

Greetings, Fellow Wawbeekers!!

The last time I wrote one of these, we were closing up the dorms and hunkering down for the winter. But today, the snow is melting, the sun is shining and I'm getting that "Wawbeek itch". I'm sure that you all know what that consists of: constantly dreaming of firehosing, craving s'mores, pulling out your sandals from storage and hearing the "Announcement Song" over and over and over again for no apparent reason.

We are in the throes of planning activities, accepting campers and recruiting staff, and so far it's shaping up to be another wonderful summer. Before you know it, you'll be waiting for your number to be called for registration and will be going through our newly remodeled nurses station to meet your summer 2009 counselors for the first time! I can't wait to have you all driving up that all-too-familiar Wawbeek road and gracing us with your presence for another summer. It's just around the corner and I'm counting down the days! See you soon!



Respite

It has been a very cold and snowy winter... but summer is just around the corner and we are getting ready for it. Respite had a wonderful year! The campers were able to enjoy themselves at Mt Olympus' indoor water and theme park, swim at Antigua Bay, and of course, go bowling at Challet Lanes. This fall and winter saw Respite's adoption of a troop overseas, about which you can read more inside. The office expansion on the lodge is complete and it has been wonderful for both campers and staff. Now we have a quiet area right in the lodge where campers can eat or relax. The AmeriCorps members also enjoy the new space it gives them for weekend programming.

The AmeriCorps members did a fantastic job turning camp "green," their big project of the year. They researched and devised ways for camp to become more earth friendly. Because of their hard work, posted around the lodge you will now find information boards about different "green" topics.

But enough about the winter, we cannot wait for the snow to melt and the summer to finally be here! Staff are being hired like crazy and we have a wonderful group from all over the world this year. Campers- get in your applications right away; we are filling up fast (*just like Lake Delton!*). I can't wait to see you this spring and summer. Stay warm and see you in a short time.

Val



Sign up now Wawbeek Summer Sessions!

Wawbeek Summer Sessions

- June 14-19 - Adult
- June 21-26 - WIKIDAS
- June 28 - July 3 - Kids & Teens one week
- June 28 - July 9 - Kids & Teens two week
- July 12 - 17 - Trailblazers
- July 19 - 24 - Adults
- July 26 - 31 - Older Adults
- Aug. 17 - 21 - Augmentative Communication
- Aug. 17 - 21 - Transition Team

To learn more about any of our sessions, visit
www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com

Register Now!
1.800.422.2324



Ask Aurora

Aurora, is the Castle really haunted?
- *One freaked-out female counselor*

Good question, as I wondered about this myself (*by luck, I am an avid Ghost Hunters fan*), so I gladly took on the challenge of finding this out. I talked to Terri (*our housekeeper*) and know she spends a good chunk of time alone in the building cleaning. There are a couple of rooms she is miffed about and avoids cleaning. However, interestingly enough, she says the elevator in the Girls' dorm is haunted. I would definitely avoid investigating that as I don't want to end up like Carol Anne (*in the Poltergeist movie*). I may just end up singing some horrible elevator music the rest of my life. In my short experience with ghost hunting, ghosts and major appliances often don't mix. Since I don't own any paranormal investigation equipment, I had to kick-it "old school", and use my internal goosebump reader. I checked the plumbing just like Grant and Jason do, then watched for cars outside to cast weird shadows. I had no way to test EMFs, so I put Kelly (*our program director*) into a room to see if she came out any crazier than she already is. No luck (*I was hoping for a raise!*) I tried to provoke any spirits by asking questions like, "Have you been firehosed?, Do you like power pudding?" No response. I went up to the restricted third floor to take some photos. I got some orbs, but true ghost hunters don't use that as evidence (*although one looks like Elvis*). I have to say I felt like Tango on his first investigation on ghost hunters and my results were inconclusive.

Respite Camp Supports the Troops

Easter Seals Respite Camp believes that everyone should be given a chance to get involved in their community and give back in some way. We believe that our campers and staff also deserve this opportunity. That is why Respite Camp has adopted a platoon that is serving overseas. We send care packages and letters to let them know we are thinking of them.

The response from our campers, their families, and staff has been absolutely wonderful! We have collected a lot of gifts and send a package about every 3 weeks. We plan on continuing this project throughout the summer, as our troop is deployed until September. When campers and staff come to Respite camp, we ask that each person bring only 1-2 small items to send. Here is a letter we received back:

"It was wonderful to receive your packages today. We received two packages, and were very surprised and happy at what you had put inside. I share the care packages with my soldiers so that everyone gets something. Thank you so much for putting that together for us, and please also thank all of your campers and their families for their contributions as well. Adoptaplatoon is such a great organization, and it has really helped the morale of the soldiers, since some of them do not get care packages frequently, or sometimes at all."

~Note received from our platoon contact

Our platoon consists of 44 Soldiers (*17 females*) from Utah deployed with the 328th Combat Support Hospital, taking care of detainees. Items our platoon requested from us includes: drink mix singles, all kinds of goodies, small toiletry items, girly girl items, books, dvds, puzzle books, craft kits, current magazines, batteries, body wash, foot care products, unscented skin lotion, floss, mouthwash, Q-tips, deodorant, baby wipes, Kleenex, and any letters of support.

Terri's Housekeeping Corner

Easter Seals Wisconsin has gone green, thanks to the Kleen Mark Company for donating some of their eco-friendly products. We have switched from brooms, mops, and buckets to backpack vacuums, refillable bottles, cloth mops, and touch-free natural soap dispensers. I am thrilled to report that they not only work great, but save time, money, effort, and help the environment! These new products were even put to the test in the village bathrooms and were a success. I cannot wait for another summer, when Trisha and I can get back to work again. I only hope that I can keep the staff from throwing away our new refillable bottles!

See ya, *Terri*





Things are revving up for summer AmeriCorps. Our positions are filling very quickly, so contact us ASAP if you are interested! It's a great way to get experience and earn money for college.

Our school-year members have been working on a "Going Green" project at camp. Next time you're here, look around for helpful signs and facts about what you can do to conserve resources and keep camp beautiful. Every little bit DOES help!

A special thanks to all AmeriCorps members, past and present, for making such a difference at camp and beyond. It is because of their amazing service that we are able to serve so many campers and run special programs. All together now: "2, 4, 6, 8, who do we appreciate? EEEAAS-TER SEALS AMERICORPS!!"



Across

1. Arts and _____
3. Key ingredient in the s'mores
5. A fun wet activity
6. An activity that uses a harness.
7. What a walk in the woods is called
9. Used to go on trailrides
12. What is a four-letter word for fun?
13. Who is the oldest camp counselor at Wawbeek?

Down

1. What you roast marshmallows over
2. Staff member
4. Previously pioneer camp
8. The camp on the hill
10. When we go into town
11. Who is the Wawbeek cook?

Answers are on the back

Update on Kiwanis Kafe & Nurses Station

As you all know, the Kiwanis Kafe and Nurses' Station was struck by lightning last June just before camp started. It was heavily damaged and was unusable during the whole summer. I am pleased to report that work is progressing very well and it will be ready to use this summer! The Nurses station will look very much like it did in the past, but will have some great colors thanks to Pam Nurse becoming Pam Interior Decorator!

The Kiwanis Kafe will have a whole new look. The Kiwanis Governor Patricia Brinkman dedicated her camp project to be an upgrade of the Kafe. During the remodel, we went back to the original vaulted ceilings and gained more floor space by taking out unneeded walls. We also added heat and air conditioning to make the space more comfortable for our campers.

I think you will all be very impressed with how much more useful the room will be. We will continue to have this as our game room with all your favorites! The pool table room will look a little different since this room took most of the smoke and foam damage, but it will still have the feel of the old enclosed porch it has always had.

The exterior will look very similar to how it used to. We needed to replace the roof and decided to continue with the forest green metal roof that we started on the old office. It really brightens up the outside and will last for many more years than a regular roof.

We are really looking forward to having you all at camp so you can see the new improvements!

Ken





Easter Seals Wisconsin

101 Nob Hill Rd., Suite 301
Madison, WI 53713
www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com
Creating solutions, changing lives.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 136
Madison, WI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Donations

When packing up your bags for camp, PLEASE don't forget to pack that extra bag of donations to drop off at camp as well! We now have a donation bin located at the Respite entrance and Wawbeek exit.

Easter Seals Donation Center helps support the programs and services of the agency - including Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp - by collecting gently-used clothing and household goods. Collected items are sold to our partner, Savers, which operates stores in Appleton, Eau Claire and Madison. All proceeds from these sales are used to provide services to children and adults with disabilities throughout the state.

We collect gently-used, resalable clothing, small household items and furniture. If you have any questions regarding donations please check out the website: www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com or give us a call at 1-877-208-5109.

Thank you! We will see you at camp!

Answers
Across: 1. Crafts, 3. Marshmallow, 5. Swimming, 6. Ropes, 9. Tractor, 12. Camp, 13. Chuck
Down: 1. Campfire, 2. Counselor, 4. Respite, 8. Wawbeek, 10. Trips, 11. Kaye