

**KINGSWOOD CAMP INFORMATION PACKET
2014 SEASON**

WINTER ADDRESSES

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SUMMER ADDRESS

949 Route 25C
Piermont, NH 03779
Office Phone: 603-989-5556
Camper calling: 603-989-5435
Fax: 603-989-3114

Many forms available for download:
www.kingswoodcamp.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. From June 15 through August 31, the directors may be reached at camp. Except for an emergency, please call us during office hours: 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. - Monday through Saturday at 603-989-5556.
2. As a general rule, we do not permit the boys to call home. However, an occasional call from parents to their sons is permitted. **603-989-5435** The boys are accessible to the phone exclusively at mealtimes: 8:00-8:30 AM, 12:45-1:30 PM, 6:00-6:30PM. Please do not call prior to the meal. More often than not, the boys have not yet arrived at the dining room and they cannot be paged. Since many calls are received during these times we ask that conversations be limited to seven minutes. It is the camp's strong feeling that you should allow about ten days to pass before you initiate the first call. By this time, boys will be largely acclimated to camp and fewer breakdowns (at either end!) are likely to occur. Note that Wednesday and Saturday evening cookouts often render the boys far away from the phones and difficult to page. On Sunday mornings we provide a continental breakfast. Boys come down to eat any time between 8 A.M. and 9:30 A.M., therefore we don't answer the phone on Sunday morning. Also, on occasion, we give the boys an extra 30 minutes or even an hour of sleep-in time on Saturday, thus delaying breakfast.
3. Communication is important at Kingswood. Our e-mail addresses listed at the header of this document are the best way to get in touch with us. We post daily photo blogs and weekly videos through our website. Boys must write home at least once a week. We encourage parents to write often, as your sons appreciate hearing from you. To get him to write you more often, arrange a "one-for-one" letter writing bargain!
4. If you have a summer address that is different from your regular address, please notify us and provide the telephone number along with the appropriate dates. Itineraries of trips involving parents are appreciated too.
5. The balance of the tuition is due May 1 and you will receive an invoice from us in April. We must have payment before your son may attend. Kingswood's refund policies are as follows:
 - refund of deposit -- deposit refundable through March 1 of the current year and thereafter applied to next summer's tuition
 - refund of camper tuition after May 1 and before camp begins -- no refund is made unless a subsequent enrollment fills the spot made by the cancellation
 - withdrawal for health reasons (upon the recommendation of the camp doctor) -- financial loss will be shared equally between camp and parents
 - withdrawal by parents after camp begins OR withdrawal by decision of the Directors -- due to fixed costs and expenditures based on definite enrollment, no refunds or reductions can be made.

BAGGAGE AND EQUIPMENT

All campers traveling to camp by means other than by car must ship their trunks and duffels prior to the camp session. Reason: there seldom is room enough on the bus or van from the airport to camp. To be safe, please plan to have the baggage arrive approximately one week before your son's arrival. You may wish to send appropriate keys or locker combinations ahead of time for safekeeping.

Kingswood has a baggage delivery contract with Camp Trucking Service, P.O. Box 6310, Avon, CO, 81620 (970-949-0690). This company provides door-to-door service both ways and is available to almost all of you. Details regarding this service are provided on our website. UPS also provides a reasonably priced baggage service. Forms are available from the camp website and families pre-pay with credit cards.

Everything Summercamp (www.everythingsummercamp.com) provides a solution to the perennial difficulty we have with cheap trunks. Recommended: "The Happy Camper" – the model that fits best under Kingswood beds. Larger items and bulky gear should be packed in a duffel bag. For most boys, a small/medium trunk and a medium/large duffel are appropriate. (Substitutions of "soft" luggage pieces of most any description are welcome.) Another standard suggestion we make is that while a boy is welcome to bring personal gear that is important to him (tennis racket or baseball glove, for example) it is not necessary. Remember, Kingswood has all the gear needed to equip boys for any activities and no camper will ever be excluded for failure to have a personal item. We get more questions about sleeping bags than any other item and the answer is simple – bring it along! Boys use sleeping bags as an extra blanket and on those especially chilly evenings cuddle up inside for extra warmth!

Despite everyone's best intentions, it comes as no surprise that boys misplace tons of gear. We do our best to distribute lost and found on a regular basis, but the fact remains that quite a bit of stuff gets left behind on departure day. Our policy is to return to you by mail any expensive items we discover (and usually not until late August, when everyone has cleared out,) saving things like shirts and towels until next year and simply tossing out socks and other grubby things deemed not worth anyone's while. Please call or email us right away if you want us to attempt to track down any specific items. A useful preventative measure would be to label all items with your son's name. The Kingswood Packing List, which is on the website, provides additional details.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION TO PARENTS

Quite a few families rely on Kingswood to provide transportation for campers between camp and home or pick-up/drop-off points. With arrivals, it is understood that children sometimes may be in the custody of public transportation operators until the Kingswood escort/chaperone arrives. The camp person shall wear a staff shirt and will have a list of campers under his/her purview, provided by the directors. On drop-offs, unless a parent is otherwise notified, the Kingswood escort shall remain with the campers until they board. In the case of officially chaperoned travel, the chaperone will remain in the terminal area until the last camper has been greeted by his guardian.

Whenever Kingswood vehicles are used to transport campers, strict safety procedures are enforced. Boys must wear seat belts, refrain from any horseplay or distracting conduct, and must otherwise obey all requests and commands issued by the staff drivers and supervisors. When a Kingswood van is used for travel to pick-up/drop-off points, a cell phone is carried by the driver to ensure fast communication with the camp in case of any unforeseen circumstances. If it is deemed appropriate, parents will be apprised of these events by phone.

In recent years, we have noticed a significant increase in family requests for special transportation to airports on days other than our normal travel dates. While we always will be sympathetic to your needs, please understand that it presents a hardship for the camp to pull a staffman off the job on these odd occasions. First, we ask that no one book his son on a flight without our pre-approval of the plan. Second, with the exception of the official travel dates we ask that "odd time" travel be on a Saturday if at all possible. Pierson Transportation, the local school bus company who has driven Kingswood boys for years, has welcomed the opportunity to work directly with camp families for special chaperone needs. Call 802-439-5745 or e-mail piersonstrans@gmail.com and ask for Wade. Be certain to inform us of specific details of any arrangements you make with Pierson.

HEALTH EXAMINATION

Health forms are now done through CampDoc.com. We must have all required forms and paperwork on file prior to your son's arrival at camp. All campers must have a physical examination done within 12 months of attending camp. There can be no exceptions to this strict standard and boys who fail to have this form completed will be examined by the camp doctor (Upper Valley Pediatrics) before being allowed to participate in any activities.

PARENT NOTIFICATION

In case of emergency, we will contact you as soon as possible. Parents will be notified by phone under the following circumstances:

- A camper requires medical treatment off the camp premises
- A camper spends the night in the infirmary
- A camper sustains injury or illness deemed significant enough to require phone consultation with local health care providers (head injuries and possible bone fractures)
- Parents request a consultation regarding any ongoing health issue
- The director asks the nurses to contact the family out of courtesy or other reason deemed valid, or if the nurses make the same determination without directorial guidance.

Kingswood nurses and directors generally will not contact parents if a camper is seen in the infirmary for routine problems (e.g., skinned knee, headache) that do not require a physician referral. The decision to consult you in these situations is determined on a case-by-case basis by the camp nurse. If this notification notice does not meet your needs, please contact us.

ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Every Kingswood activity, including off-campus trips, is completely supervised by qualified camp personnel. Most activities, including morning clinics, special games, trips, and all-camp events, are guided by specific written procedures. These procedures are welcome to be reviewed by any parent who requests them.

In only two circumstances is the safety of Kingswood campers relegated to others. Whenever a large group of campers needs to be transported at one time, Kingswood engages the services of a local school bus company, which is certified, insured, and uses drivers who drive year-round for the local schools. We know many of the drivers personally, appreciate their knowledge of local roads and driving conditions, and are fully confident of their skills. Kingswood staff always serve as chaperones. Expect your son to be riding in a school bus three or four times in a typical three or four week season. The other group to assume direct responsibility for Kingswood boys is the Whale's Tale water amusement park in North Woodstock, New Hampshire. As every camper knows, we spend a full day each session at this attraction. Large numbers of camp staff, many of whom are certified lifeguards, accompany the boys as chaperones, and certified lifeguards are provided by the park as well.

PACKAGES TO CAMPERS

Boys may receive any number of non-food mailings. Food packages are limited to one per 2-3 week stay and two for longer tenures. The contents of all packages are examined by an administrator. Due to an increase in extreme peanut allergies, we ask that you not send food-stuffs containing, or packages in a plant that processes nuts. If you send baked good, please include an ingredients list. Items that contain nuts or are processed in a plant that processes nuts will be confiscated. No food or beverages may be brought to camp initially and boys may expect us to check for that during the first cabin meeting.

MONEY AT CAMP

Replacement items such as soap, tooth paste, writing materials, batteries and insect repellent are available to the boys at no cost as the need arises. Naturally, your assistance in packing an initial good supply of these items is appreciated. Regarding spending money for off-campus trips, the tuition now covers a cash bank account for each camper. Boys will be granted a generous amount of money as occasions merit. Out of a desire to be fair to all, we ask that boys bring no cash with them to camp.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE POLICIES

Campers and parents must understand that Kingswood has a zero tolerance for anyone's possession of illegal substances and weapons. Campers may not possess inappropriate items such as pornography, flammable materials, or "play" weapons such as slingshots. Nuisance items such as water balloons and shaving cream have scant use at Kingswood and campers are expected not to attempt to use them. While boys are free to keep their possessions under personal lock and key, they can expect us to ask them to show us what they have brought to camp. Beyond that, the camp maintains the right to order searches and seizures whenever probable cause or appropriate suspicion warrants.

In keeping with our philosophy of being "unplugged," Kingswood has changed its policy about electronic equipment. **The only devices allowed at camp are those that are used exclusively for music storage. No phones or devices with games of any kind are permitted.** If a camper is traveling to camp and you require that he has his phone for communication purposes during travel, we will hold on to the phone during his stay at camp and will return it when he leaves. Beyond our philosophical reasons, there is also the consideration of safeguarding expensive items boys bring to camp. Kingswood elects to be an open community with very few locked doors and where just about anyone can come and go as he pleases. Thefts of opportunity, while available, happen very seldom at Kingswood. It is best to be cautious with expensive or sentimental items and simply not bring them into harm's way. Our advice is that parents supervise the boys' packing and know what they are bringing to camp. We will ask them to show us. (We do recognize the need for some campers to have access to reading material on a device such as a Kindle or iPad. If this is the case, please contact us to discuss the specific needs of your son.)

DEALING WITH ADJUSTMENT TO CAMP LIFE

The following sentences are taken from the Kingswood Staff Manual and are discussed at length during orientation week before the boys arrive: "Beware that homesickness can strike at any age. The problem for us is not so much to ascertain *why* a boy feels homesick, but *what* to do about it now. The symptoms are easy to spot: apathy, lethargy, lack of appetite, tears. Sometimes a boy will be straightforward with you and tell you he is homesick, while at other times he will invent some excuses, usually unfounded. ("No one likes me," or "It's boring here.") The best approach in either case is to give the boy a sympathetic, understanding ear and get him to acknowledge the truth. Once you gain his trust, get the boy to turn his attention to the positive forces of camp while acknowledging the occasional need to return to the homesickness issue. Always try to keep the conversation positive. Be sure not to give the boy permission to call home or to leave camp early. Please do not bring homesick boys to me unless I have asked you to. You may assure any boy, however, that I am fully apprised of the situation and will speak to his parents and describe his concerns to them. Lastly, follow up regularly until the homesickness begins to dissipate – in most cases after only a few days."

Many boys require several days to fully adjust to camp life. Do not be too concerned if the first letters home contain several negative thoughts. Letter-writing takes place during "down" time, the most likely moments for pangs of homesickness to creep into one's conscience. Rest assured that we have identified homesick campers and are in tune with their needs. Keep in mind that you might receive unhappy letters early in your son's stay at camp- but by the time the letter arrives in your hands he has become much more positive about how things are going. Before your son leaves for camp, you can lay the groundwork for a quick adjustment to life away from home. Rather than reassure your son that he will probably not be homesick, acknowledge that it could happen but he will overcome it. When preparing for camp, keep the dialogue positive and **under no circumstances tell him that if he is homesick or does not like camp he may leave.** Instead, remind your son that homesickness is like a headache – it surely is unpleasant, but short in duration and rarely disabling. Thus prepped by you, a boy who experiences temporary and expected discomfort will face a much less difficult adjustment to camp. An excellent resource for parents is the book by acclaimed child psychologist, Michael Thompson, *Homesick and Happy: How Time Away From Parents Can Help a Child Grow*.