

# Trail Blazers

## Alumni Camper Scroll - Prepared 2019

To the Current Staff of Trail Blazers, : As former campers (whether it was three summers ago or 50 summers ago) want to pass on the following advice.

- Be patient!
- It is scary sleeping in the woods the first time.
- We appreciated when 3 bites are really small bites. New food can be intimidating.
- Plan good pow wows. This was often the best part of the day when we were campers.
- Allow some free time. Playing in the woods with no actual plan was fun.
- Remember that kids don't know everything adults do. That includes some of the words you use when you ask us to do something or are trying to explain things.
- Sometimes, the reason we say that we don't want to do something is because we don't know what it is or how to do it; but, once we learn how and can do it well, we'll love it and will want to try other things.
- You don't live where we live and you don't look like or sound like anyone we know, but we can learn from each other and have fun together.
- We watched every single move our counselors made.
- We want your attention even when we don't seem to be asking for it.
- If you think that we will like you better because you don't set limits -- You're wrong!
- The more you shout at a kid from a distance, the less they hear you. But, when you are close and speak softly, kids hear you loud and clear. In fact, sometimes, you don't even have to say anything for a kid to hear you.
- Don't be surprised at how easy it is to make friends.
- As campers we would know when our counselors were stressed or not getting along. That then put us in an awkward position.
- Expect to remember this summer for the rest of your life. What's more, the campers you live with will also remember you and the things you do here for the rest of their lives. What you guide them through here at camp is so different from their everyday experience it will be memorable for them. And enjoyable. Almost everything at camp is different from almost everything at home or school, and much more fun.
- Some of our fondest memories are:
  - Silence in the woods alone
  - Singing in the woods with our group
  - Walking in the woods by listening to the birds singing, and small animals rustling through the leaves
  - Eating a meal prepared from scratch with our group

- Rowing, swimming, and fishing in the lake
- The value of Sassafras
- Seeing stars that you can't see from home
- Starting a fire with one match
- But we also know to watch out for:
  - Mosquitoes
  - Shoes on the dock
  - Bears
- We hope you and your campers come to love the woods, the lake, the hills, the trails, and the powwow fires as we did. It is a wonderful home and so different from what we are used to.
- Even more than the woods, we hope you will come to love your camp family: the campers in your group, your fellow leaders and the campers and leaders that have lived at and loved Trail Blazers for many, many years before.

The summer will be over in a blink of the eye so remember to cherish the little moments, the days when the rain messes up your schedule so instead, you play in it. The vagabonds that seem endless but then become beautiful views. And the children who will come back next year, then as Leaders in Training, then as Staff and Alumni. They themselves will look back and remember you, as we do our own group leaders.

*Compiled by Former Campers 1950 - 2018*