



What to expect

Attending summer camp is a very exciting experience for both campers and parents! It is very natural for both to be a bit anxious and nervous about the camper leaving the comforts of home, adopting new routines of daily activities, and meeting new friends. We want to familiarize you and your camper(s) with our procedures, policies and philosophies. We want to take time to explain this and share information with you.

Goals of Wabanna

We at Wabanna have three simple goals for every camper that comes to camp. These goals are:

1. Learn more about God.
2. Have fun.
3. Make a new friend.

Staffing

Camp Wabanna recruits highly skilled individuals whose warmth, maturity and compassion will add to your camper's experience. Our diverse summer staff consists of counselors from many different states. All camp staff members go through an extensive screening process including interviews, multiple character references, fingerprinting, CPS and FBI checks. Our staff also go through an intensive training before campers arrive at camp.

Fees

All fees are payable as follows: Non-refundable deposit of \$150 and the \$30 snack shop fee per camper per week is due at time of registrations that occur before May 1st. The balance of all camp fees and snack shop fees are due by May 1st. Failure to make full payment by May 1st will result in the loss of camp session(s). Any registrations that occur on or after May 1st will require full payment.

Forms to be completed

The following items **MUST** be completed two weeks before your camper attends camp. Forms 2-6 are online forms located on the camper dashboard under the "Forms" box. Form 7 is a printed form that is located in the "Forms" box under the "Download Forms" tab.

1. A recent photo of your camper can be uploaded through Campwise.
2. Allergies Form
3. Camper Medical Information Form
4. Summer Camper Waiver
5. Over the Counter Medications
6. Camper Pick Up Authorization Form (this only needs to be filled out if anyone other than the listed 2 Guardians will be picking up. Please note: Everyone picking up will need to show their photo ID to our staff at pick up.
7. Medication Authorization Form signed by the camper's doctor. (You only need this form if you are bringing any medications whether prescription or over the counter, vitamins, supplements, epi pens, inhalers, or anything that will be administered by our nurse). You will include this form in a gallon zip lock bag with the medication to be given to the nurse at check in Sunday evening.

Changing your camp session

Should it be necessary for you to change your camper's session, you must submit the request by email to Wabanna by June 1st. Switching weeks after June 1st will incur a \$25 processing fee. Changing weeks is subject to availability.

Cancelling your camp session

Cancellations must be made in writing by email to Wabanna. Cancellations before June 1st will result in the loss of the non-refundable deposit of \$150. Any portion of the balance paid, less \$150, will be refunded. After June 1st, there are no refunds for cancellation for any reason. You may also see this policy in our Summer Camp Waiver that was signed at registration.



Snack Shop/Gift Shop

The snack shop offers many snacks and drinks. Campers have a chance to visit the snack shop twice a day and items purchased will be deducted from their snack shop account. A minimum of \$30 will need to be added to the camper's snack shop account. The goal is to end with \$0 at the end of the week. The snack shop fee will display as a red or green negative (\$30.00) or (\$30.00) on their dashboard. You will see this balance go down each time an item is purchased. You will also get an invoice at the end of each day during their week at camp showing what their balance is. Campers are unable to spend more than what is in the account. They are also unable to withdraw cash from this account. The gift shop has apparel and souvenirs and will be open for campers to purchase items on Thursday evening. It will also be open during check-in on Sunday and pick-up on Friday. If a camper is signed up for future sessions, any money left in their account will roll over in to the next session. Any remaining money at the end of a camper's final session is donated to our Financial Assistance Fund. This fund enables more children to attend Camp Wabanna through financial assistance.

Clothing

Please send appropriate clothing for your camper, taking into consideration the weather forecast and camp activities. We encourage you to send old clothing to camp as your camper will be in a natural environment, playing sports, and participating in outdoor activities. While packing, please review the list of things you are sending to camp with your camper so they know what clothing and personal items are theirs. It is also helpful to have their name on all items in case they are lost or misplaced, so we are able to return them promptly. NOTE: Laundry services are not available for our campers. Please pack enough clothing for you camper's entire stay at camp.

What not to bring

Camp is a natural setting to retreat from electronic technology and to get more in touch with God's creation and people. Electronic games, cell phones, iPad/tablets, smart watches and other electronic devices do not fit into this setting. As our society becomes increasingly more dependent on cell phones, and with the growing abilities of today's cell phones, we ask that campers do not bring them to camp. Cell phones brought to camp will be confiscated and stored with our management staff. Wabanna is not responsible for lost or damaged items. It goes without saying...but we have to say it, please leave firearms, weapons, matches, lighters, knives, tobacco products, illegal drugs, and money at home. Camp does not allow pets so please leave your pets at home or in your vehicle when dropping off and picking up your camper(s).

Specific personal needs

If your camper has any special needs or requests, please let us know. The Summer Camp Director and the Head Counselors are great resources for any concerns that you may have. Please be thorough and honest when filling out the camp forms so our staff can be prepared for the arrival of your camper.

Homesickness

"Homesickness is, above all, a normal feeling. It is the natural result of separating from home and loved ones. Almost all children (and adults!) feel homesick when they're away from home. People's feeling simply vary in intensity." (ACA Website) Our staff makes a concerted effort to help campers overcome homesickness by helping them learn to accept the natural feeling of missing family and friends. This is an opportunity to help campers grow, and we train our staff to handle homesickness in constructive ways. With proper handling by staff, campers and parents, it can be overcome, and the camper can make a big stride in growing up. Here are some things that you can do to lessen homesickness:

- Keep frequent letters or emails cheery and newsy in such a way that they will not make you camper feel homesick. You can even mail a letter to your camper on the Thursday before they arrive so they receive mail in the first few days of camp. Do not say you cannot get along without them.
- Try to have your camper do an overnight stay at a friend's house before coming to camp.
- Pack a personal item from home.
- Help your camper think of things that they can do to cope with feelings of homesickness.

Going to camp fosters confidence and independence, and can be an important developmental milestone.



Bedwetting

Our staff is trained to handle bedwetting discreetly, working with your child one-on-one. Please notify Wabanna in advance if your camper is prone to bedwetting. Campers should be instructed to ask their counselors for help, and every effort will be made to prevent accidents. Any bedding, wet or soiled due to bedwetting, will be laundered and returned discretely to the camper before bedtime.

While at Camp

Check-In

Check-in will be on Sunday from 6:30 pm-6:55 pm. Front gates open at 6:30 pm. NOTE: Please do not plan on arriving to camp before 6:30 pm. The camp staff will be making final preparations and our gates will not open until 6:30 pm. ALSO NOTE: **We do not serve dinner on Sunday night so campers should eat dinner before they check-in.**

Before you Check-In

If you have pre-ordered items from our gift shop you should pick up your items at the gift shop, located in the pavilion. Please do this before you sign in your camper at their dorm. Once you sign in your camper they are required to stay with their counselors.

Medications

Please do not pack medication in your camper's luggage. All medication whether prescription or over the counter, vitamins, supplements, ointments, sleep aids, EpiPen, or inhalers must be:

1. In the original container or packaging and turned in and dispensed by our nurse as required by Maryland State Law.
2. Accompanied by a "Medication Authorization Form" that has been **signed by their doctor**. This includes over the counter medication, vitamins, supplements, sleep aids, ointments, EpiPen and inhalers. Camp Wabanna may not administer anything without this signed form.
3. In a gallon size zip lock bag.

Our Health Room is staffed by a 24-hour on-site nurse who is on call at all times. All of our staff are trained in emergency procedures and certified in First Aid and CPR.

Wabanna stocks most over the counter medications needed at camp (you can find a list of these medications on your camper dashboard online) so it is not necessary to bring these items. You may call us at any time to see if we keep a particular medication in stock. It is Wabanna policy that the Nurse Station keeps a camper's inhaler or EpiPen during camp. They can be obtained at a moment's notice. However, if a parent requests in writing that an inhaler or EpiPen be kept by the camper, we will honor that request provided the camper can demonstrate proper responsibility for the use and possession of it. Any misuse or misplacement of the inhaler or EpiPen during the camp session will be cause for the inhaler to be kept at the Nurse Station. Please be sure to pick up any medication from our staff at the end of your camper's stay. Any left or forgotten medication will be stored at Wabanna for one week. If the medication has not been claimed by August 6th the unclaimed medication will be disposed of.

Sign in at the Dorm

After you have picked up any pre-ordered items and checked in with the nurse:

1. Proceed to your camper's assigned Dorm.
2. Sign in at the check-in table.
3. Help your camper with their bedding and unpacking.
5. Sign in with your camper's counselor. (Once you sign in your camper they are required to stay with their counselor.)
6. Please be prepared to exit the dorms by 6:55 pm. Campers have a mandatory fire drill at 7:00pm.



We will be offering an optional parent orientation at the picnic table grove at 7:00pm with our Executive Director, Neal Luebbbers.

Cabin Assignments

Campers live in separate boy or girl lodging groups with their counselors. Junior campers ages 7-11 are housed 10 to a room in The West. Boys are on the top floor and girls are on the first floor. Senior girl campers ages 12-16 are housed 3-4 to a room in the Owen Farmhouse. Senior boy campers ages 12-16 are housed 8-9 to a room in The Rhode. One counselor is assigned to every eight to ten campers. All cabins have modern accommodations. We allow for two cabin requests per camper as long as they are the same gender, within 12 months in age (unless ages 11 & 12, see above for the program ages. In some cases, we are able to move an 11-year-old up to be with a 12-year-old you will need to contact our office at the time of registration). You can make a request from your campers' dashboard by scrolling all the way to the bottom right-hand "Optional Items" box on the "Cabin Mate" tab up until a week before your campers' session begins. We will do our best to honor requests, however, requests cannot be guaranteed. If a request cannot be made, please note that one of the goals of camp is to make a new friend.

Swimming

To demonstrate their swimming ability, all campers have the option to take a swim evaluation test. The test is given on their first swim on Monday of their session. They must be able to swim a total of 20 meters, the distance to swim across our pool and back again, without touching the bottom and be able to tread water for one minute. This helps the staff establish the safest areas in which campers may swim. All campers who pass the evaluation will receive our swim band allowing them to swim in our 5 ft swim area along with being able to jump off the diving board in our diving well. Campers who do not pass will be able to play in the large 3 ft section of the pool which includes many pool toys and pool basketball.

Waterfront

Wabanna is blessed to be located on the Chesapeake Bay along the Rhode River. We keep our campers safe by requiring them to wear a life vest when participating in waterfront activities. This includes fishing, crabbing, or any activity from our pier or at our waterfront. As with all brackish waterways along the Bay, native plants and animals can be found in the water along our coast, including sea nettles (jellyfish). The population of sea nettles varies not only from summer to summer, but from week to week and day to day. The sea nettles found in our waters are nonthreatening, but will sting. Stings are nonlethal and are easily treated by our staff.

Mail

When addressing a letter to camp, please address the letter as follows:

Camper Name (i.e. John Smith)
Camp Session & Program (i.e. Week 2 Senior Girl or Week 4 Junior Boy)
101 Likes Road
Edgewater, MD 21037

You may send care packages with snacks as long as they are individually packaged and contain no nuts. You may want to contact our office before hand to inquire about your camper's cabin's allergies.

Email

Campwise offers free one-way communication Sunday through Friday (campers are not able to return emails). To email your camper from their dashboard go to the bottom left corner under "One-way communication (Camper Emails)". Email submission cut off time is 10:30 am. Emails submitted after the cut off time will be delivered the next day.

Shared Responsibilities

Personal responsibility and group cooperation are important elements of the camp experience. Mature, caring counselors work with campers on the importance of caring for one's personal area and belongings, assisting in daily cabin clean up and pitching in on general camp tasks. We strive to imprint these characteristics on each camper so they will carry over this responsibility to home and school.



Visitors and Telephone Calls

At Wabanna, we strive for campers to develop independence. An integral part of the growing process is the extended experience away from home. In keeping with this, we do not permit phone calls and visits to camp unless there is a family emergency. Please do not ask your camper to call home. There are no public phones available for campers to call home. Parents will be contacted in the case of an emergency or illness.

Discipline

In the event that the need arises for discipline while at camp, Wabanna uses a 3-strike system. The rules of conduct are introduced to each camper upon arrival. The emphasis of behavior expectation at camp is RESPECT. Strikes are given in the event that a camper continues disrespectful behavior after being counseled to change behavior. The first strike is given by the counselor in writing. The second strike is given by the counselor and head counselor and the parent/guardian will be called. A third strike may only be issued by the summer director and results in the camper being sent home.

No Refunds

In the "Summer Camper Waiver" you have agreed and understand that in case of dismissal, illness, homesickness, or voluntary withdrawal from camp, there will be no refund of camp fees. If a departure need arises, parents will be notified. Upon notification, the parent will be allowed a maximum time of four hours to pick their child up from camp. There will be no refund for no-shows or cancellations made after June 1st. Wabanna reserves the right to refuse any applicant and to cancel any reservation.

After Camp

Check-Out

For each session, check-out is Friday at 7:00 pm (there is a late pick up charge of one dollar per minute after 7:30 pm). The gate will be closed until 7:00 pm. Campers will be in the field adjacent to the parking lot with their luggage.

PLEASE SIGN OUT YOUR CAMPER WITH THEIR COUNSELOR! Bring your photo ID.

Early Departures

We have a very busy schedule and we don't want campers to miss out on activities, so early departures are discouraged. We know that sometimes it is unavoidable and so we must have it in writing by email or you can fill out an early departure form at the check-in table on Sunday.

Pick-up Authorization

No camper will be released to anyone not listed on their sign-in sheet as the pick-up person, or anyone who does not present their photo ID, including a parent. All campers must be signed out with our staff. If you know that there will be someone picking up your child not listed as the authorized pick up person, please inform the office before check-out day.

Lost and Found

We will make every effort to return lost and found items while your camper is at camp, but you and your camper can do more than anyone to ensure that nothing is lost. Please mark all items with your camper's name using permanent marker or a label for easy identification. Lost and found during the session is located at the pool. During check-out, lost and found items can be found in the field adjacent to the parking lot. Please check this area before you leave to ensure that you have all of your camper's possessions. If upon arrival home you find that you are missing something, please call or email Wabanna and we will try to locate the lost item. Any unclaimed items are stored until the last week of camp and then donated to charity.



WABANNA OVERNIGHT CAMP
Suggested Clothing and Equipment List

(All items should be labeled with your camper's name)

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|---|--|
| ___ Bible | ___ Sleeping bag or a blanket and sheets for a twin bed |
| ___ Small bag or backpack | ___ Pillow with pillow case |
| ___ Raincoat or Poncho | ___ 1 Light jacket or sweatshirt |
| ___ 2 Towels for swimming and the bay | ___ 2-3 Bathing suits |
| ___ 2 Towels for bathing/showering | ___ Shower caddy/toiletries bag (shampoo, conditioner, soap, loofah, etc.) |
| ___ Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, lotions, etc.) | ___ 5 pair of underwear |
| ___ 5 T-shirts or short sleeve shirts | ___ 5 Pairs of shorts |
| ___ 1 Comb or brush | ___ 2 Pajamas |
| ___ 1 Pair of long pants | ___ Sunscreen (waterproof) |
| ___ Water shoes/Keens or flip flops | ___ Baseball hat or sun hat |
| ___ 1 Pair of tennis shoes or sneakers & a few pairs of socks (many activities require closed-toed shoes) | |
| ___ Insect repellent | ___ 1 Flashlight and batteries |
| ___ Water Bottle | ___ Laundry Bag for dirty clothes |

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ___ Sunglasses | ___ Pre-addressed stamped postcards or envelopes to write home. |
| ___ Fishing or recreational equipment | ___ Small Fan (note all dorms have AC and Ceiling fans) |
| ___ Pen or pencils | ___ Disposable waterproof camera |

We recommend packing everything in a wheeled suitcase.

For our younger campers, some parents like to put each day's outfits in a gallon zip lock bag labeled for each day to make it easier for them.

PLEASE – CELL PHONES ARE NOT TO BE BROUGHT TO CAMP.

Please do not bring valuables such as expensive cameras, expensive watches, jewelry, iPads, cell phones, headphones, video games or drones.

Camp does not allow pets. Please leave pets at home or in your vehicle during drop off and pick up.