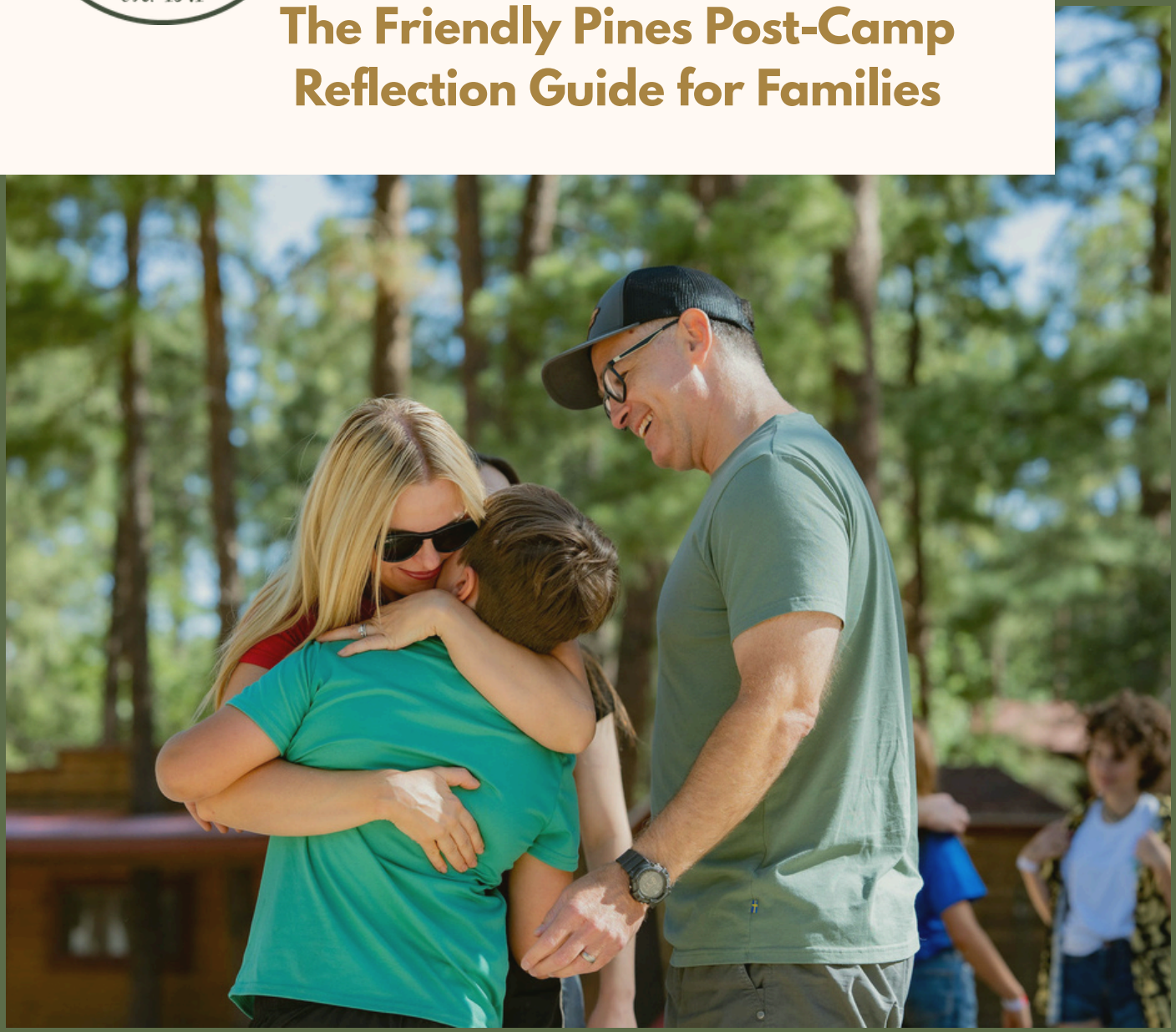
FRIENDLY PINES CAMP

COMING HOME

The Friendly Pines Post-Camp Reflection Guide for Families



VERSION 2027

YOUR CAMPER COMES HOME WITH MUCH MORE THAN DIRTY LAUNDRY AND FUNNY STORIES



They return with new experiences, new friendships, new memories, and often a little more confidence, independence, and resilience than when they left.

THE DAYS AND WEEKS AFTER CAMP OFFER A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THOSE LESSONS TAKE ROOT.

THE TRANSITION HOME IS REAL

Just as campers need time to settle into camp, they often need a little time to settle back into home life as well.



Campers may return home:

- Excited
- Exhausted
- Emotional
- Quiet
- Talkative
- Missing camp
- Ready for their own bed

Sometimes all within the same hour.

MOVING BEYOND "HOW WAS CAMP?"

BETTER QUESTIONS CREATE BETTER CONVERSATIONS

FRIENDSHIP

Who made you laugh the most?

Who would you like to stay in touch with?

What made someone a good friend at camp?

FUN

What was the funniest thing that happened?

What would you do again tomorrow if camp started over?

ADVENTURE

What surprised you?

What activity did you enjoy more than you expected?

What is something you tried for the first time?



GROWTH

What felt difficult at first but became easier?

What are you most proud of?

When did you realize you could handle something on your own?

REFLECTION

What do you think you'll remember most?

What do you think you learned about yourself?



WHAT DID CAMP TEACH YOU?

LOOKING FOR GROWTH

INDEPENDENCE

✓ What can you do now that felt harder before camp?

RESPONSIBILITY

✓ What responsibilities did you have at camp?

✓ How did you contribute to your cabin community?

DETERMINATION

✓ What challenges did you work through?

✓ How did you handle them?

FRIENDSHIP

✓ What helped you make friends?

✓ Why was it important to be a good friend at camp?

CONFIDENCE

✓ When did you feel proud of yourself?



KEEPING THE CAMP SPIRIT ALIVE

CONSIDER KEEPING:



✓ More outdoor or nature time
✓ More “analog” play
✓ More face-to-face time with friends
✓ More physical activity
✓ More responsibility
✓ More unstructured and creative play
✓ More reading or writing
✓ More family meals

PROTECT THE SCREEN-FREE RESET

CONSIDER HOW YOUR FAMILY MIGHT PRESERVE SOME OF THE MOMENTUM

One of the most common things campers discover is that they don't miss screens nearly as much as they expected.



- **What did you enjoy doing without screens?**
- **What did you have more time for?**
- **What would you like to continue doing at home?**

THE THINGS ONLY CAMPERS UNDERSTAND

QUESTIONS THAT HELP UNCOVER THE TRADITIONS AND MAGIC OF CAMP

MEALS & 'FIRST HELP'

✓ What was "First Help" like?

✓ Was it hard to stay quiet at first?

✓ What did you notice during those quiet moments?

RENDEZVOUS & THE VIRTUES

✓ What were the camp virtues?

✓ What were you recognized for at Rendezvous?

✓ What did it mean to you?

SONGS & CAMP SPIRIT

✓ What camp songs are stuck in your head?

✓ Can you teach us one?

✓ What song did you sing at the end of each night before heading to cabins for bed?

OVERNIGHTS

2-WEEK CAMPERS

✓ What was your overnight campout like?

✓ What was it like sleeping outside?

✓ What did the stars look like?

SIESTA

✓ What did you usually do during Siesta?

✓ Did you ever actually take a nap?

✓ What made Siesta special?

STICK DEDICATION

✓ What did you dedicate your stick to?

✓ Why did you choose that?

✓ What was it like hearing other campers share?



DON'T LEAVE THE GROWTH AT CAMP.

One of the best ways to honor the camp experience is to continue practicing some of the skills campers used every day while they were away.

Examples:

- Managing their belongings
- Making their bed
- Getting ready for the day
- Following a daily schedule
- Cleaning their living space
- Cleaning up after meals
- Solving small problems
- Asking for help when needed

Then consider:

Which of these skills can continue at home?

NEW EXPECTATIONS CAN BE A GOOD THING

A conversation might sound like:

"You handled getting yourself ready every morning at camp. Let's keep practicing that at home."

or

"You helped keep your cabin clean. We'd love your help with that here, too."

Camp often reveals capabilities children already have.

GROWING UP WITH CAMP

One of the special things about Friendly Pines is that campers grow up here.

As campers get older, they take on new challenges, try new activities, build deeper friendships, and experience camp in new ways.

Many campers spend years progressing through camp, eventually becoming LITs, CITs, Counselors, and lifelong members of the Friendly Pines community.



Ask:

✓ **What do you think next summer's camp experience might look like for you?**

✓ **What is something you're excited to do when you're older at camp?**

✓ **What goals would you like to bring back with you next summer?**

✓ **Do you think you'd make a good camp counselor one day?**




FRIENDLY PINES
CAMP
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