Dear Parents,

We are excited to welcome you to Lake Owego’s 55th summer! We are counting down the days until we welcome your children to camp for a summer of fun, friends and adventure.

It’s an honor to have this opportunity to provide your child with an outstanding camp experience. We realize the level of faith you have placed in us to provide a safe, nurturing, and accepting environment for your son. Our dedicated counselors and staff members also understand the importance and significance of their role in your child’s life. We can’t wait to start creating lifelong memories and friendships.

In order to create this truly special camp experience, we are committed to working very closely with each family before, during, and after the summer, so please keep in touch! This newsletter is filled with valuable information that we think will set your son up for success at camp. Please read it carefully.

Happy Camping,
Johnny, Kyle and Freedo

Visiting Day is July 26th
For full-session & extended half session campers
11:30 am - 3:00 pm

Parents, grandparents… The whole family is invited.
(No pets please!)

Don’t overdo the food from home, a bountiful camp lunch is provided and campers can only keep treats from home for one day. Please do not bring any food items containing nuts.

Please no “bunk gifts,” it leaves some campers and parents feeling left out and is really not necessary. Your presence is the best gift.

Gratuities are not permitted.

Explorers’ Weekend & Play Days
Overnights: July 11-12, July 18-19, August 1-2
Play Days: July 25, August 8

If your child is entering 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade and is not yet ready for camp we encourage you to visit while camp is in session and try our one-night, two-day Explorer Camp. We are also offering Play Days this year! Please feel free to call us at 267-639-2488 or e-mail us at explorer@lakeowego.com if you have any questions.
Getting Ready

- If your son is flying to camp please leave out a camp shirt so that he can wear his “Camp Official” on the plane.
- Write a letter to your child before camp starts so it is there for the first mail call.
- Baggage cannot be put on the buses. Duffles, and suitcases should be shipped to and from camp.
- Remember to pack bug spray and sunscreen.
- Pre-addressed, stamped envelopes are helpful to young campers.
- Bunk placement information will not be given out before camp.

Medication Procedures

For children who take daily or routine medication at camp (not including liquids and inhalers), parents MUST order their medicine through Camp Meds. This DOES include over-the-counter, non-prescription medications and vitamins. Camp Meds will deliver your child’s medication to camp in daily, pre-packaged containers. You will receive a special letter explaining the procedure, or you can go to www.campmeds.com or call (954) 577-0025 for more information.

We have a fully stocked, beautiful Health Center with plenty of non-prescription medication. Campers are not allowed to keep ANY medication in their cabins, so please do not send up Tylenol, Advil, Pepto Bismol, etc.

Letters

We encourage good, old-fashioned letter-writing. At mail-call each day, there is no better feeling for a camper than receiving a real, hand-stamped, hand-written letter or card. Some are treasures that are kept through adulthood. Camp is a low-tech place for children (and adults) to take a break from the hustle-bustle of daily life during the rest of the year. No TVs, no Blackberries, no iPhones, no running to check e-mail. In their place - friends, campfires, teamwork, and, hopefully, personal growth, independence, and self-esteem.

Parents may also send e-mails through the “CampMinder” system (see back page), but letters are better.

“He must be a pro. He’s got his own stick.” – Mark Twain
Packages

Except for necessities from home that were inadvertently left behind, like a book for school, goggles, shin guards, etc., there is really no reason to send things to camp. Gifts from home like toys or games breed competition between bunkmates and leave some campers feeling left out. Birthday packages are, of course, permitted and encouraged, but no food, please.

Remember all packages are opened in the presence of staff.

The Lake Owego Team – The Directors!

Johnny & Rachel Waszczak
Johnny and Rachel Waszczak have been year-round camp directors for over twelve years, and bring invaluable experience in the outdoors, wilderness trips, rock climbing, ropes course instruction, group facilitation, lifeguarding, and health care. Johnny is an American Camp Association committee member and prepares for the summer all winter-long. Rachel is a nurse and serves as our camp healthcare coordinator. Johnny, Rachel, and their children live in Philadelphia, but their favorite place to be is around the campfire in Greeley, PA.

Kyle Silver
Kyle has been working at Lake Owego Camp for over twenty years. Kyle is a 6th grade teacher and grade team leader at Fieldston Middle School in the Riverdale, New York. Kyle’s background includes coaching both high school basketball and soccer. Kyle formed and leads the Pike County Athletic Association which conducts a wide variety of athletic tournaments throughout the summer for a number of camps in the area.

Jeff “Freedo” Freedman
Jeff started as a camper at Lake Owego Camp in the 1970’s and since then, has gained over 16 years of experience as an independent boys camp director. Prior to entering the camp world, Jeff was a lawyer for the NCAA. He was also a competitive tennis and basketball student-athlete in college and received All-American accolades. He has a passion for youth and what camp can provide for them and feels that camp is the best place in the world for a boy to spend his summer.

Shelly Silver, Director Emeritus
Shelly has been in education for 40 years, the last 11 as an elementary school principal at East Brook School in Park Ridge, New Jersey. He began his teaching career in physical education, as a coach in New York City. As a high school basketball coach, he won two city championships with his team participating in state finals. He has been in camping for over 35 years and is the author of The Smart Parents’ Guide to Summer Camps. Shelly also authored “Athletic Energy for Academic Power,” published in The New York Times Sunday Sports Section.

Electronics

We do not allow iPod Touches, Kindles, or any device capable of a wifi connection, hand-held games, portable DVD’s, laptops, or cell phones. Even if the wifi connection can be disabled, we do not allow that device in camp.

If they arrive at camp, phones and electronics will be collected, and returned at the end of the summer. First of all, there’s no time to use them, second, they break or are “borrowed” and lost. And lastly, this is CAMP; the perfect time and place to take a break from the onslaught of technology. The whole point of camp life is to live our lives a little differently, a little simpler than we do the rest of the year. Campers can only gain independence if they are truly independent from you and the outside world.

And what about music-only iPods, you may ask? We discourage campers from bringing these for the same reasons listed above. But if your camper can’t leave home without it, their personal music-only device will be restricted - not outside the bunk and only after letter-writing at rest period or before bed, after bunk meeting time. Remember, no wifi connected devices. We suggest basic mp3 players such as Apple shuffles or old-fashioned iPods.
“The only way to have a friend is to be one.”
– Henry David Thoreau

CampMinder
Connect on-line for photos and more!

Every parent will be able to email their child, check out news from camp, and see up to date photos and videos from the summer using the same login they use to fill out forms.

Among many other things, you will have the ability to email photos to your friends and family.

Just go to “My LOC” on the top right side of the website and you will be directed to the many options available. You can also create guest accounts so that the whole family can connect to the online camp community. Enjoy, and if needed, call us for help!

Phone Calls

It’s not easy, but part of sending children off to camp is “letting go.” Although phone calls are not necessary, one phone call may be scheduled for first-session campers after July 8th and for second-session campers after August 1st. The office will schedule as many calls as possible, before or after dinner, until evening activity begins. Please be reassured that there is always a counselor at the telephone. Hearing your parents’ voice for the first time can be upsetting and we will be there to comfort your son. Tears only last milli-seconds after the call – until the first friend walks by, a basketball is dribbled, or a frisbee whizzes by. Don’t worry, but if you have a real concern – call us.

Important Contact Information

Camp Phone (267) 639-2488
After June 20 (570) 226-3636

Mountain Baggage (570) 775-0556
email: mountainbaggage@aol.com
website: www.mountainbaggage.com

R&B Baggage (603) 536-2197
(baggage for Florida families)
website: www.rbcampbaggage.com

Camp Meds (954) 577-0025
website: www.campmeds.com

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”
– C.S Lewis