

General Information

Mailing Address

For USPS Items

Your Camper
Camp Mishawaka
PO Box 368
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Camp Mishawaka

800-308-5011

Fax: 218-326-9228

*As our focus is on the kids in the summer,
we are not able to respond to email.
Please call, write, or fax.*

Shipping Address

For Fed-Ex or UPS only

Your Camper
c/o Camp Mishawaka
21525 Mishawaka Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

To Mishawaka Parents: We are delighted to be a part of your summer plans and we look forward to having your son or daughter with us. It is our first priority to ensure the safety, health and happiness of your child while at Mishawaka. To that end, I have included some useful information below. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list, or answer all of your possible questions. Please feel free to contact me if you have any unanswered questions, or if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Steve Purdum, Executive Director

• **Communication**

The best way to stay in touch with your camper remains the US mail. Please use the P.O. Box listed above. Campers are required to write twice weekly, though often times the mail seems to move slowly out of the Northwoods. If you like, you may fax your camper and he or she can fax back. **If you want your camper to fax you, please be sure he or she knows the fax number, or call to let us know what it is.** Because phone calls can disrupt the daily routine, we ask that you call only in the event of a camper's birthday or a family emergency. As our focus is on the campers during the summer, we are often not able to respond to email in a timely manner. You will receive an introductory post card from your child's cabin counselor, as well as a report detailing his or her activities every two weeks. If you have questions or concerns you are encouraged to call the camp directly.

If you need to send something to Mishawaka via Fed-Ex or UPS, please use the shipping address above. **DO NOT** use this address for regular mail as there is no receptacle. **Please do not send candy or sweets.**

Parents are asked to keep the camp office informed of their whereabouts and provide contact numbers if they are traveling during the camp session.

• **Visiting Camp**

Parents are welcome to visit camp at their convenience, provided their presence does not interfere with the child's regular camp program and camp activities. It is against camp policy for children to be taken from the camp program at any time. Parents and guests are welcome to join us for a meal, please call ahead to make arrangements.

Parents are also welcome to come to the final campfire at the end of the session if they are nearby or plan on picking up their camper. If you are driving to camp, please call to verify driving directions as road construction can often be a consideration. Because summer is a busy time in Minnesota, you are encouraged to make lodging arrangements early. Weekends are often sold out months in advance. Visit **grandmn.com** or **visitgrandrapids.com** to view a list of area hotels.

• **Cabin Life**

Mishawaka is a relatively small camp, with a capacity of 80 boys and 80 girls, and prides itself on creating a family atmosphere. Each staff member knows every camper, not just those in his or her cabin and, in turn, each camper gets to know every staff member. We take great care in formulating cabin groups to ensure the best fit, taking into consideration age, grade, and interests. **You are encouraged to note cabin preferences on the enclosed pre-camp questionnaire; however, it is impossible to guarantee cabin placement with a particular camper or group of campers.** That said, we are often able to grant **one** mutual request for cabin placement.

- **Homesickness**

If this is the first time away from home for an extended period of time, it is advisable that you discuss the possibility of homesickness with your child. Studies have shown that children who are prepared to experience these feelings deal much better with them than those who are surprised by homesickness. If you have any special concerns or considerations, please note them on the enclosed pre-camp questionnaire.

Certainly, a little bit of homesickness is natural. If a camper becomes so affected that it interrupts his or her routine, we will contact you right away. Please do not be alarmed if the first card or letter conveys homesickness. We find that after an initial period of adjustment, most campers become quickly consumed by activities and opportunities. Keep in mind that there is likely a significant time delay from when a card or letter was written and when you receive it. It is helpful if your correspondence includes many questions about the camper's activities at camp, rather than details of what he or she may be missing at home. If a camper feels like he or she is missing out on something at home this may trigger homesickness or exacerbate existing feelings.

- **Healthcare**

Please help us by taking care to include all relevant information on the Health Form. The form will help us make sure each camper is getting the care and or medicines he or she needs. If your child has recently recovered from an illness just prior to camp, please note this on the form or call the office to alert us of the situation. You will be notified by the camp if your child spends a night in the infirmary or if off-site medical attention is sought.

If you are sending medications with your camper:

- Send enough for the entire stay
- Do not mix medications, they must be in their original container
- Include clear instructions for administration and reason for taking
- Clearly label the container with camper's first and last name

- **Meals**

Mishawaka provides three balanced meals a day and every effort is made to offer choices to suit all tastes. If your camper has a special dietary need or is a vegetarian you must indicate this on the health form to ensure proper attention.

- **Spending Money**

If your camper is flying to camp, you are encouraged to provide them with some spending money for the airport. There is no need for cash at camp, as all purchases are applied to the store account. Campers are asked to turn in valuables and cash for safe-keeping during their stay.

- **General Packing Suggestions**

Please refer to the enclosed packing list as you go about preparing for camp. In addition, it is helpful to keep in mind the following: Camp Mishawaka is an active and fairly rustic experience and campers are encouraged to bring comfortable, casual clothes. There is no need to bring new or special clothes, though some girls choose to bring a sun dress or skirt for their final banquet.

The best way to prevent items from being lost is make sure that each item is clearly marked with the camper's name. It is also helpful to have a checklist of items sent that can be used when repacking to ensure that everyone leaves with what they came with. Lost and Found items will be held for a period of time. If you find you are missing something please call camp and provide a description. Every effort will be made to locate and return the item.

Please do not pack: Cell phones, video games, hand-held devices, walkie-talkies, boom boxes, laptop computers or any other sensitive electronic equipment. If campers elect to bring portable music devices or compact discs, Mishawaka assumes no responsibility for their safety. Use of these items is limited to certain times.

- **Policies Regarding Attendance**

Camp Mishawaka prides itself on its motto of Safety, Health and Happiness and seeks to preserve it in every way. As such, participants who in any way disrupt the safety or order of the community are subject to immediate dismissal. This would include, but is not limited to, possession of illegal substances, alcohol, tobacco or engaging in any behavior that jeopardizes the safety of the community. In such cases there is no refund of tuition, and travel expenses will be the responsibility of the family.