Welcome to Camp Tawasentha!

We are so happy that you have decided to join us at Camp Tawasentha. This email contains information that you will find helpful as you prepare for camp.

**REMININDER:** Your HEALTH STATEMENT FORM (signed by your doctor), your CODE OF CONDUCT, SIGNED CELL PHONE STATEMENT, SUNSCREEN FORM, and PARENTAL RELEASE FORM are due to the 4-H Office no later than June 15, 2015. These are available on the 4-H Camp web page: [https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/4-h-youth/4-h-camp-tawaswentha](https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/4-h-youth/4-h-camp-tawaswentha).

Buses will leave the 4-H Office promptly at 11:30 a.m. on July 12, 2015!

We ask that all campers arrive and check in no later than 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 12th so that we have adequate time to prepare for a timely departure. All campers must have a health check by our camp nurse prior to boarding the bus. This includes a temperature check and a lice check.

When you arrive at the 4-H Office, there will be signs telling you where to park and where to leave your luggage.

**Buses will return to the 4-H Office on Friday, July 17, 2015 at approximately 2:30 p.m.!**

Parents are requested to be at the 4-H Office no later than 2:30 p.m. to greet their campers as they arrive home. If a parent is not available to greet their camper, please submit a Letter of Authorization that specifies who we should release your camper to.

In addition, we ask that all campers make sure they check out with the 4-H Office before leaving the Office for home.

**MEDICATIONS:** Put all medications in a paper bag. Label the bag with the camper’s name. Place inside exact written instructions on how the medication is to be given. All medications must be in the original container from the pharmacy. Send only the amount needed for the camp week. The bags containing the medications will be collected at check in and will be transported by bus. **Please make sure your camper is**
aware that all medications must be kept in the Health Room with the camp nurse for disbursement.

“What to pack – what to pack?”

Camp Tawasentha is nestled on a beautiful, wooded mountainside in Garrett County in Western Maryland. We are just minutes from Deep Creek Lake. Our days are usually warm, requiring the typical summertime wear of swim suits, shorts, and tee shirts. Please remember that we follow MCPS dress code. You should dress for camp the way you would for a hot day at school. No bikinis unless covered by a T-shirt – tankinis are ok as long as the midriff is covered. Pants are to be worn above the waist without underwear showing. Our evenings, however, have been known to drop to the low 40’s. We suggest that for evening and early morning activities, campers pack an additional light blanket, windbreaker (rain repellant) or jacket, long sleeve shirt, pants and/or sweats. Packing two pairs of tennis shoes or boots would be wise in case we have rain. Due to the mountain terrain, no sandals or open toe/heel shoes are allowed. **Flashlights with extra batteries are a NECESSITY.**

Personal Items You Should Pack: Bath towel, beach towel, washcloth, toothbrush, soap, comb/brush. **TIP: pack Ziploc bags – one to put your wet soap and washcloth in and one for your toothbrush! It keeps them away from the “dry” stuff and also keeps them clean.**

- When packing for camp, put your name (with permanent magic marker on masking tape) on the outside of all your luggage, bed rolls, etc.
- **TIP: Pack your bedroll and pillow in a large trash bag**
- When making a bedroll, lay your sheet and extra blanket inside your sleeping bag BEFORE you roll it up... sometimes your pillow will fit too! Pack an extra trash bag for the trip home.
- **TIP: Pack extra “kitchen” trash bags – this way you can protect your clothes from the “wet/dirty “ clothes when you are packing to go home.**

Important “Stuff” You Shouldn’t Forget!
A flashlight with new batteries, a **plain white t-shirt** to decorate, a laundry bag (or trash bag), bug repellant, and sunscreen. Make sure to pack some fun things to wear for our “Theme Days”. These include:

- Super Hero Day
- Twin Day
- Party Day – Neon Theme

There is also Tribe Color Day. Every camper will receive a tee shirt at camp to wear for this fun day. The cost has been included in the camp fee.

**FOOD ALLERGIES:** Please inform us of all food allergies and sensitivities that your camper may have. Due to known camper food allergies, we already plan a **NUT-free**
camp, so please, do not provide your camper with any NUT snacks, this includes candy that contains peanut butter or any type of nut. In fact, campers should bring NO food to camp with them!

**Stuff That Needs To Stay Home!**
- Money – there is nothing to buy at camp
- Aerosol Cans
- Cell phones, hand-held games, mp3 players, blackberries, E-readers, iPads, iPhones etc. Any version of these items that is not listed is included as a restricted item.

**Parents and campers must sign the cell phone statement before being allowed to board the bus for camp**
- Animals – leave your pets at home
- Personal sports equipment – everything you need will be provided

**All Campers Love Mail!!!**
We suggest that you begin mailing your cards and letters a few days prior to your camper’s departure to assure its timely arrival. In addition, make sure to provide your camper with some stamps and envelopes so they can send letters home to you if they wish. Mail should be sent to:
Montgomery County 4-H Camp
Western Maryland 4-H Center
Attn: “Your Camper’s Name”
243 4-H Road
Swanton, Maryland 21561

We ask everyone to review the Camp Handbook and the Code of Conduct thoroughly. Both are available for viewing and/or printing on the 4-H Camp Web page. Contact the 4-H Office with any questions or concerns. The Handbook will also be distributed at the Parent/Camper Orientation meeting.

**There are some items we would like to specifically point out at this time:**
- **Phone Calls at Camp:** As stated in the Camp Handbook, phones are for emergency use only. Parents should not expect campers to call home. Under our policy, we would only call for illness, injury or behavioral misconduct. If a camper suffers an illness or injury that requires more medical attention than the camp nurse can provide, emergency procedures will be followed and a staff member will contact you immediately to make further arrangements.
- **Breaking the Code of Conduct:** Behavioral problems that cannot be corrected at camp will result in dismissal; a member of the camp staff will contact you immediately to discuss the situation. A camper dismissed from camp as a result of misconduct is not eligible for a refund, and will not be allowed to return to
camp the following year. In addition, the camper will be held financially responsible for any damages caused by this misconduct.

- **Parent / Camper Orientation**: There are two Mandatory camp orientations for **ALL Camper parents**. Campers are invited and encouraged to attend. The Parent/Camper Orientations on June 2, 2014 OR June 15, 2014 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County 4-H Office. Details of the camp schedule, special activities and theme days will be presented at this time. The camp Handbook will be distributed and the Code of Conduct, behavioral expectations and consequences will be reviewed, as will the camp layout, camp rules, meals and daily operations of camp.

This is a perfect opportunity for parents to ask questions and meet the adult staff, the counselors and youth leaders that will be working with your camper throughout the week.

Sincerely,

David Gordon  
Meredith Smith  
Ed Hogan  
Tom Wobber

4-H Educator  
Camp Director  
Camp Director  
Camp Director