



## Notes for Parents and Sponsors 2019

The St John Bosco Centre provides an exciting opportunity for children to have a unique camping holiday in the Essex countryside. The site is set in over forty acres of Essex countryside and is owned and maintained by SVP volunteers. The entire week is taken up with a full programme of planned and supervised activities. Activities include: football, cricket and other ball games, swimming (supervised in a pool), boating, climbing, archery (instructor led), fishing, art and crafts, table tennis, basketball, chess and draughts. Children live in tents, in groups of seven or eight. A cooked breakfast, lunch, dinner and evening snacks are provided, and all activities are also included in the cost.

### Supervision and Safety

The camp gives the upmost priority to the safety of the children. At Least two helpers are assigned to each tent of children and they are responsible throughout the week for their general welfare. The children are never allowed off the site other than on the organised swimming trips. All helpers, in accordance with child protection procedures, are carefully vetted with references and an enhanced CRB or DBS record check, as well as inducted in the camp procedures and protocols. All the activities at camp have undergone rigorous risk assessments and a review and inspection of facilities is carried out annually.

Children need to be sufficiently independent to attend St. John Bosco Camp and capable of following basic rules of safety, e.g. not to climb over fences. We do have a code of conduct for children which we will send to with the booking confirmation. We ask parents/carers to go through this code of conduct with children prior to attending camp.

### Age Range

For boys, we accept those who have reached their 8th birthday but not passed their 14th birthday on the day that they travel to camp. For girls, we accept those who have reached their 9th birthday but not passed their 13th birthday on the day that they travel to camp. For mixed camp, we accept boys and girls who have reached their 9th birthday but not passed their 12th birthday on the day that they travel to camp.

### Applications to Camp 2019

The camp is run on a totally voluntary basis and we endeavour to keep the cost of sending a child as low as possible. In addition, we carry out fund raising activities that contribute towards the running costs. The suggested donation is **£160** per child to stay at camp for a week.

Where possible, in order to help our bookings team, we ask for applications to be completed online at [www.svpboscocamp.org.uk](http://www.svpboscocamp.org.uk). **All applicants including those children being sponsored can use this online system, with options of paying via the secure payment system or cheque.** If this is not possible applications forms can be completed and posted to our bookings secretaries. If you require further booking forms for friends etc. please feel free to download a copy from our website or photocopy your form and notes or contact the booking secretary and a copy can be sent to you.

Paper application forms, suggested donation and the photograph should be sent to the relevant Booking Secretary (See below). Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to (SVP) St. John Bosco Centre.

**Please Note:** *Applications are dealt with on first come first served basis, therefore submission of a form does not necessarily guarantee a place. You will be notified of acceptance or not. Please allow time for forms to be processed. Our booking secretaries are volunteers and try their best to respond to any applications and enquiries promptly.*

### Travel

Transport to and from the camp has been arranged and is included in the cost. Pick up points are: - Central London (TBC) or Beckton, (East London) or Harold Hill, (Romford). Please tick the relevant box on the application form **OR** use the own transport box if you wish to make your own arrangements. Further details of exact travel times and pick up points will be sent out with your confirmation of your booking.

### **Telephone Contact Number(s)**

Please give details of one or more telephone contact numbers in the relevant boxes on the application form. It is unlikely that we will need to contact you during your child's stay, but it is important that quick contact is possible should the need arise.

### **Swimming**

Swimming takes place in organised parties at a local swimming pool and we also have a large garden-sized inflatable pool on site. **All** swimming is well supervised. Children who wish to swim must have **written permission** from their parents or guardians. This permission is included in the parental declaration on the last page of the application form. Please indicate clearly in the relevant box.

**If the swimming declaration is unclear or omitted swimming will NOT be allowed**

### **Pocket Money**

There is a Bank run for the benefit of the children whilst on camp. Pocket money is deposited on arrival, and we try to make sure that it lasts the week. There is a tuck shop on camp that provides sweets, crisps, ice cream and drinks as well as small souvenirs. We would recommend that children should not bring more than £20 pocket money.

### **Equipment and clothing**

A full list of the required equipment and suggested clothing will be sent with confirmation of your booking. This will include a sleeping bag. A time is set aside each day to enable everybody to tidy up and check their personal belongings. **Please ensure that all belongings are marked with the child's name.**

**As this is a camping holiday, please do not bring designer clothing, expensive watches, rings, mobile phones\*, hairdryers, cameras, electronic games etc. as these may be easily lost or broken.**

***\*E-safety ~ phones not allowed because of child protection.***

### **Religious activities**

We are a Catholic camp and Mass or a Communion service is held each day. Children and helpers are encouraged to attend. All children are required to attend Sunday Mass.

### **First Aid**

We have a First Aid point on site and a doctor and general hospital are available locally. A more detailed medical form will be sent with confirmation of your child's booking and this **must be completed and handed in on arrival at camp** when the children are being booked in. All medicines must be clearly marked with your child's name and clear instructions provided on the dosage.

### **Contacting your child whilst at camp**

We will **ALWAYS** call you in case of emergency. If you do not hear from us then you should assume that your child is happy and having a fantastic time at Camp. We discourage regular phone contact as it is usually the main cause of homesickness. We are very experienced in dealing with this issue and if a child is distressed we will make sure they contact you. The Camp is also set in over 50 acres and the children follow a rich activity schedule for the week sometimes away from the phone line. A call may result in Children missing out on an activity. However, if you need to contact the camp the office number is: 01206 242344 (During camping periods only). There is a phone on the camp where children can call family if they wish.

**Keep update with what is happening on camp via our official twitter: @BoscoCamp**

### **Booking secretary**

If you require any further information or application forms then please contact the relevant booking secretary. We ask where possible for any **enquires to be made via email** however if this is not possible please leave a message on our booking secretaries answering machine. They will endeavour to respond to any enquiry within 48 hours of receiving it. Our booking secretaries are all volunteers and therefore try their best to respond to any application or enquire as soon as they are able to.

#### **Boys' booking secretary:**

Andrew Sinnott + Charles Theisinger

Email address: [boysbookings@boscocamp.co.uk](mailto:boysbookings@boscocamp.co.uk)

Answerphone: 07534065347

Address: 22 Humber Road, Witham,

Essex,  
CM8  
1TG

St John Bosco Children's Camp  
[info@boscocamp.co.uk](mailto:info@boscocamp.co.uk)  
[svpboscocamp.org.uk](http://svpboscocamp.org.uk)

#### **Girls' + Mixed booking secretary: Gemma O'Flaherty**

Email address: [girlsbookings@boscocamp.co.uk](mailto:girlsbookings@boscocamp.co.uk)

[mixedbookings@boscocamp.co.uk](mailto:mixedbookings@boscocamp.co.uk)

Answerphone: 07491811167

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