

North Star Camp for Boys

Preparing for the Summer of 2017



We started preparing for the 2017 camping season almost the minute the 2016 season was finished. Our purpose at camp is to create an environment that will provide the maximum benefit for each camper in terms of his health, happiness, meaningful experiences, and of course, FUN! We have a responsibility for laying a foundation that will best enable your son to get the most out of his summer.

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It is in this spirit of teamwork that we are really enrolling you, along with our campers and staff. We need your support and cooperation. Please read this information carefully as it will answer many questions you may have. This mailing will contain the information that you will need to prepare your son(s) for camp. Please take the

time to read over the enclosed information and complete online forms by their listed due dates.

We will continue to be in touch with you just prior to camp with an additional mailing as well as through our newsletter and online. Going forward, if you have any questions or concerns please call or e-mail. Remember that our website has all the information that you will need for camp.

As a community of 270 campers and staff, having consistent policies and procedures is important to ensure the best possible summer for our entire camp. Ignoring our policies starts your camper off on the wrong foot and can incorrectly teach him to break the rules himself. Below are some camp policies that we need to work as a team for the benefit of our campers.

Policies and Procedures

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PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

We cannot be held responsible for expensive equipment brought to camp (i.e: phones, radios, cameras, watches, etc.). A camper may be held personally accountable for damage incurred in an aggressive, negligent way to another's property. We cannot be held accountable for lost items or stolen items.

As a rustic Northwoods camp, we ask that you **do not send electric blankets or fans**. Radios, some iPods, and MP3 players

are permitted; however they are to be used in the cabins only. **Campers are not allowed to bring iPods and other MP3 players that have video screens or game/app capabilities.** We want to provide our campers with a low-tech experience at camp which is why we do not allow **T.V.'s, hand held video games, laptops, e-book readers, iPod touches, iPhones (and all other video capable MP3 players) or iPads/tablets.** These items will be confiscated and returned when campers leave.

In working to ensure the safety of our community, campers are prohibited from having any firearms, weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, knives or animals at camp. Campers wishing to bring specialized sporting equipment such as archery bows should contact camp to discuss appropriate transportation and storage.

MOBILE PHONES

Campers are not allowed to have cell phones at camp. We have found that cell phones are contrary to the independence and responsibility that we are teaching at North Star. Part of the camp experience is unplugging campers from technology for the summer while also allowing them to learn to rely on themselves. We take pride in our communication with parents during the summer and we will be available to talk at any point.

2017 CAMPING SEASON

1st Session	June 19 - July 15
2nd Session	July 16 - Aug 11
8-week Session	June 19 - Aug 11
Post Camp	Aug 12 - 19
Visiting Weekend	July 14 - 16

Contact Information

Before 5/15 2220 W. Medill Ave
Chicago, IL 60647

After 5/15 10970 W. Boys Camp Rd
Hayward, WI 54843

Phone/Text: 715-462-3254

Fax: 866-255-1566

email: Office@northstarcamp.com

North Star Website Quick Links

- ▶ Preparing for Camp Page <http://bit.ly/18EvBPT>
- ▶ Hayward Area Lodging <http://bit.ly/1Aifdfs>
- ▶ Getting to Camp <http://bit.ly/1C9HXM5>

We ask that you keep cell phones at home even for the bus ride. The trip to camp is a part of the North Star experience. Campers should be interacting with each other rather than with their screens. If your son is flying into Minneapolis, you may choose to send him with a phone to have during travel. We will collect his phone upon arrival in Minneapolis, store it and return it to him prior to his flight home. **We do not have the ability to store a high number of phones. Any campers bringing phones who are not flying to or from camp will have their phones sent home and will be billed for shipping costs.** North Star will not be held responsible for lost or damaged phones.

TELEPHONE CALLS

If at any time you feel the need to call us, please do so. We will call you if we are concerned about your son's health. We will also call if we feel the need to talk with you about how your son is getting along at camp. You should call us whenever you have a concern. You can call camp at 715-462-3254.

Our method of communication between campers and parents is through written letters. Calls can be disruptive to your son and also to his cabinmates. We have seen smiling boys arrive in the office to talk to their parents only to see them leave teary-eyed, upset and homesick. If circumstances warrant a call, please ask for Andy or Vickie and we will find your son.

PACKAGES

We do not allow packages at camp. Prior to putting this policy in place, there was an excessive amount of packages coming into camp for our campers. We will continue to allow appropriate magazines, books, and newspapers, however, **all other packages will be returned to sender.** Please do not send gum or food items with the newspapers and books. Also, do not send magazines of questionable or provocative subject matter. We need your help and we would appreciate it if you would pass along this information to other loving relatives, especially Grandma and Grandpa. If there is an essential item that your son needs, please send us an e-mail when you send the item to make sure that it is not shipped back to you.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Aside from snacks for the ride to camp, please do not send your son to camp with food, soda, bottled water and any other snack items. We feed our campers well. Additionally, twice a week they are allowed to go to Wanegan (our canteen) for a candy bar or another treat. If your son is eager to pack himself for camp, please inspect his bags for any contraband. Northwoods critters tend to find these items. Further, when some campers bring food to camp it often leads to a have/have not situation.

Reiterating our package policy, we ask that you do not sneak food into camp, either via post or if you are visiting. We do inspect packages and food that is sent will be disposed of or given to our staff.

MONEY AT CAMP

Our campers do not need money at camp. There are very few opportunities to purchase items outside of camp and on these occasions campers can withdraw a reasonable amount of money from their spending money accounts. Money in the cabins presents problems. All campers will be asked to keep their money in the office with our locked valuables. We cannot be responsible for money left in the cabins. If your son is flying to or from camp, it would be appropriate to send some money for him to spend on food at the airport. While at camp, this money should be stored in valuables.

SPENDING MONEY ACCOUNT

Each camper has a spending money account. As part of your bill, you pre-paid into this account. Items that will be charged to your son's spending money account include

- ▶ Laundry
- ▶ Out of Camp Trips
- ▶ Wanegan (camp store)
- ▶ Horseback Riding
- ▶ Rocketry
- ▶ Golf
- ▶ Camp Clothing

Our campers are permitted to make purchases of their own choice in the camp store (Wanegan). Some campers have difficulty limiting their spending. Please take some time to discuss this with your son prior to camp. Please let us know if you do not want your son participating in any camp activities that have extra charges.

PARENT VISITS

Parents of 4-week campers are welcome to either bring their sons to camp or pick them up, though most campers take the bus or fly to and from camp. We strongly advise against dropping off your son at camp. It is our experience that it is much easier for campers to say good-bye at the bus along with everyone else than to say their good-byes to you at camp. The bus ride gives campers the opportunity to start making friends before they get to camp. We would love to welcome you to pick up your son at summer's end, especially if you haven't been to North Star before. If you come to camp, we welcome you to tour the camp and to meet your son's counselors. We ask that there be no other visiting during his 4-week stay.

We have always welcomed parents at North Star. However, prolonged parent visits can disrupt the camp routine. We realize that many of you travel a long way to visit with your son and would like to spend as much time as possible with him. Our visiting weekend is designed to be convenient to our parents and to have as little impact on your son's camp experience as possible. We do this to ensure that after parents leave, the boys will have no trouble getting back to their routines, and the boys whose parents are not visiting will still feel a part of things.

We have one designated visiting weekend during the summer; July 14th - 16th. On Friday, we invite visiting parents to come into camp around 7:00 p.m. You are invited to join us for our service at the Council Ring. Eight week and 1st Session parents may return on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. We will have programming in the morning and a picnic lunch. After lunch you may take your son with you for the night. 1st Session families may stick around for the programming or head home that morning. The following morning (Sunday, July 16th) we will pick your 8 week and second session campers up in Hayward at a designated place at 9:00 a.m.

Brothers and sisters are welcome in camp, however, family pets are not allowed. When visiting camp keep in mind that gratuities to staff are not appropriate. Our counselors are paid well and a letter of appreciation or donation to our scholarship fund in a counselor's name is a more effective way of extending appreciation.

DO NOT SEND YOUR SON TO CAMP WITH COMMUNICABLE ILLNESS. These include athlete's foot, head lice, pink eye, skin infections, or recent contact with Measles, Norwalk Virus, H1N1, Whooping Cough, or Chicken Pox (if they have never had Chicken Pox and are not vaccinated). It is much easier to have your son travel to camp a day or two late than to treat a cabin worth or camp full of kids who are sick.

Quick Links

Getting to Camp - Transportation and Baggage

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- ▶ First Session Campers will depart home on June 19th and return on July 15th.
- ▶ Second Session Campers will depart home on July 16th and return on August 11th.
- ▶ Eight Week Campers will depart home on June 19th and return on August 11th.

TRAVEL FROM CHICAGO & MILWAUKEE

The boys will travel via chartered bus with a toilet. If your son is taking the bus to and/or from Chicago, you should have selected this option when registering. Please notify us if any of your travel plans change or if you are unsure whether or not you made this selection.

There will be ample room on the bus for sleeping bags, musical instruments, fishing tackle, and small items. Camper luggage will be transported via UHaul along with the boys to camp. Please make sure that all baggage is clearly marked so it can be easily sorted and delivered to your son's cabin upon arrival at camp. Campers should bring a bag lunch and a beverage. Please do not send more food than the boys can consume on the bus. Also think about the kind of food that you send as excessive amounts of candy can cause the boys to get sick on the bus.

Chicago area campers will leave from and return to the Renaissance North Shore Hotel at 933 Skokie Boulevard in

Northbrook. Departure time will be 7:45am and return time will be at approximately 4:00pm.

Camp Laundry Service will be providing a pick-up service. For those interested, they will pick up your son's laundry, either from the bus drop-off or from your home, wash and fold laundry and clean other items that are dirty. Find out more about the service here: <http://bit.ly/1jALg3r>

Milwaukee area campers will be picked up and dropped off at the I-43/94 and Holt Avenue Park and Ride. To reach the I-43/94 and Holt Avenue park and ride lot, take I-43/94 exit 314A and turn west onto Holt Avenue. The lot is located on the north side of Holt Avenue and the west side of I-43/94. Pick-up time will be at 9:15 am and return time will be at approximately 2:30pm.

AIR TRAVEL

For those of you traveling from other cities, we have created a guide to help you with your travel details, which can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1EFWAEd>. Most campers will fly into Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport, though some do choose to drive to Chicago and take the buses to camp. Air travel has some added hurdles but we have a very efficient airport detail, with each camper being escorted to and from their flight by one of our staff members. The boys will then travel by chartered bus or vans to and from camp. Please contact us at any time if we can help with your travel arrangements.

We are again asking that all campers flying to and/or from camp ship their luggage via FedEx or UPS ground. Shipping luggage has made the process much easier, eliminating the lost or delayed bag problems we had with the airlines. In many cases, shipping is also cheaper than airline baggage fees. We will send more information on this process in June.

MINNEAPOLIS DROP-OFF

Campers in the Minneapolis area can meet North Star staff at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport at 11a.m. The drop-off point is a carpeted sitting area on the lower level of Terminal 1. The area is adjacent to door #6, across from baggage claim #2. This is also applicable to parents traveling with their son.

Preparing for Camp

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EQUIPMENT

You will find an equipment list on our website (Preparing for Camp section). We suggest that you download it and print it for easy packing. **Be sure to mark everything** clearly with your son's first and last name. We recommend purchasing labels through Label Daddy: <http://labeldaddy.com/?c=northstar>

We do not require a camp uniform, however you may order North Star gear on our website, <http://bit.ly/18EvBPT>. 8th and 9th graders, will need additional cold weather gear for their trips. Please follow the guidelines on the equipment list. We want our boys to feel comfortable and safe at camp and while enjoying our trips. Clothes and equipment may be sent to camp in either a trunk or duffel. If buying new, we would suggest duffels since they are easier to pack and repair and they are easier to handle.

MEDICAL

We provide basic health care and first aid at camp. Our health care staff consists of a team of doctors and nurses who will oversee ongoing medical issues and work to ensure a safe and healthful environment. Campers can come to the health center during regularly scheduled hours three times a day. Our health staff is available to respond to any emergent issues. We work with our medical director at the Hayward Hospital, which is located 13 miles from camp. Camp activities have inherent risks, including injury and death. Our health team and directors work with our entire staff to minimize those risks.

We will call parents in the following medical situations:

- ▶ When there is evidence of communicable illness with fever or resulting in an overnight stay in the Health Center
- ▶ When there is injury requiring medical treatment.
- ▶ In the event of allergic reactions to stings, medications or foods
- ▶ When a camper has a known bite by a Deer tick (known to carry Lyme Disease)

Our health team oversees the distribution of all camper medications. We use a mandatory medication packaging service called CampMeds. All medication in pill form that is taken on a daily basis must come to us through CampMeds. If this

applies to your son, please read the CampMeds info on CampInTouch and then sign your son up at CampMeds.com. This helps to ensure that camper medications are distributed safely. Distribution for all medications takes place during breakfast, lunch, dinner and at the conclusion of our evening program. All medication must be stored in the Health Center. Please call camp if your son has medical issues beyond the typical allergy problems that will need follow through over the summer.

Due to a lack of a local orthodontist, preventative care trips are difficult, often requiring a full day out of camp. Please discuss this with your orthodontist. If your child needs such services, there will be a charge for the trip.

We do not give allergy shots at camp. This will require a doctors visit at a local clinic. Please arrange allergy shots prior to and after camp if at all possible.

If your son wears glasses you may want to send an extra pair of glasses along in case of loss or breakage.

RECORDS & FORMS

To ensure that we have the necessary information to take responsibility for your son this summer we need to gather some information. Each record serves its own purpose and helps us to gain insight into your son which will enable us to provide more effective care and guidance. We continue to use the CampInTouch system, our online record service. If you are having difficulty with CampInTouch, contact us directly. For our returning campers, some forms will simply need to be updated.

The forms to be completed are:

- ▶ Health History Form
- ▶ Immunizations Form (can also be completed on the health history form)
- ▶ Immunization Certification
- ▶ Medical Recommendations Form (optional, for campers with ongoing medical issues)
- ▶ Camper Profile
- ▶ Transportation Form
- ▶ Sign up for CampMeds online www.campmeds.com (for campers taking prescription/regular meds)
- ▶ Canadian Permission Form (1st session/8 Week campers who are currently in 9th grade)
- ▶ U.S. Passport or copy of birth certificate (1st session/8 Week campers who are currently in 9th grade)

Life at Camp

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CORRESPONDENCE FROM CAMP

We will post camp news through The Siren (The North Star Blog) and pictures on our website. We communicate via email, facebook and twitter. We also post pictures, which are accessible via CampInTouch.

We will send out a cabin list the first night of camp, which will include the names of your son's counselors. All communication will go through the camp directors and the camp office. One of your son's counselors will write to you at the end of the session. The letter will discuss your son, his activities, and how he is doing in the cabin. If you are visiting

camp, you should take the time to sit down with your son's counselor.

LETTER WRITING

Correspondence with your son is a critical aspect of his camp experience, and we can offer some practical suggestions. First, keep your letters positive, upbeat, and newsy. Telling your son how much you miss him, his friends miss him, and how much his dog misses him often triggers homesickness. If your son complains of some situation that is upsetting to him, by all means acknowledge that when you write back, showing confidence in his ability to problem-solve. If you could see mail call at camp, then you would know how important letters are to your campers. Encourage relatives to write as well.

Please understand that the first 10 days of camp provide a "mixed bag" of letters because of adjustments being made to the camp environment. Our Northwoods mail service can be slow, so you may find that by the time that you respond to a

negative or “homesick” letter the situation is long forgotten or the adjustment has been made. Please let us know if you receive two such letters in a row so we can follow up for you. We have found that many campers have not developed the ability to communicate well in letter form. We keep our campers very busy and they are in a world of their own at camp. Your campers may not share many of their experiences in their letters. You will find out about their camp experience slowly as the stories unravel and even throughout the winter.

Some of our younger campers have difficulty writing addresses on their letters so that they can be read by the Postmaster. If you think that this may be the case with your son, please self-address and stamp some envelopes for him. He will be required to send two letters to his home address every week. Please do not e-mail or fax your son unless you are out of the country. When mailing letters to your son please make sure to include his name. Also, as soon as you know it, include his cabin number as it will save our mail sorter a tremendous amount of time!

BIRTHDAYS

If your son has a birthday while at camp we will provide a birthday cake, so please do not be concerned that his big day will be forgotten. The birthday cake is presented in front of the whole camp with a round of birthday songs. Of course, on this special day, campers look forward to speaking with their parents. The best time to reach your son is during mealtime: 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m., 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., or 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Please limit these calls to 10 minutes. Some parents choose to arrange a birthday pizza party for the cabin group and you may do this by calling the office. A birthday package is allowed on birthdays.

LAUNDRY

Please heed our advice to send up old clothes. Our laundry service tries its hardest to get the clothes clean, however, the high iron content in our water and the condition of the clothes when they arrive at the laundry facility makes it very challenging for them. Laundry charges will be billed on the final invoice at the end of the summer. **MARK EVERYTHING!!!** Assume that your son will recognize nothing that he was sent to camp with unless it has their name in/on it.

TRIPPING PROGRAM

All campers at North Star take a wilderness trip as part of their camp experience. There are risks inherent in any tripping program. Canoe trips involve risks related to moving water to include (but not limited to) falling out of a canoe, overturning, and overhanging branches. In all of our trips campers are exposed to the elements including foul weather, lightning, insects and wildlife. We minimize these risks as best as we can with instruction and good supervision. We take all necessary precautions as our Trip Leaders are certified Wilderness First Responders and are also lifeguard certified. Our trippers will carry satellite phones, however medical care can be delayed for hours on these trips. If your camper has a medical problem which makes you uncomfortable about the trips, let's discuss this prior to camp.

Good outerwear is essential. Please pay close attention to your equipment lists so that your son(s) will have the proper clothing for his comfort and safety on the trip. Our trips are age appropriate and progress in difficulty with the age of the camper. Our tripping program is in compliance with all American Camp Association standards. Our Juniors take a canoe trip down one of two rivers in our area, both with a slow current. All campers are given canoe instruction and life jackets are worn at all times when they are on the water. Juniors will be out of camp 1-2 nights. Our Intermediates will go down some white water on the Flambeau and Brule Rivers. Our 8th graders will take a backpacking trip. They will be out of camp 4-5 nights.

In addition to the cabin trips, our campers can opt to take one of our sign-up trips. We offer climbing trips, horseback riding trips, hiking trips, white water canoeing trips, biking trips, and a solo trip (boys camp solo near the group leader). There is no additional charge for these trips. Unless we hear otherwise, your permission to take one of these optional trips is implied with registration for our program.

Our oldest campers in the Pine Manor cabins (current 9th graders) will take a 9-day Canadian Canoe Trip 1st session and a car-camping trip (usually to Duluth) 2nd session. The canoe trip will require that they have gear for a variety of weather conditions. We have provided a Canadian packing list that can be found on CampInTouch. Proper clothing is essential for warmth and safety and as Pine Manor campers will need ALL items on this list. This trip will involve wilderness travel by canoe with vigorous portages involving carrying a canoe and a Duluth pack on the back. Campers are strongly encouraged to get in shape prior to this trip. This is a remote trip. Either a passport or a copy of the birth certificate is required for transportation across the US/Canada border. Parents of campers with medical problems will need to consider that access to medical care will be delayed on this trip due to the remote nature of the area.

2nd Session/8 Week Pine Manor campers will also take a car camping trip to Duluth, MN. We will email you ahead of the trip to discuss spending money needed for snacks souvenirs. On this trip there will be times when campers will be in the vicinity of, but not always with their counselors as they explore Duluth.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES

On Friday nights we gather at the Council Ring for a nonsectarian service. The service is value-oriented with subjects ranging from friendship to stewardship of the environment. Our Jewish boys say the Kiddush. There is no other religious component to the service.

POST CAMP

Dates are August 12th-19th. Post Camp is a great opportunity for you to spend a “campy” vacation with your family at a reasonable cost. Please contact us if you are interested in Post Camp. We fill up very early and currently we are anticipating a waiting list. We like to give priority to returning Post Campers, Alumni, and families whose boys are attending camp.

We hope that it didn't take you the whole weekend to go through this information. Thank you in advance for getting all of your forms in on time. Another bulletin concerning the trip to camp will be sent around June 1st. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns about the upcoming summer.

We are looking forward to “The Summer of 2017”!

- *Andy*