



# Tecumseh Tales

Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Center

## Summer 2011

*Our goal is for every camper to have a positive, safe, fun-filled experience!*

### Check-in Procedures:

*Parents... For a smooth check-in experience, please follow these steps!*

1. Park in the designated area, but do not unload your camper's gear. Bring any medications with you into check-in.  
**Check-in begins at 2:00 PM Eastern (1:00 PM Central).**
2. Please don't go into the Creative Arts Center until you have been checked by the staff at the table near the roadway. We want to protect the camp community from flu, etc.
3. Go to the Creative Arts Center (CAC) and have your camper make a name badge with his/her preferred first name. Inside the CAC, pick a spot in any of the six Camper Check-In lines. To save you time, one parent from your party may also visit these lines at the same time...
  - **Trading Post & Fees...** If you have not yet set up your camper's Trading Post account to charge to your credit card at the end of their stay, or you wish to adjust their Trading Post balance.
  - **Nurse...** If you have not yet submitted your camper's health form or if you brought **any medications (including over-the-counter)** for your camper, they must be turned in to the nurses.
  - **Early Registration...** Don't miss out on Summer Camp 2011! You can sign up today before you leave!
4. Drive your camper to his/her cabin where the counselors will greet you and help you to feel at home. Please let the counselors know who will be picking up your camper at the end of his/her stay. *NOTE: As a standard health procedure, each counselor has been trained by our nurse to check each camper for head lice when you arrive at your cabin. We appreciate your understanding of this preventative measure.*
5. If you plan to send any type of correspondence (regular mail, email, or fax) to your camper during his/her stay, please be sure to prominently include their cabin name and number. This helps us quickly deliver the message to your camper!



### Our Goals for Campers – FUN & More!!!!

Going to Camp Tecumseh is a big deal and we want it to be the best week of your summer! Our staff is focused on helping every camper grow in ways that are just right for them. Here are some of our goals for everyone!

- \* Have fun – camp is designed as a kids' world and it is filled with adventures you can't usually do at home! Get ready for a lot of joy and laughter!
- \* Make friends – Remember that to make a friend you need to be a friend too. Be interested in others. Be willing to start conversations by asking about your cabin mates. Always be nice and helpful.
- \* Improve skills & try new things. Under the guidance of our well-trained staff, you will have a chance to make some choices about what you want to try. So remember to step out of your comfort zone and stretch yourself a bit!
- \* Learn to be a little more independent. You are going to have responsibility for your gear and to help with your cabin chores. Plus you get to keep track of your schedule and where to go for various activities. Though counselors are always ready to help, you don't have mom double-checking on you like at home.
- \* Learn more about God and be part of a special caring community. Morning chapel and evening cabin devotions are fun ways to learn more about God's love for you and about His desire for you to have a happy, fulfilling life. Time to 'Be Third'.



## What are the Camp "Age Units?"

Have you ever wondered how Summer Camp has been designed to provide a progressively challenging, and more interesting, multi-year camp experience?



Youngsters can begin attending at age 8. The 8-, 9- and 10-year-old unit is called **Braves** and they have a program especially designed for their developmental level. As this is the first overnight camp experience for these

campers, extra special care is taken in the selection and training of their counselors.

The next age level is the **Blazer** unit for ages 11 and 12. Blazers often have been in a YMCA Day Camp or perhaps a scout program in their home community and are ready for the new challenges and adventures of Resident Camp. About 25 skill clinics are offered to Blazers and they specialize in their favorite three. Blazers frequently engage in cabin-to-cabin challenge games. They also enjoy "Blazer only" activities such as Adventure Island and Mt. Wood.

When a camper reaches age 13, they generally move up to the Lake Village and even more choices become available as they enter the **Warrior** unit. More advanced clinic choices are available such as Mosaics, Skywalkers (high ropes challenge course), and Guitar. They too have unit specific activities such as "Warrior Workshops",

Wilderness Rescue, and the River Village Zip Lines. Warriors also have the opportunity to challenge themselves at the Teams Course and participate in float trips on the Tippecanoe River. Lake Village also has its own climbing tower, The Lookout.

The **Pathfinder** unit is the final stage of camp's regular resident camp program. These 14- and 15-year-old campers get to round out their Camp Tecumseh experience with some of camp's most unique activities.

Those activities include Amazing Race, Survivor Tecumseh, and the Lake Zip Lines. In addition, Pathfinders have evening gatherings to discuss teenage topics in an atmosphere of encouragement and acceptance.



As you can see, the Camp Tecumseh experience is really a series of well-planned happenings in a youngster's life. Each is designed to compliment the values being taught at home and to enhance the camper's social, emotional and spiritual development. Camp strives for each boy and girl to grow in character, confidence, and faith, year after year. We work hard to insure that the character-building and values development will indeed become "**Experiences that last a lifetime!**"

### Notes for Check-Out Day & Online Evaluation

Pick-up is Saturday morning between 9:30AM and 11:00AM (Eastern Time). Please pick up your camper at his/her cabin first and talk with the counselors about how the week went. Then come to Kampen Lodge at the Lake Village to pick up the camper's check-out envelope! It will have their Trading Post balance, a camp evaluation form, and your village photo if you ordered one. We will also have registration forms for next summer and any medications you have left with us. **You can complete the Camp Evaluation online at the end of the week by using the "Camp Evaluation" link on the Parent Connection. We recommend you do the evaluation together with your camper!**

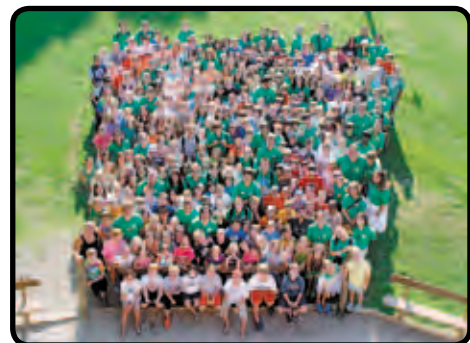
### 2012 Early Registration

June should have brought Early Registration information to you via e-mail as we have already begun to register campers for next summer!

This summer found hundreds of would-be-campers stranded on waiting lists... some as early as June. As word of great experiences at Camp Tecumseh continues to spread, summer camp fills faster year after year. We encourage you to register and secure your spot at camp for 2012 as soon as possible!

We will continue to offer the payment plan option, which allows you to have an easier way of paying the camp fees. To use this plan, you must use your credit or debit card to register. When registering online, you will automatically be set up for this plan. If registering using a paper form, be sure to check the box marked "I want the payment plan."

*Do you want to order the all village photo? YES!*



*On Sunday evening of each session, a photo of the campers and staff is taken in each village and is processed to be ready for you on Saturday at Check-Out. Village photos are 8"x10" and cost only \$6.75, deducted from your Trading Post account. Order yours when you check in!*

## *Online Updates, Web Photos & Sending Camper Messages*

On most camp days our multimedia team will post photos, stories, YouTube video clips and much more. Browse to [www.camptecumseh.org](http://www.camptecumseh.org) and click on the "Parent's Connection" icon. This will direct you to a special section for summer camp.

While there you can also view the weather, read about the week, or download any camp forms you might still need.

If you'd like to send a message to your camper during his/her stay you can either fax or email for just \$.50 per page from their Trading Post account. Emails can be sent easily using the form in the "Parents Connection" or by sending your message to [camper@camptecumseh.org](mailto:camper@camptecumseh.org). Be sure to put your camper's full name and cabin number in the subject line!

Messages may be faxed to (765)-564-3210 as well. Remember to put your camper's full name and cabin number at the top of EACH PAGE.

Messages received by 10:00 AM (Eastern Time) usually will be distributed in that day's mail. There is no mail distribution after Friday morning!

## *"Camp Tecumseh Memories" DVD*

Each week we will be producing a short DVD for you to purchase and take home. There will be footage specific to that week, plus extra footage of general camp activities and facilities. What a great reminder of the energy, excitement and fun you had this summer!

DVDs will be available for purchase as you check-out in Kampen Lodge on Saturday. Cost is just \$5.00.

Parents, watch the DVD with your camper and learn lots about their camp experience.



## *Camp Tecumseh Vocabulary*

Camp Tecumseh YMCA is a special community and has its own culture. Our mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. Our Camp Motto is 'I'm Third' (more on the motto on another page) and it helps to shape our community too. As in any special culture there are a lot of phrases and sayings that have unique meaning at Camp Tecumseh. We thought we would share a few with you.

1. CTA means Camp Tecumseh Appropriate. Everyone is on special behavior here and actions or language that might be acceptable at school or on a team, may not be CTA here. Bad language, picking on others or making fun of them, being selfish, etc. are examples of not being CTA. Encouraging others, showing initiative, being caring and respectful, showing responsibility are all CTA.
2. Ga-Ga: a game from Israel, played in an octagonal court. It is a fast paced combination of four-square and dodge ball.
3. Hoppers: the two people from each cabin who set the dining room tables for our family-style meals.
4. River: often used to mean River Village, the original area of camp along the Tippecanoe River. It is where the younger campers and CILTs live. It is where Check-In occurs at the CAC.
5. Lake: as in 'are you at Lake?' normally refers to Lake Village, the newest area of camp that is adjacent to Richard G. Marsh Lake. In Lake or LV is where you will find the older campers, the Scheu, and Kampen, the cool lodge where you Check-Out on Saturday morning.
6. CILTS: Campers-in-Leadership-Training is for young men and women who have finished their sophomore year of high school. It can be a stepping stone to a future Day Camp staff position for those that do the best. It fills REALLY EARLY so if you are going to be a sophomore next year sign up SOON if you want to be a CILT in 2012.
7. CAC: The Creative Arts Center is where you Check-In for summer camp and it is the headquarters for River Village clinics like drawing, painting, friendship bracelets, clay, camp crafts, gym, mask-making, scrapbooking and basketmaking for campers in RV.
8. Torchbearers: 15 year old campers who go through a special culmination ceremony at closing campfire.
9. Oregon Territory: the area of RV east of the swimming pools where the oldest River campers live. A major replacement of the 50-year-old housing units there is underway now with great new cabins.
10. Mingle: the ring from the top of a gallon of milk. Squeeze and shape into a heart and give them to others as a token of friendship.

# Notes From Dave



Welcome to Camp Tecumseh!

We are excited that you are here. In fact we have been preparing since last summer! Hundreds of hours of training and preparation have been invested to make this a wonderful week of fun and growth.

If this is your first summer with us, I want to say a special welcome. You are becoming part of 87 years of the best in summer camp experiences. You will discover others attending Camp Tecumseh from all across the country and around the world! You are now part of the Camp Tecumseh family!

Returning campers: you will see a few changes around camp. They are part of our continuous improvement efforts. We hope you enjoy the new activities as well as your traditional favorites.

Everyone is a little nervous on check-in day. That is normal. Just be friendly to everyone you meet—smile and introduce yourself—and join in all the activities. Remember that the more effort you put into camp, the more fun you will have.

Camp Tecumseh YMCA is a very special

## *"I'm Third" Motto Fosters Positive Spirit*

God is first, the other person is second and I'm third. The camp motto encourages each of us to put God first in our life...to follow His teachings and conduct ourselves in ways pleasing to Him. "The other person second" reminds us to be unselfish and look out for the concerns of others, leaving ourselves "Third"...

*A motto for winners!*

community. It is different than most any other. There is a sign on one of our lodges that says 'Be nice or go away'. It reminds us that being nice to one another is a key element for everyone to have a fun experience, filled with friends and great memories. If you encounter anyone being a bully or making fun of others, let your counselors know.

Finally, remember that it is okay to ask questions. There is a lot that is new at camp---new terms and new routines. Just ask someone if there is something you don't understand. We want you to find Camp to be the friendliest and most helpful place you have ever been!

Dave Wright, Executive Director



Whitewater Adventure Trip



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

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