



## Charles N. Agree Outpost Camp Parent Guide 2009



### Winter Office

6735 Telegraph Rd, Suite 380  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301  
248-647-1100 ext. 115  
248-647-1493 (fax)

### Summer Office

(June 8<sup>th</sup>-August 14<sup>th</sup>)  
4361 Perryville Rd., MI 48462  
248-627-2821  
248-627-4576 (fax)

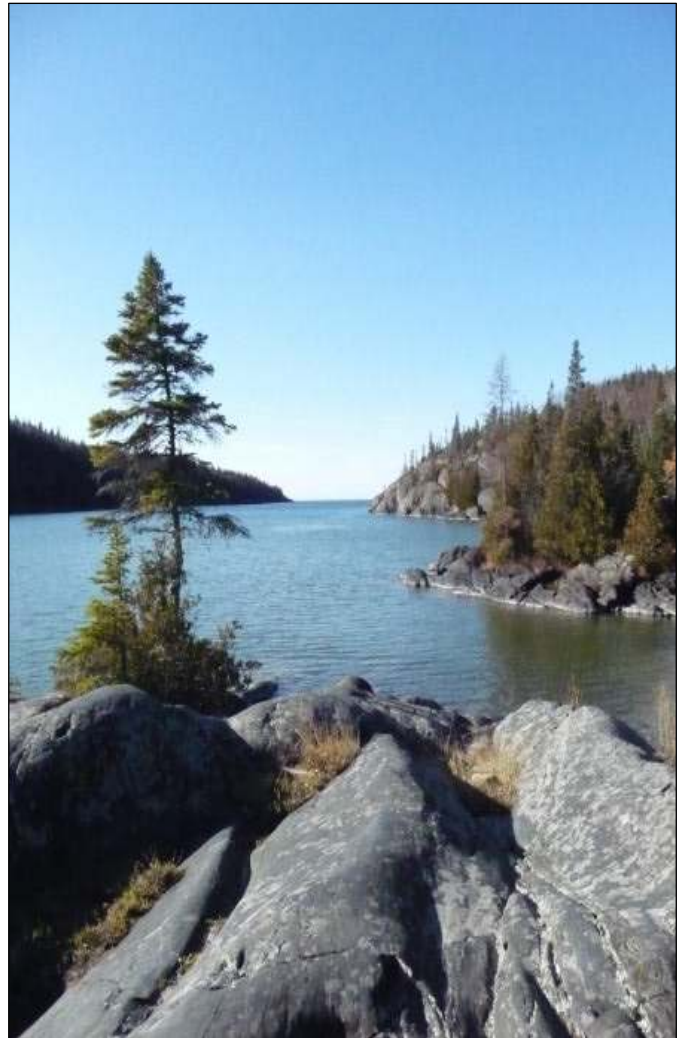
### Agree Outpost Camp

P.O. Box 624  
Wawa, Ontario  
POS IKO, Canada



# PARENT GUIDE CONTENTS

<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Page</u>
Purpose of the Parent Guide	2
Agree Outpost Camp Goals	2
Location	2
Canadian Wilderness	2
Ultimate Agree	2
<u>Pre-Camp: Getting Ready</u>	
Packing	3
Luggage	4
Passport and Border Crossing Forms	4
<u>At Camp: During the Summer</u>	
Administrative	4
Departure Day and Arrival to Camp	4
Camp Design	5
Mail and Communication	5
Typical Day	6
Trips	6
Departure for Home	7
<u>Health and Safety Information</u>	
Staff	7
Availability of Medical Services	7
Medical Forms	8
Medication	8
Lice Policy	8
Food Allergies	8
<u>Support</u>	9



**“You were the best you could be in the most real place there is.”  
– Beth Sonne**

## **Welcome**

### **Purpose of the Parent Guide**

This packet is your all-inclusive reference for Agree Outpost Camp. It includes helpful information for you and your camper prior to the summer and addresses policies and procedures that apply during the camp season. Please become familiar with the information in order to ensure a successful experience for you and your child.

We look forward to a fantastic summer!

### **Agree Outpost Camp Goals**

Agree Outpost Camp is a cooperative wilderness leadership program, where campers will be asked to step outside of their comfort zones, try new things, meet new people and become a part of a special community. It is an opportunity for campers to explore a “leave no trace” lifestyle, to be challenged physically and emotionally, to develop autonomy and a greater respect for the environment, our camp community and each other.

### **Location**

Agree Outpost Camp is located within Obatanga Provincial Park, about 40 miles north of Wawa, Ontario. We are located about four hours north of Sault Ste. Marie and an hour north of Lake Superior Provincial Park, where we do most of our backcountry hiking.

### **First Session – Canadian Wilderness**

Canadian Wilderness is a four-week wilderness and leadership program for campers entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The session includes a week of camping skills and leadership development, a riveting five-day canoe trip in Obatanga Provincial Park, a five-day hiking trip in Lake Superior Provincial Park and gorgeous day hikes along Lake Superior’s northern and southern shores.

### **Second Session – Ultimate Agree**

Ultimate Agree is a four-week wilderness and leadership program for campers entering 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, designed to build off of the camping skill of Canadian Wilderness campers. The session includes a week of camping skills and leadership development, an incredible eight-day hiking trip in Lake Superior Provincial Park, a three-day kayaking trip along the Northern shore of Lake Superior and a trip to the Upper Peninsula’s Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

## Pre-Camp: Getting Ready

### Packing

*Gear and Orientation Meeting.* ALL campers must attend one Gear and Orientation Meeting, held at Joe's Army Navy in Waterford (981 W. Huron St. Waterford, MI 48328). Please choose the meeting that best fits your schedule: Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. or Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

*Don't buy a whole new wardrobe.* All new outdoor gear is extremely tempting. However, Agree Outpost Camp is more rugged than life at home and you will find that items come home much more "well-loved" than when they left.

*Packing List.* Please refer to the Agree Outpost Camp packing list for items that are required and recommended for camp. The *Agree Outpost Camp Gear Guide* contains clarification about the gear on the packing list, and should be used when purchasing new items like sleeping bags, hiking boots, and long underwear. Please do not pack more than the quantity we have suggested, as space in cabins is extremely limited. We will do laundry halfway through the session.

*Shabbat.* Agree Outpost Camp may be rugged, but we do try to capture the spirit of Shabbat by wearing a clean (or our cleanest) outfit. A special outfit is not necessary.

*Labeling Personal Items.* To minimize loss, please mark **all** of your child's clothing and personal property (including socks) with their first and last name. You can use permanent marker or purchase nametapes. Please label all sports equipment, disposable cameras, eyeglasses, sleeping bags, etc. **Do not send anything sentimental or expensive! TAMARACK CAMPS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST, MISPLACED OR STOLEN ITEMS.**

*Electronic Devices.* Agree Outpost Camp is about enjoying the outdoors and sharing wonderful experiences with old and new friends. Not only do devices like radios, CD players, iPods and electronic games take away from time enjoying each other, headphones look ridiculous in the backcountry. Your child signed a Camper Agreement addressing this issue. Not to worry! We always have beautiful music echoing throughout camp! Playing cards, favorite travel games, guitars, hand drums, cowbells and tambourines are welcome and highly encouraged!

*Watches and Alarm Clocks.* Agree Outpost Camp runs on the magic of our sleep and eating cycles. We eat when we're hungry and we sleep when we're tired. Watches are not necessary and will be confiscated and returned upon arrival at Adat Shalom Synagogue. Cell phones count as both an electronic device AND a watch.

*Spending Money.* The only time your child will need his/her own money is on town day for lunch and laundry, and for pop-stops on the trips. Please do NOT send campers with **more than \$50**. Please send an **additional \$25** in a sealed envelope with your camper's name on it to the bus on departure day for a t-shirt or sweatshirt at the end of the session. Campers will have an opportunity to exchange money on town day in Wawa, Ontario.

*Knives.* Agree Outpost Camp Canadian Wilderness campers (first session) are not to bring their own pocket knife with them to camp. Ultimate Agree campers (second session) may bring a basic pocket knife to camp. A basic, Swiss Army knife with a blade and a can opener is most appropriate. **Blades must be less than 3" long, and locking blades like the Leatherman brand ARE PROHIBITED.**

## Luggage

Luggage should be brought to the bus with your camper on departure day. Our super-human-strong staff will load bags with their bare hands.

Canadian Wilderness: June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Ultimate Agree: July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Luggage is limited to ONE side-loading duffel. Hiking boots, pillows, and sleeping bags may be tied to the outside of the duffel bag.

## Passport and Border Crossing Forms

*Passport.* Please bring a valid passport or passport card to the bus with your camper on June 22<sup>nd</sup> or July 20<sup>th</sup>. Campers will not be allowed to board the bus without this essential document. Passports will be kept in a safe at Agree Outpost Camp and will be returned to parents at the bus on the last day of the session.

*Border Crossing Form.* The form must be signed by a parent before a notary.

## At Camp: During the Summer

### Administrative

Agree Outpost Camp does not have a formal “office.” If you need to contact your child or Amit Weitzer, Director, at any time during the session, please call Jason Charnas, Director of Teen and Family Programs at the Camp Maas Office in Ortonville. Amit is in regular contact with Jason and will return any messages as soon as possible.

### *Camp Summer Office Information*

248-627-2821 (during normal business hours)

248-627-2821 x117 (when office is closed, and in case of a **MEDICAL EMERGENCY**)

*For urgent calls, please note that staff is available in the office daily until 1:00 a.m. (except Saturday).*

### *Hours*

Sunday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: Closed in observance of Shabbat

## Departure Day and Arrival to Camp

Campers travel to Agree Outpost Camp by bus. Our drive takes us through Michigan’s Lower and Upper Peninsulas along I-75, and then north through Ontario along Highway 17. We will make bathroom stops throughout the journey and stop for lunch in the Upper Peninsula. The whole trip will take approximately 11-13 hours.

**First Session**, we will depart from **Adat Shalom Synagogue** (29901 Middlebelt Road in Farmington Hills) promptly at **7 a.m.** on Monday, **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**Second Session** we will depart from Adat Shalom Synagogue promptly at 7 a.m. on Monday, **July 20<sup>th</sup>**.

<b>PLEASE ARRIVE AT ADAT SHALOM SYNAGOGUE NO LATER THAN 6:45 A.M.</b>
---

If you live outside of the metro Detroit area, special transportation arrangements can be made. Please contact Amit Weitzer at the office for details.

Please be sure to bring to the bus on departure day:

1. A daypack loaded with a sweatshirt, long pants, reading materials and bug dope
2. A bag lunch
3. Nalgene water bottle filled with water
4. Duffle Bag
5. Medications in a Ziplock bag
6. Passport
7. \$25 in a sealed envelope with camper's name

### **Camp Design**

Male campers sleep in the "Red Cabin," where they have shelf space and camp cots. Male staff sleep will sleep in the "Hands Cabin" next door to them. Female campers sleep in the "Black Cabin" where they will have plenty of shelf space and camp cots and the female counselors will live with the Director in the Staff



Cabin near the lodge. The female teen trippers will be in the "Donald Duck" cabin next to the female camper's cabin. Agree Outpost Camp is equipped with our beloved shower "Fernando." The shower is outdoors, with four walls, a wooden floor and wonderful hot water. Our bathroom facilities are known as "Melvin and Matilda," the most beautifully decorated outhouses in Northern Ontario. Our waterfront houses canoes, kayaks, a sauna, a dock and a sandy beach. The lodge holds enough history on the walls to keep all Agree campers and staff mesmerized all summer long and eager to add our own histories and stories. Our kitchen is attached with a fully functioning stove, wood-burning stove and refrigerators. In addition, the family room is attached to the lodge, complete with many comfy couches where we all gather to read, sing songs, and play games.

### **Mail and Communication**

*Mail.* Mail is a novelty in our fast-paced world and an especially fun way to communicate from the woods of the Canadian Wilderness. In other words, send us letters! Postage for a first class letter to Canada is \$0.75. Please address all mail to:

**Camper's Name**  
**Agree Outpost Camp**  
**PO Box 624**  
**Wawa, Ontario**  
**POS 1KO Canada**

You do not need to send your child to camp with stamps. The Agree staff will provide postage for any outgoing mail and will keep a tally that will be reimbursed at the end of the summer.

*Packages.* You are welcome to send packages but **no boxes**, as they do not fit in our mailbox. Please send all packages in padded envelopes no larger than 9"x14". In order for these packages to be delivered to us, they must be sent using the US Postal Service. **DO NOT SEND ANY FOOD TO YOUR CHILD.** This includes gum and candy. Raccoons and mice are clever and have a great sense of smell. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

*Phone Contact.* There will be a town day in downtown Wawa when each camper will call home. The town days for both sessions are:

- **Canadian Wilderness Phone Day (First Session):**  
Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 5pm.
- **Ultimate Agree Phone Day (Second Session):**  
Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11am - 5pm.

### **A Typical Day at Agree Outpost Camp**

Agree is unique in that it encourages campers to be independent. Campers most often decide how the day will be spent, whether they kayak, swim, tie-dye, read or play volleyball.

Breakfast – Kitchen Patrol (KP) group will rise first and prepare a hearty meal to begin the day! (Early morning runs, yoga sessions or swims are common before breakfast.)

Morning – chores like outhouse cleaning, small projects, and camp tidying are often first priority and are followed by activities like canoe skills, map and compass reading skills, familiarizing ourselves with outdoor gear, day hikes, etc.

Lunch – KP group will prepare lunch.

Afternoon – similar to the morning: projects, activities, etc. This is more of a time for campers to do what is most interesting to them.

Dinner – KP group will prepare a delicious meal.

Evening – Most evenings there will be a group activity: campfire, capture the flag, wrestle mania, Purim (yes, in the summer) or general hang-out time.

### **Trips**

Some of the highlights of the Agree Outpost Camp experience are the backcountry trips. The trips are our chance to connect with a smaller group of campers, to push our physical and emotional boundaries, to see some wildlife and to truly experience the beauty of our surroundings.

#### **Canadian Wilderness:**

Our first trip will be a four-night, five-day canoeing trip in the Obatanga Provincial Park lake system right next to Agree's base camp. Campers will be divided into groups of 8-10 campers accompanied by two to three staff. They will do everything from canoeing, portaging, navigating, setting up camp and preparing food for the group!

Our second trip is a four-night, five-day hiking trip on the coast of Lake Superior, in Lake Superior Provincial Park. Campers will again be divided into groups of 8-10 campers and two to three staff. This is an incredibly picturesque and challenging hike with some of the most awe-inspiring views around!

### **Ultimate Agree:**

Our first trip will be an incredible seven-night, eight-day hiking trip along the coast of Lake Superior in Lake Superior Provincial Park. Campers will be divided into smaller groups and hike all the way from Gargantua Bay to Agawa Bay and get to see the incredible variety of natural beauty that the Lake Superior Coast has to offer. Each trip will rest on Shabbat and take a day to relax and enjoy the fruits of their labor!

Our second trip will be a riveting three-day, two-night Kayaking trip along Lake Superior.

Our third trip will be a short travel trip down to the Upper Peninsula to hike and explore Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, while staying at a front country campsite along the southern shore of Lake Superior.

### **Departure for Home**

**First Session**, campers will be dropped off at Adat Shalom Synagogue on **Friday, July 17th between 7:00 am and 10:00 am.**

**Second Session**, campers will be dropped off at Adat Shalom Synagogue on **Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, between 7:00 am and 10:00 am.**

A Tamarack Camps representative will contact you one or two days before the end of the session to notify you of the approximate arrival time

### **Health and Safety Information**

#### **Staff**

Your child's counselors are college students who have camp work experience or other informal education experience in outdoor settings working with children. The staff report to camp 15 days prior to the campers for highly-focused leadership and backcountry training.

#### **Availability of Medical Services**

There is a clinic and a hospital in Wawa, Ontario, which we will utilize for medical issues that are more severe than what the Agree staff and director are equipped to handle. While in the backcountry, each trip carries a satellite phone that can be used to contact the proper authorities or medical personnel in the case of an emergency.

In addition, doctors and nurses at the Camp Clinic are available to us by phone at all times. We also have access to a licensed social worker.



## Medical Form and Medications

*Medical Form.* The Tamarack Camps Medical Form is the only form we are able to accept – no other forms may be substituted. This form contains all the information that we are required **by law** to have for your camper.

Please complete the medical form and return it to the Tamarack office **no later** than May 1, 2009. Medical forms will not be accepted at the bus on the first day of camp. All campers must have a current (completed yearly) medical form on file with us. The information used to complete the form may come from a physical examination done within the last two years. If you have any questions regarding your child's medical examination, please contact our office. DUE TO MICHIGAN BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS, CAMPER WHO DO NOT HAVE A COMPLETED MEDICAL FORM WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND CAMP.

*Medications.* Please bring any medications to the bus with your child on June 22<sup>nd</sup> or July 20<sup>th</sup> in a ziplock bag labeled with his or her **first and last name**. Generally, we try to dispense medications at meal times. If these times are not the norm for your child, please indicate this information inside your ziplock bag. Please include detailed instructions for the medication (using the form provided by Tamarack Camps) including dosage, time of day meds must be taken, and any other special instructions. All medications must be in their original container.

If your child takes over-the-counter medications on a regular basis, please bring a supply in a ziplock bag as you would with prescription medications. If your child needs an inhaler or epipen, please send extra.

You will be contacted by the Agree Outpost Camp director or the Agree staff if:

1. Your child needs medical attention at the clinic or hospital in Wawa for an injury, x-rays or stitches.
2. Your child must receive antibiotics or steroids.
3. Your child is experiencing behavior problems that were addressed in the Camper Send Home Policy.

You will **not** be contacted by the Agree director or staff if your child receives routine diagnosis and treatment by Agree staff for cuts, colds, insect bites, stomach virus or headaches, rashes, sore throat, vomiting, etc.

## Lice Policy

Campers at camp are in very close contact with each other. Therefore, we expect that parents will check their children for head lice in the weeks preceding camp and treat as necessary so that all children coming to camp are lice and nit free.

Every child will be checked on the first day by a Tamarack Camps clinic personnel at the bus. Children found with live lice and/or nits (eggs) less than 1/2" from the scalp will be sent home along with their belongings and written guidelines for treatment. Parents/guardians will be responsible for administering the first treatment including nit picking and transporting their child to the location of the group. The staff will administer the second treatment and any subsequent treatments. No option will be offered to have staff administer the first treatment.

## Food Allergies

Increasing numbers of children have food allergies and we will gladly work with families to provide alternative menu items or special foods for most children with allergies. If, however, your child has a life-threatening or airborne food allergy, our camp is not be the right place for him or her.

Agree Outpost Camp is not a nut-free camp. We do not use any nuts or nut products in food preparation. However, labels on some packaged items might state that their product was made in a factory or on equipment that processes nuts.

Peanut butter is available to campers at every meal. Counselors are notified of children with significant allergies, including when and how to use an Epi-Pen. The counselor and/or camper will carry an Epi-Pen at all times:

We **do not** guarantee that:

1. everyone will follow the above guidelines.
2. there will not be food fights at your child's table.
3. campers eating peanut butter will not touch each other or objects in the dining hall.
4. campers will not purchase items containing nuts during pop/snack stops.

Our goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment for every camper. There may be circumstances when our program will not be appropriate for an individual child. If your child has a severe, life-threatening allergy to nuts, a nut-free camp is recommended. Our health director is happy to answer any questions or concerns.

## Support

Tamarack Camps depends upon the generosity of families like yours. You can volunteer to help with camp projects during the year. You can open your home and invite others to hear about camp at a "parlor meeting" with some of our directors. You can bring your professional expertise to camp as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, social worker or administrative assistant. You can provide funding for a special program or initiative. You can make a contribution to the Tamarack Camps Send a Kid to Tamarack fund in order to provide financial assistance for other children to attend camp.

By doing one or a number of these things, you can and will make a difference! Please contact Executive Director Jonah Geller for more details. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**As always, please feel free to contact Amit Weitzer if you have any questions or comments at [weitzer@tamarackcamps.com](mailto:weitzer@tamarackcamps.com).**

6735 Telegraph Road, Suite 380 \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301  
(248) 647-1100 \* Fax (248) 647-1493  
[www.tamarackcamps.com](http://www.tamarackcamps.com)