

# Frequently Asked Questions by Junior Gathering Coordinators

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## **How many children can I expect in my Group?**

We try to keep all groups below 25 because more than that gets unwieldy. We love for the groups to be smaller. But this really depends on how many groups there are and how many children register. Because of the flexible age groups that we use, we try to balance our groups by number and gender to the greatest extent possible. In the past few years most groups have been 15 or less (except for the middle schoolers, now known as oaK Group).

## **How many staff members will there be in my group and when will I know who they are?**

The number of staff depends on how many children are in your group. And it depends a little bit on how many staff we have. We try to maintain close to the following ratio:

1 adult to every:

1-2 children (Acorns) babies & toddlers

3 children (Pinecones) preschool

4 or 5 children (Sprouts, Saplings, Pinetrees) elementary

6 or 7 teens (oaKs) middle-school

Once we know how many kids and how many staff members we have and what their special gifts and needs are, an enormous game begins of fitting it all together, trying to balance for gender, level of experience with children and with the Gathering and specific needs in groups. This happens the first week of June and as soon as is possible after that, a staff and a participant roster will be sent to each coordinator.

## **What supplies will I have?**

Every group will automatically receive drawing paper, markers, crayons, scissors, glue, a first aid kit, bug spray, and sun screen – as well as a coordinator packet with basic “office supplies”. The nursery age groups also have particular, age-appropriate toys that are assigned to them. Some supplies are available for “check out,” such as sports equipment and hymnals. Any other supplies you need may be requested. A list of the supplies we have on hand is included on the Coordinator’s webpage and you are encouraged to use them up! Other supply requests can be given to Susan Greenler, our Supply Coordinator before the deadline sometime in mid-May. We borrow and rent supplies locally and buy them as needed. We always ask that you consider simplicity first when making your plans and your supply requests.

**Can I bring or buy my own supplies?**

First check our huge list of what we already have on hand. It is posted on the Junior Gathering Coordinator's webpage or will be sent to you shortly. We have over 70 large Rubbermaid tubs full of an amazing variety of things. If you don't find what you want, you may certainly bring your own and many coordinators do so to varying degrees. Don't bring anything you would be sad to lose or see broken! Don't assume that there will be secure storage space. We know that some supplies are best bought by coordinators, particularly things that are very specific and which we might get the wrong thing. Please check with the supply coordinator, Barbara Burger-Lentz, before planning on buying anything for which you would like to be reimbursed. We can't promise that we will reimburse you for everything so please check first!

**Can we go swimming?**

We will know more about this later. Check with Patsy if you haven't heard by mid- May.

**How much set-up time will I have?**

Sunday afternoon is usually set aside for setting up spaces and all staff are expected to participate. Please check the training schedule as soon as it is available for exact times. Sometimes we can get in earlier, but not regularly – it depends on the campus and on the JG staff activities planned in advance. A checklist of things that need to be done during that set-up time is included on the website. Please review it thoughtfully in advance.

**Will anyone else be using my space during the day?**

Quite possibly. We often use dorm lounge spaces. That means the families housed near your space will need the space as their lounge as well. Also, sometimes the Family Place or other JG activities will be in the same space in the afternoon or at night. Sometimes other programs such as FLGBTQC will use the space during non-JG program times. You can expect to be told when this is the case and we really try to catch all these details. Sometimes we miss them though. So asking is not a bad idea.

**Will I be able to lock supplies up?**

We try to find a space where you can lock up supplies. We are not always able to find such a space. So the easy answer is don't count on it. This year there may be a member of your staff living close by your group's room and valuables may be stored there.

**Will I have access to a phone in my space?**

This depends on the campus. If there is a land line, you won't have the capability to call long distance. This is not such a difficult issue now that so many people have cell phones.