

# PINELANDS CENTER at MOUNT MISERY SUMMER CAMP 2008

## PARENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

**DON'T THROW THIS LEAFLET AWAY!** It contains important information about your child's stay here at Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery. Please read through this information and help your child become familiar with our policies so that his/her experience here will be SAFE, FULFILLING, AND FUN.

**Who we are:** The Pinelands Center at Mount Misery was named after the historical area in which it is located. Originally called Mount Misericordia, meaning "mountain of the merciful heart," it became shortened over time. For almost 60 years, Mount Misery has been, and still is, a place where people can meet God in "mountaintop" experiences and can receive God's mercy while enjoying the natural wonders of God's creation in the Pinelands of New Jersey.

The Pinelands Center is located within the Pinelands National Reserve, a stringently regulated area, the primary purpose of which is to preserve the natural ecosystem which flourishes here. As such, all Pinelands Center events stress our stewardship of the Earth, and encourage the gentle use of our natural surroundings.

The staff here at The Pinelands Center is a combination of volunteer and paid persons who demonstrate their Christian witness and enjoy working with children and youth. Campers will be supervised by capable, mature adults. Our staff usually includes several international counselors, and all staff members meet New Jersey Youth Camp Safety Act and American Camp Association standards to assure parents and campers of a safe and healthy week.

All Pinelands Center Summer Camp events are experiences in group cooperation and sharing. This can be an adjustment for those campers that are not used to sharing a bedroom or bathroom. It is important that your child know that s/he can go to his/her counselor with problems should they arise. Your child's counselor will do everything possible to make your child's stay at camp a pleasant one for all the campers in his/her charge.

**Communicate with us:** With your camper, please fill out the Camper Information Sheet with any information you think would be helpful in making your child's summer camp experience the best it can be. If you have questions, please call the camp office **before** your child's event starts. Don't wait for check-in to ask questions. Check-in can be a hectic time, and we want to be able to devote ourselves to answering your questions without distraction. If you and your family wish to visit our facility, we invite you to call and arrange for a visit prior to the start of the summer camp season.

**Insurance:** Pinelands Center provides primary camper insurance only for injury sustained while here at camp. Your personal health insurance will be enlisted for secondary coverage. Our insurance does not provide coverage for illness, nor for injury sustained before the start of your child's event. If while at camp your child needs to see a physician for a pre-existing condition, we will call you first. You should be prepared to reimburse Pinelands Center for any expenses incurred in such a situation.

**Lodging assignments:** One of the most important experiences of camp is getting to know persons unlike ourselves. Although we try to be sensitive to requests to room with friends, it is not always possible to honor these requests. Please support us in our attempt to promote new friendships at Pinelands Center.

**Camp store:** The camp store (also called the Canteen) is open once a day for campers to buy various items. A representative list of items sold is provided below so that you might plan on the amount of money your camper will need. (Items sold and prices are subject to change.) **Do not send camp store money to camp before your child's event starts.** All store money should be deposited with the Office Manager at check-in. Pinelands Center will not be responsible for any money not handed in at check-in. If your child does not spend all their deposited money, whatever is left over will be returned to the camper on the last day of camp. Your child can choose to take it home or donate it to our Laura Jane Baker Memorial Campership Fund.

### CAMP STORE LIST

T-shirts	\$7 - \$9	Sunscreen	\$7.00
Sweatshirts	\$18 - \$20	Stuffed Animals	\$6 - \$14
Hats (baseball type)	\$9	Keychains	\$3.50
Ponchos	\$4	Mugs	\$4.50
Address Book	\$.75	Water Bottles	\$2.50
Pens, Pencils	\$.50 - \$.75	Jewelry	\$2 - \$5
Postcards	\$.25 - \$.50	Disposable Cameras w/flash	\$10
Stamps	Postal Rate	Flashlights with Batteries	\$3.50
Insect Repellent	\$7.00	Can of Soda or Juice	\$.75
Bandanas	\$2	Sports Blanket	\$22.00

**Meals, snacks, and food from home:** Every day three healthy meals are served at which campers may eat their fill. A snack is served in the evening. Food from home, therefore, is not only unnecessary, but also an enticement for rodents and other creatures. **Please do not bring or send any food, candy or gum from home.**

**Phone calls:** In the event of your child's injury, illness, or severe homesickness, we will call you. Mild homesickness is fairly common, and the child who is sobbing and clinging on Sunday afternoon is usually singing and laughing by lunchtime on Monday. Our caring and compassionate staff is accustomed to helping children get past their homesickness to find that they are able to be away from home and parents and still have a wonderful time. For many children this is a major accomplishment, and its achievement can be a significant milestone in a child's growth.

Please do not ask your child to call home. S/he will probably be much too busy having a good time. In addition, we have found that calling home, or receiving calls or visitors from home, usually makes homesickness worse. For this reason, **phone calls and visits to or from campers are not permitted.** Exceptions must be approved in advance by the Site Director. If you want to check on your child, or want to relay a message to him/her, please call the camp office and our staff will help you.

**Emergencies:** The main phone number for The Pinelands Center is 609-893-3354. The office is open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and during those hours all calls should be made to this number. Outside of these hours, emergency phone calls may be made to the Camp Health Director at 609-893-5303.

**Personal property and lost items:** Please make sure that all of your camper's belongings are marked with his/her name, and that everything is brought home at the end of the camp session. The Pinelands Center is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Unclaimed items will only be held until the end of the summer camping season. Items will be mailed to their owners after the owner has remitted the cost of postage. **Please label all of your camper's clothing and personal items with his/her full name.**

**Gratuities:** The staff members at The Pinelands Center do not accept tips or gratuities. Gifts on behalf of a staff member may be made to the Laura Jane Baker Memorial Campership Fund, the Pinelands Center Campership Fund, or the Hulitt Campership Fund.

**Refunds:** Campers who go home for any reason before their week of camp is over are not eligible for refunds. Refunds, minus \$75 for administrative costs, will be made only if one of the following occurs:

- a. cancellation is received 30 days or more before the event is scheduled to begin, or
- b. sickness or accident prevents attendance, and a doctor's note accompanies the refund request.

**Camp forms and fees:** All camp fees must be paid, and all camp forms, including the Health History, the Camper Information Sheet, and the Camper Covenant must be filled out, signed, and returned **at least 30 days prior to the start of the event. If forms and payment are not received by that date, your camper's place in the program will be forfeited to the first camper on the waiting list with all their requirements met.**

- a. The **Health History** must be signed by the **parent** and the **child's doctor**.
- b. The **Camper Information Sheet** must be signed by the **parent**.
- c. The **Camper Covenant** must be signed by the **parent** and the **camper**.

**Incomplete or unsigned forms will be considered as "not received" and will be mailed back to the parent for completion.**

**Camper mail:** Mail from home is an important part of the camp experience, so please write to your camper often. If you mail your first letter just before the camper leaves for camp, s/he will get it soon after their arrival. Campers can also receive faxes at 609-893-0472 and e-mail at pinelandscenter@yahoo.com, but please note that printing e-mail is extremely time-consuming for our office staff, especially when there are dozens to print. Therefore, e-mail will be printed and delivered as it is convenient for our staff to do so. **Please do not send e-cards or any visual attachments as they cannot be printed.** Camper responses may only be made by way of US Postal Service.

Send mail to your camper at:

CAMPER'S FULL NAME  
CABIN NAME (HICKORY A, LARCH B, ETC.)  
CAMP PROGRAM NAME (SWIM CAMP, SPLASH FEST, ETC.)  
PINELANDS CENTER at MOUNT MISERY  
801 MT MISERY ROAD  
BROWNS MILLS NJ 08015

**Pick-up times:** Campers should be picked up at 10:00 AM on the last day of their event. For most events this will be Saturday. The only exception will be Mini Camp I, for which the pick-up time is 10:00 AM Wednesday. **If your camper is coming to back-to-back programs, please make sure that s/he is picked up on each Saturday.** The only exceptions to this is if a camper is attending both sessions of Mini Camp or both sessions of Out 'N' About, in which case the camper does not need to be picked up between sessions.

**What to bring:**

This is a general list of items that all campers should bring, regardless of their program. Pack enough clothing to last the week, as no clothes washers are available. Try to pack all clothing and small miscellaneous items in one suitcase or duffel bag, and tie your sleeping bag and pillow together or pack them together in a large garbage bag. This will give you only two things to carry and store here. Please mark all items with your camper's name!

You can use this list as a checklist when you are packing. Check each item off as it is packed.

**\_\_\_ A desire to grow in your knowledge and understanding of God**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ___ Inexpensive Bible                               | ___ Sturdy pair of shoes                                 |
| ___ Notebook or paper pad                           | ___ 2 pairs of sneakers (1 old pair)*                    |
| ___ Pencil or pen**                                 | ___ Non-aerosol insect repellent**                       |
| ___ Toilet kit (toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, etc.) | ___ Sleeping bag or sheets & blanket                     |
| ___ Towels and washcloth                            | ___ Pillow and pillowcase                                |
| ___ Sweatshirt or light jacket**                    | ___ Water bottle**                                       |
| ___ Hat**   | ___ Stationery and stamps                                |
| ___ 2 bathing suits                                 | ___ Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher)**                       |
| ___ Rain gear**                                     | ___ 2 beach towels                                       |
| ___ Shirts and shorts                               | ___ 2 pairs of long pants (1 old pair)*                  |
| ___ Socks and underwear                             | ___ Pajamas  |
| ___ Camera & film (optional)**                      | ___ Extra pair of glasses or contacts (if you wear them) |
| ___ Sunglasses                                      | ___ <b>A SMILE (to be shared daily)</b>                  |

\*Campers will need an old pair of sneakers and long pants for some of our special water activities like Pond Studies and Stream Hikes.

\*\*These items will be available for purchase at the camp store during check-in and throughout the week.

**What NOT to bring:**

Knives, water guns, comic books, snack foods, candy, electronics of any kind (such as radios, video games, TV's, DVD or CD players, MP3 players, cell phones or beepers) or other items that may interfere with the planned program. Camp staff has the authority to take and hold such items until the end of the week. We discourage the use of hair spray, mousse, gels, or other products that might draw insects or have an adverse effect upon the environment.