

Parent Handbook



2008

Our Mission: "Building Character by putting YMCA principles into practice using our beautiful, natural environment as a primary enabler."

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This handbook in its entirety is an official part of your agreement with the camp and noted on the enrollment forms. Your camper's attendance at camp indicates your full acceptance of the rules and policies in this handbook.

Important Forms

All of these forms **must be completed** in order for us to admit your child into camp!

- Medical Form *with copy of insurance card attached*
- Camper Confidential form
- Skateboard permission and release

These forms should be mailed to us prior to your arrival to drop off the camper with us. We suggest either faxing them or mailing copies and then bringing the originals with you to camp to avoid delays. The medical form is required by law in the state of New Jersey, and must be filled out completely. Your child's doctor should include records of all immunizations, written instructions on administering any prescription you send to camp, and a physical examination report conducted within twelve months of camp time. Please make sure that you and your physician sign this form. The camper confidential information form helps our staff better understand your child, and helps us to help him/her through any problems they may encounter. Also, this is your chance to put any special instructions or restrictions in writing. The insurance portion of the medical form is necessary in case an accident or illness requires a trip to the camp doctor or Emergency Room. The YMCA does not offer an accident or insurance policy to campers. The responsibility of the camper's medical bills lies with the parents.

Camp Fees

The balance of camp fees may be paid at any time prior to May 23. Your final bill is enclosed in this confirmation packet. Failure to pay your fees by May 23 can result in your child's enrollment being forfeited, and the spot will be given to the next person on the waiting list. You may pay by check, money order, Visa or Mastercard. A late handling fee of \$30.00 is assessed to any registrations accepted by the Camp after May 23, 2008, except in the case of those who are enrolled from the waiting list after that date.

Refunds and Cancellations

All registration deposits are refundable for any reason as long as a written request reaches the camp no later than May 23. After this date, registration deposits are not refundable. Camp tuition fees are not refundable after May 23 except in the case of verified and required summer school attendance, or an injury/illness that is so severe that your doctor advises in writing that the child should not be permitted to attend camp. Please be considerate and let us know as soon as possible if you must cancel your child's registration. This allows us to offer that spot to another child.

In the event that the camp needs to send a camper home, no refunds are given unless our camp doctor has advised that the child be removed from camp. We rarely send children home for disciplinary reasons, but if the child's behavior is repeatedly abusive (physically or verbally) towards other campers or staff, or if the child's actions pose a threat to the safety of others or him/herself, or if that child commits what can potentially be considered a criminal action, the parents will be called to come pick up the child. It is unfair to have one camper's poor behavior ruin the experience of the other campers. This is why we reserve the right to dismiss a child who is unreasonably unruly without refund.

Housing

Campers are housed in either cabins or a lodge with counselors and other campers. The beds are bunk bed style; no linens are provided. Most campers prefer to bring a sleeping bag and one or two sheets for bedding so they can opt to sleep in or under the sleeping bag. Cabins have closed door toilets, sinks and private shower facilities. Except for limited items, personal belongings are not unpacked but kept stored in a sturdy suitcase, duffel bag, or trunk.

Camp Mason does not guarantee the placement of campers in any specific village or cabin in any given session! We must do this in order to continue to accommodate enrollments and cabin mate requests and to serve as many campers as possible. We reserve the right to switch village and cabin assignments at our discretion. No guarantee of placements or special requests are implied!

Cabin Mate Requests

Any camper may request to be housed with a friend if they wish. We make every attempt to honor such requests provided the request appears on both camper's forms. Frequently, one camper requests another without discussing it first. If the request is not agreeable to both children (and their parents), this can create an unhappy situation between all parties on arrival day. Housing requests that exceed one child, (such as three children requesting each to be in the same cabin) will not be considered. It is too difficult to try to accommodate large group requests, and they are unfair to the rest of the campers who might be assigned to the bunk group. When multiple campers request each other, we are obligated to honor the first valid pair of requests that come in – so please do not wait until the week before camp. When two campers of different ages request to bunk together, the older camper will be placed in the younger bunk at our discretion provided we feel the age differential is not too significant. Please be sure that the older camper is aware of this before making the request, as they may find this arrangement upsetting.

Fly In

Camp does not encourage "fly-ins" as we always like to meet and greet the entire family together. However, if it is necessary to fly your camper here, please make sure you confirm arrangements with the Camp Director in advance of buying your ticket. Arrivals and departure may only be out of Newark International Airport at specified times. There is a \$100.00 round trip transfer fee if the camp is able to schedule it for you. International campers arriving from overseas with groups will/should have had transfer arrangements made already through their Camp Placement Agency. Please contact the Camp Director to arrange for airport transfers.

What to Bring

The following packing list is a suggested list of items to pack for a two week session. We recommend older clothes, as new things are likely to get quite dirty and stained. **DO NOT PACK ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE TERRIBLY UPSETTING TO LOSE OR HAVE DESTROYED – NO VALUABLES!** The child may bring items such as fishing pole, baseball glove, bike helmet, etc., but Camp cannot be responsible if the items are lost or broken. Please remember to label all clothing with your camper's full name!

Packing List

14 underwear	sleeping bag or sheets & blankets
14 pair socks	laundry bag with camper's name on outside
3 jeans or slacks (5 if in Ranch)	cap for sun
2 sweatshirts	stamped & addressed post cards
jacket	toiletries (soap, toothpaste, personal items)
8 pair shorts	sun block
pajamas	bug repellent - no sprays!
12 T-shirts	lip balm
raincoat or poncho	** water bottle (REQUIRED)
1 pair waterproof shoes/ sandals	2 swimsuits
2 pair closed toe comfortable shoes	2 beach towels
3 bath towels	flashlight (extra batteries)
washcloth	

Personal belongings are best packed in a sturdy suitcase, duffel bag, or trunk. If your child's suitcase or trunk has a lock, be sure to give the extra key to the counselor. We have had to cut many locks because the camper misplaced their keys. Camp trunks are not required, but if you buy one, they have so many other uses it is often well worthwhile to do so. K-Marts, Wal-Marts, and other similar stores usually feature them on sale in late spring for about \$19.00. The new plastic ones work just as well!

Please - What Not To Not Pack!!!

knives, archery or riflery equipment, matches or lighters
gum
fans
illegal drugs and paraphernalia
fireworks (setting these off is reason for immediate dismissal!)
cash (camper's money should be deposited in the Trading Post)
cell phone, pager or similar electronic device
fishing tackle with lures with treble hooks
anything glass
wonderful, valuable, irreplaceable keepsakes
jewelry of value
any aerosol can of any type
These items will be confiscated and returned on closing day!

A note on electronic devices:

We discourage campers bringing any electronic devices. However we will allow devices with the sole purpose of listening to music (CD player, IPOD, etc) to be brought to camp with the restriction that it must remain in the cabin at all times and be used only after lights out or during Siesta. Camp is designed to offer campers opportunities to interact face to face with each other and practice making friends. Walking around with headphones on is counterproductive to this process. However we realize the value in decompressing with music after a busy day, therefore we will only confiscate these devices if they are found outside of the cabin. We are not responsible for loss or damage!

Arrival Days

You should plan to have your child arrive at camp between 2:30 - 4:00 PM on the opening Sunday of their session. Upon arrival, someone will greet you at the gate and give you further directions as to the check-in procedure. Please do not attempt to go directly to the village. **DO NOT PLAN TO CHECK -IN PRIOR TO 2:30PM! The camp gates will be closed and blocked.** Staff are not all in place and are still preparing the details to be ready for your arrival. Once you have completed any business in the office, completed the camper health screening, met your child's counselors and have your camper settled in, we suggest you do not linger as this often causes some stress to campers and complicates any initial homesickness. If you are going to be late, please call us so that the counselor does not continue to hold up the cabin group while waiting for your child and so that some one may be at the office to greet and assist you on arrival.

Departure Days

You should plan to arrive at camp any time between 9:30 and 11:00 AM on the closing Saturday of your child's session. **PLEASE DO NOT PLAN TO CHECK -OUT AND RETRIEVE YOUR CAMPER PRIOR TO 9:30 AM!** Upon arrival, proceed to your child's village where you will check out your camper with his/her cabin counselor. Once you have checked out and loaded their belongings, you may choose to depart immediately, or you may choose to park in the main lot, and walk around camp with your child. Before departing please stop by the trading post to claim any unspent money on your child's account, and visit the nurse if there are medications that need to be retrieved. You may wish to play on the courts before leaving, or you may let your child show you camp and share their experiences. **Any unspent money left in Trading Post accounts after departure day will be assumed to be donated to the campership fund!**

NOTE: Ranch Camp Parents: The Rodeo will begin at 9:30 AM and last about an hour. Depending on your arrival time we suggest you proceed directly to the Upper Barn to meet your child and enjoy the Mason Rodeo. At the conclusion of the Rodeo you may proceed to Spruce lodge to sign out your camper and retrieve your child's belongings. For parents that have children in both the Traditional camp program and the Ranch camp program, we suggest picking up the traditional camper first, and taking them with you to enjoy the rodeo and depart from there.

THERE IS NO STAY-OVER BETWEEN 1B and 2A

Visiting

No regular visitation is permitted in camp. Parents of campers registered for four weeks may choose to pick up their child on the middle Saturday (July 5 for Session 1, or August 2 for Session 2) concurrent with departing two-week campers, and return them to camp on Sunday. Or parents may plan to come visit campers on the mid-session Sunday (July 6 for Session 1, or August 3 for Session 2). **If you wish to visit camp or take your child out of camp for a few hours, please make arrangements in advance with the Camp Director so we may have your camper ready!** Email wes@campmason.org with camper's name, date and the time of pick up. Please be sure to sign them out at the office before departing and have them back on camp by 4:30 PM. We will not allow campers to phone home to ask

parents to come visit or pick them up for the changeover. Also note other campers may not leave with you and your camper without written permission from their parent/guardian.

Homesickness

Virtually everyone at camp, even veteran campers miss something about home from time to time. It is a normal and healthy response; parents of younger children and first time campers should expect it. The good news is it is not life and death and is fully treatable! Our staff are trained in techniques to guide campers in developing coping skills for overcoming the challenges of separation from home. These coping skills in turn lead to more confidence and independence... a key outcome of the camp experience! If the first letter from your child is a little "down," please don't become alarmed. Write a reassuring letter back to him or her encouraging them to stick with it and have a good time. Resist the temptation to include phrases that would lead them to believe you or other family members (including pets) are missing them miserably or that the camper is missing out on important developments at home. If the problem becomes serious, we will likely already know and be dealing with it, and we will give you a call to develop more involved strategies. Often what was a "crisis" on day two may be easily forgotten by day four. Just remember to keep your letters positive and supportive - let your child know how proud you are that they are taking on this "challenge!" Allow for a "time delay" on letters home. If a change is not evident feel free to call camp during the day, and we will investigate the situation more closely and will return your call in the early evening. In our experience, putting children on the phone with parents *seriously compounds homesickness* issues and typically makes the situation more difficult. For more information on homesickness we suggest a visit to www.campspirit.com. Dr. Thurber's "Secret ingredients to Summer Camp Success" DVD combo is worth the few dollars for families with concerns about homesickness.

Our Telephone Policy

We are striving to develop strong, independent youngsters who can think and function on their own as part of a community. Our staff, as professional role models, are trained and prepared to assist campers in dealing directly with any issues that arise. Telephone usage by campers is counter productive to the process of engaging the circumstances at hand. It erodes the development of building character in a community setting, and erodes our ability to provide guidance from within the context of the immediate situation!

Camp Mason provides a near perfect environment to develop confidence and independence in our children. If you must get an important message to your camper, we will pass it along. The administration office is open from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. The Camp Director's door is always open to campers should they wish to discuss anything. As issues arise, we will contact you on behalf of your camper, and collectively decide the best course of action.

OUR OFFICIAL CELL PHONE POLICY: Cell phone use by campers is prohibited. We will immediately confiscate any cell phone in camper's possession and return them at the end of the session. Campers found loaning a cell phone to others may be dismissed without refund. Please help us with this policy as it is designed to help all campers remain engaged here and have a better and more meaningful experience while at camp. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Communicating With Your Camper

Letters

We require the campers to write at least one letter home every two weeks while they are at camp. This is a challenge! Please help us by encouraging your camper to write frequently. Your chances of receiving mail are greatly increased if you pack pre-addressed, stamped envelopes or postcards. We will provide you with the specific mailing address of your camper upon your arrival! To insure mail gets delivered specific village and cabin number must be included.

FAX

You may FAX your child a letter if you wish. We make every attempt to deliver Fax's received before 11:00 AM during mail call on that day. Our FAX number is 908-362-5767. Please limit your fax to letters only; do not send several pages of the sports news or the daily comics! We do not allow the campers to send letters via FAX. If you experience a busy signal in the morning hours, this is normal. Camp may be receiving hundreds of pages of FAX each weekday morning. We suggest you do it the night before and set your machine on overnight polling.

Packages

Campers always enjoy receiving packages from home, but please show some restraint. **Please, please, please keep consumable treats to a minimum!** The sheer volume of sugar and junk food is overwhelming and invites unwanted creatures in places we would rather them not be. Few parents would let their child consume three 16 oz packages of OREO® Cookies in a day at home, so please do not expect us to allow it here. Remember that gum is not permitted in camp. All packages are opened by the camper in the presence of a staff member, and any "contraband" will be taken. It is expected that any treats will be shared with the entire cabin group. Packages should be addressed in the same way as letters.

Email

Campers do not have access to outgoing email. They still must use the U.S. postal service. However, we accept incoming email for campers. Those emails received prior to 11:00 AM each day will be printed out (be aware that printed e-mails are not confidential) and be distributed to campers during a meal time. Please keep messages brief -and remember - upbeat and encouraging! We will only print one page per email. Please do not do "forwarding" - especially of multiple page reports, sport forms, newsletters, etc. Please do not use colors, or send graphics or pictures. Anything with an attached file will not be opened but will be instantly disposed of. This also includes emails that have an attachment demanding a receipt or written in a foreign language. The volume of dealing with 400 people receiving email each day can be conceivably overwhelming. So we must ask you to follow the rules. Please do not pass out the camp email address to friends other than family. Teenage camper friends like to chat and send 8-10 emails a day! The camp system will collapse under this and we will have to cease distributing all email. We will provide you with the specific E-mail address of your camper upon your arrival! To insure E-mail gets delivered specific village and cabin number must be included in the subject line.

Health Services

Our Health staff includes experienced advanced medical personnel on site at all times, and a camp doctor whose office is ten minutes away. In case of emergency, we use Newton Hospital, which is twenty minutes from camp. When your child arrives at camp, he or she is required to check in at the Health Station. We are required by state law to screen all incoming campers for any contagious illnesses or skin conditions. Please do not allow your camper to use any hair styling products that morning to expediate the mandated head check for lice. The nurse will also check your child's Health Form and ask you for any necessary clarification. This is a good opportunity for you to meet the health care staff and discuss special concerns or situations. **Remember, we cannot admit any camper without a properly filled out Health Form!!!**

If you need to send medication with your child, do not pack it in their bags. All medication must be turned in to the nurse upon arrival. This includes all prescriptions, over the counter medications, and even vitamins. This is a State regulation, so please help us to comply. **By Law, all prescription medication including inhalers, must be brought to the nurse in the original container, from the pharmacy, with the child's name and the proper administration directions on the label!** Our health staff are not permitted under any circumstance to alter a drug's written administration instructions without a doctor's order. Also, by law, the health form must include your doctor's written instructions for administering the RX. We can administer only over-the-counter products on a parent's instruction. Also, remember, if you bring only a few pills in an unmarked container, or mix several types of pills in one container, they can not be administered. If you wish, you may count out the excess number of doses, remove them from the container, and keep them at home in your own container. In fact, it is a good idea. But please, do not do the reverse. Please save everyone a lot of frustration and bring everything in it's original container!

Camp Insurance

YMCA Camp does not carry or offer any insurance for camper health or accidents. All medical bills and expenses are ultimately the responsibility of the camper's family. If needed, it is expected that you will provide for such coverage prior to your camper's attendance. The YMCA does maintain a liability insurance policy, however this requires that you demonstrate in a New Jersey court of law that the injury was a result of our extraordinary negligence and then show damages above and beyond what your insurance already covers. This is a lengthy and expensive process, we are all very, very determined to avoid.

Medical Costs

All medical bills and expenses are ultimately the responsibility of the camper's family. We work with a well respected local doctor on an on-call basis. Should our health care staff determine a visit to the doctor is needed for a camper, we will make every attempt to contact the parents prior to making the appointment. Our camp doctor now accepts many forms of individual insurance from campers. They will bill you directly for any co-pays. If the office does not accept your current form of insurance the cost of the visit is passed onto camp. We will then in turn pass this expense via adding this cost onto your campers trading post account and expect payment before check –out. A detailed bill from the doctor's office will be provided to you, so that you may then process a claim with your insurance carrier for reimbursement.

In the unfortunate and rare circumstance that your camper requires more advanced care we will contact the camper's parents ASAP and the camper will be transported to Newton Memorial Hospital. The hospital will use the information provided on the insurance cards you give us for admittance! The hospital will bill you for any required co-pays. Any expense passed onto camp will be billed in the same manner as we do for the doctor. We will provide you copies of any paperwork issued from the hospital.

Emergency trips to our dentist, optician or orthodontist will be handled in the same manner as a visit to our doctor.

Please review your insurance rules, and in particular if you are covered by an HMO activate any vacation and travel stipulations in place. Please provide us clear notes on your insurance situation. Make sure we know who is your primary care physician is and how to reach them. We maintain retainer arrangements with our health care partners in the community. If your HMO insists the camper be seen by a specific facility it will be necessary for you to make the appointment and to take him/her yourself.

As a result of your HMO's requirements or your instructions otherwise, - neither the YMCA nor any of it's employees or volunteers are in any way responsible for circumstances arising out of or related to delays in providing emergency medical treatment of your child, when we are acting under the instructions, rules, request, or following those specific instructions from your insurance care provider or your primary care physician, or yourself to the contrary of our best judgement. If you have any questions at all about these policies, please call and ask us to explain them.

Laundry

There are no provisions for doing laundry for two week campers, so please be sure to send a sufficient supply of clothing. Campers staying for four weeks will have their laundry done near the middle of their stay, so a two week supply of clothes is required. Please make sure that all clothes are well labeled, and that the camper has a sturdy, cloth laundry bag with their name written on the outside! There is no extra fee for the laundry service. We do our best to provide quality laundry service but there are no guarantees.

Lost and Found

We cannot urge you strongly enough to mark or tag all of your child's belongings. We try to identify and return all loose items at the end of the session. However, every summer, we are left with 15 -20 large garbage bags full of clothes, towels, shoes, hats, sleeping bags and teddy bears. If the items have no names on them, and no child will claim ownership, then the items get shipped to the Red Cross or the Salvation Army. Please be sure to check the lost and found area by the trading post when you come to pick up your camper.

Trading Post

It is requested that all campers deposit money in a trading post account. We suggest \$50 for two weeks and \$100 for four weeks. For your convenience, a suggested deposit amount has been added to your statement. Campers are allowed no more than 2 snacks per day, up to a two week session maximum candy/snack allowance of \$30. Campers are not required to

visit the trading post or spend any of their account balance. There will be one day at the end of each sessions where an exception is made to the 2 snack maximum policy and campers may choose to spend any remaining snack allowance. Careful records are kept, and all unused money in your camper's account can be refunded on the last day of camp. **Any unspent money left in Trading Post accounts after departure day will not be refunded but rather leftover money goes towards the scholarship fund!**

Items available in the Trading Post include snacks, soda, ice cream, camp clothing, stamps, postcards, small toys, batteries, stationary, minor necessities, toiletries and personal items. Also, charges are made to the camper's store account for spending money on trips and any required prescription medicines and unpaid doctor bills. Please do not allow your camper to keep any cash in camp. *We will not be responsible for any losses and any camper found with money will be required to deposit it in the Trading Post.* One last mention - please do not send your camper with extra \$, and then ask us to give it to them on trip days.

Risk

Many activities at camp involve a known and reasonable risk. We do everything possible to minimize them and provide a safe environment for our campers. However, as with any type of high energy physical activity, there is always risk involved and the possibility of the unforeseen. This is to notify parents and campers that they have the responsibility as a voluntary participant to abide by all rules, and to listen to and follow all instructions given by activity leaders as well as using their own common sense. In the event of an unforeseen or reasonably unpredictable circumstance, or an athletic type injury, it should be known that by you and your child's voluntary participation in an activity, you are aware of and have acknowledged the existence of a risk and that you clearly share in its assumption. Camp activities with a known risk factor include all sports, hiking, biking, horseback riding, skating, adventure and camp craft activities, swimming, aquatics, rafting and canoeing, physically active games, archery, nature exploration, riflery, boating, and fishing.

Horseback Riding

This is an option that is available to all campers who are at least ten years of age, as space permits. There is an additional fee, and pre-registration is required. The program includes five days of general lessons and trail riding. Most children in this program are beginner to intermediate riders, and are placed in riding groups accordingly. A child who has had extensive horsemanship experience will likely find this option too basic, and should opt for our Ranch program instead.

There are no refunds if the child attends horseback riding, and then wants to quit because they "do not like it." For this reason, if your child has never rode before, we suggest that you talk it over carefully with them and only sign them up for one week of lessons rather than two or more. If the Riding Director decides that a child is either not physically or emotionally capable of handling themselves on a horse, then we will inform you right away, and a full refund will be issued. This does not apply if the child deliberately misbehaves and disregards the barn safety rules.

For health and safety, all campers who go riding must wear hard soled shoes or boots that have at least a 1/2 inch heel. They also must wear long pants, preferably loose fitting ones. They will also be required to wear a safety helmet, which we will provide.

Ranch Camp

This is a horsemanship program open to all campers ages 12 - 16, subject to space. Pre-registration is required. Ranch Camp is an intensive horsemanship experience, not just a daily horse ride. Ranch campers will spend several hours a day at the barn learning the many facets of horse ownership - grooming, saddling, equine health care, feeding, mucking stalls, care of equipment, breeds, conformation, and of course, riding. The amount of time spent at the barn does limit the time available for other activities, but Ranch campers will still have opportunities to get involved in some of the other great camp programs.

All Ranch campers must bring with them proper riding clothes. This includes a pair of sturdy, hard soled shoes/boots with at least a 1/2 inch heel, and plenty of loose fitting long pants. A pair of work gloves is also recommended. All riders must wear a safety helmet while mounted. Camp provides these, but if your child wishes to bring their own, this is no problem as long as the helmet has an SEI/ASTM approval label inside.

Riflery

The camp offers a BB gun and .22 riflery program. The lead instructors are NRA or Civilian Marksmanship Program certified, and the program is carefully supervised and structured. The program emphasizes safe, responsible attitudes, and focuses on marksmanship. Despite all of this, we realize some parents may object to their child participating in this program. If you choose not to let your child participate in riflery, please make a note on the Camper Confidential Form, and be sure that the child is aware of the restriction.

Religion

Camp Mason welcomes staff and campers from a wide variety of religious backgrounds. We do not promote a specific set of religious beliefs but do teach and profess traditional Christian/Jewish values as a basic part of our program. The camp offers a non-denominational gathering each Sunday, with all members of the camp community attending. However, those services are based on our core values and universally accepted themes such as world peace, equality, friendship, the environment, etc. Graces are said before the meals and are selected and presented by the children, so they tend to represent a wide variety of beliefs. Catholic campers may be transported to Sunday Mass with an advance written request from the parents. Please feel free to use the Camper Confidential Form to share any specific requests or concerns.

Staff

If you ask campers, their favorite counselors are super-heroes. Super-heroes or not, each counselor goes through a rigorous screening process including interviews with the Camp Director, reference checks, and a nationwide criminal background check. We hire people from every walk of life, from all over the globe, who are chosen for their integrity, their energy, and their community spirit, and are passionate about helping us fulfill our mission.

At no time during a YMCA program may a staff person be alone with a single child where he or she cannot be seen, heard or observed by others. As staff supervise children, they must space themselves in such a way that other staff can see and/or hear them. Staff may not be alone with children they meet in YMCA programs outside of the YMCA. This includes babysitting, sleepovers, unsupervised visits or meetings, excess phone calls or emails, inviting children to their home or taking them places after the camp period ends. Please don't encourage or permit this and inform the camp of any violations.

Staff Hiring Process

Camp Mason is committed to creating the safest possible environment for our campers. We currently adhere to the most stringent hiring procedures in the industry when selecting staff to work with kids. We are proud to announce that we are now partnering with Praesidium Inc., a company that includes the foremost international experts in the field of risk reduction and policy assessment related to hiring and supervising employees working primarily with children. They will be actively participating in a continuous review of all our camp's hiring, screening and supervision of employees using cutting edge knowledge, tools and methodology.

Camp Mason expects all of our staff members to uphold the highest industry standards regarding the safety of our campers, and in particular the prevention of abuse. As part of the hiring process all staff are required to sign our Code of Conduct which details our abuse prevention policies and general conduct expectations. We would be happy to send you a copy of this code or address any of your questions or concerns regarding our abuse prevention policies. Please direct any requests or questions to our summer Camp Director via e-mail at wes@campmason.org or by phone at (908) 362-8217."

Photo Release

Camp Mason takes photos and videos throughout the summer of campers involved in every aspect of the camp program. Some of these photos will be put on Camp Mason web sites and/or used in a wide array of Camp Mason marketing material. The identities, addresses, and personal reference of those pictured are kept confidential. Please be aware that by registering your camper you grant permission for their image to be used by Camp Mason.

A Note To Our Campers

(this section is intended to be read by, or to, the children attending camp)

We are excited that you are coming to camp! You will be having a lot of fun, meeting new friends, and trying new things. We want you, and everyone else, to feel comfortable and safe while here at camp. Our rules are intended for that purpose and we expect you to follow them. We will tell you what they are when you arrive on the first day of camp. **As members of the Camp Mason summer camp community, Here is our top concern:**

“Our words, gestures, and actions are intended to care for and strengthen each other’s, body, property, and self-esteem.”

This set of rules, policies and parents advisories are an official part of your agreement with the camp and so noted on your enrollment forms. If for any reason, you can not accept, abide or live with anything here in, please advise us immediately so we can discuss and amend it, or allow the option of canceling your enrollment. Your child's attendance at camp indicates your full acceptance of these rules.

Important Dates for 2008

May 23 Last day for deposit & tuition refund requests.

May 23 Final tuition balances due in full.

June 22 Sunday: Sessions 1 and 1A opens. (2:30-4:00PM)

July 5 Saturday: Session 1A closes. (9:30-11:00AM)

July 6 Sunday: Session 1B opens. (2:30-4:00PM)

July 19 Saturday: Sessions 1 and 1B closes. (9:30-11:00AM)
(note: no stay over between 1B and 2A))

July 20 Sunday: Sessions 2 and 2A open. (2:30-4:00PM)

August 2 Saturday: Session 2A closes. (9:30-11:00AM)

August 3 Sunday: Session 2B opens. (2:30-4:00PM)

August 16 Saturday: Sessions 2 and 2B close. (9:30-11:00AM)

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO CAMP MASON

Camp Mason is located north of the Delaware Water Gap, in rural Warren County. It is about 1.5 hours from the George Washington Bridge, and 2 hours from North Philadelphia, traffic expected.

To reach Camp Mason, take the most direct route to Interstate 80, near the New Jersey, Pennsylvania border. From the New York area, take I-280, I-287 or the GSP to I-80. From the shore, take the GSP to I-287 or I280 to I-80. From Trenton/east Philadelphia routes 31 or 206 north to I-80. From west Philadelphia, or Bucks County rt. 611 N or the N.E. extension to 78/22, east to rt. 33 then North to I-80 East.

From Interstate 80 West Bound (NYC & New Jersey)

1. Take exit #12, Blairstown/Hope. Proceed North off the ramp on 521, towards Blairstown
2. At the T-junction with Rte. 94, turn left (The Forge restaurant is on corner)
3. Proceed ¼ mile to Sunoco and Valero gas stations on left. Turn right, opposite gas stations, and then another quick right onto Main Street.
4. Follow "From Blairstown" directions below

From Interstate 80 East Bound (Pennsylvania and Del Water Gap)

1. Take exit 4C (Blairstown, Rte 94 North)
2. Follow Rte. 94 North to Blairstown (approx. 7 miles)
3. You will pass A& P center and go through one traffic light. At Valero gas station (on right) turn left and then immediately right onto Main Street
4. Follow "From Blairstown" directions below

From Blairstown

1. At the old mill with stone arches (waterfalls and park behind) bear left and go up short, steep hill.
2. At top of hill, bear left at split, and proceed towards Millbrook, on Millbrook Rd. (multi-camp signs on corner)
3. Stay on Millbrook Rd. for about 3 miles. Just past Princeton Camp, watch for Birch Ridge Rd., a right turn. YMCA Camp Mason sign is on a tree on the corner.

Pass one house. Camp Mason sign and driveway are on the left. Proceed to the end of driveway to the office.