

# 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 \$15 of laundry. Any charges over the \$15 will be applied to the camper's store account. The laundry service we use charges approximately \$1.50 per pound. Though laundry weights vary from camper to camper, 10-20 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 Friday & 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:

## IT IS *CRITICAL* THAT YOU MARK ALL YOUR CAMPER'S 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!

## USE INDELIBLE METHODS OF MARKING LAUNDRY

Waterproof laundry markers such as Sharpies, or a personalized labeling systems are best. Anything else might simply wash away.

## CONSIDER THE ITEM COLOR/MATERIAL WHEN LABELING

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 something like white label tape that you iron on or sew on the garment. You can even buy a white laundry marker!