

Camp Watonka. Vital Information for Parents

CHECK-IN, CHECK OUT: For campers being brought to camp, check-in is between 2pm and 4pm on the opening Saturday. Campers arriving by plane should contact the camp for alternative arrangements. Please understand that prior to this time cabins are being cleaned and counselors otherwise occupied and are not able to accept incoming campers. Check-out is between 9:30 and 12:00 on the closing Saturday of each session. Please contact the camp in advance if alternative arrangements are required.

VISITING: Unfortunately we have found in the past that visits to campers cause problems with homesickness, and scheduling especially trips. For this reason we have only one visiting day during the season for 8-week campers, which is on the four week changeover day.

MAIL: Mail should be addressed to the camper AND cabin number which will be notified at check-in. Parcels may also be sent to camp but are opened with a member of staff present. Nothing edible should be sent to camp neither should any other item listed elsewhere as prohibited on camp (including knives, water guns, slingshots, any weapon, pornography, aerosols).

TELEPHONE POLICY: To help problems of homesickness and in common with most other camps we have a policy of not allowing the campers to use the camp phone. Parents are however welcome to call and speak to members of staff. An exception allows campers to receive calls from home on their birthday. Counselors are most likely to be available between 8:00 and 8:30 in the morning, 12:30 and 12:45 midday, and between 8:00 and 9:00 at night. Campers may call home when out of camp on a field trip; although the trips themselves are usually only scheduled a day or two in advance. Please note that cell phones are not allowed on camp.

INFIRMARY: All campers must have a complete medical form signed by both parent/guardian and a licensed medical examiner before the camper can be accepted onto camp.

We do not routinely contact parents if a camper attends the infirmary for 'routine' cuts and bumps, or if the camper is admitted for a brief (i.e. overnight) stay. We will however always attempt to contact parents or guardians as per the information on the medical form if the child is scheduled a visit to the doctor.

Our Nurse will deliver and dispense prescribed medication daily at mealtimes; breakfast, dinner and supper. Campers requiring medication at other times, such as before bed are responsible (with their counselors help) for attending the infirmary on their own. The camp offers a full and balanced diet, but campers who wish to take vitamins or other supplements should also attend the infirmary for these under their own responsibility.

BEHAVIOR - Campers: We expect all campers to behave appropriately on camp. This includes being respectful and accepting of other campers and the staff. The camp will not tolerate any form of bullying, swearing, racial abuse/name calling, stealing or general abuse of either property or people. Campers so engaged will be dealt with within the policies of the camp. However, the camp is not a correctional institution and any camper who persistently causes problems will be sent home.

BEHAVIOR - Staff: We expect the highest standard of behavior from our staff. All staff are chosen on the basis of their experience, expertise and background checks carried out by various organizations and are continually monitored by the camp directors. There is no physical punishment of any kind on camp. Any member of staff who does not maintain the standards set by the camp and laid out during staff training will be required to leave camp.

DINING HALL: In addition to the usual requirements that there should be order and good behavior in the dining hall the camp does operate a special rule that is designed to minimize wastage. The Campers (and staff), may eat as much or as little as they like; but what they take from the serving dishes onto their own plates, they are expected to eat.

ANIMALS: Please do not bring pets or other animals to camp either as pets to keep on camp, or on opening/closing days.

LETTERS HOME: Campers are required to write a letter twice a week. This we guarantee, we have however no control over who the letters are written to. We would suggest that campers bring stamped and addressed envelopes. In addition, the camp will send a letter home after the first week to let you know what activities and sciences the camper is doing and a brief word from his counselor covering life in the cabin and generally around camp.

CABIN ASSIGNMENTS: Cabin assignments are made based on a camper's age and any special requests from parents. It has been known for parents to be concerned that their son seems to old or young for their assigned cabin. The cabin assignment process is can take several hours and any problems are difficult if not impossible to sort out on opening day. Please help us by providing any information in advance that you feel is relevant to us assigning your son an appropriate cabin.

PROHIBITED ITEMS: Please take note of our list of prohibited items. Every item is on the list because of our objective to have a perfect health and safety record, to minimize homesickness, and be fair to all other campers. Our prohibited items are Food, Chewing Gum, Firecrackers, Sheath Knives, Slingshots, Spray Cans, Water Pistols, Computers, Game Consoles, DVD players, VCRs, Televisions, Large Electronic Appliances, Pornography, Cell Phones.

Note that we do allow palm size game machines such as Game Boy and Nintendo, also portable CD players; iPod, Walkmans etc but make sure they come with headphones so as not to disturb others.

ARRIVING BY PLANE: If you need to fly in to camp, our preferred airport is Wilkes-Barre Scranton (AVP). For international flights, Newark (EWR) is the best option. New York's John F. Kennedy airport (JFK) is our least preferred option as the journey time to and from camp can be many hours. Please contact us for further details and current pick-up charges.

SPENDING MONEY: The camp fee is inclusive of all activities on camp, transportation and entrance to field trips and the camp snack store which all campers get to visit once on most days. Most campers however like to have extra spending money for the, usually three, field trips over the course of their stay. Only some of the trips offer opportunities to spend money and we would recommend around \$40 for a four week stay. This money can be deposited in cash at check-in and the campers take it prior to each trip.

FEEDBACK: It is the Camp's wish that all campers have an excellent time on camp. If you feel that we could improve our program in any way, we would welcome your comments.

Camp Phone Number: 570.226.4779
Camp Website: www.watonka.com (including daily activity pictures)
Camp Email: mail@watonka.com
Camp Mailing Address: PO Box 127. Hawley, PA 18428
Camp Shipping Address: 1, Wangum Road. Hawley, PA 18428