No Package Policy

After years of a very relaxed policy on items that could be mailed to campers, we became aware of a steadily increasing influx of “stuff”, and some unhealthy side effects. We realized that the packages caused jealousy among campers who didn’t get one or who didn’t get as many as a cabin mate, so parents often felt pressure to send things. Cheap toys abounded, often winding up in the trash or left lying around camp. So, we have instituted a NO PACKAGE POLICY. We have been pleased with the results for the most part, but learned how difficult it is to come up with a policy that works 100% of the time. For example, we knew some “essentials”, like glasses or a forgotten sleeping bag, would need to be sent. To our chagrin, we found radically different views of “essential” amongst parents and relatives. Needless to say, this proved problematic!

To alleviate some of the rough spots, we have updated our Checklist and Packing List so new campers don’t feel disadvantaged by their lack of experience here. We will extend a 7-day “grace period” at the beginning of camp for items forgotten in the initial packing. These should still be “essentials”, but we’ll be fairly flexible. Magazines and oversized envelopes (anything larger than 8.5 x 4.25) will not be allowed. There are exceptions (see below). After the grace period you must email camp to obtain approval **prior** to sending any package.

Any package which has not been preapproved, other than the listed exceptions, will be returned unopened. This includes anything which you order and have shipped directly to camp.

Medications should be sent directly to the Camp Infirmary with your camper’s name clearly indicated.

Exceptions:

1. **Fresh fruit:** This does not include dried fruit, fruit bars, nuts, or anything other than *real, fresh fruit*. Be aware that we keep common fresh fruit out for campers at any time of day… items such as apples, oranges, bananas, grapes, or other fresh fruit in season are almost always available. Children are much more inclined to eat well-balanced meals if candy, etc. is unavailable. This promotes better health and can greatly affect disposition, as well as energy levels.

2. **Reading material:** Books. (Please write “BOOK” on the package.) News clippings which can fit into a standard size letter envelope.

3. **Birthdays:** A camper with a birthday during camp may receive ONE food and candy-free package. Note: we’ll sing “Happy Birthday” in the dining room, and have a birthday cake for him or her, to be shared with the cabin group.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding!

Please share this information with any friends or family members who might send a package to your camper. We don’t want to upset any aunts, uncles, siblings and grandparents!