

2019 OFRC Youth Camp Groupmate Request Policy

Campers are placed in tent or cabin groups by age, grade in school and by gender. There are typically 10 campers in a tent or cabin group. Group assignments are made within the three weeks prior to camp or when all spots have been filled.

Plenty of campers come without being part of a specific friend group, which is great! Camp is an amazing place to meet new friends and try new things in a safe environment. When we assign cabins, we are mindful of the number of campers who already know each other and the number of campers coming without a preset group. Balancing the needs of all our campers is important and a responsibility we take seriously.

At the same time, we recognize that coming to camp with a friend is fun and adds a familiar, comfortable dimension. We understand that friends are excited to attend camp together, but we also need to recognize that it can be difficult for our staff to build a cohesive group identity and sense of community with both campers who are already friends and campers who are attending alone or for the first time.

With the goal of providing the best camping experience for everyone, we have a policy for groupmate requests:

Families may request up to two campers to be in the same group as their child, with the children being within one year of age of each other. We will do our very best to honor all groupmate requests, but due to other family's requests, age and grade breakdowns and dates of registration, we cannot 100% guarantee that all group requests will be granted. If you request more than two groupmates, we will simply honor your first two listed.

Please note:

- We will try very hard to honor both requests, and will likely always be able to accommodate one match.
- While the tent/cabin group is a key component of the camp experience, there are several times a day (daily all camp games/activities, pre-meal open activity time, daily activity choice time, many meals, etc.) when campers can spend quality time with campers outside of their group. After receiving parents and camper feedback, in 2019, we are increasing the number of opportunities for campers to interact with other campers who are in another group.
- Please feel free to not request anyone. Meeting new people is the best way to experience camp!

Lastly, we ask for your patience and understanding. Due to the number of groupmate requests, group assignments are often very difficult – sometimes we make mistakes and sometimes we are unable to honor a specific request. Please know that we are doing our best to provide a positive camp experience for all campers!

At OFRC, we feel strongly that making new friends and getting to know people with different life experiences is one of the great benefits of the camp experience. We also know that the socially immersive environment of camp allows for strengthening of existing friendships and relationships. As always, we value open communication, and invite you to share any thoughts or concerns with us by calling 510-336-2267. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to provide meaningful camp experiences to all of our campers.