

The Atlanta Workshop

Players



present “Destiny”

Performing Arts

Camp Camp 2012

Information Guide Book

Welcome to the Atlanta Workshop Players

Camp "Destiny" 2012

Location: BRENAU University, Gainesville, GA

FEATURING Two Spectacular State-Of-The-Art Theatres, Dance Studios, Gymnasium, Swimming Pool, Music Rooms, Rehearsal Halls.....

We want you to have the very best ARTISTIC ADVENTURE ever!
This document is designed to answer questions concerning the camp for both students and parents.

We suggest that parents and students read this information together.

NOTE: The camp medical form must be printed & then filled out by a physician prior to camp. You may email form to: awplayers@aol.com OR fax it to: 770-998-0227, THEN CALL TO CONFIRM RECEIPT. Always bring a hard copy of the medical form with you to registration as a back-up, in case the form is lost in cyberspace.

Table of Contents

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE#</u>
General Camp Information and Policies.....	3-6
<u>Sessions 6, 7 & APS (Advanced Production Session):</u>	
Arrival & Departure & Performance & Major info.....	6-8
Map and Directions to Brenau University	8
Audition Night Info.....	9
AWP Theme Information.....	10
Medical Form **** MUST BE FILLED OUT BY PHYSICIAN.....	11
Preparing for the Summer Camp Experience/Homesickness.....	12
Closing Comments.....	13

Atlanta Workshop Players

8560 Holcomb Bridge Rd. Suite III, Alpharetta, GA 30022
(770) 998-8111, Fax (770) 998-0227
email: awplayers@aol.com
www.AtlantaWorkshopPlayers.com

General Camp Information & Policies

Welcome To Your Creative Adventure!!!!

TRANSPORTATION TO CAMP: A map & directions to Brenau University is included in this packet. If arriving by **PLANE**, the AWP Camp staff will meet campers at the gate & deliver them to the camp for a fee of \$60.00 each way. Call (770) 998-8111 one week in advance to make arrangements. Make sure you speak with an AWP administrator directly. A confirmation call is required 2 days prior to pickup.

INSURANCE & PHYSICAL: Campers must be covered by their own health insurance. Each camper **must** submit the enclosed Medical Examination Form with a physical completed by a licensed physician within one year of camp date, in order to be admitted to the program. A sports physical is sufficient. **This is mandatory**--there can be no exceptions to the one year time period. It is for the protection of your child, as well as the other campers, that everyone be given a clean bill of health prior to attending camp. **Failure to comply** will result in the camper not being admitted to the program, in which case no refund of camp fees will be made. Note: Hospitals may not provide emergency treatment unless parents have signed & dated the release statement on the medical form. Return Medical Forms on or before May 15th.

MEDICATION: All medication, including "over-the-counter" must be left with the Camp Medical Staff. Any medications found in possession of a camper will be confiscated, parents will be notified & dismissal from camp could result. "Over the counter" meds are available in the Camp Clinic & can be given by the Medical Staff if deemed necessary & permission has been granted by the parent on the Medical Form.

CLASSES: All students are required to attend daily classes & rehearsals. Students may choose electives in any subject area, regardless of weekly major chosen. Students are encouraged to take classes in all subject areas (i.e. dancers take acting classes; actors take movement classes) in order to become well rounded. Besides, it's a blast to try new things while surrounded by fun, creative people! Counselors will help students make appropriate class level choices. Dance wear and neat hair are required for dance classes.

AUDITION FOR CASTING DIRECTORS AND TALENT AGENTS: Advanced acting students in ALL residential sessions have a rare opportunity to perform a prepared monologue for Agents and Casting Directors..

CABARET NIGHT: Campers have the option to perform for each other on Cabaret Night! It's a night filled with entertainment and standing ovations! You are welcome to perform whatever you are best at...dance, song, comedy, juggling, etc. You must **sign up in advance** so please make sure you checked the "Cabaret" box on your online registration form. ***NOTE: IN ORDER TO HAVE TIME FOR EVERYONE, YOU MAY ONLY PERFORM IN 1 PIECE PER SESSION! WE CANNOT ACCEPT CABARET REQUESTS AT CAMP.** Performance piece **must be limited to 2 minutes & prepared prior** to coming to camp. Please bring any props, costumes, music, or materials needed to share your talent. Make sure all material (including lyrics to songs) is **appropriate for ALL AGES**. We request that parents listen carefully to all lyrics for inappropriate subject matter & adult content. Accompaniment should be on a CD or I-Pod as a pianist may not be available. Be sure all CD's & I-Pods are labeled with the campers name, track # & the title of the performance piece. We suggest that you make an edited CD that contains only the portion of the song you intend to perform and adheres to the **2 minute time limit. Also bring a backup copy in case of malfunction or loss.**

MAIL: All Residential Campers love mail. **It brightens their day.** Please address mail as follows: Camper's Name / Atlanta Workshop Players "Camp Destiny" C/O Brenau University 500 Washington Street SE Gainesville, GA 30501. **We recommend mailing PRIOR to camp starting.**

LODGING, ROOMMATES, & MEALS:

Resident Camp price includes all classes, workshops, entertainment, recreational activities, supervision, meals & lodging. Students will be assigned to rooms with roommates of the same gender & near the same age. We will honor a request for friends to be in the same room or suite, if their ag, gender & major allow AND both parents make the request in writing. Students are housed in dormitories with two or three campers per room. Some rooms have private bathrooms and other share a community bathroom on their hall. Campers are advised to keep any money & valuables in their dorm room & lock the door at all times. The living quarters are very basic dorm rooms. It's not fancy --- we're at camp! Feel free to bring decorations if you like. (Little Christmas lights or a lamp work wonders) NOTE: If you have allergies, you may consider bringing a portable air purifier. If a camper needs to stay over the weekend there will be an additional \$95 room & board charge. Arrangements for weekend stays MUST be made in advance.

ROOM KEYS: A \$60.00 room key deposit will be taken at registration & returned ONLY if keys are returned at check out. The room key deposit may be paid by cash or check. **If paying in cash**, please have correct change. **If paying by check**, make payable to **Atlanta Workshop Players**, for this amount only -separate from tuition payment. NOTE: Student has sole responsibility for their key. A key chain will be given as a convenience only -- it is not a guarantee against loss. You are welcome to bring your own very strong key chain. Remember, you are still responsible for your key even if you give it to someone else to hold -- including your counselor!

WHAT TO BRING: Keep packing simple and limited to what you feel the camper will absolutely need. Use a permanent marker to write the camper's name on every item. Pack enough changes of clothing for the length of the session. If absolutely necessary, laundry facilities are available. **PARENTS:** Please discuss the importance of cleanliness and personal hygiene with your children! We're trying to avoid the pungent classrooms. Let's work together! Bathing is good!!

PACKING LIST:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| *XL Twin bed sheets | *Dance wear or sweats |
| *Pillow & Pillow Case | *Notebook, pen & pencil |
| *2 Blankets or Sleeping bag | *Money for snack bar |
| *Water Bottle with lid | (optional - suggest \$20-\$30 per week) |
| *Towels | *Any music, costumes or props for Cabaret Night! |
| *Toiletries | *Room Decorations (optional) |
| *Raincoat or poncho | *3 bean bags, or 3 chiffon scarves for juggling |
| *Casual, comfortable clothing | *Flashlight & batteries |
| *Pajamas / Bathrobe | * Musical Theatre Majors & APS: I-pod or tape recorder w/batteries, blank tape.(Helpful & optional) |
| *Sweater | * Sturdy key ring for wrist, lanyard etc. |
| *2 Pair of Shoes | |

ITEMS NOT TO BRING: Cell phones, computers, clothing that promotes alcohol, tobacco or obscenities, printed material that may be considered objectionable, knives, weapons, matches, lighters, cigarettes or any item that could be of potential danger to yourself or others. The possession of these items could result in dismissal from camp. The camp cannot be responsible for lost items, although every effort would be made to find them. We suggest leaving valuables at home. Please pack carefully when ready to leave.

DRESS CODE: The Atlanta Workshop Players believe in expressing your artistic creativity in all that you do, including how you dress! We encourage you to wear bright colors, fun shoes, cool or silly hats and articles of clothing that express *your* individuality! When making these choices, we ask that you take into consideration a certain level of modesty . Please dress appropriately for all classes, shows, evening activities, etc. Avoid clothing that is too sheer, extremely low cut, or displays suggestive phrases, designs, profanities, etc. Sometimes choices are a little skimpy & you may be asked to change.

REFUND POLICY: In case of cancellation, all fees, minus \$100, are refundable through April 15th. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE AFTER April 15th.** All cancellations must be in writing. \$100 of the camp deposit is a nonrefundable processing fee. NO deduction is allowed for late arrival, early departure, withdrawal, or dismissal.

FOOD: Residential Camp dining hall provides healthy selections which include a fully stocked salad bar as well as a hot bar, a sandwich bar and vegetarian choices. Consideration will be made for special dietary needs. Please contact the AWP office to make a request. 770-998-8111. For the convenience of the students, a snack bar will be open most evenings. (Suggest bringing \$20-\$30 per week for snack bar)

SUPERVISION: The success of your child's "*Destiny*" experience is directly related to the quality of our staff. The AWP Staff are instrumental to our close-knit family atmosphere. Many staff members have grown up with AWP, and most members return for many years.

Counselors are chosen based on their love of children, leadership ability and expertise in the performing arts. Each counselor is carefully screened and participates in an intense counselor training program. They will work the closest with your child, providing them with an artistic adventure they will talk about for years to come! There will be 1 or 2 counselors for approximately 7 to 10 students.

House Parents are in charge of your child's living quarters. They play a major role in your child's care. They become their mom/dad for the week and make them feel right at home! If a child is feeling homesick or just needs some advice, they are there to help make things better.

Medical Staff members have become some of the most beloved members of our AWP family! Physicians and/or RN's make up this "Care Package" that is ready to fix your boo-boo's or just plain "cheer you up" anytime of the day. They deliver all medications and monitor any health concerns. We love them dearly and you will too! There is a full service hospital adjacent to the Brenau University campus.

Administrative Staff works around the clock to make sure your child's needs are met. They know that each child is special & will help make your requests a reality. You will recognize them with their zany hats & colorful decor, & know that they are here to make your "*Destiny*" experience a fantabulous adventure!

Campus Security monitors all locations on foot, bicycle and car and have taken a special interest in our camp because of our splendiferous kids! Your child's safety always comes first!

DISCIPLINE: Camp is a place where young people can be free to have a good time in a creative atmosphere & enjoy many exciting activities with others. We do not expect any discipline problems. However, in the rare event that a camper might create a situation which disrupts the camp program or could be harmful to himself or the other students, parents will be notified to pick up that student immediately (In which case, the camp fee would be nonrefundable). **SMOKING, TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, PROFANITY, STEALING, THREATS, ACTS OF VIOLENCE, WEAPONS, SEXUAL CONTACT, AND ILLEGAL DRUG USE ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN AND WOULD WARRANT IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM CAMP.** A student's person and/or personal belongings (purse, suitcase, book bag, etc.) may be searched whenever the AWP directors have reason to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials. If an AWP staff member has reason to believe that a particular student has an item imminently dangerous to the student or others, a more intrusive search of a student's belongings or room may be conducted without the student's consent. **DRUG DOGS will be used as part of AWP's security team to insure a safe & drug free environment. Parents are responsible for any damages, or defacing of property incurred by students while at camp and will be billed for any damages, after inspection at the end of camp.**

NEW ELECTRONICS POLICY: Please have your camper leave video games, TV sets, cell phones, computers, i-Touch, and all communication devices & other electronics that can access the internet, text, call, etc at home. We will be very busy communicating artistically and find that these devices disrupt the magical experience of Camp! They have also been the catalyst for most problems on campus. (Everything from increasing homesickness to accessing adult websites.) Our goal is to keep everyone safe and happy. Therefore, the “NO ELECTRONICS” policy is strict. If your camper is caught with one of these devices, you will be called to pickhim/her up from camp within the hour. Thank you for understanding.

PHONE CALLS TO & FROM CAMPERS: Phone calls tend to disrupt the camp program and often create homesickness. For these reasons, **PHONE CALLS & CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED.** You can reach the camp staff by leaving a message at (770) 998-8111 or on Lynn Stallings’ cell phone, (770) 366-6888. We’ll be busy creating a joyful, artistic experience for the campers, so please call ONLY if it’s URGENT.

MULTIPLE SESSIONS: Residential Campers staying for consecutive weeks have the option of spending the weekends at home or on campus July 20-21 for an additional charge of \$95. **We strongly suggest that campers go home if possible, so they will be completely rested for their next exciting week.** They would be expected to return during registration Sunday to check-in. (APS checks back in at 5pm Sunday after break)

VIDEO MEMORIES LAST A LIFETIME: Your tuition includes a camp T-Shirt AND a camp DVD. These videos are exciting, entertaining and give an overview of the week’s classes, events and shows. The video will include projects created by the Video Majors AND the complete, final show. You can expect the arrival of your DVD 3-4 months after the last camp session! (There is a great deal of post- production required to create this dynamic 2 hour video!)

Residential Sessions 6 & 7

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN

Check-in at **Burd Center/Hosch Theatre-Brenau University, Atlanta**
429 Academy St. Gainesville, GA 30501

* Signs will be posted on campus to direct you *

Session arrival dates are:

Session 6

Sunday., 7/15/12

Session 7

Sunday., 7/22/12

Campers with last names starting w/ A-L, check in 12-1:30pm, letters M-Z check-in 1:30-3

DEPARTURE AND FINAL PERFORMANCE

Each Session culminates with an informal performance showing samples of work done during the week. These are “works in progress”. All students have the option to participate in the show by choosing the classes that prepare performance pieces. Students also have the option of choosing nonperformance classes. Many, but NOT all, dance and theatre projects will be presented live on stage. Video projects will be shown on screen during the show, and we strive to repeatedly include every camper in our camp video. You will see an incomplete sample of the camp video during the show. The final version will contain much more footage of students. Therefore, some performers will appear on stage several times; others may appear in the video & closing number only.

SHOW Dates & Event Info-Read Carefully

Residential Session#6 SHOWS Friday, 7/20 at Burd Ctr/Hosch Theatre
** 6:00 pm Show for Students age 12 & Under ** 8:00 pm Show for Teens

Residential Session #7 SHOWS Friday, 7/27 at Burd Center/Hosch Theatre
* 6:00 pm Show for ages 12 & Under. ** 8:00 pm Show for Teens
Upon arrival on campus, Parents should go directly to the theatre
(The campers will be in final rehearsal at this time).

Residential Camp check-out will take place in the Dorms. All luggage & belongings will be under lock & key until after the performance. Immediately following the show/event the campers will go to their Dorm WITH their parents to retrieve their belongings, drop off their key & get their key deposit back, pick up medications, look through lost & found, & then head for home with new memories, skills, and friendships. ** APS & Session #6 students returning for session #7 have option to stay on campus over the weekend for an additional fee of \$95. Request this on the questionnaire with your online registration. We strongly suggest that they go home to catch up on sleep & check back in on Sunday. Session #6 students check in by 3pm, APS at 5pm)

DESCRIPTION OF MAJORS:

Theatre Majors (On Stage) prepare a scene study project. The goal is to collaborate on a performance piece & present it for critique. The learning “process” is more important than the “product”. Some & only some scenes are chosen to be performed at the end of the week show. The real goal of preparing a scene & performing for your peers has already been reached. Be proud of your work & focus on what you’ve learned and how much fun it was.

On Camera Majors (Video) prepare a “mini movie”. This could be a movie “trailer”, soap opera, commercial, music video, etc. Students & counselors “brainstorm” for story ideas. There is a video preparation workshop to discuss ideas. Videos are shown at the end-of-the-week show.

Musical Theatre Majors work with a Choreographer & Musical Director to prepare a musical production number for performance during the end of the week show.

***NOTE:** If after reviewing the descriptions above you find that you have chosen a major that isn’t a good match -- please call the office *immediately* at 770-998-8111 or email: awplayers@aol.com to change it.

Advanced Production Session

ARRIVAL AND CHECK -IN Sunday, July 15th

Check-in is at the **Burd Center/Hosch Theatre**. 429 Academy St. Gainesville, GA 30501. All campers with last names starting with A-L, check in between 12:00-1:30pm
All campers with last names starting with M-Z, check in between 1:30-3:00pm

WEEKEND BREAK -- Leave Friday , July 20th-

Returning Sunday , July 22nd

WEEKEND CHECK-OUT: Students spending the weekend at home will leave campus Fri, July 20th, at 7:00 pm. Check-out with staff in the Yonah lobby. (Dining Hall)

Note: Students are welcome to stay on campus during the 2-night weekend for an additional fee of \$95, but we **strongly** urge them to take the weekend off at home, catching up on sleep, learning lines, practicing choreography, collecting costume pieces, etc. They will need this time.

RETURN TO CAMPUS: between 4:30 & 5pm Sunday, July 22nd; **Parents accompany students** directly to their dorm rooms to drop off belongings and meet with their counselors. **PARENTS**, please do NOT leave until student has been officially checked in with their counselor at the dorm. Thank you.

FINAL Performances **Saturday, July 28th**

The Advanced Production Session culminates with fully produced performances! Each student will be cast in one of these shows. We invite friends & family members to come & be entertained by these spectacular performers. Upon arrival on campus, **Parents should go directly to The Burd Center/Hosch Theatre**. You will be notified of final performance time during the weekend break (July 20th).

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE will be announced later: Each show will perform twice. The first show is for performer's families & will be FREE of charge. The second performance open to the public and is \$10 per person. The shows are always spectacular, so bring everyone you know!!!!

CHECK-OUT Sat., July 28th: Immediately following their show, all performers will go with their parents to retrieve their belongings, drop off their key and get their key deposit back, pick up any medications, look through lost & found and officially check-out at their dorm. Luggage and belongings will be under lock & key until this time. After check-out, you and your parents are welcome AND encouraged to stay to watch your friends in any shows that may perform after yours. **Please note:** Once your own show is over, you will officially check-out and AWP will no longer be providing supervision.

Directions to BRENAU University **for Sessions 6, 7 & APS** ***Camp "Destiny" 2012***

From Atlanta:

Travel North on I-85 approximately 20 miles.
Merge (fork left) onto I-985 N/GA-365 N via EXIT 113 & travel 21.3 miles
Take EXIT #22 onto US-129-BR/US-129S toward Gainesville 0.3 miles
Turn LEFT onto EE Butler Parkway/US-129 N/GA-11 N for 1.8 miles
Turn RIGHT onto Academy St NE for 0.1 miles
The Burd Center/Hosch Theatre is on your left, 429 Academy St NE

Go to Link below for CAMPUS MAP
<http://artsweb.brenau.edu/campus/Campusmap.pdf>

AUDITION NIGHT

WITH CASTING DIRECTORS AND TALENT AGENTS

ADVANCED ACTORS are invited to prepare a one minute monologue (scene) to perform for professionals who are in a position to provide agent representation, cast major films, television shows, commercials, and professional theatre. The monologue should be television/film style and be conversational (rather than narrative, presentational or poetry) Scene **MUST BE PREPARED BEFORE CAMP!** Our staff will coach each performer and help them determine if their piece is ready for a professional level audition of this type. Each of the casting directors and agents will give the performers a private, individual critique of their work. This is a rare opportunity. We hope that all experienced students will take advantage of the audition and prepare well. Campers that are not actively participating will also be inspired by this experience as they take on the roll of the audience. They get to be entertained and learn from observing the audition process.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREPARING THE MONOLOGUE:

1. FIND A CONTEMPORARY TV/FILM ORIENTED MONOLOGUE WITH A RANGE OF EMOTIONS.
2. IT IS BEST TO HAVE 2 CONTRASTING PIECES PREPARED (ONE HUMOROUS, ONE SERIOUS). THE MONOLOGUE COACH WILL HELP YOU CHOOSE THE BEST PIECE.
3. CHOOSE A PIECE THAT FITS YOUR AGE, LOOK & "TYPE".
4. AVOID ANYTHING THAT RHYMES. CONVERSATIONAL SCENES ARE BEST.
5. AVOID SUBJECTS THAT ARE EXTREMELY CONTROVERSIAL, VERY DISTURBING OR DEPRESSING.
6. AVOID USING TOO MANY PROPS. (A PAIR OF GLASSES IS APPROPRIATE)
7. STICK TO THE ONE-MINUTE TIME LIMIT TO AVOID BEING CUT OFF.
8. MEMORIZE LINES, **PREPARE WELL IN ADVANCE** AND KNOW YOUR MATERIAL THOROUGHLY. STUDY ENTIRE SCRIPT, NOT JUST YOUR MONOLOGUE. BE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER'S BACKGROUND, MOTIVATIONS, GOALS, ETC.
9. DO NOT WEAR A COSTUME BUT DO WEAR STREET CLOTHES THAT SUGGEST YOUR CHARACTER.
10. PREPARE AN INTRODUCTION: SAY YOUR FULL NAME AND THE NAME OF THE SCENE YOU ARE GOING TO PERFORM. KEEP IT VERY BRIEF AND PROFESSIONAL AND SMILE! THERE IS NO NEED TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE SCENE, JUST THE TITLE.

WHERE TO FIND MONOLOGUES:

- A. PLAYS - Make sure the scene fits your age. We suggest a contemporary piece that can be performed in a realistic television/film style.
- B. FILMS OR TELEVISION SHOWS - "Lift" scenes from movies etc. Lift only the "words", do not try to copy the actor's interpretation.
- C. WRITE AN ORIGINAL MONOLOGUE - Make sure it is conversational with a range of emotions and very well written.
- D. BOOKS - Written in the first person.

****AVOID Scenes from Monologue Websites--They're Overused ****
PREPARE WELL AND HAVE FUN!!!

Theme for Camp Destiny's
2012 PARTY

is

“Animation Nation”

Come as your favorite
Cartoon Character

Yabba Dabba Do!!!!

**From Yosemite Sam, to Anime, to Papa Smurf,
to Cinderella, to Bugs Bunny, to Aladin's Genie,
to Tweety Bird, to Charlie Brown,
to Cruella Deville, to the Chipmonks,
to Nemo the skys the limit!**

**No need to spend any money.
Use your imagination for great ideas to
decorate yourself, your room...
even your friends!**

Atlanta Workshop Players Performing Arts Camp 2012 Medical Exam Form

This exam must take place within **ONE YEAR** of camp date (a Sports Physical is sufficient).

Mail to 8560 Holcomb Bridge Rd., Suite 111, Alpharetta, Ga. 30022 OR email to: awplayers@aol.com OR Fax to 770-998-0227. **Call 770-998-8111 to confirm receipt of fax.**

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY A LICENSED PHYSICIAN FOR _____ (Student's Name) DATE OF EXAM: _____

Residential Camp Session(s) attending: #6____(7/15-7/20), #7____(7/22 thru 7/27). #8____(7/15-7/28)

IMMUNIZATIONS (Include Month/Year Given or attach Immunization record)

DPT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TD	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
POLIO	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
MMR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TB Test (include result)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HIB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hepatitis B	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

EXAMINATION CODE: V - SATISFACTORY, X - NOT SATISFACTORY (EXPLAIN), O - NOT EXAMINED

HT. _____	WT. _____	B.P. _____	PULSE _____	HCT or HGB TEST _____	URINALYSIS _____
Eyes _____				Musculoskeletal	
Glasses _____				Neck _____	
Ears _____				Spine _____	
Nose _____				Shoulders _____	
Throat _____				Arms/Hands _____	
Teeth _____				Hips _____	
Neck _____				Knees _____	
Cardiovascular _____				Ankles _____	
Chest and Lungs _____				Feet _____	
Abdomen _____				Neurological _____	
Genitalia _____				Skin _____	
Hernia _____				Maturity (Tanner Stage): 1 2 3 4 5	
Menses _____					

ALLERGIES & Reactions: _____

GENERAL APPRAISAL: _____

MEDICATIONS:	Name	Dose	When Administered	For What Condition
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS WHILE AT CAMP

SPECIAL DIET? _____ SWIMMING? _____
 STRENUOUS ACTIVITY? _____ OTHER? _____

I have examined the person herein described and have reviewed the health history. It is my opinion that this student is physically able to engage in camp activities, except as noted above.

PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE _____ **TELEPHONE** (____) _____
PRINT NAME _____ **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE #** (____) _____
ADDRESS _____ **DATE** _____

PARENTS: Permission is hereby granted to transport my child to a doctor or hospital in case of illness or injury and to authorize emergency treatment when unable to locate parent.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

Preparing for the Summer Camp Experience

Summer camp is more than a vacation. At camp, kids develop companionship and pick up skills that enhance self-reliance, cooperation and interdependence. These skills will remain with them into adulthood. Before camp begins, there are some preparations to consider that may make the camp experience more fun and rewarding. Following are some coping tips from the American Camping Association to consider before your child leaves for camp:

Consider camp as a learning experience. This is an opportunity for a student to explore a world bigger than his/her neighborhood and a chance for parent and child to practice “letting go.” Letting go allows children to develop autonomy and a stronger sense of self, make new friends, develop new social skills, learn about teamwork, be creative and more.

Prepare for camp together. Decisions about camp should be a joint venture, keeping in mind the child’s maturity. If a child feels a part of the decision-making process, the chances of having a positive experience will improve.

Talk about concerns. As the first day of camp nears, some children experience uneasiness about going away. Talk about these feelings. Communicate confidence in his/her ability to deal with being away from home.

Have realistic expectations. Camp, like the rest of life, has high and low points. Every moment is not filled with wonder and excitement. Encourage children to have a reasonable and realistic view of camp. Discuss both the ups and downs the child may encounter. Make sure the child does not feel pressured to succeed at camp. For the child, the main purpose of camp is to experience new things and have fun.

Prescription for Homesickness: Preparation and Patience

This summer, millions of children will get their first taste of independence at a summer resident camp. For some, it will also be their first experience with “homesickness”, which can take the form of stomachaches, headaches, occasional misbehavior (in hopes of being sent home) or even statements about “hating” camp. Most kids need a couple of days to adjust to life at camp & being away from home. Parents don’t have to feel helpless when homesickness strikes. The prescription for homesickness is preparation & patience. Overcoming homesickness & learning to care for oneself are important challenges that can be faced at camp. The following tips are suggested:

- *Encourage your child’s independence throughout the year. Practice separations, such as sleep overs.
- *Discuss what camp will be like before your child leaves.
- *Reach an agreement ahead of time on calling each other. If your child’s camp has a “no phone calls” policy, honor it. (A.W.P. has a “no phone calls” policy.)
- *Send a note or care package ahead of time to arrive the first day of camp. Acknowledge, in a positive way, that you will miss your child. For example, you can say “I am going to miss you, but I know that you will have a good time at camp.”
- *Don’t bribe. Linking a successful stay at camp to a material object sends the wrong message. The reward should be your child’s new found confidence and independence.
- *Pack a personal item from home, such as a stuffed animal.
- *Don’t tell your child that you will “rescue” him/her from camp if he/she doesn’t like camp and resist the temptation to do so.
- *If a “rescue call” comes from the child, offer calm reassurance and put the time frame into perspective. Avoid the temptation to take the child home early.
- *Acknowledge your child’s feelings and communicate your love. You might say, “If you still feel this way in two days, we’ll discuss what we can do.”
- *Support your child’s efforts to work out the problems with the help of the camp staff.
- *Talk candidly with the camp director to obtain his/her perspective on your child’s adjustment.
- *Remind him/her, if necessary, that he/she has made a commitment.
- *Don’t feel guilty about encouraging your child to stay at camp. For many children, camp is a first step toward independence and plays an important role in their growth and development.
- *Trust your instincts. While most incidents of homesickness will pass in a day or two, the occasional child who is truly not adjusting to camp life at all should be allowed to return home after a reasonable amount of time and effort. However, don’t make your child feel like a failure if their stay at camp is cut short. Focus on the positive and encourage your child to try camp again next year.

**Thank you for choosing to
Follow Your Dreams
& Create Your**

“DESTINY”

**with the
Atlanta Workshop Players**

**We look forward to meeting
and getting to know each and
every one of you! Come
prepared for exciting classes
and tons of fun!**

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