



FAQS FOR PARENTS – OVERNIGHT CAMP

Thank you for sending your child on school camp with us at Treasure Island. They will have a terrific, unforgettable time! Here are a couple of items of information prior to departing on camp:

➤ Attire

- *Day Packs:* Students need a day pack. The day pack should have two shoulder straps and be large enough to carry just what s/he needs for that day. The straps should be shortened so the pack sits comfortably on the back and doesn't 'bounce'. Not trendy, but comfortable.



- *Overnight pack:* Students also need another larger bag to bring overnight items – please see the *What To Bring List*. For all primary and *most* secondary camps, this can be a bag on wheels. For some secondary camps, students will need to carry the larger pack over rough terrain; please check with your child's teacher. Students must be able to carry their own bag: 'if you bring it – you carry it' so we encourage conservative packing!
- *Shoes:* Correct footwear is both a comfort and a safety issue. It is very important that students have two pairs of shoes, one pair for wet (or rain) and one pair for dry activities. The shoes must have a closed toe and a back to them—basically, trainers. Crocs are NOT acceptable as they cannot be used for walking any distance and easily slip off. Water shoes (as used for windsailing) are not recommended either as they can only be used in the water.



- **Meals, Beverages and Snacks:** Treasure Island serves buffet-style Western meals and always includes vegetarian options. Students have the opportunity for seconds. In addition to three meals a day, we provide morning and afternoon snacks. *We recommend that students **do not** bring snacks with them as this will attract ants, etc. to their tents.* Water is always available for students to refill the bottles they bring with them from home. In an attempt to limit the use of plastic bottles we do not sell bottles of water in the restaurant.
 - *On the first day of camp, students need to bring a packed lunch from home.* The first day is very busy with setting tents, getting settled into the camp routine and a new environment. We have learned that the time saved in having students pull out their lunches rather than queuing for the buffet makes a significant difference in time put toward camp activities.

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- *Dietary Concerns.* Please share any dietary requirements with the school; this will be sent to TIG. Once we have received this information from the school in advance of camp, we inform the coordinator, group leaders and kitchen staff. TIG can readily cater to vegetarian and gluten-free diets. We will wish to speak with parents of children having more involved dietary needs directly. It is possible for food to be brought from home for a child with dietary needs; it can be labeled and kept in a fridge in the restaurant. If there are any other specific issues, talk to us ahead of camp.

➤ **Overnight Camping**

- *Tent Buddies:* Depending on the size of the camp, students will either be three or four to a tent, as arranged by teachers. Teacher and TIG Leader tents are interspersed among the student tents are a different colour from student tents for easy identification. These are pointed out to students.
- *Sleeping bags:* No matter the season, students do need a sleeping bag. We encourage students to borrow from friends. However, TIG does sell three season-weight sleeping bags suitable for 8-25°C. The size is 205cm long x 85cm wide. (See *Purchase Form*)
- *Sleeping mats:* Primary students will be provided with a sleeping mat. Secondary students must have their own mat or inflatable foam camping mattress, which they will carry. Inflatable foam camping mattresses are available for purchase to secondary students through TIG. (See *Purchase Form*).
- *Night Time Supervision of students:* Once the TIG staff hand over students at the end of the day's programme, student supervision is the responsibility of the teachers. Therefore, adequate numbers of teachers must camp to ensure safety ratios according to school policy. One or two TIG Leaders will also camp on the campsite for emergencies only. A security guard is on duty from 9pm to 6am. S/he will be introduced to the students and will be responsible for escorting students (and their tent buddies) to the campsite toilet if necessary.

➤ **Facilities:**

- *Toilets:* There are Port-a-Loos on the TIG Campsite for night time use. These are cleaned every morning by the renting company. Once the day has begun, students will use the public LCSD beach facility toilets.
- *Showers:* There are six shower heads each for males and females at the screened areas at the outdoor LCSD shower blocks. Boys and girls are separated and shower time is supervised by teachers. These are unheated showers. However, there are a few hot showers at TIG which can be used during cold weather for students who are unwell, at the discretion of the teachers and TIG Leaders.

➤ **Pre-existing Medical Concerns:** We hold all medical information in the strictest confidence, and destroy it once camp has ended. We require this information from the school no less than *3 weeks in advance of camp*.

- *Medication:* Teachers handle and dispense prescribed medicines handed over to them. There is a small fridge where medicines can be kept available.
- *Medical conditions, individual needs, allergies, dietary needs:* It is essential that we know about these, for the comfort and safety of the child and in some cases, those of the other children on camp. Our staff have experience with adapted camps for individuals with physical, mental and behavioural

individual needs and we are committed to every individual having an excellent camp experience. However, we do need to be informed of any conditions in advance in order to prepare.

- **First Aid and Medical Treatment:** TIG Leaders will coordinate First Aid. We do ask teachers to take care of very minor First Aid during activities to avoid disruption but if further action is required, the Leader will initiate TIG's escalating response protocol. Teachers are responsible for contacting parents if necessary. There is a 24- hour government emergency clinic 10 minutes drive away in Mui Wo, and a TIG emergency vehicle is always on standby. There is an ambulance station at Cheung Sha, also 10 minutes drive away. In the event of an emergency, a member of school staff will contact you.
- **Swimming:** Treasure Island takes no responsibility for swimming that is not part of the scheduled Treasure Island camp programme, but understands that some schools may wish to allow their students to swim or paddle in the sea. In that case, teachers must supervise the swimming activity themselves and obtain permission from parents to allow the activity, in accordance with school policy.

Pui O Beach has lifeguards on duty from April 1-October 31st every year from 9am until 6:30pm.

- **Purchasing camping equipment:** Please see the Purchase Form for details of sleeping bags and other merchandise. Parents can order and pay directly to Treasure Island and the purchases will be ready for the students to collect at the beginning of camp.
- **Safety and third-party audit:** Safety is TIG's top priority. We are committed to providing a safe learning environment for the participants. We use a structured approach that takes into account risk assessment and management, educational objectives, fun and engagement and when developing programmes and choosing appropriate activities for each year. TIG is committed to consistently redefining and evaluating our operating procedures to ensure that our risk management is at the industry standard or better.
 - TIG is third-party audited for safety by OutdoorsMark New Zealand.
 - The TIG leader:participant safety ratio is 1:15 for general camp activities and 1:8 for technical components.
 - TIG leaders are all certified First Aid responders.
 - Activities have had risk assessments and risk mitigation procedures put into place.
 - TIG leaders are trained and assessed as competent for the activities they lead.
 - TIG has a private campsite and arranges private overnight security personnel.
 - TIG maintains appropriate insurance policies with respect to its activities.

