



Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America presents

# SWAMI VIVEKANANDA FAMILY CAMP

## Rules/Regulations



### **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 welcome 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.

**Camp Attendance: Registration, Dates and Fees:**

Please visit <http://vhpafamilycamp.com> to obtain more details regarding registration dates, fees, and registration for attendance to Camp.

Registration for attendance to Camp is submitted online at <http://vhpafamilycamp.com>.

In addition to the online registration application, a physician’s approval for the attendee is required. For a child attendee, a physical examination report including immunization record is required. The physician must approve that the child is fit for physical activities. For an adult attendee, a simple letter from the physician stating that the adult is fit for physical activities is required. This medical documentation must be dated within 1 year of start of Camp. This medical documentation may be scanned and uploaded to the website or mailed to Camp Registrar or faxed to Camp Registrar. This medical documentation must be received by the Camp Registrar within 2 weeks of submitting registration application or 2 weeks prior to start of Camp, whichever comes first.

Camp Doctor has final say regarding completeness of the medical form. Any applicant whose registration 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.

The Camp fees may be paid via credit card online at time of registration application or paid via check by mailing the check to Camp Registrar. If mailing the payment to Camp Registrar, the payment must be received within 2 weeks of submitting registration application or 2 weeks prior to start of Camp, whichever comes first. The check can be made out to *Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA)*. One check can be submitted for one whole family in the amount of total fees.

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.

**All attendees must stay for the whole session of Camp; partial attendance is not allowed unless explicitly permitted by Camp Registrar and Camp Director.**

**Attendance to 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.**

**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:**

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

**Camp Guidelines:**

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.***