



Uni Camp for Kids

Social Worker Information

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 organizations/ 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, one 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 Scitech 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.

The camps are based at Point Peron Campsite in Rockingham and during the week daily outings are organised to various places around Perth such as Mandurah Fun Fair, Armadale Waterslide Park and Rockingham Fun Station as well as a huge range of activities at the campsite. 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 consists of 90 children and around 50 current/ past University Students

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 child-care. However, every volunteer is dedicated to providing proper care to each child and treating them with the utmost respect.

The Director is a graduate from UWA and a very experienced, supportive and influential member of UCFK, appointed by the current committee to co-ordinate the Leader team. The Leaders are current or past students and must be UCFK members. All camp leaders are selected based on their submitted application forms and past experience with children and UCFK. Other volunteers on the camp include a Medical Officer with a current Senior First Aid certificate, two Activities Officers, two Administration Officers and other Freelancers and Committee Members. All in all there are over 30 student volunteer leaders who supervise and care for the children during the week.

The **main goal of our camps** is to provide a fun-filled, carefree 'holiday' for children who would not have this opportunity in their regular life. We are further committed to providing an environment that allows children broad social interaction, while at the same time protecting and caring for the most vulnerable children in our community. Camps also provide the childrens' parents and carers with a much-needed rest.

The camp provides an excellent opportunity for the children to make new friends and participate in activities that they do not usually get the chance to experience. Further, the interaction the children have, not only with each other but also with the adult leaders in a mentor role, is a very beneficial and important experience from which we have seen some amazing results. It's a common and uplifting sight to witness the development of many socially and emotionally challenged children throughout their week on camp, and over the years in regular campers.

To make sure that camps can take place successfully, UCFK needs to raise over \$100,000 each year. Many different fundraising activities are organised by the dedicated and hard-working committee and include a Quiz Night, Cocktail Party, Begging letters, Tin Rattle in Perth and much more. Obviously we can't raise all our money from students and we are fortunate to receive many generous donations from members of the public and grants from numerous organizations such as Lotteries and Rotary's Subiaco Craft Fair. Without support from the community, Uni Camp for Kids would be unable to provide such a special service to the needy children of Perth.

To refer a child to us here at Uni Camp for Kids please fill out the adjoining referral form and return it via the details below headed "Attn. PETA". Unless you are otherwise notified, the child will then be added to our database and invited to our future picnics. You will also be added to our Social Workers database and information regarding our summer camps will be sent to you around September every year so that you may nominate children to attend the camps in January. I have also included an 'Information Letter for New Parents/ Guardians' form that I would appreciate you making photocopies of and passing onto the parents or carers of new children you

refer so that they have an understanding of what to expect. Thank you very much for your interest and we look forward to your future involvement as we jointly aim to provide a better life for deserving children.

Uni Camp for Kids is a charity reaching out to the needy children of Perth and is proudly associated with UWA Student Guild. For more information about UCFK you can call us on **6488 8763**, and if we are unavailable, please leave a message. Alternatively you can fax us on **6488 2648** or email **unicampforkids@gmail.com** and in all situations we will get back to you as soon as possible.

To send in referrals, please fax or email via the details above (please call and leave us a message saying you have done so), or post to **Uni Camp for Kids, M300, University of WA, 35 Stirling Hwy, Crawley 6009.**

Yours sincerely for the kids,

Peta Sagar
Uni Camp for Kids
Secretary, 2008