



Orewa Surf Lifesaving Club

Q & A - Junior Ruakaka Family Camp

What is Family Camp all about?



The purpose of family camp is to get to know and bond with your peers on a personal level.

So, every year, mid season, OSLSC Junior families relocate for one week to Ruakaka. It's a relaxed way to get to know each other, make new and lasting friendships, and allow the children to familiarise themselves with a different beach and surf.

There is a participation carnival in Ruakaka on the 2nd Saturday of January. So during camp, we offer coaching sessions to support those who have entered into the carnival.

Who can participate?

All Junior families. Regardless of how old your child/ren or whether they are participating in the carnival later that week, all are welcome.

When is camp?

Every year the dates for camp varies slightly depending on how the calendar shifts. The camp is scheduled in relation to the Ruakaka carnival which is on the 2nd Saturday of January. So we plan it to start after News Years Day and before the carnival. The dates will be posted on our Junior calendar on the website to help in your planning and booking your camp site.

Where do we camp?

We all gather and camp at the Ruakaka Beach Holiday Park in camp sites 7, 8 & 9. This keeps all of us close to socialise, the children can find each other easily and it's easy access and walking distance to the beach.



How long is camp?

Formally, we have a 4 day camp with planned activities. We have a final activity on the 4th day, so to avoid missing out, we suggest you leave the day after eg 5th day.

What activities can we expect at camp?

Camp is a mix of social time, organised coaching sessions at the beach, and team building. An indication of the kind of activities you might expect based on previous years:



- Day 1 – all arrive, welcome shared BBQ/drinks for tea
- Day 2 – morning session on the beach all ages; afternoon go to the Waterfalls; Evening ‘camp fire’ debrief of the days activities
- Day 3 – morning session on the beach all ages; midday jump off the pier or Jump in the ‘hole’ at the estuary; afternoon Boarding session at the beach; Evening ‘camp fire’ debrief of the days activities
- Day 4 – morning group scavenger hunt – all ages/ mixed groups led by the U14s
- Day 5 – pack up 😊

Each year we vary it up, change things around and work with the conditions, tides, etc. We encourage the parents to participate too in the more social team building activities!



Volunteers

At camp, it’s more a social gathering than a formal event. So the idea is everyone keeps eyes and ears out for all our children. There is no expectations other than with water support, but we hope that everyone feels included, so please bring your chairs and start a conversation with your neighbours or invite other into your area. The more the merrier!

All activities are optional and supported by all families at camp. We will have Coaches ready to go and will ask for water support for all scheduled coaching sessions from the littlies U5 right up to the U14s.

We train in front of the Ruakaka Club house, and swim socially between the flags! It's a beautiful clear and warm surf, which makes for a lovely day in the sun. Bring plenty of sunblock and ideally a bit of shade for a great day out.



What to wear?

During our training sessions on the beach, your child will need to be in their OSLSC skull cap and hi-vis safety vest to participate. Once training is complete, they can take off their skull caps, but we recommend always wearing their hi-vis vest for easily spotting them in the water.

How do we get our child/ren's equipment to camp?

The gear trailer is loaded up and coordinated by the Junior Committee prior to heading down to camp. We try to take enough equipment based on who has let us know they are attending. So please give your age group Manager a heads up that you plan on coming to camp so we can plan on what needs to go on the trailer.

If you have your own personal board, you will need to bring it up to camp with you.

Any other questions, please ask your Coaches/Managers and be prepared for a great time.

See you at Camp!

