



Cheley Colorado Camps 2017 Parent Handbook

Mission

We build the lasting character and resiliency of young people, creating unique life experiences in a challenging and nurturing natural environment.

History

As a young man, Frank H. Cheley’s dream was to help boys grow into manhood in the great outdoors. His work with the YMCA convinced him that youth learn best through firsthand experiences, particularly under the direction of dedicated adult leaders. Ninety-six years later, these basic principles are still the foundation for our work with young people at Cheley.

Frank put his dreams into action in 1921, when he opened Bear Lake Trail School – An Alpine Summer Camp for Boys— on the shores of Bear Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park. Most of all, he wanted the boys to become good sportsmen, which he described as “self-propelled, independent individuals with real character and personality.” These leadership training summer camps became very popular and in 1926, “vigorous girls” were welcomed to Chipeta, named after the queen of the Utes, wife of Chief Ouray.

Camp moved to the Land O’ Peaks property in 1927, and in 1941, Frank opened the Boys’ and Girls’ Trail’s End camps. Today all eight summer camp units are housed on these three properties. The massive lodges and cozy cabins of the 20’s and 30’s have been carefully maintained, providing a legacy of rich memories for the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of those early campers.

The Cheley family has been steadfast in upholding the philosophy of camp life that Frank envisioned. Following Frank’s death in 1941, son Jack and his wife, Sis, led Cheley for 40 years before entrusting its leadership to son, Don and his wife, Carole. Today, Cheley is run by the two oldest of the fourth generation, Jeff and Brooke.

The Cheley Family



Back Row L-R: Kurt Klebe and Brooke Cheley-Klebe, Jeff and Erika Cheley. Front Row L-R: Ellie Klebe, Don Cheley, Harrison Cheley, Sam Klebe, Carole Cheley, Kate Klebe, Jackson Cheley, Hayden Cheley.

Jeff Cheley, Director

Jeff is part of the fourth generation to operate Cheley and has a B.A. in Business from the University of Texas, Austin. Jeff started as a Cheley camper at age 9, and was a counselor and unit director. He is an active volunteer with the American Camp Association and various Denver organizations that raise funds for youth programs. Jeff and his wife, Erika, live in Englewood with their three sons: Jackson, Harrison, and Hayden. When Jeff is not chasing his boys around the house, he enjoys playing golf, skiing, cycling, or taking a Sunday afternoon nap.

Brooke Cheley-Klebe, Director of Camper and Parent Services

Brooke is part of the fourth generation of camp leadership and graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in Communications. As a former competitor in freestyle skiing, an Ironman triathlete and a graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School in Patagonia, Brooke brings a wealth of knowledge to the backcountry program of Cheley. Brooke was a camper for nine summers and on staff as a counselor for four- before joining the year round team. She lives in Denver in the winter months with her husband, Kurt, and their daughters, Ellie, Kate and Sam. Brooke enjoys skiing, hiking, traveling, and spending time with family.

Don Cheley, Director Emeritus

Don is the third generation Director, son of Jack and Sis Cheley, and grandson of Frank and Eva. Don attended Colorado College and Menlo College, graduating with a B.A. in Business. Don is an active volunteer with the International Camp Federation, the American Camping Foundation, the American Camp Association, the Rocky Mt. Conservancy, and The Bank of Estes Park. During the summer, you can find Don driving around camp in his truck checking on activities, campers, and the facilities. He may be sweeping a porch, cutting down a tree, or fixing a vacuum.

Carole Cheley, Director Emeritus

Carole is Don's wife and has worked at Cheley for past 25 years. She has a B.A. in Fine Arts and a M.A. in Counseling from the University of Northern Colorado and was a teacher and school counselor for 10 years before joining Cheley. Carole is an avid volunteer with the American Camp Association, the Association of Independent Camps, Children's Garden Montessori School, and the Junior League. She enjoys traveling, yoga, taking pictures and reading.

Austin Cheley

Austin, son of Don and Carole and a fourth generation Cheley, graduated from Colorado College with degrees in English and music. He has a Master's degree in environmental law from Vermont Law School. He grew up at Cheley and was a camper, CILT, and assistant unit director. He loves writing, snowboarding, hiking and playing guitar. Austin and his wife, Rian, live in Thornton.

Camp Overview

Why four weeks? It takes that long to unwind, get in shape, and do something that makes this experience one to remember. Campers often say they feel more alive, more connected and more themselves at Cheley, whether they're coaxing friends up a steep mountain pass or riding horseback down a rocky trail. You learn about trust and support because you give it to one another when it counts. A rich history and great people are a big part of what makes the Cheley Experience what it is today—a truly meaningful and unique youth development experience.

Fun-Plus ©

Our goal is to send campers home feeling good about who they are. To do this, we focus on Fun-Plus, age-appropriate challenges. Fun-Plus is consideration for others and personal growth. As a result, our Fun-Plus concept, created by Frank Cheley in 1921, is really a Cheley trademark.

Units

Camp is divided into eight units, according to age and gender, at three properties.

- Girls' Camp at Land O'Peaks: **Lower Chipeta**: ages 9-11, **Chipeta**: ages 12-13, **Senior Chipeta**: ages 14-17
- Boys' Camp at Land O'Peaks: **Lower Ski Hi**: ages 9-11, **Ski Hi**: ages 12-13, **Haiyaha**: ages 14-17. *Pronounced "Lower Sky High," "Sky High," and "High-Yah-Hah."*
- **Girls' Trail's End (GTE)** and **Boys' Trail's End (BTE)** are located 12 miles east of Land O'Peaks in the town of Glen Haven and campers range in age from 12-17.
- **Campers in Leadership Training (CILTs)**: rising 11/12 graders who have been voted on the previous summer by their peers. CILTs are notified of their acceptance in the fall.

Staff

We invest a lot of energy in recruiting and training our staff, and it shows. In annual evaluations, our counselors consistently receive high marks from campers and parents, who describe them as friendly, happy, knowledgeable, caring, and fun to be around. Campers grow to love their counselors, cooks, nurses, bus drivers and all of the staff who make Cheley run. They all contribute to the feeling of community that is so prevalent at Cheley.

We refer to our staff as youth development professionals. They are young men and women who have completed at least one year of college or equivalent. Our ten-day staff training covers safety and risk management issues, team building, counseling skills and communication and teaching skills. Chosen for their love of the outdoors and for working with youth, our counselors are tuned in to young people and enjoy playing a part in their development.

Over half of our staff members return to camp the following summer. This continuity encourages greater expertise and further development of skills and knowledge of the Cheley program. Many staff members were Cheley campers, which gives them a valuable perspective as camp counselors. From cooks to camp directors, our entire camp staff spends their summers in residence at camp, creating a vital, close-knit camp community.

Staff members must submit an application and three references, complete an interview, undergo a criminal background check, and participate in a sexual abuse prevention training prior to arriving at camp for staff training. International staff are hired through camp staffing agencies and are screened and interviewed in their home countries prior to their interview with Cheley. Most counselors have First Aid and CPR certifications, and at least one staff member taking campers on overnights or into the backcountry has Wilderness First Aid or higher.

Accreditation & Licensing

We are accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA) the only camp accrediting organization in the United States. We are licensed by the Colorado Department of Social Services. We are a member of the Western Association of Independent Camps, the International Camping Foundation, and Leave No Trace.

PREPARING FOR CAMP

2017 Dates

First Term: Tuesday, June 13- Sunday, July 9

Second Term: Tuesday, July 11- Sunday, August 6

Payments

Payments may be made by check or credit card and payment plans are available. Call Peggy, our Enrollment Manager, to make arrangements.

Cancellation Fees

September 1- December 31	\$200
January 1- January 31	\$300
February 1- February 28	\$400
March 1- March 21	\$600
April 1- April 30	\$800
May 1- May 31	\$1,000
June 1	Full Tuition

Discounts

Siblings receive a \$150 discount. This does not include the first child.

Wait Lists

Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all units are full. Then a wait list is created in the order that we receive the application *and* deposit. Names will not be placed on the wait list without the deposit, which will be refunded if we are unable to place your child.

Scholarships

Camp scholarships may be available through the John Austin Cheley Foundation (www.cheleyfoundation.org). Please contact them for more information at (720) 981-2532.

Cabinmate Requests

We do our best to honor one roommate request per camper. The parents of both campers must contact our office to request each other.



PAPERWORK NEEDED

All forms are due by **May 1**. If you have any questions, contact Peggy@cheley.com.

You will need to do the following items in Camp Brain:

- Online health history information
- Upload copy of insurance card
- Print Healthcare Provider Form and upload once it has been signed by camper's doctor.
- Parent/Camper Information Form: This helps us prepare for your camper and is vital for our staff to provide a quality experience. Even if your child has attended Cheley for years, new staff use this form to get to know your camper.
- Travel Information Form: We need this to plan for your child's arrival and departure. Please fill this out as soon as you know your travel plans so that we can suggest flights to other families in your area.
- Camp Store Form: Must be complete for your camper to charge treats and purchases.
- 2 Letters of Introduction (new campers only)

Camp Store

The store is open every day but Sunday, in the morning for supplies and in the afternoon for treats. You may set a spending limit for your camper. Stores do not accept cash. Your credit card will be billed or we can send a statement at the end of the summer.

Electronics

Campers are not allowed to bring cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, tablets, Kindles or Apple watches. We have become more aware of the benefits campers receive when they unplug and learn to connect with each other. Many of our campers comment about how nice it is to take a break from social media and constant communication. Please have your camper leave these at home rather than bring them to camp where they will have to turn them in with their valuables. Campers may bring digital cameras, but will not be able to download photos, so they need enough memory cards for the term. Campers may travel with cell phones and electronics but they **must** turn them in upon arrival to camp, and will be returned before departure.

Things to Leave at Home

Campers are not allowed to bring cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, tablets, Kindles, Apple watches, televisions, computers, Gameboys, make up, fireworks, expensive watches and jewelry, expensive cameras, weapons, hunting knives, food, treats, one-of-a-kind items such as special t-shirts, family treasures, tobacco/e-cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, and pets.

Laundry

Laundry is done once a week, so quantities of clothing listed are sufficient to last seven to eight days. Send only washable clothing that can be washed in large commercial washers and dryers.

Label Everything

Put your camper's name on EVERYTHING with labels or a permanent marker. This is vital to the success of returning items to campers during laundry and when items are lost.

International Campers

In 2016, we welcomed campers from 19 different countries! Our primary contact with international parents during camp is by email, but we will call you if the need arises. We will scan and email outgoing camper letters to you so that you can receive them in a timely manner.

ARRIVAL AT CAMP

Arriving By Car

Cheley is located 75 miles northwest of Denver and is about a two hour drive from Denver. Please plan to arrive at Land O'Peaks or Trail's End properties between 1:00-4:00 pm. We cannot accommodate arrivals prior to 1:00 pm as we are having staff meetings. When you arrive, you will be directed to park and can help your camper settle in his/her cabin and meet the counselors. Please take your camper and all medication, including over the counter medication, to the Health Center to check in.

Arriving By Plane

Campers should arrive at Denver International Airport (DEN) between 9:00 am – 1:00 pm on Tuesday, June 13 (First Term) or Tuesday, July 11 (Second Term). Please do not schedule flights before 9:00 am. If you need to schedule a flight outside of our arrival times, contact Peggy first.

Campers will be met at the gate by a Cheley staff member in a red shirt with a blue kerchief and a clipboard. If your camper is traveling as an Unaccompanied Minor, note that on the travel form. If you need to list the name of the pick-up person, use Brooke Cheley-Klebe.

Staff will gather a group of campers and take them on the train to our Home Base at the main terminal. Our luggage crew will bring luggage to Home Base to be collected. Label all checked baggage with the yellow bag tags that you will receive by mail in May. When we have enough campers to fill a chartered bus, we will load the bus and send it to camp. Campers should bring \$15 cash for snacks. Your camper will call you when they arrive at Home Base. The bus charge is \$30 each way and it will be billed to your camper's account.



Arriving By Bus

If your camper will be meeting us at the airport (DIA) to take the bus to camp, contact our Travel Coordinator (travel@cheley.com) the week before the term starts to confirm arrival time and location. The bus fee is \$30 each way and will be billed to your camper's account.

Late Arrivals

The Cheley Experience has a distinct beginning, middle and end, and it is difficult for us to accommodate campers who need to arrive at camp after our start date. If your camper needs to arrive late, please contact Peggy (peggy@cheley.com) as soon as possible.

What to Expect the First Few Days

The first day of camp is spent getting to know the campers and staff in your cabin or wagon and unit, and learning about Cheley Camps. Wednesday is Orientation Day and campers will learn about program offerings, get to know campers and staff in their unit, and more about camp life in general. Program runs Thursday through Saturday the first week.

Homesickness

Missing home may be a part of adjusting to life away from home for your camper. It's a normal, predictable adjustment response as campers shift from family to cabin as their primary group. The experience is a crisis with a built-in sense of opportunity. Symptoms may include stomach ache, headache or loss of appetite, but the core issue is adjustment to a new environment.

Our program is designed to anticipate the immediate relocation needs of all campers within the first few hours of arrival. Counselors get campers involved with others and redirect their attention to camp activities, which helps campers get off to a good start. Meeting homesickness head on in a healthy way is a great step in moving toward adulthood. You can help by assuring campers that you know they can make it and will be fine, and that you will be waiting with open arms and a big hug at the end of the term.

You may initially receive some lonely letters from your camper, describing how he/she misses you. Be patient. Such letters indicate that kids are working through the adjustment process.

And remember the time lag with mail. By the time bad news hits your doorstep, campers are usually having a great time. It is important to give kids a chance to work things out on their own, supported by our staff. This helps them build confidence and self-reliance. Know that homesickness rarely persists, and if it does, we will work with you to problem-solve together.

Valuables

Any valuables brought to camp are kept in a locked safe for the duration of the term. Please have campers leave valuables at home if possible. Campers should bring no more than \$40 in travel money with them.

Hotels in Estes Park

Please see our website for a list of suggested hotels (Parents/Forms and Mailings/Hotel List) and book early as hotels tend to fill up fast in the summer!

LIFE AT CAMP

Code of Living

At the start of camp, each unit creates a Code of Living, a personal code of honor that everyone in the unit agrees to follow. Striving for ideals such as fair play, honesty, enthusiasm and good character is a priority at Cheley Colorado Camps - and so is having fun.

Kerchiefs

Campers and staff participate in the Blue Kerchief (BK) Ceremony near the start of camp. Campers agree to the Code of Living that was created and are presented with a Blue Kerchief to signify the importance of the Code of Living. Campers wear light blue, staff wear dark blue, and CILTs wear yellow. We wear our kerchiefs with pride and put them in a special place in our cabins/wagons. They are worn on Sundays at Chapel, and at special all camp events. Any recognitions such as patches, pins, buttons, and special camp memorabilia may be put on the kerchief. If a camper is not living up to the Code of Living, the unit director and Boys'/Girls' Camp director may withdraw their kerchief until he/she proves that she is a good citizen and regains the right to wear the kerchief.

A Typical Day

MONDAY - SATURDAY

- 6:45 a.m. Rise and shine, get ready for the day, make your bed, clean the cabin
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast in the dining hall
- 8:30 a.m. Program groups meet for all-day, multi-day and half-day programs
- Noon Lunch on the trail or in the dining hall
- 1:00 p.m. Rest hour (for in-camp programs)
- 2:00 p.m. Afternoon activities or continuation of all-day programs
- 4:30 p.m. Visit the store, shower, hang out with your camp unit
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner in the dining hall or around the campfire on overnights
- 7:00 p.m. Evening campfire, songs and taps
- 9:30 p.m. Sweet dreams (earlier for younger units)

SUNDAY

- 7:30 a.m. Rise and shine
- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the dining hall
- 9:00 a.m. Free time to play games and hang out with friends
- 11:00 a.m. Cheley Chapel
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch in the dining hall
- 1:30 p.m. Sign up for weekly program in the lodge
- 3:00 p.m. Activities such as Play Day or skit practice
- 5:30 p.m. Cookout
- 7:00 p.m. Evening campfire
- 8:30 p.m. Sunset vespers
- 9:30 p.m. Sweet dreams (earlier for younger units)

Birthdays

Campers celebrating a birthday will have a cake at dinner to share with their table. If they are on an overnight, we will celebrate when they return. They may receive one birthday package- please do not send food.

Cabins, Wagons & Bath Houses

Most cabins sleep 10-18 campers and 2-3 staff members. Cabins have bunk beds, shoe racks, space for hanging clothes (a few hangers are provided per person), and dressers. Campers unpack into dressers and suitcases are stored until the end of the term. Wagons at Trail's End Ranches, sleep 4 campers and have drawers and storage space. Each wagon has a Wagon Mama/Papa staff member, who is responsible for those campers. All units have an indoor bathhouse with flush toilets and private stalls, private shower stalls, sinks, and cubbies for shower supplies. Food is not allowed in cabins/wagons because we don't want wildlife visiting!

Activities

Campers choose activities on a weekly basis, selecting programs that interest them. There are a ton of activities at camp! Prior experience is not required for any programs, though some have age limits. Campers participating in hiking and backpacking should be physically fit and be able to be active all day at high elevation. We encourage campers to try a wide variety of activities and we don't force them to participate in activities they are not comfortable with.

All activities contain some degree of risk. Safety is a priority in our programming and we work hard to minimize any risks across the board. Please review the Cheley Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Release and Indemnity Agreement.

In Camp Activities

- **Horseback Riding:** Ring rides or working with the colt training program. We have 150 horses, five riding rings and numerous trails. Helmets are required and provided.
- **Sports:** Basketball, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, football, aerobics, running, relays, games, ultimate Frisbee, dance and yoga.
- **Crafts:** Woodshop, ceramics, jewelry making, tie dye, leather work, mosaics, painting, paper crafts, copper enameling, and more.
- **Target Sports:** Riflery uses air rifles in lower units and .22 rifles in older units. Learn how to aim from a prone position and move up to sitting and standing as you master the technique. Eye and ear protection required and provided. In archery, arm guards are required and provided.
- **Climbing:** All ages enjoy our indoor climbing wall with climbs of varying difficulty, ensuring a challenge for all in this half-day program. We offer technical outdoor climbing on our property at Christmas Tree rock. All technical climbing is run by Kent Mountain Adventure Center (KMAC) of Estes Park. Campers can also try a variety of difficulty levels at our indoor climbing wall. Helmets are required and provided.
- **Challenge Course:** Working in small groups, you are given a challenge and a timetable, and must work together to come up with a plan. The low ropes course is comprised of a variety of activities that include webbing, swinging ropes and balancing logs.
- **Fishing:** Spend a half day relaxing by our beautiful, spring-fed, well-stocked pond. When you catch a trout, bring it to the kitchen and they will prepare it for you for dinner!

Out of Camp Activities

- **Hiking:** We offer 48 hikes per week for beginners to experts at Rocky Mountain National Park. Learn to hike at altitude, and follow Leave No Trace guidelines for how to enjoy the experience while preserving the trails for future generations. Early Breakfast Hikes (EBs), allow you to complete a long hike in one day by leaving early in the morning.
- **Backpacking:** Backpacking trips range from one to four nights in groups of 10-12. The group carries all necessary gear and food, and cooks meals on the trail.
- **Horseback Riding:** Sign up for all-day trail rides and overnight horsepacking trips of two to four days. Helmets are required and provided.
- **Climbing:** Our technical climbing program is run by Kent Mountain Adventure Center (KMAC) of Estes Park. Locations may include: Lilly Mountain, Lumpy Ridge and Jurassic Park. Helmets are required and provided.
- **Outcamping:** We transport small groups to beautiful campsites on our property for two and three day outcamps. Campers and staff cook all meals, learn how to build a fire, pitch a tent and build a shelter. Other activities may include hikes, Frisbee and other sports, a dirty derby, and relaxing in a hammock. Campers age 13 and up are invited to do a 24-hour solo experience. Counselors are nearby and check in periodically.
- **Swimming:** Campers in younger units will have the opportunity to visit the Estes Park pool or Union Reservoir in Longmont. Older units can choose Stand Up Paddleboarding.
- **Mountain Biking:** We use Specialized mountain bikes, which are purchased new each summer. We teach good bike riding form and technique to aspiring and seasoned riders on day trips and overnights of up to three days. Campers learn bike maintenance and can try their hand at the Cheley Challenge- biking up our long, steep driveway- upon returning to camp! Helmets are required and provided.
- **Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP):** Campers ages 12 and up can sign up for the day trip to Union Reservoir in Longmont. We work with Rocky Mountain Paddleboard and they provide all of the gear, including life jackets, and their guides take campers and staff through a training session on land before hitting the water.
- **Fishing:** Spend a morning or afternoon fishing at various locations.
- **Whitewater Rafting:** Campers ages 12 and up in Chipeta, Ski Hi, Senior Chipeta, Haiyaha, BTE and GTE can sign up for a day of rafting on the Poudre River in Fort Collins. We work with Wanderlust Adventures and they provide all of the gear, including life jackets and helmets, and guides take our campers and staff on a fun river adventure.

Recognition Programs

Many activities offer optional recognition programs. Recognition books are available for each camper with checklists to work on. It frequently takes more than one term to earn a patch. The first step of a patch is the basics, and the second level combines the basic knowledge with the ability to perform well in the activity. Patch holders are expected to continue their leadership in these skill areas if they are on program in that area. We offer the following patches:

- Horsemanship- Riding Patch (all units)
- Hiking- Chipmunk or Mountaineers Patch (all units)
- Outcamping- Outcamping Patch (all units except Haiyaha & Senior Chipeta)
- Backpacking- Backpacker Patch- Jr/Sr Levels (all units except Lower Ski Hi/Lower Chipeta)
- Mountain Biking- Mountain Biking Patch (BTE, GTE, Senior Chipeta, Haiyaha)
- Climbing- Spider Patch (Lower Ski Hi & Lower Chipeta)

Program participation patches include:

- On the Trail Patch- BTE & GTE, Ski Hi & Chipeta- for spending a certain number of days out of camp over the term.
- Pinecone Patch- Chipeta & Ski Hi- participation in a variety of activities.
- Circle of Stars- Lower Ski Hi & Lower Chipeta- participation in a variety of activities.

Archery: white, black, blue, red and gold pins based on scores.

Riflery: Young Specialist, Prone Specialist, Sitting Specialist, Standing Specialist, Kneeling Specialist based on scores. Master Patch is earned after competing all four levels of each award.

Gold Spurs: Campers in Haiyaha, Senior Chipeta, Boys' Trail's End and Girls' Trail's End can earn Gold Spurs through top achievement and ability in all camp skills over at least three terms. Gold Spurs are awarded after the camper has met the qualifications in all of these areas: horsemanship (Riding Patch), backpacking (Backpacker Patch), mountaineering and hiking (Mountaineers Patch), handicrafts (must have completed projects in two different craft areas), mountain biking (Mountain Biking Patch) and in-camp skills and general sports (Riflery Prone Specialist IV and Archery White Arrow from 15 yards).

We offer work towards Boy Scout patches. Campers can complete Wilderness Survival, Horsemanship, Hiking, Leatherworking, Wood Carving, and Riflery, get close to completing Cycling (except the 50-mile ride requirement) and do about half of Backpacking and Camping. Campers need to bring the blue merit badge card to camp and Jeff Cheley will sign off when completed. It is the camper's responsibility to get the paperwork completed and signed. We recommend focusing on one or two badges per term.

Evening Programs

Each unit has a Campfire counselor who plans evening programs and special events. Activities may include stories, games, scavenger hunts, square dances, talent show, songs and s'mores around the campfire, and more.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Chapel

Chapel is a celebration of personal insights and shared experiences. It is not religious, but has a spiritual and motivational atmosphere. Campers may share readings or music, or join the choir.

Vespers

Vespers is held on Sunday nights and is a peaceful time to watch the sun set, write in your journal, share inspirational readings, and feel the power and beauty of the mountains.

Play Day

Play Day is the first Sunday and includes special colors, cheers and games to rally camp spirit and encourage team building.

All Camp Campfire

All Camp Campfire is the second Sunday. The entire camp has a cookout at Woods Kitchen before watching the horses retreat at Chapel. After a dance party, we meet up at the Pavilion where the campfire counselors host a fun evening. Each unit prepares a song/skit and performs for the camp. Check out some past performances on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CheleyColoCamps>.

CONTACTING YOUR CAMPER

Mail & Packages

Everyone loves to get mail! Please limit packages to one per camper per term and ***do not send food***. You can send unlimited letters. Avoid writing about how much fun your camper is missing at home. Encourage your child to have fun and to make the most of his/her camp experience.

USPS Address for All Campers/Staff

Camper Name, Unit
Cheley Colorado Camps
PO Box 1170
Estes Park, CO 80517

Fed Ex/UPS for All Campers/Staff

Camper Name, Unit
Cheley Colorado Camps
3960 Fish Creek Road
Estes Park, CO 80517

Sending Emails & Viewing Photos

We post photos and a newsletter update daily in the Cheley Connection. You can also send one-way email to your camper- you will receive information on how to do this in the spring. Items received by 11:00 am mountain time will be delivered the same day, except for Sundays when no mail is distributed.

Phone Calls

Campers are not allowed to make phone calls. If you need to get a message to your child, call the office and leave a message for the unit director. He/she will check with your camper and call you back.

Weekly Reports

You will receive a report from your camper's counselor or director on the Tuesday following weeks 1, 2, 3 and 4. To view these reports, log into the Cheley Connection.

Food

We have four dining halls- Ski Hi for boys and support staff, Chipeta for girls, and one at each of the Trail's End Ranches. After singing thanks, we serve our meals family style. Manners and polite conversation are stressed and meal times are un-hurried. Breakfast always includes cereal before the hot items, and we serve dessert at dinner. Sundays are special with homemade granola for breakfast, and a hearty lunch before an evening cookout. Campers participate in helping to cook meals while out of camp. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are always available, along with soy milk. Contact us if your camper has special dietary concerns.

Cabin Clean Up

There is scheduled time each day for campers to clean their cabins. This includes making beds, tidying up belongings and sweeping.

Trigger Bill

Trigger Bill is our cowboy philosopher and you can find his words of wisdom in lodges, dining halls, and in the Trigger Bill quote book, available in the store. Legend has it that the outline of Trigger Bill can be seen among the aspen trees as you drive up the driveway at Land O'Peaks.

Tipping/Gifts

Cheley staff are hired and trained as youth development professionals. As part of our promotional code of ethics, all camp staff members agree to fairness by not accepting tips or gifts.

Citizenship Recognitions

The following recognitions cannot be worked on with a specific plan. It is up to each camper to bring out the best in him/herself. This includes being kind to all fellow campers, always doing your best, being enthusiastic, participating fully, and following the Code of Living. A vote is taken by all campers in each unit at the end of the term for who they feel has exemplified the Code of Living. These recognitions are presented at the Recognition Campfires.

The Silver Coup- Lower Chipeta and Lower Ski Hi

The west is rich in lore and the legend of Native American tribes who once roamed through the mountains. Each member of the tribe living in the village had certain responsibilities and opportunities. The chieftains, by means of decorations called coups, recognized outstanding members of the tribe. Such honors might signify outstanding bravery, great hunting abilities skills as a warrior or statesman. In modern language, a person who makes a contribution to the community and who takes advantage of the opportunities available to help others in the tribe is called a good citizen. In Lower Ski Hi and Lower Chipeta, we carry out the Native American idea of the good citizen by recognizing several campers each term with the Silver Coup.

The Silver Spurs- Ski Hi and Chipeta

All-around program participation and high standards of citizenship and personal relations are the basis of the Silver Spurs recognition. At the beginning of each term, there is a group discussion with the unit's staff and campers about the meaning of being a good citizen and the Silver Spurs are given to recognize campers who exemplify those standards.

The Gold Key- Haiyaha and Senior Chipeta and **The Top Hand** –Trails End Units

Believing that the members of the older camp units should have a way of recognizing those campers each term who best live up to the Code of Living in terms of citizenship, personal qualities and full participation in camp, we have the Gold Key and Top Hand recognitions.

The Driver of the Covered Wagon

Carrying out the traditions of the western ranch country and the principles embodied in the Top Hand recognition, the Trail's End Ranches recognize those younger campers who participate in a good all-around camp program, and who live their lives at camp according to high standards of citizenship and personal relations with the Driver of the Covered Wagon.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health Centers

We have a team of nurses and four health centers. A nurse is on property 24 hours a day and a physician is a phone call away. We take campers to Estes Park Medical Center if they need treatment beyond what we can provide at camp. We will call you if your camper has been taken to the doctor/hospital, receives a prescription, or spends the night in the health center.

If your camper has an emergency or requires medical care beyond the scope of our nursing staff, a phone call home will occur the same day unless the incident occurs after 9:00 pm in the camper's home time zone, in which case a phone call will occur the following morning.

Medications

Our health centers are stocked with standard over the counter medications, so there is no need to send these items. All medications sent to camp must be in the original packaging with prescription, and must be listed on the Healthcare Provider Form. Over the counter medications and vitamins/supplements, along with dosage and time taken, must be listed on the Healthcare Provider Form. Please do not send medications or supplements if it is something that the camper can do without while they are at camp. Medications are not allowed in cabins. Campers may carry inhalers and Epi-pens with them. If they require these items, please send a spare to be kept in the health center. If campers wear contact lenses, they should bring extra pairs and/or a pair of glasses.

Head Lice

We check all campers for head lice upon their arrival at camp. Please check your camper's head before sending him/her to camp, and let us know if you find and treat any lice. If we find that your camper has head lice, we will contact you.

Altitude Concerns

Our climate is dry with very low humidity, necessitating lip balm, lotion and sunscreen. Our elevation is 8,200 feet and some campers may experience altitude sickness- typically headache and loss of appetite. The best way to combat this is to drink water, eat regular meals, and rest.

Emergency Procedures

We have risk management and crisis response plans in place for anything from natural disasters and abuse to violence prevention. Parents and guardians will be notified within a reasonable length of time after an event, as our first priority is to the safety and well-being of all campers and staff on camp property.

Visiting/Final Weekend

Parents can visit for Chapel on the third Sunday and bring a picnic lunch to share with your camper. Very few parents come on the third Sunday, and most are local families. It's better for the emotional well-being of your camper if you plan your visit for Final Weekend. We do not allow visitors on any other days as it is disruptive to the camp program.

Final Weekend

Parents are invited to Final Weekend. Campers will not be allowed to leave camp until Sunday.

Friday, July 7 and August 4- Final Campfires

6:15 pm	Lower Chipeta and Lower Ski Hi
7:00 pm	Chipeta and Ski Hi
7:30 pm	Senior Chipeta and Haiyaha
7:30 pm	Girls' Trail's End and Boys' Trail's End

Saturday, July 8 and August 5

LAND O'PEAKS UNITS: Lower Ski Hi, Ski Hi, Haiyaha, Lower Chipeta, Chipeta, Senior Chipeta

9:30 am	Parents can arrive
9:00 am	Register for 2018 at Chapel until 1pm
10:30 am	Lower Ski Hi and Lower Chipeta Horseback Retreat at Chapel
10:45 am	Haiyaha and Senior Chipeta Flag Raising at Chapel
11:00 am	Chapel
11:55 am	Ski Hi and Chipeta Flag Lowering at Chapel
12:15 pm	BBQ Lunch for all families with their campers
1:00-4:00 pm	Open House- campers will showcase various programs from the summer
4:00 pm	Parents Depart

GIRLS' AND BOYS' TRAIL'S END RANCHES

9:30 am	Parents can arrive at BTE and GTE
10-11 am	Open Houses at BTE and GTE- campers will showcase various programs
11:15	Chapel at BTE and GTE
12:00 pm	BTE campers and families head to GTE (campers will be driven by BTE staff)
12-1:30pm	BBQ Lunch at GTE Dining Room
1:45-3:00pm	BTE/GTE Horse Show at GTE Riding Ring. Registration for 2018 will be available.
3:00-4:00 pm	BTE/GTE Archery and Riflery Tournaments at GTE
4:00 pm	Parents Depart

Sunday, July 9 and August 6

6:00-8:00 am	Camper Pick Up
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Departure from Camp

Departing by Car

Please pick up your camper and depart between 6:00- 8:00 am on Sunday.

Departing by Plane

We are a two-hour drive by bus from Denver International Airport (DEN). Campers should schedule departures from 9:00 am- 1:00 pm on Sunday, July 9 or August 6. We leave for the airport four hours before departures, so please do not schedule flights that leave before 9:00 am or after 1:00 pm. If you need to book a flight outside of these times, contact Peggy first.

Our staff helps campers check baggage and check in for flights, escorts them through security, on the train to the terminal, and will wait at the gate with them until flights board.

Campers will be given \$15 cash from their camp bank for travel. The bus charge is \$30 each way and will be billed to your camper's account.

Departing By Bus

If your camper is taking the bus to Denver International Airport, contact our Travel Coordinator (travel@cheley.com) the week before the term ends to confirm arrival time and location. of Home Base. The bus charge is \$30 each way and will be billed to your camper's account.

Early Departures

The Cheley Experience has a distinct beginning, middle and end and it is difficult for us to accommodate campers who need leave camp early. If your camper needs to leave early, or if your departure plans change, contact Peggy (peggy@cheley.com) as soon as possible.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO

John Austin Cheley Foundation

The John Austin Cheley Foundation (JACF) funds need-based camperships for high-potential youth to attend wilderness summer camps that positively impact youth development. The JACF was established in 1989 to honor the memory of John Austin (Jack) Cheley, to help fulfill his dream of making camp available to deserving youth who could not otherwise afford it. Camperships are available at six camps across the United States. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.cheleyfoundation.org.

You can donate items that your camper has outgrown- boots, sleeping bags, backpacks, etc. by leaving them at the office at the end of the term. Please cross out your camper's name so that we don't confuse them with Lost and Found and return them to you!

Additional Cheley Programs

Mini Camp: August 6-9 and 9-12, 2017

This summer we are excited to debut our first-ever Mini Camp! Campers can attend one of our two 3-night experiences for campers who are 7 and 8 years old. Mini Camp will be co-ed, with separate housing for boys and girls. Our goal is to introduce campers to summer camp and to the Cheley Experience by giving them an opportunity to try many of the programs we offer during our traditional summer camp experience. We are near capacity in both sessions, so register soon if you are interested! Register at www.cheley.com or email peggy@cheley.com.

Family Camp: August 7-12, 2017

Cheley has offered a week-long Family Camp in August since 1985. Families with children age six and older can experience our 5-day Family Camp, located at both of our Trail's End Ranches. Activities include day hikes, horseback riding in the ring and on trails, technical climbing, fishing, crafts, target sports, games, Kids' Camp for the younger campers, and more. Evening campfires are a favorite with family skits, songs, creative program reports and hilarious fun. Spaces fill fast, so email peggy@cheley.com today to register!

Air Force Reserve Teen Summit: August 7-12, 2017

This leadership camp, hosted at Cheley since 2010, is an opportunity for high school students with a parent in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard to spend five days at camp. The Teen Summit aims to empower students with leadership skills to impact their community at home and school. Participants are often called upon to be the man or woman of the house when one of their parents is called away to active duty. Cheley Camps is honored to host this program. Learn more at <http://www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit>.

Cheley/Children's Burn Camp

We have hosted the Cheley/Children's Burn Camp since 1984 for burn survivors from all over the world. Together, they experience eight days of the Cheley magic with their peers. The program includes hiking, backpacking, technical climbing, horseback riding, crafts, fishing, evening campfires, song and games, sports and more.

Cheley staff members provide the camp program and counseling expertise, while The Children's Hospital team provides expertise in burn injuries and emotional/social issues. In addition, firefighters from Denver and Estes Park and burn nurses from other countries join the staff to help provide a spectacular experience for everyone. All campers attend on scholarship, thanks to the fundraising efforts of many compassionate groups and individuals, including [The Burn Foundation](#), Rotary Club, Firefighters, Cheley parents and alumni. Cheley/Children's Burn Camp is held in August each year. Learn more at www.noordinarycamps.org.

Fall/Spring Discovery

Each fall and spring, Cheley serves as an outdoor education center. We serve public and private schools and take students out of the city and into the great outdoors where amazing things happen on a daily basis, including a special bonding among camp participants. Educational programming is a major component of the camp. Students take day hikes and study beaver pond life, biology, mountain safety, geology, and flora and fauna. Some groups set off on 5-day backpacking trips. Evening times include visits from the Mountain Man, slide shows from Rocky Mountain National Park, history, games, songs, and nature walks. For more information, contact Alyse (alyse@cheley.com).

Registration for 2018

The easiest way to secure your spot for 2018 is to register during Final Weekend.

September 15- Alumni Enrollment- campers who took a year off, or had a family member attend Cheley may enroll.

October 1- New Enrollment- open to new families.

Office Contact Info

Email: office@cheley.com

Winter Office September 1 – May 15	Summer Office Land O' Peaks May 16- August 31	Boys' Trail's End (summer only)	Girls' Trail's End (summer only)
PO Box 6525 601 Steele Street Denver, CO 80517	PO Box 1170 3960 Fish Creek Road Estes Park, CO 80517	<i>GPS only:</i> 2793 Dunraven Glade Rd. Glen Haven, CO	<i>GPS only:</i> 1395 Fox Creek Rd. Glen Haven, CO
Phone: (303) 377-3616	Phone: (303) 377-3616	Phone: (970) 586-3658	Phone: (970) 586-3588
Fax: (303) 377-3605	Fax: (970) 586-3020	Fax: (970) 577-9733	Fax: (970) 586-3020

Directions to Estes Park

From Denver International Airport

Exit from the airport on to Pena Blvd. to I-70 west (11 miles). At exit 279 (9 miles), turn onto I-270 west. In five miles, I-270 will end; follow signs for I-25 north to Fort Collins. Stay on I-25 north for about 26 miles to exit 243/Colorado Hwy 66. Turn left (west) on Hwy 66 and drive through the towns of Longmont and Lyons. In Lyons, the highway will fork; turn right following US Hwy 36 to Estes Park (20 miles).

From Boulder

Take US Hwy 36 (28th Street in Boulder) north to Lyons (16 miles). At the first stop light, turn left. In Lyons, the highway will fork; turn right following US Hwy 36 to Estes Park (20 miles).

From Loveland

Take US Hwy 34 (Eisenhower in Loveland) west through the Big Thompson Canyon to Estes Park (30 miles).

Directions to Cheley Camps from Estes Park

TO LAND O'PEAKS- Lower Chipeta/Chipeta/Senior Chipeta/Lower Ski Hi/Ski Hi/Haiyaha

From Boulder/Denver (US 36/I-25)

Coming into Estes, go across the lake. Turn left at first light (Hwy 7). Go 4 miles and turn left on Fish Creek Way. Veer right onto the dirt road and continue past Fish Creek Ranch. Take the next left and go through the arch to the top of the hill. The office is the first building on the right.

From Loveland/Denver (US 34/I-25) **

Turn left at the first stop light in Estes Park. Pass Twin Owls Hotel and veer right onto Hwy 7, before the traffic light. Go four miles and make a left on Fish Creek Way. Veer right onto the dirt road and continue past Fish Creek Ranch. Take the next left and go through the arch to the top of the hill. The office is the first building on the right.

TO TRAIL'S END RANCHES

From Boulder/Denver (US 36/I-25)

Coming into Estes, go across the lake. Continue straight through the first two stoplights and stay straight on Hwy 34 Bypass. The Stanley Hotel will be on your right, make the next right on MacGregor Avenue/Devil's Gulch Road. Follow this road 8.2 miles into Glen Haven.

From Loveland/Denver (US 34/I-25) **

At the first light in Estes, turn right on Hwy 34 Bypass. The Stanley Hotel will be on your right, take next right on MacGregor Ave./Devil's Gulch Road. Follow this 8.2 miles into Glen Haven.

Girls' Trail's End **

In Glen Haven, turn left after the General Store and cross the bridge on Fox Creek Road. Take a left at both forks and follow the road 1.6 miles to the end of the road. For the consideration of our neighbors, please drive slowly.

Boys' Trail's End **

Continue through Glen Haven 2.5 miles and make a left on Dunraven Glade Road. You will see a wooden Cheley Camps sign and several real estate signs at the turn. For the consideration of our neighbors, please drive slowly. At the Forest Service parking area, proceed through the gates. Use low gear over the steep dirt road for the next quarter mile to camp.

****Road work closures between Loveland and Glen Haven on Hwy 34 may affect your travel plans. We will update you with additional information as we get closer to the start of the term. ****