

## WHAT SHOULDN'T I PACK FOR CAMP?

There is very little need for anything beyond those items listed in our Packing List. In fact, it can be damaging to the camp experience when other items are sent. The magic of camp is greatest when campers are free from the pressures of inequity. In school, students are segregated by their academic performance, the groups they move with, and the "stuff" they have in their possession. Camp is unique because it is often the only time in a child's life when they can begin an experience with other children on a truly level playing field. There is another very real reason not to send items beyond those listed. So much effort has been expended to ensure that camp is a safe environment. Many items, particularly electrical appliances, although seemingly harmless, can pose a risk to the safety of campers. We hope you understand that this policy is re-examined regularly and formulated with the assistance of experienced camp and safety professionals including our local fire department. Parents can control what is sent to camp. Camp staff can control what is kept at camp. Please share in this responsibility of making camp a safe and productive environment by ensuring that only items that appear on the Packing List are sent.

Please do not send items not listed on the packing list particularly items that:

### CAN BE HAZARDOUS

- Butane or propane filled appliances
- Candles
- Fire crackers
- Glass Containers
- Lamps
- Lighters
- Skateboards
- Electrical Appliances of any kind including (although this isn't the whole list!):
  - Cellular phones
  - Computers
  - Curling irons
  - DVD players
  - Electric blankets
  - Electronic games including Game
  - Boys
  - Fans
  - Hair dryers
  - Hair straighteners
  - Heaters
  - Hotpots
  - Expensive jewellery
  - Kettles
  - Power Bars
  - Stoves
  - Walkie Talkie
  - Watchmen or Television

### CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS DIFFICULT TO CLEAN-UP

- Silly string

### ARE CONDUCTIVE TO AGGRESSIVE PLAY

- Tradeable or gambling items
- Water balloons
- Weapons or anything that looks like a weapon including water guns, hatchets, or knives

### PROMOTE JEALOUSY

- Food or packages in contravention of our Food and Package Policy (see below)
- Portable furniture, **in particular, shelves of any kind are not permitted**
- Air or foam mattresses

### ARE FRAGILE, EXPENSIVE, OR INAPPROPRIATE

- **Any item with a video display except those allowed by our iPod policy**
- Any items requiring dry cleaning or hand laundering or that cannot withstand commercial laundry machines and dryers
- Bicycles
- Elevated shoes
- Expensive clothing including dresses or dress shirts
- Head shaving or body piercing equipment

## LAWN CHAIRS AND LOCK BOXES

Compact foldable lawn chairs will not be confiscated if used exclusively on the porches of cabins or as permitted by the Unit Head. Also, personal storage boxes will not be confiscated if they are left unlocked or if the lock used is a combination lock and the combination is confidentially shared with camp. Although the Walden community is one where there is ample seating and locks are unnecessary, we know these items provide some comfort to our campers.

## FOOD AND PACKAGE POLICY

There are many factors that have guided the development of a Package and Food Policy:

1. **NUTRITION** - Camp provides a nutritional and well-balanced menu. In addition to the desserts following lunch and dinner, campers enjoy a variety of special snacks after every evening program. The amount and variety of food at camp is more than adequate. Having food in the cabin often encourages some campers to substitute nutritional meals with less than nutritious snacks.
2. **SAFETY** - Food in the cabins often leads to unwanted wildlife in or near the camper unit that can pose a risk to camper safety.
3. **CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** - Food in the cabins often leads to unnecessary garbage in camper cabins.
4. **SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS** - As with our Packing Policy, jealousies and hard feelings can be the result of an environment when there are "Haves" and "Have Nots".

In consideration of these items, please respect our Food and Package Policy:

- A non-food package may be sent on your camper's birthday. Please indicate on the outside of the package that it is a birthday package.
- With the exception of birthdays, please only send letters to your camper i.e. do not send food, magazines or packages of any kind.
- If it doesn't fit under the mailroom door, it's not coming through it!
- With the exception of birthdays, please only send letters to your camper i.e. do not send food, magazines or packages of any kind. Although encouraged to bring no food to camp, campers are permitted to bring a maximum of one plastic grocery type bag of food at the beginning of their camp stay.
- Although encouraged to bring no food to camp, campers are permitted to receive one plastic grocery type bag of food on Visitors' Day.
- Camp Walden's water undergoes more treatment than most municipalities and water bottling manufacturers. Its source is a soft water lake in a relatively unpopulated and unpolluted part of the country. It undergoes regular testing conducted by certified water treatment operators and is subject to the strictest of standards in Canada. The taste of water varies from city to city based on the makeup of its inactive minerals. Walden's water is clear, refreshing, and indeed tastes different than your home water. Many bottled waters, although seemingly tasteless, are unregulated, and untested. If we weren't spending so much effort keeping camp fun and safe for your campers, we could go into the water bottling business! "Walden Water"... has a nice ring to it! **Bottled water is not permitted at camp.**

**IF YOU BRING IT, WE MUST TAKE IT. AND IF WE TAKE IT, WE DONATE IT.**