



Frequently Asked Questions

Choosing the Right Camp for my Kid

Question

Response

What is the difference between the Junior or Teen camp as I see our camper fits the age of both of them?

The main difference in Junior and teen camp is the age of the participants. 8 year olds and 18 year olds have different energy and interest levels. Both camps will have a focus driven by : Strong education programs in and about agriculture, by advocating for policies and legislation important to the individual, and cooperation through owner co-op businesses. We are using the seven cooperative principles Membership, Democracy, Participation, Independence, Education, Cooperation, and Community to design and build the curriculums and activities.

One difference for 2026 will be the guest speakers for one of the days. The Junior camp will have a FWP presentation on being bear aware while the senior camp will have a line and swing dance instructor. Both camps will have a Pull Your Share noxious weed presentation and program and one or both of a fly fishing and archery program.

Would there be any wiggle room on attending the teen 2 camp even though our daughter will be 15?

Our biggest registration demands come from 8-14 year olds so that is why we start with those limits and try to get the older kids in Senior/Teen 1 camp. I think the Teen 2 camp will probably open to people through age 18, or at least it did last year as that time period is not as popular for families.

Can a 7.5 year old attend Junior Camp with an older sibling?

A 7.5 year old will be the youngest camper at the Junior Camp. This can affect their ability to make friends and relate to other campers. However, if they are already the youngest in their class, this might not be an issue. A bigger concern is their ability to perform tasks without assistance. We maintain a ratio of 1 counselor to 5 campers for mini camp and that doubles to 1:10 for Junior camp. To attend Junior camp, they should be able to: fill a plate in a family style dinner buffet line, get up dressed and ready for the day unassisted, get ready for bed including brushing teeth unassisted, and be willing to be in a group of individuals where they know no other people at first.

Registration Questions

Can we send our camper on the MFU membership of their grandparent?

Grandparent membership is GREAT! I just need to know the name to associate it with the account.

Do I have to be a Montana Farmers Union Member to send my kid to camp?

We charge one price for members and that price plus \$50 membership fee for current non-members. This will make you an MFU member with all the [member benefits](#).

What are the working groups?

The program will educate youth and young agricultural leaders about the cooperative business model through hands-on, experiential learning grounded in the Seven Cooperative Principles. Participants will not only study cooperative structure, but actively practice democratic decision-making, shared ownership, leadership, and member participation.

Operating six fully camper-led cooperatives each session creates long-term behavioral impact. When youth elect leaders, manage budgets, conduct meetings, and vote on decisions, they internalize democratic processes. These experiences develop transferable leadership skills—public speaking, financial literacy, problem-solving, collaboration, and accountability—that carry into high school activities, college organizations, agricultural enterprises, and future community leadership roles. Alumni of the program are more likely to participate in boards, serve in local government, or engage in cooperative business ventures because they have practiced those skills early.

Can my camper come late?

We ask families to choose sessions their camper can attend in full, since our program is designed around consistent participation and building a strong group community. Adjustments to arrival or departure times are not part of our standard practice, and partial attendance can impact your camper's experience as well as the cabin group. If you know of a scheduling conflict, please contact us to see whether we can accommodate your request prior to registering for camp. If approved, we will ask you to arrange your late arrival around a time that works best in the camp day. If an unexpected situation comes up, such as a travel delay or family emergency, please reach out as soon as possible. We review these situations individually and will do our best to support your camper whenever possible.

Can my camper leave early?

We ask families to choose sessions their camper can attend in full, since our program is designed around consistent participation and building a strong group community. Adjustments to arrival or departure times are not part of our standard practice, and partial attendance can impact on your camper's experience as well as the cabin group. If you know of a scheduling conflict, please contact us to see whether we can accommodate your request prior to registering for camp. If approved, we will ask you to arrange your early pick up around a time that works best in the camp day. If an unexpected situation comes up, such as a travel delay or family emergency, please reach out as soon as possible. We review these situations individually and will do our best to support your camper whenever possible.

Are there partial or full scholarships available?

There are several sources of camp scholarship funds available. Awards may be given based on geographic location of the camper, financial need of the family, previous participation in MFU events and activities, or other criteria as determined by the funds' provider. Applications will be evaluated and awarded on a rolling basis. Financial aid awards are subject to availability of funding. A family or caregiver may apply for financial assistance once per child.

What is the camp store?

This is a camp store that is figuratively owned and operated by the campers. This is used to help teach the cooperative business model and allows campers to purchase extra snacks. It is a cashless store using a system of credits. Parents may fund their camper's store credits prior to arrival or during registration. Co-op Store funds are refundable during check-out or you may choose to donate to the scholarship fund. Campers will have opportunities to earn store credits throughout the camp by participation.

Campers will have a few chances to visit the Co-op Store for drinks, treats, or fun items at break times.

- Recommended: \$20-\$40
- Add money to camper accounts online at the "Parent Portal"
- Paying with cash? Bring it in a labeled envelope or small bag to be handed to staff at check-in

Facilities Questions

Will the campers have to go outside at night to use the bathroom?

There is no need to go outside at night. Bathrooms are in each of the buildings.

Cabins are single gender with bunk beds.

What are the sleeping arrangement

- Camp Beds: All beds are twin size. A typical setup to **PACK FROM HOME** includes:
 - Twin fitted sheet
 - Top sheet
 - Blanket or sleeping bag
 - Pillow Sleeping bag or twin-size sheets & blankets
- Comfort Items: include 1 or 2 favorite stuffed animals or blanket to make the camp experience more enjoyable. These should NOT leave cabins.

Can my camper have their cell phone?

Let's keep camp unplugged and distraction-free!

- All electronics (phones, music players, tablets, headphones).
 - If brought, they'll be kept safely in a lockbox and returned at the end of camp
 - There is no cell service at camp, and we have a camp phone if needed

Accommodations for special needs

How would food options work with campers who have special dietary needs?

We are VERY aware of the many dietary needs. All products on the buffet are labeled with their gluten, egg, milk, nut, vegetarian, etc. according to the needs of the campers for the week. Hungry kids are grumpy kids, so if the selections are limited at a specific meal for some reason, a special plate will be made for those individuals. This usually is more with gluten or vegetarian needs.

I have a picky eater, can they bring their own food?

Camp meals are communal, with a self-serve or served buffet "family style." Our kitchen is able to accommodate common dietary restrictions. Please contact us to discuss our ability to support special meal requests. **MFU Arrowpeak Camp is not a peanut-free facility.** Campers are asked not to bring their own food as we try to prevent attracting rodents and pests into the cabins.

My camper needs to be given daily meds. How will these be handled?

The camp medic will check in all meds at registration. Meds will be administered and recorded by the Medic.

Prepare medications in a labeled zip top bag with:

- Camper's name.
- Prescription details, dose, and delivery time (e.g., breakfast, lunch, dinner, evening).
- All medications MUST be provided in their original containers. Original prescription labels are required

After Camp Needs

Is there a lost and found from camp?

To help us keep track of your camper's belongings, please ensure all items are clearly labeled with your camper's full name.

- Unlabeled items: Held at Arrowpeak Camp for one week following the close of camp
- Labeled items: Held at The MFU Great Falls Office, 300 River Drive N, Suite 1, until August 31.
- Unclaimed items: Remaining items will be donated to charity.
- Returning items: Items still at Camp can either be picked up or mailed at the family's expense.

Please note that Montana Farmers Union Arrowpeak Camp is not responsible for lost or stolen items. To avoid disappointment, we strongly recommend leaving valuables at home.