**Camp Tamarack Retreat Registration Package**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your son/daughter is invited to embark on a three-day, two-night retreat hosted by staff members and senior students of Victoria Park CI from **Sunday September 15 to Wednesday September 17, 2019**. The retreat is held at Camp Tamarack near Bracebridge, ON which is approximately a two hour drive north of Toronto. Victoria Park’s grade 11 and 12 students have dedicated more than 4 months of planning and preparing to lead the retreat. Camp Tamarack’s outdoor education trained staff will be facilitating the more intensive programs such as trampoline, archery and ropes courses. For more information on the camp, please refer to the camp website at <http://camptamarack.info/>. Although Camp Tamarack is located on a lake, there will be NO swimming or canoeing while on this excursion

The purpose of this trip is to help integrate grade nine students into the Victoria Park community, while providing a unique opportunity for the senior students to develop their leadership skills in a fun outdoor setting. The program will consist of outdoor focused activities including but not limited to: **rock wall climbing, ropes courses, hiking, archery, wilderness skills, stargazing and campfires.** Students will be given individualized instruction in all these activity areas and are encouraged to challenge themselves to try new things. Students will not only learn about self-reliance and co-operation but also learn how to interact with their peers, solve problems and make responsible decisions. Your child will be accommodated in cabins that are accessible to clean washrooms with showers. The cabins have electricity but no heat. Senior students will be sleeping in the cabins with the grade nine students and acting as counsellors throughout their stay. There will be Victoria Park C.I. staff on site throughout the retreat to ensure the safety of your child as well as to enhance your child’s experience.

The excursion to Camp Tamarack will involve medium to high risk activity. Although every precaution will be taken, there is a possible risk of injury such as but not limited to sprains, strains, concussions, fractures, abrasions and bruises. Please note that the TDSB does not provide accident insurance coverage for your child. If you require insurance coverage, please visit www.insuremykids.com or call 1-800463-5437.

We ask that you read the list of recommended clothes and pack with your child accordingly. It is very important that your son or daughter bring a waterproof jacket and a WARM sleeping bag and blanket. Please note that up north in September the temperature can get down to around ten degrees Celsius in the day and potentially to zero degrees Celsius at night. Reviewing the weather forecast before the trip would be a very good idea. Your child should not bring electronics including their cell phone as we cannot guarantee the security of these items. There are pay phones available on-site that your son or daughter can use to call home collect at appropriate times.

Your child will be travelling in board approved school buses to and from Camp Tamarack. We are leaving from in front of Victoria Park CI at 9:00 am on Sunday September 15, 2019. Exact time for check-in Sunday will be given to the students in September. We will depart from the camp at approximately 4:00 pm with an estimated arrival time back at school at 7:00 pm on Tuesday September 17, 2019. The cost for the trip this year has been set at $220. This covers accommodations, bus, food and programming. Our intention is for no student to be excluded from this event due to financial hardship so please contact any one of the VPCI administration team to arrange for subsidies if needed.

Please complete the online registration form at <https://tinyurl.com/VPCI-Camp>. Payment can be made online via school cash or by bringing cash or a cheque into the main office at school. A TDSB field trip permission form will also need to be completed in September. The deadline for registration is **Friday Sept 6, 2019**. Alternate programming will be arranged at Victoria Park for students who do not attend camp. Grade 9 classes will not hold assessments or cover new material during this time. No grade 9 student will fall behind by participating in camp.

Surveys from students who have attended in the past found that 100% of students who attended would recommend the event to others. While many students expressed they had been nervous before heading to camp, especially about not knowing anyone else, they had an excellent experience. A promotional video made by the senior students describing the camp experience may be viewed atvictoriaparkci.ca***.*** Please encourage your child to attend even if this is outside their comfort zone. The Victoria Park staff and senior students want all parents to know the retreat is a truly memorable experience and a highlight of the year. It should not be missed!

Laura Keras

Teacher, Victoria Park CI

Coordinator for the Camp Tamarack Leadership Retreat 2019

laura.keras@tdsb.on.ca

416-395-3310 x. 20080

**Packing List For Camp Tamarack September 15-17, 2019**

**Mandatory**

* WARM Sleeping bag (it could get down to zero degrees at night)
* Underwear for each day
* 5 pairs of socks – at least 2 wool
* Toque
* Hat
* 1 warm blanket
* Running shoes
* Another pair of shoes (you cannot wear open-toed sandals)
* 1-2 sweater or light jacket
* Down/heavy jacket/vest
* 2 pairs of trousers or sweat pants
* 2-3 short sleeve, 1 long sleeve T-shirts
* Pajamas
* Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap,)
* Towel
* Rainwear
* Water bottle
* Label for your bags (even if it’s just tape with your name on it)
* Students will be provided a white t-shirt but you may also want to bring other white clothing (socks) to tye dye
* Long underwear or leggings
* Flashlight (for outside- cabins do have electricity)

**Optional**

* Playing cards
* Camera (VP assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen items)

**Do NOT Bring**

* Electronics and Valuables
* Cell Phone (bad reception, may get lost/stolen/damaged- if you need to call there are pay phones which you can use at designated times)
* Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco
* A bad attitude

Avoid suitcases with wheels if at all possible. Backpacks are preferable. Try to attach all items together so that they can be easily transported. We will be stowing sleeping bags and pillows under and on the seats of the buses.

**RULES – for all Camp Attendees**

1. Any consumption or possession of alcohol, drugs or tobacco will result in immediate dismissal from the retreat at parent’s/guardian’s expense. As per the school rules, if staff believe that a student is under the influence of drugs and or alcohol, they will be dismissed from the camp at the parent or guardian’s expense.
2. Students cannot be in an opposing genders’ cabin at any time.
3. No swimming, wading or entering the water. Failure to follow this rule will result in the student being sent home at their parent’s/guardian’s expense.
4. There is to be no use of any watercraft. Failure to follow this rule will result in the student being sent home at their parent’s/guardian’s expense.
5. Follow the rules and regulations of Camp Tamarack and its staff, and VPCI (refer to agenda for school regulations) and its designated staff members in attendance.
6. Be respectful and considerate of your classmate’s space and belongings, as well as the staff.
7. Safety first! Think before you act- if in doubt, ask a teacher or a Tamarack Staff member.