



# Frequently Asked Questions about Astrocamp

*When is Astrocamp and what time will we be leaving Rhoades? When will we be returning?*

Astrocamp will be November 14 - 16; we will be leaving from school by bus promptly at 8:30 on Wednesday morning. We should return to school around 3:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon.

*What type of luggage is necessary?*

This is not SWIFT, which is still very much in your memories, so the main thing to remember is to pack light. Pack your clothes and bedding in a rolling duffle bag or suitcase because our dorm is down a bit of a hill.

*Should we bring anything that is not listed on the packing list?*

You need to bring two very important items with you on that first day: A (disposable) sack lunch and a clean 2-Liter soda bottle. We will be eating in the meadow shortly after our arrival. All other meals but this first one will be provided by Astrocamp. The 2-Liter soda bottle will be for our bottle rockets. Please do not mangle the bottle in any way as it will not properly launch if it has been tossed, stomped on, or used to bonk the heads of friends.

*What about the bus ride up?*

No snacking on the bus will be allowed, so make sure to have good breakfast. We will arrive at Astrocamp around 11:00 to 11:30 and will have our lunch shortly thereafter.

*What about medications?*

**Any medication you wish to have administered must be supplied by the parents. Please put medications in a Ziploc bag accompanied by the release form and instructions. Bring that bag on the morning of departure and give it to our designated volunteers. Mr. Ruppert and Mrs. Lester will be in charge of keeping your medications safe and assuring that you take them as prescribed.**

***Is Astrocamp at a high altitude?***

Altitude is a bit of an issue, more for being thirst-inducing than anything else; bring a water bottle clearly marked with your name. There are drinking fountains all around Astrocamp, however.

***What type of clothing should I bring?***

We will be enjoying crisp mountain air. The average temperatures will range from the mid-sixties to the low thirties. It definitely gets cold at night, and it is usually pretty chilly at the telescopes during our Space Night activities. Shorts might work during daytime hours; jeans are good at night; bring one pair of each. Don't forget to bring a hat and sunscreen! We'll check the weather forecast the day before and suggest any changes.

***May I bring my iPod, Ipad, or cell phone?***

No electronics of any kind, including cell phones, are allowed on the Astrocamp campus; the chaperons will have cell phones and there are additional phones available in the administration offices. Please leave electronics of *any* kind at home. This is a great opportunity to “unplug” and focus on friends, nature, and the stars!

***What about the food?***

All meals are served family style in the grand “mess hall.” Please let us know if you have special dietary needs. Astrocamp offers vegetarian entrees with every meal.

***Is it OK to bring snacks to keep in my dorm room?***

No food of any kind is allowed in the dorms; our dorms are in the woods, in which critters of all sorts abound (raccoons and squirrels particularly), and the Astrocamp personnel don't appreciate animal invaders inside the dormitories, where the staff also lives. Please do not bring any snacks other than what is contained in the sack lunch for the very first meal when we arrive on day one. Astrocamp keeps us very well fed, so snacks are unnecessary.

***Should I bring a sleeping bag?***

You can bring either a sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket. Everyone should bring a pillow. The dorms have rustic bunk beds onto which you can throw your sleeping bag or make up as your bed at home with sheets and a blanket.

***Tell me about the bathrooms.***

The bathrooms are shared, although the girls (who have their own dorm room floor) and the boys (who are on a different floor) do not share bathrooms. There are showers in the bathrooms, so you need to remember to bring your own soap, shampoo, and a towel. The days are very, very busy at Astrocamp, so we usually clean up at night before going to bed.

***What about Chaperons?***

In addition to Mr. Ruppert, and Mrs. Lester, we are taking to take three parent chaperons.

***Should I bring any money with me?***

Astrocamp allots us one brief visit to shop in the Astrocamp store. The most popular item to purchase is an Astrocamp sweatshirt, followed in popularity by Astrocamp pajama bottoms. Some prices include:

Sweatshirt \$30 Pajama Bottoms \$22 Baseball Cap \$12 T-Shirt \$15 Beanie Critter \$7

Additional items are available at various prices. The most expensive item is the sweatshirt (which is a hoodie). **Please bring all money in an envelope clearly marked with your name on it and give it to our designated volunteers on the morning of departure.**

*My question has not been answered; what should I do?*

Please email either Mr. Ruppert, or Mrs. Lester if you have a specific question or concern not addressed by this FAQ document.

*More info available at <http://astrocampschool.org/>*

