

## **A Special Note Regarding Personal Information about Your Child**

You will notice that our health form contains several areas for you to provide personal information regarding your child. We would like to take a moment to talk to you about this.

Some parents hesitate to provide camps with personal information about their child's behavior or past experience. Some fear the information may be misused, while others are concerned about their child being labeled, singled-out or treated differently. All parents want to see their child have a strong, fresh start at camp, unencumbered by past problems.

As a seasoned camp director I appreciate these concerns. I also know how *invaluable* such information can be in assisting us help your child make a smooth and happy adjustment to camp as possible- something we all know parents want, too!

Having prior knowledge about a learning difficulty, ADHD, a bed-wetting problem, a recent loss or major change in the family or child's life makes a tremendous difference in helping us be sensitive to your child's need for patience, understanding and reassurance- especially in the first few days of camp!

This is particularly true for children who have an attention problem or who are nervous about new situations. Many parents fear that a camp will not accept their child if they are completely forthcoming about these situations, yet *children need us to be partners with you in planning for a safe and successful week.*

Furthermore, children often use their behavior rather than words to tell us something might be bothering them. Having advance knowledge of areas that might be difficult for your child helps us understand the message in his or her actions. The better we understand your child, the more we can assure you of a better camp experience for him or her.

**Our commitment is to use such information only to help your child adjust to camp. It will never be used at camp unless necessary, and then only with the greatest of discretion and your prior knowledge.**

Remember, when faced with challenges, we can help your child have great success if you help us. We encourage you to make us a full partner in planning for your child's 4-H camp week.