



***An A-to-Z Guide  
For Parents***





Dear Friends,

The Coleman Country Day Camp motto is “*Discover the Spirit.*” And we make sure that there’s a whole lot of spirit for your children to discover! We chose a Western theme when we founded our camp in 1982 because it stands for the pioneering spirit of America’s settlers. Their lives were filled with first experiences, challenges, excitement – and even the unexpected – all very close to nature. That’s exactly what we provide to our campers every day – new trails, filled with opportunities for adventure and discovery.

Camp is a vital part of a child’s total education. In our specially sculpted community, children have opportunities to explore the natural world, to make first-hand discoveries and to be involved in human powered activities, rather than learning through the pre-filtered world of the media and technology. Camp fosters new friendships and inter-generational relationships, creating a true community, where campers know that they belong and feel a sense of connection.

Summer is a very special time for children. It’s a chance to step back from daily routines and to relax and flourish in our intentionally designed community. We offer a total program that is geared to challenge our campers and to lead them to success, all in the company of friends and role models who really care. We help our campers build self-respect and character even as they learn swimming, horseback riding, and painting. We have our own “Three R’s” at camp: responsibility, resilience, and respect. We coach these values every day...and all while each child has the time of his or her life!

We promote spirited participation while carefully avoiding excessive competition. We emphasize personal pride and accomplishment. Friendship is the foundation of the summer camp experience, and our skillfully trained staff works hard to make our camp philosophy happen for each and every camper. We are truly an extended camp family that embraces campers and their families. In our Western jargon, we welcome you as “kinfolk.”

In this handbook, we provide important tips for a successful and fun summer, as well as definitions of the lingo that we use here at Coleman Country, all in a convenient A-to-Z format. Once you’ve read it from cover to cover, we suggest that you keep it as a handy reference guide throughout the summer. We invite you to begin to “*Discover the Spirit*” of camp as you leaf through the pages!

*The Coleman Family*

## Accreditation

Coleman Country Day Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association, the only accrediting organization for camps in the world. ACA accreditation is a parent's assurance that more than 300 strict standards for health, safety, and program quality are met. Marla is a past president of the national association and all the Colemans are active in this professional organization. Take a look at [www.ACACamps.org](http://www.ACACamps.org) for lots of information on the camp experience!

## Artists-in-Residence

Each summer, Coleman Country invites several talented professionals to show our campers new activities they might never have tried on their own! These individuals, known as artists-in-residence, live at camp for one or more weeks and provide demonstrations and hands-on workshops. We select these gifted men and women for their special talents and for their enthusiasm and ability to teach our campers what they do and how they do it! These instructors are specialists in all sorts of areas, like athletics, the arts, and special hobbies. Past artists-in-residence have included magicians, circus performers, sculptors, and sign language teachers, to name just a few.

## Backpacks

Please do not send backpacks, knapsacks or fanny packs to camp. We provide all the items your child will need for a great day at camp! A fanny pack is sufficient for any necessary small items. Larger packs get in the way of play and are easily misplaced when set down during an activity. They're also cumbersome and heavy for your child to carry around all day!

## Cap Day

Before the summer starts, your child will have a chance to meet his or her bus counselor on Cap Day. Your child's bus counselor will visit your home and meet you and your child so that he or she is sure to know someone on the bus for the first day of camp. As part of this special day, the bus counselor will present your child with a special Coleman Country cap to wear. The bus counselor will contact you the week before camp starts to make Cap Day arrangements.

## Character Counts

A special program for our Kindergarten campers that stresses the six pillars of character – fairness, caring, respect, responsibility, citizenship, and trustworthiness. Through role-plays and discussion, campers learn about these important aspects of good character – the foundation we're built on!

## Chow Hall

In our Western-style community, we don't just eat in a "dining area" – we call our lunchtime locale the Chow Hall! Meals are served family style.

## Chronicle

Our camp newspaper, which is sent home on the bus the first and last days of camp and every Friday in-between.

## Clothing

The right clothes help our campers have a great time! There's no need to worry about who has a trendier T-shirt or newer shorts – we've got it all taken care of!

Coleman Country T-shirts (tan with red graphics) should be worn daily. They can be pre-ordered through the camp office or purchased at Spring Fling or on Get Acquainted Day. Orders received before May 10 will be ready for pickup on Get Acquainted Day. Shorts may be any color; optional Coleman Country shorts are available. Pioneers (nursery through kindergarten) wear specially marked shirts for easy identification; please

specify “Pioneer” when ordering. Please make sure all clothing items are labeled – even camp shirts!

We recommend white sweat socks and sneakers for the safety and comfort of our campers. Velcro closing sneakers are suggested for any campers who can't tie their shoes yet. A Coleman Country cap is provided for each camper at no charge; we recommend that campers wear them for sun protection.

## **Club**

A designated period during the camp day for campers entering second grade and above to choose an activity of their choice.

## **Code of Living**

At the beginning of camp, each group gets together and, with the help of their counselors, discusses the values they want to abide by to have a successful, fun summer. We call it the Code of Living. When the group has decided on their set of rules, each group member signs the Code of Living in a solemn ceremony and receives a copy to take home. Because campers themselves choose the rules they want to live by, the Code of Living is especially powerful!

## **Coleman Town**

Our online password-protected one-way window into the world of Coleman Country can be accessed through our website. Designed to give family and designated friends a glimpse of days on The Ranch, the site is loaded with photos, news stories, blogs, and video depicting the fun each day. Coleman Town enables parents to keep their own photo album, print out photos directly from their computer on photographic paper, and view a weekly video highlighting that week's special events. Registration and log-in codes are mailed prior to the start of camp.

## **Community**

At Coleman Country, we strive to maintain a true camp community. Our campers know they are a part of something bigger than any one individual – it's a true sense of belonging, contributing and connection!

## **Denver**

Denver is the camp mascot; he is a black lab. He loves meeting and greeting our Pardners. Denver has been trained as a therapy dog, so he is especially helpful in getting to know those of our campers who may have fears or apprehensions about dogs. He often has play dates at camp with his cousin, Ringo, a yellow lab.

## **Don't Laugh at Me**

A thematic program designed to help our Pardners empathize with each other and eliminate name-calling and teasing. Together, we create a tease-free zone where everyone knows that they belong! Campers learn the song “Don't Laugh at Me” and even pick up some sign language as they learn to sign along to the music. Look for signs around The Ranch to remind campers and staff of our no bullying policy.

## **Dream Big**

A themed program to encourage campers not only to dream big dreams, but to turn those dreams into personal goals and then to achieve them. A goal for the summer might be anything from “Make new friends” to “Ride the zip line.” Campers sing along to our spirited theme song: “Dream big, set your sights high!”

## **Drinks**

To help our Pardners beat the heat, we have many chilled filtered water fountains all over campus, and each group stops frequently for drinks. There is no need to send water bottles to camp!

## Evenings and Weekends

A Coleman Country summer is an exciting experience for our campers! We want you, our Kinfolk, to share in the fun our Partners have, not only during our special family events, but also during your own summer hours with your children. Over the years, we have come to know how parents can help make the camp experience even better for children, and we want to share a few suggestions.

Our busy days will leave campers happy – and tired – at the end of the day. Even though they may bounce off the bus in the afternoon, they may quickly “fade” during the course of the evening. Try to avoid late-night activities and make sure that your camper gets lots of sleep. Also, keep the weekends well-paced so that children are well-rested and ready for camp on Monday mornings.

Try to sit down for a quiet family dinner. If you want to hear about the day at camp, don't ask, “What did you do at camp today?” We guarantee you the answer will be “Nothing!” Also, to reinforce the positive self-talk and goal-setting that we stress at camp, try these questions: “What made you proud today?” “What are you looking forward to tomorrow?”

## Explorers

The Explorer division, led by Susan Schwartz and Andrew Richter, is comprised of boys and girls entering third and fourth grades. Their typical day encompasses all activities on The Ranch, along with an opportunity to choose areas of special interest during Club periods. With two swims daily and a full and varied program, campers get to experience everything from soccer to lanyards to computers.

Intramurals for the Explorers emphasize interpersonal skills, as youngsters learn a sense of commitment and camaraderie by being part of a team roster that spans the summer. Teams face off on rinks, courts, or diamonds to test their newly honed abilities, all while their coaches lend encouragement. Important lessons in winning and losing gracefully are incorporated into this sphere of the regular schedule.

## Facebook Friends

There are more than 1,100 followers of Coleman Country postings and conversations on Facebook. If you're not one of them, “like” us! On our Facebook Page, you'll find the latest and greatest news about facilities, program, and other musings, as well as photos and videos, that will keep the warm memories of camp in your heart year-round. Parents, campers, staff, and alumni all comprise our Coleman Country Virtual Family.

## Fall Harvest Festival

Every October, we celebrate the coming of autumn with our Fall Harvest Festival, where Partners and Kinfolk can return to The Ranch for a day of family fun! You can choose from a plethora of family-oriented activities, from pumpkin painting to the petting zoo. It's the perfect day for our camp families to take time out of their busy schedules and reconnect with each other and with old friends!

## First-Hand Experiences

Camp is a haven, where we bring children out of the media-centric world of pre-filtered information from television, movies, and newspapers and into a world of first-hand experiences. Therefore, all electronic games and other toys should be left at home. Our campers truly learn by doing!

## Follow Me

The theme for the Summer of 2011, which is threaded throughout the program, as well as a focus of social skills that are coached during camp. The phrase reminds us that actions speak louder than words.

## Food

We serve a nutritious, hot lunch daily, with a choice of 99% fat-free milk or fruit juice. All food served contains

0 grams of trans fat added through the preparation process. Substitutes are available every day, including choice of: beef bologna, American cheese, sliced turkey breast, tuna with light mayo, or cream cheese and jelly on white or whole wheat bread, plain bagel, bagel with margarine, bagel with cream cheese, or light yogurt with fruit. If your child prefers a substitute lunch, we ask that you send a note to his or her counselor so that we can be aware of your child's preferences. Because some of our campers have life-threatening allergies, we cannot serve peanut butter or other nut products at camp.

Dietary restrictions can be accommodated; we provide Glatt Kosher meal service upon request.

Snacks (ice cream or ices) are served every afternoon. Pioneer (nursery and kindergarten) campers also receive a wholesome snack in the morning, as do groups who eat a later lunch.

We do not allow food from home for several reasons. Our menus are healthful and filling; your child will not need treats or substitutes from home. If your child has a dietary requirement, we will adapt his or her menu to meet it. Many treats are unsafe at camp: lollipops and gum are especially unsafe in our active environment, and some ingredients in candy can endanger campers with severe allergies. Please do not send your child on the bus with food, as it can be especially dangerous in a moving vehicle. Water bottles are not necessary, as there are chilled filtered fountains spread throughout the camp, and groups make frequent water stops throughout the day.

## Forms

We need to have received the following forms from you:

- Personal Profile Sheet
- Aquatic Profile
- Health Form
- Face Place
- Physician's Report
- Standing Orders (So that we may administer over-the-counter meds if needed)
- Off-Site Swim (49ers Only)

Please read all materials carefully and be sure to submit all required forms before camp begins.

## Forty-Niners

Big Bob and Margie Noble along with Dimitri Bernadel and Gary Spitzer supervise our senior campers, who are entering grades five through eight. Unlike our younger Partners, our older campers design a good portion of their own program. While we believe that younger campers should be exposed to all activities so that they can make enlightened choices later in life, we encourage senior campers to tailor their own summer days for optimal fun and personal skill development for their adult years.

A typical day includes two swims and a variety of activities as well as daily and week-long blocks of time for the pursuit of Selective and Club options. Off-campus, late-return trips to amusement parks, deep-sea fishing, and professional ball games afford added adventures. Campers must wear their Coleman Country T-shirts on out-of-camp trips; this helps the group stay together. Special theme events include late nights on The Ranch, a 49ers Body-Building Contest, and a fun and funky fashion show, along others.

Our oldest campers also may choose to enroll for optional off-campus overnight trips. You can find details about these on our website and in our newsletters.

## Fun!

The foundation of our camp experience is *fun* — we call it the Power of Fun. We encourage campers to expand their horizons and discover new activities they never even knew they loved, plus familiar favorites like soccer, arts & crafts, and swimming. In short, our campers have the time of their lives!

## GaGa

GaGa is a fast-paced friendly form of dodge-ball that originates from Israel and has its home at Coleman Country in its very own complex. GaGa is a huge favorite among campers, and each year many campers look forward to showing their stuff at our camp-wide GaGa tournament, a major camp event. Coleman Country moms and dads also get their chance to shine in the “Pit” at our annual Parent Tournament, held one evening each summer.

## Get Acquainted Day

Get Acquainted Day, or GAD for short, gives you and your child the opportunity to meet counselors and other members of your child’s group. We’ll send details in early June; Get Acquainted Day is Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please bring the following items to Get Acquainted Day, and please label all items with camper’s name. These items will be kept at camp:

- Two bathing suits (one-piece only)
- A sweatshirt (Coleman Country sweatshirt requested)
- Sunscreen if desired

Pioneer (nursery and kindergarten) campers should also bring:

- A change of clothing, including shorts, underwear, and socks, contained in a labeled shoebox
- A small mat for rest time (available for purchase through camp)

## Goals

When getting ready for camp, take some time to sit down with your child and discuss his or her goals for the summer. Goals can be the easily measured kind, like learning the crawl at the pool, or less concrete, like overcoming a fear of horses or making new friends. At Coleman Country, there are no grades or permanent records – it’s the perfect opportunity for your child to take healthy risks and try new things he or she might not get to do during the school year! Whatever your camper’s goals, take time to talk about them as a family and write them down so that you can celebrate your child’s progress throughout the summer.

## Grammy’s Gallery

Grammy’s Gallery is where creativity blossoms and the sky’s the limit! In other words, it’s our arts and crafts area, which also includes our ceramics studio. Poppy’s Pavilion, adjacent to Grammy’s Gallery, is our covered arts & crafts studio.

## Gratuities

Gratuities are a personal and individual matter. Since we receive many inquiries from parents, we offer the following suggestions for your consideration:

Counselor: \$70  
 Assistant Counselor: \$40  
 Counselor-in-Training: \$25  
 Bus Counselor: \$25 per child  
 Swim Instructor: \$10

We ask that if you plan to show your appreciation, you do so at the end of the camp session.

## Happy Trails

Our theme song, the Roy Rogers original, reverberates on The Ranch at the end of every single camp day. It is our way of saying goodbye for now and looking forward to reconstituting the camp community the next day of camp!

## Happy Trails Blog

“Happy Trails” is a go-to place for parents, a virtual meeting spot — as though you were right here on The Ranch! We provide perspectives and insights, whether it is sharing knowledge as child development professionals and parent advocates, or observations from strolling around camp.

### Head Lice

We request that prior to the first day of camp, you check your child’s head for the presence of lice. These harmless but annoying parasites know no socio-economic boundaries, and there is no correlation between cleanliness and lice – in fact, lice prefer a clean, well-groomed head! – so there is a possibility that the nits (small, silvery egg cases attached to the hair shaft which do not brush off) may have found their way from another child to yours during the school year.

Please remind your child, as we do, not to share hats, combs, towels, etc. It’s also a good idea for girls with long hair to tie it back in a braid or ponytail. If your child is affected, please call the camp office to let us know. We will inform the other members of your child’s group – without naming names – in order to prevent the spread of lice. Let’s bar lice at the barn door!

### Helmets

Helmets are required for certain activities, like horseback riding and hockey. We provide helmets, which are treated daily with lice control solution; this protocol prevents the spread of lice through shared headgear.

### Inclement Weather

Children should be dressed appropriately on cool or damp days, with a sweatshirt for cold weather or a raincoat on wet days. Although campers are indoors during inclement weather, they do move from building to building.

Please do not send umbrellas; they can be dangerous in the camp environment!

### Intramurals

Campers entering third grade and above participate in our fun, friendly intramural sports competition. They leave their usual groups and are part of teams that play together all summer, forging a true bond among teammates! Teams compete in sports from hockey to volleyball, and points are awarded not just for winning, but for showing good sportsmanship and putting out a team effort. Campers learn how to win and lose gracefully in this important segment of the camp schedule.

Scouts – campers entering the first and second grade – get a taste of the intramural experience through Mini-Murals, a shorter competition that gives them a chance to experience team spirit!

### Jewelry

Campers should not wear jewelry to camp – not even earrings! It is unsafe in our active environment, and we cannot be responsible for lost items. Earrings, necklaces, rings, and bracelets can get caught on equipment or clothing and can cause injury. Please insist that your child leave them at home.

### Keeping in Touch

Nothing could be simpler than communicating with us, whether it’s during the summer or throughout the year!

#### Bus Mail

If you would like to send a note to camp, please address it to your child’s counselor and include the child’s name, group number, and vehicle code. Please date all notes. Give the message to the bus counselor, who will deliver it to the camp office, where it will be routed to the appropriate person. Please do not rely on verbal messages, which detain your child’s bus and can be forgotten on the way to camp. It is essential that you date every piece of correspondence!

## Telephone

We have a special “calling hour” between 4:30 and 5:30 PM, when you have the opportunity to speak to the supervisor of your child’s division about any questions or concerns you might have. During other times of day, our office staff will take a message for your child’s supervisor, as the supervisors are out on the grounds all day with campers. They will return your call by day’s end at the latest.

Camp office hours are 8 AM – 5:30 PM. For safety’s sake, when calling with transportation changes for your child, please be aware that we will ask you questions that will verify that you are your child’s parent.

## Email

To contact us online, just send us an email at [mailbox@ColemanCountry.com](mailto:mailbox@ColemanCountry.com).

## Kinfolk

In our Western lingo, we have a special name for our camp families – Kinfolk! Just like our Pardners (campers), Kinfolk are an integral part of the camp experience. Throughout the summer and during the school year, we plan fun and fabulous events for our Kinfolk like parenting workshops, family nights with special performers, and visiting evenings.

## Kosher

Glatt kosher meal service is available upon request. All hot dogs served at camp are kosher.

## Labels

Kids come to camp with all sorts of labels – and not just the ones you put on their clothes! We’re talking about labels you can’t see: “lazy,” “shy,” “not good at sports,” etc.

Camp is the perfect place for children to shed the negative labels they may have attached to themselves. We coach our Pardners to finish something, even if it’s hard, then say, “I’m tenacious,” or to help a new camper get acquainted with The Ranch: “I’m a good friend.” We truly help campers reinvent themselves!

## Little Red Schoolhouse

Private tutoring is available through our “Little Red Schoolhouse” for those children who can benefit from academic continuity through the summer months. Individualized instruction is available in the following areas: reading, writing skills, math, speech, and language therapy. All instruction is by highly skilled, Nassau County certified teachers and therapists; we also have a Nassau County certified occupational therapist on staff. Lessons are scheduled conveniently to provide minimal change in the camp day. Our teachers are always happy to consult with your child’s school-year teachers and to keep you informed of your child’s progress! There is an additional charge for this service which goes directly to the teacher.

## Mini-Murals

Scouts – campers entering the first and second grade – get a taste of the intramural experience through Mini-Murals, a competition that gives them a chance to experience team spirit! They leave their usual groups and are part of soccer teams that play together, forging a true bond among teammates!

## News

Every Friday during the summer, we send campers home with a copy of the *Chronicle*, our camp newspaper! Inside, you’ll find the scoop on what happened at camp that week as well as what’s to come.

Every day, you can visit our Web site, [www.ColemanCountry.com](http://www.ColemanCountry.com), for tons of photos and news about what happened in camp that day.

## No Putdowns

A thematic program designed around five focal messages: “Think About Why,” “Stay Cool,” “Shield Myself,” “Choose a Response,” and “Build Up.” Campers learn to think about the reasons people put each other down, how to stay calm in the face of a putdown, form a personal shield of self-respect, and replace putdowns with caring, constructive words. Our original song, “Pass It Around,” helps campers spread the power of *No Putdowns* all over The Ranch!

## Nut Aware

Coleman Country is a nut-aware campus: no peanut butter or other nut products are served at camp. We make every effort to ensure that foods with nut products also are not in camp, in order to protect those of our campers with severe nut allergies, which can be life-threatening. We especially appreciate the cooperation of all of our parents in this very important matter.

## O.K. Corral

There’s no better way to feel like a cowboy or cowgirl than to ride a horse! We call our riding arena the O.K. Corral.

## On the Horizon

Every week of the summer season, this section of the *Chronicle*, our camp newspaper, is chock full of information about the week to come. During the school year, the *Chronicle* keeps Campers updated with everything happening on The Ranch. Keep your eyes peeled for updates!

## Pardners

Don’t be surprised to hear us saying, “Howdy Pardners!” around The Ranch. In our Western lingo, it’s what we call our campers!

## Picture Day

One day every summer, our groups gather for special pictures that commemorate that summer’s camp experience. Save a clean Coleman Country t-shirt for that day!

## Pioneers

The Pioneers — our nursery school through kindergarten campers — are the youngest Pardners in the Coleman Country family. Head counselors in each group are early childhood specialists who are keenly aware of the needs and energy levels, both physical and social, of these V.I.P. campers. The Pioneer supervisors, Anna Coleman and Michelle Koslow, are the chieftains of the tiny, Western village where everything is in reach for the under-three-foot set — from the rim of the basketball net to the oversized target in beachball baseball.

Pioneers learn age-appropriate skills, with a focus on socialization. With five staff members per group, one of whom has early childhood experience along with a squad of specialists in every area, these Lilliputian explorers master their small and large motor skills and learn to interact with each other!

## Pioneer Village

In this tiny Western village, you’ll find our youngest campers, the Pioneers. They can explore, discover, and take a rest when they need to in an area specially designed for small children. Each Pioneer group has a “home base,” a little house in this miniature old west town to call their own.

## Pow-Wows

Periodically, we hold special Pow-Wows where an entire division gets together to celebrate the lessons learned at camp. Through skits, songs, and dance, staff members reinforce life-long learnables like “No Putdowns” and “Dream Big!”

## Private Lessons

We are pleased to offer our camp families the option of extra lessons at Coleman Country. These services are provided by our staff members, and payment is made directly to them. Call the camp office to obtain rates, which vary slightly among instructors depending upon their certifications and experience.

**Swimming** lessons are available after regular camp hours for those who want additional instruction. Lessons are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis by calling the camp office or by signing up on Get Acquainted Day.

**Horseback riding, rock climbing, archery, and tennis** lessons can be scheduled before or after regular camp hours by calling the camp office or by signing up on Get Acquainted Day.

## Questions

Here on The Ranch, we're always happy to answer your questions! Just call the camp office, where we can direct your question to the right person.

## The Ranch

What better name for our Western-style community than The Ranch?

## Ranch Hands

Our professional, skillfully trained staff are affectionately known as Ranch Hands. The Coleman Family works hard to hand-pick the finest teachers, parents, and college men and women to lead our groups and activities. They are supported by assistant counselors and CITs who are college or high school students. Each and every one of our Ranch Hands is trained to serve as a role model for our campers, guiding children toward core values like respect and caring. These folks truly love working with kids – they're the leaders who help our campers succeed!

## Round-Up

When campers hear a bugle blast at the end of their last activity, they know it's the end of the camp day. We call it Round-Up, when campers go to their afternoon line-up locations and get ready to go home after a fun and busy day on The Ranch.

## Safety and Security

How do you know your child is safe at camp? Nothing is more important to us at Coleman Country than the safety and security of each and every one of our campers. We have developed systems and procedures you can trust. Our camp facility is completely fenced in, and we employ numerous safety checks and systems to keep tabs on all our campers.

**Entry** by visitors is allowed only through our Gate House, just around the bend of Babylon Turnpike at Grand Avenue. All visitors, including parents, must check in. All other entrances at camp are locked throughout the day. Visitors to camp must show proper ID, and we release campers only to their parents or those designated on the Emergency Contact Form unless a parent contacts the camp office to tell us otherwise.

**Medical Emergencies** are handled as follows: if a parent cannot be contacted, we call the child's physician; if he or she is unavailable, we call on a physician of our choice to direct and/or provide medical care. There are three RNs at camp, and a pediatrician is on call.

**Health Forms** are required by law for our Health Center files. Please make the required appointments for your child early, have your physician fill out the form, and return it to the camp office by June 1. We must be in possession of health forms before the first day of camp. Your child must also have had a physical no more than one year prior to the end of the camp season.

**Medications** sent to camp are administered at the Health Center. Medication must be in its original bottle labeled with camper's name, group, and name of the medication. Our medication form must be signed by a parent/guardian as well as the child's physician and accompany the medication, along with full instructions: name of medication, dosage, time of day to be administered, and whether the medicine must be returned home each day or kept at camp. We recommend that you avoid sending medicines back and forth; rather, leave a separate prescription at the Health Center.

## Scouts

The Scout Division, led by Felicia Simon and Lew Siegel, is comprised of boys and girls entering the first and second grades. Their typical day, which includes all activities on The Ranch, incorporates all facets of camp life. Second graders also enjoy a Club period daily, where they can specialize in an area of interest.

## Spring Fling

Our annual Spring Fling is a day where Partners can renew old friendships and make new ones in a day of fun and games. Activities include the famous Buckaroo Bounce (moon bounce), face painting, a petting zoo, GaGa and much more!

## Sun Protection

If your child is sensitive to sun, please send sunscreen to camp; depending upon your child's age, your child will apply sunscreen or have it applied by his or her counselor as you request. Please apply the day's first application at home.

Caps are provided by Coleman Country; your child will receive his or her cap on Cap Day. These provide additional sun protection. Please be sure to label your child's cap – all caps look the same!

## Supervisors

Sometimes referred to as "Supes," these leaders are heads of divisions who interface with counselors as well as parents. They are a parent's liaison between home and camp.

## Swim

All campers enjoy two swims daily – one instructional, one free. Kevin Freeman supervises our talented swim staff at the "Swimmin' Holes." We teach our campers swimming skills through the American Red Cross program, with six levels to mark increasing progress from bubble-blowing to the butterfly. For Pioneers, our youngest campers, we have five levels named for different water animals, from "turtles" to "whales," following the American Red Cross Preschool Swim Program.

Teaching clusters are formed by ability, not by age or group, so that Partners learn at just the right level. Timid swimmers are respected, but they are encouraged into the water by our mature, professionally-trained swim staff. Under the watchful guidance of our swim counselors, we help tentative "ducklings" become splashing, self-assured "whales!"

Coleman Country's Pioneer pool and larger-than-Olympic-size main pool both feature steps running their entire width. This teaching aid fosters confidence in tots — and older children too! The intermediate pool, which is three and four feet deep, ensures a secure transition to deep water swimming. A fourth pool, which contains bumper boats, rounds out the swim haven, along with our water park, designed exclusively for young children. On hot days, extra swim periods are built into the camp day to keep Partners cool.

Locker rooms with dressing areas, secured cubbies, showers and lavatory facilities are adjacent to the pools. We also provide swimsuit and towel service in our adjoining laundry room. Campers do not need water shoes; we also request that campers do not bring personal towels from home.

## Town Hall

At the camp office – otherwise known as the Town Hall – you can find the answers to all your questions. **Pam Hall, our Associate Director**, knows everything there is to know about camp life. Or you can ask for the appropriate member of our supervisory staff to answer your question:

<b>Pioneer Supervisors</b>	Anna Coleman and Michelle Koslow
<b>Scout Supervisors</b>	Felicia Simon and Lew Siegel
<b>Explorer Supervisors</b>	Susan Schwartz and Andrew Richter
<b>49er Supervisors</b>	Margie Noble, “Big Bob” Ednick, Dimitri Bernadel, and Gary Spitzer
<b>CIT/Specialties Supervisor</b>	Karen Landsman and Toby Ringer
<b>Clubs Supervisor</b>	Toby Ringer
<b>Athletics Supervisor</b>	Samara DeKaye
<b>Swim Supervisor</b>	Kevin Freeman
<b>Transportation Supervisor</b>	Peter Bloch
<b>Head Nurses</b>	Jennifer Berkowitz, R.N. and Marie Reid, R.N.
<b>Safety / Dietary Needs</b>	Sy Landsman

## Transportation

Our “Wagon Train” of modern, air conditioned, Department of Transportation-inspected, seat-belted school buses provides door-to-door round-trip travel between home and camp. Our van drivers are our very own New York State Commercial Driver’s License-certified Coleman Country staff; professional drivers are behind the wheels of our school bus-sized vehicles and staffed with our own bus counselors.

**Arrival** is scheduled between 8:45 and 9:00 AM. Each bus is met by one of the Colemans and by supervisors, and every camper is directed to a designated arrival area where campers meet up with their counselors. Pioneer (nursery through kindergarten) campers are escorted to their counselors. On rainy days, campers go to an assigned indoor location.

**Departure** is at 4:30 PM.

**Pick-up and drop-off times** will be given to you when bus counselors contact you directly during the week prior to camp opening. If you are not at home at this time, the bus counselor will leave a note in your mailbox with complete information and his or her phone number. Please have your child wait outside for the bus with you and watch for the driver’s arrival. It is not the counselor’s responsibility to honk the horn (disturbing your neighbors) or ring your doorbell (delaying other campers). An adult known to the bus counselor must be waiting to receive your camper when he or she returns home. If someone not known to the counselor will meet your child, please make sure the counselor and the camp office are aware in advance. Any child not met by such an adult will be brought back to camp, where parents may pick them up directly.

**Inclement days** require children to be ready approximately ten minutes early to insure an unhurried, safe arrival at camp. Likewise, please allow an extra ten minutes for return on inclement afternoons.

**Transportation changes** can be accommodated to allow a camper to go home with a friend or be picked up by a parent or other designated adult, provided that we are informed of the change by 1PM via phone, in writing, or through email and that there is space available on the other vehicle.

No child may be picked up or taken off camp grounds unless identification is provided. Children may not be picked up by friends or relatives unless we receive a **written** request from a parent. Parents who

wish to pick up a child are asked to inform the office prior to 1PM. No changes can be considered after 1PM, except for an emergency.

**Identification badges** are given to younger children on Get Acquainted Day. It is helpful to our staff in expediting their arrival. Please make sure your child wears this badge for the first five days of camp.

## **Trips**

Our senior campers take weekly off-campus excursions for fun activities like golfing, water park visits, and deep-sea fishing. For these trips, campers must wear Coleman Country T-shirts.

## **Umbrellas**

Umbrellas are unsafe in the camp environment and are prohibited.

## **Values**

Instilling values like caring, responsibility, and respect are what Coleman Country is all about. We coach these values right along with softball and swimming!

## **Visiting Days**

During the summer, each Coleman Country group from nursery through fourth grade hosts our campers' families in a special Visiting Day. Kinfolk can see firsthand how their Partners spend a day – you can participate in activities right alongside your camper! For Pioneers, parent visiting takes place during the afternoon. Scouts, and Explorers remain at camp after hours on their designated visiting day; they enjoy dinner on The Ranch, and Kinfolk join their Partners in the early evening. You will receive notification of your child's Visiting Day prior to the beginning of camp.

## **Website**

Check out our website, [www.ColemanCountry.com](http://www.ColemanCountry.com), for information and updates at camp. During the summer, we post up to 300 photos a day along with news articles, blog, and video of campers in action to give Kinfolk a glimpse into camp life!

## **Wounded Knee**

Our Health Center, staffed with professional and caring nurses, is affectionately known as "Wounded Knee."

## **X-citing**

We pack our camp day with fun and X-citement!

## **You Bet I Can!**

A special program designed to teach campers the positive self-talk that gives them confidence to succeed. Through skits, role-playing, and our special song, "You Bet I Can," we coach self-confidence and encourage our campers to broaden their horizons.

## **You, Our Camp Families**

You, our camp families, are our partners in creating the ultimate summer experience. Following our carefully thought-out, time-tested procedures is the first important step in our working together as a team. We are your partners in parenting – and we are grateful for your help in making Coleman Country the greatest place on earth for kids!

## **Z you in the summer!**



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