

SPRUCE TWIGS

OCTOBER 2011

SPECIAL EDITION

Sprucelands

CAMP DIRECTOR UPDATE FOR FALL 2011

Thank you! **Thank you for a phenomenal 2011 summer!** Your children and our very dedicated Sprucelands staff most thoroughly enjoyed each other and the horses. It was one of the best summers I can remember. Memorable. Inspirational at times.

Once again I watched campers accept responsibility and independence. Within the horsemanship experience and our overall camp community, your children partnered to be terrific Sprucelands citizens.

Seeing them walk taller reminded me of why Sprucelands is here; and I know that if you are the kind of person who loves enabling a growth experience for children, you are as inspired as I am to continue a genuine connection with the ever-evolving Sprucelands summer camp program.

This is the time of year when I pull in my belt. Survival mode is my winter way of being until next spring when camp begins to percolate for the new summer sea-

son. At times it is difficult, but as camp registrations come in, so does a cash flow that keeps things moving forward.

A variety of discounts on our camp application may motivate your early decisions about 2012. Please take time to look at them. You will note that with the early bird registration you still have access to the 2011 rates. Financially that is a definite savings to you.

If you elect quite simply to send in your application and \$200 registration fee, you will lock into the current discount. Should you pay for camp in full, you may take \$40 off each week of your child's tuition and register at last summer's rate.

Commit to session dates later in the spring if you like, especially if you don't yet know your schedule. That is okay. We started offering that option last year. Many found it was a scheduling convenience.

Some families like to pay a little each month on their tuition bill. I

am quite flexible with whatever you choose. Paying over time actually helps you and me at the same time.

Bear in mind that with every registration, you give Sprucelands cash flow that helps with maintaining horse costs and meeting the wide variety of ongoing camp expenses. Because we are a camp invested in safety, we keep about 20 horses here for schooling across the winter. That is an expense, and yet it means we have a core group of schooled horses that are reliable teachers for your children.

Make an early decision if you are able. Remember always that we want to continue working with your children, enjoying our part in their growing up.

If every one of us recruits a new camper for 2012, Sprucelands will have yet another successful summer.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRTS ARE HERE...designed with your ideas. They look terrific. Order one or more today!

ORDER your shirts today so you get delivery before or by Christmas. These are great gifts.

LONG-SLEEVED TSHIRTS ARE HERE!

At the end of the 2011 camp season, staff and campers alike were interested in our creating a long sleeve t-shirt so they could wear it across the school year. With graphic ideas coming from the kids, we designed two long sleeve t-shirt options.

Option 1: Our horse head logo and "Anything is Possible!" is on the front left side where a pocket would be; the word

SPRUCELANDS appears in bigger letters down the left sleeve like a sports team!

Option 2: Our horse head logo and "Anything is Possible!" is the same as on Option 1. However, on the back, Sprucelands Equestrian Center and Summer Camp is printed in a large circle. At the center of the circle, the horse head logo is inside a horse shoe. Looks really nice.

Order apparel as gifts for birthdays or the winter holidays. NOW IS THE TIME. An order form is included inside this newsletter.



NEW RIDING CLUB STARTS NOVEMBER 11, 2011

Starting November 11th the Pacesetters - a first ever Sprucelands Riding Club - will begin. As a start point, the November 11th weekend will host an organizational riding clinic geared toward working on horse care and riding skills while setting goals for the club.

“For some time,” says Eileen, “the kids have wanted a 4H type club here at Sprucelands. We want to do some-

thing unique and different so are opening up an opportunity for the kids to create an equestrian club with Sprucelands style.”

Anyone can join as long as they will commit to riding lessons and spending quality time with our horses. There will be the option for occasional riding weekends. Beyond that, the goals are yet to be defined.

Come to the weekend if you

have an interest in joining the Pacesetters. Cost: \$60 plus a dish to pass at lunch or supper on Saturday. Eileen will do breakfasts.

Spread the word. Bring your enthusiasm and ideas. Let’s keep Sprucelands alive all year round.

Become a Pacesetter. Become instrumental in setting the pace for an awesome year with horses. This is sure to be a delight.



Pacesetter’s Weekend Riding Clinic:

November 11-13, 2011

7:30 pm Friday - 1:00 p.m. Sunday

Cost: \$60.00 plus a dish to pass at lunch or supper Saturday

Will stay at Eileen’s house. Bring clothes for the weather and LOTS of brainstorming ideas!

WORKING CAMPER PROGRAM REACTIVATED

Years ago we had a working camper program for those who needed a transitional opportunity between camper and CIT. It was a great success.

Some of you reading this newsletter will remember that program. Perhaps you participated in it. Eileen has decided to reopen the Working Camper option for the few who are interested in making that transition.

Then there are those who tell me they don’t really like kids. They want to be involved with Sprucelands but their choice is not to be living in the supervisory role of counselor.

Working campers earn a slight reduction in tuition similar to CITs. They have responsibilities that are genuinely adapted to their immediate needs and realistically

aimed at guiding them toward a time when they may be ready to manage a cabin of campers 24-7.

Hill parents and barn staff work closely with working campers, offering feedback and supervision. Our goal is to help working campers gain insight into the public relations end of camp and at the same time emphasize the importance of their modeling positive behaviors.

Aiming to show the intricacies of running a small business, working campers will learn how to run our camp store. Maybe they will figure out how to turn a profit!

They will learn how to supervise campers in the kitchen and dining hall. They will help man the walkie-talkies during daytime programming. They may on occasion be in charge

of a cabin on a counselor’s day off.

Most important: working campers will work on an open, genuine attitude that says, “Sure. I’d be glad to do that!” They will be asked to participate in evening programs, supporting CITs as CITs learn leadership skills.

Working campers will be independent in their own cabin under the watchful eyes of Hill Parents and Senior Staff. They will get a day off every week. They will have a supervisory meeting with Eileen once a week, and they will have a weekly social night.

Eileen says, “My hope is that our working campers will enjoy this chance to partner up with me and the staff, while expanding their perception of what it takes to run a camp. It can be a lot of fun.”

“...working campers will learn how to run our camp store.”



Take a look! Working Camper Program Reactivated

The holidays are here!

Keep this page next to your computer as you shop!

Use our camp blog <http://spruceland.blogspot.com> as a portal to the following:

Amazon.com - click on the blinking Amazon ad to enter Amazon and then do your holiday shopping - Sprucelands earns credit for anything and everything you purchase.

Connection Greeting Cards - click on link to Connection Cards in the left panel of the blog and go to the Etsy store where you can choose your own cards at wholesale prices and pay with paypal.

Buy Recycled Ink Cartridges - click on the Planet Green icon right under the blinking Amazon link. With every purchase you make, Sprucelands benefits.

Keep these gift ideas in mind as well:

Order a **bundle of 8 greeting cards** from Eileen for \$25.00

- Inspirational bundle
- Love and Friendship bundle
- Animals bundle
- All occasion bundle
- Horse only bundle

Give a **package of riding lessons** to your camper. Great gift from grandparents!

- 6 lessons - \$175.00
- 5 lessons - \$145.00
- 4 lessons - \$115.00
- 3 lessons - \$85.00

Adopt a horse at Sprucelands for \$25.00 and in return receive a monthly greeting and photo of the horse you choose. This is a wonderful way to join in the ongoing spirit of horsemanship and Sprucelands support. Start a scrapbook of your favorite horse with pictures you receive each month in the mail.

Purchase a **long-sleeved t-shirt** for \$28.00 (price includes shipping) *Must be ordered soon if you want this by the holidays. See enclosed order form.*



Register your child for summer camp. Application enclosed. Make their holidays perfect!

And if you are wanting to make a positive difference for young people, invest in the outstanding confidence-building Sprucelands program . **Give a one time gift to Sprucelands. Your contributions are always welcome.**

You make a difference!



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Give the gift of Sprucelands.