



THE PORTSEA CAMP
EST. 1946

Children's Holiday Camp Parent/Guardian Information

Why the Portsea Camp?

The Portsea Camp has been running children's school holiday camps for over 70 years. Our camps are second to none, with every effort made to ensure your child has the best time of their lives.

Our staff and volunteers

Supporting our regular staff are a team of Working with Children checked volunteers: people to look after children's general needs, particularly in the rooms, people to run the recreation program, nurses and, whenever possible, a Doctor.

Many volunteers have been coming to the Camp for many years and are very capable people who genuinely love having fun with kids. Where particular skills are required, staff and volunteers are fully trained to exacting standards and all activities are run according to strict safety guidelines. Adult to child ratios are at least 1:8, often as high as 1:5.

Our medical support team

Volunteer nurses are always on call. They ensure that prescribed medication is given as directed and that first aid needs are met.

Children attending Camp will be required to hand medication to camp staff or volunteers ASAP, either when boarding a bus to camp, or on arrival at the office.

If your child is sick or injured we will be in touch immediately to let you know.

Our accommodation

Children stay in either dormitory or en-suite rooms. Adults are always immediately on hand. **Pillows and blankets are not provided.**

Our meals

Providing everyone with maximum energy requires a substantial and nutritional diet. Fresh fruit and fluids are always available, salads or cooked vegetables accompany all meals. All special diets can be catered for.

Children

Children must be between 9 and 12 years of age.

All children are welcome but preference is given to children who are disadvantaged or have special needs. By this we mean:

- o country children who rarely if ever get to the beach
- o children whose parent(s) have a Health Care card
- o children in care
- o children who have a disability
- o children whose life experience or personal circumstances indicate that they would benefit greatly from having 'a break'.

It is important you include details of any medical, dietary and behavioural issues in your child's application form. This will ensure that we are fully aware of any problems which may arise and can be prepared.

Every effort will be made to ensure your child is having a great time, mixing in and participating in activities. However if your child is missing home to such a degree that they cannot enjoy the camp; or your child is unable or unwilling to follow Camp rules or their behaviour poses a risk to other campers or themselves, you **will** be asked to pick them up from camp. This does not happen very often.

What to bring

All clothes should preferably have your child's name on the label. Lost property is held for 3 weeks only, with lost items returned if you wish (COD). Older clothing is fine, with perhaps one good outfit for discos.

- Pair of sheets and/or a sleeping bag (extras if your child wets the bed)
- Pillow and Pillowcase
- Pyjamas
- 2 towels – beach and bath
- Warm jumper
- Waterproof coat
- Bathers
- T-shirts (short sleeved for shoulder protection during the day, no singlets)
- Tracksuit, jeans, shorts
- Underwear and socks
- Sturdy shoes for activities
- Slip on shoes or thongs to walk to the beach
- Toiletries – toothbrush & paste, hairbrush/comb, soap & shampoo, insect repellent (roll-on only), sun screen & lip screen (15+)
- Plastic bag for any wet towels or bathers on departure day.
- torch

What not to bring

- Nuts or products containing nuts
- Drinks or lollies (except for a snack on the coach to camp)
- Weapons of any sort
- Matches or lighters
- Laserlights

Pocket money

Not required

Valuables

Generally best left at home. The Camp will not take responsibility for the loss or damage to items such as mobile phones, cameras, electronic games, Ipods etc.

Travel arrangements

Where your booking has been made through a Portsea Camp local organiser, bus transport will most probably be arranged and you will be advised of times closer to departure time. Parents bringing children directly to Camp must drop them off at 3pm on the first day and pick them up no later than 9am on the last day.

Contacting your child

Children do not have access to a public phone and it is almost impossible for us to get your child to the office when you call.

You are most welcome to call the camp and leave a message or send an email to: info@theportseacamp.com.au . We will ensure the message is passed on.

To help your child write home we will give them a pre-stamped postcard. You could also give them stamped, self-addressed envelopes, pen and paper.

Visitors

Please contact the Camp before dropping in. Anyone whose name is not on your child's application form will not be allowed access to your child unless you have contacted the camp and given permission for the visit to go ahead. Children will not be allowed off-site with a visitor unless prior arrangements have been made.

Where are we

Melways Map Ref. 156 F2

Further information

For further information, costs and application forms, contact your local community organiser or the Camp's booking officer Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Contact Us

Email: info@theportseacamp.com.au
phone: (03) 5984 2333 fax: (03) 5984 1676
website: www.theportseacamp.com.au

Accreditation

The Portsea Camp is proud to be accredited by the Australian Camps Association.

