and Tennis Clinics. These trips take place close to Thunderbird and campers usually arrive back at Camp in time for dinner and evening activities. White water rafting and kayak requires the campers to bring **water shoes with straps (no flip flops)**. **Caving requires long pants and closed-toed shoes** due to the nature of the activity. No trips will be added and/or dropped without verbal permission from parents. Thunderbird trips take time out of the campers regularly scheduled activities and may preempt special activities such as horseback riding and special ski. A minimal number of trips are recommended for first time campers in order to help them fully experience camp. Carowinds, NASCAR Experience, Golf Clinic and Tennis Clinic are opened to all age groups. Campers must be 10 years of age for Rock Climbing, Caving and White Water Kayak. White Water Adventure is open to campers ages 11 and older. **A waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian for White Water Adventure and White Water Kayak.** NASCAR Ride Along is open for campers ages 14 and up.

For General Questions please call the office at 704-716-4100 or 800-732-3855

We look forward to seeing you at Thunderbird this Summer!