

Camp Tecumseh Parents Handbook

Dear Parents,

2011

JUNE UPDATE! GETTING READY!

Read Carefully – all info about getting to camp and getting home is included here!

Greetings all! The start of Camp is fast approaching and we have lots of info here for you to digest. I will try to anticipate some of your questions if I can!

Required forms are posted on the camp web page, www.camptecumseh.net under the Parent Heading and the Forms link. I will give a brief description of each one, though they are pretty self-explanatory. If you have trouble downloading them, give me a call or email. If you would like a hard copy or any of these forms let me know.

1, 2, 3. Medical Forms– There are **three** forms, so please complete all three attachments. For your son to participate in camp activities these forms must all be in our hands and **signed where indicated**. Be sure physical exams are no more than 2 years old and all information is current. Records are kept in the infirmary and all medications are dispensed by the camp R.N. **We need all the insurance information**. We recommend a booster for whooping cough and a flu vaccination, but check with your physician. Ellie Smith is our R.N. and her husband, John, is our Certified Athletic Trainer. We are so lucky to have them! They have infirmary hours ½ hour before each meal, right next to the Dining Hall. Ellie dispenses medicines at meal times, unless there is a special arrangement you make with her for an alternate time. We respect all privacy issues!

4. Interest sheet for campers - this form allows your son to set some goals for the summer and allows us to work with him to reach those goals. Your son's counselor will call your home a **day or two** before camp opens to introduce himself. At that time your son will learn his cabin assignment. He will leave a voice mail if no one answers. Counselors arrive June 19 at camp for orientation and training. All our counselors have been screened with background checks. We're fortunate to have so many alumni who want to come back as counselors each summer. Alums make up close to 80% of our staff!

5. Transportation Form - chartered buses (with VCRs and bathrooms!) will depart from **Chestnut Hill Academy on Sunday, June 26th at 8 a.m. sharp**, but you should have your son in the CHA parking lot by 7:30 a.m. Tecumseh counselors are on board and will check your sons in. It is a chance for new campers to make instant friends. It is also an eight- hour day! You should pack a brown bag lunch for him. He can bring a carry-on bag, a small portable radio or a small CD player, **with ear phones**, but his **trunk and duffel** should be sent either by **UPS or camp truck**. See the transportation form for details on this. Please put a combination lock on his trunk and have your son memorize the combo. **A bus is also scheduled for July 20 with the same departure times and stops. The bus fee is \$85.**

Also note that CHA is at 500 W. Willow Grove Ave. Phila., PA 19118. The parking site is opposite the Science Building on Willow Grove Ave. The two bus stops along the way to camp are: Grover Cleveland Rest stop on the NJ Tpk. and the McDonalds restaurant off Rte 95 in Darien between exits 12 and 13.

The truck for duffels and trunks will load from **10 a.m. to 12 noon** at **CHA's parking lot, Willow Grove Ave. entrance, Saturday, June 18.** We will not be sending a truck up with duffels for the second session; please arrange for UPS to deliver in advance of your son's arrival July 20 if you are a second session family. Of course, you may bring his stuff up in a car if you're driving him to camp. We may also allow trunks and duffels on the second bus for the **same \$55 fee as the trunk truck** for the first session if there is room underneath the bus. I will notify second session families in early July about that.

If you are sending a trunk or duffel **via UPS**, send it one week prior to his arrival. We will have it in his cabin when he arrives. We will also **UPS your trunk home** if you ask us to. The fee varies each year, depending on what UPS charges us, but estimate an \$85 fee.

If your son is flying to camp, please note the details on the transportation form regarding flights. We will provide you with the name of the counselor meeting your son's flight if that is your arrangement with us. Minors traveling alone must have the name of the counselor meeting them at the gate. For reservation purposes you may use the name: Teresa Vossen as the pick up person. I will notify you if we change the driver. We will make the same arrangements if he is flying home. We will transport him to the airport and we will take him to the gate and remain there until the plane leaves. **Please make all domestic flights into Manchester, NH airport. We will pick up international campers only at Boston.**

Changeover Day – July 20, 2011

First session families should plan to pick up their sons immediately after breakfast between 9 a.m. and noon. His trunk and duffel will be packed and on the lawn by the office. Please do not drive to the cabins. All campers should be on the way home by 12 noon. We will have a closing ceremony for first session campers the evening of July 19 after dinner at 7 p.m. Parents are welcome on campus that day and at the Opea House for the evening ceremony.

There is no bus home after either session. We will transport campers back and forth to the airports. All others should have plans to ride home in cars.

Second session families should arrive **between 2-5 p.m.** Drop off and registration will be at the office. Please do not drive to the cabins. We will take luggage to the cabins. Any trunks and duffels sent by UPS will be delivered to his cabin. Brief tours of campus will be available. Parents should say good-bye by 6 p.m. We will have two full days of orientation for second session campers. Your son will receive a call from his "huddle leader" prior to arriving at camp so he will know his cabin assignment.

Cabin or rooming requests: your son can request **one (1)** cabin mate who must be the same age as your son and the request must be mutual. Please do not request several cabin mates. We think part of the value of camp is making new friends from other parts of the world!

6. Packing List – see the link “**What to Bring**”. In order to return laundry to the rightful owner, all clothes must be **marked!!** Mark all athletic items, also. Use a good permanent marking pen, an iron-on or sew names on. Anything that will last!!! Note the info on the transportation sheet for sending up trunks and duffels. (We recommend one of each.) The list is for seven weeks, so adjust to the length of your son’s stay.

7. Spending money- Please read the form carefully and **attach a separate check** to open your son’s account. We make the campus as cash-free as possible by having campers debit their accounts. The Creamery is popular so factor in \$10/week for that! Again, make the check **payable to: Camp Tecumseh** and note “spending account” on the check. Adjust the amount you send for the length of your son’s stay.

8. If you are interested in setting up an **email account** with Bunk1 folks, do so a few days before the opening of camp (after you know your son’s cabin assignment). Go to the link on the Tecumseh web site and use the code: **(I will provide)** to set up a new account. If you had an account last year you can use your old username and password. This account allows you to send one email a day that will be delivered to your son by cabin name with the rest of the regular mail. We do not assign cabins until the week before camp. The Bunk1 info # is 800-216-9472 or bunk1.com/contact.asp. You **do not** need my approval to set up an account if that notice shows up on your screen!

That’s it for the forms. Here is some further info for you:

Visitation and communication: Tecumseh does not have a formal parent-visiting Day, but parents and friends are welcome to visit after your son has been in camp for at least two weeks. Please call ahead if you plan to visit to make sure your son is not out of camp on an overnight. . If you do plan to visit, please make reservations ASAP. We recommend you call or email the Meredith Chamber of Commerce for lodging and restaurant info: 877-279-6121 or www.meredithcc.org. We also have some suggested lodgings and restaurants on our web site. We hope you will come a day prior to his departure and visit camp, whether it is first or second session. **Please limit your visit to once during a session.** That does not include picking him up at the end of his stay. Multiple visits to your son are disruptive not only to him, but to other campers as well. Thanks.

Cell phones: campers are not permitted to use cell phones at camp. We understand you want to check on your son’s well-being, especially if he is traveling a long distance by himself to camp. We will call or email you when he does arrive safely. If you feel he must have a cell phone with him for travels, let us know and we will store it for him in a

safe place and we will return it prior to his departure. Again, for your son's maximum enjoyment at camp and for him to adjust to his new surroundings and friends he should not be communicating with anyone outside camp except by letter or postcard! **Please leave computers, ipods, ipads, etc. at home!** They often are lost or broken. Remember, we are a step back in time and our boys interact with each other and don't sit in front of a screen!

Business Office: Please send all payables to the Plymouth Meeting address and call there with any financial questions. After June 10 direct your calls up to camp at 603-253-4010. **All balances are payable by June 1** to: Camp Tecumseh, 1906 Johnson Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. Call 610-275-6634 if you need info on your balance due.

Children may not participate in any camp activities until all tuition is paid and all medical forms are received by our medical staff. Please be sure to sign the "permission to treat" form!

Homesickness: a certain amount of homesickness is normal, particularly for new campers. Here are a few tips to help prevent an abnormal amount:

First, have him spend a night or two away from home at a friend's house if he hasn't ever been away from home.

Second, be **positive** about your son's coming to us. Resist the temptation to tell him how much he will be missed! We don't allow phone calls from you or from him to you because the sound of a parent's voice will make his homesickness worse if he is feeling homesick. Obviously, you may call us in case of an emergency, and if he is lucky enough to have a birthday during the season you may call after dinner that day. 7 p.m. is the best time. If he writes you the first week of camp and tells you he's miserable and you have to come pick him up, just ignore that first letter. He will get better!

Third, our counselor's phone call is partly to let your son know someone is waiting for him at camp! The counselor should call one or two days prior to his arrival for that session.

Lastly, write him old-fashioned letters. Make it newsy and tell him how lucky he is to be at camp and that nothing at all is happening at home!!! **Do not send him food, especially candy!** We have the creamery to satisfy those needs and they will get plenty of food at camp. Food in the cabins attracts critters and we don't need those visitors in the cabins!

A wonderful book I recommend for camping families, especially with boys going to camp for the first time is: **The Summer Camp Handbook**, by Chris Thurber and Jon Malinowski. I know the authors personally and it is an excellent resource covering a wide variety of topics! If you google the book title you can purchase it on-line.

Expectations of your son

We expect your son to enjoy and participate in all assigned camp activities and to be helpful and sociable at all times. Bullying or any other behavior that hinders the enjoyment of other campers won't be tolerated. We are a close-knit Family Community and we expect all campers to behave in a way that makes us all proud! Please relay those sentiments to your sons for us! Thanks!

Director Newsletters

As I did last year, I will send home emails on Sunday evenings reviewing the past week's activities and previewing things to come! We will post some photos on the web site from time to time. Your sons will be writing home at least once a week. Camp office hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Someone is always on phone duty during those hours. If there is an **urgent need** to contact camp after office hours, call the Director's cottage at 603-253-3882 or cell phone at 610-574-0717. The office number is 603-253-4010. Please let me know if you have a summer address and telephone number where you can be reached if you are away from home. Cell numbers are helpful if you have one.

Clothing and Equipment: There are only **three required clothing items** for campers: two t-shirts (one blue and one gray), and a pair of blue shorts. AES sportswear, linked to our web page is our official clothes carrier. AES is linked to our web site: www.camptecumseh.net and **is now operating!** AES will deliver your orders to your home in time for you to **mark all his clothes** and pack it in his duffel or trunk. Yes, he may use last year's clothes if they still fit! If you are late registering for camp, AES may send your order directly to camp if there isn't enough time to send it to your home. Nina will receive the order and mark it with your son's name and deliver it to him at camp.

We will have a small Camp Clothing Store on campus for the first time this summer!

We are using a laundry service so a mesh laundry bag is required. Please put your son's name on it clearly and largely! Laundry goes out once a week and is returned the next day. We also have some washing and drying machines at camp we use in case a child's clothes need "extra" washing due to wet weather or other circumstances. Be sure all his clothes are clearly marked.

Tutoring: If you are interested in any of the tutoring programs (including a "free reading time"), fill out the tutoring form on our web site and send it to Tiffany Hayes Borsch. Our tutors this summer will be assigned from our older, experienced teachers. There are many at camp.

Special Dates: June 26- camp opens; **July 19, 7 p.m.**, closing ceremony for first session; **July 20**, end of the first session; beginning of the second session; Fri. **July 29**, Pemi Day (rain date July 30); **Fri., Aug 12** – closing weekend ceremonies: **Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta**, Fri. and Sat. nites at 8 p.m.; **Sat. Aug. 13**, Tecumseh day with parent-child activities; **Awards Ceremony-Sun. Aug. 14**, 9-10:30 a.m.

We are looking forward eagerly to Tecumseh's 109th summer! Once again we are fortunate to have an experienced **staff** and another outstanding group of campers! . All staff members undergo extensive interviewing and background checks and we spend a week before campers arrive reviewing all safety and activity policies. As an ACA certified camp, Tecumseh is constantly updating all safety issues to be sure your sons have a safe and fun summer!

Reminder: Mail all forms requiring checks to: Camp Tecumseh, 1906 Johnson Rd., Plymouth Meeting, PA. 19462. You may fax forms not requiring checks to: 610-275-6635.

After June 4 direct all communication to us at Camp: 603-253-4010 (office) or 603-253-3882 (Director's cottage); Email the same: camptecumseh@comcast.net; mail address is: 975 Moultonboro Neck Road, Moultonboro, NH 03254. That is the UPS address also. Fax # at Camp, should be 603-253-4806. Fax # in Plymouth Meeting is 610-275-6635.

Best to all,

Jim and Nina