

About Camp Quest

Camp Quest Classic was started in 1996 in Kentucky as a way for humanist, atheist, skeptic and other parents with a naturalistic rather than supernatural worldview to pass on their values of critical and free thinking to their children as well as help them understand that Freethought has a respectable tradition. Soon, other regional groups were encouraged to form similar camps with Minnesota, Michigan, Smokey Mountains, California and Ontario joining the group. Now we are looking to bring the idea to the UK.

Camp Quest is important because critical thinking and skepticism are vitally important in our world and not always taught or taught well in schools, where there is often simply an imperative to get kids to “do as they are told” and “follow authority”. It’s up to us to help our children understand that it’s ok to disagree and teach productive ways to challenge ideas.

Some frequently asked questions:

- Are campers at Camp Quest required to be atheists?
- What ages of children are eligible for Camp Quest?
- Are there Camperships?
- What are the daily activities?
- Do you do criminal background checks on staff?
- I want to help, what can I do?
- I want to contact someone about including Camp Quest in a media piece or publication that I am working on. Who should I contact?

Are campers at Camp Quest required to be atheists?

No. Campers at Camp Quest are encouraged to think for themselves and are not required to hold any particular view. We do emphasize critical and scientific thinking over faith though.

What ages of children are eligible for Camp Quest?

Children ages 8 to 17 are welcome at Camp Quest.

Are there Camperships?

We never want financial concerns to prevent a child from attending Camp Quest. We are very happy to work with parents to find a rate that is within their reach for their children. If the cost of camp is holding you back from registering, please let us know. We are happy to work with you discreetly.

What are the daily activities?

While activities depend greatly on the knowledge and skills of the counsellors, examples of activities at previous Camp Quests are:

archery, astronomy, biology, campfires, canoeing, challenges, chess, cooking, crafts (binders, drawing, bracelets, paper making, woodworking), creative writing, dancing, fossils, high ropes courses, horse riding, nature centre, outdoor camping skills, overnight campout, photography, ropes challenge, scientific method and critical thinking, singing, song writing, sports (basketball, volleyball, soccer), story telling, swimming, theatre, tie dying, trolley walk & other cooperative games, tug of war, wall climbing, water balloon / sponge fights.

There are some other important activities that we do every day but only take a few minutes at a time. After every other meal we do "famous freethinkers" where a counselor gets up and talks about two or three famous people (either living or dead) that were or are atheist/agnostic/humanist/skeptic/freethinking. At meals where we don't do that, we cover world religions/philosophies.

The hallmark of any week at Camp Quest is the invisible unicorn challenge. As you may know, there are two invisible unicorns who live at Camp Quest, but who cannot be seen, heard, felt, smelt and do not leave a trace. In the American camps, any child who can successfully prove that the invisible unicorns do not exist is rewarded with a "godless" \$100 bill (printed before the words "in God we trust" were added). We are working on a suitable British alternative.

Do you do criminal background checks on staff?

Yes! We do criminal background checks on all staff (new and returning) every year.

I want to help, what can I do?

There are two main ways to help out Camp Quest. The first is to donate. Donation money goes to help provide full or partial camperships to children who want to attend Camp Quest but need some financial assistance.

The second way to help is to volunteer. We are a new camp and there is always room for more volunteers! Please contact us if you would like to help out.

Another option for volunteering is to do little things throughout the year--write a letter to the editor about Camp Quest, pick up kids from airports, helping raise funds, helping with promotion or any number of other "off camp" tasks.

I want to contact someone about including Camp Quest in a media piece or publication that I am working on. Who should I contact?

Please email info@camp-quest.org.uk if you are seeking information for media or publication purposes. We are happy to talk with you, or put you in touch with others who can give you the information you are looking for.