
2021 Parent/Camper Handbook



Welcome to OVS! We are excited your camper will be joining us this summer. Our goal is to provide a safe and caring environment for campers to connect, contribute and of course, have fun!

This handbook is designed to help you prepare for camp and become familiar with camp policies and procedures. Please take the time to read and review the handbook with your camper, and contact us with any questions.

2021 Summer Camp Dates

Session One:

June 27 - July 10

Session Two:

July 11 - July 24

Session Three:

July 25 - August 7



At OVS, we work with intention to make camp a place where everyone:



Feels at home, safe & secure

Practices kindness & respect



Supports learning & growth

**Celebrates new adventures
& challenges**



**Experiences laughter,
joy & silliness!**

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Camp Community

The community at OVS is the basis of your camper's summer experience. Learning to work alongside others and contribute to camp is key to a successful summer. Campers should arrive at camp with a cooperative and positive attitude, ready to learn and play in a group environment. Campers will be guided with respect by camp staff and are expected to treat each other and the faculty and staff with that same respect. As a part of the community, campers will pitch in with crew jobs, cafeteria clean up, grounds and classroom upkeep.

Meeting New Guidelines

The health and well-being of our campers and staff is our top priority. We intend to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Ventura County Public Health (VCPH). This section follows the current guidelines provided by those agencies as well as the American Camp Association (ACA). Our goal is to provide a healthy camp experience that can be run safely in the midst of **COVID-19**. It will take a combined effort from camp administrators, medical staff, counselors, parents, and campers to ensure the health and safety of all participants is protected.

Participation Guidelines (COVID-19 Protocols)

To ensure the safety of the campers and staff, the following protocols will be in place for Summer Camp:

- Counselors and camp staff will be required to wear face masks
- Campers will be required to wear face masks, as feasible, except for certain outdoor activities
- Campers and staff members should maintain a social distance of six feet whenever possible
- Frequent hand washing will be encouraged for everyone
- Coughing, sneezing etiquette (into the elbow or tissue) will be discussed to stop the spread of germs
- Desks and work areas will be kept six-feet apart
- Camp activities will adhere to social distancing protocols as feasible
- Classrooms, outdoor group areas, tables, restrooms and campus grounds will be cleaned frequently and sanitized throughout the camp day

Pre-screening & COVID Exposure

Prior to arrival at camp, parents will be asked to complete a health screening form requesting a recent health/medical history using a series of questions developed in conjunction with the CDC/EHE. Completed forms will be reviewed by the OVS Health Center staff. Eligible campers will receive a notification email with their ability to participate. Campers who are not eligible will receive a stay-at-home notification. Upon exclusion from the program, reentry is only possible with a medical release or when the participant has met the CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. If a camper tests positive COVID test during summer camp, or has exposure to a person with a positive COVID test, the camper should be isolated at home for 14 days. The camper will not be permitted to return to camp activities until obtaining a medical release.

Campers and staff who are immunosuppressed (as defined by their medical professional) or live in a home with an immunosuppressed person should carefully consider participation in camp due to the high risk factor. If there are any concerns about this policy, please contact Ojai Valley School to set up a time to discuss the protocol.

Preventing spread

Temperature and COVID-symptom assessments will be taken daily upon arrival to camp at designated entrances and again during the day. If a camper has a temperature greater than 99.5 F, and/or COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea), or has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, the camper will be sent home immediately and not permitted to attend camp until cleared by a medical professional. Pursuant to state guidelines, it is safe to return to camp 10 days after the onset of symptoms, 24 hours fever-free with no medications, and general improvement of symptoms.

Cohort Groups

Campers will be assigned to Cohort Groups. These are defined as a group of children consisting of 10-12 campers and 2 counselors or teachers. The group will be assigned a bathroom facility that only that group will use. Cohort Groups are based on the age of the campers to ensure appropriate interactions between children of similar development for safety during activities. Cohort Groups will rotate through activities scheduled by the camp to ensure no mixing of groups. When outside, groups will meet at designed outdoor areas, such as the athletic fields, for traditional camp songs, announcements, and games.



Daily Attendance

Parents should contact the Camp Office at (805) 646-1423, or by email at campoffice@ovs.org if the camper will not be attending that day, or will be picked up/and or leave early for any reason throughout the day.

Drop off and Pick up

Campers will arrive between 8:00-8:30 a.m. each morning. Your child's teacher or a staff member will be appointed to greet you at your car, perform a temperature and wellness check, and then walk your camper to his or her designated classroom area. Campers with a temperature of 99.5F or higher will be required to return home until they are clear of symptoms.



Campers should be picked up no later than 4:30 p.m. Placards must be displayed during pick-up to ensure campers are leaving campus with authorized adults. At the end of each day, staff members will escort each camper to their parent's car. Parents of Junior Campers will utilize the EAST entrance; parents of all other campers will utilize WEST entrance (near the stables). Parents will never leave the car.

Camp Store

The camp store is open on Tuesday and Friday for cohort groups. The store sells souvenir items such as T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats etc. as well as sundries and school supplies. Campers can leave credit card information on file to purchase items.

Academic Class Communication

Teachers will communicate class information and updates via the email provided at registration. Please make sure your contact information is current, so you receive the most up-to-date camp information. If you wish to reach us with questions or concerns, please contact the Camp Office (805) 646-1423 or by email at campoffice@ovs.org or the appropriate administrator.

At the start of the program, parents will receive instruction on how to access the SeeSaw app where OVS and the Camp Staff will post and share pictures, videos and class updates.

Meals

Meals are freshly prepared on-site by our OVS food service team. Included in tuition, day campers receive morning and afternoon snack as well as lunch. Resident campers receive all meals and snacks. Please make sure to list any allergies on your camper's health forms. If you have concerns about your child's dietary needs, please contact the Director of Summer Programs. We can accommodate most needs, but will consult with health and kitchen staff if allergies are severe.

Camping or Day Hike (Subject to change)

As an extension of our camp mission, campers 8 - 15 years old may have the opportunity to participate in overnight camping trip or a day hike excursion during their session. Camping trips may take place at Lower Campus, Upper Campus, Lake Casitas or Pine Mountain. Camping and hikes will include outdoor education games and activities, team building exercises, and campout possible. Additional information and the specific schedule for your camper's session will be e-mailed to you.

Cell Phone/Smart Watch Policy

Camp at OVS is a unique opportunity for children to practice independence and make meaningful connections with others in a safe and nurturing environment. In order to maintain that environment and provide the highest level of reward for our campers, we allow very limited cell phone/smart watch use during the summer program. Resident camper cell phones/smart watches will be collected upon arrival and will be returned upon departure. (see section "calls home")

Day campers are encouraged to leave their phones at home, however if they are brought to Camp they may not use their phones during the camp day. In the event that a camper does need to call home, a teacher or another school official will contact you on their behalf. We understand this policy may be uncomfortable for some, however we ask that you support it wholeheartedly and allow your child to reap the benefits of independence and personal connections that will be the result.

Resident campers will be discouraged from calling parents in the first few days of the session (to help with acclimation to camp) and will be encouraged to call home on the first weekend. Parents may call the Camp Office to leave important messages for campers during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We understand this policy may be uncomfortable for some, but we ask that you support it. This will allow your child to experience independence and personal connections at camp.

Email/Mail

You may email the Camp Office at campoffice@ovs.org with questions for our staff or to send messages you would like forwarded to your child. We also encourage parents to mail letters to resident campers. Resident campers will receive mail (either email or post) each evening at dinner. Please address mail to CAMPER: Your child's name at 510 Country Club Dr. Ojai, CA 93023.

Money & Valuables

Campers are discouraged from bringing money or valuables of any kind to camp. Because of our group living environment, campers will not have the ability to lock away any valuable belongings.

Code of Conduct

The Ojai Valley School and Camp expects campers to show respect for each other, the staff, the property of others and the policies and procedures of the school and camp at all times. In recognition of the Camp's responsibilities to the law and the Camp's responsibilities to other members of the community, **there are major infractions which will be handled seriously and may result in immediate dismissal without refund.**



They are as follows:

1. Violations involving drugs and alcohol, which include, but are not limited to: Use and/or possession of any harmful drugs or chemicals and/or paraphernalia; use and/or possession of alcohol, use and/or possession of marijuana, use and/or possession of cigarettes, electronic cigarettes or tobacco.
2. Use or possession of any weapons is against camp rules. This includes guns (real or play), knives, slingshots, and any other implement designed for or used to harm or threaten others.
3. Unauthorized absence from camp, or leaving off campus excursions without permission.
4. Violations of honesty, integrity, and consideration of other members of the school community which include but are not limited to: lying, academic dishonesty, stealing, willful property damage, harm to oneself, harm to another camper or threats to others, any activity which would disrupt the operation of camp.
5. Campers may not create a hostile environment for one another, which includes teasing, taunting, bullying and/or harassment.
6. Involvement in explicit sexual activity.
7. Violations involving computers and telecommunications including, but are not limited to: misuse of computer equipment; introduction of computer viruses; unauthorized access of on-line services, misuse of electronic mailing services, including telephones, to harass, intimidate or bully the internal or external part or person of the Ojai Valley School and Camp community; use of the internet, computer software or video games involving acts of violence, racial hatred, drugs, alcohol, explicit sex; and misuse of social media.

Dress Code

Campers are expected to wear clothing and footwear that is modest and appropriate for an active camp program. Our goal is to focus on what campers are doing, not what they are wearing. Camp clothing will get dirty and worn so please don't pack your best items. All clothing items should be marked with camper's FULL name in indelible ink or sew on patches. Respect for the camp dress code is an important component of community cooperation, and is expected of all campers.

- Attire should be neat, size appropriate, cover undergarments and may not be ripped or torn.
- Campers should wear T-shirts, shorts and athletic type shoes for recreational activities. Flip flops not allowed
- Shorts should not be too long, too short or too tight for active play.
- Tops should cover undergarments and may not expose midriff.
- Athletic shoes or sandals with heel straps are required during activities.
- Clothing relating to alcohol, drugs, violence, death, sexual innuendo or containing bad language are unacceptable.
- If worn, jewelry must be modest and may need to be removed for safety purposes.
- Bathing suits should be modest and appropriate for active swimming and play. (one piece preferred)
- Hair should be one natural color and hairstyles should not be extreme.
- Piercings are allowed in ears only.



Health/Medical

The health and well-being of our campers and staff is our top priority. In establishing our health protocols for camp, we have followed the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) as well as the best practices of the American Camp Association (ACA). This includes the Field Guide for Campus for the Implementation of the CDC Guidance from the Environmental Health Engineers (EHE), which was prepared for the ACA. Our goal is to provide a healthy summer camp experience that can be run safely in the midst of COVID - 19. It will take a combined effort from the school, camp administrators, medical staff, support staff, counselors, parents, and campers to ensure the health and safety of all participants is protected.

To support these efforts, campers must have all camp health forms, current immunizations, health insurance and credit card information on file prior to May 21, 2021. If immunizations are not current, campers will need a medical exemption signed by a Physician, Physician's Assistant or a Nurse Practitioner.

The Camp Health Center maintains a team of highly qualified and compassionate nurses who care for all campers. In addition, all camp faculty and staff are CPR and First Aid Certified. During off hours, the nurse on duty can be reached by cell phone for emergencies. If a resident is ill and needs to be isolated, staff will remain overnight with the resident camper. Ojai Valley Community Hospital is located three blocks from Lower Campus, where a physician is on duty 24 hours a day in the unlikely event that an emergency does take place.



Health Center Protocols

Circumstances in which a camper should not attend Camp when they have any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature is higher than 99.5 F
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea

Circumstances in which a camper is admitted to the Health Center for observation:

- Fever
- Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Injuries, including all head injuries
- Severe pain/headache
- Allergic reaction
- Illness of unknown etiology
- Any health concern which inhibits class participation

Circumstances in which a parent is to be notified:

- Any illness or injury requiring further medical assessment
- Camper sustains head injury, or any type of facial injury
- Fever over 99.5F degrees – orally
- Suspected joint sprains
- Any illness, or symptoms of an illness, that differs from student's historical information
- Dental emergencies
- Demonstration of psychological behavior out of character from student's historical information
- Before and after any doctor's visit to relay information regarding diagnosis, treatment and laboratory results
- If a camper requires medication
- Before any credit card number on file is used for medical services or medication purchased

Circumstances in which a day camper may be sent home: (if your child is experiencing any of these symptoms please keep them home)

- Fever over 100 degrees – orally
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Any unusual discharge or drainage from the eyes, nose, ears or wounds
- When diagnosed by a doctor as having a communicable disease requiring isolation
- If camper has pediculosis (head lice) and has not received treatment
- When diagnosed with a condition that requires 24 hour observation by a nurse
- Camper requires treatment out of the scope of the school nurse practice
- Camper is found to be a threat to himself/herself or to others
- When diagnosed with an illness requiring intensive education and treatment (example: Diabetes)

When a day camper may come back to camp:

- If camper has been fever-free for at least 24 hours
- If vomiting and/or diarrhea have stopped for 24 hours
- If symptoms of cold/flu are over, may attend school with a minor, clear fluid nasal drip
- If eye irritation and drainage have stopped and medical treatment received
- If an infectious wound is properly covered and medical treatment received
- If after being diagnosed with a communicable disease that requires isolation (i.e. Chicken Pox), the doctor provides a written release for the student to return to school
- If pediculosis is being effectively treated
- Following a mental health crisis, a doctor provides a written release for the student to return
- Following surgery, significant injury, or having received a new diagnosis of a major illness, a doctor must provide a written release to attend school and explicit instructions regarding care, medication administration and follow-up treatment



All medical releases, orders and recommendations written by a licensed doctor or nurse practitioner must be submitted to the Health Center, which will then confidentially convey the information to the appropriate staff members.

During a public health crisis, Ojai Valley School's health policies may be modified to correspond with those interim guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control or the Ventura County Public Health Department.

Medication

All camper medication must be turned into the Health Center on Check-in day. These medications are stored in the Health Center and administered by Health Center staff or dorm counselors. All medication(s) must be labeled in English with the camper's name, dose, frequency, expiration date and name of prescribing physician. All changes in medication administration must be submitted to the Health Center in writing by the prescribing physician. Contact the Health Center at (805) 640-1423 ext. 1238 or email healthcenter@ovs.org for questions or additional information.

Summer Camp Contacts

Camp Office: (805) 646-1423

Camp e-mail: campoffice@ovs.org

Director of Summer Programs:

Eleanora Burright

email: eburright@ovs.org

Academic Coordinator:

John Rowan

email: jrowan@ovs.org

Co - Camp Director:

Ben Malkin

email: bmalkin@ovs.org

Director of Equestrian:

Stephanie Gustafson,

email: sgustafson@ovs.org

DAY CAMPERS

Daily Pick-Up

- Day Camp Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. You may drop off your camper as early as 8:00 a.m.
- Day Camp ends at 4:00 p.m. and campers must be picked up no later than 4:30 p.m.
- Pick-up Placards will be issued to parents and guardians on Check-in Day.
- Placards must be displayed during pick-up or campers must be signed out by authorized adults.
- Parents should enter the school via the WEST entrance (near the stables) for day camper pick-up.

What to Bring To Camp

- 2 face masks daily
- Bathing suit appropriate for active swimming
- Backpack/Book bag
- Camp issued water bottle
- Pool towel
- Sun hat/baseball cap
- Sunscreen



Equestrian Equipment

The following equipment is required for campers who are enrolled in Equestrian Camp:

- Riding boots
- Equestrian helmet (NOCSAE approved)
- Long pants or riding pants

Day Bus

OVS provides a day bus for campers living in the Ventura area. There is an additional fee for this service. There is a sibling discount. Our transportation department has taken the necessary health precautions by customizing our buses with socially distanced seating and protocols for safe loading and unloading of passengers. The bus stop is located at **Marina Park, 1400 Greenock Lane, Ventura**. Contact the Admission Office at summer@ovs.org to complete Day Bus forms.

RESIDENT CAMPERS

Arriving at Camp (All camp forms must be submitted 2 weeks before start of camp.)

Resident Campers should arrive at camp at 2:00 p.m. on the Sunday their session begins. Please plan your travel accordingly. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate early arrivals.

Calls Home

Camp is about leaving home and building the confidence needed to take care of yourself and find your place in a new community. It is also a time for parents to trust their children and allow for the growth and maturity camp can offer. To that end, we will limit parent contact (other than letters and emails- campoffice@ovs.org) to weekend communications. Campers with phones may use them from 6:00 p.m - 6:30 p.m. on Saturday evenings. Campers without phones may use the camp phone or computers during this time. This is a great opportunity for campers to share the events of the week and for parents to hear of their adventures. On Check-in day, parents may notify staff of the best means of communication.

Dorm Life & Crew Jobs

Each camper will have their own room and assigned a bathroom, shower and sink to share within their cohort group. Dorm counselors will have their own room or apartment that is separate but in the same wing of the dorm. There is a cohort recreation room for campers as well.

Resident campers are responsible for the daily cleaning of their rooms, making their beds, doing their personal laundry and other jobs related to their living environment. This will include cleaning common areas of the dorm, dining hall and recreational areas. As campers work together to care for the camp and the community, valuable skills are learned and independence and responsibility are strengthened.

Homesickness & Separation

First time separation anxiety is a common issue for campers and parents. It is important to recognize that this is normal, and that learning to live apart from parents is an element of growth and maturity. The camp environment is an ideal place to experience this growth. Camp is a nurturing place, so it provides love and support without a parent being present. It is this absence of a parent that allows for a child's understanding that



they are a unique individual, capable of solving and dealing with issues on their own. There is no greater skill we can help a child identify, than that of self-power.

There are a number of very clear and concise concepts to help both parents and children deal with homesickness:

- *Do not be afraid of the topic. It should be openly discussed. Remember your attitude sets the tone for your child.*
- *Communicate that some fear and anxiety is normal and there will be other children at camp with the same type of concerns.*
- *Make sure your child knows that the camp staff have dealt with these issues and are trained to assist them through any difficulties they may experience.*
- *Please do not make a deal with your child "that if you don't like it, I will come get you." The first time a child is unhappy, they may hold you to that promise, and you will be left without any options. You can promise that if there are any problems you will be working with the Director and the counselors to make sure the child is supported.*
- *You should discuss the topic often enough so that your child becomes comfortable with the concept and is ready for the challenge.*

At camp we will work with your child to help them acclimate to the program. We will respect their ability to overcome their fears and trust that they can handle change. We will redirect them into fun and interesting tasks and activities and guide them gently towards positive solutions. It is typical for most children to adjust within 2-3 days and once they do, they carry that feeling of pride and accomplishment with them throughout camp and beyond. Parents will be contacted if a child does not respond to staff coaching and is still upset or anxious after the first few days. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's ability to acclimate to camp, please contact the Director of Summer Programs.

Laundry

Campers will be guided by counselors and instructed in the cleaning of their own laundry. Washers and dryers are located on campus in/near each dormitory. Laundry will be done as scheduled on the weekends, and soap and quarters will be provided. Campers are responsible for gathering their items (in their laundry bag) and after washing and drying, returning their items to their dorm room. Counselors will supervise laundry time, and campers will learn valuable skills as they prep for the start of a new camp week.

Residents Spending Money

Resident campers may bring a credit card for camp store charges. No additional money is needed for off campus activities.

Visiting Camp

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 protocols, there are no visitors allowed at Camp.

Weekend Excursions (Subject to change)

On Saturdays or Sundays and some weeknights, resident campers and staff may travel to local parks or local beaches in Ventura county. Camp Counselors accompany campers and provide guidance, supervision and added fun.

Resident Campers Packing List

Please follow the packing list carefully. Numbers (in parenthesis) designate the number of items required. Campers will do laundry each weekend, so the list below provides needed clothing for one week. Campers have limited space to store belongings, so please do not pack additional items.

Remember camp clothing will get dirty and things will be lost. Please pack casual clothing appropriate for active play and items (like towels) that aren't the best from home.

Casual Clothing	Personal Items	Optional Items
• Long pants (2)	• Cloth masks (14)	• Pens & Pencils
• T-shirts (8)	• Day Backpack	• Notebook
• Pajamas (2)	• Bath Towel (2)	• Hair Dryer
• Swim Suits- one piece encouraged (2)	• Pool Towel (2)	• Camera
• Rash guard (1)	• Sunscreen (1)	• Sunglasses
• Shorts (3)	• Soap/Lotion	• Sleeping Bag
• Athletic Pants (1)	• Washcloth	• Summer Reading
• Socks (6)	• Laundry bag	• Leisure Reading
• Underwear (7)	• Shampoo/Conditioner	• Flashlight/headlamp
• Sweatshirt/Sweater (1)	• Toothbrush	• Costumes for dress-up days
• Hat/Baseball Cap (1)	• Toothpaste	• Bed Linens/Pillow
• Athletic Shoes (2)	• Comb/Brush	
• Flip Flops (1)	• Medication (to be checked in with the Health Center prior to start of camp)	
• Strapped Sandals (1)		

Bed Linens

Camper beds are made when they arrive with a set of standard twin size sheets and a pillow. You may bring your own if desired, but most campers do not.

Camping

Activities and offerings will be adjusted in accordance with current Ventura County Public Health Guidelines.

Dress-up Days

We have many fun days at camp where dressing up is part of the fun! Campers may bring costumes and outfits to participate. Please check your session calendar days.

Please do not bring:

- Candy/treats/food
- Cell phones (will be collected)
- Electronic Devices
- Laptops/computers
- Mp3 players
- Tablets
- Trading cards
- Knives or weapons