



2026 Summer Camp Guide

Growing tall, standing
strong – Your adventure
begins at Tall Oaks
Camp!

Welcome!

This Summer is going to be incredible, and we are so excited to welcome you to the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Tall Oaks Camp!

Thank-you for letting your child(ren) spend part of their summer with us here on Big Star Lake.

Our goal for this Summer Camp Guide is to answer all your questions. If it doesn't, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We want to do everything we can to help you and your camper feel prepared and excited for your upcoming experience at Tall Oaks Camp.

A team member is available to answer questions Monday-Friday between 9:00am-5:00pm at 231-301-3775. If we do not answer, please leave us a message. You can also send us a message at info@talloakscampmi.org and we will respond as soon as we are able.

Camp Philosophy

The Odd Fellow and Rebekah Camp of Michigan serves as a statewide resource providing children an educational program to enhance life enrichment skills through a safe camping experience.

We work to provide a safe and wholesome camping experience for our campers and staff. We take the responsibility of taking care of your camper very seriously!

Tall Oaks Camp has been serving campers, families, and guests since the 1950's. The camp experience draws a camper away from the routine of everyday life and has the power to transform lives.

Camp encourages identity and development through play and relaxation opportunities that are appropriate to the child's age by providing opportunities and experiences based on interests, strengths, and needs. We foster each child's individuality and talents by respecting, valuing, and supporting their belonging.

Tall Oaks Camp maintains confidentiality of each family's information and records, discussing issues with children and parents in confidence. We ensure the dignity of each child is respected.

Tall Oaks camp acknowledges good choices, handles conflict with respect, allows children to safely express their emotions, promotes self-regulation, guides children to respect and appreciate and positively interact with diversity, encourages children to challenge bias and stand up for themselves.

Tall Oaks Camp ensures children are protected from harm. We ensure staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities concerning child protection. We ensure children's health, safety and wellbeing are a top priority.

Tall Oaks Camp acknowledges the importance of family in making decisions to support each child's wellbeing, learning and growth. We provide parents with information to assist them with making informed choices.

Tall Oaks Camp promotes ethical thinking by promoting empathy and looking at social justice and equity.

Summer camp goals and objectives

We desire:

1. To exceed parent's expectations for the health, safety, welfare and education of their children.
2. To send each camper home with memories of a safe, meaningful and enjoyable camping experience.
3. That each camper will experience new knowledge, habits and/or skills.

That we continue to develop a high standard of excellence in programming through a mixture of tradition and innovation.

Safe and equal opportunity provider

Tall Oaks Camp is a drug-free/weapon-free location. In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

The 6 Pillars of Character

Fairness, Caring, Citizenship, Trustworthiness, Respect and Responsibility are what will be used as a foundation for the week. Staff will refer to these and recognize these in your campers. Campers will have the chance to receive awards if they exemplify these characteristics throughout the week!

Directions

Address: 7153 S. Rebecca Road, Baldwin MI 49304

Coming from M37 head west once you get to 76th st. Take 76th st for approximately 4.5 miles. Then turn south onto S. Rebecca Road. (Most map programs will only have you drive about ½ mile and tell you that you have arrived – but this is NOT accurate! Our camp was around long before all the other homes so our address is out of order 😊) Drive to the end of S. Rebecca road and right before it dead ends you will have arrived at camp - the drive is on the right hand side of the road!

Please drive slowly through camp to ensure everyone's safety!

Arrival

BE SURE TO BRING:

1. Any outstanding forms and/or payments yet due if prior arrangements have been made with Camp Manager Patty. Payments are to be made with either cash or check.
 2. **Medications in original packaging with camper's name printed on the label.**
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1. **Camper check-in time is between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday.**
2. Upon your arrival go to the main office next to the Nurse's station. Please take a spot in line just outside of the office door. Please arrive no later than 3:30 p.m.
3. To maintain your confidentiality one family at a time will be called to the office where you will meet some of the staff including but not limited to the camp manger. Your camper's application & contact information will be reviewed. We will sign your camper in.
4. You will then be directed to the camp nurse and camp director who will review your camper's health information. You will also turn in all medications along with sunscreen and insect repellent at this time. The camp nurse will then conduct a visual health examination, looking for head lice and documenting any cuts, scrapes and bruises.
5. After completion of check in, you can collect your camper's gear and proceed to their assigned cabin with the assistance of a camp staff member. Your assigned counselor will be waiting at your cabin to meet you and welcome you to camp! You may then unpack your belongings and say your goodbyes.

Departure

CAMP CHECK-OUT

1. **Check-out time is FRIDAY between 6 pm and 7:15 pm. PLEASE BE PROMPT! (except session 2 is 9a-11:15a)**
2. Upon arrival, please go directly to the Camp Office and form a line outside the door.
3. You will be called into the Office one family at a time and sign your camper out.
4. You will be **required to present your picture I.D** and sign a Camper Release Form.
5. **Under no circumstances will a camper be released to someone who is not authorized on their application or who does not have a picture ID.**
6. You will then proceed to the camp nurse to pick up your camper's medications.
7. You will then be escorted to your camper's cabin by a staff member to obtain your camper & their belongings.
8. Be sure to gather all your camper's items, looking under the bed and around the cabin.
9. You are then free to take your camper home.
10. We invite you to stop in our Canteen to buy a memento of your camper's week at camp. Misc. snacks and cold drinks will also be available.

A few of the activities the kids will be doing

Arts & Crafts, Nature Walk / Scavenger hunt, Archery, Archery tag (6th-8th), Kayaking, Canoeing, Swimming, Paddleboarding, Fishing, Outdoor cooking over a fire, basketball, organized group relays, tag & team building games, hammocks, chalk art, Karaoke, talent show, etc

Camper Communication

Mail:

- Send a letter to: 7153 S. Rebecca Rd, Baldwin MI 49304
- Send an email to: info@talloakscampmi.org with your camper name in the subject line (campers will not have the opportunity to email back but will definitely read it, so notes of encouragement etc work best!)
- Leave a note(s) prewritten with Camp manger at check in to be disturbed on your designated days
- Mail will be disturbed to campers daily at lunch time.

Visiting & Phone Calls

- We ask that parents and families refrain from vising camp during the week, but we welcome letters and emails. Families are invited to tour our facilities and meet our staff on arrival and departure days.

Tall Oaks camp does not permit campers to make or receive phone calls. The staff will make case by case decisions for homesickness or other situations. If an emergency situation arises at home we ask parents to call 231-301-3775 and a camp staff member will answer or return your call. Our staff will gladly assist you and your camper in every situation.

Cabin Assignments

Campers are assigned cabins by gender, age and grade level. Cabins are intentionally mixed with new and returning campers. Campers may request to be with another camper. This can be done while filling out your application. Groups of more than 3 campers requesting to be with each other may be split into groups and placed in different cabins. Please list only one cabin partner request. We will do our best to accommodate.

Camp Store

Our Canteen carries Tall Oaks Camp apparel, water bottles, flashlights, souvenirs, beverages, snacks, ice cream and more. Families can shop in the Canteen on departure day. Campers will have a chance to visit the camp store each day during the week.

Campers will be given a couple dollars to spend each day for a snack at 2:45pm. 6th-8th graders will have the opportunity to go to the Canteen for snack during the day and at night. If they would like to purchase snacks from here at night they will need to bring their own money for this.

If you wish for your camper to be able to purchase anything more during the week you can leave the extra money with the camp manager at the time of check in. Any remaining money your child did not spend throughout the week will be returned to you upon your child's departure or you can choose to donate the remaining amount of money to camp 😊

Keepsake:

All campers will receive a FREE summer camp t-shirt that they will tie die as a project during the week!



Packing List

Counselors will do their best to help campers keep track of their belongings; however, Tall Oaks Camp can not be responsible for lost items. Please consider this when making decisions about what to pack for camp.

What to Bring	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sleeping Bag OR Sheets & a Light Blanket Pillow Underwear Socks Shorts Shirts Pants Sweatshirt Pajamas Swimsuit: Girls = One Piece or tankini style suit that covers midriff & butt cheeks! If this does not happen they will be asked to wear a shirt and/or shorts to help them be dressed modestly. Boys = modest length swim shorts Beach towel (please have separate from bath towel) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toiletries (Shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, hairbrush, etc) Bath towel and washcloth Laundry Bag or extra bag to put dirty clothes in. Water Bottle!! Flashlight Bug spray & Sunscreen Personal hygiene supplies for girls as needed Pull ups if your child still has accidents at night as it tends to happen quicker in a new & unfamiliar environment. Comfy Tennis shoes (we do lots of walking) Flip flops/sandals

Optional Items	Theme Days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunglasses Rain coat/light jacket Favorite books (NOT electronic) Bible Notebook, pen/pencil Stationary, addressed envelope with stamp Extra money for your child to purchase sweatshirts, tee-shirts & various misc. items from our Canteen. Hat Dress up clothes for our theme day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1 & 2: Stars and Strips theme (Red/White/Blue) Weeks 3, 4 & 5: Aloha theme (anything Hawaiian) Wacky Wednesday each week (we will wear mismatched clothes, inside out and backwards, messy hair)

What NOT to bring

Cell phones, any other electronic devices, valuable jewelry, animals, candy/gum or other food and drink items.

****Knives, firearms, tobacco products, e-cigarettes/vapes, alcohol, or any other illegal substances**** IF campers are found to be with these items they will be dismissed from camp without refund.

Health, Medications and Food Service

Nurses Station:

Our Nurses Station is staffed with a Health Care officer or Licensed Nurse each week who meets all State of Michigan guidelines. They are on duty 24/7. Campers who are not feeling well or have an injury should visit the nurses station. A doctor is on call 24/7.

Calls are placed to the parents when:

- A camper goes to the hospital
- A camper needs to be seen by a doctor
- Other situations left up to the discretion of the Health officer /nurse.

Health Form:

Tall Oaks Camp is required to have a Health form on file for each camper. This will be completed upon checking in your camper.

Medications:

All medications, both prescription and over the counter, including vitamins and supplements, must be checked in at the Nurses Station with the Health officer on arrival day. NO medications are allowed in the cabins (with the exception of emergency meds such as inhalers, epi-pens, etc.). All medications must be in their ORIGINAL container noting RX number, camper name, physician names and dosage. We recommend only bringing the amount needed while at camp plus one additional dose. Camper medications are dispersed prior to each meal and bedtime. If a camper needs to receive medication at a different time special arrangements can be made. The nurses station is stocked with several over the counter meds for campers who may need an unexpected medication. If no OTC meds should be given please note that on the health form.

All meds will be returned to parents/guardians on departure day.

Health Screening:

For the safety of our campers, we are required to screen all campers for good health prior to admission. We request that no campers come to camp ill or with a contagious condition. Campers must be fever free for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medicine. All campers will be screened for head lice on arrival day. If a camper is found with lice, they must regrettably leave to be treated.

Meals:

Trained food service staff prepare nutritious meals for our campers. Fruit and vegetables and other healthy options are offered and encouraged every day. Campers will also be encouraged to drink water at every meal and throughout the day as well to prevent dehydration.

Food Allergies & Restrictions:

Please indicate food allergies and dietary restrictions on your camper application and health form.

Life at Tall Oaks Camp

Birthdays:

Many campers celebrate their birthday while they are at camp. We will make their day special and will recognize them with our staff singing to them in front of the dining hall at lunch or dinner.

Laundry:

Laundry facilities are not available for camper use. In case of an emergency our staff will work with campers to meet their needs in a timely manner.

Discipline:

Tall Oaks Camp has established rules to ensure the safety and happiness of all campers. If a behavioral problem is significant or persistent then parents will be contacted. Campers who do not demonstrate appropriate behavior will be sent home from camp at the discretion of the leadership team. Early dismissal will not warrant the refund of fees.

First time campers / Homesickness:

Homesickness with campers is common. Parents can help with the adjustment of their campers by leaving them on a positive note. Set campers up for success by setting goals with them and being enthusiastic about their upcoming experience. It is best not to promise your camper that they can call home or leave camp early if they are homesick. Our camp staff are well trained to help campers adjust to life at camp by immediately involving them in fun activities and team bonding. Though homesickness is common in some campers it is usually short lived due to all the fun and the people encouraging them. A leadership staff member will contact parents in persistent home sickness cases.

Pictures:

We will do our best to capture many fun camp moments through pictures. They will then be posted on our Tall Oaks Camp and Campground Facebook page within 1 week of camp completion.

Typical Daily Schedule

7:30 Wake UP
8:00 Flag raising
8:15 Grace & Breakfast
9:15 Morning Assembly
9:30 – 12:00 Activity time
12:00 Grace & Lunch
1:00 Relaxation time
1:30 Water / activity time
2:45 Canteen / break time
3:15 Water / activity time
5:15 Grace & Dinner
6:15 Night assembly
6:45 Large group game
8:15 Campfire, snack, chill time, flag lowered, showers etc.
10:00 Lights out!

