



Dear Explorer and Explorer Parents/Guardians,

Greetings from Camp Gray! We can't wait for you to arrive. This summer you will be challenged to rely on your Explorer community for the basics like getting water, cooking, and simply living in the Village. Oh yeah. . .did we mention it's also going to be a ton of fun and you'll have the opportunity to make lasting relationships? It's going to be great!

The purpose of the Explorer program is to provide a safe and fun environment where the campers grow together as a community. The beauty of the Explorer program rests in its simplicity and tradition. This relaxed pace of Explorer Village gives rise to opportunities for one-on-one discussions, conflict resolution, and a sense of acceptance. There are also a good deal of programmed activities too, like a day trip to Devils Lake State Park, group initiatives in the village, tower climbing, and swimming in the pool that will occur throughout the week as well. The cool part about the Explorer program is that you get to make it different every week: the counselors will definitely seek your input on how you want to spend your week.

Since you will be spending most of your time outside, it is important that you bring the right gear. To aid you in this endeavor, here's our handy-dandy "what to bring" list. Please note that this list is a special packing list for Explorers.

- **Athletic shoes** – For games, campfires, hiking at Devil's Lake, and climbing the tower.
- **Sandals** – For comfort around Explorer Village and maybe walking in the creek. Sandals with a heel strap are best. If you choose to swim at Devil's Lake you will need to wear sandals or an extra pair of shoes to protect your feet from the lake bottom.
- **Sleeping bag / Pillow** – To stay warm at night and catching those Z's. Sleeping bag is much preferred over sheets/blankets.
- **Hat** – A hat will protect your face from the sun.
- **Sweatshirt or fleece / Long pants** – We will be spending lots of time outside at night.
- **Rain gear** – To stay dry when the liquid sunshine is falling. Bring a rain jacket if you have one; otherwise a plastic poncho will work too.
- **Swimsuit/Towel** – For swimming at Camp and at Devil's Lake State Park.
- **Flashlight or Head Lamp**
- **Sunscreen & Bug spray**
- **Large Water Bottle/Nalgene**
- **Clothes/shorts that can get dirty** – We often have adventures including paint, mud, and dirt!
- **Extra shorts / t-shirts / socks / underwear - always nice to have!**

Enjoy the beautiful spring! We look forward to seeing you soon. As always, if you have questions or concerns please call --ask for David Earleywine.

In the Spirit of Adventure,

David Earleywine
Assistant Director

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