



מחנות טמרק
Tamarack Camps

TEEN PROGRAMS

FAMILY GUIDE 2021

Camp Kennedy
Camp Olmsted



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WELCOME

We are thrilled that you have chosen one of the Tamarack Camps' Teen Programs for this summer! These wilderness leadership programs will provide campers the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zones, experience new adventures, meet new people, and become a part of a special community. They are an opportunity for campers to explore a minimum impact lifestyle through hiking and canoeing, to practice "letting go", and to develop autonomy and a stronger sense of identity.

Our goal is for all campers to embrace personal growth and passionately contribute to their community, with a supportive and awesome staff ready to facilitate the experience. Being part of an incredible community and exploring new places never disappoints. The Teen Programs are meant to be challenging; our high communal standards allow participants to push themselves to new levels. Our close community draws strength from its unique members, so no two programs are ever the same. All campers bring something to the table, even if they don't know it yet! This summer will be incredible and rewarding.

We recognize that preparing for camp can be a daunting task. In our attempt to answer questions that may arise, this Family Guide serves as a comprehensive resource before and during the summer months. Whether you begin 2021 as a new camp family, or return as a "seasoned pro," the following packet provides useful information about important dates, special programs, and critical policies. Please review all this material to successfully prepare for the exciting adventures ahead.

As always, our number one priority remains the health, safety, and well-being of our entire camp community. With that in mind, we have included a section in this guide specifically to address important medical information.

Together, with nurturing staff, energizing programs, and transformational experiences, we look forward to a healthy, safe, and positive summer at "The Greatest Place on Earth!"

We can't wait to see you at the bus,

Jackie Yashinsky
Director, Teen Programs

Gail Chynoweth
Director of Health, Teen Programs

Rachel Fine
Director, Camp Kennedy

Stacey Lusky
Social Worker, Teen Programs

Justin Ozrovitz
Director, Camp Olmsted

IMPORTANT DATES

DEPARTURES

Date	Program	Campers Arrive
Sunday, June 27	Camp Kennedy Session 1	7:00 AM
Sunday, July 18	Camp Olmsted	7:00 AM
Monday, July 26	Camp Kennedy Session 2	7:00 AM

The bus will depart 45-60 minutes after camper arrival

ARRIVALS

Date	Program	Campers Arrive
Wednesday, July 21	Camp Kennedy Session 1	5:00-6:00 PM
Thursday, August 12	Camp Olmsted	5:00-6:00 PM
Thursday, August 19	Camp Kennedy Session 2	5:00-6:00 PM

This year, departure and arrival day will be "curbside". We ask that parents/guardians stay in their car. Only one car per camper. Grandparents, cousins, friends, etc. are not permitted to attend.



All departures and arrivals will be at Adat Shalom Synagogue
29901 Middlebelt Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48334

SUMMER PREPARATION

EXPECTATIONS

The summer, like the rest of life, has high and low points. Not every moment of camp will be filled with wonder and excitement. Encourage your teen to have a reasonable and realistic view of camp. Discuss both the ups and downs your teen may experience.

PHYSICAL PREPARATION

Tamarack Camps' Teen Programs include physically challenging adventures and activities, but given proper preparation, it will not be beyond most teens' personal physical limits. If your teen is already in good shape, they should keep it up. No previous wilderness experience is required, but a willingness to learn and work with others will assure they have a positive adventure in such a challenging environment.

To help your teen have the best summer experience, it is necessary for them to be in an appropriate emotional and physical condition. Every minute they put in prior to their summer experience will pay off once they get out there. If they do not already engage in 30 minutes of aerobic exercise three times a week, we recommend that they put in the time to begin training now. Before a teen begins any exercise program, please consult with their physician.

The most important kind of training is aerobic fitness (running/jogging, bicycling, skating), the kind which stimulates heart and lung activity for at least 30 minutes without stopping. They can also consider specific training techniques to prepare for the summer such as climbing stairs or walking around your neighborhood with weight in their backpack.



SUMMER PREPARATION

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS

Campers will go on two backcountry trips. At Camp Kennedy, they will do a 4 day/3 night hiking trip and a 3 day/2 night canoeing trip. At Camp Olmsted, they will do a 5 day/4 night hiking trip and a 4 day/3 night canoeing trip.

The hiking trip will require campers to hike around 10 miles a day while carrying a 30+ pound pack. The canoe trip will require up to six hours of paddling (with appropriate breaks). Appropriate training will be provided prior to the trip.

Throughout the summer there will be day hikes of varying length and difficulty while carrying a light daypack, as well as in-camp physical activities.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Teens should spend at least six weeks breaking in their hiking boots, even if they were used in a previous summer. In order to break them in, campers should wear a school backpack with books while “hiking” around the neighborhood for at least thirty minutes, three days a week. This will help soften the hiking boots and toughen up their feet to help avoid or greatly reduce blisters during the hikes.

PACKING

A Tamarack Camps Teen Program is more rugged than many other camping experiences. Campers do not need all new clothing for camp. There are important items, such as a sleeping bag, hiking boots, and rain gear that are beneficial to the safety and comfort of your teen and must be appropriate for the experience.

[Click here to view the packing list.](#)

DO NOT PACK ANYTHING SENTIMENTAL OR EXPENSIVE!

NO KNIVES OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED AT CAMP!

SUMMER PREPARATION

CLOTHING FOR SHABBAT

Shabbat is a very meaningful time at camp, but specific clothing is not necessary. Normal, casual camp attire can be worn.

LABELS

To minimize loss, we request that you mark all of your teen's clothes and personal property with their first and last name. You can use permanent marker or purchase nametapes. Please label all camping equipment, disposable cameras, eyeglasses, sleeping bags, etc. Please review with your teen what they brought to camp and where in the duffel bag they are located.

TAMARACK CAMPS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST, MISPLACED OR STOLEN ITEMS.

ELECTRONICS

The Teen Programs are about enjoying the outdoors and sharing wonderful experiences with new and old friends. Electronic devices take away from time we could be spending enjoying each other's company and our beautiful surroundings. Smart phones (which do not work due to our remote location), e-readers, tablets, gaming systems, and music players are not welcome at camp. Digital cameras and GoPros are permitted. Playing cards, favorite travel games, guitars, hand drums, cowbells, and tambourines are welcome and highly encouraged!

CELL PHONES MAY NOT BE BROUGHT TO CAMP. If cell phones or other electronic devices are brought, a camper may be sent home.

OUT OF AREA CAMPERS

If you live outside of the metro Detroit area, special transportation arrangements may be organized. Campers may bring their luggage directly to the bus, or if you prefer, duffels can also be shipped (via UPS, FedEx, etc.). When shipping luggage, please ensure it arrives at least 5 days prior to the start of the program. For more details, please contact Jackie Yashinsky at [jyashinsky@tamarackcamps.com](mailto: jyashinsky@tamarackcamps.com) or 248-952-9030.

EMOTIONAL NEEDS

COMMUNICATE CANDIDLY

Talk candidly with the camp staff, specifically Jackie Yashinsky, Director of Teen Programs, Gail Chynoweth, Director of Health, Teen Programs, and/or Stacey Lusky, Social Worker, Teen Programs. These connections allow them an opportunity to apply expertise in helping your child(ren) adapt to the routines of camp life. Through sound communication, many challenges can be resolved.

DISCUSS CONCERNS BEFORE CAMP

As the first day of camp approaches, some children experience anxiety—leaving home, new surroundings, and uncertain schedules—just to name a few. Please encourage your teen to discuss these emotions, rather than responding to your perception of their feelings. Empower your teen to handle the separation confidently. Please refrain from this comment: "If you don't like it, I'll come and get you." This communicates unrealistic expectations for your camper.

HELP YOUR TEEN COPE AT CAMP

Most teens need a few days to adjust to life at camp. During this time, homesickness—even for returning campers—is quite natural. Most campers cope with these concerns and, with the ongoing guidance and sensitivity of our staff members, build support systems. We communicate positively and work diligently to help campers feel comfortable.

PARENT QUESTIONS DURING CAMP

If, after reading a letter or receiving a phone call, you feel concerned about your camper, or, alternatively, if you haven't heard from them in a while, please feel free to contact the camp office.

PARENTS

We take our job as an "in loco parentis" (in place of a parent) seriously. Therefore, along with preparing your teen emotionally for the challenges of camp, please prepare them for the realities of being away from home. Please review our code of conduct with your teen so they are totally aware of our expectations.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Our COVID-19 guideline plan is a living document that will evolve as we continue to evaluate best-practices and adapt as we receive any new information and guidance. We are working with our COVID-19 Medical Committee and following the American Camp Association and CDC guidelines.

We feel there are three major components to being able to open camp at this point: quarantining, testing, and creating a camp “bubble”. While we will take every measure possible to minimize risk, we must all enter under the assumption that at some point there may be suspected and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19. This known risk does not derail our confidence in our ability to keep our campers and staff safe.

We ask that all campers and staff quarantine at home 7 days prior to the start of their program. Campers and staff will be tested 1-2 days before camp.

Local campers will be tested on the following days, with more information to be sent as the summer approaches:

Camp Kennedy Session 1 - June 25

Camp Kennedy Session 2 - July 25

Camp Olmsted - July 16

Jackie Yashinsky will communicate with out of area families regarding testing.

Please visit tamarackcamps.com/covid-teen-programs for the complete COVID-19 guidelines.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

CLINIC DOCTORS

A doctor is always onsite at Camp Maas and available for phone consultations for physical and emotional concerns of campers and staff members. Most of our doctors practice as pediatricians, family practitioners, or emergency room physicians in the Detroit metropolitan area. Staff are in regular communication with our clinic throughout the summer.

CLINIC NURSES

Registered nurses and clinic assistants manage the clinic. Many of our nurses also work in the Detroit metropolitan area. Our camp nurses are also in regular communication with our Teen Programs staff throughout the summer.

CAMPDOC

Tamarack Camps collects and manages all health information through CampDoc, a secure, web-based health management system. To submit your teen's health information, you will receive an email invitation from CampDoc. If you are a new family, instructions for creating your username and password will be included. If you are a returning family, use your same email address and password from the previous year.

IMMUNIZATIONS

The Tamarack Camps immunization policy requires everyone to be fully immunized according to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, State of Michigan, and American Academy of Pediatrics. Tamarack Camps' full policy can be viewed here:

<https://tamarackcamps.com/parents/>.

NEARBY FACILITIES

Camp Kennedy is approximately 40 minutes to the nearest hospital, located in Munising, Michigan. Camp Olmsted is approximately 30 minutes to the nearest hospital, located in Warren, Pennsylvania. Both camps are accessible by first responders, who respond when we call 9-1-1.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

LICE

Campers on the Tamarack Camps Teen Programs are in very close contact with each other. Therefore, we recommend that parents check their teens for head lice in the weeks preceding camp and treat as necessary so that all teens coming to camp are lice and nit free.

If your child's exam reveals live lice and/or nits (eggs) the morning of departure, they will be sent home along with their belongings and given guidelines for treatment. Parents will be responsible for administering the treatment. Or, if preferred, the Lice Sisters are available to treat your child(ren)—for a fee. The camper's head must be nit-free in order to return to camp.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Increasing numbers of teens have food allergies and we will gladly work with families to provide alternative menu items or special foods for most allergies. If, however, your teen has a life-threatening or airborne food allergy, a Tamarack Camps Teen Program is not the right place for them.

Tamarack Camps' Teen Programs are not nut-free programs. Nuts are served, including peanut butter, which is available to campers at most meals. Counselors are notified of campers with allergies, including when and how to use an Epi-Pen. The counselor and/or camper will carry an epi-pens at all times.

While we will do our best to avoid messiness and cross-contamination during meals, these things are always a potential risk on camping trips and during regular meals.

We cannot guarantee that campers will not touch surrounding objects, or each other, during meals.

We expect our campers to understand their food allergies and to be able to advocate for themselves (read ingredients, ask questions, etc.). Our Director of Health, Gail Chynoweth, is happy to answer any questions or concerns.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

OUTSIDE FOOD

Campers are not permitted to bring any outside food to camp unless authorization has been obtained prior to the start of the summer. This is to ensure our observance of Kashrut, sensitivity to food allergies, and to protect us from bears and other animals.

NOTIFICATION FOR MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Parents will be contacted by a staff member or medical staff if a teen must see a doctor, if they receive a COVID-19 test outside of the previously scheduled tests, or if they are exposed to COVID-19.

Parents will not be notified if their teen receives treatment by the staff for cuts, colds, insect bites, stomach virus, headaches, rashes, sore throat, vomiting, etc.

It is the parent's responsibility to pay for medical visits and medications necessary throughout the summer.

PRE-PACKAGED MEDICATIONS

All Teen Programs campers are required to use AMAC Pharmacy to obtain professionally packaged medications that will be administered during a summer program. This includes over-the-counter medications that are taken routinely or as needed. Tamarack Camps will not accept or administer gummy medications/vitamins; in the heat, they melt and stick together. There is a \$10 per camper service fee, charged by AMAC, to pre-package the medications, in addition to any co-payments required by your health insurance.

Some specialized medications may not be available through AMAC. In this case, and only in this case, you may obtain blister cards, and follow directions to complete the packaging process.

Those choosing not to use the pre-packaged medication process will be assessed a \$100 fee, unless you have received prior approval from Gail Chynoweth.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

PRE-PACKAGED MEDICATIONS

Exceptions will be made for items like Epi-Pens, inhalers, manufacturer individually dosed/packaged medication, and any medication started 30 days prior to their session start date. Please clear any other medication exception with Gail Chynoweth.

For questions related to pre-packaged medications, please email AMAC at contact@amacrxs.com. Emails will be responded to within 24 hours. For emergencies, call 888-722-5579.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation and commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of our entire camp community.

MEDICAL STAFF AND SUPPLIES

Your child's health and safety is our absolute, number one priority. Each staff member working on our Teen Programs is certified in Wilderness First Responder and CPR. Staff members are also lifeguards. Doctors and nurses at the Camp Clinic are accessible by phone at all times. Every precaution is taken to safeguard the health of each and every camper. In addition to the clinic staff, a licensed social worker is available for consultation. The programs are supplied with a listing of the nearest medical facilities and consult with the Camp Clinic throughout the summer. The Wilderness First Responder course trains our staff to manage medical situations when they are an hour or more from a first responder. This includes while the campers are in remote backcountry situations, or even on a day hike.

Each program is also supplied with multiple satellite phones that can be used to contact the proper authorities or medical personnel in the case of an emergency. In addition, each program carries a fully stocked first aid kit, including such items as dressings, splints, bandages, over-the-counter and other medications, antibiotic, antifungal, steroid ointments, and Epi-Pens. Our medical staff provide training on how and when to use the supplies provided by our clinic, medication administration and on common illnesses and injuries that occur at camp.

THE SUMMER

DIRECTOR

In addition to the counselors, there is a director who is responsible for each program, both in the summer and the off-season. These are older, more experienced, professional staff members who have proven themselves as leaders at camp and in the wilderness.

COUNSELORS

Your teen's counselors are college students and graduates who have camp work experience or other informal education experience in settings working with children. Staff members report to camp several weeks before camp begins for highly-focused training facilitated by the Director of Teen Programs and outpost directors. Our staff training provides our counselors with the necessary tools to be able to handle camper issues, and when necessary, to bring challenging situations to the director. Also, our counselors are trained on emergencies procedures, and to seek additional support when necessary. Staff training includes sessions on leadership, Tamarack values, camper security, how to motivate campers, and how to spot and handle incidents of abuse by and among their campers and other staff.

LUGGAGE

Unlike Camp Maas, luggage should be brought to the bus on departure day. Our super-human staff will help to load bags onto the bus. **Luggage is limited to ONE duffel per camper.** Hiking boots, sleeping pads, and sleeping bags may be tied together to load separately from the duffel. Pillows and day packs may be carried onto the bus.



THE SUMMER

DEPARTURE DAY

Please be sure to come to the bus on departure day with:

- A daypack loaded with rain gear, a sweatshirt, long pants, hiking socks, bug dope, and bus materials (books, cards, games, etc.).
- A water bottle filled with water
- Duffel bag, sleeping bag, sleeping pad and pillow

This year, we ask that parents stay in the car after dropping their camper off. Only one car will be allowed at departure and arrival to reduce the number of people.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

If your teen's birthday falls during the summer, the staff and campers will make your teen's birthday special for them. The celebration varies based upon where the group is during the birthday. Reminder, no packages are permitted, even for summer birthday gifts.

CAMPER PHONE CALLS

Campers will call home on scheduled phone days. Parents will be notified ahead of time when to expect a phone call. Campers will be provided with a camp cell phone to call home to talk to parents for a few minutes. From past experience, phone calls are typically made in the late afternoon or early evening.

Because campers will not have their own personal cell phones, we encourage parents to write down important phone numbers (cell, home, etc.) for the campers to keep with them. Campers will be permitted to call each parent, however, there is not time for teens to call friends and other family members.

As previously noted, campers are not permitted to bring cell phones to camp.

THE SUMMER

MAIL

Please write to your teen a few times during the summer. It means a great deal to campers to hear from home and mail is always a fun time.

PACKAGES

We have a strict no-package policy. We accept letters and cards only – no large envelopes. Over the past years, despite rules limiting size and contents, we have seen an overwhelming increase in the amount of prohibited items like food (including non-kosher items and various electronics). Unfortunately, this creates challenges—especially in terms of health (protecting campers with food allergies). If a package is sent, it will not be delivered to your camper, and, instead, will be returned to sender (at sender's expense). To avoid potential frustration, please share this policy with other family members and friends. When packing, please consider including extra allowable items, such as books, magazines, comics, stationery, and fun games. Of course, should you forget to send your child with a critical item necessary for the camp experience (specific shoes, for example), exceptions will be granted, but must be coordinated directly with the camp office.

CAMP KENNEDY ADDRESS:

Camper's Name
Camp Kennedy
E16699 H-58
Shingleton, MI 49884

CAMP OLMSTED ADDRESS:

Camper's Name
c/o Tamarack Camps
Camp Olmsted
3123 Roper Hollow Rd
Russell, PA 16345

THE SUMMER

EMAIL AND FAX

It is not possible for emails or faxes to be sent to any of the Teen Programs - only traditional USPS mail is available.

PHOTOS

Throughout the course of the summer, we will post pictures approximately once per week. The purpose of this initiative is to provide a flavor of our various activities and photographs are randomly selected. It is possible that your teen may not appear in a picture, which is not indicative of a negative experience.

LAST DAY

Campers complete their summer at Adat Shalom Synagogue (29901 Middlebelt Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48334). Each family will receive an email two or three days before the end of the summer to confirm the approximate time to meet the campers and bus.

LOST AND FOUND

Throughout the summer, staff will work to return all lost items directly to the campers. If, after returning home, items are found, families will be notified of all found items.

GRATUITY/TIPS

While we certainly aspire to hire staff members that warrant your positive recognition, Tamarack Camps and the ACA (American Camp Association) prefer a contribution to the camp in honor of a staff member. If you make a contribution to Tamarack Camps, the staff member(s) will be notified and recognized appropriately.



THE SUMMER

CODE OF CONDUCT

Prior to camp's commencement, every camper and parent or legal guardian of a camper must, as a condition of the camper participating in camp, agree to comply with our "Camper Code of Conduct," which provides a detailed explanation of acceptable behavior. Please carefully and thoroughly review this Camper Code of Conduct with your camper, which is found in the medical forms on CampDoc.

- I will have a positive attitude and actively participate at camp.
- I will cooperate during all activities and trips and respect all staff.
- I will be responsible for myself and abide by the group's schedule and all other aspects of the program.
- I will not endanger myself or place anyone else in a harmful situation.
- I will maintain a healthy lifestyle by taking care of myself physically and emotionally. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Eating appropriately
 - Staying hydrated
 - Getting enough sleep
 - Taking all required medications
 - Following directions
 - Not engaging in any type of self-harm, i.e. cutting
 - Not engaging in any language threatening self-harm or suicidal ideation
- I will not engage in scapegoating, physically aggressive behavior or bullying including but not limited to:
 - Pushing
 - Kicking
 - Hitting
 - Pranks/Hazing

THE SUMMER

CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will honor and respect camp's inclusive community. I will not engage in verbally aggressive behavior or bullying including but not limited to:
 - Discrimination based on gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical appearance, disability, or other personal characteristic
 - Racial, religious, or ethnic slurs
 - Spreading rumors
 - Any name calling
 - Pranks/hazing
 - Intimidation
- I will not be involved in any inappropriate sexual behavior. Campers are not allowed in any cabins or living areas other than their own.
- I will not bring a cell phone to camp or my program, nor will I use someone else's cell phone at any time. I will not bring tablets, or other digital devices that have internet capability.
- I will not possess or use any illegal or dangerous substances included but not limited to:
 - Drugs and/or alcohol
 - Cigarettes or tobacco
 - E-cigarettes, vapes and/or juuls
- I will not pierce or tattoo any parts of my body.
- I will respect the property of camp, the possessions of my peers and staff at camp and all places I visit within my program. Parents may be responsible for damages. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Graffiti or vandalism of any kind
 - Stealing
- I will not possess any weapons or anything that can be used as a weapon, including any type of knives.
- I will stay with my group at all times and not leave or attempt to leave the group without permission.
- I will wear my mask at appropriate times.
- I will report any violation of this Code of Conduct that I witness to a responsible adult, such as a counselor, supervisor, or director.

THE SUMMER

CODE OF CONDUCT

Tamarack Camps is committed to providing each camper with a safe, fun and healthy environment. To ensure the best possible experience, this Camper Code of Conduct outlines appropriate camper behavior. Please review this document with your child(ren) and have them sign it in CampDoc.

In the event that a camper's actions and/or behavior violates any component of this code, the director team and camper care team will work, when appropriate, with the camper, counselors and supervisors to create appropriate interventions. Some scenarios will require a child to be dismissed immediately, based on the severity of the situation. In other situations, children will be given a second chance. If the negative behavior continues it may lead to dismissal from camp at the parent's expense.

Additionally, if a camper is injured, unable or unwilling to complete any aspects of the experience, or the camper's presence causes concern for the health, safety, or welfare of the camper or others, he or she may be dismissed from the program.

When a child is dismissed from camp it can be devastating to them and to their peers, therefore we ask that the child is picked up as soon as possible. Campers who are dismissed for breaking our code of conduct cannot return during the summer.

If the camper would like to apply to return for subsequent summers, we invite them to do so. Their application will be thoroughly reviewed by the director team with consult from our social workers and others deemed necessary. We may require school references to determine whether the behavior has been resolved. This process is ongoing and a decision will be made by spring.

In the event that there is a significant change in the child's emotional, behavioral or medical well-being, Tamarack Camps reserves the right to withdraw our acceptance of the camper at any time. The decision to dismiss a camper from camp is made by the director with appropriate input from senior leadership.

THE FAILURE OF A CAMPER TO COMPLY WITH THIS CAMPER CODE OF CONDUCT WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINE UP TO AND INCLUDING CAMPER DISMISSAL.

ADMINISTRATION

CAMP OFFICE INFORMATION

Beginning June 23rd:

Sunday through Thursday 8:30 am to 9:00 pm

Friday 8:30 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday Closed in observance of Shabbat

After hours or on Saturday, calls for urgent matters or medical purposes are always accepted. In those cases, please call our summer office, 248-627-2821, where our prompts will direct you accordingly.

City Office

248-647-1100

6735 Telegraph Road

Suite 380

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments. It's going to be a great summer at Tamarack Camps!

We can't wait to see you this summer!

