



Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America presents

2015 VIVEKANANDA FAMILY CAMP

Tolland, MA: Aug 09, 2015 – Aug 15, 2015

Instructions/Rules/Regulations

Capacity is limited. Apply early to receive discount.



Purpose:

Vivekananda Family Camp (Camp) is a week-long residential camp nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains. Camp attendees learn about and live the values of Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) through educational classes/discussions, fun and engaging activities, and interaction with their peers in a familial, congenial, and disciplined atmosphere.

Food and lodging facilities are provided for the whole week and are included in the application fee. All food is vegetarian and includes Indian, Italian, Mexican cuisine.

Many of the activities are conducted in the wonderful outdoors. As such, Camp is bound by natural conditions such as warmth, cool, rain, and humidity. Attendees should be aware and plan accordingly.

Camper:

A camper is one who is a child in grade 3 to grade 12. This is determined by the last grade completed immediately prior to start of Camp. A child who is in grade 2 or lower or below age 5 (called accompanying child) is allowed to attend Camp provided that at least one of the parents also attends Camp and provides care for that child throughout Camp.

A camper is expected to follow all rules and regulations of Camp and behave in an ethical and moral manner at all times during the Camp.

All campers must be in good health and be able to perform all physical and other activities of Camp.

Volunteer:

A volunteer is an adult over 18 years of age and is not attending the Camp as a camper. A volunteer who does not have a child attending Camp or is not serving as a guardian for another child must receive special permission from Camp Registrar to attend Camp as an invited guest. A volunteer can serve as guardian to no more than two (2) campers in addition to his/her own children. A guardian must be at least 25 years of age. A camper's sibling who is over 18 years of age may, with Camp experience and Camp Registrar's approval, serve as guardian for that camper.

By state of Massachusetts (MA) law, any adult who will attend a residential event that will also have children present must agree to have Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) inquiry performed. A state approved representative of Camp will perform CORI inquiry for all volunteer applicants. A representative of Camp will contact volunteer personally to obtain sensitive information (as required by state) such as partial Social Security number. The sensitive information will be destroyed once the CORI inquiry is performed. In the case where a CORI inquiry returns positive, meaning that the inquiry indicates a criminal record, Camp Registrar has the right to deny the applicant's application based on the nature of the criminal record and discussion with the applicant.

Non-MA residents may also be required, through their own efforts, to obtain equivalent inquiry from local state or town agency such as local police department. All volunteers must provide three (3) character references.

A volunteer is expected to follow all rules and regulations of Camp and behave in an ethical and moral manner at all times during Camp.

All volunteers must be in good health and be able to perform all physical and other activities of Camp.

All volunteers act as role models for all children throughout Camp. All volunteers serve as Sevaks who will help with various duties of Camp such as helping in the kitchen and washing dishes.

Registration Dates and Fees:

The following table indicates fee schedule. The date of application is the postmark date on the envelope containing the form(s). The application and medical forms may be faxed to Camp Registrar in which case the date on which the forms are faxed is the application date. If an application is faxed, the fee payment must be received by Camp Registrar within five (5) business of the fax date.

The completed forms must be mailed or faxed to Camp Registrar.

Camp Registrar: Mr. Munish Desai; 21 Hawthorne Road, Shrewsbury, MA 01545; Tel: 508-925-0787; Fax: 860-394-4899; Email: vhp.family.camp.ma@gmail.com

| | Early Registration Postmark: June 15, 2014 | Normal Registration Postmark: July 14, 2014 | Late Registration Postmark: July 27, 2014 |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Each Camper with Parent | \$250 | \$300 | \$350 |
| Each Camper with Guardian | \$300 | \$350 | \$400 |
| Each Volunteer | \$150 | \$150 | \$150 |
| Accompanying Child Under 8 | \$150 | \$200 | \$250 |

Accompanying child under 8 years of age must come with parent, not a guardian, and parent must be able to provide care for the child throughout Camp.

Applications postmarked or received via fax within two (2) weeks of start of Camp will not be allowed unless explicitly approved by Camp Registrar. In this case, a fee of \$100 per applicant in addition to the late registration fee amount will be charged.

Discounts:

Submission of application by Early Registration date ensures lowest fee.

The fee for a camper is lowest when at least one (1) parent also attends Camp.

A referring family may receive a discount of \$25 if the referred first time camper attends Camp in the same year as the referral.

A camper may receive a refund of \$25 if he/she holds a valid certificate in CPR/First Aid, brings it to Camp, and is approved by Camp Doctor.

In case of financial hardship, contact Camp Registrar to discuss a discount or fee waiver.

Camp registration fee is not tax deductible. However, any donation made to VHPA on behalf of any of its programs is tax deductible. Refer to your appropriate health plan and/or FSA benefits to determine if Camp registration fee is eligible for submitting a reimbursement claim in the plan.

One check, made out to *Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA)*, per family for appropriate total fees may be submitted.

Attendance of Camp automatically provides benefit of membership in Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America for one (1) year. If attendee is already a member of VHPA, the membership is extended by one (1) year.

Regional Coordinators: Applicants may contact Camp Registrar for any information. In addition, the following regional coordinators may also be contacted for Camp information. Applications may be submitted **only** to Camp Registrar.

CT: Hasit Parikh 860-628-8978, Ajit Desai 860-529-6272; Vatsal Desai 860-316-5552

MA: Jaya Asthana 508-875-0432, Kaushik Patel 508-977-9347, Munish Desai 508-791-4993

MD: Shivaram Sitaram 301-515-8504; **NH:** Rita Patel 603-334-6551;

NJ: Shefali Goel 650-799-6314, Praveen Garg 609-923-3351, Dahyabhai Patel 856-269-0367

NY: Dinesh Modh 516-935-0002, Devendra Patel 718-983-5591 **PA:** Surendra Dayal 610-706-4584

Required forms:

Each applicant, both camper and volunteer, must submit application form and medical form. All requested information must be provided. Please note that medical form requires: a doctor's approval of physical activities, typically proof of physical examination, dated within one (1) year of start of Camp; proof of health insurance such as copy of appropriate medical insurance card; copy of most recent immunization records.

Online registration for Camp is here: <http://vhpfamilycamp.com/registration>.

An application is considered complete if all information in the application form(s) and medical form(s) is provided and fee payment is received by Camp Registrar. If application is incomplete prior to three (3) weeks of start of Camp, Camp Registrar has authority to deny the application and deny entry to Camp.

Camp Doctor has final say regarding completeness of the medical form. Any applicant whose application and/or medical form are incomplete is liable to be denied entrance to the Camp. Camp Registrar and/or Camp Doctor will contact applicant in case the application is incomplete.

Each applicant (provided he/she is capable) must provide signature signifying that the applicant has read and agreed to the rules and regulations of the Camp and agrees with respective Signature Statement.

All campers must stay for the whole session of Camp; all adult volunteers are expected to stay for whole session of Camp – if an adult volunteer cannot stay for whole week, please contact Camp Registrar prior to registration.

Application procedure:

1. Registration is done online at <http://vhpfamilycamp.com/registration>.
2. If 1 or more children from 1 family will be attending Camp, register via the Family registration link.
3. If 1 or more adults (no children) from 1 residence address will be attending Camp, register via the Adult registration link.
4. For all persons attending Camp, you will need to provide from medical/health information in the online form. After submission of the online form, you will need to obtain and submit a physician's approval for participation in Camp. The approval normally is normally a physical examination results letter or form. You may mail, fax, or email all the pertinent information to Camp registrar within 2 weeks of the online registration submission or 3 weeks prior to start of Camp, whichever comes first.
5. If both parents cannot attend Camp with the children, an adult guardian 25 years of age or older who will also attend Camp must be designated. Another parent who will be staying for duration Camp is eligible to serve as a guardian as well. Please contact Camp Registrar if you have any questions about finding a guardian.
6. You have the option of paying the fees via credit card or mailing a check to Camp Registrar during online registration. If paying by credit card, a 3.5% credit card processing convenience fee will be added to the total amount. If paying by check, make the check payable to *Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA)*. The check must be received by Camp Registrar within 2 weeks of the online registration submission or 3 weeks prior to start of Camp, whichever comes first.
7. The Camp Registrar may contact you regarding missing information upon his/her discretion. The Camp Registrar has authority to deny an application if missing information is not submitted in a timely manner.

Activities:

Typical Camp activities include (but not limited to) classes/discussions of Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) and other topics; yoga; physical exercise; age appropriate arts, crafts, and skills such as mehendi, woodworking; science experiments; swimming and boating; age appropriate indoor/outdoor games such as Kho and Kabbadi; hiking; cultural programs such as dancing, singing, drama, musical instruments; campfire.

The attending Camp Doctor has final say over attendee participation of Camp activities. All attendees of Camp are expected to participate in all appropriate Camp activities unless otherwise indicated by Camp Doctor.

Attendees agree to the use of photos and/or video captured by designated Camp persons for Camp publicity and other uses.

Daily Schedule:

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|----------|------------------------------|---------|----------------------|----------|------------------|
| 6:30 am | Wake-up | 1:00 pm | Discussion | 7:00 pm | Dinner |
| 7:00 am | Meditation/Yogasana/Exercise | 2:00 pm | Waterfront | 8:00 pm | Cleanup/Setup |
| 8:30 am | Breakfast & Free Time | 4:00 pm | Snack & Refreshments | 8:30 pm | Cultural Program |
| 9:30 am | Education 1 | 4:30 pm | Outdoor Games | 9:45 pm | Milk & Cookies |
| 10:45 am | Education 2/Projects | 5:45 pm | Shower | 10:00 pm | Bed Time |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch | 6:30 pm | Aarti & Prayers | 10:30 pm | Safety Check |

The following are guidelines to which every attendee must adhere. Violation of one (1) or more of the guidelines may result in disciplinary action and/or dismissal from Camp upon discretion of Camp Director.

1. Attendees will behave in legal, ethical and moral manner at all times for duration of Camp. Inappropriate conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated at Camp. Such inappropriate conduct includes, but is not limited to, physical/emotional/sexual abuse of other persons; violence; harassment of other persons; presence and/or consumption of alcohol/drugs; foul/abusive/threatening/indecent language; gambling; theft of any Camp belongings or other participants' belongings; vandalism. Upon learning of any such violations, Camp officials will ask the offender to leave Camp and/or appropriate authorities will be notified of any such violations. No refunds shall be given in such case. Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), its employees, agents, volunteers, and Camp officials or participants are not responsible for and shall not be held liable for any such behavior/actions undertaken by the offender.
2. Possession or use of alcoholic beverages or drugs on Camp grounds constitutes immediate grounds for dismissal from Camp. Tents/cabins may be inspected at any time upon Camp Director's discretion.
3. Camp authorities reserve the right to ask a volunteer or camper to leave Camp for medical, disciplinary or other reasons. If asked to leave due to disciplinary reasons, the fee will not be refunded.
4. Attendees are not allowed to leave Camp grounds at any time until Camp is officially concluded other than for medical reasons as determined/directed by Camp Doctor. Otherwise, an attendee must receive explicit permission from Camp Director in order to leave Camp grounds while Camp is in session.
5. Camp electronics policy. Use of electronic devices such as smart phones, tablets, and MP3 players during official Camp activities distracts in many ways. It is highly disruptive to those who are trying to impart lessons and those who are trying learn. At registration on Sunday, all children will be asked if they have a mobile/smart phone. The phone may be deposited with the Registrar for safe keeping for duration of camp. The phone will be returned upon Camp close. If use of that phone is required during Camp, please inquire at Camp office. Camp officials reserve the right to confiscate electronic devices for duration of Camp if a camper uses electronic devices during Camp activities, including during night time in cabin areas. At Camp official's discretion, that device may be given to respective parent/guardian or stored for safe keeping for duration of Camp. We ask that volunteers (other than Camp officials for appropriate use) refrain from using of electronic devices in front of children.
6. Attendees must not bring food and drinks to tents/cabins. Tents/cabins may be inspected at any time upon Camp Director's discretion.
7. Attendees must be in bed by 10:30 pm and absolute silence must be maintained thereafter.
8. Attendees must stay in their assigned tents/cabins. Boys/men and girls/women are not allowed in each other's tents/cabins at any time.
9. Attendees are expected to keep the campsite clean at all times. This includes tents/cabins, kitchen area, dining area, activity areas, waterfront areas, and playgrounds.
10. Attendees must stay within the designated activity areas at all times. No one is allowed to wander into the surrounding woods/forest or leave Camp grounds.
11. Attendees are required to participate in all planned activities unless excused by Camp Doctor or Camp Director.
12. Attendees must adhere to all the safety rules which are explained and discussed at Camp.
13. Attendees with any medical issues that require special medical attention and/or medication must indicate as such on the application medical form and inform Camp Doctor immediately upon arrival to Camp. Camp Doctor has authority to deny an application based on the nature of the medical condition.
14. Attendees must pass a simple water test administered by Camp lifeguards in order to participate in any type of boating.
15. Attendees must wear conservative attire at all times, e.g. no belly shirts, halter-tops, etc.

Parent Signature Statement:

By providing signature in the application forms, a parent acknowledges and consents to the following.

I understand that I and/or my child may be housed in a tent/cabin and no special accommodations/foods will be provided. I am physically fit to carry out all required activities of Camp. I shall give my best effort as a Sevak in the spirit of dedication to perform Camp duties that are assigned to me.

I shall serve all campers without special consideration to my own children.

I have read the Camp Discipline Guidelines and shall adhere to them for the duration of Camp.

I consent to Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) inquiry from the state of MA as required by the state of MA.

I give permission to use pictures and/or videos in which I or my child appears for Camp articles, web site, and other promotional materials.

I shall stay the entire session of Camp.

I am fully aware of Camp activities in which that my son/daughter/ward will be participating. I attest that he/she is capable of participating in those activities and give permission to him/her to participate in those activities. I will be responsible for transportation of my child to and from Camp.

In case where I am not attending Camp, I have designated a person at least 25 years of age as a guardian for my child for Camp. Designated guardian will stay for the entire session of Camp. Designated guardian has my permission and authority to make decisions, on my behalf, in regards to the health and well-being of my child for the duration of Camp.

I hereby release Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), its employees, agents, volunteers, and Camp officials or participants from any and all liability arising from any accident and/or injuries that I and/or my child may incur at Camp including off-site activities such as, but not limited to, hiking, sight-seeing, etc.

Guardian Signature Statement:

By providing signature in the application forms, a guardian acknowledges and consents to the following.

I shall serve as a guardian to no more than two (2) children at Camp. I have received permission from the children's parent(s) to serve as guardian. I have the authority from the children's parents to make decisions on behalf of the parent(s) in regards to the health and well-being of the children for the duration of Camp. I shall take responsibility for the children for the duration of Camp.

I understand that I may be housed in a tent/cabin and no special accommodations/foods will be provided. I am physically fit to carry out all required activities of Camp. I shall give my best effort as a Sevak in the spirit of dedication to perform Camp duties that are assigned to me.

I shall serve all campers without special consideration to my wards.

I have read the Camp Discipline Guidelines and shall adhere to them for the duration of Camp.

I consent to Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) inquiry from the state of MA as required by the state of MA.

I give permission to use pictures and/or videos in which I appear for Camp articles, web site, and other promotional materials.

I shall stay the entire session of Camp.

I hereby release Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), its employees, agents, volunteers, and Camp officials or participants from any and all liability arising from any accident and/or injuries that I may incur at Camp including off-site activities such as, but not limited to, hiking, sight-seeing, etc.

Camper Signature Statement:

By providing signature in the application forms, a camper acknowledges and consents to the following.

I have read the Camp Discipline Guidelines and shall adhere to them for the duration of Camp.

I understand that I may be housed in a tent/cabin and no special accommodations/foods will be provided. I am physically fit to carry out all required activities of Camp.

I shall stay the entire session of Camp.

In the case where a camper is 18 years of age or older, I hereby release Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), its employees, agents, volunteers, and Camp officials or participants from any and all liability arising from any accident and/or injuries that I may incur at Camp including off-site activities such as, but not limited to, hiking, sight-seeing, etc.