



CAMP O-AT-KA



Dear Families,

We are so pleased that your camper will be joining us for Summer 2022! Our staff has been hard at work planning and taking steps to ensure we have another safe, comfortable and fun experience this summer. Together, we will make this summer very special and one to remember!

Camp O-AT-KA was founded in 1906 by Rev. Ernest J. Dennen, as a place that boys from Lynn, Massachusetts could escape the dust and heat of the mill city and enjoy a summer close to nature. Dennen believed that it is better to build strong boys than mend broken men. Camp O-AT-KA maintains this mission to this day. We seek to instill confidence and build character in a supportive, unplugged and safe community environment.

Campers and staff come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and we seek to bring them together by furthering common interests, promoting a sense of community, achieving progress towards goals, and fostering the development of lifelong friendships.

Whether your son's interests lean towards team sports, outdoor living and wilderness trips, the fine or performing arts, or what we call the waterfront "beach, boat, and canoe club", O-AT-KA has the activities and staff to help him make the most of his summer.

It is an incredible opportunity and privilege to care for your boys. Our watchful and experienced staff care for them all as if they were our own children. Several of our staff have their own children in attendance and many staff are former O-AT-KA campers themselves.

This family guide is designed to answer questions and prepare you and your camper for his camp experience. You will also find information posted on our website at www.campoatka.org.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail at any time. The camp office phone number is (207) 787-3401, and our email is info@campoatka.org.

We look forward to seeing you soon on the shores of Sebago Lake!

Yours truly,

Heather Plati
Executive Director

Chris Kohl
Summer Director



AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION (ACA) ACCREDITATION

We know the most important consideration in choosing a camp is its safe environment and qualified staff. Families nationwide recognize the importance of accreditation by the American Camp Association (ACA) when choosing a camp. O-AT-KA is ACA accredited, having passed an exhaustive periodic review process that is reaffirmed annually. This means we meet industry-accepted and government-recognized standards from staff qualifications and training to safety and emergency management. For more information about ACA Accreditation, visit: www.acacamps.org

PRE-CAMP PARENT ORIENTATION

We invite all families to join the leadership team for a virtual parent orientation on **Wednesday, May 25th at 7:00pm** (Eastern). We will record this session to share with those that cannot make it. The first part of the meeting will be dedicated to COVID safety for all families and then we will move into a “new family” orientation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The camp office is open daily during the summer from 9:00am to 12:30pm and 2:30 to 6:00pm. We also check messages during the evening hours.

Camp Office (207) 787-3401
officestaff@camboatka.org

Infirmery (Nurse) (207) 787-3292
infirmery@camboatka.org

**After Hours for
Emergency ONLY** (207) 595-6074

CAMPER MAILING AND E-MAIL

U.S. mail, packages, and e-mails are delivered to campers once a day. Campers write postcards home approximately twice per week. International campers only are permitted to send emails instead. To mail a letter or a package to your son, please use the following address:

[Your Son's Name]
Camp O-AT-KA
PO Box 239
Sebago, ME 04029

CAMPER PHONE POLICY

Camp O-AT-KA places a high priority on boys learning independence and self-reliance, and on building community with those around us. As we have found from extensive experience, we are best able to achieve these goals in an unplugged environment. For this reason, **campers are not allowed to bring cell phones, nor do they have access to the camp telephone during their stay.** CIT's are campers and will also not have their phones. This policy is strictly enforced. The boys are encouraged to write home at least twice a week. Members of the camp staff are always available to assist you should you have an urgent matter to discuss with your son. Birthday boys will have the opportunity to call home on their special day. **Please help support this policy by not sending phones or other unapproved technologies to camp.**

Please note: If your son is flying to camp, he can bring his phone to the office at check-in. We will lock it in the office safe until his departure day. We will charge the phone and have it ready for his travel at that time.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION FROM CAMP

We want to share your camper's experience with you. Each day you will receive the Galahad Gazette – a one page newsletter that gives a snapshot of what is going on at camp that day. If it is your camper's first year, we will give you a call to update you during their first week. Of course, if there is anything urgent to discuss, we will call you immediately. Photos are posted frequently on our social media sites (no names will ever be used), as well as on Campminder.

Leading up to camp you will receive frequent emails about necessary camper forms, Zoom orientation meeting, health/safety procedures and travel schedule along with drop-off and pick-up assignment times. Please make sure to read every correspondence thoroughly.

COVID-19 – UPDATED ON JUNE 6, 2022

We ask all campers to take an antigen (rapid) test within 24 hours of attending camp. Home tests are readily available at grocery stores, drugstores, etc. There are two ways you can accomplish this requirement

1. **PREFERRED METHOD:** *Take the test at home within 24 hours of arrival and save a photo of the negative test to show at check-in.*
2. *We have rapid tests at camp and can test upon arrival. We highly encourage you to take the test before you travel to camp because if your camper tests positive at check-in, he will not be allowed to enter camp and will need to go home with you until he is past quarantine. To save yourself the stress of this, please try and test at home.*

For those that are flying unaccompanied, families can email us the photo of the test result and/or the camper can show us on his phone when he arrives. Again, tests must be taken within 24 hours of travel. E-mail is info@campoatka.org.

O-AT-KA wants to provide the safest environment for our campers and staff. Our leadership team has access to excellent resources, a network of professionals, and the experience of past summers to develop the COVID protocols for Summer 2022. We are thankful to our families, campers and staff for respecting the decisions made by the administration that are best for our entire camp community.

To enjoy the camp experience to the fullest and as safely as possible, campers are **strongly encouraged** to be vaccinated before arrival. Those that are vaccinated must provide a copy of their vaccination record (this can be uploaded in your Campminder account or email to info@campoatka.org). If we do not have a vaccination card on file and/or you do not bring it to check in, we must consider your camper unvaccinated and a negative test result will need to be provided.

If your camper is not vaccinated, we ask that you let us know before camp starts so we can have a conversation about what that looks like for this summer. You must provide a negative test result at check-in. Non vaccinated campers without a negative test result will not be allowed to enter camp. If your camper is midway through the vaccination process, O-AT-KA is happy to help facilitate additional doses at nearby healthcare sites. This also applies if you would like to have your camper vaccinated while he is with us.

If your camper has had COVID within 90 days of the start of camp, we know this can skew test results so a negative test is not necessary at arrival. We do need a doctor's note confirming that the camper is past the 10-day quarantine period; since being diagnosed.

Our Infirmary staff will continuously monitor campers and staff for symptoms and have the ability to test onsite.

We will not be requiring campers or staff to wear masks. We have asked you to pack 3-5 masks; in case we feel we are in a situation that campers may need to wear them indoors or in closed spaces. Hand washing and sanitizing; as well as best health practices will be demonstrated and encouraged.

We anticipate that we will be interacting with other camps through inter-camp sports and socials. If the camp we are visiting/hosting requires participants to be vaccinated, unvaccinated campers will not be able to participate.

If we have a positive case of COVID at camp, we will first inform the parents/guardian of that child. They will be in direct care of our Infirmary staff. Anyone that is deemed a close contact will be monitored for symptoms and tested onsite. If your camper is not vaccinated and contracts COVID, they will be required to quarantine and we may ask that you get them from camp. We will not have a separate quarantine area and staff setup for long-term quarantine this year.

O-AT-KA will be basing our participation in out-of-camp outings and activities with other groups/camps on the Maine County community levels. Camp is located in Cumberland County. Community levels are reported daily as green (low), yellow (medium) and red (high). We will report this each day in the Galahad Gazette; our electronic newsletter. This metric can also be found on the CDC website (www.cdc.org/coronavirus).

In order for us to safely run camp, we need all families to comply with our policies and we thank you in advance! We are available to speak with you about any individual concerns or questions you may have.

PACKING LIST

This packing list is based upon the experiences of generations of campers. It fits the needs of the boys and reflects the limited storage space available in our cabins.

O-AT-KA will issue one camp t-shirt, water bottle, and laundry bag to each camper upon arrival. Camp shirts are worn on special days. Additional camp shirts and other clothing are available for purchase in the camp store.

Please clearly mark all items with your son's full name.

Clothing

- Camp t-shirt (provided)
- 1-2 polo or collared shirt
- 8 appropriate t-shirts
- 2 long sleeve shirts
- 3 pants
- 6 shorts
- 10 underwear
- 1 non-athletic shorts (special occasions)
- 12 socks
- 2 pajamas (1 warm)
- 2-3 swimsuits
- 2 sweatpants
- Warm jacket
- Rain jacket
- Hat

Beddings & Linens

Camp O-AT-KA provides sheets, pillowcases, and a laundry bag for campers. We provide pillows and blankets for international campers and, upon request, for those traveling by air. For reasons of hygiene, campers sleep in sheets, not in sleeping bags, while at camp.

- 1 pillow
- 4 towels (2 bath and 2 beach)
- 2 warm blankets
- 2 washcloths

Footwear

- 2 pairs of sneakers
- Sandals/flip flops
- Cleats (optional)
- Lightweight hiking boots (optional)

Wilderness Equipment

- Sleeping bag
- Bug spray with DEET (non-aerosol)
- Lightweight backpack

Miscellaneous Required Items

- Trunk or sturdy storage tub
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Toiletry kit or large plastic ziplock bag
- Sunscreen
- 3-5 face masks (just in case!)

Optional Athletic Equipment – if your camper would prefer his own.

- Tennis racket
- Fishing rod & tackle
- Baseball glove
- Swim goggles
- Athletic cup/ mouth guard
- Frisbee

Other

- Camera (no phones)
- Musical Instruments (piano available)
- Board games/ playing cards
- Summer reading books
- Toiletries

LINENS & LAUNDRY

Personal laundry service is arranged by the camp and is included in your son's tuition. We send personal laundry out each week and get it back one day later. A laundry bag is provided to each camper. Please label all items using full names, as there may be several boys at camp with the same initials. Sheets and pillowcases are provided and are changed weekly. In an emergency, staff have access to washing machines and dryers at camp.

THINGS TO LEAVE AT HOME

In order to promote the healthy social and community aspects of camp life and to maintain an "unplugged" environment, we require that cell phones, iPhones, Apple watches, televisions, radios, stereo systems, computers, PDAs, hand-held electronic games, internet-connectable devices, drones, and other electronic devices be left at home. Any camper who brings electronic devices to camp in violation of this policy will have them held in the office for the duration of his stay. In addition, in view of the limited electrical supply in our cabins, we ask that campers not bring fans and plug-in lamps to camp. There will be a fan in each cabin for ventilation.

Middle and senior unit campers are allowed to have non-video and non-wi-fi iPods and other MP3 players for use during quiet times (siesta, lights out). They may not be used outside the cabins at any time. Phones without SIM cards are not acceptable. Unauthorized use of wireless connections at camp is not permitted and will result in confiscation of the device. As with any personal property, campers bring them to camp at their own risk.

SHIPPING TRUNKS

If you choose to ship trunks to camp in advance of your son's arrival, please be certain to allow sufficient travel time. The UPS weight limit is 150 lbs. per trunk. We will ship trunks back at the end of camp, at the expense of the family.

CAMP STORE

Campers can obtain sundries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, postcards, stamps, insect repellent, and batteries at the camp store. Various camp apparel is also sold in the store. Purchases are charged to the boys' camper accounts.

PACKAGES

Boys love to receive occasional "care packages" from home during their stay at camp. In an effort to keep our cabins free of critters, you may only send non-food items. In addition, many people have food allergies. We need to ensure that the only food served is safe for all campers and staff. Comic books, trading cards (ex. Magik, Pokemon) and magazines are great. Please do not send gum, candy, or snacks. Campers will open all packages in the presence of office staff. Any food will be confiscated.

Rest assured that meals at camp are nutritious and plentiful. Your son will get a candy bar/candy of his choice after lunch twice a week in exchange for a postcard home. If your son has a summer birthday, he will receive a birthday cake to share with his cabin mates.

Remember that space at camp is very limited. Boys live out of their trunks, which are often packed to the brim, and only have a cubby and shelf area for storage. Please be prudent in your number of packages and what you send. Good old-fashioned letters are often a favorite thing to receive from home!

ILLEGAL ITEMS

Please discuss the serious ramifications of possession or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, and firearms with your son prior to his arrival at camp. Possession or use of these items by your son constitutes grounds for immediate dismissal from camp without refund. This includes e-cigarettes and vaping products.

TRAVELING TO CAMP O-AT-KA

The physical address for Camp O-AT-KA is 593 Sebago Road, Sebago, ME 04029. Sebago Road is Route 114. The main entrance is on the lakeside of the street near the tennis courts.

For campers arriving by plane, fees charged to O-AT-KA by the airlines will be invoiced home. A convenience fee from the Portland Jetport is \$50, while a fee from Boston Logan International Airport is \$100.

2022 ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The Importance of Arrivals and Departures

Professional research has established that for children, rituals and traditions play an important part in building community, providing a sense of belonging, and creating a supportive environment – all important components of O-AT-KA's mission to build strong boys. Our opening and closing day rituals and traditions such as unit orientation, the Council Ring campfire, Candlelight, or evening cabin time help connect boys to the fabric of camp, provide stability, and create shared values. Opening and closing day are extremely important for our campers and staff. Boys that arrive late for a session or who leave early miss out on these rituals and traditions, which interferes with their ability to integrate into the community or leave with a feeling of closure.

ARRIVING & DEPARTING FROM CAMP

To allow for families to avoid overcrowding and receive the utmost personal attention from our staff, the drop-off and pick-ups will be scheduled by Unit at designated times. An email will be sent with times by Unit and more information is below. This applies to campers arriving by car.

When you arrive a staff member will greet you at your car and give instructions for next steps. The check in process will be held at stations on our ballfield. Your camper's bags will be given to our staff and they will safely deliver it to his cabin for you. Your son will then check in with our Office and Infirmary stations. Any medications should be brought to the Infirmary staff at this time.

All paperwork must be filed out prior to arrival. A member of our Infirmary staff will review medical documents and a member of our Office staff will review other forms to ensure your family is ready to go! If anything is needed, we will call you the week prior to camp starting.

After your camper is checked in, they will meet their Unit Head and counselors. You will also have a chance to meet the team! Campers will start bonding with their cabinmates and at the end of the scheduled arrival time, they will all go to the Unit together. This is so we can immerse them in cabin life immediately. They will then set up their cabin and bunks, participate in an orientation to the camp's programs and staff, learn safety rules, have fun with cabin ice breakers, and enjoy their first dinner and our opening council ring campfire. Having clear expectations at drop-off and staying busy the first day is the best way to combat homesickness. The regular activity schedule will begin the next morning.

Arrival Schedule: Full Summer, First Session & 2-Week Session A

SATURDAY, JUNE 25 - CIT's & International Camper Arrival

- CITs should arrive at camp between 1pm and 2pm.
- International campers should arrange to arrive at Boston Logan airport between 10am and 6pm, where they will be greeted by O-AT-KA staff and transported to camp in time to settle into their cabins before dark and get a good night's sleep so that they are ready for opening day.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26 – Full Summer, First Session & Two-Week Session A

- Campers arriving by car will have a scheduled time, by Unit, between 10am and 3pm. Please arrive during your scheduled time. If you are going to be late, please call ASAP to let us know. Parents will be at camp for no longer than an hour to complete check-in.
- Domestic campers should arrange to arrive at Portland Jetport or Boston Logan Airport between 9am and 3pm, where they will be greeted by O-AT-KA staff and transported to camp in time for dinner, orientation, and the opening campfire.

Arrival Schedule: Second Session & 2-Week Session B

SUNDAY, JULY 24

- Domestic campers flying to Portland Jetport or Boston's Logan Airport should arrange to arrive at Portland Jetport between 9am and 3pm, where they will be greeted by O-AT-KA staff and transported to camp in time for dinner, orientation, and the opening campfire.
- International campers should arrange to arrive at Boston Logan airport between 10am and 6pm, where they will be greeted by O-AT-KA staff and transported to camp in time to settle into their cabins before dark.
- Campers arriving by car will have a scheduled time, by Unit, between 10am and 3pm. Please arrive during your scheduled time. If you are going to be late, please call ASAP to let us know. Parents will be at camp for no longer than an hour to complete check-in.

DEPARTURES

SATURDAY, JULY 9 – 2-Week Session A Departure

- Parents of campers departing at the end of a 2-Week Session will pick-up their campers during the hours of 10am and 12pm.
- Upon arrival, you will check in with our office staff in the Bungalow. Our staff will radio for your son to meet at this designated area.
- We will have your camper's things ready to go for you with trunks and medications packed and any equipment or art projects ready. Because we will know your pick-up time, your camper will have had time to say goodbye to friends and counselors before you arrive.
- Final check-out will be through the Summer office in the Bungalow.

FRIDAY, JULY 22 – First Session Departure

- The closing awards ceremony will be held on the Thursday before pickup. It will be recorded and sent to families.
- Parents of campers departing at the end of first session will be given a scheduled pick-up time during the hours of 1pm and 3pm on Friday, July 22.
- Campers flying out of Boston Logan Airport or Portland Jetport should try and depart between Noon and 6pm. We understand this may not be possible so please use your best judgement with travel plans.
- For those that need to depart on Saturday, July 23, campers need to be checked out no later than 10:00am. This will allow for proper time to sanitize the camp and provide proper time for our staff to prep before Session II begins.
- Upon arriving, you will check in with our staff and park in the designated locations. Our staff will radio for your son to meet at this designated area.
- We will have your camper's things ready to go for you with trunks and medications packed and any equipment or art projects ready.
- Final check-out will be through a staff member at the entrance of camp.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 – 2-Week Session B Departure

- Parents of campers departing at the end of a 2-Week Session will pick-up their campers during the hours of 10am and 12pm.
- Upon arriving, you will check in with our staff and park in the designated locations. Our staff will radio for your son to meet at this designated area.
- We will have your camper's things ready to go for you with trunks and medications packed and any equipment or art projects ready. Because we will know your pick-up time, your camper will have had time to say goodbye to friends and counselors before you arrive.
- Final check-out will be through the Summer office in the Bungalow.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12 – Second Session & Full Season Departure

- The closing awards ceremony will be held on Friday morning, recorded and sent to families.
- Parents of campers departing at the end of the second session/summer season will be given a scheduled pick-up time during the hours of 11am and 3pm on Friday, August 12.
- Upon arriving, you will check in with our staff and park in the designated locations. Our staff will radio for your son to meet at this designated area.
- We will have your camper's things ready to go for you with trunks and medications packed and any equipment or art projects ready. Because we will know your pick-up time, your camper will have had time to say goodbye to friends and counselors before you arrive.
- Final check-out will be through a staff member at the entrance of camp.
- Campers flying out of Boston Logan Airport or Portland Jetport should try and depart between Noon and 6pm. We understand this may not be possible so please use your best judgement with travel plans.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

- For those that need to depart on Saturday, please let us know and we can arrange this. All campers must depart by 10am.

VISTING OPPORTUNITIES

2-Week Session A & B; and Second Session: No visiting days.

First Session: Campers enrolled in our four-week first session will have an opportunity to schedule a Zoom call (or phone call) with families during the weekend of July 8-10.

Full Summer and CIT's: May check out of camp during changeover weekend. Families may check campers out starting at Noon on Friday and must be back at O-AT-KA by 10am on Sunday. Campers are not required to leave camp and we'll have fun and unique activities for them during this time. Campers that do leave camp will take a rapid COVID test in the Infirmary when they return to camp.

HEALTH SERVICES

Registered Nurses and Nurse Assistants are available 24 hours a day to provide first aid, assessment, and referral of medical problems for your son. The infirmary supplies and distributes most over the counter (OTC) medications per the camp physician's protocol. Therefore, we request you do not send typical OTC medications with your son. No medication will be allowed to stay with campers in cabins with the exception of inhalers and Epi pens.

If your son requires an Epi Pen or inhaler and you would like him to carry it while at camp you must meet the following:

1. Epi Pen/Inhaler must be in a clearly labeled pharmacy container showing child's name, physician's name, name of medicine, dosage, and expiration date.
2. If your son needs to carry an Epi Pen or inhaler at all times, a second Epi Pen/inhaler must be provided to the infirmary to ensure access during out-of-camp trips.

Prescription Medications

Camp O-AT-KA uses the CampMeds pre-packaged medication program. Every camper who will be taking medication while at camp, with the exception of short-term antibiotics, dissolving tablets (e.g., Reditabs), or injectable medications should register with CampMeds at www.campmeds.com or by calling (954) 577-0025. CampMeds will send pre-packaged doses of your son's medication directly to the camp infirmary for administration.

The only exception will be families whose insurance is not accepted by CampMeds or those for whom CampMeds was unable to provide a particular product.

Any medications (including vitamins) being left at the infirmary must be in their original package or our nurses cannot accept or dispense them.

Parent Notification

Parents or guardians will be notified by the Camp Nurse, Summer Camp Director or Executive Director if an overnight stay in the infirmary is required. In addition, parents and guardians will be notified for illnesses lasting more than 24 hours, emergency medical care, doctor's visits, and medication questions or refills.

Parents will also be notified immediately if their camper tests positive for COVID-19 or is being monitoring as a close contact of someone that has tested positive.

Meeting with Infirmary

If you would like to have a conversation with one of our health care professionals prior to your camper's arrival, our staff will be onsite starting on Monday, June 20th. Please make an appointment for a phone call, as this is staff training week so our nurses may not be in the Infirmary throughout the day. We encourage families who know they will need extra time with the nurse to do this, as check-in on Opening Day is a busy time. This way you will receive uninterrupted time. You can make an appointment with the Infirmary staff by e-mailing infirmary@campoatka.com or calling 207-787-3401.

REQUIRED FORMS

Many important forms, such as the health history, travel form, activity preference form, and counselor information form, can be found on your CampMinder/CampInTouch account. Forms should be completed online or (in some cases) printed out, completed/signed and uploaded back into your account. **Forms are due by May 15th**. The web address to access all forms is: <http://oatka.campintouch.com>. For 2022, also remember that you must submit a copy of the camper vaccination record (this can be uploaded into your CampInTouch account) or bring a negative test (for unvaccinated individuals) that has been taken within 48 hours of arrival.

CABIN & UNIT ASSIGNMENTS

Cabin life is a key ingredient of the camp experience. The cabin is your camper's home away from home and his cabin mates and counselors will become a significant part of his extended camp family. O-AT-KA alumni attest that cabin friendships really do last a lifetime! Unit & cabin assignments are based upon grade in school.

Campers are limited to making ONE cabin-mate request through the form on Campminder, since meeting new people and making new friends are important parts of the camp experience. Our staff will make every effort to honor requests if they are mutual, but please understand that they are not guaranteed. Staff place a great deal of care into creating the strongest possible cabin combinations in each unit; because of the ripple effects that last-minute changes can cause, we are not able to accommodate change requests on arrival day.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

O-AT-KA has over 30 daily activities, which we call crafts. When you receive the information on activity selection, please help your son complete it and submit it online as soon as possible. Some programs are age or resource-limited and are filled on a first-come, first served basis. Every two weeks, a new schedule of activities will be developed for your son based upon his interests. We make every effort to ensure campers get as many of their top picks as possible. Campers whose information is not complete by May 15 will find it harder to get their top activity choices.

WILDERNESS TRIPS

We have a variety of day and overnight trips for our campers to enjoy in small groups and will share those with them when they arrive at camp. We also plan to utilize Greenridge, a wooded campsite on the edge of the camp property, and Outer Island – an island owned by camp and accessible by boat.

FULL-SEASON PROGRAM

There is far more to do at camp than can be reasonably accomplished over the course of a few weeks. For this reason, our seven-week full-season program allows campers the greatest opportunity to take advantage of all that O-AT-KA has to offer. Seven-week campers take three different sets of crafts over the course of the summer, experience each of the season's special events, and are able to develop stronger ties and friendships over the course of a full summer. Since it was EJ Dennen's founding mission for O-AT-KA to "build strong boys," the longer a boy is with us, the greater the

opportunity we have to build him! All full-season campers receive special recognition at the closing awards ceremony in August.

EXTENSIONS

If space is available, campers who come for 2-week starter session A or B have the option to extend for one week or the remainder of the session. Campers may also be able to extend from session one into session two. All family's expectations are different, both in terms of schedule and financing, so there is never any pressure placed on a family or camper about extending. If you indicate that extending is a possibility, camp staff will contact you by phone during the session for a check-in. Only after all agree that extending is a good idea will a conversation be initiated with the camper.

HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is something that affects nearly every boy who goes away from home, especially for the first time. It is a normal phase of development that is eased by preparing your son for the experience. It is important to encourage your son's growing sense of independence throughout the year.

By filling out the counselor information and medical forms, you will let us know about your son – including any medical conditions, fears, favorite activities, and food preferences. This enables his counselors to help your son be more comfortable once he arrives at camp. Letters home from campers are often written during down time and bedtime when campers are not as active and homesickness surfaces more. We suggest you respond to letters that indicate some degree of homesickness with short supportive letters focused on the activities that your son is involved in at camp; it is best not to write about what is happening at home. We also ask that you not make any deals about early pick-ups – although they may be well-intentioned, experience shows that they almost always backfire. Such deals contain a negative message about your son's ability to make it through camp and may lead to him to feel like a failure. While we do not want any boy to be sad or homesick, we know that these feelings can teach self-reliance and important coping mechanisms that are invaluable. Our staff is trained in many strategies that work well to combat feelings of homesickness.

TUITION

Tuition, while not all-inclusive, includes most aspects of camp life. Not included, and billed separately, are optional expenses such as camper store accounts, wilderness trips, transportation to and from camp, any major fees incurred by the airlines, major shop and crafts projects, fishing equipment, prescription drugs and advanced swim course materials.

CAMPER ACCOUNTS

In addition to the tuition, a camper account is used in place of cash for miscellaneous expenses, including purchases at the camp store. Please do not send your camper with cash. Large purchases require parental permission, and our office will contact you directly. At the end of the session, any balance can be donated to the Camp O-AT-KA's scholarship fund or families will be sent a check. For balances under \$20, funds will be automatically donated to the scholarship fund – unless otherwise requested by the family. If your son's account exceeds the initial deposit, an invoice will be sent after the season.

PAYMENT POLICIES

Tuition payments are due by May 1. Please note that tuition is 100% risk free for Summer 2022 and can be refunded at any time prior to your camper's first day at O-AT-KA. Refunds are not applicable if a child attends and leaves camp early. Checks are made payable to Camp O-AT-KA and all major credit cards are accepted. All payments must be made in U.S. Dollars. Payments received from outside the United States may be remitted by international money order or as drafts channeled through a U.S. "corresponding bank" or Federal Reserve Bank. Checks returned for insufficient funds or otherwise deemed uncollectible are assessed a \$35 administrative fee.

Refunds are not granted to campers who are asked to leave camp for disciplinary reasons. Campership aid is not directly refundable to families. In keeping with the tradition of making O-AT-KA affordable to as many boys as possible, a limited number of campers whose families demonstrate financial need are given camperships each year. Financial aid forms are available upon request.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS NEAR O-AT-KA

For a full list of local accommodations, please visit: www.camboatka.org/lodging/

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, June 25	CITs & International Campers arrive
Sun, June 26	Opening Day for Full Summer, First Session and 2-Week Session A
Sat, July 9	Pickup for 2-Week Session A
Fri, July 22	Awards Ceremony/Close of First Session – Camper pick-up
Sat, July 23	All non-full summer campers must depart by 10am
Sun, July 24	Opening Day for Second Session and 2-Week Session B
Sat, August 6	Pickup for 2-Week Session B
Thurs, August 11	Closing Candlelight Service for campers and staff only
Fri, August 12	Awards Ceremony/Close of Camp Season – Camper pick-up
Sat, August 13	All campers must depart by 10am/Staff check-out

SPECIAL INVITE! CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION AT O-AT-KA

On August 27 and 28, the camp community will celebrate the completion of a successful \$8 million campaign with family activities, food, swimming, and traditional camp fun! The Camp O-AT-KA Heroes ceremony will be held in the Chapel on Sunday, August 28th. Invitations with more detail will be sent to families in June.