

Journey's End Farm Camp

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LAUNDRY

Preface from 2008 (please read, as it still matters)

“Please begin a conversation with your child regarding laundry. Since we encourage campers to participate fully in life at Journey's End, we would like to continue to provide laundry service. At the same time, we want to encourage thoughtfulness and good stewardship of resources. We will be planting the idea of wearing clothing more than once, twice, or three times – until it needs to be washed but isn't yet offensive. We realize that this may differ from your practices at home, but feel that it's in keeping with our camp philosophy. We ask that you support this by sending fewer items of clothing. We wish it were possible to do minimal wash on site and hang it to dry.”

In 2008, we learned that campers are quite capable of cutting back on stacks of laundry, and proud to do so. In 2009, we made our wish come true – doing essential laundry on site and hanging it to dry. In spite of a rainy summer, the fresh breezes allowed decent drying.

Here is our hand washer from Lehman's Hardware

http://www.lehmans.com/store/Home_Goods_Laundry_Washing_Lehman_s_Laundry_Hand_Washer_32823315?Args=

We no longer pin socks and underwear to mesh bags, nor does anyone drive to Hamlin Laundromat with a van load of clothes each Monday. We continue to use LifeTree biodegradable and phosphate-free laundry liquid. Laundry is a daily addition to farm time (alternating boys and girls) so that a few campers each day will experience washing, wringing, and hanging their essential laundry to dry. We also find it handy for campers and counselors returning from tipi trips and long hikes to incorporate laundry into their return/unpacking routines. We've found that this washer works best for socks, underwear, and t-shirts. Jeans can't be accommodated in the wringer, nor can overalls, but quick-dry shorts and pants do well.

With this new system in mind, please consider sending:

- Used, not new, clothing
- Items that will dry easily
- A minimum of clothing that has lots of hardware that may be damaged by wringers or vice-versa (i.e. buckles, snaps, zippers) We will avoid putting these through the wringer if possible, but they will take longer to dry

Thick towels, thick socks, and heavy sweats and jeans might be replaced by lighter-weight items. Synthetic fabrics dry much more quickly than cotton and are better insulators. Look for gently-used fleece and light-weight pants. Add a thin thermal layer such as Under Armour or Cuddl Duds for warmth. We aren't endorsing any clothing in particular, and we hope you won't go out and make fancy purchases, but you and your child can discuss these ideas in figuring out how to stay comfortable and expedite the laundry process.

We are asking each camper to bring his/her own laundry “basket” (a sturdy cardboard box is fine). Label it, please. It is easier to drop dirty clothes into a basket than to put them in a drawstring bag, and hopefully neighbors can keep their clothing separate. Low rectangular or square containers will fit best under beds if they are **12" or less** in height. The mesh bag on the packing list is now optional but might be a handy way to contain dirty laundry at the end of the session.

IT'S STILL REALLY IMPORTANT TO LABEL EVERYTHING!!

Labels are available at www.sterlingnametape.com – be sure to type **K3108** as your key code during checkout. (They do have sew-on tapes even though I'm told they don't show up on the website)

We would like to offer the following guidelines for children who may wet their beds: The camper should ask a counselor to help him/her to remove all wet bedding. Blankets, comforters, and any other large items should be hung out on the clothesline (weather permitting). Sheets, pj's, and other wet clothes will be taken to the house washing machine by a counselor. The camper will be responsible for reminding the counselor to bring the clean, dry sheets back to the bunk area before the end of the day.

When possible, the bed should be remade right away. If not, it should be done at dorm work time (after breakfast) or at the beginning of rest hour. Campers who are regular bed wetters should have sheets on their beds, extra sheets on hand, and bring a waterproof sheet. The only time they should use a sleeping bag is for overnights. If you know that bed-wetting is a possibility, please make a note of it on the health form. Counselors will then know to choose a waterproof mattress for that child (we have several, but some mattresses have cloth coverings).