

All The Dirt On Laundry

Two week campers have the option of having their laundry during their stay. Laundry service is not available for one-week campers. Friendly Pines Camp will cover the first \$10 of laundry. Any charges over the \$10 will be applied to the camper's store account. The laundry service we use charges approximately \$1.25 per pound. Though laundry weights vary from camper to camper, 6-12 lbs of laundry is pretty typical. We send in laundry once in a two-week session. We send laundry in around the weekend between arrival and departure. Campers, therefore, will return home with a week's worth of dirty laundry.

It's important to know how the laundry service works (unless you decline the laundry service all together). All of the girls' laundry goes to town on Saturday and all of the boys' goes to town on Sunday. The clothes arrive at the laundry in huge cabin-group laundry bags. Inside the cabin-group laundry bags is each camper's own laundry in his or her own laundry bag. After washing, drying, sorting, and folding the clothes, the laundry service sends all the clean clothes back in individually-marked packages. In order to sort the clothing, the folks at the laundry must, therefore, be able to read the name of the camper on each and every article of clothing. On the day the laundry comes back, our office receives any unmarked laundry that we must attempt to reunite with each owner. This method works most of the time; unfortunately, we find that some of the campers, particularly the younger ones, aren't able to identify their own jeans (since they all do look pretty much the same)! In many cases, campers don't even realize that the clothing is missing until the day the counselor packs them to go home.

Below are some things that YOU can do to avoid losing things at camp and keeping your laundry costs down:

1 IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU MARK ALL OF YOUR BELONGINGS:

Whether or not you choose the laundry service, this point is so important, we'd like to repeat it. It is absolutely critical that you mark all your belongings!

2. USE INDELIBLE METHODS OF MARKING LAUNDRY.

Waterproof laundry markers such as Sharpies, or one of the labeling systems (about which we have enclosed information in this mailing) are best. Anything else might simply wash away.

3. MARK THE CLOTHES IN AN EASY-TO-FIND LOCATION.

We strongly suggest that you mark inside and to the back of the neck band of shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, raingear, PJs, etc. Mark shorts, underwear, jeans, swim-trunks, PJ bottoms, etc. within and to the back of the waistband. Mark socks along the foot or toe, if written, or attach label to top of sock; towels, pillow cases, and blankets along the hem area. Some folks like to "hide" the camper's name for fear that marking the article in an obvious location will "ruin" it. As a result, they'll mark the item in a location so obscure that you'd need a treasure map to find it. A little rule of thumb: If you have an article of clothing that you feel will be "ruined" by a marker or label tape, please leave that article at home!

4. DON'T MARK DARK MATERIAL WITH A DARK MARKER!

This may seem like a "no-brainer," but it's surprising how often someone will use a black laundry marker to write the camper's name on the collar of a black shirt. Situations like these call for the white label tape that you iron on or sew on the garment. You can even buy a white laundry marker! (See the lavender information sheet in this mailing).

5. BE SURE TO MARK EVERYTHING!

Label not only those items typically going to the laundry, but also things like bathrobes, belts, jackets, boots, pillows, sleeping bags, cameras, toothpaste, soap dish, and toiletries. In short, to reduce the risk of losing it, write the camper's name on it!

6. HAVE AN ADULT DO THE MARKING ON ALL CLOTHING AND BELONGINGS!

Like filling out enrollment applications and medical forms, the job of marking the camper's belongings is best handled by an adult. Though we think it's a good idea to have your camper help in getting ready to go to camp, we don't think it's wise to hand a child a marker and a stack of clothes and tell him "have at it". Needless mistakes will occur, and some of those mistakes can be costly.

7. LEAVE EXPENSIVE CLOTHES AT HOME!

The beauty of camp is that fashion is irrelevant. Here we're liberated from the burden of having to be "in style." By bringing expensive clothes, you're only running the risk of losing them or having them destroyed. We think it's best to bring clothes that won't upset you should they happen to get worn-out or misplaced over the course of the summer. Let's be honest. Clothes get dirty at camp, sometimes real dirty. Up at 7 AM, campers spend a full 14 hours horseback riding, climbing, hiking, cooking by campfire, playing in the creek, helping in the pet farm, and camping out. Though we stress cleanliness, good grooming, and hygiene, it's important that the boys and girls are free to learn and play without worrying about frayed hems, grass-stained elbows, or soiled socks. You might consider factory outlets, clothing exchange stores, yard sales, and/or thrift shops – why not?

8. INFORM YOUR CAMPERS NOT TO SEND HEAVY ITEMS TO THE LAUNDRY

Our counselors will keep an eye on this too, but campers should avoid sending in blankets, sleeping bags, and other heavy items that could wait to be laundered at home.

9. MAKE SURE CAMPERS SEND IN ONLY THEIR OWN LAUNDRY

Again, our staff will try to police this as well, but campers need to make sure only their laundry is going in their laundry bag. Because of the way the laundry is done (1 camper, 1 washer, 1 dryer), Susie could be charged for someone else's laundry if another camper's article arrives at the laundromat in Susie's laundry bag. Our office staff will watch the charges and will notify the Director and/or counselor if a notably high charge comes in for someone's laundry. In that case, parents may be notified as well.

Of course, two week campers always have the option of sending a full session's worth of clothes to camp. They'd return home, ready to be laundered, promptly. This, however, will not prevent the possibility of lost clothing and belongings. Unmarked items can be just as easily lost right here at camp.

Note: Please refer to [☒☒](#) on clothing check list (yellow form) regarding your decision to accept or decline laundry service. Please mark "yes" or "no", then sign and date. If neither is indicated, your child's clothing will be sent out for laundry service. There is no additional cost for laundry service unless the poundage exceeds our standard offering.