



Uni Camp for Kids

Information Letter for New Parents/ Guardians

Welcome to Uni Camp for Kids. The following letter will provide you with a brief outline of the structure, work and commitments of Uni Camp for Kids. We are a registered charity and have run free picnics and camps for Perth's underprivileged children since 1936.

Uni Camp For Kids (UCFK) is run by a committee of 16 annually elected student volunteers from the University of Western Australia (where we are based). We are supported by over 600 members and the UWA Student Guild.

Our association organises three one-day picnics throughout the year, and three week-long camps that take place in January, all at no cost to the children or their families. To be included in UCFK, children must be referred to us by social workers or welfare officers from either government or public organisations/ because they are socially, emotionally or financially disadvantaged. We cater for children between the ages of five and twelve (after which age they are removed from our database).

Our **PICNICS** are three day-long outings held on Sundays during the school year. We usually take about 350 children on every picnic, which means we are able to include every child who returns our invitation. The picnics are funded by our university student volunteers, who are paired together and allocated two or three kids for the day. The students pick up the kids from their homes between 9 and 10am, and take them off for a day full of fun and adventure with all the other "families", and drop them home by 5pm. We usually go to a venue like Riverton Leisureplex or Beatty Park in the morning and then a park like King's Park for lunch and games in the afternoon.

We hold three summer **CAMPS** consecutively from Sunday to Saturday starting on the first Sunday in January. Camps are limited by funds, so the number of children we take on each camp is restricted to seventy. Each child (who must be nominated for camps by a social worker **that year**) is considered with great care and goes through a lengthy selection process. Because of the financial restrictions, places are not usually given to children who have attended several camps in a row or who do not fit the camp age requirements of six to eleven years.

We spend the week based at a campsite from which we visit different venues every day and have lots of fun. Children will be put into 'families' of around

6-7 kids with a male and female leader and the 'family' stays together for the whole week. Each camp includes 80 children and over 40 current/ past University students who are UCFK members volunteering in several roles.

Everyone volunteering on our camps has been selected by committee representatives and the nature of our organisation means that all the volunteers are personally known to the selectors and each other before camp begins. All volunteers have police clearances and have prior experience at UCFK picnics or camps, but they DO NOT necessarily have degrees/ qualifications in childcare. However, every volunteer is dedicated to providing proper care to each child and treating them with the utmost respect. Positions filled by volunteers on Camps include Director, Leaders, Freelancers, Medical Officer (with a current First Aid Certificate), Administration Officers and Committee Members. All in all there are over 30 student volunteers who supervise and care for the children during the week.

To make sure that camps can take place successfully, UCFK raises over \$100,000 each year through fundraising events, grants and donations. Without support from University students and the wider community, Uni Camp for Kids would be unable to provide such a special service to the needy children of Perth. Our volunteers put in a lot of time and money during the year to ensure that our camps run successfully during January and that we can include as many kids as possible. Being involved in Uni Camp for Kids is as enriching for our volunteers as it can be for all the wonderful kids who are involved.

We look forward to possibly meeting your child/ children and introducing them to the fun of Uni Camp for Kids.

If you have any questions please feel free to call us on **6488 8763**, and if we are unavailable, please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely for the kids,

Peta Sagar
Uni Camp for Kids

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