

# TANGLEWOOD & BLUEBERRY COVE

## 4-H CAMPS AND LEARNING CENTERS

### MINI CAMP - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We realize that this may be your child's 1<sup>st</sup> overnight camp experience, and as such you and your child probably have lots of questions. We will try to answer some of the most common and essential ones, but if you have any additional questions or would like to visit camp beforehand, please feel free to contact our Camp Directors:

Jessica Decke, Director  
**Tanglewood Camp**  
1 Tanglewood Road  
Lincolnton, ME 04849  
207-789-5802  
[Jessica.decke@maine.edu](mailto:Jessica.decke@maine.edu)

Jonathan Downing, Director  
**Blueberry Cove Camp**  
22 Blueberry Cove Road  
Tenants Harbor, ME 04860  
207-372-6353 or 207-701-7241 (cell)  
[jonathan.downing@maine.edu](mailto:jonathan.downing@maine.edu)

**Can our camper be with their friends?** We attempt to put friends together in cabins when indicated on the registration form or in correspondence with us prior to arrival at camp. Campers close in age/grade will usually be able to bunk in the same cabin because cabins are assigned by age. Cabins are also limited to a maximum of eight campers and two leaders. Remember, camp is a great place to make new friends, and frequently strong friendships develop during the camp session.

**When should we arrive?** Check-in time for the Residential program is **Wednesday from 9:00-9:30 a.m.** At this time, campers will be assigned a cabin, meet their counselors and cabin mates, and settle into the cabin.

#### **When does camp end?**

**TANGLEWOOD:** Parents are invited to attend the **closing ceremony** that begins at **3:00 PM** Check out time is 3:30 p.m. on Friday.

**BLUEBERRY COVE:** Check-out time is **2:00 PM**. Parents are invited to attend the **closing ceremony** that begins at **2:15 PM on Friday**.

*If you need to pick up your child early, prior arrangements must be made with the Camp Director at registration.*

#### **How can we keep in touch with our campers?**

- **Can campers call home?** Our experience has proven that, in most cases of homesickness campers talking with parents is actually harder on everyone. We generally only allow campers to make phone calls home in the event of emergency or in extreme circumstances with permission from the Summer Camp Director. We will call you if we have concerns about medications, homesickness, behavior, etc. We will also call if your child needs medical attention (doctor, dentist, emergency room, etc.), or if your child is in the Health Center for more than 8 hours. *Please do not allow your children to bring cell phones to camp*
- **Can we call our camper?** If you have an emergency, or concern for your child's safety or well-being, please call the Camp Director. If, in a non-emergency, you feel you need to know how your child is doing, please call camp (see contact info above) Wednesday between 7-8 PM or Thursday between 9-11 AM.
- **Can we visit during camp?** Because visits from parents distract campers and interrupt their daily routine, we ask you to avoid coming to camp for a visit while camp is in session. If for some reason a visit or early dismissal is necessary, prior arrangements must be made (preferably in writing) with the Summer Camp Director.
- **Can I send food?** Due to food allergies among campers and staff, we ask that you **DO NOT** send food to camp. Receiving goodies from home may be an old summer camp tradition, but it can also attract insects, rodents and raccoons. In addition to our nutritious, home-cooked meals, we provide snacks and one dessert each day.
- **What's my camper's mailing address?** Family and friends are encouraged to send post cards and letters. To send mail to your camper, use their name and cabin number with the appropriate camp address above.

**What if my child is homesick????** Campers will sometimes get homesick. The process of leaving home can be troubling, and we will do our best to orient campers quickly so they will become comfortable in the camp environment. Our staff is trained to help campers overcome "pangs of separation" and usually we have good success... but families can help too. Here are some hints for you to consider:

- **A positive pre-camp attitude** is often the key to a successful camp experience. Prior to camp try not to tell your child she/he can come home "at any time" if things aren't going well. Instead discuss with them some things they can hope to get from their camp experience: new friends, songs and stories, learning about the natural world, good food, swimming, etc.

- **Write often.** Bright, cheery news is great and your interest in his/her camp program should be obvious. You might wish to avoid writing about your loneliness or how the dog mopes around missing them, but rather how excited you all are to hear the stories when camp is over. If you receive a letter from an unhappy camper, please don't hesitate to call the Summer Camp Director.

Homesickness happens and can be overcome. Your cooperation is extremely valuable to us. The time we all spend will be worth everything in terms of your child's future happiness, self-confidence, and positive growth.

**Who are the cabin counselors?** Our staff are chosen for their maturity, experience with youth, enthusiasm, and love of the outdoors. Some are former campers, many are from Maine, a few are from other countries, many are college students, and all are excited about camp. They participate in at least one week of staff orientation which includes safety/first aid, child development, and program planning.

**Can campers do laundry?** Laundry facilities at camp are for bedwetting or incredibly dirty clothing only. Please send enough clothing to last the entire session.

**Should we bring money?** Campers will not need money during their programs. Tanglewood has a few items e.g. (T-shirts, water bottles) for sale during checkout times on Friday. Parents are reminded to bring extra money if they wish to purchase any souvenirs. We try to keep the cost of the items reasonable, and sell items that meet our sustainability criteria.

**What if we leave something at camp?** Chances are good that lost items will eventually find their way back to their owners if a camper's name is permanently affixed to his or her clothing and equipment. Please check the lost and found area (generally at the dining hall) before leaving camp. If you discover something missing, please contact Patti Chapman (by phone, email, or letter) as soon as possible, and we will try to locate it. At the end of the summer we collect all lost clothing and hold it until October 1<sup>st</sup> at which time it is donated to a worthy cause.

**Do we really need to complete all forms?** While there are numerous forms to complete prior to camp, they are all necessary to protect your child, and to help make his/her camp experience the best possible. Remember, when completing the medical form that your child *has already been accepted to camp, and your answers will not affect his/her status as a camper*. The more complete the information we have about a child, the better we may be able to meet their needs. The Equal Opportunity for All form may be returned with the other paperwork or separately.

**What about medical care?**

**TANGLEWOOD:** has a live-in nurse available for any camper's health and safety concerns; the nurse also distributes medications. We also work closely with a local physician. In addition, staff are trained in emergency care. If emergency hospital care is needed, we will take campers to Waldo County General in Belfast, or call 911 for support. You will be notified if your child requires hospitalization, or if s/he is ill for more than 24 hours.

**BLUEBERRY COVE:** has a doctor approved emergency response plan; we work closely with a local physician. In addition, staff are trained in emergency care; there is an EMT on staff. If emergency hospital care is needed, we will take campers to Pen-Bay Medical Center in Rockport, or call 911 for support. You will be notified if your child requires hospitalization, or if s/he is ill for more than 24 hours.

**What about Insurance?** Tanglewood 4-H Camp & Learning Center provides accident insurance coverage for each camper. The policy covers medical costs for accident related injuries only. It does not usually cover the cost for the treatment of illness such as a sore throat, bad colds, fevers, viruses, etc., unless the illness was a direct result of our camp program. In some instances your personal insurance may be used with your permission.

**What about cancellations?** *Deposits are non-refundable.* The balance of the tuition may be refunded providing the following conditions are met:

1. Cancellation is made at least one month in advance of the program to the Tanglewood 4-H Camp Office, 207-789-5868.
2. The parent or payee requests a refund in writing.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

- ✓ Payment must be made "in full" by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ **Please Return Medical, Assumption of Risk, Photo Release, Equal Opportunity for All and Code of Responsibility Forms a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the start of your camp session.**
- ✓ Please label your child's clothing and equipment.

***THANKS! SEE YOU AT CAMP THIS SUMMER!***