

## **DEERKILL DAY CAMP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal 1. To provide opportunities for campers to become more independent while building self-esteem and confidence in their abilities.**

- a. Campers age 6 and under will choose their own activity during designated Playground times throughout the camp day.
- b. Campers age 7 and over will select their own elective activity during a daily Club Hour.
- c. Campers age 10 and over will select a 2-week elective activity to specialize in one of a number of athletics and arts programs during our Specialty Hour.
- d. Each camper will participate in low ropes course activities in which they will be encouraged to attempt new challenges.
- e. Staff will focus on positive reinforcement in a non-competitive environment where counselors always pick the teams and activities are intrinsically rewarding.
- f. Each camper will receive a certificate of achievement for progress in those activities in which they have made the most progress.

### **Goal 2. To encourage each child to learn to thrive in a group environment and larger community.**

- a. Each camper will be assigned to a group of children of a similar age but with diverse backgrounds. Within these groups, campers will participate in group decisions including Group Choice periods, group shows or skits, and trip agendas.
- b. Campers will participate in group lunches served family style.
- c. Campers will fulfill certain rotating group responsibilities such as line leaders, lunch clean-up and team leaders.
- d. Campers will travel together in a group to scheduled daily activities.
- e. Campers will participate in teambuilding activities at scheduled Ropes Course activity.

### **Goal 3. To encourage each child to challenge themselves by attempting new things and gaining new skills.**

- a. Each camper will be scheduled to participate in a diverse set of age-appropriate activities not typically found in a school setting, including archery, ceramics, computers, dance, gymnastics, karate, nature, photography, ropes course, theater, and woodworking.
- b. Staff will encourage each camper to participate in every planned activity for at least 15 minutes and will creatively motivate and instruct the group through fun and rewarding games.
- c. Campers will be encouraged to value activities because they are intrinsically rewarding and important for their physical, mental and social development.
- d. Each camper will receive personalized age-appropriate swim instruction by certified staff who will measure their individual progress through an assessment at the start and end of the camp session.

### **Goal 4. To provide each camper with a safe and secure environment and opportunities for fun.**

- a. Staff will complete an intensive and thorough orientation which will emphasize the safety of the campers as a first priority and will provide resources for proper safety procedures.
- b. The Camp Nurse will always be on the grounds whenever children are present.
- c. All state and local regulations will be adhered to and staff will be properly trained with appropriate ratios and certifications.