

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS 2009

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please send instructions regarding medication, allergies etc with the completed medical form.

Medications brought in a labelled pill dispenser box makes their administration much easier. If your son has an illness or accident just prior to his arrival at Ponacka, please contact us. We ask you to delay his arrival if he is not well. Colds and flu spread rapidly through camp. ***Remember to enclose a photocopy of both sides of your son's health card with the most recent version code & a copy of his immunization record.***

FOOD PARCELS

Food parcels **are not to be sent** or brought to camp. Please advise your relatives not to send or bring food. We confiscate the candy or gum and do not return it, which is upsetting for the boys. Racoons and chipmunks make unwelcome nocturnal visits to tents with food. Do not bring more food than you require for your picnic when you visit. Food parcels can create dissention in the group over distribution and sharing. Parcels containing books, magazines, small games, fishing tackle, clothing and toys are welcome.

SPENDING MONEY

Pocket money needed for a trip away from camp will be given to the camper from his tuck account. It is distressing when some campers have cash to spend on trip and others must do without. International campers keep extra cash in our safe with their passport and other documents. Money is easily lost, which is upsetting for everyone.

PETS

If your son wishes to bring a small pet (gerbil, rabbit, guinea pig, rat) for loan to the Nature Hut, please contact us. At the end of the August camp we look for homes for the pets in our nature hut. If your boy wishes to bring one home, he needs your permission.

SMOKING AND DRUGS

Campers are **NOT** allowed to possess or smoke tobacco products nor have non-medical drugs or alcohol at camp or on camping trips. If you think it appropriate, please warn him that he will be expelled from camp for any violation of this ruling. **NO FEE REFUND WILL BE MADE.** We review the rules on the first night of camp with the older boys and offer an opportunity to get rid of any forbidden substances.

IPods, MP3 PLAYERS, ELECTRONIC GAMES, CELL PHONES

We ask parents **not** to permit their sons to bring any of these to camp. They will be confiscated and **not returned.** We believe that camp is a social place to enjoy the sounds of the natural world as well as create music with guitars, piano and instruments that staff and campers bring.

WATER BALLOONS!!!

We request that parents do **NOT** send water balloons to camp with their sons. We understand that they are fun, however they are difficult to clean up, creating unnecessary work for our maintenance staff.

BOOKS, GAMES, COSTUMES Our camp library and drama hut welcome donations!

CAMP WIDE PHOTO

A photographer from Montreal with a wide lens camera comes on **June 30th** and **August 1st** to take a full camp photo. If your son will be at camp on those dates, please indicate on the fee remittance form if you would like to order one. The price is \$18.00. ***Boys attending the second half of the 2week program will not be in the picture!***

EQUIPMENT

- **Rain gear, waterproof stuff bag and compact sleeping bag** are essential for four week campers
- **Aqua socks** are excellent for water based activities.
- A labelled **Swiss army type of knife** is permitted. Your son must demonstrate responsible use.
- Some boys bring **mouth guards** to use when playing road hockey.
- **Helmets** will be provided to boys who mountain bike, climb and ride horses.
- Ponacka **baseball caps** may be purchased at the tuck shop.

DIABOLOS

A diablo is a popular toy enjoyed by many during free time at camp. Please remind your son to bring **his diablo** back to camp! We sell them in the tuck shop for approx \$14.00.

WASTE DISPOSAL

At Ponacka, we use outhouses or kybos. The disposal of waste is a global problem and we are happy to have a system that does not require gallons of water or the clearing of acres of forest for a larger septic system. Our outhouses are cleaned daily, yet an odour is almost unavoidable. We think your son will understand if you discuss this with him. We compost as well as recycle glass, tin, cardboard, paper and plastic.

LETTER CORRESPONDENCE

We highly recommend that you write a short letter or postcard at least twice a week. It is the “getting mail” that is important, not so much the letter length. Letters from home or extended family are greatly appreciated by the boys, even the older ones! Please do not write anything distressing in a letter. News of illness and/or hospitalization of family or close friends is upsetting and your son can do nothing about the situation except worry. Please call us if you have distressing news so that we can discuss the best way to inform your son. **We ask that you not send e-mails or faxes to your son, unless in an emergency.**

BOAT OPERATOR'S COURSE

Boys age 12 or older may enrol in this 5 day course, receiving certification after a written test. Please indicate your son's enrollment on the **fee remittance form**.

LABELLING BELONGINGS

Many articles of value are left at camp –Most unlabelled! Everything labelled is returned, however, we are still left with piles of unlabeled clothes, shoes, pillows, towels. Chances of items going missing are greatly reduced if well labelled. Please mail to us anything that erroneously goes home in the wrong trunk and we will forward the item. Expensive, brand name clothing is best left at home! Please label **paddles and lifejackets**.

All forms & information sheets in this mailing can be found at www.ponacka.com.