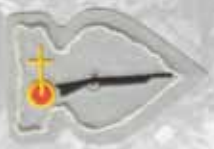




# Camp Ondessonk Ambassador Program



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# Camp Ondessonk Ambassador Program

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### *Enclosures:*

- Color brochures with registration form
- Camp Ondessonk Promotional DVD
- Your Ambassador ID number: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Other things to have with you:*

- Yearbooks from past summers
- Photo albums of camp memories
- A Lodge sash, if a member of the Lodge
- Crafts made at Camp Ondessonk



Dear Friends of Ondessonk,

Thank you for your interest in the Camp Ondessonk Ambassador program! Forming a partnership with families familiar with the benefits of our summer camp program provides a unique approach to promoting Ondessonk.

We know that the best way for us to share Camp with new campers is to let our current campers speak from their own experience. There is an excitement and truth that only current Camp families can impart. We know that you and your camper, more than anyone else, can conjure the magic of nights spent around a campfire, the view from the back of a horse, days filled with activity and laughter, the adrenaline of playing Wilderness Fort, the excitement of Marathon, and friendships that can last a lifetime.

There is extraordinary potential in word of mouth promotion, and we want to help you make your Camp Ondessonk event as successful as possible. As you identify the date of your event, please consider contacting us to inquire about the possibility of a representative from our leadership staff joining you. Together we can continue the Ondessonk tradition with families new to Camp.

Thank you for helping us share the joy of Camp Ondessonk. If you need anything, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Best Regards,

Evan Coulson  
Camping Services Director  
[evan.coulson@ondessonk.com](mailto:evan.coulson@ondessonk.com)  
618-695-2489, ext 104





## Camp Ondessonk Ambassador Program At-a-Glance

Help us spread the word about Camp Ondessonk by hosting a camper recruitment party in your home! From January 1<sup>st</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>, parents are encouraged to invite their children's friends and families into their homes to learn more about Camp Ondessonk. Any host family participating in the Ambassador program will receive a \$15 discount- reduced from your account balance- for each *new* camper signed up at their recruitment party.

- Who:** Parents and children who are excited about sharing the benefits of Camp Ondessonk with their child's friends, as well as looking for a way to keep the cost of their child's week at Camp Ondessonk down.
- What:** Approximately one to two hour long party/get-together. We recommend inviting friends over for a Camp Ondessonk info night / party and serving refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, or pizza. Plan to spend some time welcoming guests and socializing while everyone arrives- you can make this gathering as simple or elaborate as you like. Once everyone has had time to visit and perhaps enjoy snacks, gather in a room with a TV and DVD player to give a presentation and show the Camp Ondessonk video, as well as share your stories and photos.
- When:** Anytime between January 1<sup>st</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>. The earlier the better so your campers have a better chance at getting their first choice of session. We accept registrations on a first come, first served basis.
- Where:** Your home, church, or child's school. You'd be surprised how many families are willing to make a road-trip from a far-away state to attend Camp when they have friends to travel with. What a great way for your children to see a different part of the country! If you live near Southern Illinois, that's great too- lots of families aren't familiar with Ondessonk, or, they know about it but have not yet attended.
- Why:** Often, the best advertisement for a business is a satisfied customer, and at Ondessonk, we're blessed to have thousands of loyal supporters. Who better to tell other parents about the benefits of Camp than a parent who has seen those benefits first-hand in their own son or daughter? Of course, the \$15 off your child's camp fee for each new camper recruited doesn't hurt!



## Ambassador Program Frequently Asked Questions

Have a question not listed here? Call Evan Coulson at 618-695-2489, ext. 104.

### Who should I invite to my recruitment party?

Camp Ondessonk offers programs for children ages 8-16, so invite parents who have children in this age group. Encourage them to bring their kids as well- the video you will show is geared to pique their interest.

### What do I do? What do I say?

Words that come from the heart will be most sincere and effective, but it can be tough to know where to start. *Review the Presentation Outline for key points to touch on and ideas to get you going.* In general, your presentation will last 30-35 minutes: 5 minutes of general introduction, 15 minutes of video (provided by Camp), 5 minutes of more detailed information, and 5-10 minutes of questions.

### Who is considered to be a “new camper”?

For every new camper signed up at your recruitment party, you will receive \$15 off your child’s summer camp fee. A ‘new’ camper is defined as a child that has never attended Camp Ondessonk as a summer camper.

### How do I receive \$15 off or my balance for each new camper recruited?

- You must contact Camp Ondessonk to register as an Ambassador
- Your ambassador ID number must be listed on their registration form. See Figure 1 below for the location.  
Your ambassador ID number is: \_\_\_\_\_
- We must receive a registration form and deposit from the new camper no later than June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The amount will be deducted from the balance due for your summer camp registration fee. If you have paid for your Camp session in full, a refund check will be sent to your home address, up to the amount of the cost of your week at Camp for summer 2010.

Figure 1

### 2010 REGISTRATION FORM - CAMP ONDESSONK

3760 Ondessonk Road Ozark, IL 62972 Phone: 618-695-2489 Fax 618-695-3593 camp@ondessonk.com www.ondessonk.com

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_  
 School & City \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed as of 6/1/10 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male  Female   
 Dad Work # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mom Work # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dad Cell # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mom Cell # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Name & # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ambassador Program # \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Years at Camp (circle one) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

In order to keep my child safe, the following adults are the only people authorized to pick my child up from Camp Ondessonk:



## **Ambassador Program Frequently Asked Questions**

Have a question not listed here? Call Evan Coulson at 618-695-2489, ext. 104.

### **Can I use my \$15.00 for Trading Post merchandise?**

Sorry, no. Your \$15.00 credit will apply only to your registration enrollment fees for summer 2010. It may not be used for unit shirts, unit photos, bus fees, or trading post merchandise, nor may it be carried over to summer 2011.

### **Do my child's siblings qualify for the \$15.00 if they are recruited at our party?**

Siblings may take advantage of either the \$15 credit, or the multi-session discount, but not both. In almost all cases, your family will benefit more from taking the multi-session discount which is explained on the first page of the black & white brochure insert.

### **How many guests should I invite to my party?**

This decision is entirely up to you as the presenter. Obviously, the more families you invite, the more potential there is to sign up new campers. Work within your comfort zone- if you are uncomfortable with large groups, host a small party, or even better, several small parties. Public speaking not a problem? Round up the neighborhood!

### **Must my guests sign-up right away (at the actual party)?**

If your guests are comfortable filling out their registration form while at your home, by all means, go ahead; since you're familiar with this form and the registration process, you may be able to provide valuable insight. Most families will probably choose to take home the brochure you give them and talk it over in private. This is perfectly fine- the choice to try a new camp or be away from home for the first time is a big one. *Just make sure each registration form has your Ambassador Program # clearly printed on it before they leave your home!* This is the only way to ensure you receive your \$15 credit for the new camper using each form. Don't forget to follow-up with your guests a few days or a week after the party- you may be able to answer more questions for them or offer support in other ways.

### **My home is too small to accommodate lots of guests. Can I still be an Ambassador Host?**

If your home isn't large enough to accommodate all the guests you wish to invite, contact your local parish- you may be able to use their facilities to host a small meeting. Be creative in thinking of other gathering places. If you are comfortable presenting without the video, you can get together with friends at a local coffee shop or quiet restaurant. Alternately, you can always host several small parties to spread the word.

### **My family and another family would like to share the Ambassador Host responsibilities / host a party together. How will our credits be shared?**

It's great to have more than one testimonial at your party. Making sure everyone receives their credit can be a little tricky in this situation, though. Our policy is to credit the \$15.00 discount to the Ambassador host whose # is listed on the new camper's registration form. If *two or three* families share the hosting duties, you can split the registration forms equally among each family, ensuring everyone gets an equal number of registration forms with their name/ambassador ID number on them.



## Frequently Asked Questions about Camp from Parents

Have a question not listed here? Call Evan Coulson at 618-695-2489 ext. 104.

### How much does it cost?

**No fee increase for General Camp sessions, and fees reduced for Adventure Camps for Summer 2010!** Camp Ondessonk has adopted a new pricing structure. Full information is located on the registration form. Prices below are the lowest (Rate C) prices.

Mini: \$215, Traditional: \$399, Adventure: \$450-\$750, CIT: \$475, Lodge: \$500.

There is a 10% discount for the second session of camp purchased by one family, and a 20% discount for the third session.

### Is there financial assistance?

The Campership Fund is available to help families with financial need. If you are interested, please contact Becky Jennings, registrar, at [becky.jennings@ondessonk.com](mailto:becky.jennings@ondessonk.com) for an application. Camperships generally do not exceed 50% of the total camp fee.

### What safety measures are in place?

Camp Ondessonk takes caring for your child very seriously. To that end, there are several safety measures in place. All of our staff successfully complete a criminal background check, a child abuse and neglect background check, and attend a training that focuses on child development and teaching skills. Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA), a national organization that reviews camps on over 300 standards. Additionally, the Ondessonk Stables is accredited by the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA).

### What is the staff-to-camper ratio?

Approximately 1:6.

### What if my child gets sick or homesick?

Camp has a Health Center located in the main area. It is open 24 hours and is under the direction of an RN. We also have a local MD on call, as well as emergency care through a hospital approximately a 30 minute drive away. Homesickness is dealt with on an individual basis. In severe cases, parents will be called by the Health Center staff. It's ok to be homesick- most children experience this feeling on some level. If this is something you're concerned about, talk it over with your child and prepare for it before he/she comes to camp by staying overnight with friends, etc. Please do not tell your child that you will come pick them up from Camp if they are homesick- this rarely happens and sets your child up to fail.

### What if my child has special health needs?

Please contact the Camp office to speak with the Executive Director. We are able to accommodate a wide range of allergies and other health issues.

### What are the age requirements?

To attend Mini-Camp, a child must be 8 or 9 years of age by the beginning of the mini-camp session. For week-long camp, they must be at least 10 by the start of their chosen camp session. See age requirements in the Camp Ondessonk brochure for adventure camps.



**Are there volunteer opportunities?**

It is possible to volunteer while your child is a camper, but *Ondessonk discourages parents of first-year campers from volunteering due to the risk of homesickness for your child and the others in his/her unit.* Volunteers may not bring children who are not enrolled in a camp session. In order to minimize homesickness and provide a full camp experience to all campers, Ondessonk asks parents/relatives of campers to limit their time spent with their children/relations to the camper's free time allotted before and after dinner. This amounts to approximately two hours each day. By limiting visits to this time only, Camp Ondessonk aims to minimize disruption to units as they attend activities and eat their meals.

**Will my child go to church during the week?**

Yes, an outdoor service on Sunday, one "Council" session (learning about the namesakes of Camp Ondessonk) during the week, and optional prayer services available each day.

**How far away is it?**

This will depend on where the guests of your Ambassador night live. Give a rough estimate of the distance from where you live. Don't forget to let your guests know about Camp Ondessonk's bus service!

**Which is the best unit?**

Each unit has its own unique properties. There is no one "best" unit. If you are having trouble picking a first choice, visit the camp website, [www.ondessonk.com](http://www.ondessonk.com), to view a map of camp and see pictures of each unit.

**How much money should I send with my child?**

\$25-\$30 is usually enough for the Trading Post.

**How much free time will my child have?**

About 2 hours a day. We try to give plenty of time to relax and hang out, but also enough time to try new activities to keep each day exciting.

**Can my child come if we're not Catholic?**

Of course! While many at Camp Ondessonk come from a Catholic background, campers, staff, and volunteers do not have to be Catholic to attend.



## Frequently Asked Questions about Camp from Kids

Have a question not listed here? Call Evan Coulson at 618-695-2489 ext. 104.

- What kind of food do they serve?** Some examples are pizza, tacos, hot dogs, spaghetti, BBQ, fried chicken, and ravioli.
- What time do we go to bed?** Around 10 p.m.
- What if I don't want to do an activity?** You'll be having so much fun you'll want to do them all. You'll learn how to do each activity the first time you visit each station.
- What is Wilderness Fort?** Wilderness Fort is tons of fun, but it's hard to explain. It's a camp-wide activity played on Tuesday night. It's a chaotic mixture of hide-and-seek, flashlight tag, and capture-the-flag; when you get to camp, your unit leader can explain all the details to you.
- What are the showers like?** We have three shower houses that all have curtained shower stalls. You can bathe in your swimsuit if you prefer.
- What are the bathrooms like?** Some are flushable, while others are outhouses located at each unit.
- Can I bring my own bow/gun?** No. You'll be using takedown re-curve bows and shooting .22 caliber rifles. If your parents don't want you to shoot either one of these, you don't have to, but we do teach and stress safety techniques for both.
- Can I call home?** No, but you can write letters instead. Your parents can send you letters and even Bunk One notes (see [www.ondessonk.com](http://www.ondessonk.com)) while you are at camp too.
- Why can't I bring electronics?** It will be your vacation away from all those things. There will be many other things to listen to and watch. Camp also doesn't want your things to get broken or lost.
- How many horses do you have?** Over 75. You'll enjoy about 2 hours of riding time and you'll be riding western style!
- Do you play any sports there?** We have a marathon every Friday, which is a huge relay race. You'll have the chance to swim, canoe, build a fire, run, toss horseshoes, etc. There's also plenty of free time and wide open spaces to play Frisbee or other games throughout the week.





**Important Camp Ondessonk  
information you may wish to share**





## Child Protection at Camp Ondessonk

At Camp Ondessonk, camper safety comes first and foremost. Below is a sample of what is done to ensure our campers receive the best care based on over 300 standards set forth by the American Camp Association, Child Protection Policy set by the Catholic Diocese of Belleville, IL, as well as industry best-practices.

- Background checks on all full time staff
- Background checks on all summer seasonal staff
- Background checks on all summer volunteers
- Diocesan Child Protection training and refresher in-services
- On-site Mandated Reporter
- Mandated Reporter information training for staff
- Staff training, in-services and development sessions on
  - ✓ Camper Health Care
  - ✓ Homesickness
  - ✓ Bullying
  - ✓ Intruders
  - ✓ Emergency Procedures
  - ✓ Emergency Action Plans
  - ✓ Emergency Locations
  - ✓ Emergency Communications
- All Camp Staff trained in CPR and First Aid
- Unit Leaders carry basic First Aid kits
- Activity Areas possess fully stocked First Aid Kits
- Fully Stocked and Staffed Camp Health Center
- Daily over-site of an on-site Registered Nurse
- On-site First Responder available daily
- Various M.D.'s, P.A.'s, Nurse Practitioners, R.N.'s, L.P.N.'s and E.M.T.'s volunteer each week.
- Daily med calls and Health Center hours are provided for proper medicine distribution and *prn* sick call.
- Camp Contact initiated yearly with local Emergency Response Agencies
- On-site Camp Ranger patrols daily for security breaches and intruders.
- All visitors must check in with an office staff that is on duty from 8:00am to 11:00pm daily.
- Access controlled at entrance. All traffic must enter by the Camp office. Two other emergency access points to Camp are blocked by locked gates.
- Administrative Staff patrol the main area and Cabin areas at 1:00am daily for any signs of distress, intruders, safety violations or concerns.



- Administrative, security and medical staff available by radio daily.
- Administrative Staff are available by phone via the Camp emergency number 24 hours a day.
- Unit leaders carry basic camper information at all times and routinely conduct head checks.
- Campers are supervised by Camp staff at all times when they are in the unit, meals, or activity areas. Free time when campers congregate is supervised by staff positioned at bath houses, trading post and Main Area.
- Aquatics Area supervised by Aquatics Director with professional lifeguarding and emergency response certifications from nationally recognized certifying bodies. Lifeguarding staff create supervision ratio of 1:20
- Ondessonk Stables accredited by the Certified Horsemanship Association which holds equestrian programs accountable to a high level of safety practices and standards based on 'best-practices' in the industry.
- Camp Ondessonk is accredited by the American Camp Association which holds organized camping programs accountable to a high level of safety practices and standards based on 'best-practices' in the industry.
- All Camp Staff are directly supervised and evaluated by another staff in a direct supervisory situation, all the way up to the Executive Director, who then reports to Camp Ondessonk's Board of Directors and the Diocese of Belleville, IL.
- All campers are individually screened at the Camp Ondessonk Health Center upon arrival on check-in day.
- Detailed Health Records are requested and reviewed upon arrival for all staff and campers to minimize the risk of the spread of communicable disease.
- All campers check in directly with their Unit Leaders on check-in day where the Unit Leader is given a list of persons authorized to pick up each camper.
- No staff or campers are allowed to have food in the units to keep wildlife, specifically raccoons, from interacting with humans.
- Campers are informed of the safety rules, behavioral expectations and safety precautions of Camp Ondessonk by their Unit Leaders at the Unit Meeting on Check-in day.
- Campers are re-informed of the safety rules, behavioral expectations and safety precautions of Camp Ondessonk by the Camp Director at the evening meal on Check-in day.
- Camp Ondessonk has erected fences to separate campers and staff from danger areas such as horse pastures and cliff edges. Campers are informed of these safety hazards and the expectation that no one is to cross over fences is set on Check-in day.
- On check-out day, each camper is to check out with their Unit Leader, who physically checks the driver's license number of the person picking up the camper against the list of authorized pick-up persons.



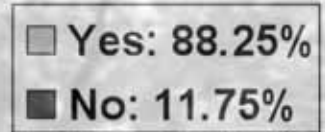
**2008-2009 Two Year Study:  
Outcomes of the Camp Ondessonk  
Experience**





# 2008-2009 Camper Survey Outcomes: Responsibility

According to a two-year study of 3,334 of Camp Ondessonk 1 week residential campers age 10 to 16, **88.25%** of the children surveyed reported that they feel they have grown in Responsibility while participating in their week of Camp.

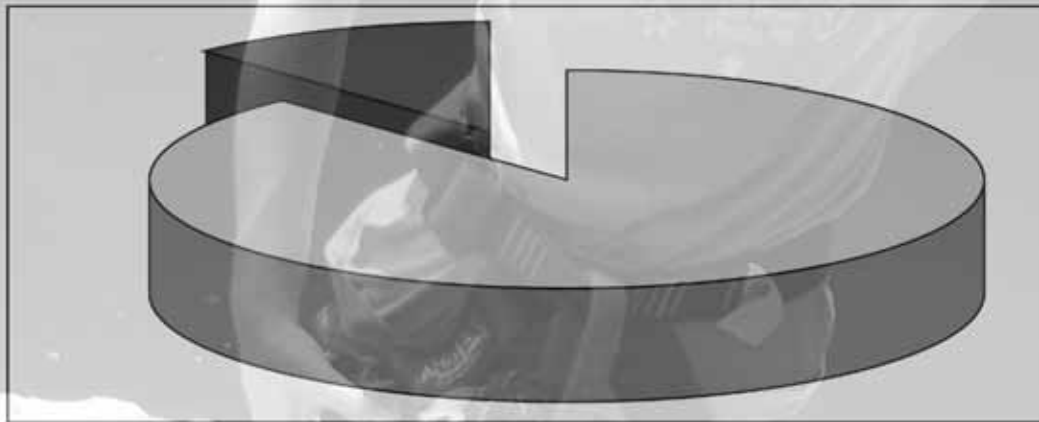






# 2008-2009 Camper Survey Outcomes: Independence

According to a two-year study of 3,334 of Camp Ondessonk 1 week residential campers age 10 to 16, **88.05%** of the children surveyed reported that they feel they have grown in Independence while participating in their week of Camp.



Yes: 88.05%  
 No: 11.95%



**Thank You for supporting  
Camp Ondessonk!**