

ROAD'S END FARM

HORSEMANSHIP CAMP ♦ RETREAT CENTER

(603)363-4900

(603)363-4600

P.O. Box 197 ♦ Jackson Hill Road
Chesterfield, New Hampshire 03443-0197
www.roadsendfarm.com

May 29, 2024

Dear Road's End Farm Families,

Before addressing the primary purpose of this letter, which contains important information related to your camper's arrival and stay at Road's End Farm for the 2024 camp season, I want to thank returning and new camp families for your support of the Farm. To the parents, specifically, whom Tom fondly refers to as the 'unsung heroes of the Farm,' I would like to say thank you for supporting our Camp. I should also like to express my very sincere gratitude to each of you for your patience with me during my first season as Director, especially to those of you who graciously accepted a camp session at Road's End Farm this coming summer that was not your expressed first choice or switched sessions to accommodate another family. Your flexibility makes it possible for the maximum number campers to experience this special place.

Now, in the interest of making your arrival at the Camp and that of other families as enjoyable and free of delays as possible, I am writing this letter to explain several of our camp's policies, to provide final information before your camper's arrival, and to explain the Enrollment Questionnaire, which is last form that you will fill out. The numbered bullets in this letter correspond to the numbers on the Enrollment Questionnaire. Following the bullets is some additional information that will help facilitate your camper's successful arrival to the Farm. Four documents are being sent concurrently with this letter:

- [2024 Camp Enrollment Questionnaire](#)
- [2024 Camp Form Checklist](#)
- [2024 Camp Arrival Guidelines](#)
- [REF Charitable Contribution Letter](#)

If you have not done so already, please fill out our [Health Certificate](#), [Dietary Questionnaire](#) and [Riding Survey](#) as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to call me with questions or for clarification before indicating your wishes on the questionnaire.

Thank you!

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Enrollment Questionnaire Information - numbers below correspond to numbered items on the form

1. Although Road's End Farm has secondary illness and injury insurance coverage in effect for each camper as a prerequisite for obtaining camp liability insurance, each family's individual health plan is relied upon to cover medical expenses resulting from sickness, injury and/or an accident at the camp. This practice has kept the cost of the camp's medical insurance remarkably constant, which in turn has had a favorable effect on the camp's enrollment fee. So that the benefits of this approach to paying for medical expenses may continue to be reflected in the camp fee, space has been provided on the questionnaire for pertinent information about your family's health insurance plan. If you do not have family health insurance, then you must provide the complete details of the temporary accident and sickness insurance coverage that you will have in effect for your camper during her/their stay at the camp. To further expedite matters in the event your camper has to see a doctor while at camp, please provide a legible photocopy of the information that appears on both the front and back sides of the card issued by your health insurance provider or your temporary accident and sickness insurance policy.

2. In the course of the summer, campers may have several opportunities to see a movie at the Camp. We own a large collection of DVDs and can show three or four movies at once. With the exception of an occasional G-rated film, the movies offered are usually rated PG through R. Over the years, we have used discretion in selecting what movies the campers watch, knowing full well that the industry rating does not always fairly depict a movie's suitability or value to children. To assist us in this respect, please specify what kind of movies your camper has permission to see, knowing that your wishes will be respected. We will do our best to exercise good judgment if you permit us to make the decision by selecting the "Camp Director's Discretion" option.

3. In the course of every camp season, some of the experienced riders have opportunities to work with inexperienced horses and train them for riding. This involvement with horses in training can entail a greater degree of risk than that associated with riding horses already trained under saddle. Please indicate whether you wish your camper to be given such an opportunity if we deem her/them proficient enough on and around horses to be up to the challenge. If you have any questions about whether your camper is an accomplished enough rider to handle a horse in training, it is best to answer no to this question.

4. As alternative diets are more prevalent in society nowadays than in the past, please indicate your camper's preferences as regards meat, fish, or fowl in her/their diet, thereby enabling us to prepare appropriate meals for her/them. In addition, please inform us of any food allergies and sensitivities. This information is also requested on our [Dietary Questionnaire](#) so that our cooks and nurses can be aware of any dietary considerations.

5. A camper's spending money is separate from the camp tuition. The camp program is designed so that campers need very little spending money once they are at the farm. If an adequate supply of toiletries, stamps, T-shirts for tie-dying, etc., has been sent along, a two-week camper should not need any spending money to fully enjoy the camp program. While we do not have a camp store, we do offer the following items for sale: white T-shirts for tie-dying (\$4), baseball caps (\$17), crew neck sweatshirts (\$34), hooded sweatshirts (\$46), and journals (\$5) that the campers use to exchange contact information on the last night of camp. We can also provide essential items that your camper might forget, such as toiletries, stamps, envelopes, etc. Although we suggest packing enough clothing

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to last for two weeks without incurring laundry expenses, any camper wishing to have laundry done will need \$25/week to cover laundry expenses. Lastly, if your camper is renting bedding from us or if Road's End Farm is providing transportation to or from an airport, those costs will also be part of the spending money. Please contact me if you have questions about the prices for these items or services. If you do not want your camper to purchase a particular item, please have that conversation with us before camp.

To avoid the unpleasantness of money disappearing in the dormitories, Cape Cod House, or elsewhere, we request that spending money not be left with the campers. Please indicate the amount you authorize your camper to spend, and we will ensure that her/their camp spending does not exceed that amount. In the unlikely event that any unexpected expenses arise above the amount you have authorized (acquisition of a horse notwithstanding), I will certainly give you a call to discuss the situation. You can settle the balance of your camper's spending money account with cash or a check at pickup. If you have questions about how much spending money to authorize, just reach out. ***Please do not include any spending money in your camp tuition check.***

6. In the course of every camp season, many lovely pictures and videos are taken by campers and staff members at Road's End Farm. Many of these truly capture the essence of the camp program as no professional photographer could, and some would be ideal for replication in the camp's brochure, on its website, or in Road's End Farm's official postings to social media. However, before any visual image may be used in any of these ways, permission must be granted by the individual pictured or their parents if they are under 21 years of age. Please indicate whether you agree to grant Road's End Farm such permission, being mindful that any pictures used will be in good taste and without camper's names. Please also note that Road's End Farm does not have a formal "camp photographer" and we don't upload photos daily in the summer.

7. Please indicate whether you give permission for the female members of our camp staff to hug or touch your camper in an appropriate manner. According to our insurance provider, only those campers who come up and hug us or request to be hugged should be hugged by us. This can be challenging, as some campers most in need of a hug or reassuring touch are also the least likely to initiate such interaction. It is sometimes difficult to reconcile the art of being a caring camp director or counselor with the recommendations of the folks in risk management. It's also very common for us to hug returning campers upon their arrival at camp and most campers as they leave. Please give us your guidance in this respect by noting what you and your camper will be comfortable with and expect from us.

8. To help facilitate a successful camp experience, we do not allow family visits in the middle of a two-week session in any year, and we don't hold a "Visitor" or "Family Day," given that the majority of campers are here for two weeks. For those campers staying longer than two weeks, families are welcome to visit on the Saturday or Sunday of a Changeover Weekend (July 6/7, July 20/21, August 3/4, August 17/18). Families are welcome to visit your camper at the Farm or to take your camper off-campus for a meal or shopping trip. If you do choose to visit your camper who is staying for two weeks or longer, please note that the Changeovers will be busy. If your camper is staying through to the next session, she/they will not have the opportunity to ride for you on visiting day but will be able to ride for you when you come at the end of the camp session. If you do have an interest in visiting this summer, please make sure to contact me in advance so that I can let your camper and the staff know. If your camper is staying for longer than two weeks, please indicate on the Enrollment Questionnaire whether you give permission

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for your camper to leave camp with a friend and her/their family if an invitation is extended, keeping in mind that we shall reserve the right to refuse such an invitation for you should something strike us as being amiss.

9. While we are committed to a strong program at Road's End Farm, everything we do at camp involves the possibility of very serious health risks. Activities including but not limited to riding horses, swimming, canoeing, riding in camp vehicles and assisting with chores about the Farm all have inherent dangers that even the best-administered camp program will not completely remove. Moreover, the risk of illness, including but not limited to COVID-19, Lyme disease, or other illnesses cannot be entirely prevented. Although we have tried over the years and shall continue trying to do our utmost to provide safe camp experiences for the campers who partake in our program, there is absolutely no guarantee whatsoever that Road's End Farm will be entirely safe for campers or staff members.

At the end of the Enrollment Questionnaire is a short statement that we require each camper and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to sign, acknowledging their awareness of the fact that Road's End Farm involves very real and serious safety risks for campers and of their decision to fully accept those risks as well as the possible consequences and resultant costs as a part of the price of gaining what our camp program has to offer.

Furthermore, while our goal is to maintain a safe but free environment at Road's End Farm, we do have a few rules that help to ensure everyone's well-being and enjoyment. All campers must abide by these rules for the camp program to offer the freedom of choice and openness that has been a hallmark at Road's End Farm over the years. Although some of the rules can be stretched a tad without harm to the program or the campers, some cannot. These include the possession or use of tobacco products (including vaping products), alcoholic beverages, and illicit drugs. Please be aware that the possession of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol will result in immediate dismissal from camp. Likewise, we also have very little leeway for a camper who exhibits abusive, aggressive, offensive, profane, or otherwise ill-mannered behavior, and may dismiss any camper exhibiting such behaviors before the end of her/their camp session without any refund of the unused portion of the camp fee.

Lastly, it is important to everyone's enjoyment of camp and life within the Dormitory Cabins and Cape Cod House that each camper be willing to keep their personal belongings neat and do their share of the chores in the dormitory and in other aspects of the camp program.

10. In the interest of preserving the low-key, pastoral atmosphere at the end of Jackson Hill Road, as well as in the hope of encouraging an appreciation for nature and the simple pleasures that life affords us all, we require that campers leave cell phones and any electronic devices with internet or cellular access at home. The social networks the campers are able to establish at the camp, and the wholesome fun that is possible only after they have put down their cell phones will stand the campers in good stead for years to come. Creating and nurturing strong friendships, caring for horses, playing games, frolicking in the lake, and just helping out around the farm do not require the latest app or the newest gadget, both of which are a distraction at best and the antithesis of what summer camping is all about at worst. Therefore, so as to not diminish anyone's stay at the camp, please do not pack cell phones, tablets, or video games when heading to the Farm.

Mindful that photography, music, and literature most certainly enrich everyone's experience at Road's End Farm, cameras, music players, and e-Readers that do not support connectivity via the internet or cellular data are

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permitted. For those inclined towards literature, the camp dining room sports a budding library of classics, books bestowed by campers and staff over the years. Unlikely as it may seem, a camper needs only to bring a smile, a smidgeon of humor that can be broadened, and a willingness to pitch in to have everything she/they will need to flourish here.

Packing Advice

A [Packing List](#) is available on camp's website. For some further guidance on what to pack and what to leave at home, please see below:

- Once camp starts, laundry is sent out on Mondays and returns on Tuesdays. Most two-week campers do not send laundry out, but they can if needed on the second Monday of their stay. A reminder that laundry costs \$25/week.
- We typically offer tie-dying at least once per two-week session. We have white t-shirts available for sale (\$4), or the campers can bring an unsuspecting, light-colored one for sacrifice.
- As each day at Road's End Farm contains a certain amount of free time for each camper to pursue personal interests, consideration should also be given to sending along some books, writing materials or drawing supplies, and perhaps even a musical instrument that might otherwise feel neglected without being exercised.
- Hopefully, operating electric hair dryers, flat irons or curling irons is not a favorite pastime for any of our campers as the use of them is still prohibited under the terms of an exclusive contract we have for that service with Sun & Wind, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the highly reputable Mother Earth, Inc.
- Please **do not bring** aerosol containers to camp, including dry-hair spray, shampoo, bug spray or sunscreen. Please also do not bring hair dryers, flat irons, or curling irons.
- Please **do bring** non-aerosol sunscreen, non-aerosol bug spray, a personal water bottle, a flashlight, sunglasses, and a hat, as well as everything else indicated on the packing list.
- Please put your camper's name prominently on everything, including helmets and boots, many of which look alike.
- Due to the highly contagious nature of certain equine diseases and the utter lack of resistance to them by our sequestered herd of horses, please be sure to thoroughly wash all riding clothes and disinfect any footwear and helmets that you have used at other riding establishments before traveling to Road's End Farm. Where appropriate, items dipped in a solution of one part bleach and nine parts water for a short period of time will be adequately disinfected. Please do not take this important request lightly as one serious disease running through our sixty or so horses during the summertime would be the end of the camp's riding activities.

When it is time to leave the Farm, each camper is responsible for gathering up and packing their belongings, with the youngest children enjoying some assistance from the staff. As an incentive for them to be diligent in the task, we have a policy of charging \$25 in addition to postage for any items we have to send back to you after your camper's departure. This policy was instituted not for the purpose of generating extra revenue, but because without it we were fast becoming a full-time shipping department during and after the camp season.

Communication with Campers

As explained above, Road's End Farm maintains a no cell phone policy for all campers. We believe it is truly important for campers to unplug while they're at the Farm, and that being in constant communication with family

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and friends or being online detracts from the Road's End Farm experience. Given that your camper will not have a cell phone, below is a summary of our policy regarding communications with your camper while at camp.

Parents and families can reach out to me via telephone, email, or text at any time for an update or if you have questions. The main telephone in the house is 603/363-4900, and my cell is 603/363-4600. My email is sarah@roadsendfarm.com

For families sending a camper for the first year, on the first Tuesday or Wednesday of a new camper's (first time ever attending the farm) session, you will get a telephone call from the camper's counselor with an update on how the camper is doing.

On the first weekend of a session, and every weekend thereafter if your camper is staying longer than two weeks, you may call her/them on our dedicated camper telephone line. These calls should be made to the campers' telephone number, which is 603/363-4703, and should be limited to ten minutes in length. It is easiest to reach the campers around mealtimes when they're not off doing activities; we eat at 8 AM, 1 PM, and 6 PM. Try calling 45 minutes on either side of a meal, or during. Please remember, one call a week and no calls in the first week.

You may send as much snail mail to your camper as you like and receiving mail and packages at camp is a highlight for most campers. Please be reasonable in the number and size of care packages you send. You are welcome to send food, but please no chewing gum, and consider what types of food will do best in a hot Dorm/Cape.

If you are sending mail or packages via the USPS, the address is:

Camper's Name
Road's End Farm
P.O. Box 197
Chesterfield, NH 03443-0197

If you are sending mail or packages via UPS or FedEx, the address is:

Camper's Name
149 Jackson Hill Road
Chesterfield, NH 03443-0197

We will also provide this contact information on a one-page Contact Information Sheet upon check-in. If your camper is in an emergency situation, we will connect you via telephone. Please note that homesickness does not constitute an emergency, and in our experience, a call home often prolongs homesickness rather than easing it. We have had many homesick campers over the years, and we find that distracting homesick campers with activities, including chats with counselors, friends, the nurse, and of course the horses, are the best remedies.

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Urgent Care Trips

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Road's End Farm was able to bring campers who needed to see a doctor to the Cheshire Medical Walk-In Clinic in Keene, NH. For the past three years however (and again this year), that clinic is only open to current Dartmouth-Hitchcock patients. If your camper needs to see a medical provider while at camp, and is not a Dartmouth-Hitchcock patient, we will take her/them to an Urgent Care clinic in Keene or Brattleboro. You will be notified any time we take your camper to Urgent Care. We will attempt to get the visit covered through your insurance plan, however if there is a charge involved, we will contact you to pay via credit card over the phone. If we cannot reach you, we will pay and provide you with the invoice for reimbursement to Road's End Farm.

Drop-Off/ Pick Up

Drop-off at camp occurs between 10 AM and 2 PM on the first Sunday of your camp session. Please plan on spending 1 to 2 hours at the Farm with your camper. While my goal is to make the check in process as efficient and easy as possible for every family, it does take some time to move through all the necessary steps, so your patience will be most appreciated. **Please make sure not to arrive before 10 AM** as that will be very disruptive for us. Thank you for that consideration.

This year, long-time staff members and camp alumni, Caroline Coe or Susannah Branch, will be on hand to help facilitate the arrival and departure days. Once you arrive at the Farm, you will be greeted by a staff member and be introduced to your camper's counselor(s). You will then go meet with our nurse and Alicia for your camper's medical intake (medical interview, lice check, foot check). We ask that you do not move your camper into her/their cabin or the Cape Cod House until you have passed through the necessary medical checks. As discussed further below, we will not be conducting arrival day COVID-19 testing, but require that all families administer an antigen test to your camper within 48 hours prior to arriving at camp.

Please keep all health paperwork with you until this point to hand it directly over to the nurse. This is also the time to provide any medications or supplements that will be kept with our nurse for administration. A reminder that all prescription medications (including Epi-Pens and inhalers) must come in original pharmacy packaging with the administration details on the label. Epi-Pens and inhalers also require an additional form from the state of New Hampshire. Please reach out asap if you need a copy of either form.

Once you're done with the nurse, you are free to move your camper into their assigned Dormitory Cabin or Cape, and then proceed to meet with me. At that time, I will review the remainder of your paperwork and answer any remaining questions.

Finally, you will see Holly Robins, our riding director, to discuss your camper's riding ability. **Please feel free to bring a video of your camper riding on your phone to facilitate the discussion of your camper's riding skills.**

Caroline, Susannah and/or other staff members may come fetch you to move you to one part of the process or another. Also note that because the majority of campers are staying for two-week sessions, changeovers can be hectic

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and time consuming depending on when families arrive during the day. For those returning families who would prefer not to wait to see me, Caroline or Susannah will also be available to finalize your check-in.

To keep as much of our check-in process outside of enclosed buildings, the location of your meetings will be slightly different than in past years. I will meet with families on the screen(less) porch attached to the farmhouse. Our nurse and Alicia will be in the Rec Room to perform the medical intake and lice check. Holly will be inside the Stable to talk with your new camper about riding experience, or to talk with your returning camper about horse choices. There will be signage for each location, but please do not hesitate to ask a staff member for direction – we are here to make your day run as smoothly as possible!

Our goal is to have wrapped up the check in process by 3 PM, so that campers can be off and running, and so that you can all be on your way home. Once you drop your camper off, our goal is to get all campers engaged in activities to ward off any potential first day homesickness, which can affect both new and returning campers. We will not be doing swim assessments on incoming Sundays this year but will be giving new campers an introduction to the barn and riding program and will take all campers to see the herd. 5 PM feeding of the horses comes very quickly that afternoon, followed by 6 PM dinner for campers and staff and finally a camp-wide get to know you activity.

On pick-up days (Saturdays), please arrive between 10 AM and 1 PM to collect your camper. The pick-up day is far less formal than drop-off. Your camper will have an opportunity to show off her/ their riding skills for approximately 20 minutes. We do not let campers tack up their horses until a family arrives, so as to avoid a horse standing around tacked up if a family is late. Each horse may be ridden by more than one camper as well, so you may need to wait a bit before your camper can ride for you. This is a good time to pack the car and check the lost and found for any extraneous items. You will also retrieve medications and/or supplements from the nurse, and settle up your spending money account with Caroline or Susannah. With these tasks, and the inevitable prolonged and tearful goodbyes, please plan on being at camp for 1 to 2 hours.

Once the campers leave, our staff will very quickly move onto cleaning the entire camp and having a staff meeting. We also move the horses across the road to the Wheelocks pasture for the weekend. For these reasons, our goal is that everyone has departed camp by 2:30 PM at the latest, so that we can move onto the important work of getting camp ready for the next session and getting the horses a much needed break.

2024 Visiting Policy

For those campers staying longer than two weeks, families are welcome to visit on the Saturday or Sunday of a Changeover Weekend (July 6/7, July 20/21, August 3/4, August 17/18). These visits are welcome to take place at the Farm, or you may take your camper off-campus to Keene or Brattleboro for a meal or shopping trip.

If your camper is staying for longer than two weeks, please also note on the [Enrollment Questionnaire](#) whether you are ok with her/them leaving camp with another camper and her/their visiting family.

If you do have interest in visiting this summer, please make sure to contact me in advance so that I can let your camper and the staff know.

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2024 COVID-19 Considerations

This year, we plan to keep our COVID-19 mitigation measures consistent with the 2023 season. Our plan is based on best practices issued by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC and is reflective of what many other New Hampshire camps are doing this year. A summary of our plan is below:

- COVID vaccines will not be required for campers in 2024, but we strongly encourage campers to also be up to date on vaccines.
- We will require that families administer an at-home antigen COVID-19 test within 48 hours of their arrival at camp, prior to leaving home. If the camper tests positive for COVID-19, please call Sarah, and please do not travel to camp.
- We will not be COVID testing on the arrival day at camp, nor on Day 5 of each session. If a camper or staff member present COVID-19 symptoms, she/they will be administered a rapid/antigen COVID-19 test. The camper/ staff person may also undergo a viral test at Road's End Farm or at Cheshire Medical Center.
- If a camper tests positive, she/they will need to be picked up that day. Campers who do not live within driving distance of camp must identify a local contact who can drive to camp if needed. Campers will remain isolated in Cape 2 or outside and masked until pick up. Campers who are enrolled for long camp stays will have the option of returning to camp after 14 days.
- Campers and staff who had potential contact with the person who tests positive will be monitored for symptoms and tested daily.
- If your camper tests positive before or upon arrival at camp, or during camp, Road's End Farm will work with your family to determine whether there is an opportunity for that camper to return during a later session in the summer. If we cannot accommodate your camper in a future session, Road's End Farm will keep your camp deposit and balance. This is a challenging issue and I understand it places a burden and risk on families. By the time we are in the pre-arrival testing window or camp session, we have already expended all costs related to your camper's stay, and it will likely be too late to find another camper to replace them. We want another successful summer of camp at Road's End Farm, so we're asking campers to reduce risks and practice COVID-safe behavior in the weeks before arriving at camp.

Lice and Ticks

As we transition out of the pandemic, it is important to keep in mind two other issues that every summer camp in New England manages on an annual basis – head lice and ticks.

Our nurse and/or Alicia will also do a head check on your camper as part of the medical check in when you arrive. Any camper arriving at the Farm with either lice or eggs (nits) in her/ their hair will not be allowed to stay until the camper is free of both. To avoid unnecessary inconvenience or embarrassment, please be sure to check your camper's hair and scalp very carefully for signs of lice before heading to the Farm. Furthermore, please help us in passing along cautionary words to your camper about the risk of lending or borrowing combs, hairbrushes, hair ties, pillows, or riding helmets while at camp, as will our staff.

We have seen an increase in ticks at the Farm in recent years, including the deer ticks which transmit Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Note that disease-transmitting ticks are more prevalent in the spring and fall. Performing

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a “tick check” is something that the counselors will remind your camper about daily. Please send your camper with long pants and long-sleeved shirts (preferably lighter-colored) as well as an effective tick and mosquito repellent for use when walking, riding, and possibly working in the woods.

Balance Due

The balance of the camp tuition is due 30 days prior to your arrival at camp. If you have not yet sent in your balance, please mail it to:

Road's End Farm
P.O. Box 197
Chesterfield, NH 03443-0197

Sending your balance in advance of your arrival will mean one less administrative task on check-in day. Please make your check out for only the amount due toward your camp fee as indicated in the email to which this letter is attached, and please do not include any spending money in this check.

At this time, we cannot take credit card or other electronic payments. There are no additional fees this year related to COVID-19 or other operating expenses.

If your employer provides matching funds for charitable contributions, and you would like your camp fee to be directed towards charity, please see the [Charitable Contribution Letter](#) from Tom. If this is something you would like to do, please let me know and I can provide additional details.

Summary

Thank you to everyone who has made it to this point in the letter. If you are reading these words, I admire you for your significant determination. For those of you prone to skimming through such a dense wall of text, a summary of the main points included in this lengthy letter are available in the [2024 Camp Form Checklist](#) and [2024 Camp Arrival Guidelines](#).

If there are any questions that haven't been answered by this letter, please reach out. As we get closer to camp, phone calls are best, as I am busy helping to get the Farm ready for your campers and training staff who will arrive June 9th. Maple and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Farm in a few short weeks and wish you a safe trip to camp.

Warmly,



Sarah Rosenstein
Director
603/363-4600
sarah@roadsendfarm.com