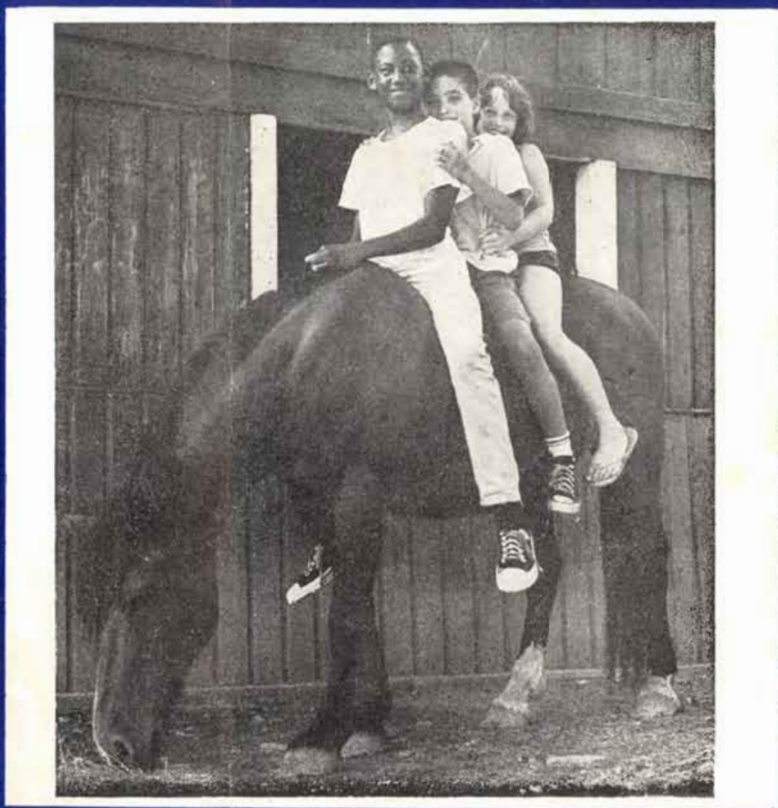


UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT CAMP



INFORMATION FOR
CAMPERS and PARENTS

BE SURE TO READ
AND KEEP THIS HELPFUL BOOKLET!

DESCRIPTION AND PHILOSOPHY

"Children are as much entitled to open air, to open places, to acquaintance with nature and her wonders, as they are entitled to justice and love and a fair chance."

— LUTHER BURBANK

It is the purpose of University Settlement Camp to provide these opportunities for its campers through its facilities and its staff.

The camp is located on a 200 acre site in Beacon, New York. The grounds are an unusual combination of wild and semi-cultivated land just at the foot of imposing Mount Beacon. There are extensive lawns and gardens, open meadows and acres and acres of rugged terrain covered with mixed hardwood and evergreen timber. Much of this timberland is unexplored and uncharted, offering excitement to the adventurous. For the less experienced campers, the farm and gardens provide a chance to become friends with living things while they are outgrowing nature's "terrors".

The staff of University Settlement Camp, led by experienced social workers, is committed to the democratic process in group living and in working with individuals. We are concerned about the growing child and the attitudes he develops, attitudes towards himself, towards other people, towards society, towards life. We are concerned about helping each child learn how to get along a little easier with other children and adults; about helping him participate in a democratic group experience where what he thinks and feels will have bearing on what he and others do; about helping him accept and not be afraid of difference in other people; about exposing him to new, creative and enriching experiences. We are concerned about helping each child develop a sense of respect and self-respect, a sense of responsibility to others and to himself, about helping him derive satisfaction and joy from whom he is with and what he is doing.

The camp is non-profit and co-ed and serves children 7 to 14 years old from diverse ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds. At capacity we accommodate 168 children during each of three, three week periods.



OUR STAFF

The most important part of any camp is its staff. We regard our staff highly, and have endless respect for the devotion, integrity and personal qualities always evidenced by them in the past.

There are over 90 people on our staff, 60 of whom are on our program staff. *Our counselors are* mostly those college students and graduates who are interested in making social work, education or the social sciences their career. All of our counselors have completed at least one year of college; however, this is only a minimum requirement as many of them are juniors, seniors and graduate students.



BUNKING

Each camper is assigned to a "bunk" or cabin group of approximately ten children of the same age and sex. There are six children in the youngest groups. Each small group has a full-time counselor and an assistant counselor and is housed in a screened cabin with its own toilet facilities.

This small group is the heart of the camp program, for each can plan its own program within the camp structure. Each group has ample opportunity to make use of the specialists and special facilities.

UNITS are composed of approximately four bunks and are directed by an experienced Unit Supervisor. This unit provides for inter-group activities on a larger scale and of more variation. A unit may provide the inspiration for

ALL-CAMP PROGRAMS, which include all units from the tots through the teenage work campers. These events might be a water carnival, a nature day, an olympics, a circus, a cultural festival, a dramatic production or any of a wide range of other programs.



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DEPARTURE AND RETURN

Parents will be notified of the day and time of departure and return. Everyone is requested to be prompt and cooperative at these times so that the trip may begin and end smoothly.

BAGGAGE

All baggage, including trunks, that is brought to the bus on the day of departure will be taken to camp via the camp truck. Parents who prefer to send baggage via Railway Express should do so at least a week before the child leaves for camp. Baggage sent to camp via Railway Express must be PREPAID. Unless the Camp Director is otherwise notified, baggage will come from camp the same way it was sent. Each camper will receive tags for his baggage.



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MEALS

All meals at camp are served at regular times of the day and are planned to be interesting, nourishing and well-balanced. Although the dining hall is large, it is divided into several sections. Meals are served family-style to provide an atmosphere of intimacy and "homeyness".

Bedtime snacks are provided and special menus may be planned for cookouts, hikes and special events.

Although campers are encouraged to try new foods, no one is forced to eat. It is hoped that the varied menu will appeal to all tastes.

The camp cannot provide special diets. There is sufficient variety at each meal to compensate those children who may not be permitted to eat a particular food.

CANTEEN

The camp canteen carries a supply of candy, refreshments, stationery and toilet items for the campers' pleasure and for those who run short. The need for the items is so minimal that parents are requested not to supply children with more than is billed for the three week period. Money for canteen should be sent in at the same time fees are paid. Money will not be accepted from parents at the bus. Purchases made from the canteen are deducted from the amount deposited, and any balance remaining is refunded on the child's last day at camp.

PERSONAL CARE

Clothing. Parents will be sent a minimum clothing list which we recommend be studied carefully. Since the campers, with the supervision of staff, are responsible for their own belongings, we cannot stress enough the importance of your marking your child's name legibly and permanently on all belongings. In addition, it is essential that you paste a list of all belongings inside your child's luggage or send one along with your child to give to his counselor.

There will be a Lost and Found at camp, and every effort will be made to return lost items to their owners. We regret, however, that we cannot be held responsible for lost articles.

Laundry. Campers' laundry will be washed and dried commercially once during each three week trip. Midway during the trip each camper's soiled clothing will be collected and sent to the laundry and be returned clean the following day. Clean clothing will not be ironed. A minimal fee will be charged each camper for laundry service. The camp is not responsible for clothing that is lost, damaged or destroyed by the laundry.

Washing and Bathing. There is an ample supply of cold water all over camp. Each bunk has its own washing facilities. In a central location, there are separate shower houses for boys and girls where hot water is available every day for the use of the campers.

Bedding. The camp provides each camper with linens, blankets and a pillow. It is not necessary for anyone to bring his own bedding.



THE INDIVIDUAL CAMPER

Although much of camp life is group-centered, a great deal of attention is paid to the health, safety and adjustment of each individual. No camper is "pressured" into an activity. While a camper may wish to be alone, he need never feel lonely.

The camp's infirmary is modern and well-equipped. There is a registered nurse at camp, and an assistant, who are in close touch with the campers and counselors at all times. There is a camp physician nearby on twenty-four hour call.

The entire staff is trained to be alert to safety in all activities.

CAMPERS' MAIL

The highlight of a camper's day can be a letter from home. We ask all parents and relatives to write short, cheerful notes to the campers. Do write often, please!

Camp Address: University Settlement Camp
Beacon, New York 12508

The staff will encourage all campers to write home regularly. We cannot guarantee that a busy, active camper will do this, but we would appreciate it if you would contact us in the event that your child is not writing regularly.

The camp discourages parents from sending campers food and candy, unless it is in celebration of a special occasion such as a birthday. This too, is not essential, for the camp provides a birthday cake and a party for those campers who have a birthday during their stay at camp.

VISITORS—Parents and relatives are not permitted to visit campers, because experience has shown that these visits can be both disrupting and disturbing. We must be very firm about this, and we ask your cooperation and understanding. PLEASE DO NOT VISIT YOUR CHILD. Enjoy your vacation and your child will enjoy camp!

TELEPHONE CALLS may have the same effect as a visit, so we ask you not to call your child at camp. Any inquiries or messages regarding your child should be communicated through the city office, OR 4-9120 or the Camp Director, 914 831-3850.

OPEN HOUSE—Prior to the opening of camp on a Sunday in June, campers and their families are invited to visit the camp. Parents will be notified of the date. Particularly for new campers, this open house will be of help in easing their adjustment.

Parents of prospective campers who wish to visit camp during the off-season should inquire at our city office for the procedure.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES—Since we are a non-sectarian camp, we do not hold religious services at camp. If it is requested, we do provide for campers to attend worship services in the local community.

A FINAL NOTE—Please be assured that our staff will make every effort to help your child have a healthy, safe, enjoyable and meaningful experience at University Settlement Camp.

**UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT
184 ELDRIDGE STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10002
OR 4-9120**

**UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT CAMP
BEACON, NEW YORK 12508
914—831-3850**