

LTP Handbook

Summer 2024



BB Camp's mission is to provide a fun, supportive and inclusive Jewish environment in which youth can explore, grow and mature. Campers are provided opportunities to develop independence, foster lasting friendships, and strengthen their identities within a natural wilderness setting.

WHOM TO CONTACT & FOR WHAT

Our year-round office telephone number is 204.477.7512. Here is a brief list of whom to contact for what:

Issue	Contact Person	Email
Camper Concerns	Jacob Brodovsky Lexie Yurman	jbrodovsky@bbcamp.ca lyurman@bbcamp.ca
Transportation, Baggage	General Information	info@bbcamp.ca
Registration, Forms, Payments, Camperships	Linsey Callaghan	llcallaghan@bbcamp.ca
Lost & Found	General Information	info@bbcamp.ca
Medical/Health	Lexie Yurman	lyurman@bbcamp.ca
Donations	General Information	info@bbcamp.ca

Please do not contact Jacob or Lexie by their Cell Phone numbers as those lines are reserved for staff at camp and on the lake.

Emergencies

If there is a family emergency, please state this when you call the Winnipeg Office (204 477 7512) and ask to speak to Lexie Yurman or Jacob Brodovsky, Executive Directors. Your call will be handled as quickly as possible. The best way to get in touch with us is always by email: lyurman@bbcamp.ca or jbrodovsky@bbcamp.ca. While at camp, we strive to respond to all emails within 48 hrs.

FORMS

In addition to this Summer 2024 Parent Handbook, there are 9 important pieces of paperwork that must be reviewed/filled out/uploaded and received by the Camp on behalf of each camper THE FOLLOWING FORMS ARE DUE ON JUNE 1st, 2024, including:

1. CAMPER CONSENT FORM (mandatory for each camper and found online).
2. CAMPER & PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT (mandatory for each camper and found online).

3. INTERNET COMMUNICATION FORM (mandatory for each camper and found online).
4. CAMPER INTEREST FORM (mandatory for each camper and found online).
5. SLEEP-AWAY CAMP TERMS AND CONDITIONS (mandatory for each camper & form found online).
6. CAMPER MEDICAL FORM (mandatory for each camper & form found online).
7. CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION RECORD (mandatory for each camper & can be uploaded online).
8. PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION (mandatory for each camper & can be uploaded online).
9. CAMPER PHOTO (mandatory for each camper & can be uploaded online).
10. CAMPER VACCINATION POLICY & COVID WAIVER (mandatory for each camper & can be uploaded online).
11. PHYSICIAN DECLARATION FORM (if applicable, can be uploaded online).
12. ANAPHYLAXIS ACTION PLAN (if applicable, can be uploaded online).

If you have yet to complete the forms, please visit our website at <https://bbcamp.campbrainregistration.com> to access our Online Registration System. Please make sure a separate form is filled out for each camper attending, as indicated above and that the completed forms are submitted online no later than JUNE 1st, 2023.

Luggage Tags – If you require luggage tags for your duffel bags please feel free to contact the camp office.

PREPARING FOR CAMP

What is the Leadership Training Program (LTP)?

The Canoe Trip

All LTP'ers will participate in a 2-week canoe trip led by two outrippers. The LTP'ers are divided into groups and each group will travel separately on a specified route in Lake of the Woods and the back lakes of Northwestern Ontario for the length of the canoe trip. After about 10 days, the groups will meet up and spend the remaining portion of the canoe trip together.

The purpose of the canoe trip is to strengthen the LTP'ers current wilderness leadership skills and to build a sense of community among the group. Unlike the Advanced Camp canoe trip, the LTP canoe trip is geared towards practical leadership training. The LTP'ers have an opportunity to further develop their wilderness skills on an individual and group basis. They will be given opportunities to experiment with their own teaching styles and to gain an appreciation of their leadership style through structured feedback (both from peers and instructors). They will each have an opportunity to act as "Leader of the Day" in which they facilitate the day-to-day leadership responsibilities as an outtripper or counsellor would.

The typical day depends on the number of paddling miles, weather, and the route plan. Each trip paddles Sunday through to Friday. On Shabbat (Saturdays) the trips have a "layover" - a non-paddling day. The layovers provide an opportunity for the trips to rest, relax and participate in a variety of programming sessions.

Onsite Practical Training

During this stage, the LTP'ers will be given numerous opportunities to apply their knowledge and training and acquire an understanding of the various components of the camp system. During their stay at Camp, LTP'ers will participate in a rotational schedule working in the following areas: counseling, resource (Kayaking, Ropes Course, Canoeing, Waterfront, Arts and Crafts, Tripping) maintenance, kitchen and general programming. Each LTP'er will be assigned to specific tasks and will work closely with associated staff members to gain an appreciation of the staff members' duties and functions. LTP'ers will also be given the opportunity to create and participate in programs. Every evening, the entire group meets to debrief and discuss their practical experiences and daily observations.

Canoe Trip Requests

The LTP Canoe Trip Grouping are often a concern of both parent and child. We know that the success of the camping experience can be directly related to the group configuration. LTP'ers will be divided into well-balanced groups during the canoe trips that reflect similar interests, skills and friendship patterns. Please note that the final determination of the canoe trips rests with the Executive Directors.

In most cases, campers will be placed with at least one of their three requests. Please remember that this is only a preference and does not bind the camp personnel. The Camp Director reserves the right of final decision.

We will do our utmost to ensure that your child is in a cabin filled with old and new friends. Your support and understanding is critical in encouraging positive group experiences at Camp.

In the past, we have received requests from parents asking the administration to keep specific campers apart. We understand that some campers arrive at Camp with a history of difficulty getting along with a particular camper or group of campers. If you have a specific concern regarding cabin placement, please email the Director at

lyurman@bbcamp.ca. Keep in mind that LTP'ers will come together as one big group for the summer following their canoe trip and campers will not be able to be kept separated.

The First Few Days on LTP

Coming to Camp for an extended period of time and participating in a co-ed canoe trip can be a big adjustment for many LTP'ers. The LTP coordinators encourage LTP'ers to talk about any concerns and fears they may be experiencing. The coordinators help the LTP'ers to understand that these feelings are natural and try to involve the LTP'er in all program activities – both on and offsite. Experience shows that within the first several days of the program most LTP'ers are busy having fun and feeling secure with their coordinators, group trip and the camp environment. While the six weeks is full of activities and challenges, it is natural to think about home over the six-week period.

If, however, you receive a letter that causes concern, call the camp office at 204 477 7512 and ask for Lexie Yurman or Jacob Brodovsky, Executive Directors. We welcome you sharing signs of unhappiness with us. It helps us to get to the bottom of any challenges your camper may be facing.

Packing Preamble

Helping to preserve and strengthen every camper's sense of self is one of our most important objectives. We want our campers to feel confident and comfortable. At camp, we have a simple 'ready to play' dress code. Please ensure that clothing packed for camp will not need to be adjusted in order to maintain comfort or safety while participating in camp activities. We strive to make BB Camp a place that is absent of judgement and want to stress that comfort and safety is key.

Please keep in mind the following:

- Campers are encouraged to choose swimwear that allows free movement and will not fall off in the water.
- Graphics on clothing should be appropriate: T-shirts with profanity, inappropriate words, phrases, or symbols may not be worn.
- Campers participate in a variety of activities outdoors, clothing will likely get dirty during their time at camp.

The canoe trip clothing list is essential to follow for safety, warmth and comfort reasons. Without the proper clothing, campers can get sick, hurt, or not feel comfortable in the wilderness dependent upon weather conditions.

Packing

Our cabins are large enough to hold campers, and their clothing comfortably, provided everyone brings a reasonable amount of clothing and personal items. Please pack all of your child's items in NO MORE than two duffel bags, one of which

should be used for bedding material – sheets, pillowcases, blankets and sleeping bags, while the other should be used for clothing. Please do not send any trunks. For personal hygiene, sleeping bags are not to be used as primary bedding following your child's overnight.

The Camper Clothing List (found [here](#)) will help you keep track of what you should pack for Camp. Campers generally do not need more than what is listed for their onsite portion of the program.

It is important from the standpoint of health and cleanliness that campers have sufficient clothing. The packing list is designed to provide the camper with a suggested supply of clothing. At Camp, a child wears clothes harder than in the city. And often in a cabin, items can go missing.

We recommend that if you are purchasing T-shirts, socks, underwear, towels for your child, look for generic, inexpensive options. Some of the clothing items will not return in the same condition after it has spent considerable time on a canoe trip, avoid unnecessary costs. We recommend that you do not send expensive articles of clothing to Camp. Camp is not a place to bring valuables, they may get lost or damaged. If your child has a favorite clothing item that they don't want to lose, don't send it to Camp.

Please remember that when it rains at Camp, the trails can become quite muddy and filled with puddles; it is therefore critical that your child brings waterproof rainwear. Do not send rain ponchos to Camp. The ponchos are known to tear easily as soon as a child brushes against a branch while hiking and will not offer any rain protection to your child if it is torn.

Open Toe Sandals

Due to the physical surroundings of the Camp - rocks, hills and a lot of tree roots, it is very important to wear proper shoes to prevent any accident. To lessen the risk of injury, we discourage open-toe or soft-soled footwear. **Slides or Flip-Flops are prohibited at camp except for use in the shower.** All sandals must have a back ankle strap, and crocs must be work in 'sport mode.' All campers are encouraged to wear closed-toe, well-secured, waterproof shoes during cook-out/overnight activities. Some areas near the lake have sharp rocks and wearing closed-toe shoes reduces the risk of injury to your child's feet. Our favorite camp shoes are Keen's as they are waterproof, durable, relatively inexpensive, and have a protected toe.

Packing Tips*** Line the inside of your child's duffel bags and backpack with garbage bags and place all your child's clothes and bedding inside the garbage bags. In case of rain, your child's clothing and personal items will remain dry. Also, pack your child's rain suit inside of their backpack for the bus ride; in case of bad weather your child will have their raingear for the boat ride and arrival at camp close at hand.

If your child is bringing a camera, pack it in a Ziploc bag. Label both the camera and the Ziploc bag, to provide extra waterproof protection during overnight experiences.

BB Camp Community Gear Locker

We recognize that sending your child to camp is expensive, and adding additional expenses such as items listed on the packing list isn't realistic for all families. Thanks to generous donations, BB Camp has an extensive gear locker of clothing, footwear, and canoe trip equipment in excellent condition to be loaned out. Feel free to contact us ahead of time with the items required and your camper's size to set aside any required items or clothing to be waiting on your campers bunk when they arrive.

Laundry

LTP'ers will be able to do laundry once following their overnight, a second time may be considered if necessary to maintain the campers' hygiene.

Lost and Found

We strongly suggest that you mark each article clearly with your camper's full name with a laundry-marking pen, nametape, or rubber stamp with permanent ink (see Lost and Found) or you can also acquire labels through Loveable Labels at www.BBcamp.lovablelabels.ca.

Please use permanent ink to mark the inside of shoes, boots, etc. and make sure all cameras, sleeping bags, bedding, and other gear are labeled clearly!!! Even shoes should be marked and there are special tags for shoes you can purchase. Help us reduce unnecessary lost and found items; please ensure all items are clearly labeled with camper's first and last name.

All campers and staff are encouraged to wear "blue & white" on Friday evening for Shabbat, so we can celebrate this part of our camp program in a special way. Given that the campsite is situated on rocky, uneven terrain, we discourage campers from wearing open-toe sandals or shoes with a high heel.

A complimentary BB Camp T-shirt will be provided to campers at the end of their respective session.

Labeled items left behind Camp will be brought back to the Winnipeg office following the end of the camp season. Due to the volume of lost and found, the Camp is restricting its resources to only collect and ship to Winnipeg clothing items that have campers' names. Unmarked clothing and articles are placed in the Lost and Found bin located on the front steps of the Chadar (Dining Hall). Staff will regularly take campers to check the bin for missing items. We will do our best, but cannot guarantee all lost items will be returned following camp.

B'nai Brith Jewish Community Camp cannot assume liability for the loss or damage of any personal items brought to Camp.

BB Camp will display all of its lost and found collection at the Winnipeg camp office in late September. We will email families to let them know when the lost and found is set up. Any unclaimed items will be sent to organizations that accept gently used clothing. A reminder notice will be sent to parents at the end of the camp season.

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT – PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!!!!

All unlabeled clothing will be donated to a local charity in Kenora.

Technology

At BB Camp we aim to strengthen interpersonal connection, growth, and independence; technology gets in the way. We want to protect our campers' ability to play and engage face to face with their peers, and the wilderness setting at camp. Additionally the camper area of our cabins including the LTP buildings are not equipped with electrical outlets for campers to charge these devices. Like other summer camps, we believe that unplugging over the summer enhances our connections: to each other and to our surroundings.

What is the Policy for LTPs?

- LTPs are not permitted to bring any devices to BB Camp that allow them to play electronic games, watch movies, download data or use a telephone. This includes: iPods, iPads, laptops, any gaming device, E-books of any kind.
- If these devices are found in Camp, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the session.
- The only acceptable devices at Camp are screen-free MP3 players, digital cameras, and personal cell phones to be handed in to the Director.

LTPS & Cell Phones

LTPs are permitted to bring their cell phones to Camp to be handed into the Camp Director upon arrival to the BB Camp. From time to time, at the discretion of the Camp Director, in designated locations, LTPs may be permitted to use their phones. LTPs are expected to wear a watch and use an alarm clock and camera for their intended purposes and not ever rely on a mobile device instead. LTPs may never use their device to show any kind of program or movie or clip to campers without exception.

Without limitation to the foregoing, if the Camp Director has reasonable grounds to believe that any camper, LTP, staff, or SIT has used an electronic mobile device in a way that breaches this or any other Camp policy, including a violation of the Camp's privacy policy, or has used the device to access or view illegal content or other content deemed unsuitable by the Camp Director for the Camp environment, the Camp Director may confiscate the device and may, where considered appropriate, provide the device to law enforcement authorities.

In any circumstance where, pursuant to this policy, the Camp Director confiscates an electronic mobile device, the affected camper and their parents/guardians will be deemed to consent to the confiscation in accordance herewith and to expressly waive any and all claims of any kind or nature against the Camp, the Camp Director or any director, officer, or agent thereof in respect of or relating in any way to such confiscation.

What NOT to Bring

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS HAVE NO PLACE AT BB CAMP. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO CAMP WITH YOUR CHILD. THEY WILL BE CONFISCATED.

- Electronics (as listed above)
- Hot pots, hot plates, kettles
- Drones
- Candles, lighters, matches
- Anything that is considered dangerous and could cause injury or destroy property.
- Illegal drugs, alcohol, fireworks, weapons, cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vape pens, cigars or cigarettes
- Items of high value such as watches, jewelry and expensive cameras.
- Please do not pack clothing with inappropriate language, slogans or pictures advocating use of cigarettes, alcohol, drugs or sexual overtones, or clothing that conflicts with our inclusion policy.
- Food of any kind including beverages

Meals

On the canoe trip, LTP'ers will be provided with three full meals a day, including a midafternoon snack and occasional treats throughout the day. It is not necessary or encouraged for campers to bring food on the canoe trip. There are several reasons why:

1. Safety (reduces any possibility of having life threatening food onsite)
2. Environmental (littering of food wrappers)
3. Storage (trips are not equipped to carry additional cargo)

Below, you can find a sample list of meals provided during the canoe trip:

Breakfast meals include: oatmeal, pancakes, bagels and cream cheese, scrambled eggs, fresh fruits such as oranges or apples. Each breakfast includes hot chocolate for the campers.

Lunch consists of camping crackers such as wraps or Wasa and Ryvita, peanut butter or soy butter and jam with a variety of trail lunches, which include salami, cheese, hummus, and tuna. As well, each lunch includes dried fruit and juice.

Afternoon Snacks consists of high-energy snacks such as power bars, Gorp, banana bread, and cookies.

Dinner includes all sorts of pastas, hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, burritos, chicken, shepherds pie, soup, and many specially planned meals such as stir fry, pizza, and samosas, among others.

Desserts will feature a variety of delicious treats including marshmallows, popcorn, canned fruit (peaches, fruit cocktail), and fresh baking (after each food drop) courtesy of the Camp.

Peanuts and all Nut Related Products

Peanuts are a life-threatening food for many children and as a result many schools have eliminated them from their list of acceptable foods. At BB Camp, our respect for each individual camper makes it important to do what we can to remove peanut products and other highly allergic food groups from Camp.

While on site, our objective is to be a peanut “aware” Camp. Our kitchen is peanut free. That of course does not guarantee a peanut free camp as staff and campers can accidentally bring nut products into Camp and often traces of a product can surprise the best of us at any time. To ensure that BB Camp remains a safe environment for peanut allergic children:

- We do not serve peanut butter in the dining hall. Instead we serve jam, wow butter, cream cheese, and other spreads so children have a variety of alternatives. Our kitchen and canteen is nut aware and will not prepare or serve any products that may contain traces of nuts or fish products. The kitchen only uses vegetable-based cooking oils and does not use any nut related products in any baking or meals.
- If there is a known allergy to a particular fruit product, the Camp will direct its effort not to use any of that fruit product during that session the allergies are prevalent.
- All staff and all campers will be given a clear message that nut products are not allowed at Camp.
- If you give food to your child on the bus, please ensure the food contains NO NUTS or nut products.

A cabin group will only be permitted to take peanut butter on their overnights provided the cabin group is free of any nut allergies. As an alternative, “sun butter” or wow butter will be provided on overnights if there is a nut allergy in the cabin group.

Spending Money

BB Camp does not operate a kiosk (Tuck shop) with snacks and beverages. Instead, we provide campers the opportunity to choose a few treats twice a week, which is included as part of the camper tuition fee. LTP’ers will have the opportunity to go to

Kenora once during their time at camp, and can bring spending money to purchase treats in town. No more than \$60-\$80 is necessary.

Sun Protection

LTP 'ers are generally outdoors throughout the course of the day. Please make certain that your child has a hat suitable for active play, ideally with a large brim to shade their face and neck, an ample supply of sunscreen (minimum 30 SPF), SPF medicated lip balm, and a water bottle. It is not a pleasant experience to be on an overnight with sunburn. Sunburns are preventable.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Camper Medical Form

Adequate medical records are important to ensure the wellbeing of our entire camp community. Campers without a completed medical form will be refused at the dock. If you have not yet filled in your camper's Medical Form at <https://bbcamp.campbrainregistration.com>, please do so by June 1st.

If you will be sending medication to Camp with your child, please ensure that administration instructions are included with the medications.

Immunization Policy

All campers attending BB Camp must be up to date in their routine childhood immunization as determined by the provincial schedule. Additionally, all campers are required to be immunized with 2 doses of a COVID-19. The routine vaccination of all campers and staff is an important public health matter especially in a high risk communal-living environment of a sleep away summer camp.

Health Centre

Our health centre is well-stocked and staffed by nursing students who have completed at least one year of clinical placements. We are a 7 minute boat ride from the Lake of the Woods District Hospital, and also utilize QDOC, a virtual telehealth service that connects us with Manitoba Doctors. BB Camp is lucky to have a robust medical committee made up of Doctors who are available for consults whenever needed.

Our camp policy is that parents are notified when:

- there is an emergency that requires your child to be taken to the hospital,
- your child is in the health centre overnight,
- your camper has a virtual visit with a doctor on QDOC
- your child needs to be taken for x-rays or lab tests and a cost may be incurred,

- your child needs to be put on antibiotics, or
- your child has been treated for lice.

Camp has experienced medical staff, and a wide network of medical professionals to consult that are qualified to make appropriate decisions concerning your child's health. If you should have any questions about the medical care your child is receiving, please feel free to email lyurman@bbcamp.ca and you will be put in touch with the appropriate healthcare staff. Please notify Camp immediately of any medical condition that develops between the submission of your child's medical form and the start of their camp session.

Medications

The Health Center is stocked with a variety of over-the-counter drugs and specialized equipment. Please note that provincial law requires that all medications be kept in the Health Center at Camp. There can be NO medications in the cabin this includes over the counter medications of topical creams, vitamins, and homeopathic medications - exceptions: Inhalers and Epi-Pens. Do not send medicines such as pain relievers, eardrops, etc. as they are always kept on hand. If your child takes something over the counter on a regular basis, please include this in your medical form and send it with your camper (turning it in to staff at the dock, along with written instructions). Sharing prescription drugs with others may result in expulsion from Camp.

Blister Packs

If your camper requires two or more pills at a time, medications must come blister packed, or on a med roll by a pharmacy.

Medication “Vacation”

We understand that some parents wish to give their child a “vacation” from their regular school-year dose of medication over the summer. Often, this is because Camp is assumed to be a less structured, stress-free environment. While Camp is a time for relaxed fun, there are many different situations to deal with: new social situations, changes in routine, and different levels of structure depending on the day. For these reasons, we strongly recommend that you discuss the above factors with your physician before considering taking your child off medication. Please note that we generally do not support medication holidays without the consultation of your child’s physician and any plan to discontinue medication taken during the school year must be discussed with the Executive Director prior to Camp.

Bedwetting

Our staff are trained to deal with bedwetting discreetly. Campers are instructed to ask their counselors for help and every effort is made to prevent accidents. If your camper regularly or periodically experiences bedwetting, please tell us about it on their

medical form. It is best for us to know ahead of time so we can easily help your child. Bedwetting will certainly not affect your camper's ability to come to Camp. Be sure to include extra bedding when you pack; we want to make your camper's stay here as comfortable as possible.

Eyeglasses

Children who wear glasses should bring an extra pair to camp in case of breakage or loss. Please make sure your child's name is marked on their eyeglasses. If glasses need to be repaired or replaced at camp, you will be billed for this service.

Dental Work

It is important that children's dental and orthodontic needs are attended to before Camp. There is no dentist at Camp and in the event that your child must have dental or orthodontic treatment, you will be billed for this service. Camp medical insurance does not cover dental work.

Lice

We will check all campers and staff for head lice upon arrival at Camp this summer. To facilitate this, we will have to have hair loose, which may require staff to remove any braids, etc. that children arrive in. Please let them know this to avoid disappointment. We ask that you please check your child's head before the start of Camp. If your child is found to have lice or nits at Camp, your child will be treated immediately, and we will contact you once treatment has been completed. Head lice are small, wingless insects that feed on human blood. Unfortunately, they are easily spread in environments where people live closely together, like Camp. Sharing towels, beds, hair accessories, headphones, hats, kippot, T-shirts, and other personal items (i.e. combs and brushes) contribute to their ability to spread. Please discourage your child from sharing such items while in camp.

Safety

Since BB Camp's inception over 65 years ago, we have an excellent track record for safety and security. BB Camp is a caring and nurturing environment in which all programs, in and out of Camp, are planned with safety as the top priority.

To ensure a secure environment as possible for our campers, camp leadership have designed the following protocols regarding safety and security:

- Island evacuations are reviewed with all staff and fire drills are conducted.
- Emergency evacuations are reviewed with all campers groups on the first day of their arrival.
- All visitors and deliveries will be met at the Dock and directed to the Camp Director's building, and will be required to check in.
- No unexpected visitors will be allowed onto Camp.

- Camp has security cameras on each dock to ensure the camp is monitored at all hours.

TRANSPORTATION

BB Camp Provides chartered busses from The Rady JCC Parking lot in Winnipeg at 123 Doncaster St, to Kenora and back for all campers at BB Camp.

Families also have the option of dropping off and picking up their camper at the Kenora Main St Dock.

The specific details and logistics around drop-off and pick-up, i.e., assigned times, meeting locations, etc., will be shared with our families closer to the start of Camp. You can expect a careful and responsible check-in/out process that supports the stable environment inside of Camp we will create and maintain.

COMMUNICATING WITH CAMP

Living at Camp, apart from parents, gives children an opportunity to experience a wonderful sense of independence. For many of us, throughout the school year, our children are only a text away, we are in nearly constant contact. Camp is a departure from that kind of immediate contact, yet, at the same time, we recognize that ongoing communication is important - we want you to know all of the amazing things that are happening at Camp, and we want our campers to know you are thinking of them.

Birthdays

It is an old BB Camp tradition to celebrate each camper's birthday with a cake (provided by the Camp), singing in the Chadar (dining hall), raising or lowering camp flag and a cabin celebration.

You may phone your child on their birthday. To set up a phone call, Email the Camp Office a few days prior, so we can coordinate a time that supports the daily schedule. The best times are before or after lunch or before or after dinner. We will contact you at the scheduled time. If your child is on their overnight during their birthday, we are unable to coordinate the phone call until after they return.

Campers also appreciate birthday cards and letters from family members. If you would like to send a small gift for the birthday camper, please contact one of the Executive Director prior to camp. Please note that birthday items sent to Camp must adhere to camp policies and cannot include food. Please note that it is camp policy that campers not call home for family members' or friends birthdays; only their own.

Communicating by Mail

Mail from home is important for campers of all ages. For younger campers, pre-addressed and stamped envelopes or postcards are helpful. PLEASE SUPPLY YOUR CHILD WITH SUFFICIENT STAMPS, ENVELOPES, PAPER AND PENS. We will do our best to see that every camper writes regularly. Also, many campers often write to other friends and family members. Mail is distributed daily Sunday to Friday following lunch. All camper mail is checked so we know which child has not received any mail by the end of the first week. If you have a summer address, please be sure the camp office has this information.

Letters From Campers

Campers are encouraged to write home at least once a week. Please do not be concerned if you have not heard from your child for a few days. Mail is sent from Camp daily but is often delayed getting from the Kenora post office to a larger mail hub in Winnipeg. Please write to your child frequently. If you do not hear from your child for longer periods of time, please advise the Camp Office by Email at info@bbcamp.ca and the Camp Administration will look into the matter.

Letters To Campers

Your child will want to hear from you as much as you want to hear from your child. It is especially important that younger campers and first-time campers receive mail from home within the first 24 hours of Camp. Please write to your child before Camp begins, so they can receive a letter the first day. It is a good idea to mail your first letter one week before Camp begins. (Some parents will even include a note in their child's duffels).

Here are some ideas that might be helpful in keeping in touch with your camper...

1. Keep a list of things to write about.
2. Choose distinctive stationery and use stickers.
3. Send a joke, a quiz, or an article on a topic they enjoy.
4. Send a funny greeting card (or birthday card, if appropriate).
5. Mail photos of their favourite things or family.
6. Keep it light and happy -- express how much you look forward to hearing all about the wonderful things that go on at Camp.

Mail to and from Kenora can be unpredictable and at times, slow!! It usually takes three - four working days for a letter to reach Kenora from Winnipeg. It is a good idea to send a few letters to Camp prior to the session to ensure timely delivery of mail.

To assist with the prompt delivery of your mail, please address each letter as follows:

Camper's Full Name (both first and last name - very important!!!)
Cabin Number (once you receive this information)

BB Camp
Box 559
Kenora, Ontario Canada
P9N 3X5

Communicating by Phone

One of the goals at BB Camp is to create a positive, immersive Jewish summer camp experience. One of the things that allows us to achieve this goal is the creation of an environment that is free from some of the modern technologies of today and unaffected by the hustle and bustle of modern life.

If you need to discuss something with your child, please contact the Camp Office. The administration will help you communicate with your child in the case of family emergencies or other special circumstances where a message needs to be delivered to your child.

The best way to get in contact with us is to email us at lyurman@bbcamp.ca or jbrodovsky@bbcamp.ca, and we will call you back ASAP. Unfortunately voicemail has been discontinued in our area, and though we strive to have someone by the phone at all times, we cannot guarantee it.

Because the staff's priority is attending to your children out on the campsite rather than in the office, calls may sometimes not be returned until late in the evening. We ask for your understanding in this regard.

Packages

We strongly discourage all unnecessary packages at Camp. If a parent must send a package, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Do not send food or candy. All packages will be opened and campers will not receive any food or candy contents. The Camp will not store any food care packages until the end of a session for your child. Please respect this policy.
2. The only exception to the package policy is birthdays and necessities. If you are sending a birthday package or items that your child needs (clothing, medicine, extra glasses, retainer, etc.) please call ahead and notify the Director. If the Camp can accommodate the pick-up for these items, it will facilitate the request.
3. Please be mindful of the feelings of other cabin mates - often packages can create feelings of inequity and disappointment. Please keep packages and their contents to a minimum.

Care packages may be purchased for your child's entire cabin and will be available on our online store at www.bbcamp.ca/store

Administrative Staff will open all boxes and large envelopes. If there are non-food items that are deemed inappropriate, they will be stored throughout the session and returned to Winnipeg at the end of the session. The Executive Directors reserve the right to make final determinations on the appropriateness of all items sent to campers.

IMPORTANT ITEMS

MCA Accreditation

B'nai Brith Jewish Community Camp is an accredited member of the Manitoba Camping Association (MCA), and our staff are active on the Manitoba Camping Association board and accreditation committee.

MCA's accreditation program requires review of every facet of the camp operation. Every three years, trained camp professionals observe the Camp while it is in operation and compare its practices against the standards for the industry. They scrutinize every aspect of the staff, facility, medical service, food service, program protocol and supplies and equipment for each program area in Camp. By becoming accredited, BB Camp has demonstrated its commitment to the highest standards established for the camping industry. MCA's standards program is nationally recognized by the Canadian Camping Association and is frequently updated to reflect the latest in camping.

Visitor's Policy

There are no visiting days during any camp session. Parents who have a summer cottage in Lake of the Woods are not permitted to drive up to the camp by boat to visit their child(ren). This is highly disruptive and creates numerous problems for the camp. As safety is always our primary concern, we ask that parents support and abide by this policy. If you have any questions concerning this policy, please contact the camp office.

Special appointments for visitations during the spring and early summer months must be arranged by emailing info@bbcamp.ca. All visitations must have prior approval from the Executive Directors.

Parent Checklist

Have you:

- ✓ Carefully and thoroughly read this Handbook?
- ✓ Reviewed with your child and submitted the appropriate Camp Information Forms in the online portal?
- ✓ Completed your online Medical Form for each child in the online portal?
- ✓ Submitted the Physician Declaration Form if you answered “yes” to any medical question?
- ✓ Completed your online Internet Policy Form for each child in the online portal?
- ✓ Submitted all payments owed to Camp?
- ✓ Notified Camp of any change of address or phone number?
- ✓ Notified Camp if you will be out of town anytime between July 25 – August 12 and contact information during this time?
- ✓ Put name tags on all articles being brought to Camp?