

SOUTHERN MAINE STRING CAMP

NOTES FOR PARENTS

The First Day

Prior to arriving at camp, each camper will need to sign up for a check-in time on our website. There will be three blocks of time to choose from. This is to help streamline the check-in process. When you arrive at camp, you will check in at the dining hall, meet with the nurse/EMT to drop off any meds, and accompany your child to their cabin. You will also have a chance to order bunk and camp photos or buy items from the camp store. This will be your only chance to order bunk photos as they are printed during the week. Once your child arrives at the bunk, they will meet their counselor and go on a tour of camp with their bunkmates. It is best to say goodbye to your child as soon as they are moved in. This will help them to begin to adjust and meet other people. Once check-in is over, campers will have lunch, take a swim test, and have their first orchestra rehearsal.

Phone Calls

Please only call your child if it is very important that you speak to them, but in an emergency follow the directions on the Contact page on the website. If you are the parent of a first-time camper and want to know how your child is doing, please send the Director a quick email. The Director will follow up by gathering information from the counselors and teachers and then email you with a report. Camp is a safe environment for emotional growth and campers often do better if they feel like they're "on their own." This allows for the child to remain independent and you to know they are doing okay.

Mail

As the week at camp is so short, I advise against sending mail to your child, as they may not receive it in time. If you would like to send your child a message, please email the director and we can print the email out for them.

Medicine & First Aid

We do our best to keep the Camp as safe an environment as possible. We have a nurse onsite 24 hours a day. There are several first-aid kits scattered around the camp for the odd bump or scrape.

- Medicine: When families arrive to check in, the nurse will be there to meet you and your child and to make sure the Health Form is complete. All medicines are kept in the infirmary with the nurse. The nurse will administer medicines that need to be taken with meals or bed time. If there are any special medical or behavioral issues we should be aware of, please ask to speak privately with the Nurse and/or Director.
- Allergies: Any food allergies must be described to the Nurse and listed on the health form. If your child requires an EPI pen or an inhaler, please fill out the "Self-Medicare Form."
- Sunburn & Dehydration: Our staff reminds campers almost constantly to drink water and put on sunblock, to the point where the kids think we're obsessive. Please explain to your child the importance of wearing sun block and staying hydrated.

Andria Bacon, Director
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(207) 356-2975

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Bunk Rules

Living together in a bunk is tremendous fun, but it requires patience and cooperation. We have a few simple rules to help everyone have a good time.

- Keep it Tidy! We come to camp to have fun, not clean out rooms, but we try to stick to a minimum of cleanliness. Every day after breakfast there is a short clean-up period that is monitored by the cabin counselor.
- Personal Space: Campers are responsible for keeping their personal area clean and for respecting the privacy of others. At camp, your bunk and your storage containers are the only areas that are really “yours.” It is very important that members of a bunk always ask permission to sit on someone else’s bed or touch their possessions. Nothing in the bunk is locked at camp, so everyone must respect the space and belongings of everyone else. Any theft or unauthorized taking will result in immediate dismissal from camp.
- Privacy: Campers must respect the privacy and modesty of other campers. Everyone (including counselors!) has a different comfort level with modesty and it is very important that everyone feels safe and comfortable.
- Personal Hygiene: Jumping in the lake is not a substitute for a hot shower with soap. We strongly suggest campers take a shower at least every other day. We do not send out or do laundry.
- Candy/Snacks: It is often comforting to new campers to have a small amount of personal food. We ask parents to send reasonable amounts of snacks, and to be sure it is sealed in airtight containers or zip lock bags. Do not send any products containing tree nuts to camp!
- The Bunk Itself: Campers are not allowed to write on, or damage the walls, ceilings, mattresses, floors or screens of the bunk. Parents will be asked to pay the repair costs of any deliberate vandalism.
- Bunkmates: Children are placed in bunks based upon age. If desired, campers are allowed to choose one bunk-mate on the Registration form and both campers must request each other. Every attempt will be made to accommodate these requests, though there is no guarantee that we will be able to do so.
- Boys & Girls may not enter each other’s bunks.

General Rules

- No Swearing: We expect campers to control bad language, particularly the older campers, who set an example for the younger ones.
- No Smoking Cigarettes/E-Cigarettes/matches/lighters: Smoking is not allowed at camp and will result in being sent home.
- No Knives: We do not allow knives of any kind at camp, including Swiss army knives or fishing knives.
- No Electronics: SMSC will not replace any lost or broken electronic devices. Cameras are allowed.
- No soda and gum

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns or questions.

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