



LAKETRAILS BASE CAMP

CAMPER WORKER PROGRAM

Introduction and Definition

A camper worker is an experienced Laketrails camper who assists in the maintenance of Laketrails island in exchange for part of the cost of his/her camping fees. To be a camper worker you must be at least 16 years of age and have attended at least one Laketrails' session. You should be knowledgeable in the Laketrails program and be enthusiastic, friendly and flexible in nature. Most importantly, you must be willing to act as a positive role model for other campers.

Actual camper worker positions vary a bit from year to year, but generally consist of the KP Boss, Sanitation Engineer (outhouse cleaner), Floor Specialist, and Kitchen Assistant. In addition, camper workers do much of the lawn mowing, help care for the Camp's boats and often help with special projects such as digging crud pits or moving outhouses. Camper workers assist the guides on canoe trips and, at times, are called on to help teach skills like canoeing to the other campers. **Occasionally camper workers are asked to stay in Base Camp to complete a project or work assignment for one session during their tenure at camp.**

Camper workers have opportunities for many experiences not available to all campers. They stay at Camp between sessions, and they participate in some of the staff meetings. They also witness many of the "inner workings" of the camp, and have chances to provide their insights to the camp staff. For this reason, camper workers often become an important informal link between campers and staff.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information on policies that you should know before you agree to be a Laketrails camper worker. There are some important issues (e.g. fire and evacuation procedure) that we feel are better covered in person during your orientation. Because it is difficult to foresee all situations, there may also be some items we have not addressed which are important to you. If this is ever the case, please contact the camp director for additional information or clarification.

BELL SYSTEM

Laketrails lives and dies by the bell. It is our main way of getting everyone on the island together on relatively short notice. The bell is used to call us to such activities as meals, meetings, camper/guest arrivals and emergencies. Unless other directions have been given, anytime you hear the bell, you should gather in front of the Lodge (inside if it is raining) as quickly as possible (but within five minutes in any case).

BOATS & BOAT SAFETY

Laketrails boats are to be operated by experienced boat operators only, and only with pre-approval from the Boating Director or Camp Director. Under no circumstance should any other staff person, camper or guest use the boats. This said, camper workers are strongly encouraged to participate in the Camp's boating program with a chance to earn their Pilot's License or the very prestigious Skipper's Papers.

CABINS

Communal living in small cabins is not an easy task and cannot be accomplished without the effort of all individuals in the group. The state of the cabins is a reflection on the camp. Therefore it is expected that they be kept clean. Your clothes and personal gear should be stored neatly underneath your bunk or in some kind of storage container near it (i.e. trunk, chest of drawers, duffel bag). At no time should your things be scattered all around the cabin. Your sleeping bag should lie neatly on your bunk or be rolled up. **Please limit the amount of personal belongings to what you truly need for a 3-4 week stay at Laketrails.**

DUCKS NEST

The Ducks Nest is the camp store at Laketrails. In the store we have Laketrails clothing and souvenirs. The Ducks Nest is open after most evening meals and at other pre-announced times.

When you come on the island you will be advised to put all your money, wallets, and other valuables in the canteen. You are then allowed to charge items up to the amount you have on deposit there. If you have a desire to charge an amount over your reserve you must first have permission from the camp director. **Money and valuables not placed in the canteen are held at your own risk!**

CD PLAYERS & BOOM BOXES

Recent years have seen a proliferation of CD players and boom boxes at Laketrails. While we understand the desire of many of you to be able to listen to your favorite tunes, please remember that many people come to Laketrails to get away from this and other noise pollution. "Canned music" machines should be used only in areas where they are authorized, and should not be left playing when you are not in the area. **CD players and boom boxes are specifically prohibited in the camper cabins.** We are also concerned about the type of music played. **CD's or tapes which contain profanity, violence or other offensive material will not be permitted at any time. If these types of CD's or tapes are found at camp, they will be confiscated.**

CONCERNS OR GRIEVANCES

Acceptance, equality and respect for the dignity of others are essential to the Laketrails philosophy. We expect that you treat staff, one another and other campers with respect. Likewise we expect the Laketrails staff to show you that same level of respect.

If you feel that you are not being treated in this manner, or have any grievance in regard to policy or treatment, report it immediately to the camp director. **We promise to consider all matters seriously, but we cannot act if we are not aware of your concern.**

CURFEW

Most of us need a regular amount of sleep each night to be able to function well and enjoy each day. We also want campers to get the most out of their experiences at Laketrails. We have found that a daily curfew helps accomplish this goal. As a camper worker you are expected to be a good example. Please be in your cabin helping to settle things down by the appropriate time. If you feel you have a legitimate need to stay up beyond curfew, you must ask the camp director for permission. Curfew will generally be relaxed between sessions.

FAMILIES OF CAMPER WORKERS

Many families and friends of our camper workers and staff have an interest in visiting the place that has made such a large impact in our lives. We are grateful for this interest, and encourage these people to visit Laketrails at one of the times designated for friends and alumni, such as Memorial Weekend, general camp reunions and other similar events. Because of our tight schedule during the camping season we generally discourage visits at this time. **If your family is planning a visit, please ask the camp director for a copy of the Board's Visitor Policy before final plans are made.**

FIRE/EVACUATION PROCEDURE

Aside from the water, fire is the greatest safety hazard at Laketrails. For this reason we have a fire and evacuation procedure which will be discussed at length during your orientation.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

As humans on this remarkable planet earth we all need and consume "Mother Earth's" resources to survive. In the United States we are often accused (and justly so) that we take more than our fair share of the planet's resources. At Laketrails we try to be good stewards of the earth by reducing our consumption, by recycling, by composting and by other appropriate practices. Disposal of garbage, burning and recycling are all duties of the Laketrails camper worker. Details related to garbage handling and recycling will be discussed during your orientation.

ILLNESS OR INJURY

Any time you do not feel well enough to complete your assigned duties, or participate in the Laketrails program, please tell the Camp Health Manager, the Camp Director or your supervisor. We will see that you get appropriate medical treatment and that your duties are reassigned.

KITCHEN USAGE

For the health and safety of all of us it is important that the kitchen be kept as clean and free from germs as possible. The more people in the kitchen the greater the opportunity for bacteria to spread and the greater the risk to our health. For this reason, the kitchen area is off limits to anyone who is not assigned to work there, or who is not helping to prepare a meal. The kitchen is also the area in which food is stored that is to be used in the preparation of meals. Outside of organized meal or snack times, the food in the kitchen or food storage areas is not available for staff or campers without the permission of the Cook.

LAUNDRY FACILITY

Laketrails has a modern laundry facility for those who spend more than a single session at camp. Because this is a new building, we need to work together to keep it looking great and functioning properly. Use and care of this facility will be discussed in detail during your orientation.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

If you need medical supplies of any type, you must see the Camp Health Manager or staff person on duty. Under no circumstances should you go into the medicine cabinet yourself. All supplies taken from the cabinet must be recorded in the "medical log." This log includes the name of the person requesting supplies, the date and time, the medical situation (headache, cut etc.) as well as the supplies used (2 aspirin, one Band-Aid, etc.). For the health and safety of all it is imperative that this policy be strictly followed.

MOOSE TRAIL

In the early days, Laketrails had separate boys' and girls' seasons. There were separate staffs and absolutely no boys could be on the island when the girls were there and visa versa. Today, Laketrails is coed. However, the concerns for privacy and proper boy/girl conduct remain the same. Therefore, Laketrails has a strict policy on locations and places where boys and girls can mix.

1. NO GIRLS IN BOYS CABINS AND NO BOYS IN GIRLS CABINS EVER!
2. NO LEAVING YOUR CABINS AFTER CURFEW EXCEPT TO USE THE OUTHOUSE.
3. NO UNCHAPERONED MEETINGS BETWEEN GIRLS AND BOYS EVER

The wilderness can be an extremely romantic place, and it is only natural that you may become attracted to another person while at camp. However, we ask that you remember the purpose of Laketrails and save any romantic relationship you may want to have for home.

PERSONAL GEAR/PETS

Laketrails is a wilderness camp located on a small island. You are reminded to limit the personal items you bring to camp to those items you will be using during the summer months. While Laketrails will take reasonable precautions to protect your possessions, Laketrails will not be responsible for stolen, lost or damaged articles unless the Camp has made a written guarantee to protect the item. The Camp will be responsible for those valuables left in the canteen to the extent the Camp is aware of the value of the article when it is left.

Any personal items found lying around will be picked up and put in the lost and found box and it will be your responsibility to locate them there. If you fail to remove them before you leave for home, they will be returned if they can be found, and if you prepay the packaging and postage fee.

Personal pets are **not** permitted at Camp.

PHONE USAGE

Laketrails is a wilderness camp. Most people come here to get away from phones, television and other technology of the city. If you need daily contact with a family member or friend, then Laketrails probably isn't the place for you. That said, a phone for general use has been installed at Laketrails. This phone is located in the library in the new Program Building. All other phones are for business or staff use only. In using the phone we ask that you:

1. Use only the designated phone.
2. Call collect or use a calling card
3. Limit phone use to 5 minutes when others are waiting.
4. Notify friends and family of this policy

POWER TOOLS

All power tools, including but not limited to chain saws, skill saws, drills, power mowers, etc., on the island are to operated only by those individuals who are trained to use them. The Maintenance Director will authorize those he feels have adequate training and experience to use any of these tools. Please do not use a tool unless you have been okayed by the Maintenance Director.

PROFANITY

Profanity is not acceptable! Remember, at Laketrails we are all role models for young people (even you who are young people yourselves!). The words others hear from us are the words they are likely to repeat. An occasional slip may happen due to stressful circumstances, but repeated use of profanity will be grounds for discipline. People who use profanity are to be treated respectfully, yet firmly. Often they may not realize their words are offensive to others. Sometimes they have developed a bad habit that is difficult to break. Providing them with some ways to change this habit is often more effective than simply demanding that they stop.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

As camper workers, you are representatives of Laketrails. Laketrails is part of a greater Island community and we ask that you conduct yourself in a manner consistent with the Laketrails philosophy at all times on and off the island.

SHOWER USAGE

Laketrails laundry building also houses shower/washroom facilities for staff and camper workers. The washroom, which also houses the washers and dryers, provides a space for such activities as brushing teeth, putting in and taking out contacts, etc. The drawers in the main cabinet under the sinks are available for the use of staff and camper workers. Generally, there are only enough drawers for one to an individual or family.

Individual shower stalls are available for staff and camper worker use between sessions. **However, shower stalls are locked during camper sessions.** Lake bathing during the sessions provides an example to our campers. Use and care of this facility will be discussed in detail during your orientation.

Other campers are generally not permitted to use this building, and it should be considered off-limits to them.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

In recent years we have seen an increase in youth use of tobacco and alcohol. As representatives of Laketrails and role models for other campers, use of these products by camper workers has a very detrimental effect on the Laketrails program. In our "Camper Worker Agreement" we ask you to pledge that you will not use these products while at Laketrails. **If you are not fairly certain that you can keep this pledge, it would be better not to be a camper worker.**

Tobacco Use:

State Law prohibits any one under the age of 18 from using any form of tobacco product. Any camper worker caught using a tobacco product or in possession of a tobacco product including cigarettes and chewing tobacco will be subject to the following disciplinary procedures:

First offense - Product confiscated and parents notified; possible loss of camper worker status

Second offense - Parents notified and asked to pick up camper*

Alcohol Use:

State Law prohibits anyone under that age of 21 from buying or using any alcoholic product. Any camper caught consuming, under the influence of or in possession of any alcohol product will be subject to the following disciplinary procedures:

First offense - Product confiscated and parents notified; automatic loss of camper worker status

Second Offense: Parents will be notified and asked to pick up camper*

Drug Use:

Laketrails is a Drug Free Environment. Any camper caught using or in possession of any illegal drugs will be sent home immediately and the proper authorities will be notified.*

*** No camping fees will be refunded**

*** Laketrails reserves the right to bypass first offense procedures depending upon the severity of the infraction and the response of the individual.**

VIOLENCE

In recent years we have seen an increasing incidence of violence at Laketrails which seems to mirror what is happening in our larger society. So far, our camper workers have not been directly involved in any of these situations. However, we feel a need to state that Laketrails will not tolerate violence between campers or between campers and staff. Depending upon the severity of the behavior, acts of violence may be subject to immediate dismissal from Laketrails.

WORK VS. PROGRAM

All of us come to Laketrails to have fun. For some of us, our work is our fun. (Weird, isn't it!) Most of us, though, need time to play to be fully satisfied with what we are doing. Operating as a residential camp, there are very few times when anyone on the Laketrails island is truly "duty free." Saying this, we will do our best to assure that each camper worker has adequate time to "play"—to experience the Laketrails program in company with our staff and other campers.

Still, you will all have jobs which need to get done on a regular (usually daily) basis. When you are assigned a task, it is your responsibility to see that it is completed well, and on a timely basis. If there is a conflict between your assigned task and the camp's program, you must ask your supervisor for guidance about which is more important at that moment.

Over the past 4-5 years, camper workers have generally gone out on canoe trips during most sessions. Throughout much of Laketrails history, though, camper workers usually stayed in Base Camp one or more sessions during the summer to work on various camp projects. This was also the time when many of them completed much of their work on their Pilot's license or Skipper's papers. Because of the increasing work load at Laketrails, we are returning to our historical policy. Camper workers may be asked to remain in camp for one session to complete work assignments and work on boating or other areas of program. Generally this will be asked of only one or two camper workers at a time, but there may be occasions when camper workers as a group are asked to stay in camp to help with a project.

ATTITUDE

Attitudes, closely allied to motives, are important in our decisions and actions and are reflected in the way we live. Camp life is a natural environment for forming good attitudes and for changing bad ones. Ideas alone do not move people to decision and action. It is our attitudes toward the things and persons we know that is of most importance, because attitude combines thought, emotion, and choice.

A loving attitude is an invaluable asset to any person, but especially to the Laketrails camper worker. Below is a quote that really puts this value into perspective:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstance, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with YOU,...we are in charge of our attitudes."

---Charles Swindoll

Take this quote to heart, camper workers, and you will have a wonderful Laketrails experience.