

MY BIRCH TRAIL MEMORY PAGE!

My first summer:

My Big Sister's name:
her address:

her phone: () -

My first cabin:

My counselors:

My cabin-mates:

My favorite projects:

My favorite memory:

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CAMP BIRCH TRAIL BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

WELCOME TO BIRCH TRAIL!!!

Like thousands of campers before you, Birch Trail will soon feel like your "home away from home." We are so happy to know that you will be with us this summer.

A while ago we got a letter from a new camper named Annie. She asked us a lot of really good questions about what camp would be like. We thought it would be good if we shared some of those questions with you and answered some other ones too. So this book is for her and for all of our new campers just like Annie who have questions.

You're lucky because you have a really nice camp Big Sister, and she can tell you a whole lot more. So relax, you're going to have the time of your life. And we bet we'll take care of a lot of your questions!



LINDENS ~ Birch Trail campers who are going into 7th or 8th grade are in our "Linden Village".

MAPLES ~ Birch Trail campers who are going into 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade are in our "Maple Village".

REPEAT ~ The camper who gets to ring the bell for a day. We use the bell to signal the beginning and end of project periods and meals.

ROSE QUARTZ ~ A surprise visitor who comes to camp only once during the summer. We play a guessing game by giving you clues to help you find out who Rose really is.

SPAH ~ I promise; I swear; the truth so help you Birch Trail.

STUPEE ~ One or two people in each cabin who set the table for meals, get the food and return dirty dishes to the kitchen. Stupies change every day.

TAMARACKS ~ Birch Trail campers who are going into 9th or 10th grade are in our "Tamarack Village".



Well, how'd we do? We hope we answered all of your questions and took some of the mystery out of coming to camp for the first time. Your first summer at Birch Trail will be a wonderful adventure full of fun and excitement. We know that you're going to love camp. If you have any special questions this book doesn't cover - check with your Big Sister - she knows just about everything! Or write us and we'll answer your questions right away. **SEE YOU THIS SUMMER!**

We do think its important that you brush your teeth regularly and take enough showers to keep your hair from getting out of control! Our showers are real nice - we even have one right on the beach.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO CAMP?

Coming to camp means a lot of work for your parents, and we try to help them as much as we can. We have sent them a list of things you might need during the summer and even suggest where they can buy them. All of that stuff is packed in duffel bags and comes up on the airplane or bus with you. Our counselors take your baggage off the airplanes and put it on special trucks that bring your things to camp.

Sometimes you may run out of things at camp. If that happens, don't worry - we have lots of extras on hand like stationary, pens, stamps, toiletries and special Birch Trail clothes. We go into town everyday and if you really need something we don't have, we can buy it for you. Just let your counselor know if you need anything.

DOES BIRCH TRAIL HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS THAT WE DON'T USE AT HOME?

Birch Trail has some special words all its own. Here are some of them:

DEMISS ~ Each day, one camper gets to dismiss the whole camp after dinner.

HOW ~ We say "How" instead of clapping for someone or something.

HOW DO I GET TO CAMP?

Most girls will fly from their hometown to the airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and for most of you there will be other Birch Trail campers on your plane too. Just as soon as you get off the airplane in Minneapolis, some Birch Trail counselors will be there to meet you. They will be wearing a T-shirt that says "Birch Trail Staff" on it and will have a big smile on their faces.

You won't have to worry about getting your baggage or keeping your airplane tickets - we'll take care of all of that for you. Our counselors will take you from the airplane to a part of the airport where all of our Birch Trail campers gather. You'll get to meet people from all over the country, as well as lots of staff who will be there to greet you and to answer any questions that you might have. From the airport we take a bus ride to camp. The buses are really neat!! Each of our buses have seats that lean all the way back, they are all air conditioned, and we watch movies. Counselors will be on the buses too. The bus ride takes about 2 1/2 hours.

If you are coming from Chicago or Milwaukee, you will take a bus the whole way to camp. They are really nice comfy buses with bathrooms and TV screens so we can watch movies! We will meet you and your parents and he'll help with all of your bags and you'll have a fun ride with other campers and staff. The staff will take care of your bags for you once you get to camp, so you won't have to worry about carrying them anywhere.

No matter how you come to camp, it's going to take a little while. You may get hungry before you get to camp so it would be a good idea to bring an apple or a sandwich so you can have a snack along the way. But please don't bring any more food than you can eat for lunch!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET THERE?

After it seems like you've been on the bus for a short time, the driver will make a left turn onto a gravel road. When he does, you are officially at Birch Trail! Tell the bus driver to honk the horn to get the counselors used to the noise level for the summer! The bus driver will stop next to the lodge where we eat all of our meals. Look for a ton of counselors there - they'll be so excited to meet you!! As soon as you get off the bus; Barbara, Gabe or Laura will tell you what cabins you are in and introduce you to your counselors.

After that you will get to see your cabin, talk with your counselors and cabin-mates and explore camp. And if you're really hungry and can't wait until dinner, we'll have snacks ready for you in the lodge.

For dinner you'll have a real treat! The first night's dinner at camp is always spaghetti and garlic bread. You can count on it because, as you will soon see, we don't mess with tradition at camp! You can also make a great big salad at our salad bar. You'll love the food at camp.

We all sit around big tables that can seat a whole cabin and we bring our food to the tables in platters and bowls

of problems if you want to talk with them - that's why they're there. Sometimes they look real busy, but don't let that stop you; your happiness is very important to them.

WHAT ABOUT MAIL OR IS THERE A POST OFFICE IN MINONG?

When you look around camp you'll find a funny little building called the "Postal Sub-Station". That's our post office, and it serves 2 purposes. When you write letters home or to your friends, you can put the letters in the mail slot and our post-mistress will mail them for you.

We get a lot of mail that comes to camp too - usually in 3 or 4 big bags that weigh over 60 pounds each! We sort these letters during lunch and put them in the mailbox before lunch is over. Each cabin has its own cubby hole for mail. You will have plenty of time to read your mail during our rest period after lunch.

HOW CLEAN DO I HAVE TO BE?

The answer is pretty clean, but usually not as clean as you are at home. We don't have any uniforms and we really don't care what kind of clothes you wear at camp as long as they are the right kind of clothes for the weather we're having. If your clothes get too dirty, your counselors will let you know.

It's a great way for you to try new things or to get a little extra time on new skills that you are learning. This is also a good time to go to an activity with some of your cabin mates and even your counselors!

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE A PROBLEM AT CAMP?

Camp is really no different than home, and sometimes we have little problems here too. The nice thing about camp is that there are so many people who care about you and who want to help you solve your problems.

Some of you have brothers and sisters at home, and you know that every once in a while you have disagreements with them. At camp you have cabin-mates and you might have a disagreement with one of them too. If you do, talk with your counselors and they will help you to work things out.

If you have problems with an activity you can come to the office with your counselor and we'll get it all straightened out.

If you're not feeling well, then talk with our nurses or our camp doctor. We have a special building called "Bedside Manor" - that's our health center and that's where our nurses live.

The best way for us to help you with a problem (any problem) is for you to tell us about it. Barbara, Gabe and Laura will always be around to help you with any kind

just like you do at home (that's why they call it "family style"). After lunch and dinner we do a lot of singing and cheering, you'll start learning them right away — it's always *very* loud and *very* fun!

That night you will be treated to a fantastic show put on by all of our counselors. You'll love the show so be sure you have your cameras ready.

At about 9:00 p.m. you'll go back to your cabins and get ready for bed. You'll have a chance to go to the washhouse to brush your teeth and clean up before bed. And don't worry if you have to go to the bathroom late at night. All of the paths to the bathroom are lighted and we leave the lights on in the bathroom too. And if you don't want to go to the bathroom by yourself, just ask your bunk-mate or your counselor to go with you (they probably have to go to the bathroom anyway)!

WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP LIKE?

Most days at camp are on the same schedule and sometimes you won't even know if it's a weekend or weekday. This is what the schedule looks like:

8:00 Rise and Shine

8:15 Better get out of bed - you've got 15 minutes till breakfast!

8:30 It's time for breakfast!

9:30 Back to cabins to make your beds and clean up

10:15 Out of cabins and off to your 1st project!

- 11:30** Hurry up - get to your 2nd project!
- 12:45** Project's over - get ready for lunch
- 1:00** Lunch!
- 2:00** Back to your cabins for a little quality and quiet time with the cabinmates. This is when you get mail, too!
- 3:15** Time for project #3 of the day!
- 4:30** Prime Time! A chance to pick the project of your choice to attend and then a little time to relax before dinner.
- 6:00** Dinner time (boy am I hungry!)
- 7:00** Time to get ready for our big evening program
- 8:45** That's it for tonight - back to the cabins and ready for bed

Just remember, each day is just a little bit different than the day before it. We have lots of special days and evening programs and we do a different, fun thing every night. Three times during the summer you will enjoy something called "cabin day," when each cabin plans its own activities. Sundays are special too, with our lazy brunch. On Sunday mornings you can come to the lodge in your pajamas and slippers between 8-9:30 for lots of good food and good fun.

CAN MY FAMILY VISIT ME AT CAMP?

Parents of eight week campers can visit during the change - over between sessions.

If you are a four week camper, your parents can drive you to camp or pick you up after camp is over. But most four week campers don't have their parents visit them at camp (that way, you can have all the fun of flying to Minneapolis and riding the buses to camp)!

If your parents are planning on visiting, they'll be sure to tell you and to let Barbara, Gabe or Laura know too.

HOW DO I GET INTO ACTIVITIES?

We think the skills you learn at camp are skills you can use for the rest of your life. That is important to you and it's important to us too. Go to our website to choose your activities and to make sure that you can get into the projects you want most. Hopefully, you went over the activities together and picked the ones that looked the best to you.

Then, the activities you've picked online will be sent to us and we schedule enough classes in each activity, so that each camper gets her choices. All of this is done long before you come to camp so we can guarantee that you will get just the activities you selected! You'll love our Prime Time (free choice period) too. During this period, you can choose any activity you want.