



INDEPENDENT LAKE CAMP

celebrating human diversity



Dear Parents,

Since camp is soon approaching, we want to inform you of some important matters.

This letter details information to help you and your camper(s) get ready for camp. Pay careful attention to everything enclosed and the due dates of certain information.

ILC Online—All of your family's registration information is currently available online. You can access it by going to our camp website www.independentlake.com clicking on "Login to Your Account" in the upper right hand corner of the header and signing on with your username and password.

IMPORTANT: If you do not remember your username or password, then please call the office or send an email for help with online access to your existing information. Please do NOT create a new user profile.

Once online, please review and update all of your contact information. We rely on this in order to contact you when necessary. Then you should go down the **Checklist** and fill in the Camper Account, Transportation, Camper Profile, and Bunk Request sections for each of your campers.

Note: If you prefer, you can print out the paper versions of these forms from our 'forms vault', fill them out, mail them to us, and we will enter the information for you. You can find the forms vault in the top right hand corner of the home page at www.independentlake.com.

There are 2 main areas we need to address with getting ready for camp:

#1 The 'forms' that you fill out online at www.independentlake.com that need to be completed by May 31st 2010. Login to your account using your username and password.

#2 The 'forms' online at www.independentlake.com in the 'forms vault' that you should print out, read and keep in a file to use as reference.

The Camper Profile, Camper Accounts, Camper Bunk Request, and Camper Transportation information are all time sensitive and need to be completed online by May 31st 2010.

The Camper Medical form is also time sensitive. This is the only form you'll need to print out, fill out, and post back to us.

Independent Lake Camp is situated in the town of what used to be called Orson, PA. However, due to recent post office closures Orson, PA. and our old zip code are no longer recognized. Please make note of both the **postal** and **shipping** addresses as they are different. THE CAMP ITSELF HAS NOT MOVED.

Our **POSTAL** address is
Independent Lake Camp
PO Box 29, Lakewood, PA 18439

Our **SHIPPING** address is
Independent Lake Camp
70 Clark Rd, Thompson, PA 18465

Please include your child's full name and bunk number (if known) on all letters or packages. Write frequently with good news and in a cheerful tone. Each newly arrived camper looks forward to the first mail delivery. Mail via the US Postal Service takes three days to a week to arrive in camp.

The camp encourages letter writing by having a "letter meal" each session, so expect a minimum of one letter from your child. You will also hear from your child's counselors once a session.

The camp office is open every day from 9:00am to 9:00pm EDT. We are always available to discuss your child's progress or any other matter that may arise. If you need to reach your child, call the camp office and leave a message. All messages are delivered to the camper at the next meal. Campers may call home at their convenience but not during an activity. For after hours, EMERGENCIES ONLY, you can call 570-727-4164. Even though we have an open calling policy, it is from camp phones. Cell phones are not to be brought to camp. Any cell phones found at camp are held by the head counselors until the day of departure. Encourage your child to review their cell phone directory and get all the numbers they need before camp.

Campers love to receive care packages. We do not encourage food in packages, as it causes many unwanted problems that we wish to avoid. However, we do not prohibit individually wrapped snacks, or homemade treats that are meant to be eaten immediately by the entire cabin. There are many other items to send your child that will make him or her very happy besides food. Refer to the camper care package button on the left hand side on the 'forms vault' or go to directly to www.thewrinkledegg.com. Please share this information with well wishing relatives that plan to send packages to your child while they are at camp.

Campers should have pocket money in their accounts while at camp. For our 2 week sessions 1, 2 and 4 we suggest \$125. For our 3 week session, we suggest \$200. Camper Accounts must be set up online at www.independentlake.com by May 31st 2010. This pocket money can be used for lazy day expenses, extra canteen, a phone card, vending machines, or stamps. We also deduct charges from their accounts for off camp field trips and miscellaneous supplies. Please see the camper accounts form online in the 'forms vault' for more details.

Campers who are flying to camp will be sent camp ID that they **must** wear on their flight. For domestic arrivals our staff will meet each camper as they exit the concourse before baggage claim. They will be holding camp signs, wearing camp shirts, and carrying personal and camp identification. International arrivals will be met as they exit customs and immigration. Campers flying home are helped to check in at the airport and are accompanied as far as non-ticketed passengers may go. Our counselors always wait in the airport until the aircraft departs.

We recommend that young children travel as unaccompanied minors. Your airline will be able to give you more information on their specific unaccompanied minor programs. All passports and airline tickets must be given to the office for safekeeping upon arrival in camp. Remember that your transportation information is due by May 31st 2010 and should be entered online at www.independentlake.com. If your child is traveling as an unaccompanied minor please indicate this online where appropriate. Also please indicate your E-Ticket confirmation number where appropriate.

Do not send your child to camp with dangerous items such as fishing knives, pocketknives, fireworks, lighters, etc. **Please check your child's luggage before they leave the house.**

Do not send your child to camp with items such as personal televisions, expensive jewelry, expensive CD/DVD player's, MP3 players, IPODS, PSP's, lap tops, cell phones, or any device that can access the internet . The camp is not responsible for loss or damage to any such items. Once again cell phones are not allowed in camp.

Although we are a non-traditional camp with a flexible program, we do have a structure and there is appropriate supervision of all campers. There are six periods each day and all campers must go to all six periods. Remaining in the bunk during activity time is not an option.

All campers must be present at activities, meals, evening activity, rest hour, curfew, etc. We do have rules, which have been formulated for the general welfare of the entire camp community. They are common sense rules and are enforced consistently. We will be going over all the camp rules with the campers during orientation on the first night of camp. For the added safety of our campers, staff, and facility we have night security.

If your child exhibits concern about going to camp, encourage him or her to talk to you about it. Often specific answers are not necessary after they have had the opportunity to express themselves to a receptive, understanding ear. Your child may be worried about the unknown and is looking for your understanding. It is helpful to tell your child that such concerns are normal and that many other campers feel the same way. If your child has specific worries about bunkmates, food, etc. let him or her call or email the camp office.

Homesickness is a phenomenon that happens to several campers each session. This can be a very difficult time, but a very rewarding experience and time for growth if campers conquer their homesickness. We are committed to help each and every child have a successful experience during their stay with us. One of the most important keys to conquering homesickness is the team approach between parents and directors. Being on the same page is crucial. Please do not commit to your child that you will pick them up, without our input. This takes most of our ability of conquering the homesickness away from us. This may not be easy as children can be very convincing, and hit on all your soft spots. Please call us, and keep us in the loop, so we can work together to guide your child through a very difficult situation.

Please notify us of any upsetting or major event that may have occurred or is about to occur prior to, or during your child's stay in camp. This may include family illness, death, poor school grades, divorce, or moving to a new home or city. This information can be included on your campers' online profile information.

As our **registration agreement** states, there are no refunds at this time. We are very firm on this policy and wish to avoid any uncomfortable situation by reminding you of this. This even includes canceling for summer school. Certain camping industry deadlines have been met and there are no refunds to us from our suppliers and vendors. We respectfully ask that you do not ask for any refunds or credits. The only way to recover any tuition is if you have purchased the Camper Tuition Insurance. This information was included with your confirmation of registration and has also been highlighted in our newsletters. The Company and information for this coverage can be found at www.campprotector.com camp ID# indl99. The Camper Tuition Insurance information can also be printed from our 'forms vault' on our website at www.independentlake.com.

We have an open visiting policy in which you are welcome to visit us on any day. Please call us in advance so we can expect you in camp. Visitors are welcome to join us for meals and activities. You are welcome to take your child off camp premises if you wish. When taking your child off campgrounds you must first inform their counselor and then sign them out at the office. Lazy day is not a good day to visit, as all regular activities stop and we have an optional trip out of camp.

If you would like your child to leave camp with another family, we must have written permission from you on file. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. If there is a custody issue or there are family members who are not allowed to visit or call, please let us know. Although we have an open visiting policy we suggest the last Saturday of every session, as this is our performance day. Performance day is a full day of shows and exhibitions put on by the campers. A *sample* schedule is online at www.independentlake.com in the 'forms vault' for your reference. All performance days begin at 10.45am, and we ask that you arrive no earlier than 10.00am. We need up through 10.00am for camp clean up and final performance day preparations without distraction.

Parents often ask about taking their campers home after performance day since it is the day before the session ends. It is entirely up to you. About 1/2 of the campers leaving that session will leave after performance day. The remainder will enjoy the end of session music video, final campfire, fireworks display and leave Sunday morning. Many campers want to stay in camp as long as possible! Luggage assistance begins at 2.00pm on performance days. All staff members, *including those with golf carts* have other obligations that make it very difficult to help you with bags before 2.00pm.

The following rules must be respected when visiting Independent Lake Camp:

No pets. (This includes handbag dogs)

Cars are not permitted on campgrounds beyond the front gate.

Smoking is permitted in the parking lot only.

If taking your child off campgrounds, you must sign out at the office and inform their counselor. Similarly when arriving back in camp you must sign in at the office and inform his or her counselor. Campers must be back by their curfew.

Performance days for 2010.

1st Session	Saturday	July 3rd	10.45am
2nd Session	Saturday	July 17th	10.45am
3rd Session	Saturday	August 7th	10.45am
4th Session	Saturday	August 21st	10.45am
Elite week	Saturday	August 28th	TBA

Lazy days for 2010.

The middle Sunday *or* Monday of every session is LAZY DAY. Our 3rd session, July 18th–August 8th has 2 Lazy Days. There are no primes or dailies on these days and we offer an optional out-of-camp trip. For campers staying in camp there are organized activities. This summer our lazy day trips are the following:

1st Session Monday June 28th

MOUNTAIN CREEK WATER AMUSEMENT PARK **\$75**

Includes transportation, admission, \$10 spending money, all rides, picnic lunch and BBQ dinner in the park.

2nd Session Monday July 12th

DORNEY PARK WILD WATER PARK & AMUSEMENT PARK **\$75**

Includes transportation, admission, \$10 spending money, all rides, picnic lunch and BBQ dinner in the park.

3rd Session #1 Sunday July 25th **\$25**

MOVIES/MALL choice of five movies.

Includes transportation, admission, soda and popcorn/candy.

3rd Session #2 Monday August 2nd

MOUNTAIN CREEK WATER AMUSEMENT PARK **\$75**

Includes transportation, admission, \$10 spending money, all rides, picnic lunch and BBQ dinner in the park.

4th Session Sunday August 15th

MOVIES/MALL choice of five movies. **\$25**

Includes transportation, admission, soda and popcorn/candy.

The pocket money in your child's bank account should cover Lazy Day outings.

If you do not want your child to attend a lazy day trip please indicate this in the space provided when you set up their Camper Account. If you choose this option, please discuss this with your child. The camp does not call parents whose kids want to go on the lazy day trip once at camp, if you have already indicated no.

Elite Camps for 2010.

Elite Camps are one week specialty camps in some of the programs we offer each session. You can now register for all elite camps online at www.independentlake.com. Elite week starts August 22nd and ends in the morning of August 29th. Each elite camp has strict space restrictions so please register early.

13th Annual **Circus Elite Camp**. August 22nd–August 29th. This is a week of intensive Circus where the campers will train in multiple Circus acts and will work toward a high level performance.

11th Annual **Water-Ski/Wakeboard Camp**. August 22nd–August 29th. Join us for all day instructional or recreational skiing. This program is perfect for all skiers/wakeboarders regardless of skill level.

7th Annual **Gaming Convention Camp**. August 22nd–August 29th. A Role Players dream! One full week of Role Playing Games, creating your own games, live action role playing–LARPING, late night role playing, game designing, a MASSIVE war gaming Army battle with hundreds of troops, intense Magic tournaments and much more.

5th Annual **Equestrian Experience**. August 22nd–August 29th. Horseback Elite will allow the campers to develop a bond with one horse. Campers will have their own horse for the entire week, giving them the opportunity to greatly improve their riding and learn horse care. Activities will include daily lessons, games on horseback, trail rides, rides in the lake, special trips, and other horse-themed activities. There will be a horseshow at the end of the week.

In a camp such as ours, clothing and materials for theatre and art are always needed. Clothing for use as costumes, fabrics, yarns, old costume jewelry, shoes, bags, etc, are useful and are appreciated. If you are in a position to provide any of these materials please let us know.

All campers are encouraged to bring two used books to camp to donate to our camper library. Any amount of used books is appreciated. Campers enjoy reading books on rainy days, in the infirmary, or during their quiet time. In addition, the art room always appreciates old magazine for projects.

When seeing your child off at the bus, make your parting brief and pleasant. Long good-byes and floods of tears are upsetting. If you are bringing your child to camp, please keep your time spent at camp to a minimum. The longer you stay, the more difficult it may become for your child as well as yourself to say goodbye. If your child is riding the camp vans or busses to camp the pick up and drop off time is always 11.00am. If you are driving your child to camp, plan to arrive between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. If you are picking up your child from camp, plan to arrive between 9.00am and 11.00am. Parents dropping campers off are welcome to join us for scheduled meals, and refreshments will be served in the dining room from 1.00pm–3.00pm.

Bunk requests should be made online at www.independentlake.com by May 31st 2010. Bunk changes can be made at 5.00pm on the day of arrival at camp. All directors are busy on opening day and are unavailable until 5.00pm to do bunk changes. Handling the 100's of bunk requests each session can be difficult and sometimes mistakes are made. Please understand that we will make every effort to accommodate your request. However, we'd like your cooperation and understanding, if when you get to camp campers aren't exactly where they want to be or with who they asked to be with. We have flexibility and will do our best to move campers to where they will be happy.

Many parents ask us about tipping counselors on Performance Days and what is appropriate. The recommended amount is \$25 per bunk counselor per session. Tips can be either handed to the counselor directly or taken to the office and left in an envelope to be delivered later by a director.

As camp directors, our role in "Loco Parentis" is very difficult. We must face the dual responsibility of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all campers, as well as overseeing the program to provide both learning and enjoyment. We take these responsibilities very seriously. Accordingly, we have established certain policies from which there can be no deviation. **Smoking, and/or the presence or use of tobacco and/or any other intoxicants or non-prescription drug is expressly forbidden. The camp also reserves the right to dismiss any camper whose conduct is unsatisfactory or inimical to the camp's best interests. In any event, there will be no refund of any part of the camp fee. It goes without saying that possession and/or use of matches, lighters, fireworks, and any other incendiaries, unless part of a program and supervised by a counselor, cannot be tolerated on a campus built out of wood and surrounded by woods. All malicious damage to our property, building or equipment will be charged back to the camper or campers involved. If we are unable to determine the individual responsible for the damages we will share the expense with all related campers.**

Camp is an experience that cannot be duplicated in any other environment, offering your child the opportunity to achieve poise and confidence. At Independent Lake Camp countless hours throughout the year have gone into preparing, evaluating, and amplifying our programs in order to better serve the needs of today's child. We feel you have made the right choice in sending your child to our camp and we, with your help, are well prepared to serve his or her needs.

Don't forget to look in our camp store BUNKLINE. Click the link which you can find on the left side of the 'forms vault' for ILC clothing and camp supplies. All of these are optional items. Included in tuition is a camper t-shirt that is given out once at camp. In addition please don't forget that all items that are brought to camp must be labeled as stated in our packing list. You can purchase labels from Sterling Name Tape Company and can click on their link in the 'forms vault', also located on the left side.

There is still more information that will arrive before the beginning of the summer. Please pay careful attention to all material as it arrives including email, and online and paper newsletters.

We move to camp May 12th 2010 and will have our summer office operating normal business hours May 14th 2010.

If you have any questions or concerns leading up to the summer, please give us a call. 1-800-399-CAMP or email ilcnigel@aol.com.

Yours Sincerely,

Dan & Nigel

Dan Gould & Nigel G Watson
Directors

Winter: PO Box 86 Newberry FL 32669 Phone 800-399-CAMP (2267) Outside USA 386-462-1108 Fax 386-462-1178
Summer: PO Box 29 Lakewood PA 18439 Phone 570-727-4160 Fax 570-727-4176
Email: ILCnigel@aol.com Website: www.independentlake.com