



# **2011 Camp Ondessonk Parent Camper Handbook**



**3760 Ondessonk Rd.  
Ozark, IL 62972  
618.695.2489  
Fax: 618.695.3593  
camp@ondessonk.com  
www.ondessonk.com**

# **You're Registered! Now What?**

1. **READ THIS BOOKLET**, even if you are a returning camper.
2. Is your name spelled correctly? Is your address right? Is your balance correct and paid 4 weeks prior to your day of arrival? If not, please call the camp office.
3. If bus service is needed, applications must be received at least 2 weeks prior to bus date along with full payment. Buses fill up quickly, don't delay.
4. Are you staying for back-to-back sessions? Consider staying for a Super Camper Layover Weekend.
5. Return health form by May 2, 2011.

## **Mission Statement**

The Mission of Camp Ondessonk is to provide an environment that inspires physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual growth for individuals and groups through the appreciation and stewardship of nature.

## **Vision Statement**

The vision of Camp Ondessonk, a camp founded on the Catholic faith, is to be the world's best youth camp. Inspired by positive role models, campers will experience the wonders of God's creation through adventurous, challenging activities in a unique, rustic environment.

## **Camp Accreditation**

Camp Ondessonk is proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association. Developed exclusively for the camp industry, this nationally-recognized organization focuses on program quality and health and safety issues and requires us to review every facet of our operation. Ondessonk has voluntarily submitted to this independent appraisal conducted by camp experts and is proud to have earned this mark of distinction.



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## Contact Information

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**Camp Office:** (618) 695-2489  
Toll Free: 877-659-2267  
Hours: M-F 8 am-4:30 pm  
Saturdays: 8am - 3:30pm  
camp@ondessonk.com  
**(Not for camper emails)**  
For: General camp information, bus info,  
early departures, emergencies

**Registration Office:** ext. 109  
becky.jennings@ondessonk.com  
**(Not for camper emails)**  
For: Payment info  
Late arrival campers  
Camper cancellations  
Changes in camper info

## From the Executive Director

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**Dear Parents,**

Thank you for registering your child for a session at Camp Ondessonk. We feel honored that you have chosen us. Our main goal is to provide the best experience possible for each of the campers we serve. To help us reach this goal, please review the contents of this handbook thoroughly.

The emotions a single Ondessonk camper may experience range from excitement, to anxiety, to joy, and beyond. Of great benefit to campers, our summer staff is made up almost entirely of young men and women that were once Ondessonk campers themselves. They've experienced the feelings associated with being in an unfamiliar setting, the nervousness of meeting kids from distant places, and the excitement, or anxiety, of sleeping in a cabin in the woods. They also know how good it can eventually feel to embrace the unknown, to make new friends, to try new activities, and to grow through participation.

It is my hope that your child will learn, grow, and have fun as an Ondessonk camper. Please contact me if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Dan King, Executive Director and former Ondessonk Camper  
618-695-2489 / [dan.king@ondessonk.com](mailto:dan.king@ondessonk.com)



**Dear Campers,**

Whether this is your first time as a camper or your fifth, we are glad you are coming to Ondessonk. It is an amazing place. Please prepare yourself by reviewing this handbook. We are preparing for you.

See you soon,

Dan & the Staff of Camp Ondessonk

## Arrival Day Check-in: 1:00 pm—3:30 pm

Since camper units are preassigned, there is no advantage to arriving early. Upon arriving, unpack meds, swimsuit, money, towel, and health form (if not previously turned in). You will need these throughout the registration process.

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING THE FAMILY PET.**

CHECK-IN	At registration you will get your unit assignment, name tag, any pre-purchased Barter Bucks and luggage tag.
LUGGAGE	Attach to the ONE DUFFLE BAG/SUITCASE that camp personnel will haul to the unit. The camper's name must be on the outside of all luggage. It is recommended that parents bring a 2 wheel dolly for assistance in hauling. Camp Ondessonk will not haul sleeping bags, back packs, pillows, fishing poles/tackle and other items at camp's discretion. Food/snacks/drinks will be confiscated. *Because of limited space in cabins, <b>large trash cans will not be allowed to remain at camp.</b> We encourage you not to bring these containers and instead use a dolly.* (See page 10 for more information)
UNIT PICTURE	Order one in LeCoeur for \$8.00 if you have not pre-purchased.
BARTER BUCKS	Purchase with cash or check if you have not pre-purchased. (See page 10 for more information.)
T-SHIRT	Every camper receives a unit T-shirt.
HEALTH CENTER	Everyone must check in with the Health Center personnel. At this time, turn in all medicines, including over-the-counter medicines and vitamins. (See page 7 for more information)
UNIT CHECK-IN	Meet unit leader, confirm that they have the driver's license number of the authorized adult picking your child up, choose your bunk, and move in.
SWIM	Check in at the beach no later than 3:30 to assess swimming ability.
UNIT MEETING	Campers should return to units by 4:00. All parents and visitors must depart the premises by this time.
LUNCH	Lunch and snacks will be available at Tommy's Cafe, near the Trading Post.

## Check-out: 9:00am Parent Reception. Camper Check out 9:30-10:30am

### DO NOT BRING THE FAMILY PET.

1. Meet camper between Trading Post & Chapel.
2. Check out camper with Unit Leader– to ensure camper safety, adult picking child up **MUST** be listed as an authorized adult on the camper's registration form and provide photo identification.
3. Refund any unused Ondessonk Barter Bucks.
4. Campers must be picked up by 10:30 am. After that time, staff will not be available for supervision.

## Late Arrival / Early Departure

Any camper that must arrive after 3:30 pm must contact the Camp Office with time of arrival. Sunday late arrivals must arrive at Camp no later than 8:30 pm.

If your child must be picked up before Saturday check-out, early departure forms will be available during check-in. We strongly discourage campers leaving early as this interrupts the flow of camp and adversely affects the quality of the departing camper's experience. In case of emergency requiring an unplanned early departure, contact the office for instructions. Written consent is necessary in all cases for early departure, and the person picking the child up must show identification verifying that they are an authorized adult listed on the camper's registration form.

**Early departures must be scheduled during one of the following time blocks: 9:00am-10:30am, 1:00pm-3:00pm, or 7:00pm-8:30pm. There will be no early departures on Saturdays.**

## Unit Request

Even though every effort is made to give campers the unit they request, this is not always possible. **Unit selection is not guaranteed.** Because of changes and cancellations, unit assignments are not given to campers prior to check-in.

Each unit is made up of a group of cabins (most holding 8 campers each). Many large groups\* cannot fit into one cabin and must be split up. Sometimes other groups must also be separated within the unit to fill all the beds in each cabin. Groups of campers are kept together in cabins when at all possible.

*\*You are considered a group only when you have mailed your applications in the same envelope or have enrolled on-line using the 'envelope of friends' feature.*



Pictures that last a lifetime...

**ORDER AN OFFICIAL UNIT PHOTO! ONLY \$8.00!**

Professionally finished 8x10 glossy photo

Unit name and year printed on the front

Ready to take home on Saturday

(Mini Camp and Family Camp photos may be mailed due to length of session)

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

## **Health Center, Medical Insurance, Health Forms**

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The Camp Ondessonk Health Center is centrally located in the main area of camp and is stocked with first aid supplies and emergency medical equipment. A staff member with advanced medical training is on-duty 24 hours a day. A licensed medical professional is on site daily and a Medical Doctor is on call at all times when campers are on-site. In the event that your child would need medical care while at Camp Ondessonk, your insurance would be billed by the medical facility. Camp has accident coverage (up to \$2,500) that is secondary to your insurance coverage. Sickness that would or could occur without relation to camp will be given medical treatment, but will not be covered by camp insurance. In all cases, parents will be contacted if their child needs the care of a physician, a hospital visit, or if they spend the night in the Health Center.

All camper medications (prescription and over-the-counter) and vitamins will be kept in the Health Center for the duration of the camper's stay. Parents should send at least a 9-day supply of your child's medication. If your child has asthma, please send two albuterol rescue inhalers, one to be kept in the Health Center, and one to be kept with your child's Unit Leader.

**IMPORTANT:** ALL medications, including over the counter meds, **MUST** be in the original container. We **CANNOT** administer medications not in their original packaging.

On arrival day, all parents and campers must check-in with Health Center personnel at the screening station in the Old Camp Dining hall to participate in a cursory health interview which will include temperature checks and a head screening. To provide a safe and healthy environment for all campers, children with a temperature of 100 degrees F. or higher and/or flu-like symptoms will be asked to return home, and arrangements will be made to participate in a different session.

Poison Ivy, mosquitoes, and ticks are common at camp. Parents will be notified of any potential health risks that occur that may require attention after the camper leaves camp. Campers are advised to wear repellent, and mosquito netting is available at the Trading Post.

## **Health History Form**

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The health history form must be completed yearly. The parent/guardian must complete pages 1-3. Your child must have a physical performed by his/her physician within 24 months prior to camp date, and the physician must complete page 5 of the health form or you must attach a copy of a physical taken within 24 months prior to camp date (sports/school physicals are acceptable). Return to us by May 2, 2011. Our fax number is: (618) 695-3593. Campers will not be able to attend camp without a completed Health Form.

## **Special Needs**

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If your camper has special dietary needs (food allergies, etc.), unusual medications, or special medical or accessibility needs, please contact the Executive Director or Camping Services Director. The purpose of this is to determine whether or not Camp Ondessonk has the resources necessary to responsibly serve the child. In many cases we are able to responsibly serve children with special needs.



# **Financial Aid**

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For more information on any of the programs, please contact the registrar at ext. 109.

## **Camperships**

The Ondessonk Campership Fund is a program funded entirely by friends of Ondessonk. Its purpose is to assist families with demonstrated financial need. Generally, camperships do not exceed 50% of the total fee. Applications and awards are confidential.

## **Monsignor Fournie Scholarship**

This full scholarship (including bus fare) is funded through donations and is awarded to minority children who show financial need and live in the East St. Louis and Belleville Deaneries.

## **Title XX Program**

Any camper that is currently an Illinois Public Aid recipient is eligible for this program. The entire cost of camp & bus fare is covered. Due to limited state funding and capacity, this program is on a first come, first serve basis.

# **Cancellation/Refund Policy**

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ALL CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE BY PHONE (618-695-2489, extension 109).

**MEDICAL CANCELLATIONS:** Refunds for documented medical emergencies, minus a \$25 processing fee, will be granted if cancellation is confirmed by phone prior to or on the opening day of the session being cancelled. Documentation for medical emergencies must be in the form of a written note from the child's physician.

**NON-MEDICAL CANCELLATIONS:** Should you need to change or cancel your registration please contact the Camp Registrar. Cancellations made more than 4 weeks prior to the campers arrival will be refunded the full amount, less the \$100 deposit. No refunds will be given for cancellations with less than 4 weeks notice. Contact the camp office for information about a payment plan.

## **Returned Checks**

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A \$35.00 fee will be charged for checks returned due to insufficient funds, etc. You will then be required to make all payments with a cashier's check, money order, or credit card.

## **Payment Methods**

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Please make all payments on your child's camp fee via check, money order, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA. A deposit is required to hold the camper's spot in a desired camp session. The balance is due **four weeks** prior to date of arrival. Any unpaid balance can result in the loss of the camper's choice of unit. Please contact the registrar at ext. 109 with payment questions or concerns.

# Parenting to Minimize and Manage Homesickness

Almost all first-time campers and many returning campers experience some level of homesickness. Symptoms include: being withdrawn, complaints of other ailments, and feelings of missing home. These feelings are natural, extremely common, and very real. Most cases of homesickness are mild. Some cases are challenging. Our staff members are trained to help campers work through these feelings and as a result, homesick feelings usually subside within 24 hours of arriving at camp. When preparing your child for camp, you will minimize the likelihood of a serious case of homesickness by using the following parenting strategies:

- **Don't tell your child that you will pick them up if he/she doesn't like camp right away.** Regrettably, we encounter this fairly often. Though parents who give this message have good intentions, their children have an extremely hard time getting better when homesick. The result is that fun and independence are rarely gained. Be very honest with your child about what it means to sign up for something and follow through with it. Leaving camp early should never be introduced as an option.
- **Have your child spend a night away from home with a friend.**
- **Involve your child in planning for camp.** While doing this, focus on the fun that will be had.
- **If you sense that your child is nervous about going to camp and missing home, talk about it.** Use an encouraging approach and supply your child with ideas that will help him/her work through it. Suggest writing a letter or taking along a favorite keepsake from home. You know your child better than anyone. What has helped her/him handle stressful situations in the past? Any and all conversation about this subject will help as long as encouragement is at the forefront.
- **If possible, send your child with a friend.** Be sure that they are truly friends, not just acquaintances from school. If your child is going to camp alone, emphasize the opportunities that he/she will have to meet new people. Many of our staff, including Ondessonk's Executive Director, came to Camp Ondessonk alone as campers. Being alone should be seen as an opportunity.
- **Discuss what camp will be like.** Read this booklet with your child and let him/her know what to expect. Focus on the positive aspects of camp. Talk about the fun activities, the idea of "growing up," and the independence and adventure of it all. Visit our website with your child. Look at the photos and read about Ondessonk together ([www.ondessonk.com](http://www.ondessonk.com)).
- **Establish realistic expectations.** Camp, like life, has high points and low ones. Not every moment will be filled with wonder and excitement. Encouraging your child to try new things and make new friends will help the experience be a positive one.
- **Think of camp as a learning experience for both the child and the parent.** This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to practice "letting go" in a safe environment. Though it might not feel as such, this will enhance your relationship with your child.
- **Write to your child.** Kids love to receive letters at camp and getting one from home on the first or second day does wonders. Send a letter a couple of days before your child goes to camp. Be careful what you write because homesickness may be brought on by a letter that tells a child how much she/he is missed, or how much fun everyone else at home is having. Letters of an encouraging tone help promote a positive camp experience. Please note that Campers are not allowed to receive faxes or phone calls due to the high number of campers and our limited resources. Also, check out our website to learn more about how to email your camper with our Bunk 1 service! This summer's Bunk 1 code is: 117166 DS.
- **Plan to attend our Open House** on May 1st, 2011 from 11 am—4 pm. This gives campers a chance to become familiar with the camp grounds, so they are not as overwhelmed on opening day. Call the camp office to register for this sneak peak of Camp!

In the event that your child does have a bout with homesickness, please be assured that he/she will receive individual counseling directly from staff members trained for that purpose. As mentioned above, the vast majority of homesick children feel better within 24 hours of arriving. Finally, please be aware that a camp representative may contact you directly for support if your child is having a particularly hard time with homesickness. Otherwise, no news is good news.



# Revised Policies for 2011 - Please Follow!

## FOOD AND DRINK IN UNITS-

*Thanks to all of our 2010 campers that made the Raccoon Management Program a great success! We're continuing it this summer!*

FOOD AND BEVERAGES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WATER, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN CAMPER LIVING AREAS (AKA units). IN ORDER TO ADEQUATELY ENFORCE THIS POLICY, OUR STAFF WILL EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF EACH CAMPER'S BAGS SHORTLY AFTER CHECK-IN. Campers that choose to ignore this policy will have their food and drinks confiscated. Such food and beverage items will then become the communal property of the unit's campers and staff members for use during a few special events throughout the week. These items will not be readily available to the camper from which they were confiscated, nor will the food be readily available to the rest of the unit. Should any such food or beverages be left over at the end of the session, a reasonable attempt will be made to return the item(s) to the camper of origin on closing day. However, Camp Ondessonk does not guarantee the return of such food. IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS POTENTIAL HASSLE, DO NOT BRING FOOD AND BEVERAGES TO CAMP! Your cooperation in this matter is expected and appreciated. Please remember that campers will be served 3 hearty meals per day. Additionally, the camp Trading Post will be open following most meals if campers wish to buy a snack or beverage. Trading Post food and beverages will likewise not be allowed in camper living areas.



**MAIL-** DO NOT SEND FOOD IN CARE PACKAGES! All packages will be opened in front of an Ondessonk staff member. Food and beverages, if present, will be confiscated. Please see above section for further information. Appropriate items to include in a care package: letters, magazines, small games, stickers, books, etc.

## LUGGAGE AND LUGGAGE HAUL POLICIES-

•RUBBERMAID / STERILITE TYPE BINS AND TRUNKS CHECKED IN AT LUGGAGE HAUL ARE NOT TO EXCEED THE FOLLOWING DIMENSIONS: 32in by 20in by 17in. If your camper chooses to bring his/her belongings in a bin that exceeds this size, it will be his/her responsibility to transport the item and its contents.

•UNUSUALLY LARGE AND/OR HEAVY DUFFLE BAGS WILL NOT BE DELIVERED BY ONDESSONK'S LUGGAGE HAULERS. Our experience tells us that when a camper has an extremely large duffle bag, he/she has simply placed several or more smaller bags inside of a really large bag. Ondessonk's luggage hauling service is not intended to be used to haul every single item a camper is bringing to camp. It is intended to lessen the burden.

•Due to irregular sizes and shapes coupled with limited cabin space, TRASHCANS OF ANY SIZE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO STAY IN UNITS! FURTHER, TRASHCANS WILL NOT BE DELIVERED TO THE UNITS BY OUR LUGGAGE HAULERS! If your camper chooses to bring his/her belongings to camp in a trashcan, it will be his/her responsibility to transport the item and its contents. Further, the actual trashcan will not be allowed to stay at camp upon being emptied at the unit.

•CAMPERS ARE NOT TO LASH, TAPE, OR OTHERWISE ATTACH EXTRA ITEMS ONTO THE SINGLE PIECE OF LUGGAGE THEY SUBMIT TO OUR LUGGAGE HAULERS. Items such as sleeping bags and daypacks must be carried by hand unless, of course, they can be placed and secured inside one larger container of acceptable size (please see above).

## CAMPER BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

Camper behavior will be monitored by the staff of Camp Ondessonk. Inappropriate behavior for the camp setting will not be permitted. Camp Ondessonk has two major rules. The first is SAFETY. The second is COURTESY. Specific rules and policies are similar to those used in schools. Campers are given more complete information about this subject upon arrival. Failure to follow these rules could result in a camper being asked to leave camp.

- SAFETY: Ondessonk campers are to avoid situations in which their safety or the safety of others is at risk.
- COURTESY: Ondessonk campers must be courteous to all of God's creatures; this includes people, plants, and animals.

# Packing for Camp!

Packing wisely can help ensure a good camp experience. *Please make sure that spending money, medicines, swimsuit and towel are packed on top for easy access during registration.* Make sure to pack old, comfortable clothes for your week. Keep in mind that no laundry service is available to campers and that units do not have electricity. Below is a suggested list of what to bring. Please pack according to your own child's needs. (6 day supply, 3 day for Mini) All Adventure campers will find a packing list in their confirmation packet, or at [www.ondessonk.com](http://www.ondessonk.com).

## Packing List

- T-shirts\*
- Shorts
- Long pants
- Long sleeve shirt\*
- Underwear
- PLENTY of Socks (long) Consider extra
- Pajamas
- Jacket
- Comfortable, closed toed shoes for hiking
- **2 additional pairs of old sneakers**
- Poncho / Raincoat\*
- Modest swimsuit– one piece or tankini (no bikinis allowed)
- Pillow
- Sleeping Bag or 2-3 Old Blankets
- Towels
- (2) 1 quart reusable water bottles\*
- Bug Spray\*
- Insect Netting\*
- Thumbtacks/pushpins (for hanging netting)- no nails allowed\*
- Sun Block\*
- Flashlight/Batteries\*
- Old Watch
- Day pack / Back pack\*
- Shampoo\*
- Soap\*
- Deodorant
- Comb, Brush
- Toothbrush/Paste\*
- 2 Trash bags for clothing that may get poison ivy contamination

## Optional

- Camera/Film\*
- Garbage bag
- Laundry bag
- Flip flops for showering
- Fishing gear
- Stationary w/stamps\*

## Additional Notes

Items with \* may be available at Trading Post.

Long pants and hard soled shoes are required for horseback riding

Dark long pants and long sleeve shirt are best for Tuesday night game (for poison ivy protection & camouflage).

Flip-flops will only be allowed in the bathhouse.  
-No sandal is an acceptable hiking shoe.

All clothing should be appropriately modest and not reference drugs, alcohol, sex, or profanity.

Personal hygiene, applying bug spray and sun block is camper's own responsibility.

All clothing, gear, and luggage should be marked with the camper's name using name tags or indelible pen. Every item must be in closed, durable bags. Remember that campers will be responsible for hauling their own luggage on Saturday, so please pack accordingly. Camp Ondessonk is not responsible for lost or stolen property. *Campers belongings may be subject to search if the health or safety of other campers or staff indicates the need.*

**Please DO NOT bring to camp: FOOD & DRINKS, CELL PHONES,** radios, stereos, laser pointers, pagers, ipods, walkmans, firearms, matches, knives, electronic games or fireworks. Items on this list will be confiscated. Expensive jewelry or clothing are not recommended. Absolutely no tobacco, drugs, alcohol, threats of violence, or graffiti will be tolerated, and will likely result in dismissal, at the discretion of the Director.

## **Barter Bucks**

Campers turn cash or checks into Ondessonk Barter Bucks prior to or on the opening day of camp. These cards are accepted at the Trading Post instead of money, eliminating the camper's need for carrying or storing any amount of cash. On departure day, campers turn unused Barter Bucks back in for cash between 9:30 am—10:30 am. Refunds will not be issued after camper departure. Camp Ondessonk is not responsible for lost or stolen Barter Bucks and will not refund money for Barter Bucks that never turn up. If a camper loses their Barter Bucks, they must notify their unit leader AND the Trading Post to prevent another camper from using them. Pre-purchase of barter bucks will **NOT** be accepted in the 2 weeks prior to the campers arrival.

## **Trading Post**

The camp Trading Post is open daily and sells snacks, drinks, souvenirs, Ondessonk clothing and incidentals (postcards, stamps, batteries, insect netting, etc.). \$25-\$30 spending money is sufficient for most campers. If you plan on purchasing netting or a clothing/souvenir item(s) additional money may be necessary. The Trading Post will be open to campers and parents during check-in and check-out.

## **Mail, Phones, Visitors**

Mail for campers should be addressed:

Camper Name	Camp Ondessonk
Camper Session	3760 Ondessonk Rd Ozark, IL 62972



**Phone Calls:** At Ondessonk, as in most camps, campers are not permitted to make or receive phone calls. However, in emergencies, messages will be taken to campers.



**Emails:** Emails can be sent to campers through Bunk 1, an email service found on our website. Information about this service can be found at [www.ondessonk.com](http://www.ondessonk.com), and will be available at registration. Summer, 2011's Bunk 1 code is: 117166 DS. *Campers will not be able to reply.*

**Visitors:** For the safety and security of the campers, **no visitors are allowed.**

## Activities

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**Nature**—Our qualified staff will take you on a tour you'll never forget—over, under, and through waterfalls, split-rock formations, lakes, streams, and bluffs. Play nature games and appreciate God's awesome creation as you explore.

**Archery and Riflery**—Learn the National Archery Association guidelines for proper techniques at the archery range and the National Rifle Association guidelines for safe handling of a .22 caliber rifle. Riflery is not offered during Mini Camp.

**Trail Riding**—Learn riding techniques and horse care before heading into the ring and onto the trail. A Certified Horsemanship Association Equestrian Director manages Camp O's herd. Wranglers are trained in first aid & safety procedures.

**Swimming**—Enjoy Ondessonk's two water slides, beach volleyball and floating docks under the supervision of Red Cross Certified lifeguards. Campers who pass the advanced swimming test can also hang out on the zip line and Tarzan swing. Advanced swimming options are not offered during Mini Camp due to length of session.

**Handicrafts**—Learn “Boondoggling,” leather stamping, beadwork, tie-dying, and other traditional favorites that stretch the limits of your imagination. Crafts may vary week to week. Some leather kits may be purchased at an additional cost.

**Woodsmanship**—Knots, lashing, fire-building—learn these and many more outdoor skills.

**Water Crafts**—Explore Lake Echon in a canoe, rowboat, or kayak. Float along the wooded shoreline or test your skills on a water obstacle course. The waterfront is supervised by Red Cross Certified Lifeguards.

**Council**—Fun, interactive games, stories, and activities designed to increase spiritual and self-awareness.

## Evening Activities

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Evening programs are varied and change every night. The week kicks off with Mass and the Opening Campfire full of wild songs and silly skits. Other activities include Unit Campfires, a Camp-wide Game, an Overnight adventure away from units, the Lodge Ceremony, and a huge Closing Campfire. Many more surprises await campers during their fun-packed week.



# Volunteer Opportunities

Do you want to spend a week at Ondessonk, too? This year, don't get left behind; be a volunteer! Last summer more than 80 teachers, carpenters, doctors, EMTs, nurses, retirees, moms, dads, college students and many others spent their vacation time hiking, gardening, ministering, performing maintenance, unit leading, and mentoring eager young learners at Camp Ondessonk. This summer you could join them! If you are at least 21 years old and would like to spend a week reliving your childhood and working hard to support a worthy cause, please contact Camp O at 618-695-2489 ext. 145, or email: [volunteer@ondessonk.com](mailto:volunteer@ondessonk.com). Remember to allow 6 weeks for us to process your application due to diocesan policy.

**NOTE:** Doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel are always in high demand! If you are able to donate your services for a week this summer, please contact camp for information on waiving one camper's tuition in exchange for volunteering in the Health Center. This program is offered to RNs, Nurse Practitioners, MDs, and PAs in an effort to help Ondessonk exceed ACA accreditation standards. Medical professionals not listed above are also encouraged to volunteer.

## Getting to Camp

Camp Ondessonk is located at the southern tip of Illinois. We are about: 1.5 hours from Mt. Vernon, IL, 2.5 hours from Belleville, 2 hours from Evansville, IN, 4 hours from Springfield, and about a 6-hour drive from the Chicago area. Please visit our website, [www.ondessonk.com](http://www.ondessonk.com), for Map Quest directions from any location. All travelers will eventually get to Route 45 on their way to Camp. About 10 miles north of Vienna (or 20 miles south of Harrisburg) turn off Rt. 45 and onto Ozark Road,

which will be opposite of the Ozark General Store. Travel one half of a mile on Ozark Rd. The Camp Ondessonk gate will be on the right. Go through the gate and head down the camp road (about 2 miles). The camp road is narrow and contains several curves with limited sight distance. Please observe posted speed limits. Ondessonk staff members will greet you and direct you toward the parking lot.



## **Bus Transportation**

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Transportation can be arranged to Camp Ondessonk from Chicago, St. Louis area, Springfield, and points in between, by way of chartered motor coaches. Transportation must be arranged at least two weeks prior to your camp date. Please fill out the form on the back of this booklet and send it to Camp. Parents should also note that there will be lunch stops to and from Ondessonk, so remind your camper to save some money and keep it on hand to pay for lunch. Cancellations with less than two weeks notice will not receive a refund. Please call the camp office with any questions.

**CARGO SPACE IS LIMITED. NO TRASH CAN OR RUBBERMAID-TYPE LUGGAGE CONTAINERS WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE BUS. Please be courteous of other campers and respect this rule.**

Buses are exclusive to camp staff and campers. Camp Ondessonk is happy to accommodate our long distance campers. In doing so, we maintain safe and insured transportation. To ensure camper safety, parents should be at camper bus pick-up/drop-off locations at least 15 minutes before given time to allow buses to run on schedule. Buses cannot wait for late arrivals! If there is an emergency en route, camp offices are always contacted. Camp will notify bus locations and parents of any changes. Every camper is expected to follow and respect the rules of the counselors and driver. Vandalism, smoking or drug use will not be tolerated. All camp rules and regulations apply to bus transportation. Parents will be liable for any damages or distress incurred.

## **Super Camper Layover Weekend:**

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Because families asked for it! Campers that choose to attend multiple sessions back-to-back are welcome to take advantage of this new program. This one day, one night session will include an extended hike in the Shawnee National Forest, a special overnight campout, swimming, meals, and other activities. *Campers should pack enough clothes and supplies for their entire stay, as laundry facilities will not be made available.*

The fee for each weekend is \$82.00. Please check the box next to your desired session. Include all payment information on page 16 of this handbook.

Available between sessions:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coed 1 & 2 (June 11)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Girls 1 & 2 (July 16) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coed 2 & 3 (June 18)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grls2 & Ced4(July 23) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ced 3 & Boys (June 25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Coed 4 & 5 (July 30)  |

# BUS ROUTE

CITY	ROUND TRIP	ONE WAY	DEPART SUNDAY	RETURN SATURDAY	PICKUP/RETURN LOCATION
TINLEY PARK, IL	\$145	\$106	6:30am	5:45pm	Wingate Hotel I-80, Exit 148B, Harlem Ave, Exit North to 183rd W
DWIGHT, IL	\$131	\$103	8:00am	4:15pm	Becker's Hotrod BP Gas Station I-55 Exit 220
BLOOMINGTON/ NORMAL, IL	\$122	\$97	9:00am	3:00pm	McDonald's I-55 Exit 160A
SPRINGFIELD, IL	\$112	\$84	10:15am	1:15pm Lunch stop	Capital City Shopping Center Pkg Lot I-55 Exit 94
FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, IL	\$94	\$72	12:00pm Lunch Stop	11:30am	McDonald's I-64 Exit 12

**BUS WILL ARRIVE AT CAMP AT APPROXIMATELY  
3:00 PM AND DEPART BY 9:30 AM**

Applications must be received at least two weeks prior to bus date.

To ensure camper safety, parents should arrive at the bus stop 15 minutes before scheduled departure/arrival times.

You must be at bus stop and ready to board when bus arrives - schedule does not allow for any waiting for late arrivals.

**\*\*\*NO BUS WILL BE PROVIDED ON JULY 6th, 2011\*\*\***

Campers riding the bus need to have money on hand for lunch stops to and from camp.  
Transportation by bus is encouraged due to limited parking.

o Enclosed, please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payment for \_\_\_ tickets o One Way o Round Trip **-OR-**  
o Layover Weekend: # of weekends \_\_\_\_\_ x \$82.00  
o Please charge my: o VISA o MasterCard o Discover

in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Camper: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Riding bus to camp from (city) \_\_\_\_\_ On \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/11

Riding bus from camp to (city) \_\_\_\_\_ On \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/11

In case of bus emergency, please contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Consent Form (consent for bus only)

In the event of an accident, the camp will telephone the parent, however, in the event I cannot be reached by phone, I hereby give permission for medical attention by a physician for my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/11  
Date