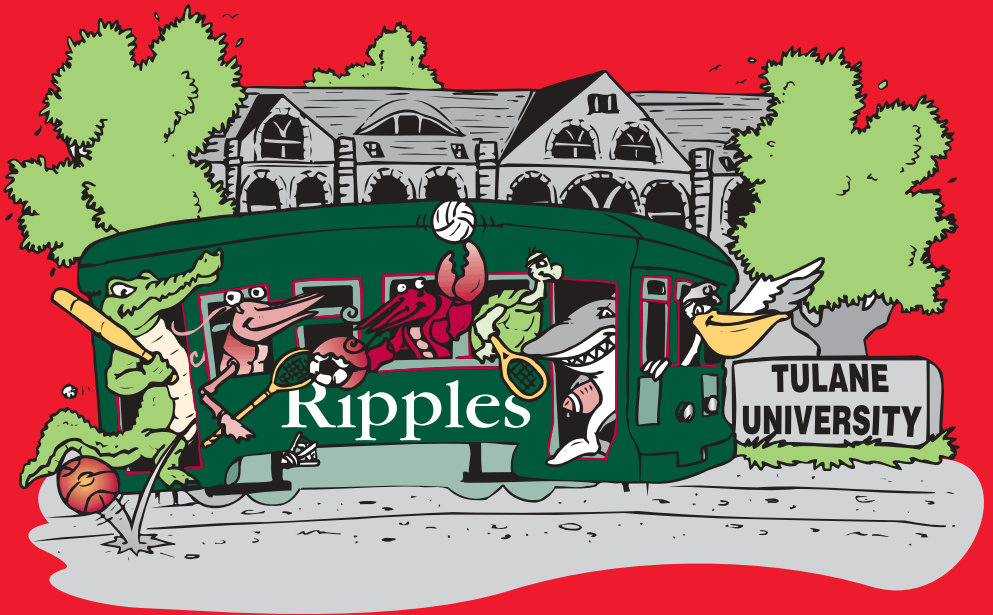


# Tulane University

Department of Campus Recreation



# Ripples

Parents Handbook



# RIPPLES

## **Philosophy**

Ripples is a nationally acclaimed summer day camp experience for children and young adults ages 5-14. Tulane University's Department of Campus Recreation is pleased that Ripples Summer Day Camp is one of the few American Camping Association accredited camps in the country. Our camp staff of caring educators and counselors creates a family atmosphere where each child is valued as an individual. Children learn to respect each others' differences and to appreciate one another's feelings. Camp encourages growth through creative exploration, movement, and play. The Department of Campus Recreation strives to provide opportunities to achieve success, build confidence, and develop positive self-esteem through a variety of recreational and multi-cultural experiences.

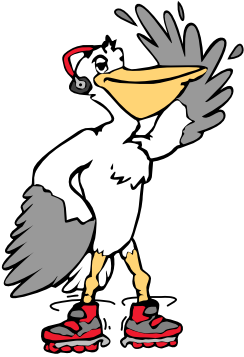
## **Camp Registration**

Priority registration is conducted in March and is offered to all returning Ripples campers and children of Tulane University faculty/staff, alumni and Tulane students. Open registration is conducted in April at the Reily Center Membership Office, provided space is available. All forms must be completed in full for a child to be considered registered. Specific questions regarding camp programming, policies or procedures should be directed to the Camp Director at 865-5431.

# Parent's Guide to Summer Camp

## Absences and Late Arrivals

Attendance is taken each morning. If you know that your child will not be attending camp on a particular day we ask that you please notify us either in writing or by phone. We would also like to be notified at the Ripples camp office (865-5431) no later than 9 a.m., if your child will be absent or late. After roll call those children which are absent without notification will have absences verified by a member of the camp staff.



## Beating the Summer Heat

New Orleans is known for its hot, humid summers. Your child will swim daily at the Reily Center to help combat the heat. Please pack his or her swimsuit, a plastic bag to help contain wet garments and a towel. It is advisable to label these items with your child's name. Our Ripples campers are on the go all day. The camp staff will make sure that your child is properly hydrated. Water is available at all times.

## Check-in and Check-out

Camp hours are 9:00am-4:00pm daily. Campers should be dropped off in front of the Reily Center where a camp staff member will escort your child to the Uptown Gym. Please form a line closest to the Reily Center so that other cars may pass. We are asking all parents to drop off and pick up from McAlister Extension and exit campus by making a right on to Ben Weiner Drive. With multiple camps in session on campus this will ensure the smoothest traffic flow. For those parents utilizing Before Camp or After Camp Care we ask that you park your



car and escort your child into and out of the building. Parking is available behind the Reily Center or in the Diboll Garage. If you arrive late it is your responsibility to escort your child into the building. Evening check out is in the same location. Parents are asked to wait until all announcements have been made prior to dismissal. **Please note:** The Diboll Parking Garage and Reily metered spaces are controlled by the Traffic Office and therefore all parking rules and regulations will be enforced. Please be sure to park legally as we cannot be held responsible for any traffic ticket you may receive.



## Discipline

Ripples provides a fun, relaxed and happy environment for your child. Our camp experience is structured and it is important that we maintain control through appropriate rules and regulations. Your children will be informed of our camp expectations and the manners they will need to form new relationships. We recognize that there may be instances where every little angel requires a halo adjustment. We are committed to quickly resolving any conflicts that may arise. On occasion a “time out” may be necessary to give a child the opportunity to regroup. Persistent negative behavior may result in a child being removed from an activity. Parents will be notified immediately of any persistent attitude and/or behavioral problem by the Camp Director. Continued problems may require a conference with the Camp Director. In rare instances dismissal may be necessary.

## Emergencies

All members of the camp staff are certified in CPR and Standard First Aid procedures. In case of an emergency or accident involving your child, you will be notified immediately by a camp administrator. We request that you complete the medical form at the time of registration with any information we may need in case of an emergency. Please notify us if there are any changes or additions to this information. If you have an emergency and need to get in touch with your child, call the Membership Office at 865-5431.

## Facilities and Field Trips

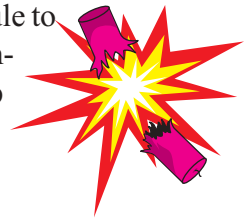
Your child's day will begin and end at the Reily Center. Daily activities will take place at various locations both on and off campus. Our facilities are the very best and will add to your child's camping experience. Field trips and special events will take place during camp hours. You will be given the necessary information in advance of each scheduled field trip. We ask that your child wear the Ripples t-shirt on all field trips as an extra measure of recognition. Some field trips may include extended periods in the sun. It is advisable that on these days your child wear a hat or visor and be properly coated with sunscreen. We are happy to reapply sunscreen if it is sent with your child.

## Guide

The "Parent's Guide to Summer Camp" is meant to answer the most common questions we receive from you, the parent. It also provides important information regarding camp policy and procedure. We hope you find it beneficial.

## Holiday

During the second session of camp we will encounter the 4th of July holiday. Please refer to your Ripples weekly schedule to see when the holiday is observed. In order to accommodate planned family activities, this particular camp session will be abbreviated.



## Illness

Occasionally, your child may suffer from a virus, cold, or flu. If your child has been feeling under the weather prior to camp or on the weekend, please complete a Camp Communication Sheet so that we are aware of your child's level of discomfort. Should your child become ill while at camp, you will be notified immediately.

## Junk Food

Your child will be participating in activities at several campus locations each day. The majority of these places are equipped with vending machines. It is camp policy that these machines not be used during camp hours. At the end of the day, when accompanied by you or a counselor, the Reily Juice Bar is available for patronage and serves a variety of

nutritious foods. Afternoon extended care will normally make a “*snack run*” with those campers who desire one, to the Reily Juice Bar.



## **Keepsake**

A “*keepsake*” is anything given or kept that is a token of remembrance. All campers will receive a camp t-shirt, shorts or other commemorative items as a keepsake for attending camp. T-shirts will be distributed on the first day of each session to all new campers.

## **Lunches**

Lunch is an important occasion at camp and occurs around noon each day. Lunch is a time for campers and counselors alike to relax and re-energize their bodies and minds for the afternoon activities. We are sorry that we cannot accommodate special menu requests, although a simple vegetarian alternative is always available. If your child is lactose intolerant, diabetic or suffers from food allergies please be sure that information is duly noted on his or her medical information sheet.

## **Merchandise**

The custom designed Ripples t-shirt is always popular with campers, sibs and parents. We will make every effort to keep an adequate inventory on hand so that we may fill your requests to purchase extra.

## **Notes-Special Arrangements**

Special arrangements for your child to arrive late or leave early can easily be accommodated if advance notice is given. This notice should be given in writing to the Camp Director or your camper’s counselor at check-in or check-out. Please keep in mind that when there is an all-camp activity off

campus, an early departure or late arrival may not be possible. Arrangements may also be made to have a friend pick up your child, but we must receive a written statement of permission from you and proof of identification **must** be presented.

## Orientation

Parent orientation is a valuable part of the Ripples camp program. This orientation allows for a detailed explanation of camp policies and procedures. During orientation, you will learn about the philosophy and goals of our camp and will be able to ask questions and address any concerns that you may have. Orientation dates and times will be given to you at registration or mailed to your home.

## Payments

Payments are to be made in full to the Membership Office at the time of registration. Please assist us by meeting your financial obligations in a timely manner. Failure to meet financial obligations may result in the forfeiture of your child's place to a camper on our waiting list.

## Questions

The camp office is located on the third level of the Reily Student Recreation Center. You may call us at any time with any concerns you may have. Please call 865-5431. If camp is in progress, it may be difficult for us to answer your call. Therefore, please be sure to leave your name, number and a brief message.

## Rainy Days

On inclement weather days, all camp activities will be moved indoors. We watch the weather very closely and each staff member is prepared to move the children quickly to a safe area on campus in the event of a sudden storm. In rare cases of a weather emergency, we will inform the local media of any cancellations of our camp program.



## Snacks

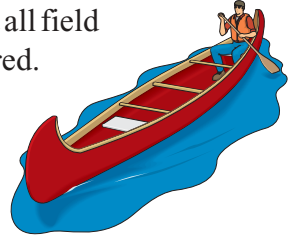
Please help us to make sure that your child has the energy he or she needs to enjoy camp, by providing your camper with a substantial breakfast. It

is also an assist to us if you instill the need and value of eating a good lunch. We have found that most children need and enjoy a mid afternoon snack. We will provide a fresh fruit snack for each child every afternoon. We may also serve popsicles or snowballs from time to time.

## **Transportation**

Off-campus trips will require your child to be transported by bus to the destination. All transportation is provided by licensed and insured drivers. You will be informed about all field trips and a parental consent form will be required.

Campers will be accompanied by counselors and members of the camp administration on all outings. All campers are required to wear their camp t-shirts for off-campus outings.



## **Uniforms**

Campers should come to camp dressed for a full day of fun and games. We recommend play clothes, preferably Ripples shirts and shorts, and a pair of tennis shoes. No sandals or dark soled shoes will be permitted in the gymnasium or court areas. Please label your child's personal belongings and send them in either a gym bag or backpack. Swimsuits and towel are needed daily. We seem to accumulate a great deal of lost and found items. It is advisable that you survey what your child brings to camp in the morning so that you are aware of what should be coming home at day's end. We want all campers to wear their camp t-shirt on field trips for safety's sake. We will remind you of this prior to each trip.

## **Valuables**

Your child's day at camp will be filled with a variety of both active and passive activities. We request that your child not bring any sentimental or monetary valuables to camp. This would include baseball cards, video games, personal stereos and toys. Your camp fee includes all field trips so additional spending money is not necessary, and in fact, it is discouraged.

## Weekly Information

Each Monday, your child will be informed in writing of the weekly activities and special events. (Special emphasis on sports, arts and crafts projects, theme days and other pertinent information will be given at this time.) We hope that your child will share this information with you and that it will stimulate conversation between you and your child about his or her day.

## Extended Programs

Before and After Care programs are available on a per session basis. Before Care allows for early drop-off from 7:30am-9:00am while after care provides for late pick-up, from 4:00pm-5:30pm. There is an additional fee for extended care of \$150 per session. Please note: neither Before nor After Care is available on a drop-in basis. You must register for these in advance. Before and After Care programs are properly supervised by camp staff and offer both structured and unstructured play. We ask for your cooperation and support in picking your children up on time. Failure to comply with this request may result in the loss of this service.

## You

At Ripples, we attempt to make you an integral part of our camp program by working extremely hard to partner with our camper's families. Though we realize that we could never replace you, we do strive to provide your child with experiences and life skills for them to share with you at home. You are very important to us and we want you to be as informed as possible regarding all aspects of camp. You are welcome at camp at any time to share in your child's experience. We are also open to any comments you may have. Please use the provided Camp Communication Sheets to express any suggestions, concerns, or to relay any new information. Any and all concerns will be addressed and responded to. For weekly schedules, monthly calendars, menus, newsletters or any additional form or information, please visit the Reily Student Recreation Center's web-site, [www.reilycenter.com](http://www.reilycenter.com) or [campusrec.tulane.edu/ripples](http://campusrec.tulane.edu/ripples).

## ZZZ's

Sleep is a necessary ingredient for your child if he or she is to participate fully in the daily activities of camp. Activities are spaced out during the day, allowing for rest periods, low activity periods and high activity games. Without a good night's rest, such an energetic schedule can be difficult for your child.



# Tulane

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