

# Berwick Boys Foundation



## Parent Handbook Summer 2011

**"The difficult we do at once, the impossible takes a little longer"**

Berwick Boys Foundation  
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## **Purpose of the Parent Handbook**

The purpose of this booklet is to help parents and boys understand a little more about who we are and how we operate. It should answer many questions and perhaps encourage new ones. Please feel free to give us feedback on the contents.

## **Mission Statement**

Berwick's mission is to provide programs that respond to the needs of today's youth, by offering hands on leadership and problem solving experiences that result in increased self-esteem and assist young men in the development of character. The Berwick program promotes the development of characteristics that will benefit these boys socially and professionally, whatever they choose to pursue in life.

## **About Us**

The Berwick Boys Foundation, since 1949, has provided worthy boys with a unique year-round program consisting of a summer camp experience and a winter weekend program that allows us to continue our involvement with the boys throughout the year. Each season, the Berwick Boys Foundation gathers boys, aged 12 through 21, on an island off the coast of Maine for about seven weeks. These young men (under the supervision of staff) build, maintain, and direct their own camp and, in doing so, learn the importance of participating in the community, the value of self-reliance, the responsibilities of leadership, as well as respect for themselves, others, and the environment. In addition, they learn valuable trade skills. The combination of the Island environment and Berwick's peer leadership structure create a rich medium for positive development in young men, by providing hands-on leadership and problem solving experiences.

The island environment forces the boys to work cohesively to satisfy the most basic needs of survival and comfort such as food, water and shelter. The 750 acres Island is located two miles off the coast of Maine and has none of the "town-provided" amenities, such as piped in water and electricity. The boys are divided into crews in order to accomplish the daily tasks required to live on the Island. For example, one of the crews is responsible for pumping water from the well and another is responsible for transporting all supplies from the mainland. Island living is full of challenges. The boys have the opportunity to experience the feeling of success as they problem solve and work to overcome these challenges. The types of projects the boys work on provide a chance for them to make decisions that have a concrete and immediate impact. Boys have opportunities to excel in ways they may not be able to in a traditional school. With these tangible achievements, the boys gain a deep and abiding sense of self-worth and accomplishment that we hope carries over to other aspects of their lives.

The program is unique in that by design, the people who will be disappointed if a boy does not "do his part" are his peers. Berwick's peer leadership structure, where more experienced boys direct the others, effectively motivates the group to pay attention and work hard at an age in which boys are often rebellious to adult authority and very sensitive to peer pressure. While the boys do have fun, they also work on projects that are challenging. For example, a crew leader may need to convince his crew to go into the forty something degree ocean to repair a ladder on a pier. How would you have managed this situation as a 15 year old? Another boy may have the challenge of leading a group of his peers to move a heavy log using team work and "boy power" to clear a road. While the first log might be kind of fun for the group, the fourth or fifth log might become increasingly challenging for the boy in charge. The peer leadership structure allows leadership boys to gain experience in managing and motivating groups of people, acting as role models, and being problem solvers in real life situations. These leadership experiences provide boys with skill sets that are very valuable in other aspects of their lives. The peer leadership structure also is used to promote values such as persistence, hard work, sincerity and altruism. Each summer the boys recognize the individuals that have most exemplified those characteristics during the program. A boy's peer group promoting these values is a very powerful influence.

The Berwick Boys Foundation is classified as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization by the IRS and is funded largely through donations from foundations, individuals, corporations, and fundraising events. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

## **Programs**

### **Winter Program**

To be eligible for the summer program, local boys attend several working meetings throughout the winter months at the headquarters in West Bridgewater, MA. These meetings provide an introduction to the summer, a chance to learn new skills and to make new friends. Boys are selected on the basis of interest and character during the winter program. Alternate arrangements can be made for out of state applicants. This weekend winter program maintains the boys' involvement throughout the year so that they may continue applying the values and skills they have learned throughout the summer. Enrollment is limited.

### **Summer Camp Program**

The summer activities take place during a six-week camping season on Dyer Island, off the coast of Milbridge, Maine. Camp Berwick is the only program on the beautiful and unspoiled 750-acre island. The summer program is structured as a society in which older boys pass their skills on to younger boys and teach the group to act as a community. Camp opens on July 1<sup>st</sup> and Banquet Weekend (Parent's weekend) ends the season on August 12-14<sup>th</sup>. Some of the older boys (by invitation only) will spend an extra week at the beginning and end of camp to open and close the facilities.

## Admissions

There is an admissions process for new boys. Upon receipt of an application, the boy and his parents must come to the foundation for an interview. Families that do not live close to the foundation can schedule a phone interview with the Program Director. Interviews are by appointment only and are typically made for a Saturday or Sunday beginning at either 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. Enrollment is limited.

## Camp Forms

There are several forms that need to be completed by the boy and his parent/guardian prior to his leaving for the summer trip. There will be no exceptions. All forms must be returned as required. These forms include the:

Parent's Application  
Boy's Application  
Health Form  
Permission Slip

If there is anything that you feel we are not asking on the forms that **we should know about your son**, please let us know. This knowledge can only enhance his camping experience and make everyone comfortable.

## Camp Staff

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| W. Adam Wichern III | Executive Director  |
| David Hough         | Program Director    |
| Ash Eastham         |                     |
| Anthony Vannozzi    | Adult Advisor       |
| Will Czymbor        | Adult Advisor       |
| Joshua McTeague     | Adult Advisor       |
| Mandy Meyer RN      | Nurse               |
| Kathie Morrell      | Program Coordinator |

In addition to the above listed staff members we have several other returning staff members who are alumni of the program supporting them. In addition we have a camp nurse who is resident at the camp.

The Executive Director, W. Adam Wichern III, will be present on the Island a portion of the summer. In addition, there are a number of adult volunteers who will also spend part of the summer working with the camp. Kathie holds down the fort in Massachusetts.

## Boy Director

The Boy Director is a senior boy, generally 17 or 18 years old, who, under the supervision of the staff, runs the island. He works closely with the staff as he guides the camp through the summer and is in charge of leading all activities and crews. It is an honor to be the Boy Director and is the highest level of responsibility that a boy can attain, and should be a leadership goal for any boy who attends the program.

### Council

There is an elected council of older boys that leads the activities on the island. The Council, with the guidance of the staff, creates and enforces rules on the island. Disciplinary matters are generally handled by the Council with the supervision of the Program Director. The Boy Director is the Head of the Council and governs the meetings. The Executive Director and/or Program Director attend all council meetings. The first year boys elect one delegate to the Council to attend the meetings on their behalf and act as their representative when bringing any ideas and thoughts to the forum.

### Crews

Every boy is assigned to a crew for the summer. The Boy Director or Program Director tries to accommodate each boy's wishes when assigning crews but accommodating a boy's first choice may not always be possible. The boys work with their crews to accomplish crew-specific goals and to learn a particular skill. Listed below are some of the crews we plan to have this summer with a description of types of things they may do:

- Boat Crew - bring everything and everybody to and from the island. The crew is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the boats, moorings, and piers.
- Construction Crew - repair, maintain or build structures that are needed on the island. The projects may range from building a porch, to fixing a foundation, to painting windows.
- Garage Crew - responsible for the maintenance and repair of the vehicles on the island. They also work with the Systems Crew to help generate electricity and pump water.
- Systems Crew - Keeps the water flowing and the electricity generated as needed.
- Kitchen Crew - prepare and serve all meals for the entire camp during the summer in addition to the cleaning and maintenance of kitchen facilities and Mess Hall. There is a rotation system so that all campers will participate in this crew.
- Pier/Woods Crew - cut, spud and move trees in keeping with our forest management plan and using the logs to build or repair any "log cribs" that are needed. Boys learn the safe and correct way to use a chainsaw as well as its maintenance.

### Island Life

#### **General Information**

One third of a boy's time is spent working with their assigned crew, as well as participating in community projects such as building or repairing a pier. Another third of a boy's time is spent on a minor project of a boy's own choosing with approval of leadership; and the last third of a boy's time is spent in recreation such as volleyball, softball, swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking, sailing, or hiking. The island environment also provides wonderful opportunities for forest and beach exploration.

### **Typical week on the Island**

Upon arriving at the Island, the boys will switch their clocks to one hour later, which we refer to as Island time. We change to Island time in order to maximize the use of daylight and minimize the use of the generator.

#### Monday through Friday:

A typical daily schedule includes Breakfast/ Crew Time /Lunch /Crew Time/ Dinner/ and organized recreation. Our motto is "the difficult we do at one, the impossible takes a little longer." The boys do work hard on their crews and sometimes on special projects with the camp as a whole. It can be physically and mentally demanding.

#### Saturday:

Cabin day - This day is for spending time working on or improving cabins. This is also a day for working on minor projects. There is usually a cookout on Saturday evening.

#### Sunday:

This is the boys' "free day". There is a running brunch that the boys can attend if they wish. Church trips are available for those interested. All boys must attend the midday meeting. There are organized sports and activities available in the afternoon led by crew leaders, the Council members, and the Program Director. There is a group meeting in the evening to discuss what happened in the prior week and to plan the next week.

#### Each Day:

##### Wakeup and Lights Out:

Council members and/or the staff visit each cabin in the morning to wake the boys up at 7 a.m., and also to check that they are in bed and comfortable when the lights go out at 10:30 p.m. Saturday hours run 1/2 hour later.

### **Living Arrangements**

All boys are assigned to a cabin. Each cabin has an older more responsible boy, the cabin-head, whose responsibility is the care of his cabin mates and the maintenance of the building. A cabin head's responsibilities include taking care of the first year boys and

providing answers to questions such as: “Where do we eat?” “When do we eat?” “Where do we go to the bathroom?” “I am not getting along on my crew, what should I do?” “I’m homesick!” etc. They also have responsibility for the maintenance of the cabin and its cleanliness. They are responsible for knowing where their cabin mates are at "lights out" and to report the whereabouts of their cabin mates at meals.

Cabins generally house two to five campers depending on their size. The cabins have been built by campers from the earlier years and have windows, beds and some have a fireplace or stove. The cabins usually have generated electricity, although several cabins at the north end of the camp do not. Bathroom facilities are generally a short walk from the cabin and are Clivus Multrum toilets (natural toilets).

## **Meals**

Meals are provided three times daily – breakfast, lunch and dinner. Attendance at all meals is mandatory for both campers and staff. On Sundays there are only two meals (brunch is optional).

## **Facilities:**

### The Island

The boys spend the summer on Dyer Island located about 2 miles off the coast of Milbridge, Maine. Dyer Island is a 750 acre island. The developed camp area is about 100 acres. All of the camp structures have been built by the boys through the years as part of the camp program. Dyer Island has no amenities other than those provided by ourselves. There is no public phone service, no public ferry service, no electricity or water, other than that generated by our own generator or pumps. There are no roads, other than dirt roads that connect parts of the island that are used for quick access from one part of the island to another (mostly by foot). The remainder of the Island is largely undeveloped.

Island wildlife includes deer, raccoon, and rabbit. Seagulls, loons, terns, herons, and osprey round out the bird life. Occasionally, one can see a bald eagle. Sea life includes herring, lobster, crabs, mackerel, starfish, porpoises, and seals.

The only telephone on the island is a cell phone in the Infirmary that is used for emergency reasons only. There is no television.

The buildings on the island consist of 16 cabins, the Mess Hall, the Infirmary, the Memorial Building, the Lodge, the Garage, and Mariner Hall. Berwick boys have built all of the buildings on the island. There are piers, floats, a marine railway, a power house, roads, trails, and more.

### The Mainland

We have a base of operations on the mainland in Milbridge. We do laundry, pick up supplies, check phone and fax messages, and collect the mail on the Mainland.

## **Supervision**

The staff, the volunteers, the directors, and the boys attending camp provide supervision.

- The Adult leadership works with the boys on their various crews during the day and supervises recreational activities in the evenings and on Sundays.
- Each year that a boy returns to camp he is expected to be able to take on more responsibility than the year before and hence more supervisory responsibility. If a boy sees something wrong, he is expected to report it. He is part of the camp and an integral part of its operation.
- There is an Honor system that applies to all boys regardless of how many years they have attended camp. A boy is expected not to lie or steal and to work toward the good of the camp. The boys are expected to take care of each other. Altruism is one of the Berwick traits, which is emphasized, tested, and fed back. It is everyone's responsibility to both implement and enforce this code.

## **Medical**

There is a full time licensed nurse who resides in the Infirmary on the island during the summer camping season. She is in charge of all things Medical and looks after the health of the Camp. She dispenses medication and will treat minor ailments within accepted guidelines. She has one day off each week.

All medications should be given to the Program Director or Executive Director prior to arrival at the camp with written dispensing instructions. The boys are NOT allowed to keep their own medicine. Once on the island, medications will be given to the resident nurse for distribution as necessary. If there is an emergency where the camper needs medical care other than what the resident nurse can provide, the boy will be transported to a treatment center and the parents/guardians will be notified. Parents are responsible for all medical bills relating to their son. Our location is remote. We're on an Island, therefore in order to get someone to the hospital, they need to be transported to the mainland and then to the hospital. The nearest hospital is about 30 miles from our mainland location. There are medical centers closer but they are only open certain hours.

A number of the staff and the older boys are also trained in first aid.

## **Risks**

The Berwick program is not meant to be a vicarious experience but rather an experiential learning program. As with any camping program, there are risks and dangers associated with hands on learning experiences. While the organization has safety procedures in place, certain boys will be handling equipment such as boats, drills, and chainsaws which are inherently dangerous and could result in injury.

## Homesickness

The first days of camp can be difficult for new boys. They are in a whole new environment and with new people. Their daily routine is different as well. To top it all off, their support system has not yet developed in this new environment. There are a lot of changes for a boy to go through at once. In many cases, this is his first time away from home and from his parents. Also, the parent may have trouble letting the boy go and may also experience their own feelings of withdrawal.

Another cause of homesickness is if the boy is bored. For example, he may have nothing to do for a time before bed and not know what to do. He should be encouraged to explore his environment, make new friends, read a book, or learn a new skill. We will also try to keep him busy and entertained.

It is entirely likely and normal for a boy to be homesick in this situation. He may even express this in several letters home in the first 2 weeks. The best way to deal with this is to prepare for it.

Parents: The first thing to do is to accept the fact that you and your son may have these feelings and that it is OK to feel this way. These feelings will pass if the person does not surrender to these feelings.

Give your son an out. If he does not like the camp after 2 weeks or so, then allow him to come home. Certainly we do not want, nor do we have the resources, to keep someone at the camp who does not want to be there. It usually takes about 2 weeks for the homesickness to pass. Anyone can survive anything for 2 weeks.

The most important thing is that you and your son realize that you may be sad but that you will get over it. In the meantime, it is OK to be sad.

You should dispel the irrational fear that your son is being sent away from home and is no longer loved. "I have been sent to this island where it rains all the time and we have to work without pay and the food sucks... etc. Thanks Mom."

One way to help these fears is to send letters and care packages. Mail is very important, especially in the beginning. Don't expect to get a letter back unless it is one demanding to come home. "No news is good news." It would be great if your son got a letter soon after he arrived at camp. We suggest that you send a letter out on the Saturday prior to leaving for camp so that it will arrive around the time the boys arrive.

Boys: Your son may not have many friends in the beginning (participating in the winter program in West Bridgewater will help him to become familiar with the boys and the processes). However, he can talk to his cabin head, his crew leader, the nurse, Adam, Dave, or any of the other staff. All of these people have had their own experiences of missing home and can understand it. We ask that the boys allow themselves 2 weeks to allow for homesickness to pass.

Berwick: We will do everything possible to make your son comfortable, but the best thing we can do for him is to encourage him to write home and express to you what he is feeling. If he still wants to go home after the 2 weeks, we will discuss the options with him. If he still wants to leave after that we will discuss it with the boy and his parents/guardian and, if everyone agrees, send him home, but he may miss the experience of a lifetime. Parents/guardians will be responsible for the cost of transportation home.

We do not allow parents to call or visit the boys when they are on the island. There is no public phone on the island. The Camp does have a cell phone for emergency use only. Talking to your son usually makes things worse - not just for your son but for the other boys as well. They may think, "Why haven't my parents called?" etc.

### **Behavior and Discipline**

The Camp works hard to create a positive environment within which the boys operate. The program uses positive peer pressure to help guide the campers toward being positive role models. We expect the boys to make some mistakes and to learn from them. The boys are responsible for their own behavior. They should respect each other at all times and be respectful of each other's space and belongings. Sometimes, in more serious cases, the Council and Program Director will investigate and discipline a boy based on the individual circumstances. The Berwick Boys Foundation prohibits any of the following on the island, and any acts or possession of the prohibited items, or any other actions that are disruptive to the well-being of the community as a whole, may warrant a camper being sent home:

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Drug Use                  | Fighting  |
| Firearms or other weapons | Fireworks |
| Slingshots                | Smoking   |
| Stealing                  | Swearing  |
| Vandalism                 | Alcohol   |

Circumstances will always be evaluated on an individual basis. The above list is not intended to be all-inclusive.

### **Awards**

There are several awards that the boys can acquire during the summer. They have the opportunity to earn camp patches, and camp letters such as a little "B" and big "B". Boys can earn a Little B for each of the 5 requirements, and a Big B for each of the seven requirements listed below:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Little B</b> | <b>Big B</b> |
|-----------------|--------------|

Complete a minor Project  
Swim the cove from Pier to Pier  
Cut down a 6" diameter tree, remove its bark, and drag it to the road  
Tie 6 specific knots

Complete a major project  
Swim the cove Pier to Pier twice  
Cut down a 12" diameter tree, remove its bark, and drag it to the road  
Tie 10 specific knots  
Earn a little B  
Earn a boat license

A little B must be earned in one summer and a big B must be completed within two.

Some examples of other awards are for *Hardest Worker* – awarded to the boy who is so involved with his work that he is the first to arrive on his crew and the last to leave for the day; *Phil Sinclair Most Sincere* – awarded to the boy who says what he means and means what he says; *Most Popular* – awarded to the boy who everyone wants to talk to and everyone wants to be around; *Most Improved Cabin* – awarded to the campers who make the most improvements to their cabin over the summer; *Best Swimmer* – awarded to the boy who is the strongest swimmer; *Best Fisherman* – awarded to the boy who catches the biggest fish; *Camp Devil* – awarded to the boy who is a practical joker, someone you wouldn't want to turn your back on at the pier; and *Camp Jester* – awarded to the boy with the funniest jokes. *Berwick Patch* - Each first year boy that successfully completes the summer program will earn an emblematic patch representing his achievements.

## **Licensing**

There is a system of licensing used to identify those able to operate a specific piece of machinery. A license is granted to a boy if he has demonstrated proficiency in its operation and it is felt that the boy can use this "tool" to, safely and reliably, complete a job on his own or with a crew. The license may also include the proper maintenance of the tools as well. Some things for which we award licenses are the operation of boats, generators, trucks, chainsaws, shop tools, the pier drill, and the kitchen mixer. The boy receives training with a particular tool from other licensed operators. He is expected to train other boys once he receives his license.

## **Scholarships**

Berwick encourages all boys to respond to the challenges of camp life and perform to the best of their ability by offering a program of college scholarships. To be eligible, boys must have participated in the camp program for several seasons and have displayed responsibility and leadership. Scholarship boys are not required to be academic super-achievers but to do their best to live up to their capabilities, whatever they may be and in whatever direction they may take him. These scholarship boys often provide the core of camp leadership during the summer activities. Scholarships need not be for purely academic institutions but may also be for certain vocational institutions as well. Scholarships are awarded at the foundation's discretion.

## **Communications**

## Mail and Packages

**Mail is very important**, especially in the beginning. Again, You can tell him how proud you are that they are facing a new challenge, ask what crew they are on, what leisure activities they've been involved in, who they are sharing a cabin with etc. He should always be encouraged to explore his environment, make new friends, read a book, or learn a new skill. Even if you do not receive a letter from your son, please continue to keep the communication lines open to him. When sending care packages, choose items that have little or no value. Some items not to send are: fireworks, candles, cigarettes, matches/lighters, knives etc. Items you can consider sending are: food, snacks, soda, juices, magazines/books, clothes etc.

The mailing address is:

[Your son's name]  
Berwick Boys Foundation  
Post Office Box 339  
Milbridge, ME 04658

## Calling Home

Phone calls are not allowed unless there is an emergency. If you need to contact your son, in case of an emergency, the best thing is to leave a message for us in Massachusetts at (508) 586-0059, or send an email to [info@berwick.org](mailto:info@berwick.org), or fax your message to 508-586-7597. It may take as long as a day or more for your son to get a message. Messages will only be forwarded in the case of an emergency.

## **Church Trips**

Although we are not affiliated with any religious programs, church trips are available for campers who are interested. Transportation to an area service will be provided.

## **Laundry**

The boys do laundry usually once a week. White or light colored articles of clothing are not recommended as they are too easily soiled, with the exception of T-shirts, underwear, and socks if you prefer. Labeling your son's clothing and other items will be helpful.

## **Weather**

Although it is summertime, the Island can be quite cold and damp. The temperature can range from the 40's to the 90's. While this is the extreme range, it is important that your son have enough warm clothes and rain gear and at least two pairs of shoes in case one gets wet. It is often warm during the day and cool at night, however, this is also one of the foggiest places on earth, so it can be quite cool and damp at times, even in the daytime. When it rains, we try to limit the outside activity, however, even just to get to

each meal, boys may need to walk in the rain for up to 15 minutes, so rain gear is very important.

## Summer Program Equipment List

### **Required:**

Heavy Jackets  
1 pair of Heavy waterproof work boots  
1 pair of other comfortable shoes (sneakers)  
4 pairs of dungarees or similar pants  
Under shorts as needed  
T-shirts as needed  
Heavy socks, minimum 10 pair  
Foot Locker or trunk  
Bathing Shorts  
Rain Gear  
Travel Clothes (for trip day or church going)  
Sweaters or sweatshirts  
Safety glasses  
Work gloves

### **Clothing Optional:**

1 wool shirt  
Light cap  
Shorts  
Polo shirts

### **Misc. Optional:**

Writing Kit (include stamps)  
Sporting Equipment  
Non-electrical Musical Equip.  
Portable Radios w/batteries  
Misc. hand tools  
Books, Magazines  
Playing Cards  
Board Games

### **Bedding:**

2 Laundry Bags  
Heavy Sleeping Bag or 4 Blankets  
Twin size fitted sheet  
Pillow

### **Personal Equipment:**

Flashlight  
Shampoo  
Soap-Biodegradable (6 bars - 3 lava)  
Towels (dark colors)  
Tooth brush and Paste  
Comb and Brush  
Deodorant, etc.  
Bag for Toilet Articles  
Mosquito Repellent  
Life Jacket  
Sunscreen

### **Prohibited Items: No TV's, video games, or cell phones allowed on the Island.**

**Firearms, slingshots, and fireworks** are also not permitted. Any acts or possession of the prohibited items may warrant a camper being sent home.

White or light articles of clothing are not recommended as they are too easily soiled, except T-shirts, underwear, and socks. You may want to supplement these items as you feel appropriate. Laundry is done about once a week for each camper.

Remember, **each boy is responsible for his own gear**, so you may not want to send up any clothes that you expect him to return with in good condition, if at all! Berwick tries to

emphasize the importance of honesty and respect for other's property but cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to a boy's possessions. We recommend purchasing less costly clothing from your local thrift store as clothes may become heavily soiled or ruined during the summer.

All items should be labeled with the boy's name, including footlockers, backpacks, etc.

Another good idea is to line the inside of luggage with plastic bags for the boat ride to the island in case of foul weather on arrival. If you have questions about what to bring, please call Kathie at the Foundation. Kathie is the Mom to two Berwick Alumni and she is knowledgeable of how to plan for the trip.

### **Spending Money**

There is a Berwick Bank account into which we encourage the boys to deposit their spending money for the summer. This keeps it safe from theft and loss and is available when needed by the camper. Deposits should be made prior to the start of camp, and can be turned in on the day they leave for camp. If the bank is not a solution for you, then the boy will be responsible for the loss or theft of his own money. The recommended amount of spending money for a boy to take is roughly \$50 and will be disbursed as requested. **This money is separate from the \$900 camp fee.** It provides the boys with spending money if they have a trip day off the island. There are no stores on the Island and therefore there is no use for money on the Island.

### **Transportation to Camp**

On the departure date, most boys will be traveling to Maine from the Foundation in West Bridgewater, MA; some older boys may be transported by truck with gear and equipment; and some boys will be arriving by another form of transportation. If you are planning to get your son to Milbridge, Maine some other way, please let us know as soon as possible so that we may coordinate arrivals and plan transportation. We have very limited resources to pick people up at the airport or bus station and so we need to coordinate our efforts.

It's important to plan for this trip. We suggest your son bring a small backpack with a book, tape or cd player with headphones, snack or whatever he would enjoy for the 6-1/2 hour road trip. The boys should also bring additional money (approximately \$10.00) for a fast food lunch on the way up. Once they arrive at the in-town house in Milbridge, the boys will be transported by boat to the island.

### **Transportation home from Camp**

Transportation home from Camp is the parents' responsibility. It is anticipated that parents will come to the banquet weekend and take their son home with them, unless their son has been invited to stay for cleanup.

## **Where the boys come from**

Geographically, the boys who come to our camp are from all over the United States. There is a high concentration of boys from Massachusetts since the headquarters and the winter program are located there.

## **Cost**

While it usually costs us \$6,600 or more to send a boy to camp, we ask people to pay as much as they can afford with a minimum of \$900 per boy. This fee includes the boy's lodging for the summer, transportation from the West Bridgewater Headquarters, boat trips to and from the island, fuel, food, and laundry services. Many camps charge this amount for only a two-week session, but your son can enjoy almost the entire summer at this cost. We feel that money should not keep a boy from coming to camp, however we do ask that parent pay as much of the \$900 as possible.

Of this \$900 fee, \$850 is due from the parents, the boys are asked to earn \$50 on their own toward the \$900 fee before attending camp by doing different things to help others. This could include anything such as extra chores, cutting grass etc. Furthermore, any spending money should be provided by the boys or their parent/guardian and will not be provided by the Berwick Boys Foundation. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due by June 18<sup>th</sup> to reserve a spot for your son. Payment arrangements can be made prior to the beginning of camp.

The cost of health and dental coverage in case of sickness or accident is in no way assumed by Berwick Boys Foundation and is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian.

## **Refund Policy**

Berwick has a no refund policy. If your son leaves camp early for any reason, including expulsion, there will be no refund.

## **Banquet**

The end of the camping season brings the annual Banquet. This is when the parents and boys re-unite. Parents arrive on Friday night and have the opportunity to stay overnight on Friday and Saturday and return home on Sunday. Banquet provides the boys with the opportunity to be proud and "show-off" their accomplishments of the summer. On Saturday there is an awards ceremony followed by your choice of a lobster or chicken dinner. It is important that parents make every effort to attend as this is a celebration for your son and all that he has accomplished during the summer. This year banquet will be August 12th to August 14, 2011. Additional mailings will be made regarding this event as we get closer.

## **Fundraising**

## **Contributions/Funding**

We are a non-profit organization and gifts are our main support. Contributions, other than camp fees, to the Berwick Boys Foundation, a 501c(3) organization, are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

For the camping season, we ask parents to pay as much as they can, but a minimum of \$900. The gap between what we charge for participation in our program and the over \$6,000 per boy that it costs us to make the program happen is made up of support from the public. Throughout our 61 years in service we have had some very generous alumni, friends and volunteers, but support from the public is crucial. It enables us to continue our program. You and your son are now benefiting from the generosity of those that came before you. In this economic environment, we feel our program is especially important, however, it is in this same environment that the Foundation needs more support than ever.

There are several other ways in which everyone can contribute. If you can give more in the form of cash or securities, that is fantastic. If you cannot give more money, there are many other ways in which you may support the program: maybe you know others that would be interested in supporting our program, maybe there are people at your company that would contribute to Berwick or maybe your company has matching funds. Maybe you have contacts at a foundation. Maybe you have access to equipment that is useful to our program (please, do not donate items that are not useful or need to be disposed of, because that only costs us money to discard). Finally, you can support us by volunteering at the foundation building and attending our fundraising events and recommending them to all your friends. We can't stress enough the need for volunteers during our fundraising events and weekends in West Bridgewater, MA.

## **Fundraising Events**

The Foundation currently hosts two fundraisers in the Fall. The work is done by parents, volunteers and by the boys. We are very busy preparing for these fundraisers as soon as we return from Maine (early September) and we really don't pause until after Christmas! All proceeds go directly to the foundation to support its programs.

## **Haunted House**

Construction on the Haunted House begins immediately upon return from Maine. When the boys return, they are heavily into planning, constructing, and decorating the Haunted House. In the middle of October, the Haunted House is open. Last year, we celebrated our 27th haunting season! Our Haunted House is one of the best in the area. We offer free parking, as well as, free popcorn for all survivors! Dates and hours will be posted as we get nearer to the haunting season.

## **Christmas Trees and Wreaths**

The Foundation sells Christmas Trees and Wreaths at the foundation headquarters in Massachusetts. The Christmas trees and wreaths come from Maine and are transported to the Foundation through the generosity of our Alumni and Friends. The sales are manned by the boys, parents and other volunteers. We are open beginning Saturday after Thanksgiving (this coincides with our Craft Fair), and every day/evening from then until we sell out! All proceeds go to support our programs at the Foundation. Our wreaths are double faced and are hand made by one of our neighbors in Maine and are especially beautiful, thick and hearty. Our wreaths are measured by their inside diameter and come in the following sizes: small are 12", medium are 18" and large are 24" (36" and 48" wreaths are available via a special order only). All wreaths come with a hand tied bow in the color of your choice and a hanger. Our full and hearty trees range in size from 5 feet to about 10 feet tall.

We really need the assistance of all parents and boys to make these events a success.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What are the qualifications Berwick looks for in a candidate?**

A. Berwick wants boys that are eager to learn, excited to participate, and willing to cooperate, and to get along with their peers. The program is designed for the typical boy from any social, racial, or economic background who is interested in living and working, as a team, with boys his own age and who wants to develop new knowledge and skills and who wants to be a contributing member of society.

**Q. What is the boy to counselor ratio; who are the counselors?**

A. We are not a traditional camp and do not have "counselors" in the traditional meaning of the word. As the boys get older and return year to year they take on more and more responsibility. They act as a counselor to "younger" boys. Boys are aged 13 through college age.

**Q. How long is the summer program?**

A. Approximately 6 to 7 weeks, starting around the 1st of July and ending approximately the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August.

**Q. Can my son attend only a portion of the summer?**

A. Your son must attend the entire time. We feel the "Berwick" experience takes that amount of time. We do not have sessions.

**Q. Can I visit my son during the summer?**

A. We do not encourage parent visits during the summer as it makes boys more homesick, is disruptive, and makes it hard for them at this age. It is important to keep communicating with your son either by writing or sending care packages. Boys and parents have the opportunity to unite for the annual banquet at the end of camp when you will see the projects your son has accomplished over the summer.

**Q. What if my son is homesick?**

A. Refer to our section on Homesickness.

*For further information check out our web site at <http://www.berwick.org>*