

At Winnewald Day Camp, youngsters meet new friends, play sports, make crafts, and enjoy the outdoors

Kids have all the fun, don't they?

When summertime rolls around in four months, it's all about finding something for them to do to occupy their day. No homework, no bus rides, no early morning wake-ups, no school.

Keeping kids busy for two months can take a lot of planning for parents but a day camp option opens up new opportunities for youngsters to meet new friends, play sports, make crafts and simply get outside and have fun. According to The Nature Conservancy, a global environmental nonprofit, introducing different natural environments to children can help them think beyond their immediate surroundings and build well-rounded perspectives.

That's where Winnewald Day Camp in Clinton Township comes in. Every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., kids leave behind their cell phones and electronic devices to explore the great outdoors and play with fellow campers in groups ranging in age from 5 to 13.

They get introduced to fun adventures such as fishing in Prescott Brook, handling a bow and arrow for target archery, playing tennis or pickle ball, learning to swim in one of two heated pools, hiking through



Campers get introduced to a variety of adventures, including fishing, archery, tennis and pickle ball, swimming, drama classes, hiking and many other types of fun and games.

the camp's 30-acre forest and wetlands, taking drama classes, and many other activities depending on the day and age appropriateness.

Small camper groups allow the counselors to provide individual attention to their charges. The ratio is approximately seven campers to one staff leader.

Whether for just one week or up to seven weeks, registration is already open with current tuition pricing posted for all enrollments via the website, www.Winnewald.com. Additional before/after hour costs are listed for early morning drop-offs or late pick-ups as well. Parents of prospective campers with special needs are encouraged to register



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at least four weeks prior to their preferred enrollment week(s).

Camp owner Bob Jones, a former educator, lives on the camp's well-maintained, manicured grounds. He took over the private camp 56 years ago to continue bringing options to families who prefer to have their young ones play in a positive, safe, controlled environment with caring adults monitoring their activities. A full-time health/first aid person is also on staff.

He attributes Winnewald's success to consistent ownership, a loyal leadership team and the variety of outdoor educational and recreational activities offered. For more than 70 years, Winnewald has been the place to let children freely explore nature and new interests each summer.

Jones is especially proud of the Conversation Time program in which the counselors pick a topic for the kids to discuss following the CAMP principles of Consideration, Attitude, Manners and Participation, which artfully teaches campers to get along with others.

"We often say that Winnewald is a hidden gem in Hunterdon County," he said.

Mostly staffed by certified teachers and college students, many of whom are former campers, Winnewald offers new opportunities for qualified counselors each year including for retirees. Jones is currently interviewing individuals for a June start and encourages candidates to apply.

"People who are interested in children and

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the out-of-doors," he said describing what makes a great camp counselor. "That's what we're looking for."

For college students, he likens the experience to an internship noting that elements of a great resume comprise leadership, goal setting, teamwork and planning — all of which can be acquired through the role of counselor.

Even students entering the ninth grade can prepare for a junior counselor position during their high school years by participating in the camp's leadership training program which grants them eligibility to serve.

Winnewald Day Camp is located off Routes 31 and 629 in Clinton Township. For more information, visit the website or call the camp office at 908-735-8336.

— Debra Stevko Miller



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