

Frequently Asked Questions by Parents

~Answered by The Camp Director~

- ❖ **Is it common for campers to receive lots of mail/care packages?** Yes, mail is a big part of our camper's experiences. It is common for campers to receive a letter every other day or even more often. There is a tradition at Camp Tamarack to throw in the lake, campers who receive 7 or more letters in one day. Most campers love this tradition and will ask their parents to send 7 letters in one day so that they can partake in this tradition. Obviously, we never throw a camper into the lake if he or she doesn't want to be thrown in.
- ❖ **Where should I send mail or packages to? How do I address it?** Please send all letters and packages by the US Postal Service to:
Your Child's Name
C/O Camp Tamarack
PO Box 97
Sisters OR 97759

Fed Ex and UPS will not deliver to a PO Box, so if you would like to send a package with these carriers please send it to:

Your Child's Name
C/O Camp Tamarack
30901 SW FS Rd 2066-600
Camp Sherman OR 97730
- ❖ **How long does it take for mail to reach camp?** Longer than you would expect. Sisters has a small post office and we have to drive to Sisters to pick up the mail. So, send mail early or leave letters with a Director when you drop your child off at camp.
- ❖ **Do most parents drop off/pick up their children to and from camp?** Yes, most parents drop off and pick up their children from camp. We know that this is not always possible so we offer transportation to and from the Redmond & Portland airport and Portland. There are always a handful of campers using our transportation. Picking up your child at the end of camp seems to be much more important to the kids, as we have a horse demonstration and lunch for all the families. We encourage families to swim and boat in the lake and hang out at camp for the afternoon.
- ❖ **Where do you find your international staff?** Usually one-third of our staff consists of international counselors. We use an agency called CCUSA (Camp Counselors USA) who has recruiting offices all over the world. Interested participants apply, are interviewed and background checked. We have the opportunity to look through thousands of applicants to choose the ones who are best suited for our program.
- ❖ **Does your camp have warm showers and flushing toilets?** We do have shower houses with warm showers. The toilets we use are port-a-potties.
- ❖ **Can my child bring ipod, dvd player, cell phone or other electronics to camp?** Please leave these media at home. We do not want campers bringing these items and if they are brought to camp they will be held by the Director until parents come to pick up their child.
- ❖ **Are there any established visiting days for parents?** We do not schedule visiting days for parents as our sessions are not very long. We welcome parents who would like to visit their child, we simply ask that you call first to schedule the visit at the least intrusive time. It is important for parents to know that a mid session visit can disturb the child's adjustment to camp. Think of it this way, by visiting camp you are leaving your child twice or three times instead of once. Letters are the best way to keep in touch and express your love and support to your child.

- ❖ **Can my child call home?** The short answer is yes. The long answer is that it doesn't happen very often. Many of our sessions have 60-80 campers in attendance, it would be impossible to accommodate every child calling home. The campers get the message that the way to communicate with parents is through letters. They know that it is not an option to call home. That being said, if a camper is extremely homesick for more than a reasonable time we will call home to get the perspective from parents. The camper may or may not talk to parents at this time. That depends on what is decided between the Director and parents. I can say that I've NEVER seen a call home to parents make the camper feel more comfortable at camp, only the opposite. What works best is writing letters and talking to a staff member he or she feels comfortable with. Talking about homesickness before camp starts is the best place to begin. When children know that it is normal to feel homesick and ways to deal with it, they can feel empowered instead of overwhelmed. **Can I call my child at camp?** No. You may call or email the Director at any time of the day or night and she will answer any question that you may have about your child or camp, but I will not pull your child out of the camp experience to talk on the phone. I would challenge you to honestly answer whether you are calling for your child's benefit or your own.
- ❖ **Can I send an email to my child?** Yes. If you forgot to send a letter early enough or if you have something that you think your child would really love to know and you don't have time to send a letter, you may send an email to the Director at info@camptamarack.com, and the director will be sure to deliver the email during regular mail times. Email is not the preferred method of contact by camp or campers. It is much more fulfilling to receive a letter, but emails have their importance in special circumstances. If you do send an email and do not get a response from the Director, please call to confirm the receipt of the email. Our email inbox has very stringent filters and many emails do not make it through. Your email is important, so please be sure that we received it.
- ❖ **Is there a counselor sleeping the cabin with my child's cabin group?** No, but every cabin has a couple counselors sleeping/living right next door. They are all in the same building, but the counselors live and sleep in the next room over. So, campers know where and how to find help in the middle of the night, and counselors can hear everything from the other side of the wall.
- ❖ **Do you do a background check on your staff?** Yes, we do an extensive criminal background check through the State Police and a check of the National Sex Offender Public Registry. We also require all staff to provide three personal and professional references who are contacted by Camp before employment is offered.
- ❖ **What qualifications does your Camp Nurse have?** Our "Camp Nurses" have the minimum of First Aid and CPR and may possess a Wilderness First Responder Certification or experience working in the medical field.
- ❖ **Can my child bring his or her horse to camp?** As much as we wish that every child who wanted to share her or his camp experience with his or her horse, we simply cannot accommodate campers bringing personal horses. Our sessions are fuller every year and we expand our herd of horses every year to keep up with the need. This does not allow us the space to board campers' horses.

Please feel free to contact the Camp Director by telephone or email if you have any additional questions or would like more clarification about any of these subjects.

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