



Wilvaken News



March / April 2010

REGISTRATION 2010

Some sessions are becoming quite full with only a few spaces left here and there.

When sending your registration form in, please keep in mind that the deposit is \$300 per child (dated today) and that we would like a post-dated cheque for May 1, 2010 along with your registration. All forms are available on our website for you to download.

Remember that reservations by e-mail, phone, or fax will be held for 10 working days while we wait for your signed original registration and deposit to arrive. (deposits should not be post-dated) Should your plans change regarding your child's stay with us, let us know as soon as possible.

*When you tell your friends and family about Wilvaken, remind them to write in **your** name as having recommended you upon registration. You will then have a \$50 referral discount!!*

Red Cross Swim Lessons 2010



This year we are continuing our swim lesson program. We have enclosed a form with this mailing for registered families explaining how the lessons will be run. We will no longer oblige all campers to take lessons till level 10 **except** non-swimmers. As has been done in the past, all campers will be assessed as to their swimming ability on arrival day.

*The **Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross (a 2 week program)** will be offered for campers ages 13 – 15 as long as we have enough campers signed up. This is a great way to start on the road to being a lifeguard. Check our website for further information.*

GUITARS AT WILVAKEN 2010



Guitars will be at camp this summer. Wilvaken is purchasing some and we welcome any donations. We shall offer some lessons during the summer and will hopefully have some jam sessions too! If your child owns one do bring it to camp!!

OUR STAFF

Our program coordinators this year are Charlotte Anderson and Ricky Watkins and the CIT coordinators are Emma Preston and JJ Fridman. For more on returning and new staff, visit our website.

We will be sending you a staff list with a short note on each staff member with our June mailing.



At this time we are still looking for some male staff to complete the team. If you know of anyone looking for a position at a wonderful summer camp and they are over 18, have them contact us as soon as possible.

Wilvaken Forms

All the forms required by us are available on our web site, however we have enclosed the medical form and swim forms for you.

If you wish to sign your child up for the language, riding or Bronze Medallion/Cross activities then please download them from our web site.

The label order form is also enclosed, but you can download the clothing list and tripping list from the web site. We highly recommend that you label everything your child takes to camp. No initials please.

NEW

Wilvaken Explorers a one week session, for young campers ages 6 - 8

The Wilvaken Explorers is designed for younger and/or first time campers. The Explorers will live in a cabin with others the same age and participate in a variety of traditional camp activities under the guidance of experienced Camp Wilvaken counselors. Campers will be together as a group with the same counselor all week. We are offering this program from July 23rd to July 29th and may add more sessions if needed. We can accommodate 8 boys and 8 girls. The cost for one week is \$600 + tax. Contact us for further information and a registration form.

Coming Soon

We are in the process of launching a new web site, which we hope to have up by the end of April. Have a look and tell us what you think!

Open House

is June 5th from 1PM to 5 PM. Come meet us and some of our staff along with a visit of our facilities. We welcome returning families as well!!



Camp Clothing



Wilvaken will be carrying extra T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and water bottles in our Tuck shop once again for all campers to purchase. The purchases will be taken off your deposit on personal extras.

The free T-shirts will be distributed upon arrival at camp. We will be contacting those of you who have not indicated the size T-shirt you would like for your child via e-mail.

This year we are also giving you the chance to order some other Wilvaken items through the enclosed order form. We will not be carrying all those items in our camp store during the summer. Please send your order with cheque to Wilvaken before May 22nd so that your child will receive their order at camp. The order form will also be available on our web site in colour.

E-mail Communication while your child is at Wilvaken

This will be our fifth summer using Bunk1.com as our e-mail handler.

We feel that this is a successful method for both families, friends and campers to be able to communicate with each other.

Campers will not have access to the computer but the reply form will be faxed to Bunk1 and then e-mailed to you.

Wilvaken has become a member of **Bunk1.com**, a company that helps camps organize the exchange of e-mails between parents at home and children at camp. To use this service you must go on line to sign up at www.Bunk1.com or connect through the link on our website. You are invited to check the Wilvaken web site under **Parent Information** for sending and receiving e-mails. The pre-approved registration code is available in the information from Bunk1.com located on our web site.

Please note that we will not be accepting e-mails directly to our Wilvaken e-mail address for campers.

Parents may still contact our office by using the Wilvaken e-mail address.

Registered Families

For all families, please advise us of any recent change in health, marital status, family death etc., as this may help us care for your child.

A REMINDER

We are asking that all final payments be made by May 1st with a post-dated cheque. We sent you a fees schedule with our first mailing that helps you figure this out. Many of you have already sent the cheque post-dated. Thank you! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions regarding the payment. We will be sending you an invoice in May indicating the credits from the deposit and May 1st payment.

The fees schedule is available on our website as well as all our other forms.

Notes from the Trip Shed

For our Wilvaken trippers we want to remind you to check out the packing list on our web site. We will be continuing our trips to La Mauricie for canoeing and Mont Orford and Mont Mégantic for hiking.

Canoeing trips take some preparation. So those of you coming to camp for the first time ages 13 – 15 must obtain their 2nd level in canoeing. Practicing canoeing takes some time and perseverance.

The tripping activity which teaches you how to pack, set up tents and basic wilderness living is a must for both hiking and canoe trips. We want all campers to get the most out of this experience.

Finally, we wish you a happy spring season and looking forward to seeing you this summer.

Learning a Second Language

Wilvaken offers campers a unique opportunity for practice in both of Canada's official languages, English and French. We are not an immersion camp but an English camp which supports the uniqueness we have in Quebec. The campers are a part of both the English and French worlds and are encouraged to learn and communicate in their second language.

Many parents ask "Will my child actually learn something, when there are others at camp who speak their mother tongue?" The answer to that is that they will not walk away after one session at camp talking fluently in the second language. Their comprehension will have improved and their vocabulary as well. Of course the extent of improvement depends in all cases on the individual child, and the effort they put into it.

The important aspect is that you encourage them. Don't force the idea on your child that the only reason they are going to camp is to learn another language. It is their summer vacation too! Language is not learned overnight. Sending your child to camp in English or French for one summer will help, but sending them annually for several summers will benefit them much more.

All our campers and staff are a part of the language program as Wilvaken switches back and forth from English to French every two days. During those language days all staff and campers are encouraged to use the language of the day. For those campers who are already bilingual or able to communicate well in the second language, we ask that they assist those that are learning. They are a great support and encouragement for the other campers.

Prior to camp, we encourage you to download the language form that allows the child and parents to agree that they will sign up for this *Communication* program. There is no extra charge! We also suggest you download our Vocabulary List to help your child learn some of the words and phrases most commonly used at camp. The language activity is often looked upon as a school classroom situation by the camper but it really is not and you as parents must make that clear to your child.