

GIBSON WEEKEND INFORMATION

About Gibson Weekend

Gibson Weekend is a chance for campers to share their world with their visitor. Visitors will follow the camp schedule and see camp life from their camper's perspective. It's a rare opportunity for your child to take the lead. Let's make the most of this special weekend together!

We want to make sure families know that there is choice and flexibility about how they participate in the weekend. You may arrive on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. You may elect to stay the whole weekend or depart at any point in the weekend that works for your schedule. We do ask that you communicate what your plans are to the staff so that we can all work together to manage the camper's expectations for the weekend.

2024 GIBSON WEEKEND DATES

First Session: July 12-14

Second Session: August 9-11

Camp Program

During Gibson Weekend, the camp program will run as usual with counselors supervising and leading activities. We encourage visitors to participate in activities (where possible), share meals with your child's cabin group, join cabin chats, and enjoy bonding moments by our beautiful ponds.

Camp is centered on the campers, so it's best to leave adult expectations behind for the weekend. Campers must attend all activities and stay on the grounds during the weekend, while adults can choose which activities to join. If campers don't have a visitor, rest assured that our counselors will ensure all campers' needs are met throughout the weekend.

Arrival/Staying at Camp

Each camper may have one visitor (of the same gender) until Sunday at noon. Visitors during this time must be 18 years of age or older and identify with the gender identity of the camp they are visiting. These visitors may stay overnight on the camp property on either/both Friday or Saturday nights in a tent, and their camper may stay in the tent with them. Campers who have visitors who are staying in housing or staying off-camp will stay with other campers overnight. Please do not take campers off the property during the weekend.

On Sunday from noon to 4 PM, campers may have more than one visitor of any gender and age. Any visitor under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Friday Arrival: Visitors wishing to visit/arrive on Friday may arrive anytime between 1:30 - 9 PM.

Saturday Arrival: Visitors wishing to visit/arrive on Saturday are asked to arrive between 9 - 11 AM.

Sunday Arrival: Visitors arriving on Sunday can arrive at noon or later and must depart camp by 4 PM.

If your arrival time changes from what you indicated on your reservation form, please let the camp office know so that we can communicate the change to your camper.

Please DO NOT bring pets! No pets will be allowed on the camp property.

There IS a Gibson Weekend for campers in Starter B but not for campers in Starter A.

Gibson Weekend Registration

To have a member of your family (or another visitor) participate from Friday to Sunday of Gibson Weekend or any portion of that time, they must register for a session in your online account. Only registered visitors will be permitted on camp during this time.

Adult guests only participating in the Sunday portion of Gibson Weekend should complete the Gibson Weekend Record for Visiting Day. If you have more than one child in the program or if you have physical limitations that prevent your full participation, you may bring another visitor who meets the requirements for the day you plan to visit. Please have this individual also register for the weekend.

Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA policy requires all adult visitors to be screened in advance of the weekend through the National Sex Offender Registry. This is not a criminal history check. It is a requirement for all adult staff, visitors, volunteers, and guests aged 18 and over who will be on the camp property, with the exception of drop-off and pick-up days.

Tenting

We highly recommend that visitors tent for the overnight(s) at camp— they may bring their own tent, borrow one, or invest in a tent for the weekend. Your camper may sleep with you in your tent; if you stay off-camp, your camper will stay at camp with other campers and staff. Volunteers and staff will be readily available to help with setting up tents, so don't worry if you are not a "camper". Please check at home to make sure you have all of the parts for your tent. We have some spare parts, but tents tend to have specific pieces for each tent. Visitors for the weekend are encouraged to bring their own tent but may also rent a tent from camp for a fee. Tents are assigned on a first-come-first-served basis for those with a tent rental reservation. Please remember if you choose to stay off camp, your camper needs to stay on camp the entire weekend. There are motels and B&Bs in the area, but you will need to make your reservations early as rooms are at a premium in the Berkshires in the summer. The internet is a great way to look for accommodations. Lee is the closest town with a good selection and is about 15-20 minutes from camp. Campers will not be able to leave camp with you.

Meals

Adults will join their campers for all meals at camp. We have nutritious and plentiful food, but please do not expect gourmet meals—it's camp! Meals during the weekend will be a mixture of cookouts, buffets, and sit-down meals. Visitors on Sunday afternoon are invited to bring a picnic lunch for the family or join the Camp's Sunday Buffet. Times for meals will be listed in the schedule you will receive on arrival.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens for my child if I cannot attend?

Staff supervision of campers and programs will continue throughout the weekend so campers' experience will be consistent and is not depend on each camper having a visitor.

What if I don't own a tent?

We recommend that you bring a tent and air mattress for the weekend. If you don't already own one, many families borrow one from a friend. They can also be purchased for reasonable prices at Walmart and other similar stores. Companies like EMS or REI rent tenting equipment in many areas. We have a limited number of camp tents to rent - they are small and of varying qualities, but please choose the tent rental option during registration if you need one. No RVs will be allowed.

I've never camped before! Is that a problem?

Absolutely not. Many visitors who come to Gibson Weekend are not experienced campers. Remember - this is part of the fun in letting your camper lead the way. We will have staff readily available during arrival times to help set up tents.

What are the bathroom facilities like?

Washhouses/Automats are located near your camper's cabins. These facilities have electricity, regular flush toilets, and indoor & outdoor showers. Visitors should use the bathhouse that their camper uses during the session. Remember, our facilities will be stressed so brace yourself for the possibility of a cool shower. Also, we need everyone to pitch in to keep the bathhouses clean, so please help by picking up after yourself.

Is electricity available?

Yes, but only in buildings such as the dining hall, automats (washhouses), etc. A good flashlight is a must for the evenings. Don't count on being able to plug in a cell phone.

May I bring my cell phone?

We ask that you limit cell phone use to free periods during the day in your car or tent so calls don't disrupt the scheduled activities. Reception is unpredictable on camp property. If you're sleeping in a tent, remember that ringing phones and loud conversations can be disruptive and noise should be kept to a minimum after cabin chat. We suggest that you put your name on your cell phone as well as any other valuable items. Ideally, we encourage you to be unplugged like the campers and not use your phone. Your phone should not be used by your camper or other campers at any time.

What happens during chapel on Sunday?

A non-religious gathering of our community takes place every week at camp. If you choose the Friday or Saturday arrival times for Gibson Weekend, this will be part of your experience. As you may remember from the camper's packing list we invite you to follow our traditional Chapel attire. At Camp Becket, a white top and khaki pants/shorts are the tradition. At Chimney Corners Camp a nicer outfit of your choice which is different from the typical camp wear, is the tradition. You will receive a letter in the mail from Amy Gutschenritter, our CEO, asking you to consider a donation to our Annual Fund

which supports our tiered pricing and financial assistance. At the end of Chapel, there will be a short reminder about our Annual Fund drive and a thank you to all our families for your support this have supported our camps this year.

Are there any restrictions to be aware of for the weekend?

Yes, state law prohibits smoking, vaping, alcohol consumption, drug use or otherwise being impaired on the property. Weapons of any kind are also prohibited. In addition, we ask that campers and their visitors remain on the property for the duration of the visit. All visitors are asked to follow the "camp rules" while at camp, including wearing proper attire and footwear for activities, arriving to activities on time, and showing respect and care for all members of the community.

Suggested Packing List

- Tent and other camping gear (ground cloth, rain tarp, extra stakes, etc.)
- Sleeping gear (air mattress, sleeping bag or sheets, pillow, extra blanket)
- Bathroom items in a case or container
- Rain gear & umbrella (along with a sense of humor if it rains all weekend!)
- Bathrobe
- Plenty of socks (required even with sandals - Such a cool look!)
- Insect Repellent & Sunscreen
- Casual Clothing
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Lawn/beach/camp chair
- Jeans/Shorts
- Comfortable shoes or sneakers
- Hat / Sunglasses
- Sweatshirt
- Towels (extras in case of rain)
- Bathing Suit
- Water Bottle
- Water shoes or flip-flops
- Clothing for Sunday Chapel (see notes above)