



**School Break  
Camps 25/26  
Family Handbook**

| <u>Table Of Contents</u>             | <u>Page #</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| From The Camp Director.....          | 3             |
| Our Vision, Mission, and Values..... | 4             |
| How To Find Us.....                  | 4             |
| Registration/Payments.....           | 4             |
| Cancellation/Refunds.....            | 5             |
| Camp Tours.....                      | 5             |
| Bring This!.....                     | 5             |
| Dont Bring This!.....                | 5             |
| Detox From Screens.....              | 6             |
| Lunch / Water /Snacks.....           | 6             |
| Supervision & Staff.....             | 6             |
| A Typical Day.....                   | 7             |
| Check In Procedures.....             | 7             |
| Check Out Procedures.....            | 8             |
| Camper Pick Up List .....            | 8             |
| Extended Care Campers.....           | 8             |
| Lost & Found.....                    | 9             |
| Visitors.....                        | 9             |
| Volunteers.....                      | 9             |
| Medications.....                     | 10            |
| Camper Safety.....                   | 10            |
| Health & Illness.....                | 10            |
| Accidents/Incidents.....             | 11            |
| Medical Emergencies.....             | 12            |
| Rainy Days.....                      | 12            |
| Expectations Of Campers.....         | 12            |
| Children with Special Needs.....     | 12            |
| Camper Behavior Struggles.....       | 14            |
| Bullying Policy.....                 | 14            |
| Camp Environment Things To Know..... | 15            |
| Sensitive Topics.....                | 16            |
| Parent Communication.....            | 17            |
| End of Year Tax Filing.....          | 17            |
| Contact Information.....             | 17            |

#### SOME HELPFUL DEFINITIONS:

CM - Camp Makerie

CD - Camp Director

AD - Assistant Director

Camp Minder - Our registration system

CampInTouch - The login portal for parents after they have an account

Campanion - Our Parent App to access your account/weekly photos on your phone



### From the Camp Director:

Hello Camp Makerie Family,

It is my honor as always to be hosting your creative kiddo at our camp this summer. Camp Makerie was created to feel like family for our campers and we want you to feel the same. Life can feel uncertain and the world a bit scary for our kids, we are here to give them a safe, respectful, and supportive environment to grow and explore their creativity and imaginations together. This year we are celebrating our transition from Master Builder Camp to Camp Makerie! Its been an amazing journey and I can't wait to welcome your creative kiddo into our growing community. As always, feedback and questions are welcome at any time. Please let me know how we can better serve as your child's summer camp experience. Please read through this handbook carefully. Even if you have read it before. There is a lot of new information that I need you to know before coming to camp, so you and your camper can feel prepared. Thank you for putting your trust in us this summer to care for your most precious people.

:) - Harmony Lenasbunt

(Camp Makerie Director/Owner)

### OUR VISION, MISSION, & VALUES.

We believe in the power of camp for kids, that it has the potential to be a formative and life changing experience. We are dedicated to making that a positive growing experience for all our campers. We take very seriously our role in our campers' lives,

and the unique opportunity that being outside of a school environment and away from their parents is for fostering independence, growing resilience, and building confidence. We see ourselves as partners with our campers' caregivers, and do everything we can to ensure the highest quality kids camping program we can in a day camp setting.

Our mission is to create opportunities for kids to grow in connection to themselves, their peers, and their community through our camp experience.

We want kids to leave our camp feeling confident, cared about, and proud of what they accomplished, we want them to have learned how to make new friends (its hard and scary!) and also how to keep friendships, we want them to have a deeper understanding of what they do creates ripple effects for others, so we are sending lots of warm fuzzy ripples of kindness out into the world every week of camp.

## **HOW TO FIND US**

Camp Makerie is located at 3536 NW 8th Ave (next to Littlewood Elementary School). The property has a one way drive around the campus. We have signs on 8th ave at the entrance and you just pull in there and follow the drive around. During the school year, we are only using the 2 story building between the playground and the parking lot. Our Check In area will be at the first door of the bottom floor. You can just park anywhere and walk your camper in. When you are ready to leave you will continue to drive one-way around the rest of the building to the exit on 8th Ave. (you will not exit the same place you entered, its all a one-way drive).

## **Registration/Payments**

Camper Registration Program is Campminder. You can access it on our website with the button that says register. If you already have an account use the CAMPINTOUCH LOGIN button instead and proceed from there. All fees must be paid in Full by the start of their first camp week. If you signed up for a payment schedule, the remainder is by or before on the camper's first day of camp (depending on what payment schedule you chose). If you are paying by monthly payments, you will receive an email notice 2 days before we process the next payment. Extended care can be purchased separately through the CAMPINTOUCH LOGIN and click application anytime before your campers week of camp. Any extra fees that were incurred through the week will be added to the original payment method unless prior arrangement was made.

## **Cancelations/Refunds**

Our refund policy is as follows:

- 4 weeks prior to camp: 100% refund with a \$35 cancelation fee per week.
- 2 to 4 weeks prior to camp: 50% of cost available as a refund.
- Less than 2 weeks prior to camp: No refund, There is no prorated credit/refund/exchange for individual days missed,

## **CAMP TOURS**

Camp Tours can be arranged by emailing us at [magic@campmakerie.com](mailto:magic@campmakerie.com) subject: Schedule A Tour. Please email ahead to schedule your tour. We cannot accommodate drop bys, so please always schedule ahead before you come down to camp.

## **BRING THIS!**

To be prepared for camp, campers should bring:

- A Water Bottle (Campers who forgot a water bottle will be given a disposable one for the day at a charge of \$2/bottle).
- Wear clothes that can get dirty and messy, athletic style shoes, and for our late fall/ Winter / early spring time camps we need all campers to bring a jacket or sweatshirt, even if they insist they don't need it.
- A change of clothes (you never know what will happen at camp - mandatory for campers ages 5-6)
- For Food: Lunch and extra snacks can be brought from home or purchase snacks as needed for an added fee. (See section on FOOD and WATER below for more information).
- LABEL ALL THE THINGS!!! If you want this stuff back, you will want to put a name on it.

## **DONT BRING THIS!**

Personal items can easily get lost or damaged. Camp Makerie can not guarantee their safety and will not be responsible for any items brought from home that are misplaced or damaged. All personal items outside of the earlier mentioned things to bring need to be left at home. These include but are not limited to:

- Electronic Devices (handheld games, cell phones, mp3 players, cameras, tablets, etc) \*\*\*if a camper comes to camp with a cell phone or watch phone, they will be held by CM staff in a secure place until the camper gets picked up).
- Toys/stuffed animals or other personal items from home
- LEGOS! (our LEGO's and your LEGOs are identical and they get mixed up, please do not bring any to camp. this includes mini-figures and pre-built projects)

- FOR CAMPER SAFETY: FLIP FLOPS AND CROCS ARE HIGHLY DISCOURAGED, we've witnessed too many trips due to these shoes.
- Please do not send a camper to camp in long sleeves and pants without sending a change of clothes. (We understand the fight that can happen over clothes choices). Regardless of how they feel in the morning, by noon they will be hot and sweaty on the playground and will need to change to protect against overheating.

## **DETOX FROM SCREENS**

We value connection and our diverse amazing camp community. We want kids to be kids, and feel safe and free to just be themselves. This is one of the big reasons we consider ourselves a SCREEN-FREE CAMP (yep even when it rains or at the end of extended care)! If our goal is connection, then screen time (movie watching/video games) and checking out just doesn't belong. Furthermore, please leave phones and phone watches at home or turn into staff when you drop your campers off to be given back at the end of the day. This helps us create moments of true connection and being present with each other. If a camper or parent need to send communication to each other during the day, you can text/call the Camp Director or Assistant Director at anytime to relay the message.

## **LUNCH / WATER / SNACKS**

- Campers will need to bring a packed lunch and extra snacks from home or they can get snacks from camp at \$1 per snack (billed to you /they DO NOT need to bring \$)
- If your child has any food allergies please make sure this is clearly indicated in their health form for us to monitor if they get snacks from camp.
- There is no access to a refrigerator or microwave for campers, so please plan accordingly for lunches brought from home.
- We do not provide silverware for campers, please send your camper with silverware if needed for their lunch from home.
- Campers must bring a water bottle with their name on it. A refillable bottle is required. Disposable bottles of water can also be purchased at camp if a child comes to camp without a reusable water bottle. We have water fountains available for refills throughout the day.

## **Supervision and Staff**

Campers are supervised by Camp Makerie staff at all times. They are assigned into teams according to age and have counselors assigned to each group at a ratio of 8/1 to 10/1 depending on the age of the camper group. During project builds the ratio is 5/1 with activity staff available.

We have an incredible team of counselors ready to have a blast with your kiddo! We spend months carefully interviewing, screening, and training a stellar and passionate crew of people who are beyond excited to play with your camper this summer. Our counselors are professionals with extensive childcare, teaching, and summer camp experience. We do not employ counseling staff that are minors. On average most our staff are between 22-28.

Our staff training program is extensive, over 40 hours, and we follow a specific model of staff behavior that gives our campers the safety, respect, and support they need at camp to have an incredible week. Staff are all Level 2 background checked, First Aid and CPR certified, and complete training modules covering a wide range of relevant topics like: Safety in Summer Camp Setting, Emergency procedures and drills, Sexual Abuse Prevention, Working With Special Needs Campers, Duty of Care, Group Management, Emotional Regulation, Leadership Style, Child Development, Success Counseling, Social Emotional Learning for Problem Solving, and Team Building. Staff receive further 1-1 coaching throughout the summer, two Evaluations, and a mid-summer training to ensure we continuously meet the highest quality standards that we can.

### A Typical Day

7:45-8:45a - Early Drop Off available (\$35/week or \$10/day)

8:45-9:15a- Camper Check In

9:30a- Morning Warm Ups / group game

10:00a- Activity Time: Big Project of the Week

11:30a - Lunch/Playground Rotation

12:30 - Afternoon Free Choice Activity Stations

2:30p - Camper Kindness Shout Outs/Wrap up of day in crews

3:00p-3:15p - Camper Check Out for End of Regular Camp Day

3p-5:30P - Extended Day (more activities/projects/outside play (\$75/week or \$20/day)

5:30p - All campers must be picked up by this time. (Late Fee of \$5/15 min will incur if camper is picked up after 5:30p)

### CHECK IN PROCEDURES

- Regular day campers can check in any time between **8:50a-9:10a**.
- Please help us prescreen your camper for illness. No children may stay at camp if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness.
- On the first day of camp (typically Monday), you will park in the back parking lot and will be greeted by staff who will help you find our check in room (First door of the bottom floor of the Makerie Afterschool building) and get your camper settled in.

- Parents are encouraged to say good-bye at the check in area.
- If you arrive after regular check in time and there is not a staff member present outside, please knock on one of the camp room doors and a staff will come and assist you or text/call 352-339-5102 and we will come find you,

## **CHECK OUT PROCEDURES**

Camper pick up time is between **3:00p-3:15p**. (Please do not arrive to pick up before 2:50p). It is difficult for us to release a camper between 2:30p and 2:50p when they are doing their team wrap u circle so please plan accordingly or pick up before or after that time.

You will head back to the same first door that you checked your camper in and a Makerie staff will be there to assist you in getting your camper and checking them out of our system. That staff will verify your identity (easiest for us if you load a picture of yourself in your CamplnTouch account profile) and radio for your camper to come out to you.

## **Camper Pick Up List**

In your CAMPINTOUCH Parent Account there is a tab that says FORMS, That is where you will fill out the Authorized Grown-ups Pick up form. You DO NOT have to fill this out for caregivers already listed on the campers original application. Those caregivers are automatically authorized. We recommend including pictures for caregivers and pickup people when you fill out the form, it helps checkout go faster. When a new person not known to staff is picking up a camper, they will need to provide a photo id to verify identity before a camper will be released to their care if one is not uploaded on the form.

## **Extended Care**

Camp Makerie provides extended care programming for families who need early drop off or a later pick up time. This runs from 7:45a - 9am for early drop off and 3:00 PM-5:30 PM for late pick up. During extended care kids will be able to choose from a rotation of extra activities and projects as well as outdoor play time, This option works well for kids who may need more physical activity at the end of the day and or freedom to work on individual projects.

Extended care can booked in advance when you register for the camp week, or by logging into your CAMPINTOUCH account and clicking application and adding it later on. It can be added by the day and the cost is reduced for each additional day that you add. We are requesting that extended care be booked by the start of the camp

week. We can accommodate last minute add-ins but you will need to let the Camp Director know via text/phone call ASAP so we can get them added to the list.

Also, we changed our extended care ending time this year from 5:15p to 5:30p to better support parents getting off work at 5p. Please know that we are closed at 5:30p and all campers must be off campus by then. A late fee will incur if a child isn't picked up by 5:30p.

### **Lost & Found**

Please LABEL ALL ITEMS brought to camp by your child. Often kids leave things behind, forget where they set them, or forget what their item looks like. Labels help us get campers items back into the correct cubbies. Our goal is to not let any items be left behind at camp, but inevitably something does. We will set out items found throughout the week on a table during check in/check out times for you to see. After the week, LOST & FOUND items are boxed and kept for 1 month then typically discarded or donated.

### **VISITORS**

We only allow visitors while camp is running with prior arrangement. All visitors must stay within staff supervision at all times while camp is operating and wear a name tag. You will be asked to turn in your Drivers License and car keys to be held by Camp Makerie Staff until the end of your visit.

PLEASE NOTE WHEN ON OUR CAMPUS: No weapons of any kind allowed, even with lawful permit. No illicit drugs, marijuana (medical or otherwise), or alcohol can be brought on our campus. We are a smoke and vape free campus. Personal pets are not allowed without prior permission and evidence of general health and up to date vaccinations.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are awesome!! If you would like to volunteer at camp, contact the Camp Director to discuss the opportunities. All volunteers on campus for 10+ hours in the week will need to undergo a background check at your cost.

### **CAMPER MEDICATIONS**

All medications that come with a camper should be turned in to the check in staff at drop off. Medication must be in the original container. All camper medications will be kept secured in our medications box located in our Staff Area until they are dosed for your camper unless instructed otherwise approved by CM Staff and preferred by the

parent (examples of this would be epi-pens and inhalers). A Camper Medication Authorization Form must be filled out to authorize MBC staff to administer the medication as well as all dosing instructions. Staff will log medication administration in our medical log available for parent review at any time. Our medication logs are further reviewed by our on-call Camp Nurse Practitioner.

## Camper Safety

At Camp Makerie, we try our best to provide as safe an environment as we can for our campers. The buildings we use are regularly safety inspected by DCF as well as the Fire Marshall, and local law enforcement has vetted our emergency plans. Our campus is equipped with campus wide camera security, and the perimeter of our camper activity areas are fully closed off to the public by 8 foot security gates locked from the outside. Camp Makerie staff review and/or practice emergency drills weekly, as well as walk the campus to identify any safety concerns. All visitors on campus are escorted by staff and campers are visually transferred to their caregivers as the end of the day and never released to anyone not listed on their camper profile.

## CAMPER HEALTH AND ILLNESS

At Camp Makerie we are dedicated to protect our camper's health and well-being while in our care. We do our very best to keep camp healthy and use best practices for inhibiting communicable illnesses on our campus. This is a TEAM effort! We can't do it alone and need you to help us by doing your own daily screenings of your camper before dropping them off for camp to ensure they are well and ready for camp!

IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT ANY CHILD EXPERIENCING **ANY SIGNS OF ANY ILLNESS** REMAIN AT HOME. - For this effort we have created a SICK credit. Any camper that misses their full scheduled week of camp can receive a 50% credit on their account to apply to a future camp. A doctor's note will be required and request made in writing to the camp director. Partially missed weeks can not be credited.

If your camper has any of the following symptoms at the start of camp, they should not attend until symptoms resolve. Any campers showing any of these symptoms during camp will be sent home:

- Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- Diarrhea (2 or more abnormally loose stools within a 24 hour period)
- Prolonged Indigestion Issues
- Moderate to severe Coughing (if your child has a lingering mild cough, they may stay at camp but could be asked to wear a mask when indoors.)
- Difficult or rapid breathing

- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Redness of the eye, obvious discharge, matted eyelashes, burning or itching
- Untreated, infected skin patches or unusual spots or rashes
- Unusually dark urine and/ or grey or white stool
- Stiff neck with elevated temperature
- Evidence of lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestation
- Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing
- Vomiting within a 24 hour period
- Abnormally tired and/or lethargic

Campers will be moved away from the group if they are found to have any of these listed symptoms while at camp, and their family contacted to pick up. We do this out of abundance of caution for the safety of our camp community and that individual child's health.

Camp Makerie has a stock of typical Over the Counter children's medications that are available to be dispensed with parent permission. These are things like Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl, Itch Creams, Burn Cream, Etc) A full list is on the Camper Health Form. If you have given permission to dispense an OTC medication on an as needed basis, we always still try to contact you first before dispensing whenever possible.

Throughout the day CM Staff are doing everything they can to keep camp a healthy space for our campers including: morning visual health checks of campers in their group, instructing the group to wash/sanitize hands routinely throughout the day (specifically at arrival and before and after eating), sanitizing surfaces frequently, and performing a sanitizing thorough clean of all activity areas every day.

PLEASE NOTE: WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT YOUR CHILD WONT BE EXPOSED TO A VIRUS WHILE AT CAMP MAKERIE, THAT IS A RISK YOU ARE TAKING BY SENDING THEM TO A YOUTH OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM THIS SUMMER. We will do everything feasible to limit that risk.

### **Accidents/Incidents**

Even with great staff supervision and all the safety precautions in place, sometimes accidents happen at camp. Any accident requiring medical care will be treated to the extent of the CM Staff's First Aid training scope, consultation with our on call Nurse Practitioner, and the child's guardians will be notified by the Camp Director. The parents can then decide with the Camp Director whether the camper should be picked up at that time to receive further care or if they are fine to continue the day at camp.

All accidents/incidents both severe and minor are documented by CM staff and reviewed by our on call NP as well as with the camper caregivers within 48 hours.

### Medical Emergencies

If there is a severe medical emergency with a camper, 911 will be immediately called, and staff will then work to notify the guardians as quickly as possible. Please make sure all their allergies are listed on their registrations for this purpose. A CM staff member will accompany the camper to the hospital and remain with them until authorized guardians arrive.

### RAINY DAYS

Florida in the summer can bring some big storms. For the most part, it doesn't effect our camp program, as we can adjust to bring outside activities inside. If a storm cancels our Water Day, we will try to reschedule for the next day. \*\*\*If there is a major storm with active lightning happening during camper pick up time, we would prefer you stay safe and wait in your car until the lightning has passed, than to have you try to pick up your camper on time. Just send a message to the Camp Director to inform her of the situation.

### Expectations Of Campers

Campers should expect a fun and safe environment while at camp. To ensure this, we have some very important "Building Materials" that come from inside of us all that we must use at camp so that everyone has the very best week ever! These are our camp rules and a camper must agree to follow them.

1. KINDNESS - in the way that we speak and act with our friends,
2. RESPECT - the counselors, as well as the campsite and camp equipment
3. TEAMWORK - finding ways to be a good teammate and leader, and also staying with our crew and asking a counselor before you go

### Children with Special Needs

Camp Makerie strives to be an inclusive camp for kids of all abilities. If your camper has special needs (physical, mental, emotional, &/or social), please contact the Camp Director to discuss how we can best accommodate for them to have an awesome week with us.

To be successful at our camp, all attending campers need to be able to feed and toilet independently, follow directions, communicate needs at a developmental level appropriate for their age group, and function in a group setting in an 8/1 camper to staff ratio.

We have extra noise canceling headphones onsite, and a quiet area for kids to get breaks from the group if they need. This area has some sensory tools that kids can use to regulate as needed, as well as beanbags and a couch to rest.

We are able to provide periodic extra support for campers needing greater staff attention while in the group at specific and infrequent times, but we are not able to provide a consistent 1-1 support at this time. If your camper needs that to be successful in a group, a 1-1 aid would need to be arranged for them prior by the parents, (we also have resources we can recommend if needed). If your child has a 1-1 behavioral aid that would be coming to camp with them, we can accommodate that on a limited and case by case basis due to space constraints (we can't have more than 1 aid in an age group per week), so please contact us before registering if this applies to your child.

**In general here are some good things to know about our camp environment for our kiddos with special needs.**

- Camp can be a sensory overload: We run a real summer camp program, there is cheering, singing, loud music, bright flashing lights, and lots of transitions with inside and outside activities. We do as much as we can to support our sensory sensitive campers, and please just know that this is a norm for our camp and your camper may need extra items from home to help us support them (noise canceling headphones, small handheld fan if heat is a trigger) and set up those expectations for them prior to coming to camp.
- Camp is collaborative and campers will be working with peer groups and making a project together not on their own. Being able to communicate needs and work through frustrations and hold personal boundaries with others is essential as well as communicating to staff when they need a break or need help with a peer.
- Camp RULES are for safety and all campers must be able to follow them. We use tools for our project builds that require the ability to listen to instructions and follow directions for safety, as well as stay focused on a task for our 45 minute activity blocks. If a camper is unable to focus for the full block or has a tendency to wander from the group, a 1-1 support aid would be required.

**Camper Behavior Struggles**

We know that kids are not always going to get along, or handle situations in the best manner, or agree about everything. However, we expect that these disagreements will be handled in a kind and respectful way. Staff will work with campers who are having an issue with each other to mediate a solution that creates a safe environment where everyone feels they are valued.

For our younger camper, we may structure this with a goal and create a behavior agreement plan that allows us to create visual reminder of what we are working on and staff will refer back to it throughout the day to remind the camper and give feedback as they improve.

If there is a camper behavior that is frequently effecting their or other's camp experience negatively, then mediation will be escalated to the Camp Director, and the camper's parents will be contacted and involved in a behavior plan for that camper to help support them to correct it. If, despite these efforts, staff continue to have to de-escalate the same issue with the same camper(s), the Camp Director will then decide whether or not camp is the best place for that child at that time. Please note that in cases where a child displays physically/verbally violent and/or abusive behaviors, this process will be escalated quickly and the child may be asked to leave camp immediately. In the event that a camp is not the right fit for a child and the decision has been made either by the Director, the parents, or mutually, there is no prorated refund or credit for that current week of camp. There is no guarantee of refund of registration fees for any other subsequent weeks they were registered for in any of these cases that require dismissal from camp.

At times a camper's choices could result in physical damage to camp property. In these cases, we typically ask the camper to give back to camp by participating in a community service that is appropriate for their age. This could be cleaning floors or picking up trash in the outdoor areas. If the damage is extensive, (something with a financial loss for the camp) the camper's family is expected to compensate for the damage.

### **Bullying Policy**

Camp Makerie does not tolerate bullying nor any type of intimidation or isolation behaviors from our campers. It is one of our main goals to increase self-confidence in our campers, and that they make lots of new friends and take great memories home at the end of the week. We ask that parents give us any information they receive at home that indicates this sort of situation occurring at camp, as there are times that things happen between campers in ways that staff don't end up seeing or hearing. Any situation that involves bullying type behaviors will be immediately addressed by leadership, and the staff will work closely with our campers to help them gain positive communication tools for solving problems and finding common ground. If that is not possible, bullying behavior without willingness to participate in reparation is a reason that a camper would be excused from camp. We work hard to keep our camp a

physically and emotionally safe environment for all our campers, and we appreciate all parent feedback in this area.

## **SOME IMPORTANT THINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR CAMPER TO KNOW**

### **1. Camp can get a Little Crazy and Loud (in the best way)**

We will have times when we are loud, crazy, and silly (especially on Friday). Kids can expect to do songs, games, and cheers. We believe in challenge by choice and campers can participate as fully as is comfortable for them. However, campers will have the best time at camp should they choose make new friends and participate fully in their group. We grow and enjoy camp most when we step out of our comfort zone.

#### **FOR KIDS THAT ARE SENSITIVE TO NOISE:**

We understand that for some kids the loud music and the group cheering and varying noise levels can be overwhelming at times. We have Noise Reducing Headphones available at camp for them to use if they would like, or they can bring some from home if they already own a pair. We also have a chill out area that is away from the noise that kids can go to if they are not able to participate in the loud activity.

### **2. Campers should expect to work on a team**

Our camp is heavily team based, and we love it that way! The kids collaborate ideas and share the tasks together with the staff supporting their vision. **Campers don't bring the big projects home,** because we are working on them together as a group. The goal of the weekly project is to see the amazing things that we can create when we work together, to this end it is important that campers do not work on solo projects with the intent of taking home what they create. We also aim reuse as many materials as possible. Some smaller crafts, that are created during free choice activities may come home with your camper if your camper chooses that type of activity for their free choice time.

#### **FOR KIDS THAT STRUGGLE WITH COLLABORATION/COOPERATION IN A GROUP**

We know that doing a team-based project asks a lot from our campers, but this is where the magic really starts. We invite our campers to push through hard stuff together, like a project vision failing and having to try again or communicating your ideas and including others ideas (this is where the good stuff happens). We don't expect all kids to come being able to do this right off the bat (this is why that first day of ease in before we start to build is so very important). Our staff are trained to specifically handle this type of work, to identify campers that need a little support with communication, or compromise, or pushing through when its not their special interest.

The more you can share about your kiddo on their registration, their likes and dislikes, how they do in a group, ways they might need support in a team-based environment: the more effective we can be to give them a successful week in our team build. We will also communicate with you throughout the week of the ways in which we see your child growing and having successes in these challenges. These are moments to celebrate!

### **3. Your Camper Will Be Exhausted At The End Of The Day**

They might even tell you they don't want to go back the next day because really they are just tired and thinking about their low-key routine at home. Even though the hours are about the same, the summer camp schedule is not the same physical output as school. We never stop moving, There is lots of stimulation and moments of excitement. There's lots of creating and making and playing. They will come home and drop into bed or even fall asleep in the car ride home.

### **REMEMBER THAT THE CAMP EXPERIENCE IS CHARACTER BUILDING!**

We are here for you and your kiddo, and their experience is our biggest priority. If your camper tells you they don't want to go back to finish the week of camp, please loop us in and we can strategize what they need and how we can help them follow through. It doesn't happen super often, but we will have kids from time to time and had a hard day for some particular reason: maybe struggled to make a friend on the first day, or was unhappy about the direction the team ended up going for the team build, or feels exhausted from all the energy output from the day, or maybe had a falling out with another kid that they don't want to have to resolve. We believe that with good communication with their families and the right support from our staff, these kiddos can overcome these challenges that arise at camp and then have a new skill and confidence for handling these tough social situations in the future. [We are building kids up at camp!](#)

### **SENSITIVE TOPICS**

We know in this day and age that there are a lot of big topics parents are navigating with their children at various stages in development, and that sometimes these topics can pop up at camp through camper interaction or observation. We want to be transparent about our approach to complex topics such as racism, politics, religion, gender identity, and pronoun use.

Our staff are trained to redirect conversations about sensitive issues (e.g., politics, religion, sexuality, gun control, abortion, vaccines, war, etc.) to more neutral topics during the camp day. We also encourage campers to bring up sensitive topics or questions they have about those topics with trusted adult figures outside of camp.

Furthermore, we strive to ensure that every young person in our care—and their families and communities—are treated with fairness, dignity, and compassion. We will not tolerate any form of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or cultural background. Our campers are encouraged to be their authentic selves and to respect their peers' personal choices as to hair length, dress, name, and pronoun use.

### **Parent Communication**

We always welcome feedback from our Camp Makerie Families! Furthermore, we want to help your camper have the best experience they can at camp. If there is any extra information we should know about your camper, please tell us. Did they have a late night and might be tired? Or an issue with their sibling earlier and they are both at camp together? Maybe they had a problem the day before at camp that needs to be resolved? Please let a staff member know at check in or send Harmony a text informing us of anything we should know for your camper that day.. It helps us be better at our job!

Conversely, as best we can at Camper Pick Up time, we will let you know how their day went and if anything significant occurred for them. The Camp Director is also available on Camp Site or by phone/text/email throughout the day for any questions or concerns.

### **End of Year Tax Filing**

End of year invoices are available in your CampInTouch account under the Financial Tab, and we will also send out invoices via email in January for the previous year. If you plan to claim your child's camp fees on your taxes, you can either save the invoices that get sent to you as you register, or log into your CampInTouch account and print them from your financials tab, or keep an eye out for the January end-of-year email. Our official Business Name is Master Builder Camp, LLC / DBA Name Camp Makerie and our Tax ID is 47-1299997.

### **LEADERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION**

Harmony Lenasbunt / Camp Director 352-339-5102  
Liz Rosema / Camp Assistant Director 626-394-7814