

PACKING SUGGESTIONS AND TIPS FOR THE TRIP

Tips in red font are from families who have gone in years past.

Clothing/footwear

- Casual and comfortable clothing. The weather can vary and we will watch the forecast as we get closer. Even on warm days, the evenings are chilly.
- Modest swimwear
- Comfortable shoes. There is lots of walking.
- Closed-toe/heel shoes for hiking, ropes course, horses, etc.
- Jeans for hiking & horseback riding
- Dark or camo clothes for paintball
- Rain gear, umbrella, or pancho
- House shoes
- Rainboots (even for mom/dad) for mud as well as playing at the creek
- Non-footie pjs for kiddos to make putting shoes on possible if they are mobile, or bare foot as to not slip on wood floors
- Pack for layers, it can get warm during the day and cold in the evenings... gloves/hats for littles
- Definitely check the weather. You'll want to be outside no matter the elements. (Check weather for Harriet, Arkansas)
- Be prepared to walk around shared areas of your cabin in your pjs-I like to have fuzzy socks
- Always bring plenty of extra socks!
- Consider bringing an old or cheap pair of sneakers for your kids that you can just throw away at the end of the week - that way when they're wading in the shallows of the river or getting them super dirty you're not stressed out and also you don't have to pack them with your nice things when it's time to leave.
- If you plan on going to the Blanchard Springs Caverns and

have been to an underground cave in the past year, make sure you are wearing different shoes. They will ask you that when you get there.

- Bring clothes for both weather extremes—swimming in the creek and playing in the snow.
- If you like to hike, bring good shoes for that.

Linen/Towels

- All bedding and bath towels are provided.
- Bring your own towels for playing at the river.
- You might prefer to take our own pillows.

Personal Items

- Hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes
- Backpack
- Bible
- Pen and paper/journal
- Personal water bottle
- Camera and a flashlight
- Hairdryer
- Pack-n-Play for babies.
- Payment for the Scheduled Activities (credit cards accepted)
- Lawn chairs/stadium chairs for the creek.
- Butterfly/fish net, snorkeling gear, light tackle for fishing
- Bring a little net so your kids can catch the biggest tadpoles they'll ever see.
- Insect/tick repellent, sunscreen, poison ivy medicine, prescription
- Bring ibuprofen, Tylenol, antihistamine of choice (Benadryl, Zyrtec, etc).
- Minor First Aid Supplies
- Bring Neosporin and bandaids and also be sure to check for

ticks -- yuck I know but hey it's the outdoors.

- Tweezers
- Laundry Bag or Basket for dirty clothes
- Washers/Dryers are available; bring your own detergent.
- Bring some detergent and do a load part way or at the end of the week -- that way you can pack less and also not have a ton of laundry to do when you get home.
- 4 or 5 large yard-sized garbage bags to keep dirty clothes from getting lost in the room with so many people, and also to keep them separate from clean clothes.
- If noise bothers you while you rest maybe bring some earplugs or a white noise machine of some sort.
- Dry Shampoo

Miscellaneous

- A gift shop with some toiletries, t-shirts, caps and specialty items that can be opened at your convenience.
- Please do not bring pets or other animals, motorcycles, ATV's, weapons, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs. All buildings are smoke-free.
- Bring an umbrella stroller and a wearable baby carrier, even if you're not normally a baby-wearing parent. There are places where a stroller is helpful but many situations where you cannot use a stroller.
- Umbrella stroller for the caverns tour.
- Take a baby monitor so you can be in the common areas while your little ones are napping/sleeping.
- Command hooks to hang your video monitor to make sleeping kids visible
- Footballs, soccer balls, other kinds of sports balls
- Sand or beach toys

- Fishing gear with barbless hooks
- Bring board games.
- Bring a large puzzle and leave it on one of the tables so everyone in the cabin can feel free to work on it. You'd be surprised how many friendships and great conversations go on while you're working on a puzzle together. :)
- When our kids were small we took cartoons on the iPad for early morning risers

Groceries

- Your lodge has a kitchen with refrigerator, microwave, pantry & coffee pots. You will need to bring coffee, filters, sweetener and cream.
- Snacks if you would like to have them available in the cabin.
- It can be helpful to plan ahead with your cabin mates so you don't all bring the same snacks.
- If you are picky on water taste, bring flavor packets.
- Pack re-usable water bottles and fill them up at each meal.
- OR bring bottled water for activities out of the cabin.
- Don't forget sippy cups if your kids are at that age. Most cabins have a dishwasher.
- Bring fruit if you want more than is available at meal times. It makes good snacks for kids and the animals at the petting zoo!

Tips for Travel

- Drive part way Sunday and stop at a hotel with an indoor pool for the night since your little one might do better in the car for two shorter drives over one long drive. (Several families made this comment)
- Make a Walmart stop on your way to camp for fruit, whole

milk, perishable snacks, etc. (the last Walmart on the way is in Clinton, Arkansas)

- The drive back is usually easier because the kids are so worn out.
- Pinterest some fun car trip discussion questions to get at least a little time off a screen!

Tips for the Week at Camp:

- Do not expect wi-fi in your lodging (amazing blessing) you won't miss it I promise!
- Phones do not work in parts of the camp.
- There is limited wi-fi at the Buffalo Conference Center.
- When bringing toys, snacks, games, etc., pack with the intention of sharing.
- Sit with someone you don't know or someone from a different generation at mealtimes at least once or twice.
- Trade off with other families watching the kids.
- Not every room has a bathtub in the bathroom. If your room has a bathtub, please offer for other families to use for kids baths if needed. If your room does not have one and you need one, feel free to ask to use someone else's.
- Feel free to visit folks in other lodges. Just because your family isn't sleeping there doesn't mean you can't visit.

Please do NOT bring balloons, silly string, pets or other animals, motorcycles, ATV's, weapons, fireworks, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs. All buildings are smoke-free.