

MAPLERIDGE RANCH

RESIDENT CAMP INFORMATION

Welcome to **MAPLERIDGE RANCH SUMMER 2023!** We are so honored that you chose us and we are looking forward to getting to know each and every one of your children this summer. Your camper's time at the Ranch is sure to be one filled with adventure, memories, friendships, and growth! Enclosed you will find some very important information regarding the camp, so **please take time to read through it carefully.** If you have any questions that are not answered below, feel free to email us at info@mapleridgeranch.org or call us at (607) 687-2238.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:

Campers arrive on Sundays between 4:00 and 5:30 pm. **The Ranch entrance will not be open before 4:00 pm** so please do not come any earlier as our staff will not be ready to receive your camper! Upon arrival, you will check in your camper, visit the camp nurse, have a chance to deposit funds in the Hitching Post, meet your camper's counselor, and help them get settled into their cabin!

After you visit all of the stations it really is best not to linger... staying around too long can make it harder on the camper, especially if it's their first time away from home. The sooner you leave, the sooner your child will start to make friends and feel comfortable. A few quick pictures, hugs and kisses, and a short goodbye is perfect!

Departure Saturday Morning:

9:00 a.m. Gates Open (load up luggage in car)

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Closing Ceremony (goodbye hugs and tears:)

***We don't recommend bringing your child late or picking them up early, but we understand that circumstances sometimes make this necessary. If that is the case, please be sure to contact the camp office for arrangements to be made. (Dropping campers off early is not permitted.)

TRAVEL INFORMATION:

The Ranch does not assume responsibility for arranging transportation to camp, but we are eager to assist. If your child requires transportation to camp from the airport, your child **MUST** fly into the Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR). A camp shuttle will be available to pick up campers **ONLY** on Sunday from 12:00-2:30 PM. Campers who arrive before this time window will need to wait for camp staff to arrive, and we cannot guarantee that any adults will be at the airport to supervise them. Campers' flights must depart on Saturday, and the shuttle will arrive at the SYR airport at 10:00 AM. Please do not book any flights for your camper before confirming with Camp Staff and filling out the necessary documentation that will be sent out shortly.

HOMESICKNESS:

Sending your child to camp for the first time can be scary, and we understand that you may have some concerns or reservations. We want to assure you that even though for some there may be a few tears on the first day, we actually don't experience much homesickness beyond that. The excitement of camp is contagious and before you know it, closing day comes and they don't wanna leave! Being homesick and "living through it" can be a great life lesson for the child... and the parent! You can rest assured that our staff is trained to expect this and handle it with patience and sensitivity. We will let you know if there are any serious problems that need addressing. That being said, you can help to prepare your child by being positive about camp and discussing what to expect. Let them know that missing home is "ok" and doesn't usually last long. Saying things like "I know you, and you're gonna do great!" or "I can't wait to hear about all the people you meet!" shows them that you are confident in them and their ability to adjust. Try not to transfer your own fears of being apart onto them... try to keep those feelings to yourself:)

PACKING INFORMATION

WHAT TO BRING:

****items with an asterisk are optional but recommended.****

water bottle (MANDATORY- see below)
8 short sleeved tops
2 long sleeved tops
2 sweatshirts
6 shorts
3 jeans/pants
theme-night outfit * (highly encouraged!)
Color War Gear (see below)**
2 sleepwear
waterproof jacket
modest 1-piece bathing suit
extra bathing suit *
8 undergarments
8 pairs of socks
laundry bag
2 sneakers
waterproof shoes (i.e. - rain boots, chacos, keens are great.)
flip-flops (for pool & shower only)
2 bath towels
1 swim towel
2 washcloths
hand towel *
pillow
twin-sized sheets & blanket
special stuffed animal *
shower caddy *
toothbrush
toothpaste
body wash
shampoo/conditioner
deodorant
brush/comb
toiletries
sunscreen
bug spray
medications/inhalers/Epi-pen (if needed and must be checked in with nurse)
glasses/contacts (if needed)
backpack for campout (see below)
sleeping bag
travel pillow for campout *
headlamp/flashlight
bible
notebook
pens
stationary/addresses *
stamps *
watch * (waterproof/resistant is best)
camera *
camp trunk or Rubbermaid bin * (see BEST WAY TO PACK)



!WATER BOTTLES!

Each camper is required to have a water bottle to use throughout the week. If your camper does not come with a water bottle, you will need to purchase a **MAPLERIDGE** one for \$15 in the Hitching Post upon arrival.

CAMPOUT BACKPACKS

Campout is one of our favorite parts of the week at MAPLERIDGE! Please ensure that your child brings a backpack for campout that is big enough for them to carry their belongings plus campout supplies and food that counselors will distribute between everyone in the cabin. Many staff members have enjoyed camping or hiking backpacks, which may be a good idea for birthday presents for older campers!

CLOTHING GUIDELINES (MODEST IS HOTTEST!!):

Shorts should be of a modest length.

Leggings are permitted as long as they are worn with a longer top.

No bras, undergarments, or midriffs showing.

Bathing suit should be modest, 1-piece, and appropriate for games in and outside the pool.

(Tankinis are not considered 1-piece).

If clothing is deemed inappropriate, campers may be asked to change.

PLEASE NOTE!

Many of the items in the WHAT TO BRING list reflect the unusual climate here in the upstate New York region. This area can experience extremely varied temperatures in the summer, as high as 90 and as low as 40 degrees. Not only does it vary in temperature, but also in precipitation... when it's dry it's DRY, and when it's wet it's WET! Rain can go on for hours or days and is usually pretty cold. Also, the grounds are very rugged here, and often wet and muddy... Please pack accordingly!

REMEMBER:

Remember, camp is fun, you WILL get dirty, and clothes do get ruined... pack accordingly! In addition, please label all clothing and belongings. Any items not claimed from the Lost & Found on closing day will be donated to a local charity.

BEST WAY TO PACK:

We have found an old-school trunk or footlocker can house all of your camper's belongings and is the easiest way for us to haul their things to the cabins. A trunk can be a great item that is used year after year, and campers love "decorating" them with stickers and such! A rubbermaid-type bin can also be practical.

Walmart and Target both offer affordable options for trunks and bins, however, if you are looking for a trunk that stands the test of time, we recommend C&N Footlockers at everythingsummercamp.com/CNtrunks.

HITCHING POST:

The Hitching Post is our camp store. We do not allow cash in camp but parents may deposit money into their camper's "account" upon arrival to purchase t-shirts, sweatshirts, stickers, water bottles, snacks, and drinks. We recommend between \$30-\$50 per session. Money not spent can be collected before departure on Closing Day. Any change or cash not picked up will be donated to the camp's scholarship fund.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

Your camper should not bring expensive valuables to camp such as; watches, jewelry, costly cameras, etc. **Cell phones, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, Gameboys, and PSP's** should not be brought to camp. We strive for all of our staff and campers to get away from all distractions and enjoy nature! If a camper does bring one of these items, it will be locked in the office until the end of the week. We also have a "no cash in camp" policy. All money needs to be checked in to the Hitching Post upon arrival and change can be picked up before departure.

CAMP LIFE

TYPICAL DAILY ROUTINE:

Rise and Shine

Quiet Time

Breakfast

Tidy Cabin

Celebration

Skill 1

Skill 2

Lunch

“FOB” (aka Flat on Back)

*Wednesdays are C&C at **MAPLERIDGE** Ranch... cookout and campout!

Skill 3

Hitching Post

Flex Time

Dinner

Director's Special

Evening Worship

Cabin Pow Wow

Lights Out

SKILL PERIODS:

Every camper will be able to choose three **(3)** skills to participate in throughout their week of camp. These skills may include swimming, archery, riflery, crafts, horseback riding, drama, 50' Alpine tower, paintball, and much more! Skill selection takes place at camp on Sunday night. We will do our best to make sure that each camper gets their top three if possible! **PAINTBALL counts as two (2) skills leaving only (1) additional skill to be chosen.**

!REMEMBER!

HORSEMANSHIP is available to all campers and costs an **additional \$75**. If your child is interested in the Horsemanship program, please go online and register in advance. There are limited spots, and they fill up fast!

PAINTBALL is limited to **ages 11 and up** and also costs an **additional \$75**. If your child is interested in the Paintball program, please go online and register in advance. This skill can be added on Opening Day of camp.

THEME NIGHTS:

Each Tuesday of camp will have a different “theme”. This will not only play out in songs, games, videos, and skits, but that night campers and staff are encouraged to wear outfits or accessories that go along with the theme. Everyone here at camp has a lot of fun with this and we highly encourage campers to get involved! 2023 Themes will be released a few weeks before Opening Day.

FANCY DINNER NIGHT:

Once again, we are continuing with our new tradition at **MAPLERIDGE** which is known as “Fancy Dinner” Night. Every Thursday Night we will have a nicer meal and campers will be encouraged to wear something a little more “fancy” to dinner and chapel that night. We’re not talking dresses and suits, but we do recommend that ladies wear jeans and a cute shirt, and gentlemen wear a button-down (or something along those lines!)

COLOR WARS AND SOLIDARITY:

Fridays are special days at camp! We culminate our team competition with what we call COLOR WARS, a high-energy, multi-game, challenge where every team brings their team spirit and comes ready to win Champs of Camp! Be prepared to come all decked out in your team color... “head to toe” team spirit is encouraged! You will be emailed a few days before your arrival as to what team you’ll be on... but please know COLOR WARS is a messy endeavor, so be prepared for clothes to be ruined.

After COLOR WARS, we all come together as one **MAPLERIDGE** family in SOLIDARITY. This is our closing ceremony and bonfire... a night filled with tradition and reflection. To signify our unity we ask all campers and staff to come to this event wearing the free Camper Tee that is provided to all campers on Friday.

CAMP RULES:

Here at **MAPLERIDGE**, we don't believe in having lots of rules, but we do have a few Golden Rules that we take seriously and ask all Campers and Staff to abide by:

- No Guys in Girls' cabins
- No Girls in Guys' cabins
- Use of cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, or drugs is prohibited
- No leaving Cabin or Campsite after "lights out"
- No indecent/profane language
- Harming another camper (i.e. bullying, hitting, kicking, making fun of, or demeaning comments) will not be tolerated.

***The breaking of any of these rules is considered a serious offense and parents will be notified. There is a possibility that a child will be sent home for committing these offenses, and in that event, no refund will be given.

HEALTH AND DIETARY NEEDS

FOOD IS SERVED!

Our meals are graciously prepared by a wonderful kitchen staff who work hard to prepare meals that our campers will enjoy. Well-balanced meals that are wide in variety keep camper's energy up and their spirits high. If your camper has allergies or requires special dietary needs, please **let us know in advance** so we can be sure to accommodate them as much as possible!

HEALTH AND MEDICATIONS:

If you haven't already, please make sure you go online and fill out all necessary health and release forms as they are **due one week before your child's arrival!**

Please Note - MRR Medication Administration Form: In order for our Health Director to administer prescription medications, you must have turned in a Medication Administration Form, *signed by the prescribing physician!* We will not administer any prescriptions, without this form signed. Any prescription medications you pack will need to be properly labeled with your camper's name and dosages. They will be turned in to the nurse upon arrival, and will be administered as prescribed.

COMMUNICATIONS

CELL PHONES, VISITS, ETC.:

Because we know the importance of "getting away" from all of life's distractions, and we want to ensure your child's safety and maintain a proper chain of communication, cell phones are not allowed at **MAPLERIDGE**. We do not view this as a restriction but rather a great experience for them to hopefully embrace!

Part of the experience of being at camp is learning to be independent away from home. We generally do not allow campers to call home or receive calls except in the case of an emergency.

BIRTHDAYS:

On occasion, we have campers celebrating their birthdays while at camp. If your camper's birthday is during their camp stay, please email us at info@mapleridgeranch.org. We will do our best to make sure they have an awesome birthday!

SNAIL MAIL:

In today's world of instant gratification and communication, there is NOTHING like receiving a letter or care package from the people you care about! We encourage you and your friends/family to correspond with your camper through letters and cards this summer. "Mail Call" has proved to be something everyone looks forward to here at camp and is the kind of fun that has stood the test of time!

(your name)
c/o MAPLERIDGE Ranch
2857 Montrose Turnpike
Owego, NY 13827

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Our pledge is to put your children in the care of the most trustworthy and capable young adults we can hire – counselors who are well suited to the task of caring for campers. The effort we put into screening and selecting our staff is part of that pledge. We also know that many children desire to exchange contact information (e.g. email address, Facebook, Twitter, cell phone numbers) with counselors or staff members. We want you to know we discourage this. The best way for a camper to have contact with a staff member when camp is over is through "snail mail". We recommend that you, as the parent, supervise your camper's online activities just as you do other aspects of their life in your home.

That being said, during camp, occasionally, we will be updating our **MAPLERIDGE** Facebook, and Instagram pages with pictures, posts, and videos... Be sure to have your friends and family check it out!!

SUMMER MAILING ADDRESS

MAPLERIDGE RANCH 2857 MONTROSE TURNPIKE OWEGO, NY 13827

AUGUST - MAY ADDRESS

MAPLERIDGE RANCH PO BOX 66 OWEGO, NY 13827
607-687-2238

www.mapleridgeranch.org

MAPLERIDGE Ranch is required to be permitted to operate as a summer camp by the NYS Department of Health. We are inspected by the Tioga County Health Department twice yearly. Our inspection reports and Camp Safety Plan is on file at the Tioga County Health Department Office, 1062 St. Rt. 38, Owego, NY 13728.