



PARENT HANDBOOK 2010

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A GUIDE TO PARENTS AND CAMPERS

Going away from home for an extended period of time is difficult for many children. It is natural for them to have a certain amount of reluctance, as the moment of parting from parents, siblings and friends grows closer. Some will carry these concerns to camp. It is with this in mind that we have written this guide for parents. The pointers below are designed to help you, help us, prepare your child for the enriching and fruitful experience that camp provides.

AT HOME

1. If your child exhibits concerns about going to camp, encourage the open expression of feelings. They are worried about the total unknown and are looking for your understanding. At this point it is helpful to tell your child that these concerns are normal and natural. Many campers feel the same way. Permit your child to call the camp office to ask questions and receive reassurance. Let them know that the camp directors are always available to help in any way they might be able.
2. Under no circumstances be ambivalent about your child's stay at camp. Your child is there for the pre-determined length of stay and they should understand this. It is important, in this day and age, that a camper understands this commitment and is not encouraged to leave something unfinished. A "try it out" approach does not work. Although it might satisfy children at home it is certain to create a serious problem at camp. Remember, fees are not returnable for early departure.
3. Reassure your child that everything at home will be the same as when they left. This means that pets will be cared for, possessions will be protected from siblings, and that their room will stay as it was left. If for any reason this cannot be promised, inform the office of the circumstances – we can be most helpful when we are informed.
4. Please notify the office of any upsetting event that may have occurred prior to camp or is to occur during the summer. In this category would be an illness or death in the family, poor school grades, divorce, or moving to a new house or city.
5. When seeing your child off on the bus, or dropping them off at camp, make your parting brief and pleasant. Prolonged good-byes and abundant tears will be emotionally upsetting to your child. The same procedure should hold for visiting day at camp.
6. Please discuss with the camp directors if your child has been under any psychological/psychiatric care at any time prior to camp. Iroquois Springs is more than adequately prepared to deal with most children and the common problems of growing up. Our knowledge of the facts will give your child the best chance of success.
7. Please tell us if your child has any special interests or talents that should be encouraged at camp. While the camp program is designed to provide basic skills in many activities, certain children may have a more rewarding summer if encouraged in a specific area.

IMPORTANT DATES

February	Make appointments for medical and dental check-ups
March/April	Purchase camp clothing and make reservations for visiting day
April 15	Completed medical & camper forms due to camp office
May 13	Office Opens in Rock Hill
May 16	New Camper Orientation
June 20	Iroquois Springs Baggage Service Pickup for First Session & Full Season Campers
June 27	Opening Day
July 10	Visiting Day
July 17	Session #1 Ends
July 18	Session #2 Begins
August 7	Campers return home

CAMP POLICIES

We aim to make Iroquois Springs as wonderful an experience for your child as possible. In a community living experience such as camp, cooperation is essential and we find that campers are most comfortable when they know what is expected of them. So we ask that you and your child follow some important rules:

1. **Gratuities:** There is ***NO TIPPING*** at Iroquois Springs. Our staff is aware of this rule and knows that anyone accepting "tips" will be dismissed from the staff.
2. **Food:** It is against camp regulations to send candy, gum, bottled water or foodstuff to camp and campers are not permitted to keep any such items at camp. Foodstuffs tend to attract small animals to the bunk, and gum is very difficult to remove from the surface of camp athletic facilities, equipment and furniture.
3. **Pocket money and valuables:** We cannot assume responsibility for any money or valuables kept by a camper in his or her bunk. The camp office provides safekeeping for such items.
4. **Electronic devices:** Electric power is very limited at camp and we cannot handle the strain caused by electronics. Almost every type of electronic device is not allowed at camp. ***As a rule, any item that can: send or receive a phone call, play a DVD, access the Internet or send or receive e-mail is not permitted at camp. Cell phones, DVD players, Blackberry's, video I-Pods, Sony PSP's, Games playing device, etc are NOT allowed.***

Music I-Pods without video are ok...HOWEVER... the use of these items is allowed only at select times, inside a cabin. Because of the nature of camp life, these items are often misplaced or lost and we cannot be responsible for them. We caution you against sending these items. If you decide to send them, please consider purchasing insurance. Once again, we cannot be responsible if these items are lost or misplaced.

Other items not permitted

- Extra lights
- Cardboard storage boxes
- Food, gum, bottled water
- Curling Irons or Flat Irons
- Skateboards
- "Blow up" chairs
- Scooters
- Electric Fans

Once again, ***any item that can: send or receive a phone call, play a DVD, access the Internet or send or receive e-mail is not permitted at camp.***

5. **Cell Phones:** **While we fully recognize many of our campers have cell phones, please respect our policies and do not send a cell phone to camp.** Your cooperation is appreciated. We will confiscate any cell phones, which are brought to camp.

DRUG/TOBACCO/ALCOHOL POLICY

It is important to take a clear position regarding drugs, alcohol and tobacco that will be understood unequivocally by campers and parents.

The use of these substances is illegal and therefore has no place at camp. Campers who use or possess these items will be immediately sent home. We will entertain no discussion on this matter with parents, nor will we give a child a second chance. In addition, fees will not be returned if a child is sent home for this reason. Although we do not anticipate a problem, we feel it is vital that everyone connected with the camp clearly and precisely understands our policy on this matter.

BAGGAGE PROCEDURES

We offer two options in getting your child[ren]'s baggage to camp. The options are:

- Iroquois Springs baggage service is a regional baggage pickup service where our truck with Iroquois Springs staff will meet you at various locations, outlined in the enclosed brochure, and helps you get your bags from your car to the luggage truck. This is a *REGIONAL* pickup, not door-to-door. This service can be used for round trip service or one-way service. The cost is \$75 one-way & \$125 round trip.
- Camp Trucking is a door-to-door service that will come to your home and pickup your child's bags to be delivered to camp and to your home after the summer. Camp trucking can be used for round trip service or one-way service. It is limited to specific dates (see below). Camp Trucking is an independent company that has no affiliation with Iroquois Springs.

If you decide to use the Iroquois Springs baggage service your bags will be picked up and delivered on the day you arrive and depart from camp with the exception of the beginning of the camp season, where we will be picking up baggage on *June 20th*. At the end of the season, your bags will be delivered to you when your child departs the bus. *No waiting time for your bags.*

If you choose Camp Trucking typically bags are picked up about 1 week prior to departure and are delivered back to your door at the end of the season 7-10 days after the camp season is over, depending on your location. Information is available at www.camptrucking.com

Please note: *No hard trunks are permitted in camp; we have no place to store them.*

BUNKING REQUESTS

We are interested in knowing the wishes of parents and campers in regard to bunking arrangements. Camp can be a valuable tool in helping your child make the most of their developmental years. Our experience has made us realize that part of the fun of camp is to experience meeting new people and learning to live in a group situation. A successful new friendship can be the most rewarding aspect of the camp season. At camp, friendships come quickly.

We are certain that if you do not decide to make a bunk request for your child, it will be made with the utmost thought and concern. The camp, however, reserves the right to make all final bunking placements. There are times when, in the best interest of the child, other children, and the camp, bunking requests cannot be honored. In these few cases we hope that you will trust our professional judgment.

You will find enclosed with this booklet a parent questionnaire form. You will find an area where you can make up to three (3) requests. Please note that bunking requests should be reciprocal, so we will need a matching request from a bunkmate. Requests not submitted on this form may not be honored. Even if you have submitted requests on your application, or on a separate sheet of paper, please complete this form. The deadline for submission of this form is **April 15, 2010**. Please note when making bunking requests, we bunk campers in cabins according to session length (3 weekers & 6 weekers) wherever possible, please keep this in mind when making your bunking request. We will make every attempt possible to honor all bunking request. *However, we will not consider negative bunking request (i.e. "Please do not place me with.....").*

The important thing is that Iroquois Springs is deeply committed to the best interest of your child and all the children at camp. We are certain of your confidence in that commitment since you are entrusting your child to us.

BUSSES TO CAMP

Campers will leave for camp on the following dates (*Depending on your choice of session*):

<u>Sunday, June 27, 2010</u>	–	SESSION 1
<u>Sunday, July 17, 2010</u>	–	SESSION 2

Camp has arranged for buses to bring the children to and from camp, from one of the following locations:

Long Island
Westchester/Rockland
New Jersey
New York City
Maryland (session #2 ONLY)
Philadelphia (session #2 ONLY)

Old Bethpage Village Restoration
Palisades Center Mall
Livingston Mall
5th Ave b/w 85th & 86th Street
Bethesda Marriot
Cherry Hill

You will receive a separate departure email prior to your expected departure date.

DEPARTURE DAY INSTRUCTIONS

During the summer, you will receive detailed instructions on the return from camp for both sessions.

CLOTHING & PACKING

Our outfitting list, which is available in the Cloz Company catalog (*inside the front cover*), allows for adequate type and supply of clothing.

Here are a few tips to help you pack:

1. We recommend the use of two large soft trunks (we cannot permit hard trunks), available in the Cloz Company catalog. For storage, durability and ease of handling they are superior to the standard camp trunk.
2. Parents are advised to have baggage and personal belongings insured against fire, loss or theft and check that it is covered under a Family Floater Policy. Valuable jewelry, expensive watches, expensive electronics and games, etc. are not needed. ***We cannot be responsible for any damage or loss for such items.***

Dress Code – *In an effort to emphasize appropriate dress at camp, we ask that campers do not wear bikini bathing suits at camp (tankini's, which cover the mid-section are acceptable). In addition, we ask that you do not pack items that expose the midriff, short shorts, see through clothing, etc. Campers wearing these items will be asked to change their clothing.*

LAUNDRY

Laundry services are on the camp premises and we ask that you send colorfast items only. Please be sure to wash all items before packing. We recommend wash and wear clothing only. Each camper has his/her personal clothing washed weekly. In addition, linens are washed for the youngsters weekly.

LINEN

Iroquois Springs campers must bring their own bedding (including blankets and pillows). The mattresses at camp are 30 x 72 (cot size), so please buy sheets to fit accordingly. If you are unable to find sheets this size, the size bigger (twin) will suffice.

MAIL

Your children are anxiously awaiting your letters. To speed the process, please address the envelopes as follows:

NAME
Iroquois Springs
PO Box 487
Rock Hill, NY 12775
Bunk # (***Please use this after you receive your first letter from your child***)

It is essential that your child receive mail within the first two (2) days of arrival. The mail takes almost 3 days to arrive, so please plan accordingly. Please provide an adequate number of stamps and envelopes for your child to write home. You should expect at least one letter each week from your child.

Please bear in mind that some letters you receive will be filled with love and joy, while others might be quite the opposite. Children's letters are generally subject to oversimplification as well as exaggeration. Please do not panic when trying to interpret the meaning behind the letter. Letters that are sent during the first week of camp may frequently be negative due to natural adjustment and re-adjustment for campers. If you are concerned.....call us. You have placed a great trust in our ability to work with your children.

E-MAIL

We will be accepting e-mail for campers this summer. Prior to the start of the season we will provide you with instructions on how to e-mail your child. E-mail received before 9:30 am will be distributed in the same days daily mail call, except on Sundays. Please note that campers will **not** be allowed to send e-mail.

FAX

Fax service (845-434-6508) is available into the camp office 24 hours a day. Faxes received before 9:30 am will be distributed with the daily mail call, except on Sundays.

PACKAGES FROM HOME

IMPORTANT POLICY: In an interest in placing the emphasis in camp on activities, programs and friendships, we wish to eliminate the inevitable competition and disruption caused by the receipt of toys, video games, water guns and the like. Books, magazines and stationary are fine to send as long as it is sent in a flat envelope. **We must insist that you not send ANY packages to camp. (THIS INCLUDES FED-EX OR PRIORITY MAIL BOXES.) IF THERE IS A SPECIAL NEED, PLEASE SPEAK WITH MARK, LAURA OR BRIAN PRIOR TO SENDING THE ITEM.** We will not be accepting packages that are not in a **FLAT** envelope; ***all other packages will be refused and sent back to the shipper.*** We must reserve the right to check all incoming packages. **Please help us by alerting all friends and relatives.**

SAFE

Iroquois Springs has its own safe and campers are encouraged to place all their money in it. We are not responsible for any lost items if it was not placed in the camp safe.

SPENDING MONEY AND OPTIONAL TRIPS

Campers take several trips during their stay at camp, with meals and admissions being provided. Occasionally children like to purchase souvenirs or a snack. Please send spending money by June 27th.

Three-week campers will need \$50 spending money

Full summer campers will need \$100 spending money

Campers going on the *senior trip* will require additional \$100.

CANTEEN

Canteen is part of the camp tuition and each day campers have the opportunity to choose a few items for snack.

VISITING DAY

Iroquois Springs will host its visiting day on **Saturday, July 11, 2009.** Parents may visit their children from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on this date. Parents will not be admitted on the grounds prior to this time nor can children leave the campus. There will be a full barbeque and program for the campers and their guests. Please respect our policy – **NO PETS ALLOWED.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Iroquois Springs is a community of over 500 people. Our responsibility to you requires that we maintain a high standard of safety, health and community living practices. These are some important rules and requirements in our community, which are important to be noted:

- A. **No camper is permitted to leave campgrounds except as a part of a supervised camp activity and authorized by the camp administration.**
- B. **Campers are not permitted to smoke at camp. Smoking will result in immediate dismissal.**
- C. **Drugs and Alcoholic Beverages: Marijuana, tobacco or tobacco products, narcotics, and hallucinatory drugs, including stimulants, depressants and alcohol are forbidden to anyone at Iroquois Springs. Possession or use of these substances will result in automatic dismissal with no tuition refund. No “second chance” is afforded.**
- D. **Life at camp is in many ways more active and fuller than one’s normal routine at home. Therefore, each division, depending on the age of the campers and the evening activity, has a set curfew.**
- E. **No firecrackers, army knives, jack knives, firearms, cigarette lighters, martial arts equipment, etc. are permitted in camp. Possession of these items will result in automatic dismissal from camp with no tuition refund.**
- F. **Camp upkeep: Iroquois Springs is a beautiful place that all who use the facility are jointly responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the camp grounds; Therefore:**
 - a. **Clean up:** All campers in a bunk, along with the bunk counselors, are responsible for the cleanliness and general safety conditions of the cabin. In addition, everyone participates, at scheduled times, in a general clean up of the camp.
 - b. **Camp property:** Anyone damaging or defacing camp property is liable for such damage, and will be charged accordingly.

TELEPHONE CALLS

All campers will be allowed to make two phone calls to their parents (divorced parents, please call the office directly) during their three-week stay at camp. Full season campers will have four phone calls available to them during their stay at camp. It is not mandatory to schedule two calls per session - some campers do just fine with one call per session; you may want to consider this or call us if you have any questions.

Please refer to the calendar attached to see what days are available to schedule camper phone calls. Starting June 22nd you will be able to log into our on-line phone reservation system to schedule your calls for the summer.

Instructions for the on-line reservation system to follow under separate cover.

You may not book calls prior to June 22nd and we cannot take call appointments via fax, email or message left on our answering machine. We schedule a large volume of calls each summer and we ask that we have 24 hours to change a phone call appointment. If your child has a birthday during the summer, please call the office to schedule his or her birthday phone call. As in the past, all camper phone calls home will be of no charge to you. You will not need to send your child with a calling card or collect calling instructions for their calls.

Please note - we do our very best to accommodate everyone's requests, occasionally due to a scheduled trip, inter-camp game, or special event we will need to re-schedule a call with little notice - we apologize in advance.

CALL CALENDAR 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 JUNE	21	22 ONLINE TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS SYSTEM OPENS	23	24	25	26
27 No CALLS	28 No CALLS	29 No CALLS	30 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	1 JULY CALLS FOR LOWER CAMP (3RD GR – 7TH GR)	2 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	3 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS
4 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	5 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	6 No CALLS	7 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	8 CALLS FOR UPPER CAMP (8TH GR – 11TH GR)	9 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	10 No CALLS
11 No CALLS	12 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	13 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	14 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	15 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	16 No CALLS	17 No CALLS
18 No CALLS	19 No CALLS	20 No CALLS	21 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	22 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	23 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	24 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS
25 CALLS FOR LOWER CAMP (3RD GR – 7TH GR)	26 No CALLS	27 CALLS FOR LOWER CAMP (3RD GR – 7TH GR)	28 No CALLS	29 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	30 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	31 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS
1 AUG CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	2 CALLS FOR ALL CAMPERS	3 No CALLS	4 No CALLS	5 No CALLS	6 No CALLS	7