

## **Opening Day—When You arrive**

In just a few short weeks, Session One will begin and in July, Session Two. It is time to get very excited. Everyone here has been planning for months, and getting ready to greet you when you arrive. It is definitely time to talk about Opening Day. Each opening Day is a combination of a family reunion, a celebration banquet, and a getting-to-know-you session. It is a lot of fun, but there is some business that we take care of so that we can get the season started.

For those of you who are new to Greene, this will be your first Opening Day, and for our veterans, you may see some changes. We recently redesigned our opening day procedures to try and keep bottlenecks to a minimum.

A bit of background: Many families have developed a family tradition of arriving at camp early enough to be among the first through the gates. Everyone here really appreciates it, and it has become so popular that, when we open our gates at 9:30AM, 75% of our campers are waiting to get through. This creates a tremendous backlog, while we tried to welcome everyone all at once instead of throughout the morning.

In an effort to avoid the long waits of season's past, we try to make it possible for everyone to go through the opening day procedure in their own order and at their own pace.

If you arrive prior to the opening of the gates at 9:30 AM, you will be directed onto a field east of the camp, on Smith Lane prior to arriving at GFC. There will be coffee, cookies, and camaraderie as all of the early-comers schmooze and get excited. (There will be port-a-potties, but the field is further away from the camp than in the past, so the office bathrooms will not be accessible)

Opening Day info packets will be distributed that list the campers bunk assignment, building, and counselors. Luggage tags will be handed out so that families can label their luggage while they wait.

When the gates open, cars will drive through the gate and around the perimeter road, turning onto the field to drop off luggage based on the camper's cabin assignment. Luggage will be labeled and sorted. You will be asked to drive forward and park your car.

Your entire family will be directed to the Samson Sports Center (Newlam - Basketball Gym) where all campers will participate in a brief medical screening. If your Welcome Packet indicates that the bookkeepers, dietician or infirmary staff need to see you, they will also be in the Teatronita (Little Theater, within the Samson Sports Center). After that, you can go to your bunks.

## In The Bunks

In the bunks, you will have the opportunity to meet your counselors and bunk mates. You will also unpack your luggage (it was delivered to your cabin while you were in the Sports Center).

When you arrive in the cabin, you will reach into a hat and pull out a piece of paper with the number of your bed on it. Each bed has specific storage space assigned to it and it is all marked. We want to make sure that each camper and staff member has the same amount of space.

We recently redid all of the storage space in our cabins. We've moved all of the hanging clothes out into the foyer and turned all of the cabinets in your cabin into cubby space. This means that every camper and staff member will have:

- 6 full-sized cubbies inside the cabin (15 cubic feet – A large suitcase is 3 cubic feet)
- 3-6 full-sized cubbies in the cabin foyer
- 6" of hanging space in the foyer
- 1 cubby in the bathroom and one over the sink

We have tried storing everything on the Packing List in this amount of space and have pictures to prove it can easily be done. We are asking that families not bring plastic drawers to camp. We will help you unpack them into the cubbies so that you can take them back home.



A word of explanation - The reasons that we have redone all of our storage space is four-fold:

- We want to be fair and provide the same appropriate amount of storage space for everyone.
- One of the reasons that families arrive early is to "stake out" the storage space they want. Within just two years, with a fair assignment of space, families feel more comfortable arriving a bit later, spread throughout opening day (many parents suggested this change in the end-of-summer evaluation).
- SAFETY! The amount of floor space taken over by plastic drawers was excessive and they presented a tripping hazard for campers and staff.
- SAFETY AGAIN! Please do not bring cases of bottled water to camp. If every person living in a bunk brought 2 bottles of water for each day in camp, there would be 672 bottles of water in the bunk. It is a major tripping hazard, a mess, and a recycling or trash nightmare. GFC buys water from the municipal public water supplier. Campers should bring a reusable water bottle to fill from our refrigerated water fountains.

## **The Rest of the Day**

If you brought medication to camp, you will have the opportunity to check with our medical staff. Just remember not to leave without seeing them! Doctors and nurses will be in the Game Room all day. They will be available to discuss special medical or dietary needs. Members of our Camper Care Team will also be in the Cabin Areas and Dining Room to talk about your camper's upcoming experience at camp.

Lunch will be available in the Dining Hall beginning at 11:30 AM and ending at 1:30 PM. We will be serving a wonderful buffet. We will also have the camp store available. The camp directors and Camper Care Team will be in the Dining Room throughout lunch to meet families and answer questions.

At 12:30 PM we will host a meeting for parents new to GFC. The meeting will take place in the Staff Lounge, right next door to the Dining Room.

By 3:00 PM, parents should plan to be out of Camp so that we can begin the camp program. As you leave, we will make sure that you have seen and done everything you needed to do.

The Family Guide is available on our website and your CampInTouch account and we urge you to take this opportunity to read it. The information that you are reading now will be incorporated into it, but it also contains information on many other areas of camp and your child's (and your) summer experience. Check it out.

We are really looking forward to seeing all of you soon. Get Packing!