

Ultimate Challenge Father & Son Camp (FSC) · FAQs

1. What are the dates for the camp?

Wednesday 4–Sunday 8 July 2018.

2. Where will FSC be held?

In Cuskinny Court, Cobh, Co. Cork.

3. Who can sign up?

- a. Schoolboys between 3rd & 6th Class, and their dads.
 - i. The youngest boys on the camp will be entering 3rd Class in September 2018, and the oldest ones will be finishing 6th Class in June 2018.

4. How can I register my son for the camp?

Go to <http://nullamore.com/summer-programmes/>

5. How much does the camp cost?

The cost of the camp is €220 per boy, and €80 per dad.

6. We would like to send our son but cannot afford the full price of the camp. Are scholarships available?

- a. A small number of scholarships are available. To request a scholarship, contact Jeffrey Egan at egan.jeffrey@gmail.com.
- b. Also, families sending more than one son on the camp are eligible for a special discount. Please contact Jeffrey.

7. How can I pay for the camp?

Go to <http://nullamore.com/summer-programmes/> and click on the “Payment” tab.

8. What does a typical day look like?

- a. Each boy becomes a member of a team. The team then works together on activities, competes for prizes and shares living accommodation.
- b. Each day, participants have a talk about character development, followed by a wide range of fun, sporting and challenging leadership activities, such as football, tag- rugby, canoeing and raft-building. Evenings offer night-games (such as Fox Hunt, a Treasure Hunt and Capture the Flag) and a Talent Show. Spiritual activities, such as Mass, the Rosary, catechism class and confession, are optional elements of the programme.
- c. There will also be short trips to nearby places of interest in Co. Cork.

9. Is this a Father & Son Camp?

- a. Yes. Dads are encouraged, where possible, to attend for the entire duration of the camp. Where this is not possible, it would be good that they would at least be there from Friday evening until the end of the camp.

- b. Dads and sons will take part in special challenges (such as raft-building), fun competitions, night-games and an awards ceremony on the last day.
- c. This Father & Son camp gives dads an opportunity to enjoy a few days away with their sons in an environment that facilitates good conversations. Dads will attend the talks for the boys—which will provide them with material for later conversations—as well as receiving ‘dads only’ talks, aimed at addressing the theme of helping their sons to become men of character.
- d. Participating dads will also enjoy meeting each other in this setting.

10. Are dads required to go? When are they expected to arrive?

- a. We suggest you do your very best to be there from Wednesday afternoon (4 July). If this is not possible, try to be there by Friday evening (6 July), at the very latest.
- b. We will have special night games both on Friday and Saturday night—so your presence will be appreciated!

11. Where will the dads stay?

There is plenty of accommodation available for dads participating in the weekend portion of the camp. Some dads may prefer to stay in tents. Please liaise with us on your plans.

12. Who organises the camp?

- a. Brosna Educational Centres, a registered charity devoted to the advancement and character development in young people following Christian principles. Brosna runs educational initiatives such as Nullamore Youth Club (Dublin), Castleville Study Centre (Limerick) and Gort Ard Youth Club (Galway), which share the values and goals of this camp.
- b. Responsibility for spiritual and doctrinal formation in these clubs is entrusted to Opus Dei, a prelature of the Catholic Church which has as its mission to spread the message that all men and women are called to be saints through their ordinary work and family life.

13. Who are the members of Staff?

- a. The staff members of the camp have been selected and trained to be good role models. They share the ideals of the camp and are dedicated to the personal growth of each boy. Many of them are former participants themselves. This includes a number of college and secondary school students chosen for their maturity and experience.
- b. The head staff are adults who have experience running camps and other character-building activities for young people. All adult leaders will have appropriate training and Garda vetting.
- c. Throughout the week, the staff help the boys apply principles of leadership and lessons from the character development talks to specific challenges during the camp.
- d. Most importantly, the staff speak individually with each participant to help him grow in self-knowledge and to formulate resolutions for growing in character during and after the camp.

14. What does my son need to bring?

An indicative guide to what to bring will be sent to parents upon registration.

15. My son has special dietary needs. Can these be accommodated?

Yes. You can contact the FSC Staff directly on the numbers below to let them know your son's specific needs:

- i. Jeff Egan: 085 727 0041
- ii. Luison Lassala: 086 085 3096
- iii. Pat Gill: 086 776 3364
- iv. James Pampillon: 086 302 5854
- v. Ezekiel Mercou: 087 056 0141

16. My son has a medical condition that requires daily medicine/similar. Can this be accommodated?

We always try to accommodate special needs. Parents should provide the necessary information on medical or other conditions so that an assessment can be made in advance of the camp as to how to manage the requirements.

17. How can we contact our son?

If you wish to speak to your son, you will be able to ring an FSC mobile number. You can also email the FSC Committee, who will pass your email on to your son within 24 hours.

18. What is your mobile phone/electronic device policy?

The idea of the camp is to help your son grow in character, friendship, inner strength, spirit of service etc. Many boys of this age do not have mobile phones or electronic devices. For those that do, they can be an unhelpful distraction, because games, social networks, YouTube etc constantly vie for their attention. Gadgets isolate; the camp aims to do the opposite. Five days without them can help participants discover many other interests and hobbies, improve their ability to focus on important tasks, grow in self-control.

A camp like this can be a great opportunity for the boys to learn to detach themselves from their devices and from the internet for a period of time. They can learn to enjoy each other's company, to have fun in more creative ways etc.

Our mobile devices' policy, for those who decide to bring a smartphone or a tablet on the camp, is as follows:

1. The leaders will collect the devices from the boys at the start of the camp.
2. The boys may use their phones twice per day-after the talk of formation, at about 9.40am, and before Night Games, at 8.45pm. Other devices may not be used.
3. The phones will be charged overnight by the leaders.
4. Parents can contact main leader of the camp, Jude Mulligan, at any time.

We would ask the parents to give us the details of their son's phone (if he is bringing one) as soon as possible. This is very important, so as to avoid misplacing devices:

Make (e.g. iPhone, Samsung, Huawei, Nokia)

Model (iPhone 5/6/7; Samsung Galaxy S6; Nokia Lumia)

Colour

Phone number

19. Will there be other activities similar to this during the year?

Yes. Nullamore Youth Club (Dublin), Castleville Study Centre (Limerick), Dunmahon House (Cork) and Gort Ard Youth Club (Galway) all run father and son activities during the year, as well as short overnight trips away and other adventure activities for boys. We hope to continue the character-building work carried out with the participants throughout the year.