

Important Sunship Earth Parent Information



Orientation Evening: 2 choices, evening in late June or early July (date TBA)

The orientation evening is extremely important for all. We expect that parents and young people attend one of the two evening sessions at 7:00 -8:45 P.M. at the Adventure Earth Centre in Fleming Park (directions are attached). The two evenings will involve the identical program. If possible, come to the first evening if your camper is in the first week of camp, come to the second evening if he/she is in the second session. This way the campers tend to meet the other campers they will be with at Sunship. However, please come on the alternative night if you cannot make the orientation for your camp. Please R.S.V.P. with respect to the evening orientation by phone (902-490-4539), FAX (902-490-4509), or E mail <peacet@halifax.ca>

The evening session will consist of separate, simultaneous programs for parents and campers. For the parents, we will provide a full slide show describing the program, including a "sneak" preview of "Welcome Aboard", the multi-media extravaganza that the campers will participate in the first morning of camp. We want to give you an overview of the types of activities that your child will be participating in so that you will have a greater understanding of what they are talking about when they return home, including your role in their post-camp activities. In addition we will cover specifics with respect to:

- health & safety
- transportation & scheduling
- clothing & equipment issues

The evening orientation is critical in order for you to understand the program so that you can share in the enthusiasm and activities after camp. There will be child care available for younger siblings. We look forward to seeing you there!

The program for the young people will include games and a series of fun activities, which will give them a chance to meet each other and feel more comfortable with others who they will be traveling with at the Sunship Station. They will fill in their applications for a Sunship Earth passport! [just like any major journey — they will need a passport to get from one adventure to the next at the Sunship Station]. We will also be briefing them on a few of the special preparations they will need to make for their adventure.

Sunship Station Arrival

Families are responsible for transporting the young people to and from the Sunship Station (the camp). Arrival should be between **3:30 and 4:00 pm** on the first afternoon. **Staff cannot be responsible for children before 3:30 pm** as they will be involved in final preparations for the camp. If you cannot avoid being later than 4 pm, please notify staff ahead of time. Camp Mockingee is approximately an hour drive from Halifax, or 45 minutes from Sackville. Directions are included in this package. The Sunship orientations will provide you with the opportunity to meet other parents so that you could arrange carpools if need be to get to the Sunship Station.

Closing Activities and Pick-up

We ask that parents arrive by **3:45 pm on closing afternoon** to join us for the final activities of the week: “The Sunship Convention” and “Beginnings and Ends”. Departure will be after these activities conclude around **5:30**. The Sunship Convention is a fun and upbeat event for everyone which we are sure you will enjoy. It is a special and important time for the young people and they always look forward to having their parents on hand at the end to share a part of what has been a very important experience for them. Please try to pick up your own child. It is quite difficult if a child has to leave early on Friday afternoon. Please inform staff ahead of time it is a necessity.

Food, Lodging and Equipment

A camp cook will be responsible for organizing and preparing meals, although the young people will be expected to provide minimal assistance. Most meals will be in the dining hall although in some instances there will be outdoor picnics. The food will be nourishing, environmentally appropriate, and tasty from the perspective of the young people. Special dietary concerns such as allergies, vegetarian practices, or cultural choices can be accommodated upon request, but we will need to be notified ahead of time. Please make sure your child does not bring food or snacks, including candy or gum.



The children will sleep in single sex cabins with eight spots, which will include at least one cabin counsellor. An equipment list is included. Please review it with your child. It includes items that should be brought and those that should be left at home.

Staff

In addition to Terri Peace (Autumn), Hugh MacDonald (MudWasp), the staff will include seven counselors who are specialists working through the summer environmental education program at the Dingle Park. All of them will have current first aid certificates. There will also be a lifeguard, cook, and six-eight leaders in training/assistants. There will be forty-two children and at least 14 staff at each session, resulting in a very high adult to child ratio.

Health and Safety

A **parent** must fill out the enclosed Health and Permission Form and Medication Forms (if applicable). Prescription medication forms **must** be filled out and **signed by a medical doctor** and over-the-counter forms filled out and signed by the parent/guardian. **Please mail these to the Adventure Earth Centre before July 1 or bring them to the Sunship Orientation evening.** If your child has specific health or dietary restrictions that might significantly affect what we need to provide for them in terms of food or activity at camp, please ensure this information is included on the Health Form. The health and safety of the young people is our first priority and it is important that we have comprehensive information for each person.

If a child takes medication (including over the counter medication), it **must be brought by the parents and given to the designated staff member upon arrival at the camp** and he/she will be responsible for giving it to the child during the camp. The nearest hospital is in Windsor, which is approximately 25 kilometers away. Children with problems requiring medical assessment or treatment will be taken there immediately unless emergency circumstances dictate another course of action. If a child comes down with significant flu symptoms or illness we will contact the parents immediately and may request early pick up.

Emergency, missing person, fire and water front safety procedures will be clearly defined and enforced by all the staff. The children will be clearly oriented to these safety procedures and the camp rules and guidelines shortly after arrival on Sunday afternoon. A certified lifeguard will supervise all swimming and children will be forbidden from swimming under any non-supervised circumstances. Personal floatation vests will be worn at all times in the canoes. Children will be forbidden from leaving the immediate field area surrounding the camp buildings unless they are accompanied by an adult. Further discussion and questions involving these issues will be welcomed during evening orientation sessions.

Sunship Earth Return (Follow-up Evening)

The *Sunship Earth Return* will be **on a Saturday evening in September (TBA) at 6:30 P.M.** at the Adventure Earth Centre, Fleming Park. It is a great opportunity for the young people to get back together around a campfire and share some fun, songs, and games from camp, and also share their accomplishments at home in developing a caring attitude toward the earth. For all those who have worked on their Earth Harmonies Manual (to be explained later) at home, there will be special recognition of their graduating from "passenger" to "crew member" of Sunship Earth. Please reserve this date now so that the young people are free to attend. Parents are welcome to join us.



Payment of Remainder of Camp Fee

The deposit at registration is \$100. The remaining portion of \$185 is to be a post-dated cheque or a pre-authorized credit card number and expiry date to be drawn on June 20. The cheque or credit card authorization must be mailed to the Adventure Earth Centre with the initial deposit.

If you have questions, problems or require further information. Please call!

The pre-trip Halifax Regional Adventure Earth Centre phone number is: 902-490-4539

The Camp Mockingee Phone Number is: 902-798-8430

It is our experience that children do not need a phone call during the week and we find that it can set up a sort of competitive atmosphere (your parents called, how come mine didn't), and/or a camper who was doing fine then becomes emotional about being away from home. It is a short program and they are busy having fun. If you do feel the need to call, please talk with one of the staff first. We will call you if there are any concerns or needs with respect to your child.

Directions to the Halifax Regional Adventure Earth Centre in Fleming Park

- Go to the Armdale Rotary in Halifax and take the Purcell's Cove/Herring Cove Road turn out of the rotary.
- Go up the hill out of the rotary and take a left at the first traffic light at the top of the hill. Proceed about 1.5 kilometers along the Purcell's Cove Road at which point you will see stone gates on the left and a sign which says "Welcome to Fleming Park".
- Turn left through the gates and take Dingle Road into the park. Stay to your left a short ways inside the stone gate. After winding down a gradual hill through the woods, the road will open into a large parking area at the bottom of the hill where you should leave your car.
- A small road going up the hill to your right will be ahead of you. Walk up this road a short distance to the Adventure Earth Centre (the stone church).



Directions to Camp Mockingee— The Sunship Station!



Camp Mockingee is nearly equi-distant from Windsor and Chester.

Via Highway 101 (Windsor Area)

- Turn off Highway 101 at Exit 5 (Route 14/Windsor & Martock). Turn at the bottom of the ramp towards Windsor and Martock.
- Go 1 kilometer and turn right onto Route 1, following the sign for “Martock”.
- Go about 1.5 kilometers and turn left onto Route 14 West following the sign for “Martock”.
- Keep on this road and you will pass the entrance to Ski Martock at about 7 kilometers. After about 19 kilometers you will pass an Irving gas station and convenience store on your left. About 3 kilometers after the Irving there will be a sign on the right that says “Rotary Club of Windsor Camp Mockingee Youth Camp”. Turn right here on to Smeltzer Road.
- Stay straight on Smeltzer Road, proceeding through the stop sign and up the hill to the right as the road winds past a few houses. The camp is just down the hill past these houses.
- It is approximately a 45 minute drive from Sackville.

Via Highway 103 (Chester Area)

- Turn off Highway 103 at Exit 8 (Route 14/Windsor) and turn inland toward Windsor.
- Keep on this quiet road for about 27 kilometers at which point you will see a turn to the left marked by a green road sign for “Lake Crescent”. After one more kilometer turn left on Smeltzer Road which is also labelled by a small green sign. There is also a larger sign marked “Camp Mockingee Youth Camp” but it faces away from you and is hard to see until after you turn. If you go past an Irving gas station on your right you have gone 3 km too far.
- Stay straight on Smelter Road, proceeding through a stop sign and up a hill to the right as the road winds past a few houses. The camp is just down the hill past these houses.
- It is approximately a one hour drive from Halifax.

See you there!