

Parent Handbook

Northern Frontier Camp 2012

Northern Frontier Contact Information

Don't hesitate to call if you have any questions regarding camp

Registrar:

(After June 26 contact Summer Camp Office)

Dave Ware
4 Ronald Drive
Poestenkill, NY 12140
518-956-0957
nfreg@northernfrontier.org

Off-Season Camp Office

Northern Frontier
Ralph Essery – Director
Betty Essery - Secretary
3298 Route 9G
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
Phone: 845-876-8009
Fax: 845-876-6075
office@northernfrontier.org

Summer Camp Office

Northern Frontier Camp
PO Box 295
North River, NY 12856
Phone: 518-251-2322
Fax: 518-251-5527
office@northernfrontier.org

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“Because Boys Will Be ~~Boys~~ ...**MEN**”

“I want to know Christ ...” *Philippians 3:10a*

A Wise Choice

We believe you have made a wise choice in selecting Northern Frontier for your son. Our hope is that his stay with us will be one of the best weeks of his life. High standards for the acceptance of staff and quality program planning are important features of Northern Frontier. For every cabin of eight campers there are two counselors, a 1:4 ratio making possible close supervision and personal counseling.

Your cooperation is needed to give your son a good time while he is at camp. Please read through the following carefully. It includes camp requirements and several hints on how to make your son's time at Northern Frontier more enjoyable.

Required Forms

1. **Camper Health Forms (4)** - You must compete and sign the Camper Health History Form 1 [4 pages] in order to permit your son to attend Northern Frontier and to receive medical care if required. A complete, up-to-date immunization record is required. Your son must also have had an examination by a licensed physician within 24 months of his arrival at camp (Camper Health Care Recommendations by Licensed Medical Personnel Form 2 [1 page]). Please give the information requested about your family medical/hospital insurance. If health/accident care is needed, your policy will be used first since the camp provides only very limited, non-duplicative coverage. Please review the Meningococcal Disease information and fill out and sign the Response Form. All the above forms are required by New York State law.

2. **A Note to Parents** - This information is important to your son's counselors to enable them to better relate to him. Please mail this and the camper health forms so they arrive at least one week before your son arrives at camp. Most parents send them with their check for the balance due by May 15. This form also has a place on it to request that your son be in the same cabin with one other camper his own age.

Northern Frontier Statement Of Purpose, Vision and Mission

Our Purpose - TO GLORIFY GOD BY DEVELOPING GODLY LEADERS THROUGH CHRIST-CENTERED CAMPING.

Among the greatest calls a person can answer is to be an instrument that God uses to unlock a young person's potential. To that end, Northern Frontier provides programs that enable mentors to guide groups of boys/young men through adventure-packed, action-filled experiences that draw young men closer to God ... and equip them to be leaders today and tomorrow. In addition, through programs designed specifically for them, Northern Frontier seeks to nurture and develop the relationship between fathers and sons.

Our Vision

Northern Frontier envisions a world where mature, Christian leaders are willingly employed by the Holy Spirit to transform individuals and society for Christ.

Our Mission

Northern Frontier encourages, teaches and equips boys, young men and men to understand God's work in lives to bring about internal, permanent change that enables one to stand strong in Biblical convictions, both moral and ethical.

This is done by working with all Northern Frontier staff members in situations where these principles can be put into practice and internalized through Northern Frontier's dynamic, Christian camping ministry.

Campers are then surrounded by well-trained staff members who foster healthy relationships, teach attainable skills, instruct campers in God's Word and model Christian leadership through godly living.

Meeting Your Son's Needs At Northern Frontier

Dear Parent,

Let me introduce you to an experience your son will remember forever - a week at Northern Frontier Camp. Set on a beautiful site in the southern Adirondack Mountains with several lakes, the headwaters of the Hudson River and many spectacular natural sites within a short hiking distance, this is the perfect camp setting.

At Northern Frontier your son will be challenged, and yet experience success ... because the setting is a safe and supportive one. With encouragement from his counselors, your son will find that the lessons he learns at camp will stay with him throughout his life. And at Northern Frontier your son will not just hear about God, he will see commitment to Christ lived out in our staff.

From eating a breakfast that will “stuff him full,” to hearing a thrilling story illustrating a Biblical truth at the evening campfire, your son's days at Northern Frontier will be filled with different, enjoyable and interesting activities – most of which he could not do at home.

From the early 1980s Northern Frontier has offered Father/Son programs and has become a recognized “Father/Son Expert” with Tree Climber sessions for dads with sons ages 6 and 7, Father/Son Camp for dads with sons age 8 and up, and Father/Son Fishing and Canoeing trips for dads with sons 13 and up. It's the perfect opportunity for dad and son to connect or reconnect.

You'll be glad to know that Northern Frontier has achieved the high level of excellence required to be fully accredited by the American Camp Association, is a member of Christian Camp and Conference Association and is an Approved Christian Service Brigade camp. Safety is a high priority. Northern Frontier maintains a cabin counselor to camper ratio of 1:4, and a staff to camper ratio approaching 1:2. This assures that your son is always under the watchful care and mature guidance of our staff.

Your Arrival At Camp

If you are driving to camp, plan to arrive after 11:00 AM and before 12:30 PM. This will enable us to give proper care to those leaving and prepare for your arrival. Registration will start at 11:00 AM in the Administration Building. Our welcoming staff will give you instructions and guide you to the registration area.

Camper Pick-Up

You must notify the Camp Director in writing if someone other than the legal custodial parent will be picking up your son. When picking up your son, you must sign him out. Please plan to pick up your son between 9:00 and 10:30 AM so that pick-up will not interfere with incoming campers. Our welcoming staff will give you instructions and guide you to the pick-up points.

Directions to Northern Frontier Camp

- New York State Thruway to exit 24
- Route 87 north (Northway) to exit 23 (Warrensburg)
- At end of ramp go left (west) 0.1 miles to light at junction of Route 9
- Go right onto Route 9 following it north for 4.1 miles to Route 28, which goes off to the left
- Follow Route 28 approximately 21 miles to the hamlet of North River, NY
- After passing through North River, you will cross a railroad track and start up a long hill. 3.6 miles from that railroad track is the Northern Frontier sign and driveway on your right.

Charter Bus To Camp

Pick Up Points	Departure Time
Hawthorne Gospel Ch, 2000 Rt. 208, Hawthorne, NJ	8:30 AM
Shortline Bus Stop, Route 17K, Newburgh, NY	9:30 AM

Charter Bus From Camp

Times may vary because of traffic conditions	Arrival Time
Newburgh	4:00 PM
Hawthorne	5:00 PM
Special times for the trip home on August 4:	
Newburgh	12:30 PM
Hawthorne	1:30 PM

If bus times differ from the above, you will be notified by phone.

Northern Frontier will provide an adult bus counselor for each trip to and from camp. Please label all luggage with the camper's name, address and phone number. Bus company rules state that no foot lockers or any trunk type container larger than 30x15x12 inches or larger is permitted.

Refund Policy

After November 30, 2011 your deposit is non-refundable except in the event of a family death or serious accident/illness. Notification must be made as soon as practicable. If cancellation for any other reason is made 7 days or less before a camper's planned arrival, the remainder of the camp fees also will not be refunded. If you believe that you have circumstances that deserve special consideration, please contact the Camp Director who has discretion in these affairs.

Account Balance

We request that you pay any balance of your camp cost by May 15. You may pay your balance by credit card at our website (northernfrontier.org), or, if you paid by check or money order, please mail your balance to the Registrar so that it arrives by May 15. If you need to make other arrangements, contact the Registrar. See the back of this booklet for contact information.

Cabin Assignments

Cabin assignments for Stockade and Battalion are made by the Program Directors a few days before each session begins. Boys are put in cabins by age. One cabin mate request per camper is honored if the boys are within 12 months of age and registering for the same program.

Notes From Our Parents

"For years now, my wife and I have seen the blessing that NF has been to our family. We so appreciate the faith boost and growth that our boys have received over the years as campers. To come home and be totally refreshed in the Lord each year after camp almost makes it difficult to see them reenter the "fake world" that engulfs their lives. Now that our oldest has been a counselor for a few years, we receive just as much satisfaction knowing that he now gets to be for his campers what his own counselors have been for him over these years. A brother in Christ, a role model, and hopefully an inspiration to take their faith seriously and grow to be men of Christ. All of this while he continues to be mentored by you and your staff. A parent couldn't ask for more. This year, our younger son was finally able to do service crew which, believe it or not, is considered an honor by the boys, and participate in Core Training. Both had a tremendous impact on him and he considers this summer at NF, life changing. They both want to return next year as counselors and we couldn't be more pleased. In closing, I want to thank you for the work you and your staff do in this ministry. The Lord is building men by changing lives."

"Please know that we are very grateful for your help during a time of unemployment for me. The time my guys spent at camp was wonderful for them again this year. They both came home with great stories of fun and new friends. NF continues to provide a quality atmosphere and program that is an anchor point for my kids and many others.....keep up the great work."

"I thank God for the work you and the other staff do at Northern Frontier. I am so happy my son is there this week with other Christian boys and the godly influence of your staff. I passed his cell phone and I-pod and said a prayer to thank God that he is where he is right now.

God Bless and I'm praying for you and the staff."

Problem Camper Policy

When a camper is significantly disruptive to other campers and/or the Northern Frontier program (tobacco, drugs, behavior, language, picking on others, etc.), such behavior is unfair to campers who come to camp to be away from those things. The issue will be discussed with the disruptive camper and, if necessary, with his parent(s). If the problem is not resolved quickly, arrangements will be made to have the disruptive camper return home.

Personal Property Inspection

We take very seriously the well-being of your son and all other campers in our charge. Therefore, should the Camp Director determine sufficient cause exists, we reserve the right to inspect a camper's personal belongings for anything that would be dangerous to that camper or others, or which would detract from Northern Frontier's ministry. This will never be done lightly or by anyone except an Administrative Staff Member (Program Director or above).

Camp Store

A camp store is operated where snacks, T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and other items can be purchased. An offering is received on Sunday for a missionary project. All personal money is deposited in the camp bank. Money spent is deducted from this amount and the balance returned at the end of the camp stay. You can send store money in with the balance of the camp fee and it will be applied to your son's store account. The most common amount deposited in the store is \$25.00 for a week, unless the camper plans to purchase a clothing item, which could require an additional amount. Any store deposit made upon arrival at camp must be by cash or check.

Lost & Found

Please mark belongings with indelible ink or labels. Impress upon your son the need for responsibility in caring for his personal belongings. We make diligent effort to return lost items to campers before they go home. Items left at camp can be returned only if they are clearly marked, requested by mail, and estimated return postage is included. After August 31st unclaimed items will be disposed of.

Health Procedures

Your son will be checked upon arrival by our camp health professional. If he is ill when he arrives, he will be sent home if possible, but you will be consulted first. All medications must be given to the health professional upon admission. The exceptions to this are inhalers and "epi-pens" for asthma, other respiratory conditions or bee stings. All medications administered by the Health Professional require a written order from your physician. This includes over-the-counter medications and vitamins. All medications must be in the original bottle. Prescription medications must be in their original bottle with clearly labeled instructions (dosage, frequency, etc.) from your physician.

Our Health Hut stocks over-the-counter (OTC) medications anyone might need. Since all medications must be kept in the Health Hut, we request that you **do not send** OTC medications to camp with your son. This includes non-prescription vitamins. Northern Frontier's menu is reviewed and approved by a Licensed Nutritionist each year to make sure it provides for the camper's complete physical needs.

Should your son become ill or injured so that he must stay in the Health Hut overnight or see medical personnel outside of camp, you will be notified by phone as early as possible in the decision making process.

Food Allergies

If your son has a food allergy, carefully note the specifics on his medical form and on the "A Note To Parents" form. In addition, to make sure our food service staff can provide for his special needs, we request that you call our Food Service Director well before your son is scheduled to arrive at camp to discuss your son's situation. Northern Frontier is not a diet-specialty camp, but we will work with you as possible to allow your son to come to camp.

Contact With A Camper

Telephone

The camp phone is for camp business only. Calls to or from campers are not permitted except for emergencies, and then must be pre-approved by the Camp Director.

USPS Mail

Parents are encouraged to write to their sons while they are at camp. On the lower left corner of the envelope please write the program your son is in and the dates he is at camp (i.e.- Stockade, July 3-10). If you know his cabin number, that is also helpful for those sorting the mail. Address your envelope as follows:

Your Son's Name
% Northern Frontier Camp
PO Box 295
North River, NY 12856.

E-Mail

Your son may receive one e-mail per day. Put your son's name in the subject box, and include your son's program and dates at camp on the first line of your message. **No pictures or attachments are permitted. We will print and deliver only the first page of any e-mail (including headers).** E-mail for Northern Frontier campers should be addressed to: camper2012@northernfrontier.org. Please remember that, by its nature, e-mail at camp is not confidential. Your son will not have opportunity to send e-mail from camp.

“Do’s & Don’ts” Of Writing

When you write or e-mail your son, ask him what he is doing and tell him what you are doing. Refrain from statements like, “I miss you so much,” “I can’t wait ‘till you’re home,” or “The dog sure misses you.” As well-meant as these statements are, they can cause a camper who may be prone to homesickness to feel some symptoms.

Visitor Policy

There are no times when campers can be visited during camper sessions. Call the office in advance to schedule a suitable time to visit the camp for other purposes.

“What To Bring” List

- Bible
- underwear (daily change)
- socks (daily change)
- T-shirts
- shorts
- bathing suit
- jeans
- raincoat or poncho
- sweatshirt
- sneakers
- sturdy shoes or hiking boots
- Water shoes or sandals (**NO FLIP FLOPS**)
- comb or brush
- soap, shampoo
- towels and washcloth
- toothbrush and toothpaste
- pillow
- sleeping bag or sheets and three blankets
- flashlight, batteries
- optional: camera, fishing tackle, canteen, compass, insect repellent, back-pack, etc.

Northern Frontier is in the Adirondack Mountains. Cold and/or wet weather is always a possibility.

What NOT To Bring

Northern Frontier is designed to be a wilderness summer camp experience. The following and similar items are **not** allowed in camp: two-way radios (walkie-talkies), electronic games, tape recorders, radios, music and/or video players of any kind, cell phones. Also, since Northern Frontier provides whatever knives are needed for our activities, no knives of any kind are to be brought by any camper. Nothing that could be construed as a weapon may be brought to camp.