Dear Best of Both Worlds Camper,

July 28th will be here before you know it! We hope that you are as excited as we are to be a part of the first ever group of campers that get to go to Horton Center AND Pilgrim Lodge IN THE SAME WEEK! This is going to be an amazing (and new!) experience for all of us. We think we are so lucky to have this chance to experience two beautiful camps in two totally different locations - in the middle of the mountains and on the shores of a lake. We are willing to guarantee that you’ll have a great time and a spirit-filled experience in both locations, so please take a few minutes to read this letter carefully as you get ready for the Best of Both Worlds.

Registration is on Sunday from 2pm until 4pm at Horton Center. Please do not arrive prior to 2pm, as counselors and staff are still preparing for your arrival. Departure, from Pilgrim Lodge, may begin at 9:30am on Saturday, August 3rd. We ask that no camper leave prior to our closing circle time, however, even if it is later than 9:30am, and that all campers be picked up before 10:30am. Upon your arrival at Horton Center, the counselors will ask for the name of the person who will pick you up at Pilgrim Lodge on Saturday. No camper will be allowed to leave with anyone whose name is not on the counselors’ list. Please be aware of the PL policy on arriving late and leaving early. Since Pilgrim Lodge desires to create a community with all of its participants, we expect campers to arrive at the designated time and to stay for the duration of the program. For more information, please see the PL brochure.

The annual summer mission project is a Pilgrim Lodge tradition that we hope will soon spread to Horton Center. We learn about an organization or special people doing God’s work somewhere in the world. Sometimes these projects are across the country or over seas or sometimes they are in our own back yards. This summer the mission project is Church World Service (CWS). Throughout the summer, campers at Pilgrim Lodge will be bringing items to camp that will go to aid people in need of help after a disaster (either natural like a flood or tornado, or sometimes man made). Our camps is asked to bring in the following items to build Hygiene Kits. Each kit contains: 1 hand towel (approximately 16” x 28’-no bath towels), 1 wash cloth, 1 wide-tooth comb, 1 nail clipper, 1 bar of soap (bath size still in wrapper), 1 toothbrush (in original packaging), and 6 standard Band-Aids. All of these items are placed into a gallon size zip-lock bag. Between now and the time you come to camp you can collect as many items on this list from your friends, family and the people in your church. (Please don’t bring any substitutions for items on the list.) Do the best you can, but know that you do not have to bring all the items on this list. After our mission presentation at Pilgrim lodge we will gather up our items and put together as many hygiene kits as possible. For more information about Church World Service and this mission project, visit their website at www.churchworldservice.org.

As for special events during our week in addition to the mission presentation, we plan to have the ‘fancy dinner’ on Thursday night, followed by the dance. You might want to bring a slightly nicer outfit to wear for that night. Bring bug spray, a reusable water bottle with your name on it, and get ready to have fun!

Please remember to bring sneakers or other closed-toe shoes. For those of you who haven’t been to Horton Center, there’s no boardwalk like at Pilgrim Lodge, so we strongly recommended closed-toe shoes. We’ll be doing lots of hiking and be walking on trails between cabins, the lodge, and the chapel, so while flip flops are fine for almost all activities at PL, they aren’t the best shoes for Horton Center.

One of the Horton Center traditions we’ll be doing is sleeping out on Pinkham Ledge. You will want to bring a sleeping bag (instead of sheets and blankets) and may also want to bring a camping sleeping pad or yoga mat or something like that to sleep on. While it gets cool in the mountains, you should be warm enough in a good sleeping bag with a sweatshirt if the night is on the cool side.
Candy, gum, food, beepers, cell phones, radios, CD players, iPods, mp3 players, or electronic games are not allowed, so please DO NOT bring them to camp. Please DO remember to bring your musical instruments or anything else you may need to participate in our talent show on Friday night.

We encourage you to tell everyone to write to you at camp. However, because we’re switching camps and don’t want you to miss any important mail, we highly encourage the use of Bunk Notes, which your family needs to sign up for Bunk Notes in order to send you emails at camp and view the pictures of our week online. Since we can’t teleport, we’ll be taking a chartered bus from Horton Center to Pilgrim Lodge on Wednesday. We’ll be leaving right after breakfast, so we can arrive in time for lunch at PL. It’s probably safest to send snail mail to Pilgrim Lodge. Please be aware that the Horton Center road will be two lanes of traffic this year. It’s a tight squeeze in most spots, so take it slow (15mph or less), roll your windows down and listen for other cars. Cars driving up the mountain have the right of way, so when you are driving down, please pull into the turn-offs when you see other cars. A Horton Center staffer will greet you at the bottom and top of the road. Be assured, it’s well worth the drive!

We are looking forward to meeting you on Sunday the 28th and having a best of both worlds week with you! Until then, take care!

Laura Barrantes & Kristi Hikel
Deans

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**Horton Center**

**Pilgrim Lodge**