



Dear Camper Families:

As many of you have heard by now, your Florida Lions Camp has been in a real struggle to continue to provide affordable recreational opportunities to our campers. Because of this, camper fees has often come up as one of the most hotly debated items. There are two sides to this issue: one pushing for an increase to help alleviate the \$120,000 dollars in losses suffered by FLC last year and one pushing for camper fees to remain the most affordable prices in Florida for similar camps - one of the reasons FLC is so attractive to potential campers. One of the other highly debated topics was help from parents in the area of fundraising. While some parents work year after year raising money to keep camper fees low, some parents aren't as active in doing so. Because of this the Florida Lions Camp will not be raising camper fees this year, but will continue to use the "I Believe" Policy.

The "I Believe" policy for FLC campers and families will look to get everyone more involved with raising funds to keep camper fees at camp as low as possible. The "I Believe" policy will call for the following:

- All camper families who raise \$100 toward either the annual FLC Walk-a-thon or the FLC Gulf Coast Charity Swim will pay the \$350 fee for a week at camp.

Any camper family that does not participate in fundraising efforts to keep camper fees low, will be charged a \$500 fee for a week at camp

*\*Please refer to the next page to policy details.*

This policy is meant to reward those parents taking an active part in helping camp keep fees affordable. We also understand that some families truly are in need of assistance and we will continue to work with families in this situation to get their camper to camp. Your camp needs your help and we are confident that you will understand this in your efforts to assist us.

Again we stress that this policy is being put in place to unite us in raising money for our camp, not to divide us. The only way that this camp will survive and improve and touch the lives of hundreds of campers a year is through our work together. If you have any questions about the policy, how to get involved or any further camp questions, please contact the persons below. Thank you for your help in keeping the mission of "giving a world of good through camping to ALL" with varying abilities alive, and we look forward to the strides we can make together in the name of this mission.

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# THE “I BELIEVE” POLICY

The “I Believe” policy has been developed to encourage parents to take on a more active role in FLC fundraising, to take more responsibility in the funding for FLC and to work together with other families, Lions, staff, the Board of Directors and other donors in our effort to keep our camper fees at an affordable level. The “I Believe” policy terms and conditions are as follows:

1. All camper families who raise \$100 towards fundraisers for camp will continue to pay a \$350 fee for a week at camp.
  - A. The \$100 raised can be from the following camp developed fundraisers: Walk-A-Thon, or GCCS Swim.
  - B. Any money raised towards the reduced fee must be sent to the FLC office and designated towards the camper’s reduced funds before the camper’s check-in date for his/her session, and is a requirement for **each** camper **each** session.
  - C. To participate in FLC developed fundraisers, campers DO NOT HAVE TO ATTEND if they can not travel to FLC. Funds must simply be sent to camp with name of fundraiser, prior to the date of each fundraiser—March 10, 2009 for the Walk-a-thon and May 10, 2008 for the Gulf Coast Charity Swim.
2. Any campers raising beyond \$350 towards camp fundraising will be given the option to take 75% of the excess to be used towards one week of summer session fees at camp (i.e., you raise \$483, your camper’s price for a week at camp will be \$250; you raise \$816, your camper’s price for a week at camp will be \$0). This option can be used toward only one session of camp.
3. Any camper family that does not participate in fundraising efforts to keep camper fees low, will be a charged \$500 fee for a week at camp. The actual cost to provide each camper with a 1 week experience is \$1,000, of which the Lions of Florida and our other donors contribute \$500 or 1/2 of the cost for each camper. Therefore, because we are asking our Lions to fund \$500 for every camper attending FLC, we ask that you seek alternate sources for your own fundraising efforts or assistance with camper fees. You may call the office and speak to our registrar who may be able to give you guidance.
4. All campers will be limited to 2 camp sessions per summer at the greatly reduced \$350/\$500 fee. Subsequent sessions will be at the rate of \$900/week long session.
5. Campers who need one on one attention fees will be as follows:
  - A. If the camper raises above \$150, the fee for a week will be \$450
  - B. If the camper does not participate in fundraising, the fee will be \$600

\*PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE CAMP WITH ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE POLICY OR FEES.

# FUNDRAISING TIPS

- One of the easiest ways to keep your camper fees low is participate in one of two fundraisers in support of FLC and raise a minimum of \$100. You don't even have to attend the events (although we encourage you to if possible), you just need to raise pledges in your campers name (whether they walk or swim) and simply post the funds you've raised to the camp!
  - February 28, 2009: Walk-A-Thon-FLC, Lake Wales, FL
  - May 16, 2009: Golf Coast Charity Swim– Estero/S. Ft. Myers, FL
- Staff and campers alike have used the website [firstgiving.com](http://firstgiving.com) to raise funds. The site is secure, safe and easy to use. The site charges 7% for it's services, but is fair for what the site accomplishes. Please check out the site and if you have questions on how to set-up a site for your camper, please contact staff at the office for help.
- If you are unable to participate in the above fundraisers, you might try contacting other service organizations in your city or local area to help you get to the \$500 fee. Elks, Kiwanis, Rotary, Knights of Columbus, Firemen associations, and local churches are just a few organizations that may assist you in your goal if you and your camper are willing to speak to them. Please be aware that your local Lions may already be funding the \$500 of the actual \$1,000 cost not covered by the camper fees charged and may not be able to do more than that. You can obtain a list of service organizations in your community through your local Chamber of Commerce.

***REMEMBER, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!!  
WE NEED TO DO OUR PART TO ENSURE A BETTER  
FUTURE FOR OUR CAMPERS!!***