

# JUNIOR TAMAKWANS

*J.T. Stands For Junior Tamakwan (Children in Grades 1, 2, & 3)*

## WHAT EVERY J.T. PARENT SHOULD KNOW

Tamakwa is a big family and our program includes everybody, but we add a few extra elements to our supervision of campers in this age group because of their unique needs.

### ***Their Staff***

Tamakwa staff are carefully screened and hired, but counselors for JT's are handpicked for their maturity and "parental-like" sensibilities. All staff arrive at camp well before the campers for training. JT staff training aims at working with campers ages 7, 8 and 9 and highlights the differences between JT's and older campers.

### ***Coming To Camp on the Busses***

For their bus ride to camp, JT's will be encouraged to sit wherever is most comfortable, usually on a bus filled with other JT's or with a sibling or friend. Wherever they sit, they will be well supervised.

### ***After The First Week at Camp***

You will be hearing from us about how your child is getting along at camp. We will contact you and let you know what's happening.

### ***Two-Week Campers (first time campers only)***

We sit down with them after their first week of camp to see how they feel about staying for the remainder of the session. If they want to stay or are undecided, we will call you to discuss the situation. If they are going home after two weeks, **we remind you that it is the parents' responsibility to pick them up.** In that situation, you may come into camp during Rest Hour to see camp, meet the staff and then take your child home with you. (If you have other kids at camp, YES you can see them too!!)

### ***How You Can Help Prepare Your J.T. For Camp***

- Regardless of how many weeks you enroll your JT, what you tell them is important. Our experience shows us that *sometimes* if kids know they are signed up for only 2 weeks -- even though the parent **hopes** they'll stay for 4 weeks -- the camper will not try to go the 4 week distance. Be careful about what expectation you plant in your young camper's mind. Every situation is unique and you know your child best, but if we can be of help in how to approach this issue (2 weeks or 4 weeks), please ask.
- Talk with them about being in a structured environment. They do some things by their own choice, but also have to go along with the group doing things like: waking up and going to bed at certain times, going to scheduled activities (some that they like and some that are new to them), swim everyday, help clean the cabin, and generally do things in a group.
- Explain that they won't be talking to you by phone.
- Let them know there are always adults to turn to: counselors, section heads and camp directors. Everyone is accessible and approachable. Please be sure they know if a problem develops or they are unhappy.... they should always let someone know.

### ***Mail***

Write to your children daily. A postcard will do. They will have to write home at least TWICE a week. We do check their envelopes for proper addressing, but **we urge you to give them pre-addressed envelopes** to use. (No matter how hard we try to check addresses, each year we miss a few). Pre-addressed postcards are the easiest and best system. ALSO, please do not send your campers with dark coloured envelopes (especially red or pink) as our postage meter ink does not show up well and mail may not get to you.

### ***Some Other Tips***

Label EVERYTHING clearly with their names using printed name labels or permanent markers. It's unbelievable how many items we end up with because they are not tagged with a camper name. Believe us, to a 7 year old, a shirt is a shirt and a towel is a towel. It just never belongs to them!

Certain objects tend to get lost easier than others: socks, towels, and underwear. In our "**What to Bring to Camp**" List we try to suggest reasonable quantities of every item. But these are the items that may be worth sending a few extras.

## **URGENT REMINDER about the HEALTH HISTORY FORM and the CAMPER QUESTIONNAIRE:**

**For JT's especially, the information on those forms is critically needed in our hands well before the campers arrive at camp.**