



March 3rd, 2010

Dear Parents:

Enclosed in this packet you will find the Camper Information Form, which we ask you to complete and return to our office by May 1. **As you complete the Camper Information Form, please provide any and all information you feel will be helpful for us to know about your child.** This information is communicated to your child's counselors during our staff orientation. It allows them to be best prepared to help support and nurture your child emotionally, socially and programmatically.

With regards to cabin placement, our goal is that every one of our campers lives in a cabin in which they can thrive. **It is important to remind you that we do not repeat cabins from year to year, which means that each summer your child returns to camp, he or she will live with a different mix of campers.** We have always found this helpful at Echo Lake, both in terms of making our new campers feel more welcomed, and in order to assist our campers in reaching out beyond their own existing friendships.

It is always our goal to meet as many of your child's cabin requests as possible. The cabin request mix of over 450 campers, however, simply does not allow for every camper to get all their requests met. This is why we ask for at least **three requests**, so that we can ensure that your child will be with at least one of the friends he or she requested. It is our top priority to meet a camper's first request, and in most cases we are able to do that. It is our next priority that we meet as many second and third requests as possible. We do that in as many cases as we can. **If your child comes to camp expecting to receive all of his or her requests, he or she will likely be disappointed.**

In all cases, we want to ensure that every child is placed in a cabin in which he or she can thrive. That includes a social environment in which your child can both enhance existing friendships and develop new ones. It also includes, as always, living with counselors who are wonderful role models and fully engaged in the success of your child.

We cannot take bed requests. As there are a limited number of beds in each cabin, it is not possible for us to meet individual bed requests (corner bed, no corner bed, bunk bed, no bunk bed, etc).

Please be sure to return the Camper Information Form to our office by May 1st, so we have it in time to consider your child's cabin requests. In the meantime, should you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to call.

Warm Regards,

Tony and Laurie