



Tapawingo
An Island Camp for Girls

Parent and Camper Handbook

Tapawingo is a ministry of Gospel Volunteers, Inc. and an extension of
CAMP-of-the-WOODS

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Dear Tapawingo Parents,

Preparations for summer are underway and we cannot wait to have your girl(s) join us! We pray that in their time with us campers will have fun, make new friends, and leave Tapawingo with a deeper knowledge and love for Jesus Christ.

This handbook is designed to help you prepare your daughter for her Tapawingo arrival. We hope that you find all the information you need. Please read everything carefully as it will help to make camper check-in a smooth and efficient process, allowing us more time to get to know you. Some of this information has changed from previous years so be sure to review!

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

In Christ,

Joy Huseland
Tapawingo Director

Tapawingo Mission Statement

“To clearly and lovingly glorify Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through personal example, meaningful activity, biblical direction, and Christ-centered relationships in a safe and friendly environment that facilitates healthy development of young women.”

Gospel Volunteers, Inc. Mission Statement

The mission of Gospel Volunteers, Inc. is to present the Biblical truths of Jesus Christ, develop Christian leaders, strengthen the faith of individuals and families, and promote global evangelism.

OUR HISTORY

Tapawingo is located on a beautiful island in the middle of Lake Pleasant in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. It was established in 1959. Prior to becoming a girls' camp, the island was owned by a former CAMP-of-the-WOODS board member and contained his family's beautiful summer home. That summer home is now our Dining Hall! After much prayer and consideration, CAMP-of-the-WOODS decided to purchase the island for \$25,000 for the purpose of starting an all girls' camp. There have been many renovations and updates to the island, but the foundation remains the same: bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to young women from around the world!

Tapawingo has been blessed with godly leadership since its founding. The first Director, in 1959, was Vida Wood from Taylor University. In 1960 Jean Schabinger, also from Taylor, became Director, and in 1961 Carolyn Ray from Columbia Bible College assumed the role. 'Miss Carolyn' blessed campers with her leadership until 1998 when Kim Winters became the Director. Camp was again blessed by the godly leadership and modeling of 'Miss Kim' until 2004 when Angie Armstrong became our fifth Director. 'Miss Kim' Grubb served faithfully as the Director in 2008. 'Miss Joy' Huseland is the current director.

TAPAWINGO WELCOME SONG

(melody of the hymn "Let All Things Now Living")

**An island of beauty is Camp Tapawingo
A place of contentment, of joy and of peace
'Tis there where the Lord walks with longing and passion
His efforts to woo us through love never cease
How well I remember His grace and compassion
As gently, so gently, He spoke to my heart
Ah, island of beauty
Fond memories do linger
With you where I found Him, my Savior and Lord.**

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:30 a.m.	Camper Wake-up Bell
7:45 a.m.	Cabin clean up
8:00 a.m.	Waitress bell/Flag raising/Exercises
8:15 a.m.	Breakfast
8:45 a.m.	Power Hour – all camp devotional
9:25 a.m.	Power Hour dismissed
9:30 a.m.	Boat departs promptly with hikers and AM off-island activities
9:40 a.m.	Bell to start Activity #1
10:30 a.m.	Bell to end Activity #1
10:40 a.m.	Bell to begin Activity #2
11:30 a.m.	Bell to end Activity #2
11:30 a.m.	Free time (ski) and cabin bonding
11:50 a.m.	Waitress bell/Wash up for lunch/Ski time ends
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Rest Hour – ALL on bunks and quiet
2:00 p.m.	Canteen/Store/Free Time
2:50 p.m.	Warning bell for Activity #3 (girls head to classes)
3:00 p.m.	Bell to start Activity #3
3:50 p.m.	Bell to end Activity #3
4:00 p.m.	Bell to start Activity #4
4:50 p.m.	Bell to end Activity #4
5:00 p.m.	Capers
5:20 p.m.	Flag lowering/Waitress bell
5:30 p.m.	Supper
6:15 p.m.	Event Hour
7:00 p.m.	Cabin Prayer Time
7:15 p.m.	Vespers (all camp worship)
8:15 p.m.	Getting Ready for Bed
8:30 p.m.	Cabin Devotions
9:00 p.m.	Lights Out for Oklahoma and Arapahoe
9:30 p.m.	Lights Out for the rest of camp/Taps

ACTIVITIES WE OFFER

Our campers enjoy the option of earning badges in each of our activity areas. Campers can earn their basic, advanced, and master's badges in the following areas:

Archery, Arts and Crafts, Campcraft, Canoeing, Drama, Fishing, Fitness, Sailing, Swimming, Tennis, Waterskiing, Wakeboarding, and Wildlife.

In addition, we offer Bible class, Banana Boating, Hiking, Climbing Wall, *Overnight (off-site) camping trips, *Ropes Course, and *Zipline (*Must be 12 years and older to participate).

CAMPER GOALS

We have developed goals for our campers to ensure that their time at Tapawingo is full of fun, growth, and meaningful fellowship. They are:

To be inspired by excellent character role models on how to be a woman of God and determine her position before Him.

To take part in a variety of activities and learn new skills.

To enjoy fellowship with other young women from a variety of backgrounds in a 'NO GOSSIP' atmosphere!

To be inspired to live a disciplined and healthy lifestyle.

To attain an appreciation for the wilderness and experience tangible growth in her comfort/ability in outdoor activities.

To make at least one new friend and learn how to be a true friend.

To gain a basic knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ as outlined in the Bible.

To discover God's best for her life and set a course to follow that path.

Our goals are HIGH! We hope each camper goes home saying, "That was the best week of my life!"

CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS

Tapawingo desires that every girl has an opportunity to come for a week of camp. Some girls would not be able to come due to financial need. Would you consider donating to our camper scholarship fund? Visit our website or e-mail us for information on how to donate.

<https://www.tapawingony.org/contribute-financially>

Do you need financial assistance? E-mail tapawingo@cotw.org and ask for the scholarship policies and application.

I'VE REGISTERED...NOW WHAT?

IMPORTANT: All forms and balances must be received by Tapawingo **BY MAY 1**. **If payment and all forms are not received by this deadline, your space may be offered to a camper on the waiting list.**

Login to your account to complete forms:

<https://tapawingo.campbrainregistration.com/>

Please Note: **We do not accept faxed health forms.**

Just in case: We suggest that you **keep copies** of all completed forms.

OPENING DAY/REGISTRATION

Registration for incoming campers is between 1:15 and 3:15pm on Sunday afternoon. Registration opens at 1:15pm. We will not accommodate early or late registrations on Sunday. Registration takes place in the CAMP-of-the-WOODS pavilion. As you drive into the CAMP-of-the-WOODS gate, the Welcome Center staff will tell you where to go for Tapawingo registration.

Camper parents are invited to come early to participate in our CAMP-of-the-WOODS worship service on Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in Tibbitts

Auditorium. Parents driving long distances are welcome to make reservations to stay at CAMP-of-the-WOODS. Please call the CAMP-of-the-WOODS Registrar at (518) 548-4311 ext. 0 to make these arrangements. Reservations for less than one week cannot be processed until two weeks prior to your daughter's stay and are subject to availability.

If you are staying at CAMP-of-the-WOODS the week that your camper is at Tapawingo, you may ask the CAMP-of-the-WOODS registrar if it is possible to include her in your accommodation for Saturday night at no additional charge.

*Please note that dogs are NOT allowed on CAMP-of-the-WOODS and Tapawingo grounds. Please also note that ALL Tapawingo campers, staff, and passengers will be required to wear a life preserver while riding in any of our boats. We ask that you limit the number of people who go to the island with your camper. When possible, please have brothers stay on the mainland. If your camper has attended Tapawingo before and can travel to the island herself, that is helpful for us. Thank you for helping to make registration go smoothly in this way.

What to Expect:

After you park your car, bring your luggage to the pavilion where our boat crew will load it for you. Please be sure your camper's luggage is clearly tagged with her name on it, and all cell phones and medications have been removed. Proceed to the line forming nearby. Boarding passes will be issued for the boat after you visit the following four required check-in stations.

1. Health Check

Your camper will be examined for any signs of infection or lice. New York State will not allow us to admit any camper showing evidence of infection unless she has medical clearance from a doctor. Please be considerate of other campers and inform us of any communicable diseases, broken bones, or significant injuries that would not allow her to hike, within 3 weeks of her stay! (We need to know this prior to her arrival).

2. Health Director's Station

The purpose of this station is to meet with the Health Director and discuss any medical concerns or issues. Please bring any prescription, over-the-counter drugs, creams etc. to be discussed and processed here (please make sure these do not go

in your daughter's luggage).

Helpful Hints to prepare for this station:

If your camper has a known allergic reaction, she **MUST** bring her prescribed Epi-pen. Please call your doctor for details. PRN inhalers and Epi-pens are the only medications allowed in the cabin with the camper.

KEEP ALL MEDICATIONS in ORIGINAL CONTAINERS! We will not accept any medications if they are not in the original container (not even in the daily pill dispensers).

We need PRESCRIPTIONS from the doctor before we can administer any medication. This DOES NOT include labels on prescription medications.

Make sure you have your HEALTH FORM mailed to us by May 1. This will allow Tapawingo Staff to catch any mistakes/omissions on your health form PRIOR to your arrival. **WE CANNOT ADMIT YOUR CAMPER WITHOUT A FULLY COMPLETED HEALTH FORM!**

The Meningitis Form must be completed by May 1. Camps in New York State are required to distribute information about meningitis and the vaccine for the disease. Please read the information on our website to find out more. All camper parents/guardians need to complete the form (to be completed in the on-line registration portal).

3. Business Manager Station

- At this station you will sign up for a Saturday departure boat time: 9:30am, 10:00am, and 10:30am.
- Though you will have already taken care of your daughter's camp store account via on-line registration, you may check the amount at this time. Money left on your camper's account will be returned to your camper in cash at the end of her session. (Please note that our Tapawingo Store is open on Opening Day for cash/check purchases. Be sure to stop by and take a peek!) **\$50—\$75 is a suggested total amount.**
- Please turn in any cell phones at this station.

4. Cabin Assignment Station

- You will be given your cabin assignment and counselor information at this station. Tapawingo has 10 camper cabins, each with 8 girls and 2 counselors. Cabins are assigned by age. We do our best to honor roommate requests made prior to arrival but will not honor requests made upon arrival.
- You will also receive a boat ticket and be given instructions on where to go if this is your first time here.

SWIM TEST

All first-time campers, and returners wanting to improve their swim level, will be required to take a swim test after their arrival (weather permitting). We recommend campers wear their one-piece swimsuit under their clothing on check-in day.

The swim test will include swimming using various strokes, treading water, floating, bobbing, and climbing into a rowboat from the water. The test is 15-20 minutes in length and is intended to determine what water activities your camper can safely participate in. These activities include sailing, swimming, water skiing, wakeboarding, canoeing, banana boating, and any other water activities. Swim levels include non-swimmer, intermediate swimmer, and advanced swimmer.

HOMESICKNESS

At Tapawingo, we believe homesickness is real and should not be taken lightly. Here are a few helpful suggestions we have compiled from experience.

Saying Goodbye — Telling your camper, “If you don’t like it you can always call me and come home,” is not recommended. Campers struggling to leave home repeat this sentence in their minds, making it difficult for them to make a healthy transition to the Tapawingo community. Your confidence now will make a difference in your camper’s experience! Be assured – We have dealt with this before and if we think it is necessary, the Director or Assistant Director will contact you.

If you would like, feel free to say your “goodbyes” on the mainland, following on-site registration. When your camper arrives on the island, she will be warmly

greeted by one of her counselors and escorted to her cabin to begin unpacking, meeting her cabin mates, and preparing for the swim test. **Our staff is on the lookout for campers who have traveled without a parent or guardian and will be eager to help her get settled!**

Another practical idea to help your camper (and YOU) throughout the week is letter writing. Getting mail at camp is a BIG deal! Everyone loves to get mail, and it helps to hear from loved ones at home. In these letters be newsy, happy, and encouraging. Avoid statements like “(name of pet) misses you.” Give your camper positive news that is taking place at home - maybe even a funny story that she can share with her cabin mates. If she is young, it would be a great idea to send along pre-stamped/addressed envelopes so that she can write back to let you/others know about her Tapawingo adventures!

*Please visit our website, www.tapawingony.org for more helpful hints on preventing homesickness.

WHAT TO BRING

Following is our suggested packing list. (Items with an asterisk are optional but recommended.)

KEEP ALL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS IN ORIGINAL PHARMACY CONTAINERS with ORIGINAL LABELS! Again, we also need prescriptions before we can administer medication. This does not include labels on the medication container.

BUG SPRAY/LOTION: Please pack bug spray that contains an amount of DEET appropriate for your child. Ask your doctor. Updated DEET recommendations: The use of DEET on children should be applied with precaution. Label directions should always be followed. The higher the percentage of DEET, the longer the repellant will be effective. The standard maximum amount of DEET for a child is 30%. For more information on DEET, please visit: www.deetonline.org

Clothing

- ☐ Short-sleeved tops
- ☐ Long-sleeved tops
- ☐ Wool/fleece Sweater
- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Long Underwear
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Waterproof Jacket
- ☐ Swimsuit (one piece)
- ☐ Jeans
- ☐ Gym Shoes
- ☐ Leggings (note: leggings may be worn underneath shorts, skirts, or a long shirt; they may not be worn alone as pants)
- ☐ One dressier outfit (no spaghetti straps)

Footwear

- ☐ Wool/Fleece socks
- ☐ Hiking Boots
- ☐ Tennis Shoes
- ☐ Sandals (must have a back)

Gear

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Paper and Pen
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Bug spray (see below)
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Nalgene (water-bottle)

Optional:

- ☐ Musical Instrument
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Kleenex
- ☐ Stationery and stamps
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Addressed/stamped envelopes

Medication

- ☐ Epi-pen (if allergic)
- ☐ Inhaler (if needed)
- ☐ Prescription Meds (see below)

Bed and Bath

- ☐ Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Pillowcases
- ☐ Towel (Face, Bath and Beach)
- ☐ Shower Shoes/Flip-flops

Bathroom Kit

- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Toothbrush/toothpaste
- ☐ Deodorant

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Cell phones, smart watches, drones, hover-boards, personal sports equipment, animals, weapons, MP3 players, iPods, electronic games/pets, magazines, internet access equipment, trading cards, ghost stories, and witchcraft books or other books promoting cults are not allowed. **If these items are brought, we will collect them on Sunday, and they will be kept for the duration of your camper's stay and returned to her upon departure.** Tapawingo is not responsible for lost items.

Additionally, campers should not drive their own vehicles to camp.

It is a **New York State Policy**, that we cannot store any refrigerated personal items for campers. Please do not send refrigerated items with your camper(s)!

****Please note that Tapawingo has a dress code. When packing, please keep this in mind. We ask that you avoid packing spaghetti strap tank tops, shirts that show midriffs, short shorts and 2-piece bathing suits (tankinis with full coverage are acceptable). Campers may wear leggings with something over them but not by themselves. If clothing is deemed inappropriate, campers will be asked to change.***

HIKING INFO

Campers will participate in a day hike and may also participate in an overnight hiking/camping trip. Be sure your camper has the proper gear, including a backpack, good sleeping bag that is recommended for outdoor use, a water bottle, and a waterproof jacket, in addition to the other items listed in the "What to Bring" list. A bag that frees up the camper's hands is best, but it does not need to be "official" backpacking equipment. All campers will sleep out (either on our beach, lean-to, or in a tent) at least one night, weather permitting. Good sleeping bags are needed! **Please note: All campers are expected to hike.** If an injury occurs prior to camp, please call to discuss with the Director and/or Health Director.

LOST AND FOUND

Call to confirm item is found, then provide a credit card to cover postage costs. All items that have not been claimed after ONE MONTH of your camper's departure, will be donated to a clothing bank. Labeling your camper's items will help us to minimize lost and found items. Be sure to check that your camper has all of her belongings on closing day.

LAUNDRY

Any camper staying for more than one week may choose to have her laundry done. Please make sure your camper comes with a laundry bag and clothing (clearly labeled) if you wish to utilize our laundry service. Laundry service takes place at the end of the week and costs \$10, a sum that is deducted from her camper account.

VISITATION

There are no appropriate times to visit Tapawingo campers during a session.

PERMIT TO OPERATE

Tapawingo is inspected twice annually by the New York State Department of Health, which issues our operating permit.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

Tapawingo is not a rehabilitation program. We are not the place to quit smoking, drinking, or drugs, or to work through behavioral or psychological problems.

COMMUNICATION

Outgoing mail leaves the island after breakfast each day. Mail and packages are delivered to campers each day after lunch. You can write to your camper at:

Tapawingo
Camper's Name, Cabin
PO Box 250
Speculator, NY 12164

If using UPS or FEDEX, please send to:

Tapawingo

Camper's Name, Cabin

106 Downey Avenue

Speculator, NY 12164

You may email your camper a letter. Each email costs \$0.50 and will be charged to your camper's spending account. E-mails will be delivered during rest hour each day when sent in by noon. Send e-letters to this email address: tapawingocampermail@cotw.org. Please include your camper's name and cabin in subject line!

Please note: The Tapawingo phone, fax and email are for business and emergency use only and should NOT be used to inquire about the general well-being of your camper. Parents will be contacted by Tapawingo in the case of discipline issues (at Director's discretion), injury/illness that requires transport to an outside medical facility, or in certain cases of homesickness.

COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM (CIT)

The Counselor-in-Training Program is four weeks in length and is designed for 16- and 18-year-olds who desire to deepen their knowledge of the Lord and His Word, understand Biblical leadership, increase in wilderness skills, help out 'behind the scenes' at camp, be challenged physically, and so much more. To download the CIT application and find out more about session dates etc., please go to our Tapawingo website. You will find the application and other information under the CIT section.

TAP ADVENTURE PROGRAM

TAP Adventure Program is designed to give girls ages 14-16 a week of outdoor adventure, spiritual growth, physical challenge, and a safe space to fail and learn. Campers will learn a variety of wilderness skills that include: backcountry cooking, water purification, camping and tarp set up, canoeing, basic climbing and

rappelling skills, basic whitewater knowledge, basic caving skills, and Leave No Trace principles. Outdoor adventure trips include:

- Climbing and rappelling
- Whitewater rafting (water level dependent)
- Canoeing
- Overnight camping trips
- Hiking
- Caving

TAPAWINGO STAFF MEMBERS

At Tapawingo, we seek staff members who are **called** (working here for a summer is similar to working on a mission field), **competent** (skilled, teachable, articulate), who have **chemistry** (good team-members), and women of **character**. We seek devoted Christian women who are passionate about youth ministry and serious about their walk with Christ. We believe our best, most effective way to witness and disciple young women is through our day-in and day-out lives. Through an on-line application, reference checks, an extensive interview, and thorough screening, the Director ensures that each staff member fits the above requirements. Prior to the summer, our staff members participate in 3 weeks of extensive staff training and certification including Wilderness First Aid, Lifeguarding, CPR, challenge course, and activity areas. We believe our staff to be disciplined, kind-hearted, tender, and Christ-like role models. It is with confidence that you can place your camper in their care!

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Campers **arriving** by air fly into Albany airport and **MUST** schedule their flight to arrive no earlier than 9:00 a.m. and no later than noon (if possible) on Sunday. End of session departure flights should be no earlier than 10 a.m. on Saturdays. Albany airport is 2 hours from Tapawingo. The fee for transportation to and from the airport is \$130 each way, per camper. If there is more than one camper per family the first camper will be charged \$130 and the additional family members \$15 each.

If you desire to schedule an airport pick-up or drop-off, **you must discuss this with the Director, Joy Huseland. You must also call us 24 hours prior to the scheduled pick-up and/or drop-off to confirm times.** Call us direct at (518) 548-5091. **Do not**

assume that your airport pick-up/drop-off is confirmed unless you have received confirmation from us. Flight information must be received 4 WEEKS prior to arrival.

CLOSING DAY

Tapawingo sessions end on a Saturday. Prior to your departure on opening day, we will ask that you choose a time that is convenient for you to pick up your camper. These times are 9:30 am, 10:00 am and 10:30 am and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Camper pick-up is on Saturday at the CAMP-of-the-WOODS Point.

*Please help us to prepare for the next session by being on time for your scheduled pickup! Be sure to take home all that your camper brought! Luggage will be found at the Point at CAMP-of-the-WOODS. Labeling luggage PRIOR to your camper's week will help ensure she returns with everything. Please be sure to check for additional bags as campers sometimes pack crafts etc. in new bags. Your camper will receive the remaining amount on her balance in an envelope on Saturday morning.

We cannot release a camper to anyone other than the custodial parent or guardian without written permission. In the registration process you must write down the name(s) of any people authorized to pick up your camper. If someone other than the authorized adult is to pick up your camper, written instructions from the custodial parent or guardian must be sent to the camp office prior to departure. You MUST present a photo ID to Tapawingo Staff, upon pick -up of your camper.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From New Jersey: Take either Rt. 287 or GSP north to NY State Thruway (I-87) North. Follow directions "From South & East (Albany)".

From South and East (Albany): NY State Thruway (Rt 90) West to Amsterdam, Exit 27. After toll booth, take a right turn into Amsterdam. Exit to Rt 30N when it veers off to the left. In Vail Mills Rt 30N will turn left and then right a few miles later. All turns are marked. Follow Rt 30N approx. 1hr. You will see a 'Welcome to Speculator' sign on the left. CAMP-of-the-WOODS is one mile past the sign on the left.

From West: Take NY State Thruway (Rt 90) to Exit 31 in Utica. Take Rt. 8 North 65to Rt. 30 South. CAMP-of-the-WOODS is 1 mile south on the right.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for choosing Tapawingo for your camper this summer. We are honored and excited to serve you and your loved one as you join us on our 'island of beauty'!

We hope that you have found this handbook helpful as you prepare for your time with us. Thank you for reading it carefully. While we have tried to include all the necessary information in a clear and concise way, please contact us if you have questions. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Have a safe trip!

In Christ,

Joy Huseland
Tapawingo Director

APPENDIX

Tapawingo Contact Info:

Address:

Tapawingo
PO Box 250/106 Downey Avenue
Speculator, NY 12164

Website: www.tapawingony.org

Phone:

518-548-4311 ext. 903 – Miss Joy;
518-548-4311 ext. 904 – Miss Karyn;
518-548-5091 (Summer)

Fax: 518-548-4324 (Sept—June); 518-548-9787 (July—August)

E-mail: tapawingo@cotw.org