



### **What to expect**

Attending summer camp is a very exciting experience for both campers and parents! It is very natural for both to be a bit anxious and nervous about the camper leaving the comforts of home, adopting new routines of daily activities, and meeting new friends. We want to familiarize you and your camper(s) with our procedures, policies and philosophies. We want to take time to explain this and share information with you.

### **Goals of Wabanna**

We at Wabanna have three simple goals for every camper that comes to camp.

These goals are:

1. Learn more about God.
2. Have Fun.
3. Make a friend.

### **Staffing**

Camp Wabanna recruits highly skilled individuals whose warmth, maturity and compassion will add to your camper's experience. Our diverse summer staff consists of counselors from many different states. All camp staff members go through an extensive screening process including interviews, multiple character references, fingerprinting, and FBI background checks. Our staff also go through an intensive two week training before campers arrive at camp.

### **Forms to be completed**

The following items MUST be completed a week before your camper attends camp.

1. Snack Shop Fee Paid (will display as a red or green negative (\$30.00) or (\$30.00))
2. A recent photo of your camper can be uploaded through Campwise.
3. Camper Profile Sheet
4. Allergies
5. Camper Medical Information Form
6. Camper Waiver
7. Over the Counter Medication

### **Changing or Cancelling Sessions**

Should it be necessary for you to change or cancel your camper's session, you must submit the request in writing or by email to Wabanna by June 1st. Switching weeks after June 1<sup>st</sup> will incur a \$25 processing fee. Cancellations before June 1<sup>st</sup> will result in the loss of the non-refundable deposit of \$150. After June 1<sup>st</sup>, there are no refunds for cancellation for any reason.

### **Snack Shop and Gift Shop**

The snack shop offers many snacks and drinks. Campers have a chance to visit snack shop twice a day and items purchased will be deducted from their snack shop account. A minimum of \$30 may be added to the camper's snack shop account when your camp fee balance is being paid. Campers are unable to withdrawal cash from this account. Any remaining money at the end of each camp session is donated to our Financial Assistance Fund. This fund enables more children to attend Camp Wabanna through financial assistance. The gift shop offers many souvenirs and clothing. Campers will have a chance to purchase items on Friday evening. It will also be open during check-in on Sunday and pick-up on Friday.

### **Clothing**

Please send appropriate clothing for your camper, taking into consideration the weather forecast and camp activities. We encourage you to send old clothing to camp as your camper will be in a natural environment, playing sports, and participating in outdoor activities. While packing, please review the list of things you are sending to camp with your camper so they know what clothing and personal items are his or hers.



NOTE: LAUNDRY SERVICES ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR OUR CAMPER'S. PLEASE PACK ENOUGH CLOTHING FOR YOUR CAMPER'S ENTIRE STAY AT CAMP.

### **What Not to Bring**

Camp is a natural setting to retreat from electronic technology and to get more in touch with nature and people. Radios, electronic games, cell phones, iPods, iPads, MP3 players, CD players, and other electronic devices do not fit into this setting. As our society becomes increasingly more dependent on cell phones, and with the growing abilities of today's cell phones, we ask that campers do not bring cell phone devices with them. Wabanna is not responsible for lost or damaged items from the above list. Please leave these at home. Also, please leave firearms, weapons, matches, lighters, knives, tobacco products, expensive items, illegal drugs, and money at home.

### **Specific Personal Needs**

If you have any special needs or requests, please let us know. The Camp Director and the Head Counselors are great resources for any concerns that you may have. Please be thorough and honest when filling out the Camper Health Form so the counselor can be prepared for the arrival of your camper.

### **Homesickness**

"Homesickness is, above all, a normal feeling. It is the natural result of separating from home and loved ones. Almost all children (and grown-ups!) feel homesick when they're away from home. People's feelings simply vary in intensity." (ACA Website) Our staff makes a concerted effort to help campers overcome homesickness by helping them learn to accept the natural feeling of missing family and friends. This is an opportunity to help campers grow, and we train our staff to handle homesickness in constructive ways. With proper handling by staff, campers and parents, it can be overcome, and the camper can make a big stride in growing up. Here are some things that you can do to lessen homesickness:

- Keep frequent letters cheery and newsy in such a way that they will not make your camper feel homesick. You can even mail a letter to your camper on the Thursday before they arrive so they receive mail in the first few days of camp. Do not say that you cannot get along without them, or ask about homesickness. PLEASE SEE OUR SECTION ON MAIL.
- Try to have your camper do an overnight stay at a friend's house before coming to camp.
- Pack a personal item from home.
- Do not tell your camper that you will come and pick him or her up if it is not fun.
- Do not bribe your campers by promising something valuable if he or she makes it through camp. This sends the wrong message about camp!
- Help your camper think of things that he or she can do to cope with feelings of homesickness.

Going to camp fosters confidence and independence, and can be an important developmental milestone.

### **Bedwetting**

Our staff is trained to handle bedwetting discreetly, working with your child one-on-one. Please notify Wabanna in advance if your camper is prone to bedwetting. Campers should be instructed to ask their counselors for help, and every effort will be made to prevent accidents. Any bedding, wet or soiled due to bedwetting, will be laundered and returned discretely to the camper before bedtime.

## **While at Camp**

### **Before you Check-In**

If you pre-ordered items from our gift shop you should pick up your items at the gift shop upon arrival on Sunday evening from 6:30pm-7:00pm. Please do this before you sign in your camper at their dorm. Once you sign in your camper they are required to stay with their counselor.



### **Check-In**

Check-in will be on Sunday from 6:30pm-7:15pm. Front gates open at 6:30pm. Upon parking proceed to your camper's Dorm for check-in with your camper and their belongings. Please keep your children with you during the check-in process. Be sure to bring any medications with you to the nurse's table located outside of the lodge, as it must be registered with the health room supervisor. (Please see the next section on medications)

#### Upon arrival at Wabanna:

1. Proceed to your camper's assigned Dorm.
2. Check in at the check in table.
3. Meet your camper's counselor.
4. Sign-in your camper with their counselor. (Once you sign in your camper they are required to stay with their counselor.)
5. Help your camper with their bedding and unpacking.
6. Meet other campers and parents.
7. Be ready to depart your camper's dorm no later than 7 pm.

We will be offering an optional parent orientation in the lodge chapel at 7:15 pm with our Executive Director, Neal Luebbbers.

**NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT PLAN ON ARRIVING TO CAMP BEFORE 6:30 PM. THE CAMP STAFF WILL BE MAKING FINAL PREPERATIONS AND OUR GATES WILL NOT OPEN UNTIL 6:30 PM.**

Also note that we do not serve dinner on Sunday night so campers should eat dinner before they check in.

### **Medications**

Please do not pack medication in your camper's luggage. All medication brought into camp must be:

1. In the original prescription container.
2. They must include the camper's name, dosage, and time.
3. All medication, including over-the-counter (vitamins, ointments, ibuprofen, etc.) must be in the original packaging and turned in and dispensed by our nurse as required by Maryland State Law.
4. All medications brought to camp will need to be signed in with the nurse.

Wabanna stocks most over-the-counter medications needed at camp (you can find a list of these medications from your camper dashboard online) so it is not necessary to bring these items. You may call us at any time to see if we keep a particular medication in stock. It is Wabanna policy that the Nurse Station keeps a camper's inhaler during camp. Inhalers can be obtained at a moment's notice. However, if a parent requests in writing that an inhaler is to be kept with the camper, we will honor that request provided the camper can demonstrate proper responsibility for the use and possession of the inhaler. Any misuse or misplacement of the inhaler during the camp session will be cause for the inhaler to be kept at the Nurse Station. Please be sure to pick up any medication at the end of your camper's stay. Any left or forgotten medication will be stored at Wabanna for one week. If the medication has not been claimed by one week, the unclaimed medication will be disposed of.

### **Cabin Assignments**

Campers live in separate boy or girl, lodging groups with their counselors. Junior campers ages 7-11 are in The West (Dorm 1). Boys are on one floor and girls are on another floor. Senior girl campers ages 12-16 are in the Owen Farmhouse. Senior boy campers ages 12-16 are in The Rhode (Dorm 3). One counselor is assigned to every eight or nine campers. All cabins have modern accommodations. We allow for two roommate requests per camper as long as they are the same gender, within 12 months in age (unless ages 11 & 12, see above for program ages). We will do our best to honor requests, however, roommate requests cannot be guaranteed. If requests cannot be made, please note that one of the goals of camp is to make a new friend.

### **Swimming**

To demonstrate their swimming ability, all campers have the option to take a swim evaluation test. The test is given on their first swim on Monday of their session. They must be able to swim a total of 20 meters, the distance to swim across our pool and back again, without touching the bottom and be able to tread water for one minute. This helps the staff establish the safest areas in which campers



may swim. All campers who pass the evaluation will receive our swim band allowing them to swim in our 5 ft swim area along with being able to jump off the diving board in our diving well. Campers who do not pass will be able to play in the large 3ft section of the pool which includes many pool toys and pool basketball.

### **Waterfront**

Wabanna is blessed to be located on the Chesapeake Bay along the Rhode River. We keep our campers safe by requiring them to wear a life vest when participating in waterfront activities. This includes fishing and crabbing from our pier. As with all brackish waterways along the Chesapeake Bay, native plants and animals can be found in the water along our coast, including sea nettles (jellyfish). The population of sea nettles varies not only from summer to summer, but from week to week and day to day. The sea nettles found in our waters are nonthreatening, but will sting. Stings are nonlethal and are easily treated by our staff. If you or your camper is concerned about the possible sting of a sea nettle, you are more than welcome to pack a wetsuit to avoid stings.

### **Mail**

When addressing a letter to camp, please address the letter as followed:

#### **Camper Name**

#### **Counselor Name & Week Session**

**101 Likes Road**

**Edgewater, MD 21037**

Please allow 4 business days for mail to arrive at Wabanna. You may send snacks as long as they are individually packaged.

Here are some ideas for sending your camper mail:

Send frequent letters, even short ones. Post cards are great.

Be creative!

Send a photo of family and /or pets. Have a grandparent write a letter. Send a favorite comic strip, sticker, joke, etc.

### **Emails**

Campwise offers free one-way communication Sunday through Friday. (campers are not able to return emails) To email your camper from your dashboard it is in the bottom left corner under "One-way communication (Camper Emails)". Email submission cut off time is 10:30 am. Emails submitted after the cut off time will be sent the next day.

### **Photos**

A limited number of photos will be posted to our social media accounts. We offer an expanded photo gallery for a fee of \$10 at Bunk1 (Access to Bunk1's online gallery requires an additional \$5 fee on their website at the time of registration) To receive access to this photo sharing application please log into your Camp Account and purchase "BUNK1 Photo Gallery" before 8am the Friday before your camper is set to attend camp. You will receive an email from Bunk1 with a link and code to the gallery on Monday morning.

### **Shared Responsibilities**

Personal responsibility and group cooperation are important elements of the camp experience. Mature, caring counselors work with campers on the importance of caring for one's personal area and belongings, assisting in daily cabin clean up, and pitching in on general camp tasks. We strive to imprint these characteristics on each camper so they will carry over this responsibility to home and school.

### **Visitors and Telephone Calls**

At Wabanna, we strive for campers to develop independence. An integral part of the growing process is the extended experiences away from home. In keeping with this, we do not permit phone calls and visits to camp unless there is a family emergency. Please do not ask your camper to call home. There are no public phones available for campers to call home. Parents will be contacted in the case of an emergency or illness. Again, please no cell phones!



## **After Camp**

### **Check-Out**

For each session, Check-Out is Friday.

Time: 7:00 pm (there will be a late pick up charge of one dollar per minute after 7:30pm)

Location: Camper will be outside his or her dorm waiting for you.

### **Early Departures**

We have a very busy schedule and we don't want campers to miss out on activities so early departures are discouraged. We know that sometimes it is unavoidable and so we must have this request in writing. You can fill out an early departure form at the check in table on Sunday at check in.

### **Pick-Up Authorization**

No camper will be released to anyone not listed on their sign-in sheet, or anyone who does not present their photo ID, including a parent. Please be thorough when filling out the form at check-in. All campers must be signed out with a counselor. If you know that there will be someone picking up your child not listed on the form, please inform the office before check-out day.

### **Lost and Found**

We will make every effort to return lost and found items while your camper is at camp, but your camper can do more than anyone to insure that nothing is lost. Please mark all items with a permanent marker or a label for easy identification. Lost and Found during the session is located at the pool. On Check-out day, lost and found items can be found outside the pool area. Please check this area before you leave to insure that you have all of your camper's possessions. If upon arrival home you find that you are missing something, please call Wabanna and we will try to locate the lost item. Any unclaimed items are stored for one week only.

### **Refunds**

The parent/guardian agrees and understands that in case of dismissal, illness, homesickness or voluntary withdrawal from camp, there will be no refund of camp fees. If a departure need arises, parents/guardians or emergency contacts will be notified. Upon notification, the parent/guardian will be allowed a maximum time of four hours to remove their child from camp property. There will be no refunds for no-shows or cancellations made after June 1st. Wabanna reserves the right to refuse any applicant and to cancel any reservation.

### **Health Care**

Our Nurse Station is staffed by a 24 hour on-site nurse who is on call at all times. All of our staff are trained in emergency procedures and certified in First Aid and CPR.



## WABANNA OVERNIGHT CAMP

### Suggested Clothing and Equipment List

(All items should be labeled with your camper's name)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible                               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag OR a blanket, 2 sheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Raincoat or Poncho  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow and cases                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Light jacket  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Towels for swimming use           | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Bathing suits   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 T-shirts or short sleeve shirts   | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Pairs of shorts   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Towels for bathing use            | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Sets of underwear and socks   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Comb or brush                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Wash cloths   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Pajamas / nightgowns              | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, lotions, etc)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Pair of long pants                | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Long sleeve shirt   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Flashlight and batteries          | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Pair of tennis shoes or sneakers (many activities require close toed shoes) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hat or cap                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Water shoes, sandals, flip flops, or sneakers that can get wet                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen (waterproof)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Bottle                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Bag   |

#### OPTIONAL ITEMS

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing or recreational equipment             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books      | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-addressed postcards OR envelopes stamped |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Fan  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pens or pencils                               |

PLEASE – CELL PHONES ARE NOT TO BE BROUGHT TO CAMP.

Please do not bring valuables such as cameras, expensive watches, jewelry, iPods, iPads, cell phones, headphones or video games.