

MAIL

Kids Love Mail. Write often.

OUR SUMMERTIME ADDRESS

CAMP TAMAKWA
P O BOX 10008
HUNTSVILLE, ONTARIO P1H 2H3
CANADA



This address as it reads here works for regular postal service only. If you are using UPS, Federal Express, or ANY OTHER courier service, **DO NOT** use the **PO BOX NUMBER**. Courier services will NOT deliver to a post office box. Simply **omit** the PO Box; they will deliver to our boat landing.

Regular mail by Postal Service: **INCLUDE "PO BOX 10008"**
Any OTHER delivery service: **OMIT "PO BOX 10008" from the address**

MAIL TO CAMPERS

KIDS LOVE MAIL. They look forward to it. So, write often to your children. All letters to campers and camp are mailed directly to our Huntsville address above. We also remind you: the mail to camp is slow. From the U.S. it can take anywhere from 3 to 7 days to arrive. Keep this in mind when you are sending letters. If you would like, you may send a few letters at a time all addressed and **individually dated**, and we will give them out sequentially during mail call each day. Just be sure to address the package to our office staff so we know to open the package and disperse accordingly. (Mail is only given out on weekdays; there is no weekend mail delivery in Canada). **We strongly suggest you start sending letters even before your children depart for camp.**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CAMPER'S FIRST AND LAST NAMES ON ALL INCOMING MAIL.

MAIL FROM CAMP

Kids typically like RECEIVING letters more than they like WRITING them. Therefore, we insist they write at least twice a week by making their ticket to dinner a letter home on those two nights. But be patient; mail coming FROM camp is also very slow. Keep in mind that what you are reading at any given moment was usually written 5 to 7 days ago. Whenever possible, we will collect the outgoing mail and send it down to Toronto or Detroit to be posted from there, instead of mailing it from Huntsville. That can take several days off delivery time.

Parents have been known to treasure their children's letters from camp for a long time. You will no doubt receive some gems. But you may also read things that cause concern or alarm. Later on, we discuss what you can do to interpret their letters home, but the short of it is...let us know if you read things that become patterns that worry you. Sometimes letters home are valuable sources that help us do our job better in spotting problems.

REMINDER TO AMERICANS:

U.S. postage may be used to send mail from the U.S. to Camp, but NOT from camp to the U.S. Please **DO NOT SEND U.S. postage** for your camper to use. We will supply them with Canadian postage.

MAIL OPTIONS FROM THE USA (as of March 2010 - subject to periodic rate changes)

If you are mailing a letter from the United States to Canada, a regular sized letter **MUST HAVE** a minimum of \$.75 postage (for the 1st ounce and \$.25 for each additional ounce). Also, be sure to write "AIRMAIL" on the envelope. If the envelope is larger than a regular business-size envelope, the first ounce is \$1.03, plus additional postage for each ounce thereafter.

EXPRESS/PRIORITY MAIL: There is an alternative faster mail service from the USA (about 4 days from Michigan to camp). Envelopes for these express/priority services are available at any U.S. Post Office. They cost more than regular mail, but less than a courier, and they will deliver to our P.O. Box address.

PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES

We're reminded of the letter we once found in the outgoing mail addressed to:

**Mom and Dad
Michigan
USA**

Counselors generally check for properly addressed envelopes, but please send pre-addressed envelopes. In fact, for Junior Tamakwans (grades 1-3), we ***strongly*** urge you to do so. Pre-addressed postcards are GREAT !!

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.

PACKAGES FROM HOME

To be very honest, we discourage sending packages to camp, unless of course the contents are essentials that are **urgently** needed, in which case you must call the office in advance of sending a package of essentials to make sure it doesn't get sent back to you.

No, Tamakwa has not become the "Grinch" that wants to spoil kids' fun. Heaven forbid. We understand the good intention behind sending packages to children. But our experience day-in & day-out tells us that what kids love and look forward to is...**mail**. The actual content is really insignificant. The competitiveness, the pressure on parents, the commotion and focus on getting a package, and the distraction it causes from the fun and camaraderie that is the essence of camp....all of that has a life of its own. Packages also create an environmental waste... essentials only please.

So...please understand that we are compelled to reduce "package mania" by setting the following limits:

TAMAKWA'S PACKAGE POLICY

- **ABSOLUTELY NO BOXES!!** **USE ENVELOPES ONLY.**
(Cardboard an all packaging materials are ecological nuisances.)
- **ENVELOPES MUST BE FLAT.** (1" max) **SEND ONLY BOOKS, MAGAZINES, OR COMIC BOOKS.**
("IF IT CAN'T BE BENT, IT SHOULDN'T BE SENT".)
- **ALL BOXES AND NON-FLAT ENVELOPES WILL BE RETURNED TO SENDER AT THE SENDER'S EXPENSE.** *(For any exceptions, please call our office to pre-arrange delivery of any essentials your camper will need. Packages will still be opened and ONLY those essentials will be given to your camper.)*
- **SIZE LIMIT: ENVELOPES NO LARGER THAN 9 X 12 INCHES AND 1 INCH THICK**
- **NO FOOD, NO CANDY, NO TOYS, NOTHING OTHER THAN FLAT "BENDABLE" ITEMS.**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- United Parcel Service (UPS) and Federal Express deliver directly to our landing in Algonquin Park and are usually faster than the postal service.
- We are unable to accept any package that is sent COD or that requires any payment from camp. Packages sent COD or with any money due will not be accepted and will be returned by the courier.

CUSTOMS NOTE FOR NON-CANADIANS:

BE SURE TO PROVIDE THE SHIPPER WITH THOROUGH INFORMATION about the contents of the package so the package can clear Canadian Customs without delay. **YOU MUST PAY ALL SHIPPING CHARGES AND DUTIES.** Packages valued at \$15 and over are subject to duty. On the shipping manifest form attached to your parcel, be sure to indicate that you (shipper) will pay all shipping, duties, and taxes.