



Joseph Pfeifer Kiwanis Camp

5512 Ferndale Cutoff * Little Rock, Arkansas 72223

Phone (501) 821-3714 * Fax (501) 821-2629

Email: camp@pfeifercamp.com



Dear Parents,

Congratulations! Your child has been recommended as a candidate for the Pfeifer Kiwanis Camp **Alternative Classroom Experience (ACE)**. ACE is designed for students between the ages of 8 and 13 who are in the third, fourth, or fifth grades in the Little Rock or Pulaski County School Districts. You and your child are lucky because only 160 elementary students receive this opportunity each year.

You may be somewhat apprehensive and skeptical of the ACE program. In fact, we would expect you to be. It's not every day that someone recommends your child to a program where you can't see or talk to him or her on a daily basis. Hopefully, this pamphlet will ease some of your concerns and answer some of your questions.

First and most importantly, our program operates with a lot of love. Campers quickly realize that our staff really care about them and want to see them excel. The program is also very structured. No camper goes anywhere by himself or herself. Our discipline model helps campers understand that there are consequences for your actions. Those who choose not to follow the rules must suffer the consequences.

For many students the ACE program helps them realize how capable they really are. They realize that they can make good grades, that they can behave, and that they are good people. Some campers make life-long decisions at camp. Others show improvement after the program but fall back into old habits. Many parents and campers have told us that ACE made all the difference in the world for them.

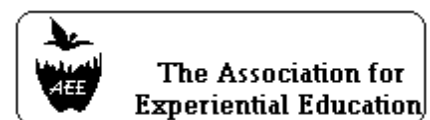
ACE is not for "bad kids." ACE is for children who have the potential to do well in school but are not functioning as well as they could be at this point. We have a variety of students—some with low self-esteem, some who make straight A's, some who can't read, some who think fighting solves problems, some who barely speak out in class, some who argue with their parents, some who have been in abusive situations, some whose parents are divorced, some with brothers and sisters who are teen parents, some who are rich, some who are poor, and some who are somewhat in the middle.

Even if you think your child does not fit into those categories, your child will benefit from ACE by learning outdoor living skills, independence, responsibility, how to live in a group setting, trust, cooperation, and teamwork. Of course, your child will grow academically as well. With a low student/teacher ratio, campers are divided by ability level for math, reading, and spelling.

Camp is fun and exciting. At the same time, camp is challenging and stressful. The Alternative Classroom Experience provides an opportunity for your child to grow in many ways. Just like in real life, in order to have fun, we must first get the work done. For the campers this means completing schoolwork and making at least 80% on all assignments. Anything below 80% must be completed until it is 100% correct. Those students who choose not to do their work in class may find themselves finishing their work late into the evening when others are participating in activities or getting ready for bed. Campers also help maintain camp cleanliness by sweeping and mopping, skills everyone should learn.

The four main goals of the program are (1) To improve student behavior in an institutional classroom setting, (2) To improve academics in an institutional classroom setting, (3) To improve community and home relationships, and (4) To improve classroom attendance. We are emphasizing prevention and want to help your child succeed at home, at school, and in the community. We have a quality program that is licensed through the state of Arkansas as a residential childcare provider. Also, the camp is accredited through the American Camp Association. Please read the rest of this pamphlet to learn more about our program.

Project of the Downtown Kiwanis Club





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Parent Information and Program Guidelines

Parents must read this pamphlet thoroughly before completing and signing the Registration Form. By signing that form parents understand and agree to follow these guidelines.

Program Design

Each student who participates in the program will live at Camp Pfeifer for five weeks (three weeks for 3rd grade), excluding weekends and holidays. During these five weeks, the students will attend class at the camp under the direction of the Pfeifer Camp staff and teacher. Following the completion of their time at camp, the students will return to their regular classrooms where they will be visited daily for the week immediately following their return. These visits are designed to insure a smooth transition into the regular classroom setting and enable the staff to monitor, evaluate, and intervene, when necessary, with problematic behaviors. During their time at the camp, campers will live in cabins with their counselor and a group of ten cabinmates.

Parenting Component

During the course of the program, you will be required to attend the parent meetings at the camp. The first meeting is called the Initial Parent Meeting and will answer any last minute questions and will allow you to see the staff. This meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. on the Tuesday evening before each session begins at camp. **The next meeting is the registration parent meeting which is held on the first Sunday of the program at the camp at 4:00 p.m.** All of the other parent meetings will be held throughout the session on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Again, these meetings are mandatory in order for the child to continue to participate in ACE.

Transportation

The parent /guardian is responsible for providing or arranging transportation to and from the camp each week. On the first Sunday of the session, you must bring your child promptly at **4:00 p.m.** for registration. Late arrivals will be denied registration unless the Executive Director or Program Director is contacted in advance. For the rest of the session, the parent/guardian must bring the child to the camp each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. and pick up the child between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. each Friday. ****SPECIAL NOTE:** For every minute after 1:00 p.m., parents/guardians must pay a \$1.00 per minute babysitting fee.

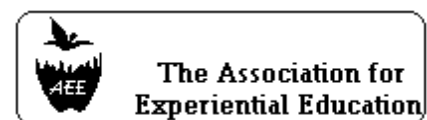
Money

ACE is free and is paid for primarily by the school districts. However, campers will need a little spending money for supplies. Students should bring at least \$5.00 for the first week and may replenish each week. This money must be turned in on registration day and will go into the student's checking account.

Staff

Executive Director, Sanford Tollette, received his B.S. in Early Childhood Development from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, has taught elementary school, and has worked at Pfeifer Camp since 1973. Binky Martin-Tollette, Assistant Executive Director, has a masters degree in education and has been at camp since 1983. A certified teacher, teacher's aides, and several counselors and AmeriCorps members work closely with the campers. Also on staff are a full-time nurse and cook.

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Evaluation and Follow-up Procedures

Each week you will receive an evaluation from your child's counselor and teacher regarding their academic, social, and behavioral performance and progress for the week. We also ask parents to complete a brief evaluation after each weekend. This maintains open and direct communication between parents and staff concerning the child's well being. After your child's completion of the ACE program, we are by no means finished with our commitment to your child. We will continue monitoring your child through follow-up visits until your child completes the seventh grade. Some students may be eligible to return for a second ACE session, and all ACE graduates are eligible to apply for the free summer camp program.

Health and Medication

All campers must have a physical completed by a physician or nurse practitioner before attending camp. This program is very active and requires that students be in good physical health. Children with asthma who have had an "attack" within the last year are not recommended for our program related to the following environmental conditions: fireplace smoke in cabins and classroom, excessive dust, rainy days and nights, and the strenuous nature of the program. If your child takes any prescription medication, please let us know on the Registration Form. We need written parent authorization for any non-prescription medication to be given at camp. Prescription medication must be in a current prescription bottle with accurate dosages on the label. Any changes from this label must be accompanied by a written statement from the prescribing doctor. **All medication must be turned in to the nurse at registration on opening day.** Any medication brought to camp on subsequent weeks should be given to the program director at the parent meetings. Any child with head lice nits will be dismissed from the program, so check your child's hair before camp each week. Also, on registration day we will need a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunizations records. Hopefully the school will provide this.

Dismissal Possibilities

It is very rare that a student gets dismissed from the program. Most children adapt well to our discipline model and realize that it is fair to all involved. However, we reserve the right to dismiss a student if his/her behavior and/or health jeopardizes the safety, well being, and progress of other campers or staff. Parents also have the right to remove their child from the program at any point. We strongly discourage this for many reasons. First, it sends a message to your child that it is okay to back out of commitments and quit. Secondly, this position cannot be refilled which costs the school districts approximately \$1500. Finally, the first two weeks of the program are the most stressful to the child, as this is an adjustment stage. Some children are not used to having to get their schoolwork done and completed correctly. Accepting responsibility for one's actions can be difficult and uncomfortable but is rewarding in the long run. By the third week of the program, everything seems to run much more smoothly.

Visitation

We do not allow visitors to the camp except for school personnel. Visitation disrupts the flow of the program and actually increases the likelihood of homesickness. Also, we do not allow campers to call home or parents to call their children for the same reasons. In case of emergency or illness, we will contact the parent as soon as possible. Campers may receive and send mail.

Media Release

We reserve the right to use photographs, video, and written information/articles of the campers to be used for advertising, public relations, or grant reporting purposes.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parents of ACE graduates are expected to attend a parent/teacher conference at their child's regular school each nine weeks.

What to Bring to Camp

All students must bring the following list of personal items to camp, according to the session. You may want to put your child's name on the tags with permanent marker.

Bedding: sleeping bag (or sheets and blanket) and a pillow

Hygiene: towels, washcloths, toiletries (soap, toothbrush, paste, hairbrush or comb, shampoo, etc.)

Clothes: jeans, shirts, sneakers, extra shoes, socks, underwear, sleepwear, flip flops for shower

Cold weather: coat, knit hat, gloves, long underwear (or tights or sweatpants), sweaters, sweatshirts

Warm weather: shorts, swimsuit (if pool is open)

Extra things: flashlight (with extra batteries), rain gear (poncho)

Things to turn in at registration: Physical signed by doctor, spending money, medication

What Not to Bring to Camp

Campers should not bring electronic equipment such as radios, televisions, beepers, Walkman, recorders, cell phones, or games. Also, campers should not bring any valuables or extra money, as we cannot be responsible for such items.

School Supplies

Students may purchase any necessary school supplies at the camp for less than \$3.00.

JOSEPH PFEIFER KIWANIS CAMP
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SANFORD TOLLETTE
Executive Director

