

TANAMAKOON



**2018
TO OUR PARENTS**

Dear Parents:

As Camp Directors, we know that parents of new campers have many questions about Camp. Over the years we have found the following enquiries to be the ones made most frequently! We hope that you will find our comments informative and helpful.

If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to call us. We are looking forward to sharing a happy, safe and rewarding season with your daughter at Tanamakoon.

*Kim and Marilyn Smith
Patti Thon & Karen Gris*

CAN MY DAUGHTER AND I CALL EACH OTHER?

It is camp policy that no campers may use the telephone unless it is an emergency. We have over 250 people on the property and it would be impossible to regulate phone calls. Our one line is for business use. We do encourage you to call us if you are concerned about your daughter.

The Camp does not have the facility to receive fax communications for campers, nor are we equipped to receive or send e-mail communications

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS?

We hope that we have answered some questions , but we do encourage you to communicate with us or your daughter's counselor. We value your comments and feedback either during or after your daughter's stay at Tanamakoon.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

Our kitchen happily accommodates special dietary needs. Naturally we must receive advanced notification in writing of her needs. Campers who arrive at camp and announce that they have a number of food allergies and are vegetarians, make life very difficult for our food service people.

WHY ALL THE FORMS?

The camper forms that you received with your bulletin help us to insure that your daughter's stay at camp is a safe and healthy one. Please complete the forms and submit them by the dates indicated:

1. Health Form
2. Travel Form
3. Camper Information Form (*please note Mini Camp has different Travel & Camper Information forms.*)

WHAT DO WE DO AT VAUGHAN MILLS?

When you arrive at Vaughan Mills, please take your daughter's luggage to the transport truck. If your daughter is coming to camp for the second two weeks of July or the second two weeks of August, her luggage will travel under the bus.

Paddles, lifejackets, and fishing rods go in the compartments under the bus that she is travelling on. Please say your goodbyes outside the bus. Our staff must take the names of all campers on the bus they are assigned to travel on to camp. They cannot do their jobs effectively if there are parents and other family members on the bus.

If you have information or medication to be given to the directors or the nurse, please go to the Camp Information van and give the material to the assigned staff member. Do not give anything, including messages to anyone else as it may be forgotten in the confusion.

When your daughter arrives from camp at the end of July or August, please be patient and stay well back from the baggage truck to allow our staff room to unload the truck. We want to make your daughter's arrival home as organized and efficient as possible.

WHEN WILL MY DAUGHTER WRITE HOME?

All campers must write home every Sunday. We strongly suggest that you send young campers with pre-addressed/stamped envelopes. It makes letter writing easier and usually encourages a child to write more often. Children are often so busy having fun that there is little time to write. Most often, no news is good news.

WHEN SHOULD I WRITE TO HER?

We suggest that you write to your daughter before she departs and that you write often after she leaves for camp. Happy and positive letters from home are always appreciated. It is helpful not to dwell on how much you miss your daughter or how her favorite pet hasn't eaten since she left! Please note that mail delivery usually takes five days within Ontario and about a week to ten days from the U.S. and other countries. We strongly suggest **EXPRESS POST** mail service. It is reliable and fast. Please do not send mail in the last week of your daughter's stay at camp. All mail arriving after the camper departs is sent back "return to sender".

WHAT IF I GET AN UNHAPPY LETTER?

If you receive a teary letter from your daughter, please DON'T PANIC. Children leaving home or going to a new place need time to feel comfortable and secure. This may be true for both new and former campers. If you are concerned we ask that you call us. We can let you know how she is adjusting. The business phone is answered between 8 am and 9 pm daily. Our office staff will talk with your daughter's section head and counselor and will return your call within twelve hours.

MY DAUGHTER SAYS THAT I MUST SEND FOOD OR CANDY TO CAMP BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE DOES. IS THIS TRUE?

Although you may find yourself under great pressure from your daughter to “break” the rules, we ask for your support and request that you respect the camp policy by not sending or allowing your daughter to bring candy or food to camp. You can easily see that having one child in the cabin with goodies creates all sorts of problems for the other campers and the counselor. Food sent into camp is always an attraction to four legged creatures of a variety of sizes! Extra food is not necessary as the children receive three great meals a day, an evening snack, food for special programs and candy tuck 3 times per week. Children love to get parcels at camp and we therefore suggest that you bring or send non-edible items that your daughter will find special. In an endeavour to ensure that such problems do not arise over food parcels, the camp reserves the right to, a) Return to sender any food sent by mail, b) Take the food or snack sent to and either discard or use it in future staff or all camp programs. We ask for your complete support of this and all camp policies.

WHEN CAN I VISIT CAMP?

Tanamakoon does not have a Visitors Day during camp session. If you would like to tour the camp, we encourage you to attend our June open houses. If those dates do not work please call us and we will try to arrange a time for you to see the camp in the spring or at a convenient time before your daughter arrives at Camp. We do request that you not ask to see the Camp on Arrival or Departure Days as these are times when we must give our full attention to the organization and moving of children in and out of Camp.

HOW DO I REACH CAMP BY CAR?

If you are coming from Toronto, take Highway 401 to Highway 400. Go north to Highway 11. Take Highway 11 north to Highway 60. Travel east on Highway 60 to the Algonquin Park Gates. Cache Lake Landing is located 25 kilometers inside the Park Gates, approximately 65 kilometers from Highway 11.

IF MY DAUGHTER DOES NOT LIKE CAMP SHOULD I TELL HER SHE CAN COME HOME?

Do not make the “ULTIMATE PROMISE.” Children will hold you to these promises and use them when they come across a difficult time at Camp. Camp, like life, has its challenging moments for children. Reassure your daughter that her anxious fears are normal, but that she will be loved and cared for at all times. Above all, emphasize the fun she will have and the friends she will make.

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE WITH MY DAUGHTER'S CABIN REQUEST?

We ask that parents have a frank discussion with their daughter about her choice of cabin mates. It is difficult for us to tell your daughter that we cannot honour her cabin request because her parents asked us not to. We have an unhappy camper and camp has just begun. Cabin Request Forms must be agreed upon by both parent and child.

WILL SHE COME HOME WITH ALL OF HER BELONGINGS?

Please post the inventory list of her belongings on the inside of her trunk or suitcase. Campers find it difficult to remember after two weeks or a month what they brought - let alone how many!

WHAT VALUABLES SHOULD A CAMPER BRING?

Please do not send money, expensive clothing or jewelry with your daughter. Campers do not need cash and we are sure you don't want to lose a family heirloom! Children traveling great distances may have passports, plane tickets, birth certificates or travel cash. These items will be kept in the camp safe until departure. Please place your daughter's name on her camera!