

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CAMPER




CONTACTING YOUR CAMPER

Mail is important at camp! Encouraging mail from home can make a world of difference in your child's positive feeling about camp and home. Veteran MCBC caregivers write and mail first letters to their campers several days in advance of their camper's departure for camp. Email is also a simple option.

Please DO NOT send any food items as care-packages to campers. Any food items will be removed and discarded.

Birthdays are celebrated for all kids with the whole camp. A special birthday lunch on the Friday of camp is held celebrating campers by birth month. Birthday cakes are provided by camp for all campers to share and celebrate each birthday.

A graphic with a blue background and a torn paper effect at the top and bottom. It features several icons: a white envelope with a red wax seal, a white outline of an envelope with a heart inside, a yellow envelope with a red wax seal, a blue mailbox with a red flag, and a red mailbox with the word "MAIL" written on it. The MCBC logo is in the top right corner.

WANT TO SEND YOUR CAMPER A NOTE THIS SUMMER AT MCBC?

The best way to do this is through email.

Send an email to **mcbc@brsg.org** with your camper's first and last name in the Subject Line.

We will distribute the notes to campers at rest hour. Campers can write back and we will take a picture of their letter and email it back to you!

LETTERS

Mail to: Camper's Name,
MCBC c/o Camp Taum Sauk
499 County Road 368
Lesterville, MO 63654

Email to: mcbc@brsg.org *Include camper's name in Subject Line

TELEPHONE CALLS

Director of Youth Programs, Maddog: (314) 399-8516
Camp Taum Sauk main office number: (573) 637-2489

We have a large camp family and limited phone service is available. Therefore, we do not permit campers to use the telephone to receive or make routine calls (phone calls in times of extreme distress will be permitted on a case-by-case basis). If you have a concern, or need information, please call the Camp Taum Sauk office or the Director of Youth Programs. Since camp staff/administration members are usually out in the field with your camper, you may need to leave a message. Please be sure to indicate your name, name of camper, your phone number, and the nature of your concern. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. Please make every effort to call during normal camp hours, 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

CELL PHONES

Campers are not permitted to have a cell phone at camp. We have a strictly enforced **NO Camper Cell Phone Policy**. **Campers who bring cell phones on chartered transportation will give their cell phone to their cabin counselors upon arrival for safe keeping in a locked space in the camp office. Their phones will be returned to them on the last day of camp before getting on chartered transportation home.**

This policy is important to create a trusting environment and the most beneficial experience for your child and for all our campers. Cell phones are expensive and can get lost or stolen, and the physical camp environment is not kind to such items.

More importantly, there is a fundamental problem with campers having cell phones at a program like ours, and that is trust. When young people come to camp, they – and you – are making a leap of faith, temporarily transferring their primary care from you as their caregivers to us and our volunteers. This is one of the challenging yet growth-inspiring aspects of camp.

One of the beneficial outcomes that a program like ours offers is the development of communication and problem-solving. During camp, there will be times when a camper might communicate their requests, needs, suggestions, or solutions to their peers and adult leaders. These challenges can be new and informative for a young person, and require creativity, independence, and courage.

MCBC Camper and Caregiver Communication while at Camp!

Unfortunately, a ready cell phone can be an immediate and easy alternative that not only reduces the potential for growth through challenge, but removes the camper from their group, the camp, and the experience they are engaged in. We are working to create opportunities for your child to develop the life skills that will serve them at our programs and in other areas of their lives.

Though we hope that you and your child are ready for the challenges and resulting growth that we have described, we also understand how difficult this sort of adjustment can be. If an urgent need arises for you to speak with your child on the phone, please contact us by phone and/or email.