



Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America presents

# VIVEKANANDA FAMILY CAMP

## Camp FAQ



**Q1 How long has Camp been running?**

A1 Vivekananda Family Camp has been continuously running for 38 years. We have been very fortunate to have people who have dedicated themselves to pass on our culture and traditions to the Hindu youth growing up in America.

**Q2 What do the terms 'camper' and 'volunteer' mean?**

A2 Traditionally, a child Camp attendee who is of elementary or secondary school age (usually below age 19) is referred to as a 'camper'. An adult Camp attendee (age 19 or above) is referred to as a 'volunteer'.

Even though Camp is organized and run by a committee of dedicated persons, we need just a little bit of help from the adult attendees as volunteers during Camp. Just 1 hour per day with helping with meal preparation, meal serving, washing dishes, or cleaning dining table goes a long way in running Camp smoothly.

**Q3 Do I need to bring my own food to Camp?**

A3 No. All food and drink are provided for the cost of the registration fee. All meals are vegetarian and prepared fresh daily. If you have special dietary needs or allergy to certain foods, please indicate such on the registration application and also notify the kitchen staff upon arrival to Camp.

**Q4 May I bring mobile phone or other electronic devices/equipment to Camp?**

A4 Campers are not allowed to bring such devices to Camp. A camper may submit such electronics to Camp Registrar upon check-in and will be returned upon check-out. If a camper is caught using such a device during Camp activities, Camp authorities reserve the right to confiscate the device for duration of Camp. Volunteers may bring electronics such as mobile phone and tablets but the use thereof must be discrete and non-disruptive to the activities of Camp. Camp officials and Girl Scouts of America are not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken devices at Camp.

**Q5 How is safety maintained/ensured during Camp?**

A5 A safety committee is dedicated to maintain safety at Camp. All attendees are made aware of safety rules and procedures at start of Camp that must be followed for duration of Camp. Camp Doctor is also on duty at all times for duration of Camp.

**Q6 I am not a member of Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA). Is my family eligible to attend Camp?**

A6 Yes, most definitely, you can attend Camp. If you are not a member, you will be granted membership for 1 year by attending Camp. If you are already a member, your membership will be extended for 1 year by attending Camp.

**Q7 Is there a dress code during Camp?**

A7 Yes. Please refer to the Information/Rules/Regulations document for details. Attendees are encouraged to bring and wear traditional Indian attire for Aarti and nightly Cultural Program.

**Q8 How may I save money when I register for Camp?**

A8 There are a few ways you may save money when registering for Camp. Please refer to the Information/Rules/Regulations document for more details.

- i) Submit the application by the Early Registration date
- ii) At least 1 parent attend Camp along with the camper in which case the camper's fee is lower.
- iii) One who refers another first-time attendee receives a discount on his/her registration fee.
- iv) Having need of assistance in case of genuine financial hardship in which case you can contact Camp Registrar

**Q9** May I or my children attend Camp for part of the week instead of the whole session?

A9 No. All attendees must stay for the full session (full week) of Camp. Registered attendees are not allowed to leave Camp part way through Camp unless granted special permission from Camp Doctor and/or Camp Registrar.

**Q10** I possess knowledge and/or special skills that may be very useful to impart to the children. Even though I do not wish to stay for the Camp session, may I still come to Camp on some days to teach the children?

A10 Such a person must contact Camp Registrar and make the desire known. Based on Camp needs, the person may be allowed to teach. However, the person must pay the volunteer fee in this case.

**Q11** I am coming to Camp as a volunteer. May my relatives/friends join me? May my friends/relatives visit me during Camp?

A11 Only registered attendees are allowed at Camp during the session. There is no walk-in registration for anyone. Parents or family members who have not registered to attend Camp may accompany registered attendees on Sunday (registration day) and/or following Saturday (final day).

**Q12** My child has just graduated from college. May my child attend Camp as a volunteer?

A12 Veteran campers or volunteers who have attended Camp for the past 3 years are eligible and encouraged to attend Camp as junior volunteers or volunteer. Others would have to apply to be accepted as invited teachers/instructors by Camp Registrar.

**Q13** Neither I nor my spouse can attend Camp. May my children still attend Camp?

A13 The short answer is Yes. Vivekananda Family Camp is a family camp where family values are one of the important values imparted at Camp. We highly encourage at least 1 parent to attend Camp along with the camper.

However, another adult who will stay for the duration of Camp may be designated by the parents as the guardian for the children. The guardian must be at least 25 years old. The guardian must agree to take responsibility of the children for the duration of Camp. The guardian is typically another family member or a friend. Note that the fee for a child who will have guardian is higher.

If desired, one of the highly capable Camp staff can be a guardian for your children. Please contact Camp Registrar to arrange for a guardian in this case.

**Q14** As a parent, may my children stay with me in the same cabin?

A14 Only accompanying children who are under 8 years of age may stay in the same cabin as the parent. If there is a medical reason, the Camp Registrar and Camp Doctor must be notified and must approve of the arrangement prior to start of Camp. Only the Camp Accommodations Officer may make other accommodations arrangements during Camp.