

Frequently Asked Questions About Artworks! Summer and Tennis Camp

About Counselors:

- Camper to Counselor Ratio: per the Massachusetts Health Department Laws (www.mass.gov/dph/dcs/csanregs.htm), campers over 6 years of age, the ratio is one counselor to ten children. Campers under 6 years of age; the ratio becomes one counselor to five campers.
- Background checks on camp personnel: (www.mass.gov/sorb/forms/request_tosorb.PDF) (www.state.ma.us/chsb/CORI_ref.html)
Massachusetts Health Department Laws require that both a CORI (criminal offender registry info) and a SORI (sexual offender registry info) background checks are completed on all camp personnel over the age of 17. In addition, we ask each counselor for three letters of recommendation with their application for employment. We require all counselors to travel in pairs when escorting campers, both for campers as well as counselors safety.
- First Aid and CPR: All personnel are current in their First Aid and CPR certification. All lifeguards are current on their Water Safety certifications as well as First Aid and CPR.
- Male & Female Staff Statistics: Our staff is about 1/3 male and 2/3 female for 2008. In 2007 it was similar. Paid staff are 16 years or older, and have completed a counselor in training program (by law, they must be 16 to qualify for the camper /counselor ratio). Adult staff range in age from 26 – 50. On average, over the last 4 years, 90% of the camp staff have returned to work again the following summer.

About Camp:

- **Certification needed for filing to open camp:**
 1. We file to open the camp with the Massachusetts Board of Health in Ayer, MA. They come to inspect the grounds, paperwork, refrigeration, sanitation, waste disposal, counselor ratio, pool license, and facilities.
 2. We file a fire escape plan with the local fire department. They inspect and approve the plan.
 3. We have a camp handbook for each counselor, which outlines camp protocol, structure and philosophy. It also contains games for counselors use.
 4. We have and Internal Revenue Certificate stating our Non-Profit status.

- **Male to Female Ratio at Camp**

Junior Artworks is a balanced ratio on average. Generally, there is about a ratio of 3 girls to 2 boys in the 7 – 12 year old group, as well as in the CIT's. In Tennis, it is about 3 boys to 1 girl.

- **Artworks Camp prices compared to other local camps**

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| Artworks and Tennis Summer Camp: | \$280. / week | 9 – 4 PM |
| Boy Scout Camp Split Rock, Ashburnham: | \$230. / week | 9 – 4 PM |
| Acton Indoor Sports Center Camp | \$260. / week | 8:30 – 3:30 PM |
| The Camp at Nashoba Valley Ski Area | \$388. / week | 9 – 3:30 PM |
| Lawrence Academy Summer Camp | \$300. / week | 9 – 4 PM |

- **Typical day for Junior Artworks, Age 4 – 6**

9 – 9:30 Dance Studio or Art project
9:30 – 10:15 Practice for Theatre Presentation for close of session
10:15 - 10:30 Snack
10:30 – 11 Games or Tennis
11 – 11:45 Changing and Pool time
11:45 – 12 changing back from pool
12 – 12:30 Lunch with incoming afternoon juniors
12:30 – 1 rehearse on stage for presentation
1 :00 saying goodbye to the morning only kids
1 – 4 going through the same schedule as morning but with new activities

- **Daily Schedule for Senior Artworks, Age 7 - 12**

(campers are grouped by age in a “color” group; groups rotate this schedule)

9 – 9:50 Art
9:50 – 10:40 Music
10:40 – 10:50 Snack
10:50 – 11:40 Theatre
11:40 – 12:30 Dance
12:30 – 1 Lunch
1 – 2 Recreation time – a variety of options are available
2 – 3:15 Majors: Camper may choose Art, Drama, Dance, Music Mayhem or Tennis
3:15 – 4 Changing and Pooltime
4 PM Dismissal of Campers

- **Typical Tennis Schedule**

9 – 11 Tennis games and skills
11 – 12 Cool off in Pool
12:30 – 1 lunch
1 – 2 recreate with other campers
2 – 3:15 Tennis
3:15 – 4 Pool
4 PM Dismissal of Campers

- **Recreation Time Activities**
Campers are led by the counselors in a variety of games, such as tag, soccer, interactive games, jump rope, hula-hoop, etc. Tennis and dance are also options. On hot days, water games are often included.

- **Typical Music Mayhem Schedule**
9 – 12:30 Playing music, jam sessions, playing with other instruments, recording
12:30 – 1 Lunch
1 – 3:15 More of the morning music opportunities, including writing some music
3:15 – 4 Pool
4 – 5 Practicing what will be the final presentation at the end of the week

- **Counselor – in – Training Schedule**
8:30 – 9 CIT duties: meet and greet campers, get them engaged in group activities
9 – 12:30 Assigned to groups to help with campers
12:30 – 1 Help with lunch supervision while they eat their lunch
1 – 2 Rehearse their Dramatic Presentation to be performed within the community
2 – 3 Leadership class
3 – 4 Interact with campers in the pool

- **Summary of the Counselor – in – Training Program**
CIT's are no longer campers, but counselors in the making. This training program gives each participant the opportunity to learn leadership skills, role-playing, initiating interactive games, while performing on the job training to hone their skills as potential counselors. As with many camps, the majority of our counselors are hired from those that have gone through our CIT program.

- **The NEW Counselor Corps Program**
The Counselor Corps is a group of Junior Counselors. They have participated in at least 2 sessions (4 weeks) of our CIT program, and may be ready to be counselors, but have not reached the age of 16. They are putting into action all that they have gained from their CIT training.

- **Grouping the Campers by Age/Grade**
While each camper is placed in a group according to birthdate for the first day of camp, we realize that your child may have a special friend that may be in another group and wish to be placed together. Camp is supposed to be FUN, and we will do everything possible to accommodate your request within reason. As long as the age difference is not more than two years, and the counselor/camper ratio can be accommodated, we will be happy to place campers with friends.

- **Switching afternoon “major” choice**
We ask campers to choose their major before they come to camp, so we are prepared when they arrive. Sometimes though, camper change their minds after

they are at camp. We can accommodate MOST of these changes within the FIRST two days of camp. Please be aware, that Tennis and Music Mayhem have caps on participation, and the campers that choose these during the registration process have priority in placement.

- **Swim Instruction**

Both AM and PM Junior Artworks campers (only) are instructed for 15 minutes a day in swim basics by a certified lifeguard and assistants. They are divided into groups by ability and spend time playing games and learning to be comfortable in the water. This instruction happens BEFORE the older camper come to the pool.

- **Presentations and Art Exhibit on the final day of each Session**

After lunch on the final Friday of each session, the campers offer several dramatic presentations as well as an art exhibit in and just outside the Schoolhouse Hall in the Administration building. Junior Artworks start us off with their little play at 1:00. Theatre Repertoire (CIT's) offer their short production at 1:30. Senior Artworks campers that chose Theatre as their afternoon major present their play at 2:00, while those that chose Art for a major exhibit their artwork in the lobby. All non-theatre campers become the chorus for this production, so everyone is involved. Finally Music Mayhem brings down the house with the music they've worked on all week at 3PM. ALL family members, neighbors, best friends and the like are invited to join the audience for any or all of this fun afternoon!

- **Additional fees or costs**

Upon completing registration on the first day of each camp session, you are directed to a table where Art majors can purchase their art board (for display at art exhibit) usually in the \$6. range; a white tee shirt for tie dye day for \$5. and / or prepay for popsicles/ice cream sandwiches for the entire session, which is \$10., (\$1. a day). Each camper has the choice to bring in their own artboard, tee shirt and desserts. We offer this strictly as a convenience.

Bibliography for other Camps Research

http://www.nashuavalleybsa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=56
<http://www.teamworksacton.com/traditional-camp-2.html>
<http://www.skinashoba.com/summer/camp/regform.content.html>
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