

# CAMP TAKAJO

BULLETIN #6

May 2010

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2. PACKAGES (Please note our *NO PACKAGE* policy)
3. VISITING DAY
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PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED SPECIAL NOTE  
RE: USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CAMP

Dear parents,

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions which will be helpful as you and your son(s) enter the final stages of preparation for camp.

Since you are removed from the camp scene except for your one visiting day, **PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME** about any detail or question concerning your son. As my own head counselor, my full attention is focused on the campers, their adjustment, the program, and the staff. Our program is flexible. The staff is competent and sufficient in number to deal with each camper's needs and any special considerations.

Following are a few rules, suggestions and general information that will contribute to the type of experience we want for your son or sons. **YOU WILL ASSIST US GREATLY BY HEEDING THESE INSTRUCTIONS.** They will in no way detract from the "fun" your son will have at camp. **I urge you to go over each of these items with your son or sons** in order to ward off any disappointment and to dismiss the complaint that "everyone else does it." *Bending the rules* is not the lesson we want our campers to learn. The few rules listed here are simple and straightforward and intended to be fair to all.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED  
AND WILL HELP CONTRIBUTE TO THE KINDS  
OF VALUES AND ATTITUDES WE ARE TRYING  
TO PROMOTE AT CAMP TAKAJO.

**PHONE CALLS: WHEN PHONING ME,** please use 207-693-6675. This is the camp business line. It is not available for calls to campers. When calling me, please use this number **ONLY** so I can pick up in my office.



## 1. PHONE CALLS, MAIL, and e-MAIL

I appreciate your consideration in calling me between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm (unless, of course, there is an emergency).

IF YOU LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR ME, I WILL RETURN YOUR CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

## CAMPER PHONE CALLS:

**TWO PHONE CALLS DURING THE SEASON ARE PERMITTED**, one before visiting day and one after. If a special circumstance arises (a parent or grandparent anniversary, birthday, etc.), please call and let the secretary know and we will have your son make the appropriate call. This is in addition to the two phone calls allowed and will be explained to all campers so everyone understands the policy.

**Conversations should be as light and upbeat as possible from your end.** Experience has shown that an emphasis on "how I miss you," etc., can have deleterious effects on an otherwise happy camper.

**TO SCHEDULE A PHONE CALL**, you may call *anytime* in advance to arrange. Use the main business line, 207-693-6675, or call on one of our other office lines: 207-693-9292, 207-693-9293, or 207-693-9270. Tell the secretary the day you want your son to call and after which meal.

**Please be aware that "normal" times are approximate times** which may change if we have a late reveille or some special event. (To avoid frustration, also recognize that the phone lines will be tied up during these times and you will likely not be able to get through!)

"Normal" times for returning phone calls are as follows:

- **WARRIORS (boys 7-10)** normally return calls after breakfast from 8:30am to 9:00am; after lunch from 1:00pm to 1:30pm; and after dinner from 6:00pm to 6:30pm.
- **JUNIORS (boys 11-12) and SENIORS (boys 13-15)** normally return calls *before* breakfast from 8:00am to 8:30am; after lunch from 2:00pm to 2:30pm; and after dinner from 7:00pm to 7:30pm.
- **SUNDAY MORNINGS** we have late reveille. All morning calls on Sundays are made from 10am to 11am.

**ALL CALLS WILL BE MADE "COLLECT" (unless you provide us with a calling card number).** If the allotted number of calls is already scheduled at a particular meal, the secretary will suggest an alternate time.

As always, campers will not be removed from activities. They will return calls only after mealtimes.

**Please understand that the secretaries DO NOT know the boys' schedules in advance.** There are many special programs, inter-camp competitions, socials, etc., which make scheduling phone calls very difficult.

**If you do not receive a scheduled phone call, please call and let us know and we will be happy to re-schedule.** The secretaries will make every effort to contact you and reschedule a call if they discover that your son is not going to be available to make a scheduled phone call. If *you* have to reschedule a call, please alert a secretary so she makes sure to erase the previously scheduled call in our Phone Log.

Please limit phone calls to approximately 10 MINUTES.  
Lengthy calls make it harder for your son to rejoin his program. Keep conversation light and upbeat.

**WE WILL STAGGER THE START OF PHONE CALLS THIS SEASON AS FOLLOWS:** (You may call *before* these dates to *schedule* your phone call.) Keep in mind that the first few days of phone calls are very busy. If you can stand the wait, schedule your call a few days after these start dates.

- **Veteran campers** may return phone calls beginning Wednesday, July 7. (Younger brothers may join veteran campers, OR you may schedule a separate phone call with your first year camper.)
- **First year campers** may return phone calls beginning Friday, July 9. (Remember that *Sunday* morning phone calls start at 10am.)

These few days before the start of phone calls will give your son the time he needs to adjust to his new routine. It also puts everyone in the "same boat" and helps counselors and campers establish the kind of relationships for which we are striving.

If you are a little anxious and want to call me to touch base about your son's adjustment, FEEL FREE TO DO SO!

## MAIL:

When writing, **ALWAYS INCLUDE THE BUNK NAME** with the address. (You will receive your son's bunk name as explained under "e-Mail.") **There is no need to call ahead for the name of your son's bunk.** Putting the name of the bunk is intended to help the secretaries sort mail faster. If you wish to send a letter before you know your son's bunk, please do so and we will make sure he gets it. *Please advise friends and relatives about this.*

**The CAMP ADDRESS  
for all mailing and shipping is:**  
**Camper's Name  
CAMP TAKAJO  
60 TAKAJO ROAD  
NAPLES ME 04055-9602**

**LETTER WRITING:** Campers write home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We will pre-print labels so mail travels more efficiently. Please keep in mind that campers normally write their letters home during rest hour. This is their "down time," when there is a natural lull in activity. It is, therefore, not always an accurate reflection of your son's overall experience. The tone of some letters would likely be significantly different if written in the middle of an exciting game or fun activity. While recognizing that letters home are a "snapshot" in time, if there is a pattern of unhappiness in your son's letters, please make sure to communicate this with me so I can make every effort to address the root of his unhappiness.

**PLEASE DON'T SEND ANY MAIL THE LAST WEEK OF CAMP.  
SCHEDULE ANY NEWSPAPERS TO STOP BY AUGUST 13.**

## e-MAIL:

You will receive an email with instructions on how to send emails to your son, how to access photos during the summer, and how to update information in your own CampInTouch account. A flyer with the same information will reach you just prior to camp. It will also contain the name of your son's bunk. E-mails will be printed once a day and delivered within 24 hours. Campers will not be able to e-mail their parents.



## 2. PACKAGES

**NO PACKAGES, PLEASE!**

**UNAUTHORIZED PACKAGES**

**WILL BE "RETURNED TO SENDER"**

The only exception is **if a child has a BIRTHDAY during camp**, he may receive a *small* package, from parents only, for his birthday. Please send to Warren's attention at the shipping address indicated to the left. In the lower left corner of package, mark "Birthday," your son's name, and date of birthday. **Please, no candy or food.** All packages will be inspected by the secretaries.

Things that can be mailed in a 9x12 manila envelope - magazines, comic books, newspapers, (NO TOYS!) - will not be considered "packages."

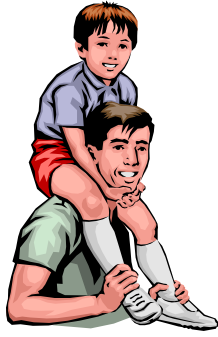
**If you need to send a package for some extenuating circumstance, please send to Warren.** (For example, if your son needs an extra pair of eyeglasses, sneakers, etc.) We can get most things locally to save you the trouble and will bill you after the season. Please communicate with Warren, if necessary.

As in the past, the secretaries will open all packages and large envelopes. **NO CANDY OR FOOD IS ALLOWED.** (Please don't send Cup-a-Soup, crackers, drink mixes, etc.)

**We have built a new SNACK SHACK** which is centrally located in camp. Snacks are provided during the day. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND SNACKS TO OUR MEDICAL CENTER.** If your son has a special dietary need, please arrange through Warren or me.

*PLEASE ADVISE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES  
about our NO PACKAGE POLICY!*

Your son should arrive at camp with everything necessary for the summer. **Electronic games and devices are not permitted** (see SPECIAL NOTE on enclosed yellow sheet). Our primary focus is on teaching communication skills and helping boys learn to relate better with one another.



### 3. VISITING DAY

We welcome your visit. You will see camp in normal operation. You will have a full opportunity to watch your son in his activities, morning and afternoon. You will eat lunch in camp with your son or sons. You will also have the rest-hour period together.

#### **NO CAMPER MAY LEAVE CAMP FOR ANY REASON DURING A VISITING DAY.**

**CANDY and OTHER GOODIES:** It is unrealistic to ask you not to bring any goodies on visiting day. However, **PLEASE BE REASONABLE.** The amount of candy, sodas, and the like brought into camp by some parents is completely inappropriate and shamefully excessive. Keep in mind that whatever you bring is multiplied by seven or eight others in each bunk. Please explain to your son that we will let him keep only a very small amount of goodies to share among all his bunkmates. **We will confiscate the rest and give it to a local charity.**

Please help us eliminate the disappointment that results after you leave when most of the goodies are confiscated. Visiting days are emotionally draining days for campers, as you can imagine. It is natural that there is a bit of a letdown after a long, exciting day. This letdown is only exacerbated if we have to confiscate inordinate amounts of candy and other goodies. Not only is it a source of conflict among bunkmates and counselors, but it also attracts skunks, vermin and bugs. Additionally, every year we have several boys who get physically sick because they eat too much candy or drink too much soda. Surely you don't want to contribute to these types of problems for your son.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY,** more and more children are experiencing allergic reactions to different types of food. **SOME OF THESE ALLERGIC REACTIONS CAN BE LIFE-THREATENING.** It is critical that you do not bring food products into your son's bunk that contain nuts, peanuts, wheat, milk, soy or eggs. This eliminates most types of baked goods and many forms of candy and chocolates. **A SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION TO CERTAIN FOOD PRODUCTS CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED.**

A SPECIAL MEAL IS PLANNED FOR LUNCH.  
NO PICNIC LUNCH OR OTHER FOOD  
IS ALLOWED IN CAMP ON VISITING DAY.

## 4. CANTEEN and MEDICAL INFORMATION

### CANTEEN

The Camp Canteen covers all postage. (**You do NOT need to stamp any mail.** This will be done through the office.) Campers are required to write a letter or postcard home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. **If you will be traveling or living abroad,** please supply us with a fax number and we will fax your son's letters to you.

The Canteen will replenish articles such as stationery, envelopes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, batteries, etc.

**Campers should arrive with an adequate supply of these items which may be replenished at the Camp Store.**

**The Canteen does not supply cameras or film.** Campers who wish to take photos should bring their own cameras and film (we recommend disposable cameras). Campers may mail film home for processing or keep until the end of the season.

**EXCLUSIONS: Not included in the Canteen fee are the following.** (These charges will be billed after the season.)

- BAGGAGE CHARGES which are paid by the camp
- DENTAL AND MEDICAL BILLS
- PURCHASES, TENNIS RACKET RE-STRINGING, or PERSONAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRS
- BIG TRIPS for Junior and Senior Campers
- GOLF OUTINGS: Nine holes plus club rental is \$40
- TUTORING: Individual tutoring may be arranged with qualified staff members. Charge is \$20 per hour, payable directly to tutor. (Please arrange through Warren.)
- BAR MITZVAH TUTORING is available at \$35 per hour. (Please arrange through Warren.)

### MEDICAL INFORMATION

**DON'T FORGET!** If your son will be taking any medication *in pill form*, you must register with KidsMedPacks. **The deadline is June 1** to ensure that your son's medication arrives in time for the start of camp. **REGISTER NOW! WE CANNOT DISPENSE PILLS UNLESS ARRANGED THROUGH KIDSMEDPACKS.**

If you are sending other medication—inhaler, epi-pen, ointment, etc.—please send to camp to arrive no later than June 15 (Attn: health Center) Otherwise, please notify the nurses that your son will be bringing medication with him.

**NO CAMPER MAY LEAVE CAMP ON ANY TRIP UNLESS WE HAVE A COMPLETED MEDICAL FORM AND YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION ON HAND.**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY, PLEASE MAIL A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE CARD.**

**WE MUST HAVE THIS INFORMATION ON HAND SO YOUR SON CAN BE TREATED BY LOCAL MEDICAL PROVIDERS IF NECESSARY THIS SUMMER .**

**PLEASE DO NOT OVERLOOK THESE IMPORTANT DETAILS.**

## 5. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**VALUABLES.** The camp assumes no responsibility for valuables such as jewelry, watches, and permissible music devices. **Please do not send these items.**

**THE USE OF TOBACCO OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS PROHIBITED.** This extends to all staff members.

**THE USE OF ANY DRUGS IN CAMP IS PROHIBITED.** This regulation will be strictly enforced for the protection of all. Each staff member has been notified that the use or possession of any drugs or alcohol in camp is prohibited. They are coming to camp with the full appreciation and acceptance of the responsibilities in this area. **ANYONE USING DRUGS IN CAMP WILL BE SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY.**

**HAIRCUTS:** Barbers will come in once during the season. A haircut is completely optional. **Campers are NOT permitted to cut each other's hair. Please do not allow your son to come to camp with his hair dyed an *unusual* color.**

**TIPS:** The camp's policy is to prohibit the practice of offering tips to the counselors. The counselors have been apprised of this policy. Almost 100% of our parents abide by this. The field of camping must maintain high professional standards as well as high ethical standards. Professional attitude is one of the important criteria used in selecting staff. If you deem it desirable, a small gift other than money, as a token of appreciation, is a reasonable way to express your gratitude.

**The following are NOT PERMITTED at camp:**

- ELECTRIC FANS
- SKATE BOARDS
- KNIVES, MATCHES, LIGHTERS
- EAR RINGS, NOSE RINGS, OR THE LIKE
- BODY BUILDING SUPPLEMENTS
- HAIR DYE, HAIR CLIPPERS
- EGG CRATES FOR MATTRESSES
- ARM REST PILLOWS
- COMFORTERS
- WALKIE TALKIES
- SILLY STRING and the like
- BASEBALL CARDS or other collections

**PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED SPECIAL NOTE  
REGARDING USE OF  
ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CAMP**

**GOLF CARTS for Visiting Day:** We will run a taxi service with our three golf carts on each Visiting Day to help those who need assistance. Please inform grandparents and relatives who plan to visit this summer of this arrangement.

**AIRPORT ESCORT CHARGE.** For any camper arriving late, departing early, or leaving for a short period of time during the camp season, we will hire a driver to escort him to Portland Airport or Logan Airport in Boston. The charge each way is \$50 for Portland Airport and \$100 for Logan Airport.

**CASH IN CAMP.** If your son comes to camp with any cash, insist that he keep it with our bookkeeper. **The camp is not responsible for any money kept in the bunk that is lost.**

**BIRTHDAYS:** We do make birthdays at camp special! For each camper whose birthday occurs during the season, we will provide a birthday cake for the bunk to share in celebration of the occasion. We will also arrange for a late night bunk pizza party as my gift to the birthday boy!

**GIFTS for each camper in your son's bunk are completely unnecessary!** Please do not bring them on visiting day or send through the mail. It only serves to put unfair pressure on other parents who follow this simple policy.

### *FINAL NOTE*

**Some campers will have problems that require your assistance.** Don't ignore a sad card or letter. Let me know you received it. We do not censor camper mail. ***You'll help me to help your son by communicating with me.*** Describe the unhappy letter or send it to me. The worst thing is for me to hear a concern or constructive criticism during the winter. If you become aware of something during the season, bring it to my attention immediately so I can take appropriate action. This includes a desire for extra tennis, trips, or any other activity. Sometimes campers are reluctant to speak up. If you become aware of something in a letter or phone call, please mention it to me.

If you have any questions or need any assistance between now and camp time, you can reach us at the Armonk office until June 4 and at camp after that.

Bulletin #7 containing Travel to Camp information will reach you in early June.

Here's to a terrific 2010 camp season!



**REMEMBER:** You can access all bulletins on our web site: [www.takajo.com](http://www.takajo.com)