

# Wesley Forest Summer Camp 2016

## New Things

- Human Hamster Balls!
  - Something new for an afternoon activity time. Relays, obstacle courses, and just plain fun. These will also be available for your evening rec time. No, we will not be taking these down the toboggan slide.
- 9 Square In The Air!
  - Will be located near the GaGa Pit and Basketball Court as another free play element. The plan is to make this a movable structure so that we can set it up inside or under the pavilion on rainy days if need be.

## Things To Remember When Planning Your Schedules

- We've gotten very lax on the ending time of camp each week. All Sunday-Friday camps are scheduled to end at 4pm. This is the time of your closing worship, and your closing worship should last no more than 10-15 minutes as a courtesy to parents/families. Please keep in mind some parents have campers at another camp event on site. All campers and volunteer staff should be off site by 5pm.
- Volunteers are to arrive no earlier than 2pm the day before the start of camp.
- All Camp Opening Sunday evening before dinner – 4:30 at basketball court.
- Snack Shack/The Island – Please share with camper parents *prior* to drop off so they can be prepared to leave money. The Snack Shack will be open to all groups every day from 2:30pm-3:30pm. It's no longer a separate activity that you need to sign up for. But please be sure to sign up for it on the activity board, so we know how many groups to expect at once.
- Bucket List – You must let me know if this is something your family groups are planning on doing prior to camp or on Sunday at the pre-camp meeting. Please let your counselors know about this option, so they are prepared before campers arrive.
- Stand Up Paddle Boards are for Jr/Sr high campers only. These may be used for evening rec lake activities.
- Hammocks – will typically be hung up on The Island area outside of the Snack Shack
  - When using hammocks for a special activity time or sleep out, groups must sign up for use and specify location
  - ONLY one person per hammock
  - Excessive/aggressive swinging is not allowed
  - No snacks or drinks other than water may be in the hammock
  - Can be used to sleep in on overnight sleep outs, but overhead shelter is not available

**PLEASE have your weekly schedule, counselor numbers and special activity requests to me no later than 2 weeks before your camping event begins.**

- Plan your activities/use of resources/use of staff around the listed activity times on the Dining Hall porch chalk boards. Here are the times to schedule...
  - Breakfast: 8:00am
  - Activity time #1: 8:45am-10:15am
  - Activity time #2: 10:30am-11:45am
  - Lunch: 12:00pm
  - Activity time #3: 1:30pm-3:00pm
  - Activity time #4: 3:15-4:45pm
  - Dinner: 5:00pm
- If staff is needed after Dinner, please communicate that in your pre-camp information, during Sunday's pre-camp meeting or during morning activity sign-ups.
- Please be respectful of the staff's time and let them know if your group is going to cancel a session they have signed up for.

- We understand that sometimes due to younger camper ages, you create your schedule using different times. When using Wesley Forest Program Staff, please be sure that your activities are ending at the times listed above or earlier so Staff can be available for their next activity group.

### Dining Hall Stuff

**Food Allergies on Registration Forms\***– Deans, please alert Emily or Linda ASAP when you notice a camper registration lists food allergies. We need to be sure to contact the parents of these campers at least 2 weeks before they arrive at camp to determine specific allergies. You may handle these conversations, but please know that Linda and I are more than happy to help with this communication. Severe allergy campers (gluten, dairy, peanut butter, etc) may be requested to bring a supplemental supply of food that the Kitchen Staff will prep separately. Please be sure your counselors understand the severity of any food allergies as it's imperative to the camper's health and well-being.

**Food Allergies During Meal Time\*** – Any campers with food allergies must come up to the food pick-up window to receive their special diet food. Please have these campers wait until all trays are picked up and then send them up for their specially prepared meal.

**Healthy Meals** – Please be sure your counselors are encouraging, noting and making aware healthy eating habits. For example, 3 ladles of Ranch Dressing on a leaf of lettuce probably isn't the healthiest thing for your camper. Please help us take care of our campers' dietary needs and watch what/how much they're eating.

**Responsible Food Sharing** – As always, please be aware all camps share the week's food resources. As we serve family-style meals, let's all remember that we're one big camp family and we need to make sure we're sharing our resources in a responsible manner. Resources like cereal, milk, hot chocolate packets always go quickly. Keep an eye on your campers' intake. We promise, no one will starve

**Food Stays In Dining Hall** – Campers may not take any food out of the Dining Hall. This includes cereal boxes, peanut butter packets, and jelly. Please make corrections if you realize your campers are taking food out of the dining hall.

**Deans Only In The Kitchen** – Counselors should not be in the kitchen. That's pretty straight forward.

\*Food allergies must be known for your volunteer staff as well, and you must communicate your staff's allergies with me at least 2 weeks prior to camp. It's a good idea to have your staff bring supplemental food with them for the week if they have allergies or happen to be a picky eater.

### Tables in the Dining Hall

We arrange tables and the number of chairs at each table prior to your arrival at camp. I know it's confusing, but all meal logistics and food orders are planned around these tables and chairs. Please *do not* rearrange the tables and chairs upon your arrival as it greatly affects food amounts. If you have any concerns regarding table set up please contact Emily prior to your week of camp. The only meal exception we will make for this is Sunday night dinner, but please communicate that with Emily prior to your week of camp.

### Other Stuff

#### Wesley Forest Staff

- We're fortunate to have many of last summer's staff returning. However, we currently seeking a Lifeguard and Nature/Resource Facilitator. If you know of any great candidates, please have them contact me.
- We are not hiring Wesley Forest paid counselors this year, so we will not have any summer staff members available to counsel for your week of camp.
- It is my hope to have a Summer Program Coordinator again this year, though their role will be very different from Kerri's last year. Along with other duties, this individual will be another great Wesley Foerst resource for your camp and volunteers throughout the week – they can help in things like set up for evening rec, assist with last minute schedule changes, and be another resource beyond myself or Dave.

### **Assistant Counselor Clarification**

Elementary Camps – If they are of high school age, they are 18 years old or younger, they are an assistant counselor. 10<sup>th</sup> graders - graduating seniors are considered elementary assistant counselors. Must be 3-5 years older than the campers they are partially responsible for. Assistant Counselors assist the lead counselor, but do not have supervisory responsibilities. Responsible for paying 60% of the Tier 2 cost of camp.

Jr/Sr High Camps – Must be at least 19 years of age (college freshman). It is possible for a 19 year old to serve as a regular (not assistant) counselor for the jr high aged campers, as long as they are at least 5 years older than the campers they are supervising. The only time there will be paying assistant counselors in a jr/sr high camp is if the camp has already maxed out its camper to counselor ratios per Safe Sanctuary requirements.

### **Overstaffed Camps**

In order for all of us to be responsible financial stewards to Wesley Forest Camp and Retreat, it is very important that we all follow the ratios set before us in the Dean's Manual. These ratios are found in the Section 5 of the Deans Manual. If your counselor to camper ratio beyond the numbers listed on the chart, any additional counselors will have to pay 60% of the Tier 2 cost of camp.

### **End Of Week Cleaning**

I hope you find the new cleaning check list helpful. Because of the quick turn-around of campers from week to week, it is imperative that your volunteers and your campers help the Wesley Forest community by thoroughly cleaning their area. Lack of thorough cleaning has become an issue over the last two summers. Let's be sure to help each other out by cleaning up areas at the end of the week.

### **Guests During the Week**

We LOVE when you have guests attend camp. These could be former campers or counselors, family or friends. Please make Emily and/or Dave aware of any expected guests during the Sunday Pre-Camp Meeting. Please note that these individuals may not stay the night. Under no circumstance may these individuals be placed in charge of a group of campers while they are visiting. Any and all guests eating meals must pay for their meal. Breakfast \$8, Lunch \$9, Dinner, \$10.

### **Building Wesley Forest Community**

Never miss an opportunity to interact with the other camps on sites and further build community: sit with each other at meals, invite the "graduating" elementary campers join in a jr/sr high game night, jr/sr high camp invite the elementary camps to play rec games with you or vice-versa. Building community within your week helps strengthen the Wesley Forest community! Please let me know how I can help facilitate your weeks all camp interactions.