



Summer Camp & Minicamp **FAMILY HANDBOOK**



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Camp Tanamakoon respectfully acknowledges that we operate on the unceded territory of Algonquin Anishinaabeg peoples, specifically Madaoueskarini Algonquins. We celebrate the continued presence of Indigenous peoples across Algonquin Park through partnerships and learning opportunities with local Indigenous people and communities.

It is important to understand the longstanding history of this land, including how we've all come to know and love Algonquin Park. We all have a responsibility to care for these lands and waters in collaboration with its original stewards.

PARENT EMAIL UPDATES

We love to keep in touch and keep you updated. Check your email for Constant Contact to keep you informed of important Camp information and news. If you are not receiving these emails, check your junk mail first, then email us at registration@tanamakoon.com to add you to our email list. We promise we won't flood your inbox!

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE

Our new website launched January 2025. New features, galleries and information will be posted regularly. Please check out our **Important Dates** section that will have all dates, times and locations for travelling to and from Camp. This will be updated regularly and will have all current information.

FORMS – ALL DUE MAY 1st

All important information is gathered online through our safe and secure web portal. You will be receiving a reminder to log in and fill out your child's forms. It is VERY important that we receive these forms by May 1st.

1. Medical/Health Form – DUE MAY 1st

- The Camp medical form is filled out online and it is not necessary that it be signed by a physician. A detailed health history is essential, please complete this form carefully. This form must be received prior to your child's arrival at Camp. If you are unsure as to the answers to any questions, please contact your family doctor and obtain the necessary information for us.
- For our non-resident Campers, medical coverage for your daughter is provided by the Camp Insurers. We do however, recommend that you purchase your own coverage which could be tailored to your specific needs. If you purchase your own insurance coverage, please provide us with the details when submitting your medical form.

2. Camper Information Form- DUE MAY 1st

- The form must be submitted by May 1st. Please take time to go over it with your daughter. The information will help us not only with the selection of cabin groups and cabin counselors, but will also help our counselors understand your daughter's individual needs and goals for the summer. ALL Campers including Minicamp MUST complete this form.
- The CABIN REQUEST SECTION on the Camper Information Form should be completed by your daughter. Only one request per Camper will be considered! Every effort will be made by the Camp to honour cabin placement requests if the children are the same age, the same grade in school and the requests are mutual. Parents must discuss these requests with their children and other

parents involved prior to completing the form. *The Camp reserves the right to make final decisions relating to cabin placement.*

3. Travel Form- DUE MAY 1st

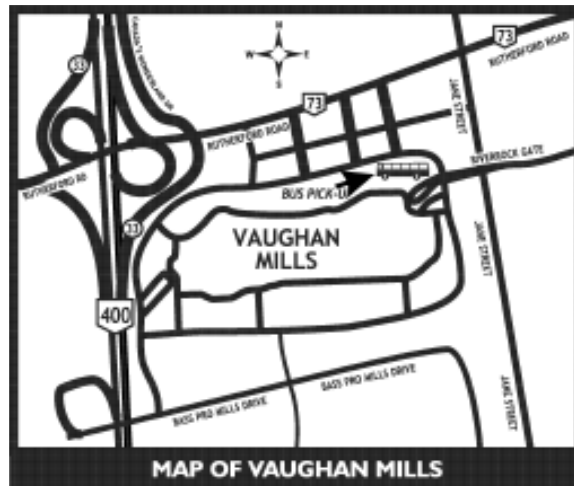
- ***We strongly encourage all Campers to travel by bus if possible. All Campers who drive to Cache Lake will be put on a chaperoned shuttle bus and transported to the path to walk into Camp.***
- All Campers must complete the travel forms. Travel plans may not be changed within **48 hours** of arrival or departure. We ask that you refrain from changing plans once the form is returned. IF changes must be made, please send it in writing to tuckshop@tanamakoon.com.
- ALL flight information must be submitted on travel forms by June 1st. Any Camper flying will be contacted by our Admin staff to confirm flight arrangements. Campers arriving at Pearson Airport will be picked up at the airport by our staff.
- MINICAMPERS- Please fill out the specific Mini-Camp travel form.

TRAVELLING TO CAMP

CAMPERS TRAVELLING BY CAMP BUS FROM VAUGHAN MILLS SHOPPING CENTRE

(NORTH EAST CORNER)

A map showing the location of the buses at Vaughan Mills is below. In case of inclement weather, have your daughter bring her raincoat on the bus. The bus cost will be added to your daughter's tuck account. The cost includes transportation of your daughter and her luggage. Times are specifically stated under the Important Dates tab on our website. Please refer to these. You will also receive email updates that will have specific times.



PLEASE make or buy luggage tags for each piece of your daughter's luggage and label according to the information below. Tags should be securely tied on to each bag. This indicates where the luggage is delivered to at Camp. All untagged luggage is brought to the front dock.

CLEARLY LABEL ON TAGS THE FOLLOWING:

Your FIRST AND LAST NAME and Area# in large print.

Grades 1-5 put the #2

Grades 6-7 put the #3

Grades 8-10 put the # 1

Extended Canoe Trippers are #3

When you arrive at Vaughan Mills, Counselor's with Staff t-shirts on will be there to greet you. Your daughter must check in with one of them. At that time, she will be given a bus number and name tag. If your daughter wishes to sit with a friend on the bus, the two of them should check in together. We try our best to have the buses organized by age group. This allows Campers to meet each other on the trip up to camp. Once your daughter has been assigned to a bus, it is difficult for us to make any changes. We must have an accurate list of Campers on each bus. The bus number will be on her name tag. We ask your co-operation in this regard.

CAMPERS TRAVELLING BY PLANE TO AND FROM PEARSON AIRPORT, TORONTO (YYZ)

All Campers arriving from out-of-country must carry a valid Passport.

If your daughter is coming to Camp for either the full month of July or August, or the first two weeks of July or August, and she is flying to Toronto, please ensure that she arrives at Toronto Airport by **4:00 pm** on arrival day. Our staff members will be at the Airport to meet your daughter. Your daughter should carry a letter indicating that our staff member has permission to pick up your daughter and take custody of her at the Airport.

If your daughter is coming to Camp for either the last two weeks of July or the last two weeks of August, she will need to arrive at the Toronto Airport, the evening before the buses go to Camp. Please contact the office at Camp to arrange for the pickup and chaperoning of your daughter. Your daughter will then travel on the Camp bus the following morning at 9:00 am with the other Campers.

On departure, supervision for your daughter's return to the airport will be provided. Return flight tickets must be in our hands two weeks before departure. For full month, 2nd two weeks of July and 2nd two weeks of August Campers, return flights must be planned for after 3:00 pm. For Campers returning home at the end of the 1st two weeks of July or the 1st two weeks of August, return flights must be planned for after 7:00 p.m.

CAMPERS TRAVELLING BY CAR TO THE CACHE LAKE LANDING, ALGONQUIN PARK

Parents driving Campers and baggage to Camp at the beginning of July and August will be arriving at the Algonquin Park Art Gallery to meet our staff. Campers will be shuttled to our walking trail by school bus from the gallery. Parents will be asked to drop off their daughter's luggage at the Cache Lake landing after saying their goodbyes.

Two-week Campers arriving in the middle of each month should go straight to the Cache Lake Landing.

Departure - Campers leaving Camp by car should be picked up at the Cache Lake Landing.

CAMP FEES AND TUCK ACCOUNT

Once a Camper application has been accepted, the deposit of \$850.00 will be credited to final Camp fees. Camp fees and taxes, plus a \$300.00 Deposit for the Camper's Tuck Shop account, are due on May 1st of the current year. Detailed payment information is listed on our website.

TUCK SHOP PERMISSIONS

Parents pay a tuck deposit of 300.00 for summer Camp and 200.00 for Minicamp. The standard items that may be deducted include items such as travel, laundry, limited candy, swim cap, postage and canoe trip reservations. In addition to these standard deductions souvenir items such as stuffed animals, clipboards, water bottles, hats, flashlights may also be purchased. The tuck shop also has some essential items that may have been forgotten. All purchases are supervised by Senior Staff.

When you fill out the online forms parents will be asked to select a dollar amount that your daughter may spend on souvenir items.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP? WHAT SHOULD MY DAUGHTER PACK?

***A detailed packing list is available on our website. Please follow the suggested list.
All items must fit into 2 duffel bags or hockey bags.***

MINI CAMPERS HAVE THEIR OWN PACKING LIST- PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE DETAILED LIST.

UNIFORMS

Campers wear green shorts and tan shirts during the day. You may visit our online store to purchase the Tanamakoon uniform and other gear. Please note again, that any dark green shorts and any tan or ivory T-shirts are acceptable. Uniforms are worn to Camp on arrival day. Campers can change into their regular clothes after 4:30 each day. Uniforms are worn all day on Sunday. Here is the link to our online store-

[Tanamakoon](#)

LABEL ALL CLOTHING AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Please label all clothing with FIRST and LAST name. We will try our best to return all labeled clothing to the right child. Any unlabeled clothing will be donated at the end of the season. Check out Mabel's Labels for a great Canadian company who provides name labels. [Mabel's Labels: Kids Labels, Name Stickers & Clothing Labels](#)

BEDDING

Most Campers sleep in sleeping bags, although, some Campers prefer to bring two or three blankets instead. *Sleeping bags are necessary for canoe trips.* A pillow and twin bedsheets are required. *INTERNATIONAL CAMPERS* will receive blankets and sleeping bags from the Camp. Information about this will be sent to you.

LAUNDRY SERVICE

Two week and one-month Campers receive a weekly laundry service. Laundry bags are provided by the Camp and handed out to Campers upon arrival. Laundry is sent out to a Laundry Service and returned within 24 hours.

LOST AND FOUND

Every effort will be made to return lost and found to its rightful owner. It is very important that all of your daughter's items are labelled with first and last name, to ensure it can be easily returned to her. If your daughter does leave something of importance at Camp, please contact our office so we can reunite you with the lost item if possible. Items that have not been claimed by October 1 will be donated.

LIFE JACKETS and PADDLES

All Campers must bring a government approved lifejacket that fits appropriately. Please be sure the lifejacket is not ripped and is in good condition.

****NEW** - Campers are NOT required to bring their own paddle to Camp. They may wish to bring their own; however, we can supply Campers with a paddle if they do not bring one.



BIODEGRADABLE SOAPS- WE CARE ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT!

- Campers are only permitted to use biodegradable soap and shampoo. These products can be brought to Camp or may be purchased at our tuck shop. Products must be clearly labeled as biodegradable. Please check the labels.
- We ask your co-operation in ensuring that your daughter does not bring disposable products to Camp. We particularly do not want disposable razors, flashlights, cameras or any other throw away articles.

FOOTWEAR

On the advice of our medical health care team, we DO NOT permit open toed shoes/sandals at Camp. The terrain is rugged and we enforce this policy to prevent accidents to the toes, feet and ankles. Water shoes or Crocs are a good option to pack for use down at the waterfront. Running shoes or hiking shoes are also required for activities around Camp and canoe trips. Please be sure that shoes are in good condition when arriving at Camp.

WHAT NOT TO SEND TO CAMP

- Phones, Tablets or any forms of technology
- Jewelry or any valuables
- Contraband items- alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, cigarettes or vapes
- Non-prescription medication- Campers should not bring non-prescription medicines to Camp. The Health Centre is completely equipped with all of the necessary items.
- Food- Extra food is not necessary as the children receive three healthy meals a day, an evening snack, food for special programs and candy tuck three times per week.
- Money



MAIL AND CAMPER COMMUNICATION

WHEN SHOULD I WRITE TO HER?

We suggest that you write to your daughter before she departs to be sure she receives a letter in her first few days at Camp. Happy and positive letters from home are always appreciated. Talk about all the new activities she will be doing, the friends she is making and all the new experiences Camp has to offer. It is helpful not to dwell on how much you miss your daughter or how her favorite pet hasn't eaten since she left! Please note that mail delivery usually takes five days within Ontario and about a week to ten days from the U.S. and other countries. Please do not send mail in the last week of your daughter's stay at Camp. All mail arriving after the Camper departs is sent back "Return to Sender".

PACKAGES AND PARCELS

Children love to get parcels at Camp and we therefore ask that you send non-edible items (Campers cannot store food items securely in their cabin, without little critters wanting to get at it!) that your daughter will find special.

- In an effort to ensure that problems do not arise over food parcels, the Camp reserves the right to
 - a) Return to sender any food sent by mail,
 - b) Take the food or snack sent to Camp and either discard or use it in future staff or all Camp programs.
- **We are asking parents to limit packages to ONE per week.**
- CAMP TANAMAKOON must be clearly labelled in the address. This is especially important if you are sending packages from places like Amazon or other third-party stores.
- What are some good things to be sending?
 - Card Games/ Travel Sized Games
 - Mad Libs
 - Magazines
 - Stickers
 - Books/Activity Books

All mail and packages must be sent to this mailing address:

CAMPER NAME

CAMP TANAMAKOON

1032 Oxtongue Lake Rd.

Dwight, ON

P0A 1H0



WHEN WILL MY DAUGHTER WRITE HOME?

All Campers must write home every Sunday. We suggest that you send young Campers with pre-addressed/stamped envelopes. It makes letter writing easier and usually encourages a child to write more often. Children are often so busy having fun that there is little time to write. Most often, no news is good news.

WHAT IF I GET AN UNHAPPY LETTER?

If you receive a sad letter from your daughter, please DON'T PANIC. Children leaving home or going to a new place need time to feel comfortable and secure. This may be true for both new and former Campers. If you are concerned, we ask that you call us. We can let you know how she is adjusting. The business phone is answered between 9 am and 9 pm daily. Our office staff will talk with your daughter's section head and counselor and will return your call within 24 hours.

NEW IN 2025- ONE WAY EMAIL TO YOUR DAUGHTER

We will now be offering parents the option to send their daughter an email that will be printed and given to them at mail time. Please be mindful of the number of emails you are sending. We are asking families to limit their emails to once a week. Emails will not be placed in an envelope, so please do not send any personal or confidential information. Pictures are NOT allowed. Please send those by regular mail. In keeping with our no technology policy, Campers will not be able to email back. More detailed information will be sent to you prior to the summer.

NEW CAMPER PHONE CALLS

Families of new Tanamakoon Campers will receive a phone call from a Senior Counselor within the first 72 hours of their stay at Camp. This will be a quick update with some details about how your daughter is settling into Camp. If you have any questions, this is a great time to have them answered.

PHONE CALLS

It is Camp policy that no Camper is allowed to receive phone calls from home except in EMERGENCY situations. We would be glad to discuss your child's progress by phone and encourage you to call us if you have concerns or questions. Cell phone use is prohibited. Cell phones brought to Camp will be kept in the office and returned to Campers on departure.

WHEN CAN I VISIT CAMP?

Tanamakoon does not have a Visitor's Day during Camp sessions. If you would like to tour the Camp, we encourage you to call us and we will arrange a time for you to see the Camp in the spring, before your daughter arrives at Camp, or during the summer sessions when your daughter is not at Camp. Arrival and Departure Days are not available to tours. You can appreciate how busy these days are, and we must give our full attention to the organization and moving of children in and out of Camp.

CANOE TRIPS

All 2-week and 1-month Campers up to the end of Grade 4 are scheduled on an overnight canoe trip. Beyond Grade 4 the tripping program at Tanamakoon is set up to accommodate longer trips for all one-month Campers.

Two Week Campers Grade 5-10 will go on a shorter trip, if they wish. If there are spots available on longer trips, a two-week Camper may sign up for those trips. All Campers will indicate their desire to go on a trip in the first 2 days of each new session. *Mini Campers do not go on canoe trips.*

Extended Canoe Trips (2 week and 1 month) are applied for before the summer. This is a separate registration done through our website.

MEDICAL and HEALTH INFORMATION

Tanamakoon has a fully functional and equipped Health Centre. This is staffed each day by a Registered Nurse as well as two nursing students. Campers are able to visit the Health Centre when needed after each meal and before bedtime. Tanamakoon also has a doctor onsite who is available to see Campers who may require further care. Our Health Care team is always available outside of their hours for urgent matters.

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

Our kitchen happily accommodates special dietary needs. Naturally we must receive advanced notification in writing of her needs. This information should all be included on your daughters Health Form that is due to the Camp on May 1st. Campers may not arrive at Camp and declare a special diet. If your daughter has a food allergy, a member of our medical team will be reaching out to you prior to your daughter's arrival at Camp.

MEDICATIONS

Campers should not bring non-prescription medicines to Camp. The Camp dispensary is completely equipped with all of the necessary products. Prescription medicine should accompany your daughter to Camp and be delivered to the Camp Van near the buses at Vaughan Mills or given to the staff at the

Cache Lake landing. Any helpful information regarding your daughter's care should be communicated to the Healthcare Team in writing or by email to healthcare@tanamakoon.com

DENTAL WORK

All dental work must be completed before Camp. If your daughter requires repairs to her braces or any emergency dental work, we will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.

DAILY HEALTH PRACTICES

Tanamakoon insists that every Camper and staff member practice habits that will keep them safe and healthy. Sun sense, mosquito protection, hand washing, adequate rest, healthy eating, program risk management and good clean fun will continue to make Tanamakoon a safe and happy experience for your children.

Based on current information in the medical field we would recommend Bug repellent containing 0-10% DEET (for children) to 30% DEET (for adults). The percentage of DEET does not increase the level of protection but rather the length of time before a new application is required. The choice of repellent is left to the parent and therefore all Campers should bring their own supply for personal use. However, the staff will have a constant supply for all Campers (containing DEET at 10%) and will oversee the proper use of it.

You should consult your family Doctor or Dermatologist regarding the type of sunscreen best suited for your daughter. We recommended the use of SPF 30 sunscreen. Our staff will do their best to ensure Campers use sunscreen and repellent. You should also emphasize the importance of their proper use to your daughter and practice applying them prior to Camp.

LICE POLICY

Please review our Lice Policy before sending your daughter to Camp. The current policy is posted on our website under Camp forms. It is your responsibility to check your daughter for lice prior to her arrival to Camp.

BATHING AND SHOWERING AT CAMP

Campers regularly shower at scheduled times throughout the week. These shower times are done by section. Campers should bring a bath robe and plastic shower basket that holds all their biodegradable products.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The personal information collected by Camp Tanamakoon Limited falls into two categories:

- a) Registration Information
- b) Campers Medical Information

By providing this information you are consenting to its use by us for communication with you and to assist with your daughter(s) medical care.

We will not disclose Registration information to any third party without your consent. We will retain registration information to communicate with you in future years. We will only disclose medical information to: the office staff (for the purpose of record keeping), the directors and section heads and the medical personnel who may treat your daughter. We will retain her Medical Records for future reference should the need arise. We will use all reasonable efforts to protect the information supplied to us. If you have any concerns or questions, please call our office.