

## Parent Information Packet

### **Drop Off/Pick Up**

Arrival is on Sunday afternoon between 3:00-5:00pm, and pick up is on Saturday at 11:00am.

**Arrival:** Arrival is from 3-5pm, but if you're running late, please know it's not a problem. The way it works is that you'll pull into the parking lot and unload your camper's bags. Staff will be there to greet you and direct you through the registration process. If your camper has any medications, the nurse will review them with you. You can also discuss any health issues or concerns you may have with the nurse at this time. We will transport your camper's bags up to their cabin, so no need to worry about that. We strongly recommend saying your "goodbyes" in the parking lot, and not escorting your child up to camp. We think it makes it easier for campers to start getting into the swing of things at camp. If you would like to see our facility, we'd love you to come to one of our open houses on May 8th, May 22nd, or June 5th.

**Pick Up:** Your camper will meet you at 11am down in the parking lot. We will bring all of their bags down for them.

### **Getting to Camp**

Our address is 81 Camp Road in Holmes, New York. We are 10 minutes from Patterson, New York, located off of Route 292. The facility we rent is called Camp Henry Kaufman in Holmes, NY. Please note there are other "Camp Henry Kaufman's", so make sure you include Holmes, NY in your GPS. If you are lost and need help with directions, feel free to call Adam Simon at (845)546-2126 (he can get you more lost).

Our camp is located about 90 minutes North of NYC. Most families drive to camp, but several campers fly to camp from all over. We're happy to pick campers up at all New York airports and bring them to camp for a fee of \$125.00 each way. If your child is flying in and would like to be picked up and/or dropped off at the airport, please fill out the Airport Transportation Form by going to this link: <http://goo.gl/forms/sqEh0BOqLY>. We use a limo service to pick campers up and have counselors at the airport meeting them and escorting them to the limo. We do the same thing for departing campers. If necessary, please make sure to arrange for your child to travel as an unaccompanied minor.

### **Nearby Hotels and Restaurants**

If you come to camp early and would like to go to lunch there are several places to eat in Patterson and Pawling. Some places we can recommend include Abruzzi Trattoria in Patterson, NY, or McKinney and Doyle in Pawling. If you decide you

want to stay over near camp, the closest hotels are in a town called Fishkill, which is about twenty minutes from camp. There's a Marriott, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn, etc.

### **Things to Bring**

Please see the attached packing list for details about what to bring to camp.

We do laundry for campers staying for more than 2 weeks at no charge, but if your child is staying for a shorter time we ask you to pack enough clothes for their time at camp. If you forget to pack anything we will make certain your child has what they need to be comfortable. We recommend using soft duffel bags rather than hard suitcases when packing for camp.

Regarding bedding, everyone sleeps in a twin beds and you can bring sheets and blankets, a sleeping bag, or both. Although it is usually pretty hot while we are at camp, some nights can get a little cool. We do not have any dress codes and kids are free to wear what they want. We like to dress up sometimes, so if you have any costumes or fun clothes, they usually come in handy.

### **Safety/Supervision**

While our camp has a "free" feeling, we are also a closely supervised camp with clear boundaries and rules to help keep everyone safe. There will always be at least one counselor with campers at all times.

### **Camper Population**

Over the course of the summer we expect to have about 250 teenagers come to camp, with an average of about 150 teenagers per session. Our breakdown is usually pretty even in age range from 13-17, and we generally have more girls than boys, (about 60/40). I would guess about 65% of teens will come for one of our two weeks options and the rest will come for one, three, four or all five weeks. At least half the teenagers will be coming to camp for the first time.

### **Housing**

We have very comfortable cabins with five to eight teenagers per cabin. All campers are placed by age and gender, and we generally have two counselors per cabin. We accommodate housing requests whenever possible.

### **Alcohol and Drugs**

We have a zero tolerance towards both alcohol and drugs and if we find camper with either they will be sent home immediately, with no refund.

## **Cell Phones/Phone Calls**

We do not allow campers to keep cell phones at camp, unless they take out the sim card and only use it as a camera. While many camps are giving in on cell phone policies, we think it is better for campers to communicate with the people right in front of them, and not to spend their day texting or calling friends. All campers can use our phones to call home during their second week at camp, and every week after that. We ask them to keep these calls to ten minutes or less. We will let you know what day your teen can call you. Please know that plenty of kids are having too much fun to come to the office to use the phone. Also know that you are welcome to call our office anytime to see how your child is doing, and I promise you, if your child is struggling you will know about it.

## **Electronics Policy & Photos**

We do not have electrical outlets in the cabins, so it can be difficult to charge things, however if your child likes to listen to music, it is fine to bring things like an iPod or MP3 player. We just ask that you not bring items that can connect to the internet. It is also fine to bring cameras, disposable or digital.

Speaking of pictures, we will be posting photos from camp just about everyday. We will be posting them on a Shutterfly account, which we'll send out when we get closer to the summer.

## **Things Not to Bring**

While all the cabins have lights, they do not have electric outlets, so things like hair dryers and curling irons should be left at home. We also recommend not sending your child with anything extremely valuable. We have everything your child will need in the way of yoga stuff, sports equipment and art supplies. We have some musical instruments, (guitars, keyboard, drums), but if you know your child will want to play their own instrument in classes and shows, then by all means, please bring them to camp.

Unless your child is flying in, you really do not have to leave them with money, as there is nothing for them to buy at camp.

## **Choosing Activities**

We offer over 50 activities every day, and campers select four of them daily. Two of them are intensives and continue from Monday to Friday, and the other two change daily. We alternate sign-ups by group each day, so campers who are last to sign up for intensives one week will be first the next week. We try to offer our most popular activities very often. Sundays we sleep a little later and have a lighter program to give campers a chance to relax after a long, activity-packed week.

## **Medications**

There is no stigma in taking medications at camp and we dispense medications at each meal and at bedtime. We ask that you use a service called CampMeds (a pre-packed medication program) to fill your prescriptions. It costs \$50.00, but it makes dispensing medications a lot easier for our nurses. Please visit <https://www.campmeds.com/parent.aspx> and register your child's medication there (you can register before obtaining prescriptions).

## **Missing Home**

I think our camp is very good at helping kids make connections and fast friendships, but it is common for first time campers to experience some homesickness the first few days. Our experienced staff can often help with this. I really encourage you to try not to make too many "deals" with your child about picking them up early if they are not having fun. Obviously that is entirely up to you, but please know your children are in a safe and loving environment and can generally benefit most by staying at camp through the session they are registered for. We have seen teenagers come in to the office and call their parents telling them they want to go home, and when a parent is able to say, "I know you can do this. You have ten more days and I am not picking you up," they usually skip out of the office and tell their friends they are staying.

## **Food**

We have great food at camp and there are always plenty of choices for picky eaters. In addition to the main dishes served at each meal, there will also be a pasta bar and sandwich bar. We also offer campers healthy snacks throughout the day and before bedtime. If your child has specific dietary needs that were not listed on their application, please email [cody@odysseyteencamp.com](mailto:cody@odysseyteencamp.com).

## **Letter Writing**

Campers love to get mail and we strongly encourage letter writing. Our address at camp is:

[Your Teen's Name]  
Odyssey Teen Camp  
115 Camp Road  
Holmes, NY 12531

It would be great if you give your child stationery and stamps, but if you forget, we will provide them.

Please do not send packages with food to camp. We will make certain that campers have snacks every day, and do not go to bed hungry.

If you have any questions or want to talk more about camp this summer, feel free to call or email our Director, Adam Simon any time at (845)546-2126 or [adam@odysseyteencamp.com](mailto:adam@odysseyteencamp.com)