****

**CAMP BECKET DADS’ WEEKEND INFORMATION 2016**

**Dads’ Weekend 2016 Dates**

**First Session July 15-17**

**Second Session August 12-14**

**WHO IS DADS' WEEKEND FOR?**

This weekend is specifically for fathers or male role models of Becket campers. About 80-90% of the campers will have a dad or other visitor for part or all of the weekend. No children other than the Becket campers are allowed in camp before Sunday at noon. At Camp Becket we celebrate a diverse camp community and we recognize that not all families have a 'dad.' However, we hope all young men have a positive male role model in their life. Families may ask another male family member or friend (over 18) to join the camper for the weekend. This also applies if dad cannot attend the weekend. If the family does not have someone to come, they have the choice on the reservation form to ask for camp to provide a 'mentor' for the child. These mentors are past staff members who volunteer for the weekend—in this instance; your child will sleep in a camper cabin. If the family cannot visit on this weekend, arrangements may be made for a visit at another time but you must call ahead to arrange this.

Take the time over the weekend to remember that you are entering a boy's world. This is a special place that your camper has created for himself in the overall environment of camp. Since the 1920's Camp Becket has kept this unique tradition. While we have modified many things since its origin as Dads' Week, our overall goals have remained the same. For one weekend a year let the boy be the guide. Take advantage of joining his activities, eating with his 'camp family', sharing special moments during cabin chats, and having a peaceful place for bonding while overlooking the beautiful shores of Rudd Pond. Please keep in mind that Camp Becket is designed to be a boy's world and you will benefit the most from the weekend if you leave many of your adult expectations and commitments at the gate. Our camp will have nearly 300 extra community members this weekend and therefore you may notice a strain on the facility, but remember this weekend is all about spending time with an amazing young man.

**BASIC SCHEDULE OF THE WEEKEND**

**Friday**

Most of the dads/mentors arrive on Friday afternoon or early evening. You should let your camper and our office know approximately when you will arrive but don't make promises, traffic may delay you. If you are going to arrive after dark, don't worry! Just let us know and we can have people available to assist you in setting up your ten

* Check in at the Becket Business Office (B.O.) any time after 1PM on Friday.
* Pick up your packet with map, schedule, tenting info, etc.
* Find your camper and set up your tent!
* Attend scheduled activities with your camper, cabin chats.

**Saturday**

You will join into your camper's regular schedule including cabin activities, free time, meals, and skill classes. You may join in on many of the activities but listen for direction of the leaders. Your camper should help relate rules and expectations already set up in those activities. Let your camper be your guide and take the lead.

One of the most popular events during Dads' Weekend is the Weekend Raffle. Campers and their visitors can purchase raffle tickets for items that YOU donate. All proceeds go the Becket Dads' Association to help fund camp programs.

**Sunday**

Morning will include Chapel in the lakeside outdoor chapel (weather permitting) and then a buffet lunch will be served so that additional family members may join in (see the reservation form). Beginning at noon, the afternoon will be open for family visiting including campers with siblings at both camps to go between the two camps. Please make sure visitors know NOT to bring any pets.

Families should say good-bye and depart by 4 PM. There may be a few tears but our counselors will quickly get the campers back into activities and ready for the most exciting week of the session which will include the Big Show (camp musical), Candlelight and Final Banquet.

**CHECKING ON YOUR CAMPER’S PROGRESS**

You should expect to talk with the counselor about your camper's camp experience but be mindful of the fact the counselor has responsibilities over the weekend. We do want you to know how your camper is doing, how he adjusted to camp, and let you ask any questions you may have. On Friday and Saturday evenings there is a snack time for the dads/mentors at the Dining Hall. This is the best opportunity to speak with your camper's counselor. For mom’s and other family members, please check in with the counselor’s at the cabin starting at 3:15.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DADS’ WEEKEND**

*What if I don't own a tent?*

We recommend that you invest in a tent and air mattress for the weekend or you may borrow one from a friend. Wal-Mart and other similar stores have decent tents for reasonable prices. There are companies like EMS which will rent tenting equipment in many areas. We have a limited number of camp tents to rent - they are small and of varying qualities. The other option is to stay in camp housing with other dads and your camper will sleep in a regular cabin. No R.V.'s will be allowed.

*What are the bathroom facilities like?*

Washhouses (Automats) are located near your camper's cabins. These facilities have electricity, regular flush toilets, indoor & outdoor showers. Dads should use the automat that their camper uses during the session. Remember, our facilities will be stressed so sometimes hot water is a bonus.

*Is electricity ever available?*

Yes, but only in major buildings such as the dining hall, automats, etc. A good flashlight is a must for the evenings. Don't count on being able to plug in a cell phone.

*Will I have some alone time with my camper?*

Yes, this is probably one of the most special happenings of the weekend. There are wonderful 'quiet' places at camp for those father/camper chats.

*When can Moms and other family members arrive at camp?*

Moms are warmly invited to join you starting at noon on Sunday (no earlier please). Please plan ahead on when and where you will meet visitors on Sunday - cell phone coverage is sporadic at camp. If you're new to camp, a good meeting place is outside the Becket Business Office or near the Library. Our staff can direct them there to meet you.

*What if I have a daughter at CCC?*

Open visiting at each camp begins at noon on Sunday. Each camp offers a lunch buffet for all family members. Please sign up on the reservation form. There will be special family activities Sunday afternoon for the whole family to enjoy. Camp transportation will be provided from noon to 4 PM on Sunday between the two camps for those families with campers at both camps.

*Can I get a list of other families in my area so we can carpool?*

The Becket Business Office will have a list of families who have given their permission to be contacted for carpooling; call them to get some names and phone numbers. We can also provide transportation to and/or from the Lee Bus Stop - sign up through your online reservation and call ahead with your details.

*Can my camper leave camp with me any time during the weekend?*

No, we are responsible for your camper from opening to closing day. If you must run an errand, your camper must stay in camp. Only on Sunday between noon and 4 pm may your camper accompany you by camp transportation to CCC if you have someone there to visit.

**SUGGESTED PACKING GEAR**

Tent and other camping gear (ground cloth, rain tarp, extra stakes, etc.)

Sleeping gear (air mattress, sleeping bag or sheets, pillow, extra blanket)

Bathroom items in a case or container

Rain gear & umbrella (along with a sense of humor if it rains all weekend!)

Bathrobe Plenty of socks (required even with sandals) Insect Repellent & Sunscreen

Casual Clothing Flashlight with extra batteries Lawn/beach/camp chair

Jeans/Shorts Comfortable shoes or sneakers Hat / Sunglasses

Sweatshirt Towels (extras in case of rain) Bathing Suit

Water Bottle Water shoes or flip flops Camera

-For chapel we wear light colored pants/shorts and white shirts.

-You may bring a cooler with special snacks & drinks for your camper but we suggest keeping it in the car as food will attract animals into your tent.

-You may also bring your cell phone but please be courteous of those around you - don't let it distract you from why you came to camp. There are very few places to plug in a charger.

**DADS’ WEEKEND SUNDAY VISITOR INFORMATION**

For visitors and family members coming to Camp Becket on Sunday of Dads' Weekend, we would like to give you some ideas of what to expect.

Visiting begins at noon on Sunday. Please plan ahead on a meeting place because cell phones don't always work in camp. If you're new to camp, a good place to meet is outside the Becket Business Office or the Library. Staff will be on hand to direct visitors.

Please DO NOT bring pets! No pet will be allowed on the camp property.

Sunday Lunch

Visitors may join the Sunday lunch buffet at the dining hall but must be signed up and paid in advance. The luncheon will begin at noon.

If your group would like to picnic you should plan to bring food and necessary items with you.

After lunch a variety of activities will be available for families.

**IF YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS**

If you still have any questions or concerns, please contact Aline Ferris, Registrar or Chris Burke, Director