

Hello Campers,

This is your Best of Both Worlds, Middle School Edition, Deans for this summer, Andy and Sharron. It is that time of year again and we could not be more excited for our favorite week of the summer, heading to the mountain and the lake for our week of summer camp. We are so excited that you are joining us for another fun filled week both at Pilgrim Lodge, located in West Gardiner, Maine, and at Horton Center, located in Gorham, New Hampshire. We are lucky enough to be spending three days at each camp, both with beautiful landscapes to explore, new friends to make and old friends to catch up with, tons of fun, and awesome food! But there is so much more to talk about, so keep reading!

The week starts at Pilgrim Lodge. Registration begins at 2:00 pm and ends at 4:00 pm. We encourage you to be on time because the fun starts nearly the moment that you arrive at camp, but if you have any questions regarding arrival times, or if you think you might be late that afternoon (despite your best efforts, trust me, I know that feeling) please call the Office at Pilgrim Lodge and chat with Bryan Breault, Pilgrim Lodge Camp Director, or us, your deans (our information will be at the end of the letter). When you arrive at camp, you will empty the car of all your camp essentials, and head to registration, where you will meet the deans to find out your cabin assignments, counselor names, and such. You will also talk to the camp nurse for all your potential health needs. You will also meet some of the staff members along the way, and they will help make your arrival at camp as smooth and enjoyable as possible!

While at Pilgrim Lodge, you will get to enjoy beautiful Lake Cobbosseecontee. There will be canoeing, kayaking, and swimming,. We will attend worship in the chapel which is right on the water's edge, as well as a hand made labyrinth just a short walk away from the chapel. We'll work together in groups called Family Groups to get to know one another in a safe, fun, and Christian atmosphere and explore friendship and community. We will play some fun games; enjoy a cookout up at the Cookout field, and so many more activities that I just do not have the space to tell you about. Needless to say, the fun never really ends!

Then on Wednesday, we will all pack up our stuff and head west, to the great White Mountains, where tucked up on the tippy top (are really close, technically) of Pine Mountain, is Horton Center. Well get our stuff out of the bus and move into our new cabins. At Horton Center we will have Hike Day, where we will get to take advantage of the White Mountain National Forest trail system, which surrounds us on all sides. We'll pull out the slip and slide, we will head up to Pinkham Ledge where we will sleep out under the stars, one of Horton Centers longest and most loved traditions, as long as mother nature is happy with us that day and blesses us with no rain! You will have the chance to go rock climbing, caving (you'll have to wait until we arrive at Horton Center to find out more about that experience) and fulfill your inner Robin Hood at Horton Center's archery range. There is so much fun to be had, yet so little time to accomplish them all!

And at the end of the week, when you have made more new friends that you can count, you have learned so much about the people that you just spent a week with, getting to know who they are at the very core of their being because they felt safe enough to share, you have eaten more excellent food than you know what to do with, you have swam in a beautiful lake and hiked in some of the most spectacular mountains our country has to offer. After all of that, all of those experiences that you witnessed with your own eyes, not through the lens of your iPhone, talking to real people about some amazing meal in the dining hall, not putting up a picture of your food on Instagram, and laugh at a funny joke your friend said

before heading to bed, not watching TV to be entertained. After all that, your parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, or any combination of them will come get you on Saturday, August 8th between 9:00 and 10:00 am. And as you head down the mountain on that hopefully sunny Saturday morning (moving out in the rain is no fun), you will look back on the week, smile, and spread that joy throughout the rest of your life!

But Andy and Sharron, what do I need to bring with me to be able to make the most fun memories that I possibly can? Well friend, I am glad you asked. Let me make a list of all the things that you might think about bringing with you.

All of the things that you **definitely need to bring to camp!!**

- Backpack (and no, the draw string backpack does NOT count)
- Warm Sleeping Bag
- Hiking boots or shoes (and no, sneakers do NOT count. Sturdy, supportive, decent soled boots or shoes are the best. Don't forget good socks. This is for Hike Day at Horton Center)
- Swimsuit and towel(s)
- Shoes to wear to the waterfront, (flip flops work at PL but not at HC, so I would think about Crocs or Tevas, something with a back strap)
- Water bottle (two would be even better)
- Pillow
- Toiletries (you will have access to showers, no worries there)
- Clothes for all temperatures (rain, hot, cool nights, swimming, sleeping out etc.)
- Nicer clothes/shoes for the last night
- Flash Light and/or Head Lamp and extra batteries (head lamps are great for caving)
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen

All the things that you might bring to camp (**not as important as the stuff in the list above**)

- Bible
- Camera, extra memory and batteries
- Sleeping pad for our night on the ledge
- Sketchbook (or any other art supplies to create art while being inspired by your surroundings)
- Musical Instruments (there will be a talent show, so bring something you are talented at and would like to share)
- Books
- Cards
- Card games
- Note cards to write letters home
- Bracelet making materials
- Any other things that you might want to bring to share with others, or entertain yourself during bunk times and rainy moments.

All the things that you **should NOT bring to camp**

- Cell Phones
- iPods/iPads
- Electronic Devices
- Weapons

- Fireworks
- Drugs (except for medications that your doctor prescribes you and those stay with the nurse all week)

So, here are the highlights of the letter above, to more easily keep track of some of the key information:

- Registration at Pilgrim Lodge starts promptly at 2:00 pm, and ends at 4:00 pm on Sunday August 2, 2015
- Pick up at Horton Center happens between 9:00 am and 10:00 am on Saturday August 8, 2015
- Pilgrim Lodge Contact information is all available on their website www.pilgrimlodge.org
- Horton Center contact information is all available on their website www.hortoncenter.org
- There will be some paperwork that you will need to make sure is completed for your camper to attend camp. Depending on which camp you are registering through, you will find all the paperwork on that camp's website.
- Dean Andy Shultz Contact information
 - Cell Number: (419) 704-4258 (only use in the afternoon and evening)
 - Email Address: andrew.shultz56@gmail.com
- Dean Sharron Champagne Contact Information
 - Cell Number:(603) 361-1057
 - Email Address: slchampagne@comcast.net

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact Andy, Sharron, PL Director Bryan Breault, and HC Director Mollie Landers. Any of the group can help you with anything you may need, or know how to get you in touch with the person who can answer your questions.

We cannot wait to meet all of you and hope that you are as excited for camp as we are. I know it's more than a month away, but rest up, you're going to need it, and prepare for a wonderful week of camp! We will see you at camp!

Your deans,
Andy and Sharron