

SEAHAWK TIMES

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**Contacting Camp:
(Note Changes!)**

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- Laura Hall (May-August) 15375 Stella Maris Drive Newburg MD, 20664 (301)259-2645
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FAMILY CAMP BEGINS AT CAMP ST CHARLES!

Starting this summer, Camp St. Charles is offering families another way to enjoy time at camp. Family Camp will allow whole families to spend a long weekend at camp. We will have activities for the family to enjoy together, activities for parents and for kids.

Family Camp is different from the Parent-Child weekend which we have done for many years. The goal of family camp is for families to grow together. (During our April parent-child weekend, our main goal is to prepare your child to attend our summer camp program.)

Family Camp will be held

from August 21-24, 2008. Families will arrive Thursday evening and will stay through Sunday midday. Families will share cabins with other families. Just like with our summer camp for children, we are happy to accommodate requests. The cost will be \$125 per person for family camp. Children as young as 2 may attend.

We will offer many of the same activities that we offer in the summer. However, the horses will not be available



for family camp.

Contact Laura Hall for more information about this exciting opportunity for your family to spend some time together at Camp St. Charles.

WINTER REUNION FUNDRAISER

Saturday, Jan 26 from 12-2pm, we will have our first annual, Winter Reunion Fundraiser! We know that you miss your camp friends because we miss you too!



Our fundraiser will be held at the Capital Clubhouse lo-

cated in Waldorf, MD just behind Best Buy. We will have pizza, drinks, ice skating, climbing wall and more.

There will be a silent auction, door prizes and an opportunity to purchase some camp tees and other goodies.

Tickets cost \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Pizza, a drink, ice skating and the rock wall are all included in the price of your ticket.

Invite a friend who may be interested in attending Camp St. Charles.

If you have an item to donate to the silent auction, please contact Laura Hall.

**Jan 26, 2008
12-2pm**

**Capital Clubhouse
Waldorf, MD**

**\$20 in advance
\$25 at the door**

Return the enclosed order form to purchase tickets in advance.

Be sure to show off your CSC gear, there will be prizes for showing the most Camp St Charles pride!

COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT) PROGRAM

A few years ago, we decided to change the age of campers from 7-13 years old, except for Counselors in Training (CITs) who are 14 and 15 year old campers (who have been our campers in the past). I want to make it very clear that our CITs are still campers. CITs are not staff members. However, we are asking CITs to assume a different role than most campers.

Each CITs will be assigned to a middle or minor team. Middies are campers who are ages 7-9 years old. Minors are campers who are ages 10-11 years old. The CIT's role with the team will be to help the counselors at meals, assist any homesick children in the group, encourage participation in all activities and to help make sure that all campers have a great time with us. CITs will be in a position to provide the team counselor with information about how the team is doing at each of their daily activities. While CITs will be participating in the activities with their teams, CITs will not be in a supervisory role under any circumstances.

In addition to assisting with younger campers, CITs will still help out at the dinner meal to serve meals and some cleaning tasks at dinner time.

CITs will be able to enjoy all the camp activities that they enjoyed in the past. We will provide some fun extra activities for the CITs during Polywog and Free Time to thank them for their service to our campers. For example, we might have a Hydro period that is open to the CITs only and other opportunities to enjoy the camp activities.

We are excited to offer this opportunity to you. This program is designed to

help the CITs to develop into responsible, caring young adults and will help the campers to have more positive role models to assist them in their personal growth at camp. This will keep the camp experience fresh and new for all campers. We hope that some of our CITs will go on to join our staff as Junior Counselors in future summers.

It is very important that we make some things clear about this program so that CITs and their parents will have a clear view of how the program will work.

A. CITs will be campers, not staff. CITs will pay tuition and complete registration and medical paperwork as other campers would.

B. Only 16 CITs will be present for each session.

C. CITs may not register for more than one session. This is due to the high demand for spots in the CIT program. After May 1st, CITs may register for an additional session if there is space available. (first come, first serve)

D. CITs will be held to a higher standard of conduct than the average camper. Since, the goal of the program is to have some campers who are role models to younger campers, it is essential to the success of the program that CITs set an excellent example. Poor behavior would result in dismissal from the CIT program and camp.

E. CITs will live in cabins with other campers.

F. CITs will meet as a group during the session to discuss how the program is working and to brainstorm solutions to any problems.

G. CITs will serve an important and valuable role at

camp.

CITs will receive extra privileges and opportunities at camp. (based on performance in the CIT role) In 2006, we held CIT movie nights and had a trip out for ice cream. Late in the summer, I decided to allow CITs to use the counselor's showers. The CITs were big fans of that CIT perk!

Please consider all of the responsibilities that are involved in being a CIT prior to applying to the program. **Applications are mailed to interested campers in November.**

Once your references and application have been received and reviewed, you will receive a letter and/or a phone call indicating that you and your parents may attend the CIT meeting to learn more about the program. Then, your parents should complete the application for enrollment to camp and send it with your CIT acceptance letter to the Registration office.

At the meeting, we will discuss the expectations for CITs and provide time for questions to be answered. **Attending the meeting is strongly recommended for new CITs.**

The deadline for applying to the CIT program is March 1st. I will be processing applications as they are received so it is possible that the CIT spots will be filled prior to the deadline. CIT candidates are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Applications received prior to Christmas have the best chance of participating in the program.

Please contact the camp director with any questions.

Space in our CIT program is in high demand. Interested campers are encouraged to apply prior to Christmas.

PARENT CHILD WEEKEND APRIL 25-27, 2008

Want to help your 1st camper to ease into overnight camp?

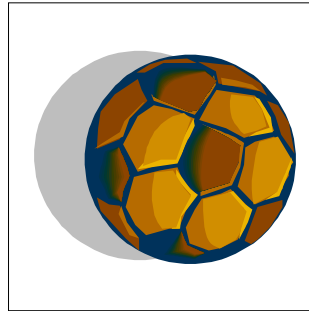
You can! The Parent Child weekend is a great way for you to get a chance to really see camp in action and spend some time with your child. It is like training wheels for camp!

We provide as many of our summer activities as possible. Typically, we play sports, make ceramics, shot archery, canoe and more.

The highlight of the weekend is the special parent-child competitions. It is always fun and messy! Egg toss, whipped cream pies, 3 legged races, the works!

The cost is \$35 per person to attend the weekend and there is no requirement that a child enroll in the summer program.

The weekend is a great preview for families who are not sure about over night camp and want to see how ready their child is for the experience. Parents are often anxious about how their children will do at night. During the weekend, we have a boys' cabin and a girls' cabin and separate cabins for moms and dads. The children have counselors staying with them, just like the summer time. The children who attend the weekend are very well pre-



pared for camp when the come in the summer.

Visit our website to download an application.

Be sure to check out information about family camp (front page) if the whole family would like to get in on the fun!

VOLUNTEER DAYS APRIL 5 AND MAY 3, 2008

This will be our 5th year of volunteer events and I can hardly imagine how we managed without all of the great help that campers and their families provide.

Volunteers stay for a matter of hours or for the whole day. All help is greatly appreciated!

We complete tasks

from cleaning cabins to clearing brush to painting to building fences. There are jobs for all ages of children and little siblings are welcome to help out.

Campers who would like to earn service hours for their participation can bring the appropriate paperwork to camp.

Camp will provide meals and refreshments to all volunteers.

Scout groups and other groups are welcome to join us. Parents must supervise the children that accompany them.

Please contact the camp director, Laura Hall, if you plan to attend.

It is wonderful to see the way that campers roll up their sleeves to help.

-Laura Hall

BE PART OF THE CSC STAFF!

Working at Camp St. Charles may be the toughest job you'll ever love. I think that is a peace corp slogan but is true of camp. We work long, hot hours and handle a wide variety of tasks with flexibility, creativity and love. In a normal day, a counselor will soothe hurt feelings, administer first aid, help with meals, set up activities, clean up activities and plunge a toilet. It is likely that they will

do all that and more before lunch time!

If you are interested in joining the staff, you can visit our website for the staff application to begin the process. Please complete and mail the application and then I will provide you with the reference forms, back ground checks and policies regarding camp. Former campers may apply to be junior counselors when they will be 16-17 years old.

Junior counselors must complete the same paperwork as senior staff, due to their age, they are not permitted to have the same responsibilities. CITs who requested JC applications will receive them in December.

All staff must commit to working from June 14 through August 21, 2008. Partial summer contracts are not possible for counselors or junior counselors. Applications should contact Laura Hall, Camp Director.

Camp St. Charles

(Sept-May Office)
8905 Fergusson Fuese Place
Welcome MD 20693

Phone: 301-934-8799 (sept-may)
Fax: 240-523-9437
E-mail: csclaurahall@gmail.com

Check us out online.
campstcharles.com



Register by Jan 15, 2008 to
save \$25 on tuition.

Register your way...
Online, by fax or by mail!

EXCITING CHANGES AT CAMP FOR 2008

Each year, we strive to add new programs that will keep our campers excited about camp and will preserve the traditions that make Camp St. Charles a special place.

We are planning some upgrades, that I hope you will enjoy this summer.

GIANT SWING! We are adding a high ropes element to the ropes course. This element is similar to a zip line. The camper is harnessed in and pulled up with rope. Once at the top, the camper will pull a pin in order to free fall and swing high above camp. As with all the ropes course elements, campers have the

choice about participating. We hope that they will go for it!

AIR CONDITIONED CHAPEL You read that correctly, we will have air conditioning in the chapel this summer. We are adding heat as well for our winter programming. Won't it be great to have a nice place to cool off when we get a scorching day? Rainy day movies will never be the same.

NEW MATTRESSES We are starting to replace all the camper mattresses with thicker mattresses. We know that campers will appreciate the upgrade. We have plans

to upgrade two cabins by the start of this summer. If our fundraiser goes well in January, we may be able to do more.

POOL COVER!!! We realize that is not that exciting to campers, but it means that our annual pool bills will decrease and the pool will look nicer in the winter when other groups use the camp for retreats and field trips.

FREE ONLINE PHOTO GALLERY! Bunk1.com photo gallery is now included in camp tuition. See pictures of your child at camp without a registration fee.

DONATIONS TO CAMP

Donations to Camp St. Charles are tax deductible. Families may donate cash or items from our "wish list" on the camp website.

Donations to camp allow use to keep tuition low while offering high quality programs to our campers.

Here are some items that we always love to receive...

- DVDs (G or PG only)
- lawn mower (working)
- VCR/DVD player combo
- passenger vehicle (in good condition, vans, sedans or pick up trucks)** Some have been reluctant to donate vehicles since some laws have changed regarding vehicle donations. However, Camp St. Charles does not resell vehicles, we use them! Donors may claim the bluebook value of a donated vehicle.

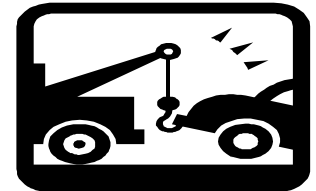
-trial size toiletries for camp-

- towels, wash cloths
- first aid supplies
- sports equipment
- archery and riflery supplies (contact camp for details)
- dorm size fridges
- extension cords
- power strips
- fans (large floor fans are best)
- window unit air conditioners (must receive enough for all 7 camper cabins)
- Rollers, paint brushes, drop cloths for painting
- canoe paddles
- Lifejackets (US Coast Guard approved, adult and child sizes)

We do not accept trampolines, sorry.

A more comprehensive list can be found online. If you have an item that you think that we may be able to use, please contact the camp director.

You may also wish to help camp by providing "elbow grease" during one of our volunteer days, April 5 and May 8, 2008. More information can be found inside this newsletter.



We are in special need of a vehicle donation following a car accident this fall.