

HOW TO HELP THEM HAVE A GREAT WEEK

We at Camp Pattersonville are honored that you have chosen to entrust your child to our care for this week. Be assured that the staff will do our best to make your child's stay at camp fun, safe, and meaningful. However, there are some important things that you can do in order to ensure that your child will have the most excellent experience he or she can have.

- **Bring a friend.** Your child will make new friends at camp - some of whom may become lifelong friends. However, it is always fun for children to bring a friend or family member with them. This may help alleviate any anxiety and make Camp a more comfortable place.
- **Write letters!** We suggest mailing a letter on Friday or Saturday of the week BEFORE your child comes to camp. You may also leave letters with the registrar on Sunday. Letters mailed after Wednesday will likely not arrive at camp in time for your child to receive them. In addition to letters, it can be fun for your child to receive other small items in the mail. Some ideas are stickers or photos. Send "fill in the blank" letters to camp with your younger children to complete and mail home. Include self-addressed pre-stamped envelopes and stationery for older children.
- **Encourage your child** to stay at camp the entire week and follow the rules. This may seem obvious, but your support of our authority is vital to your child's view of camp and our staff. Avoid telling your child that he can call home; campers are not permitted to use the phone at camp. You are welcome to call the exchange and have the director or counselor return your call if you have any concerns about your child.
- **Prepare your child.** Spend a significant amount of time prior to camp talking with your child about the various activities that he or she will do at camp. Check our website (www.camppattersonville.org) for pictures of campers doing these things. Read books about these activities. Talk to other people who have attended camp.
- **Prepare the staff.** Tell you child's counselor and the director about any unusual circumstances that may affect your child's behavior or attitude (i.e. - relevant family situations, a recent death in the family, significant fears, medical conditions, etc.).
- **Prepare yourself!** The time your child spends away from home will likely be harder on you than on him. Realize that you may get a letter suggesting homesickness, anxiety, or loneliness. Be aware that a letter received on Tuesday or Wednesday was written on Sunday night or Monday morning. It is not uncommon for a child to write like that his first night away from home but to "warm up" by Monday afternoon and do fine for the rest of the week. Take ominous sounding sentiments in stride and call the camp exchange to check on the progress of your child's week before assuming the worst. Also, be assured that we would call you if there were a concern with your child.
- **Adhere to the list** of what to bring and not to bring (see back of this page). Any items that are not permitted at camp may be taken away until the end of the week. This includes all electronic devices and/or cell phones. This could be upsetting to your child. On the other hand, lacking a needed item could lead to embarrassment or unpreparedness.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Our desire is for Camp to be a safe place, for everyone to have fun, and for the program to run smoothly. For this to happen, there are rules and guidelines that all campers will be expected to follow and that will be enforced. Below is the list of the primary rules at camp. In addition, it is to be understood that campers are under the authority of the director, WSI, and counselors, and that any other rules will be explained as they pertain to specific activities (pool, dining hall, hikes, etc.).

1. Only peel bark off dead trees.
2. Boys and girls must stay on their own sides of camp.
3. Listen to and obey the whistle.
4. Stay with your counselor or activity leader.
5. For safety purposes, no food, gum, or medication in the cabins - any of these must be given to your counselor and stored in the appropriate place.
6. Respect the belongings of camp, staff, and other campers. There is to be no theft, vandalism, or destruction of any property.
7. Rocks/sticks are not to be thrown.
8. We use our hands and bodies to respect one another, so we do not use them for fighting.
9. There is to be no profanity, crude talk, or off-color jokes.
10. Shoes are to be worn at all times to avoid injury.
11. Do not touch any wild animals.

The following two lists are designed to help you
be better packed and prepared for camp.

Things To Bring To Camp

(please label all belongings with camper's name)

- 2 pairs of sneakers (one will get wet!)
- 10-12 pairs of socks
- Enough clothing for 6 days
- Laundry bag
- Warm Sleeping Bag and pillow
- Toiletry items (toothbrush, soap, etc.)
- *Modest one-piece* bathing suit - no mesh or cut outs in the center
- Flashlight
- Flip-flops or water shoes
- Bible and writing materials
- Warm clothing (sweatshirt, long pants)
- Raincoat or poncho
- Completed health form
- Any medications in their original containers

Things NOT To Bring to Camp

Some of these are especially disruptive at camp; they will be confiscated and returned at end of week to Parent/Guardian.

- All electronics (including cell phones, ipod, hair dryer...)
- 2-piece bathing suit
- Questionable reading material
- Make-up, or other "vanity" items. There is neither the time nor facilities for you to use them.
- Valuables (special toys, clothes, jewelry...)