

# **New England Keswick 2008 Parents' Guide**

Welcome to New England Keswick's 2008 camp program. Please read this entire document. It answers many of the common questions parents have about the camp program, and it will also acquaint you with the experience your child will have while at Keswick. We look forward to sharing in the life of your family through this year's Keswick program.

## **History, Purpose, and Statement of Faith**

**History:** New England Keswick, Incorporated was founded on February 8, 1941, as an adult Bible Conference and youth camp. Many thousands of people have been blessed during the ensuing years of New England Keswick's ministry. Prior to the founding of these Keswick ministries in 1941, the property had been used as a missionary training site by Sudan Interior Mission from 1929-1941. Prior to 1929, the property had been privately owned farmland.

The name "Keswick" was taken from Keswick, England, the site of an annual Bible convention which began in 1875. This grew into the "Keswick Movement," a Christian revival emphasizing that all believers in Jesus Christ could enjoy a life of complete fullness, sufficiency, power, and victory through faith in Him. Though New England Keswick shares no formal affiliation with the outreach which began at Keswick, England, we do share in the emphasis on complete and abundant life in Jesus Christ for all who believe. We share the name, but are separate from other Keswick ministries.

**Purpose:** Keswick's mission is to provide programs, retreats, and educational events which proclaim the Christian faith and advance a Christian world view, that those who attend might come to personal faith in Jesus Christ, be educated according to Biblical moral principles, and commit themselves to lives of Christian leadership and service. New England Keswick believes that the carrying out of this mission bears eternal results, as children and teens learn to live as persons redeemed by Jesus Christ, patterning their lives according to Biblical principles, with the sure moral compass of God's Word to guide them through the amoral relativism of contemporary secular youth culture.

**Statement of Faith:** We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that man and woman were created in the image of God: that they sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but spiritual death which is separation from God; that all human beings are born in sin and that this sinful nature is the origin of all sinful acts in thought, word, and deed. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and was both fully God and fully man. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of Jesus Christ, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present ministry for us, as High Priest, and Advocate. We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ. We believe that all who receives, by faith, Jesus Christ are justified on the basis of His shed blood, born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and the unsaved; the saved to the everlasting presence of God and the unsaved to everlasting separation from God.

## **Preparing, Arriving, Participating, and Departing:**

The following information will help you to anticipate and prepare for your child's stay at Keswick. We appreciate your partnership in working within these guidelines. Please go over this information with your child prior to arrival at Keswick as you deem necessary.

### **Preparing**

**What to Bring:**

We highly recommend that younger campers write their name on every item that they bring to camp.

- Clothing (at least 6 comfortable and casual outfits that will be appropriate for a variety of weather conditions, ranging from hot, sunny days, to rain, to very cool nights)
- Bathing suit
- A semi-formal outfit for dress-up night  
[Please see dress code below]
- Raincoat or Jacket
- Shoes (for outdoor games or sports and everyday wear)
- An outfit and pair of shoes to throw away (if participating in the hardcore hiking activity)
- Bedding for a twin bed (sleeping bag or sheets/blankets, and pillow)
- Towels (at least 2: 1 for swimming and 1 for daily use)
- Toiletries (sunscreen and shower flip flops are also recommended)
- Necessary prescription medication (to be registered with the camp nurse)
- Mosquito-tick insect repellent
- Bible
- Your health forms!

**Optional items:**

- Spending money for camp store (unless pre-paid online)
- Musical instruments (for music class, music production, or talent show)
- Costumes (for drama activity or talent show)
- Sports equipment (skateboard, baseball glove, fishing pole, climbing shoes, swimming goggles, Frisbees, etc.)
- A journal and pen
- Stationary and stamps, to write letters
- Board games
- Snacks
- A flashlight
- Sunglasses
- Bag for dirty laundry
- A small fan
- Water bottle (for hikes or longer activities)
- Christian cds (for listening on camp stereo systems)
- A camera

**What NOT To Bring:**

(any of the following items will be **confiscated** by the counselors on the first day of camp  
- but we strongly suggest leaving these items at home)

- Cell phones, iPods, CD players, MP3 players, laptops, tape players, portable TV or DVD players, video games, or any other form of electronic entertainment
- Gum
- Lighters, fireworks, knives or weapons
- Any pets
- Any unlawful, disrespectful, distasteful or anti-social materials

NEK reserves the right to inspect any camper's luggage and personal belongings at any time.

**Dress Code:**Everyone

Shirts with inappropriate phrases or logos are not permitted

Spandex is not permitted unless under appropriate clothes

Undergarments must not be exposed

All tank top straps must be at least 2 inches wide  
Low-scoop sleeved tank tops are not permitted  
Appropriate clothing must not be see-through  
Shoes must be worn at all times, except within the pool fence or during ga-ga

### Females

Wide-neck/Boat-neck shirts must rest on the top of the shoulders and not reveal bra straps  
Shirts must be long enough to cover the stomach and the back when arms are raised  
Shirts must not be exposing or low-cut  
Shorts must be at least 3 inches from the bottom of the backside  
Pants/shorts must not expose top of the backside  
Writing on the back of pants/shorts is not permitted  
Skirts must be longer than the middle of the thigh (unless flowing or thin material, then they must reach the top of the knees)  
Only one-piece bathing suits are allowed at the pool

### **What to Do Prior to Registration Day:**

Send your camper's physical form to Keswick at least **two weeks** before the start of camp.  
You can mail, fax, scan or email these forms.

### Arrival

Arrival time for all campers is between 4-5 PM on the Sunday afternoon, which commences the week for which your child is registered.

Upon arrival you will be checked in by our greeters and given a registration steps card. Campers that have all their forms in prior to their arrival will be able to go through the process much more quickly.

Registration, cabin assignments, and nurse visits take place during the 4-5 PM time frame. It is very important that your child arrive during this time in order to be properly enrolled in the camp program.

*Please do not arrive early for registration. We cannot accommodate campers before registration begins at 4 PM. Also, please do not arrive after 5 PM, as the camp program for that week will have already begun and camper orientation will be underway.*

### Departure

All campers (except those campers staying over for another week of camp) are to be picked up on Saturday. Parents should arrive by 11 AM to join their child for the closing ceremony, which takes place each Saturday at that time, and is one of the highlights of the week. A complimentary cookout on the deck will be held immediately following the closing ceremony, providing departing families with a quick meal before getting on the road. It is very important that parents be on time to pick up their children, as the regular camp program ceases to operate following the closing ceremony, and the staff goes off duty until the following day.

### **Camper Rules:**

- 1) All campers must stay within the physical boundaries of the camp program. (The road, the woods, the chapel, and the lake.)
- 2) Campers are required to attend all of their scheduled activities. (Unless they are at the nurse.)
- 3) Campers are not to enter a cabin other than their own or the counselor room, unless given permission by a counselor or the director.
- 4) Campers must be in their cabins after the designated time in, and must remain therein until excused the following morning.
- 5) Campers may not leave designated activity areas without the permission of a counselor or director.
- 6) Campers may chew gum outdoors only, and must dispose of used gum, and all other trash properly. No littering.

- 7) Any personal electronic equipment, except digital cameras, need to be placed in the possession of the program directors at the beginning of camp. Cell phones, IPODS, video games, radios, CD players, TVs, etc. are not allowed in camper possession during the camp session.
- 8) Possession of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, weapons (knives included) or any other unlawful, distasteful, disrespectful, or anti-social material is prohibited. Even if the knife is for fishing they have to give it to you and must ask to use it.
- 9) All medications, both prescription and non-prescription, are to be registered with the nurse.
- 10) Campers damaging camp or personal property of another will be liable to pay for resultant damages. No Graffiti on bunks!
- 11) Campers must completely leave alone the personal property of others.
- 12) Campers will abide by all dress code policies.
- 13) No camper is allowed to use the fire extinguisher (only staff). When a fire occurs, all campers are to exit the building quickly.
- 14) Campers will abide by rules not listed here as indicated by the director and/or counselors.

### **Multi-Week Campers:**

Multi-week campers may take part in a special "Stay-Over" weekend program, and they will rejoin the regular program at 5 PM on Sunday. The Stay-Over Program is available to multi-week campers only, at an additional charge of \$60 per stay over period.

### **Keswick Apparel:**

New England Keswick produces special edition custom T-shirts each summer. These have been very popular with campers as well as parents. Additional T-shirts and other items of Keswick apparel can be purchased at registration time on Sunday afternoons, and following each week's closing ceremony on Saturday and during the cookout. T-shirts are \$12 and sweatshirts are \$30.

### **Refund Policy:**

Camp fees are non-refundable. Exceptions may be made in the case of illness, injury or family emergencies which result in early departure, in which case the non-deposit portion of the weekly fee may be refunded on a pro-rated basis. These decisions will be made at the discretion of the Executive Director. Refunds will not be made for early departures from camp due to homesickness, camper dissatisfaction, or disciplinary dismissal. Registration deposits (the amount of the weekly fee required to confirm a camper's registration) are non refundable.

### **Sample Daily Schedule:**

Although the specific activities of the camp program vary depending on camper age and each day's particular special plans, the typical daily schedule at New England Keswick is as follows:

- 7:30 Camper Rise & Cabin Clean-up
- 8:25 Flag-Raising
- 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:15 Morning Chapel
- 9:45 Bible Class
- 10:30 1st Activity
- 11:30 2nd Activity
- 12:45 Lunch
- 1:30 Personal Devotions / Rest Time / Camp Store
- 3:15 3rd Activity
- 4:15 4th Activity
- 5:15 Free Time
- 6:15 Dinner
- 7:00 Cabin Time / ASA
- 7:30 Chapel
- 9:00 Lambie Time [Younger Campers in for Devotions]

9:45 In For Devotions [Younger Campers - Lights Out]  
10:30 Lights Out

### **The Camp Store:**

New England Keswick operates a camp store that serves a variety of candy, soda, and snacks. It also stocks a selection of NEK apparel, as well as keepsakes and useful items. The store is open to campers once a day for the purpose of allowing campers the enjoyment of grabbing a quick treat or perusing the goods. Campers have the opportunity to open a camp store account during online registration, and then draw from this account throughout the week to pay for their camp store purchases. Each camper's parents need to determine how much their child should have on deposit in this account. The following prices of snack items are provided to help parents in calculating how much spending money they would like their child to have available: candy bars - \$.75, soda - \$1.25. Campers are encouraged to keep any cash they may have at camp in a camp store account. This lessens the chance of a camper's money being lost or used by others.

### **Health Care:**

New England Keswick provides twenty-four hour access to health care through the availability of an on-site registered nurse. An on-call physician and the facilities of Fairview Hospital (413) 528-0790 in Great Barrington, MA are also available as necessary. All prescription and non-prescription medications are registered with the camp nurse at registration time, and administered by the camp nurse as directed by the prescribing physician, or in the case of nonprescription medications, according to the arrangement made between the camper's parent(s) and the camp nurse. In addition to the care available through the camp nurse and on-call physician, some members of the counseling staff are trained in Red Cross Standard First Aid, and CPR. All costs incurred due to care of a camper's medical needs during attendance in the camp program are the responsibility of the camper's parent(s). An attempt will be made to bill costs directly to the family's health insurance company, and if payment is not possible in the manner, costs will be billed directly to the camper's parent(s). The camper's parent(s) will be notified of any such costs, and will be responsible for making payment in full by the end of the camp week in which the fees were incurred. The camper's parent(s) are also required to reimburse New England Keswick for any and all costs that are incurred by the camp for the care of the camper's medical needs.

### **Telephone Policy:**

Routine outgoing phone calls from campers are generally not allowed during a camper's stay at Keswick, and incoming phone calls from parents to campers should be made only when an emergency exists. This approach to phone calling serves at least two purposes: 1) It helps to keep Keswick's phone lines available for legitimate emergencies and the normal daily flow of incoming and outgoing calls, and 2) It helps campers focus more clearly on the camp experience, without the potentially distracting influence of making or receiving phone calls. Parents will be promptly contacted by phone in the event on an emergency or special need affecting their child.

### **Visiting Policy:**

Parents wishing to visit their child at Keswick are asked to call the Camp Office and pre-arrange the time and duration of the visit, and then check in the Office upon arrival and sign a visitor agreement form. If the time of the visit includes a mealtime, reservations for the meal can be made at that time. Meal prices for non-campers are \$5.00 for each meal.

### **Laundry:**

All campers need to bring enough clothing to camp to last comfortably for at least a week's worth of wearing. Clothing "emergencies" requiring unexpected laundering will be taken care of by Keswick's staff. Multi-week campers ONLY will be able to use the camp's laundry facilities with supervision. Laundry soap will be made available.

**Homesickness:**

In every summer program, a few campers will become homesick during their time at camp. If this occurs, it is usually at the very beginning of the week, and usually lessens or disappears after a day or two. Sometimes, though a camper will continue to feel unusually upset due to the separation from his/her parents and the familiar surrounding of home. If homesickness of the type occurs, and is seriously affecting the camper's experience, the camper's parent(s) will be contacted so that parental input can be sought on how to best handle the situation. If, following consultation with the homesick camper's parent(s), there is no improvement in the camper's degree of homesickness, the parents and the Program Director will then need to decide together if their child should continue in the camp program. Homesickness of this severity is unusual though, and typically, campers are so happy with their camp experience that they feel the weeklong session passes too quickly.

**Mail:**

Send camper mail to:  
Your child's attention  
NEK  
PO Box 156  
Monterey MA 01245

**Packages:**

Send camper packages to:  
Your Child's attention  
NEK  
73 Chestnut Hill Road  
Monterey, MA 01245

We encourage you to mail letters before your camper's arrival or leave letters (or packages) with the staff at registration, so they may be delivered to your child during meal times throughout the week.

**Contacting New England Keswick in the Event of an Emergency:**

If a parent needs to contact Keswick with an emergency concern, the following call (413) 528-3604.