

Brief Overview of the Summer at Glen Brook

Make sure to look over this summary of the summer schedule on a regular basis so you know what is coming up. You might consider posting it in your room where you will see it each day. There are weeks at camp where so much is happening, that it is essential to stay on top of things.

First Week: Make your expectations of the camper's behavior clear right away. It is much easier to ease off later than to try to regain control or make the rules tougher. There will be plenty of glitches this week. Schedule conflicts, material shortages, menu problems, homesickness, social problems among campers, broken equipment... Smile, try to fix it, and keep the momentum building. At the end of the week, you will be asked to write a postcard to your camper's families, letting them know how their child is doing. Parents love these, especially when it is clear you have really noticed something special about their particular child.

Week Two: Begin sleep-outs at the lean-to and the Ridge cabin. The first week we were working to get a rhythm in place and problems smoothed out. Now that a routine is in place, begin to push the campers to excel and to pay attention to details. This is usually when July 4th falls, and there is a hike, feast, games, treasure hunt, cookout, a bonfire, and fireworks.

Week Three: The focus is on Parents' Weekend with lots of anticipation and excitement building. There is much to do to get the kids and the camp in tip-top shape. The campers want to be proud of everything their parents will see. Help them and the camp to be the best possible. There could be sleep-outs early in the week. Begin to prepare first half campers to say goodbye, and full-summer campers to warmly welcome new children (without making leaving campers feel bad.)

Final Rehearsals for Parents Weekend production will happen later in the week. Be aware of the requests of the Music and Drama counselors. Help your campers find their costumes and remember their lines. Help rehearsals to run smoothly by supervising your group, and helping them to concentrate and do their best.

Appreciation Night is Friday, the night before first session campers go home. This is a time for your group to have a reasonably quiet evening together, to bring some closure to the first half of camp, and to make a special effort to "appreciate" those campers who will be leaving. Depending on the age and mood of your group this could be more or less introspective or simply a remembering of some of the summer and a time for the campers to exchange small gifts they have made for each other. It is helpful if you can help the campers with the gift exchange by providing time to work on gifts, helping with gift ideas, etc.

Parents' Weekend is a busy time when the camp is open as a showcase for all that occurs during the summer. You will receive more information regarding this important two days. Be aware that both first and second session campers and their families will be around and you will have to be conscious of both saying goodbyes and hellos, thanking first session campers for sending their children, and welcoming new campers into the fold.

Week Four: New campers arrive and will need the same care, instructions, and adjustments that the rest of the camp has already had. We must remember that all of this may be new to the new campers, who may need help catching up and integrating into an existing social structure.

It is hard to get back on track after the Parents' Weekend letdown. Get the new kids integrated. Keep the summer-long campers busy. Try not to let everyone, including yourself drag. Expect flare-ups of homesickness in some, especially full session campers. You might consider a sleep-out at the end of the week to perk up the group. Keep in mind those actors on Broadway that can go on for the 657th performance of the same show and can still make it magical for the audience.

Again, at the end of the week, you will be asked to write a postcard to your camper's families, letting them know how their child is doing.

Week Five: The whole camp is tired and can be a bit cross. Make sure everyone gets enough rest. This is the last week of normal activities and schedules so savor the relative quiet and build up endurance for the last week. Don't forget sleep-outs — week six is awfully busy so it would be best to get them in here. It is not a bad idea for those organizing tournaments to get them organized and started, as it is very hard to fit them all in during week six. During this time you will receive information about banquet verses and will need to get them mostly composed.

Week Six: The last week begins. This is a crazy, exhausting, magical, and utterly wonderful week. Don't waste a moment! Think about banquet cards and verses, speeches, and help with Music Night. (New staff will be filled in on all of this as the time draws near – it is a lot of fun, but a lot of work to bring it all off.) Keep the tournaments going. Try to keep a picture of this week in your mind so that you can help guide it along as smoothly as possible.

Mid-week: Final Rehearsals for Music Night. Help as much as you can by reminding your campers of what they need to: Wear? Bring? Memorize?

Wednesday: Tournament Day, Water Carnival, and Music Night. Late night staff party to complete banquet cards.

Thursday: Banquet Day: Hike with picnic for campers and some staff the rest of us set up banquet, cook, set up crafts display, clean. Campers return for a long rest and dress-up period. Banquet festivities begin around 5:00p.m.

Friday: Packing Day, Appreciation Night. Packing can be a big task. Help each other out. The night should be a time of fond memories and appreciation of what the summer has been. Help the campers leave with what is special about Glen Brook (not what they can so easily find in the world: junk food, raucous partying, etc.).

Saturday: Camper good-byes, bus leaves for New York, CITs leave. Staff takes a deep breath and puts away and cleans camp. Counselors' last evening together.

Sunday: Last touches of clean-up, errands, exit meetings, de-briefings, etc.

An Overview of the Week at Glen Brook

Sunday	Late rising, late breakfast, pancakes, big cabin and camp cleanup and inspection, Sunday service, first general swim, fancier dinner (lunch), rest period, counselor choice, another swim, picnic supper, and camper-counselor softball or other such evening games.
Monday	Resume daily schedule, with new table assignments and some enthusiasm and thought to get the week rolling again.
Tuesday	Regular schedule
Wednesday	Trip day; no regular classes, usual general swim and roll call after trip.
Thursday	Regular schedule; square dance in evening.
Friday	Regular schedule; work on Saturday entertainment if your group is to perform.
Saturday	Regular schedule; Saturday entertainment.

Daily Bell Schedule

7:30	Rising Bell
8:00	Breakfast & Clean-up
9:15	First Activity
10:15	Second Activity
11:15	Third Activity
12:15	Wash-up Bell
12:30	Dinner & Rest Period
2:30	Fourth Activity
3:45	General Swim
5:00	Roll Call
5:45	Wash-up
6:00	Supper
7:00	Evening Activity
7:45	Foxes to cabins
8:00	Otters to cabins
8:15	Raccoons to cabins
8:30	Eagles & Deer to cabins
9:00	Last lights out - no bell!!