

# WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

*Mainly, bring a smile... but here is what else you will need.*



## SOME BASIC GUIDELINES

### **Limit the Amount of Stuff They Bring**

Further on in this booklet (and available on our website) is our “*WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP LIST*”. Remember that it is just a **suggested** list, intended simply as a guideline. Typical shelf space comfortably accommodates only so much clothing & gear. Camp is all about being resourceful by making the most of having just enough. You are not doing anyone a favour by sending complete wardrobes. Laundry goes out every week and comes back the following day. Therefore, campers only require one week’s worth of clothing.

By limiting the number of bags, we are advising that you pack light. We always advise **in favour** of sending used well-worn items and **against** sending designer type clothing or anything of great value. Tamakwa is meant to be a down-to-earth non-competitive environment, where we live in sweats, shorts, jeans, etc. For that reason, we have always resisted recommending any additional purchases for camp. Besides, we are sensitive to the fact that camp is costly enough without asking you to spend any more than necessary to outfit your child for camp. However, if there is one area in particular that we DO advise you to purchase wisely, it is OUTDOOR GEAR...

## SOME HELPFUL TIPS FROM OUR CANOE TRIPPING STAFF

At Tamakwa, weather (silver days) is no obstacle for enjoying outdoor living, camp activity, and out of camp canoe trips. When it comes to gear, experience tells us what works and what doesn’t. With a little more thought and approximately the same cost, your children will be better prepared to enjoy the Tamakwa-Algonquin experience.

### **Life Jacket**

Each camper, CIT, and staff member **MUST** bring a **government-approved** life jacket to camp that fits properly. Because they’re worn for canoeing, sailing, kayaking, and all other water sports, we recommend the vest type. They allow for more maneuverability than the type that fits over the head.

### **Sleeping Bags – one per child**

Synthetic fibre-filled bags are warm, quick-drying, lightweight, and can be packed into small stuff bags. A three-season bag is sufficient. Huge flannel lined sleeping bags do not dry quickly and they do not fit into packs, please do not send them. **Synthetic sleeping bags only.**

### **Rain Gear – have your raincoat in your carry-on bag; NOT in your duffels**

Those plastic ponchos that come in the snap-able plastic packages are useless. While we can’t expect anyone to invest in Gore-Tex, a sturdy nylon or even polypropylene coated nylon is best. Good sealed seams are critical. A two-piece set, separate jacket and pants, is highly recommended. Single poncho-style rain gear is ineffective.

### **Water Bottles**

Water bottles are vital for use in camp at day-to-day activities and of course out of camp on canoe trips and cookouts. Having 2 is better than 1 just in case one gets lost. NALGENE, KLEEN CANTEEN or other BPA free, durable bottles work best at camp. PLEASE be sure to put names on them in permanent marker.

### **Footwear for Trips**

Footwear will get wet and muddy. Old ragged shoes do not offer sufficient support. Sturdy walking shoes, hiking shoe-boots or even running shoes are much better.

### **Socks**

Again, on canoe trips out-of-camp where feet can get wet, we recommend wool socks or “smart wool”. For in-camp activity, cotton is just fine.

### **Dry Bags**

These are those strong rubber waterproof bags for packing sleeping bags & personal items on canoe trips and can also be used on cookout days. The absolute best size to purchase is 30 Liters. Seal Line or MEC have been the most durable brands. For this item, it is best to purchase a top quality brand, as these can last an entire canoe tripping career.

## CAMP GEAR FROM "PERFECT TRADING CO." STORE IN MICHIGAN

A fantastic selection of camp gear is available at the amazing store, "Perfect Trading Co.", owned and operated by Tamakwa family Brian and Audrey Klayman (parents of Hannah, Becca, and Drew):

3643 W. Maple Road  
(SE corner of Lahser and Maple)  
Bloomfield Township, MI  
248-792-5949 (www.myperfecttrading.com)



Perfect Trading Co. offers all Tamakwa families a special **20% discount** on everything for camp, including in-stock and non-sale items. Their selection includes duffel bags, backpacks, sleeping bags, water bottles, bed sheets, lights, dry bags, shoes, pillows, a great inventory of clothing and much more. Private appointments are available.

## MORE TIPS AND GUIDELINES

### **2 Blank White T-shirts**

Silk screening and tie-dying T-shirts is very popular at camp. Every summer there is usually a reason to proudly wear a printed emblem that marks an event, a particular program, a theme day, or sometimes the group's "cabin insignia" in the form of a silk-screened t-shirt. Rather than print this on the back of a regular logoed article of clothing, it's a lot nicer to savor the memory of the summer by printing fresh on a clean t-shirt. We recommend sending two spare and inexpensive white t-shirts that will be reserved just for this purpose.

**(TIP: make sure they have name labels and send them in a zip lock bag for safe keeping until needed.)**

### **Soaps & Shampoos**

All soaps and shampoos **MUST BE BIODEGRADABLE**. These are non-polluting soaps and can be purchased at a variety of places. Labels may not list other expressions like "contains biodegradable ingredients"; they must be **100% biodegradable**. Using these soaps will help to preserve the Algonquin waters and the environment. This awareness is part of the Tamakwa experience and campers will not be allowed to bathe in the lake if these are brought to camp. Dr. Bronner's, Trader Joe's Refresh, Jason's, Kiss My Face, Original Sprout, Desert Essence Organics, Green Beaver, Body Shop Rainforest, Graydon Products, Acure, Hair Rules Carina Organics and Camp Suds are good options. Suave, Herbal Essence, Whole Foods 365, Ivory and Dove are **NOT** biodegradable or acceptable. Please **NO GLASS** containers.

### **C.A.M.P. Radio**

We have a camp radio station (the call letters are C.A.M.P.). Campers may bring a small radio to listen to camp radio in their cabins but we supply them for most cabins.

### **Musical Instruments**

Tamakwa is a very musical place. If you play a musical instrument, feel free to bring it with you to camp for talent shows, plays, and hamming it up in general.

### **Costumes**

Leftover from Halloween, Purim, school plays, whatever... **Costumes come in handy at camp for plays, talent shows, special events, and more.**

### **Games**

Board games - YES

Anything made for trading or gambling - NO

### **Regarding Electronic Devices**

Camp is about simplicity and enjoying life without all the high-tech gadgets of city life. Electronic devices are just not part of the Tamakwa-Algonquin experience.

**SEE PAGE 22 FOR PROHIBITED ITEMS**