

Hello Faith Foundations Camper (and Parents)!

It's time to get ready to spend a few days and nights at Pilgrim Lodge (PL)! Our program this year centers around Jesus and his lessons of friendship. We are really looking forward to introducing you to all the ways PL can help you discover more about yourself by making new friends, discovering new activities, learning about your faith through Jesus, and how he is present in your everyday life! We are your Deans - Kevin and Karla Murphy - and we are looking forward to meeting all of you!

****** Registration is Sunday, June 29 FROM 3:00 – 4:30PM ******

Some of the things you can look forward to include: swimming, boating, crafts, nature cabin, interest groups and family time. New this year, we will be having an all-camp campfire and cookout!

We have a very special invitation for your furry stuffed friends: Everyone needs to bring at least one special stuffed companion from home. These companions help personalize every bunk and are invited to accompany you to evening vespers and story time. If you have a hard time choosing which one to bring – bring two or three!!

Of course, remember to pack the basics, too: sleeping bag, pillow, swimming suit, a towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, clothes for the week, comfortable shoes and a bible. We do ask that you bring a pair of closed-toed-shoes (think sneakers), but you might only need to wear them once or twice. Also, be sure to check the weather for Gardner, Maine before you pack - the weather in Maine can change pretty quickly, and the temperature the day you pack may be different than what it is the rest of the week at camp! Finally, remember: please don't pack electronics or food in your bags - your iPod and mom's cookies will wait for you until you get back home.

Not sure what else to (or not to) bring? Check out the Parent and Camper Guide, on the forms page of the Pilgrim Lodge website: www.pilgrimlodge.org/forms

One of the most important things we do at camp is to focus our campers on a particular mission. The goal of our mission project every year is to spread the goodness and values that are important while we are at Pilgrim Lodge out to the rest of the world. In the past, this has meant giving money or material goods to support one particular project or charity, which would then go out and do good works on our behalf, using the assistance we provided. This year, we want our campers to be the ones doing the direct goodness in the world, so we are approaching the mission a little differently.

Instead of bringing money or things off a list that we provide, we are going to ask our campers to be the ones to make the list, and then find ways to turn their list into actions. Parents can help with this mission by reminding your campers of what is important to your family, and by having a conversation before they come to camp about what their own values are, how they can use their values to help others, and make a difference in both the world around them and the world at large.

It's a different, yet very exciting way to approach the topic of "mission", and make the concept of helping others become real - especially for this group, our youngest campers. It is our hope that helping our campers discover what they can do individually to make a difference in their world - at home, at school, on the field, and with their friends - will help them discover more about who they are, and how camp can stay with them and have a positive influence on their lives all year-round.

We always try to do our best to care for God's world, so everyone is being asked to bring a reusable water bottle to camp. Make sure your name is clearly marked on it! Our goal for our camp is to not use a single paper cup!!

Camp will start Sunday, **June 29 and Registration will be from 3:00 – 4:30pm** (please don't come before

3:00, as we need time to get things ready for you). Please let PL know if you will be arriving AFTER 4:30 pm. Pack your swimming suit on top of your suitcase or wear it, so you can take the swimming assessment as soon as you check into your cabin and meet your counselor. There will be a little less time than usual for swimming assessments this year on arrival day - if you get to camp after 4:20 on Sunday, you'll get to take your assessment the next morning.

The closing will come much too soon for most of us. Our closing program will start at 9:00am Wednesday, July 2nd. It should run less than ½ an hour; we hope all parents can attend and it's important that the campers stay with their cabin group to share in this closing event until their counselors release the campers to the adults picking them up. Departure is between 9 and 9:30, and we have to be on-time, as the next group of campers will be coming in right behind us!

We have a great volunteer team assembled and waiting to meet you and make your time at PL so great that you will want to come back to PL for years to come. By the end of camp you and your new PL friends will be making plans to come back together next year!

We can't wait to meet you and share all the great things PL has to offer!

Dean Kevin and Dean Karla