

## **New Camper Orientation Live Chat Q&A – May 13, 2014**

**Teresa** How far to the closest grocery store?

**Andy** Hi Teresa - The adorable baby is our Executive Director Niki's son! The closest grocery store is about a 20 minute drive away in Ely, but we do have eggs, milk, bread and snacks available in our trading post. Looking forward to having you up!

**Jessica** 17 miles to Ely. You will go through Ely on the way, so it's good to stop at Zup's when you pass it. You'll find it easily right on 169 as it goes through Ely.

**Teresa** We are bringing our pop up camper. Someone in our group uses a sleep machine. Is there somewhere we charge its batteries during the day? Thanks

**Niki** Yes, definitely. Or we can run an extension cord to your site.

**Teresa** An extension cord would be awesome!!! We were planning to buy the battery but it is pricey.

**Niki** Where are you staying?

**Niki** We can just run a cord from the food cache if you are in the auto tent sites with your pop up!

**Teresa** We did not see any bikes in the new camper video. No bikes at camp?

**Niki** We don't discourage bikes, but it isn't the most bike friendly road. We don't allow bikes on the paths, just the road. People definitely bring them, but we worry a bit about safety with neighbors driving on the road.

**Teresa** Some in our group have canoed. Others have not. Is there instruction or a class?

**Andy** There is a canoe demonstration on the first Sunday of camp to go over the basics. Also - our Outdoor Activity Center staff would be happy to help anyone that wants a little more guidance. It's also fun to just go paddle in circles for awhile until it starts to make sense!

**Teresa** My 5 year old son would like to know if there paddleboats?

**Andy** There is a paddleboat. He'll have to enjoy it with an adult, but I'm sure he'll love it!

**Teresa** I just mailed our dining request form. Will we receive a confirmation?

**Niki** Yes, you will definitely get a confirmation from our Customer Service Center. If you don't hear anything soon though, just give them a call!

**Shannon** Hi Niki! Do we need to bring sleeping bags and our own pillows if we stay in a platform cabin?

**Andy** Hi Shannon - You will definitely want to bring your own bedding. Whether that's sleeping bags or bedsheets is up to you. Sometimes sleeping bags can be warmer though, so maybe a good idea to have some on hand. Thanks for the question!

**Shannon** Is camp a fun place for babies and toddlers? I'm also worried it will be more work than fun as a parent. Thoughts?

**Niki** Camp is the perfect place for parents with little ones. Age groups is great because we watch your kids for 2.5 hours every morning! All of the programming is completely optional, so you can do as much or as little as you want. It definitely is work sometimes when you are chasing a toddler around, but that would be true for any vacation. At least you'll be with a whole lot of people that have been through it too!

**Ellie** Where do campers go in severe weather?

**Andy** Hi Ellie - We have locations in each village where campers can go in case of severe weather. You will be notified by staff if severe weather is imminent. Thanks for the question!

**Marnie** Besides bedding, towels, sunscreen, bug spray, snacks, what do you recommend bringing? I'm a bit daunted by packing for our family with a 1 and 3 year old. Be honest, do most people wear much of the same clothes throughout the week? What about going to the showers? Do people wear robes or what? These are the things I'm stressing about.

**Niki** Don't stress! There is no right or wrong. Long time campers definitely say that they brought WAY too much stuff their first year, though. Where are you staying?

**Marnie** We're in McKenzie. Thank you so much for hosting this chat! I'm getting very excited for our week at camp so this timing is perfect. Your little guy is soo adorable by the way.

**Niki** I have a 6 month old and a 2 year old at camp and I do try to bring a couple of changes of clothes per day for them.

**Niki** As far as going to the showers, most folks walk over to the bathhouse in regular clothes and just change in the changing area.

**Niki** Also, make sure to bring layers- especially if you are coming early in the summer. Early mornings and nights can be a little chilly!

**Marnie** Oh, and we'll be bringing a pack and play. If the cabin is cozy and we need room to fit it in, is it easy to move a bed out for the week?

**Andy** A pack and play should fit in Mackenzie. If you feel you need more space we'll check it out and see what kind of accommodations we can make.

**Marnie** Awesome. We don't need lots of room so it sounds like it will be just fine!

**Marnie** I'm hopeful there will be other young kiddos the week we are there. Is there typically a good mix of ages each week?

**Niki** It's usually a very good mix of ages. We actually seem to have a good number of little ones each week!

**Amanda** Can we have overnight guests for a night or two? Our cabin isn't at capacity and we have family we're trying to convince to become duNorders.

**Niki** Yes, this is completely ok as long as we are aware and that they sign a waiver!

**Kathy** Wear flip flops to the shower house. Wear them while you are showering. Have a bag to hold your towels, shampoo, soap, and clothes you will be changing into.

**Niki** Excellent advice!

**Kate** I'm not a new camper, but my niece who's coming with us this year is -- we are adding a person to the Director's cabin -- any room for a bed on the porch...?!

**Niki** Such a great porch for sleeping! If you are still under 6 people, you can put a mattress out on the porch.

**Kathleen** Two questions....1) We are adding a camper to our cabin (we still won't be at capacity) what forms do we need to complete? 2) When do we receive the dining forms?

**Niki** Hi Kathleen! Just make sure we get a waiver for the added person and let Dana Kunin in our Customer Service Center know. The meal request form is on our Forms and Publications page in our website. I post the link in just a second.

**Nicole** Can you describe the platform cabins? We are in Moose and haven't seen them.

**Andy** The platform cabins are very nice. The sleeping room has two queen beds with XL twins above them. There is also a front porch with a stainless steel table for cooking and preparation.

**Nicole** To wear a watch or not wear a watch?

**Andy** Good question! It really depends on your plans for the day/week. If you are planning on participating in a lot of programming then it's not a bad idea, but if you're planning on taking the day as it comes, then leave your watch in your cabin! It might just depend on the day.

**Nicole Glowacki** If we plan to fish, do we need to purchase a license before we arrive?

**YMCA Camp du Nord** Sure do! Those that are over 16 need a license. Gas stations in Ely sell them!