



# Camp Ondessonk



Register online at  
[Ondessonk.com](http://Ondessonk.com)!  
Financial assistance available.



# Camp Ondessonk Tradition

The Mission of Camp Ondessonk is to provide an environment that inspires physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual growth for individuals and groups through the appreciation and stewardship of nature.

Camp Ondessonk has proudly served campers since the summer of 1959. Ondessonk's 983 acre site is adjacent to the Shawnee National Forest and is among the most scenic summer camps in the United States. The cabins, facilities, and programs are deliberately designed to immerse participants in a setting not often encountered by the youths of today. This traditional approach to summer camping allows participants to fully experience their surroundings in a fun, adventurous, and supportive environment.

Camp Ondessonk is owned and operated by the Catholic Diocese of Belleville, IL. Christian traditions and teachings guide the work of this ministry. People of all faiths are encouraged and welcome to enjoy Ondessonk.

## Typical Day at Camp

7:45am	Breakfast
8:45am	Activities 1,2,3
12:30pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Siesta (Rest Hour)
2:30pm	Activities 4,5
5:00pm	General Swim & Shower Time
5:45pm	Optional Prayer Service
6:15pm	Flag Ceremony
6:30pm	Dinner
8:00pm	Evening Activity
10:00pm	Taps and Lights Out!

## Safety

Camp Ondessonk strives to meet the highest health and safety standards. We are proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association. This accreditation means that Ondessonk thoroughly reviews operational practices, seeks the wisdom of other camp professionals, and continually makes improvements to comply with more than 300 written standards. Only one-fourth of the camps in the United States have earned this mark of distinction. An on-site health center is run by a registered nurse. In addition, Ondessonk's Equestrian Program is accredited by the Certified Horsemanship Association.

## Group Registration Online

Do you have a group of campers that would like to live in the same unit? If so, each family must register online within 5 days of the first group member. This is equivalent to mailing all forms in one envelope.



**Camp O changed my life. It made me a better person and gave me opportunities I would have never received.** - Cassidy, 2011 Camper



## Live in a Treehouse!

The cabins at Camp Ondessonk are a unique experience. Each of our rustic, non-electric units accommodates 30-40 campers in 5-6 cabins. Shower houses are located nearby. Staff members supervise the unit from their own adjacent cabin. A unit is like a family for the entire week. Units attend activities together, compete in camp games, and build a sense of community. Pictures of each unit are available at [Ondessonk.com](http://Ondessonk.com).

**Treehouses:** The units of Goupil, Daniel, Raganeau, Lalemant, Garnier, Amantacha, and Lalande are tucked away in the trees. These treehouse units feature A-frame roofs, three closed sides, and a labyrinth of connecting catwalks.

**Brebeuf Cabins:** This unit resembles a treehouse, but the cabins sit on the ground. Eight campers share each cabin.

**Chabanel Grotto:** The coolest spot in camp! This one-of-a-kind unit houses 32 campers under a sandstone amphitheater. Campers enjoy the cool stone, and a waterfall if it rains.

**Tekakwitha Lodges:** This unit features 3 cabins housing 12 campers each. Each A-frame Lodge has four walls with screened windows and doors.

## Staff

All individuals working at Ondessonk choose the job because of a strong desire to serve others. The full-time staff consists of devoted individuals with extensive experience in fields related to youth development and outdoor leadership. The summer leadership staff is comprised of proven, sound decision makers who have completed college or are actively working towards that goal. Ondessonk's counseling/activity staff is predominantly made up of former Ondessonk campers that have worked their way up the ranks. All are carefully selected in a highly competitive hiring process that includes a background check. Excluding the administrative staff, the staff to camper ratio is approximately 1:6. Staff training emphasizes child development, child protection, teaching skills, and responsible leadership. First aid and CPR training is provided. Depending upon position, staff members are certified by the Certified Horsemanship Association, National Rifle Association, American Red Cross, or other appropriate certifying bodies.



**Camp Ondessonk is one of the best gifts you will ever give your child. They will gain friends and learn to make decisions on their own.** -Lisa, Parent of a Camper



## Registration Basics **Questions? Call us at 618-695-2489 or 877-659-2267 weekdays 8am - 5pm & Saturday 8am - 3:30pm.**

- Mail-in or Online** You are welcome to fill out the following registration form and mail it in or go to Ondessonk.com to register online! A nonrefundable deposit is required with either method. A confirmation and parent information package will be sent upon receipt.
- Multiple Campers** Camp is great for individual campers or groups! If you have a group of campers that would like to go together, mail-in registrations must be sent in together in the same envelope and online registrations must be within 5 days of the 1st group member. Please note that groups will get the same session and unit, but not necessarily the same cabin.
- Pricing Structure** Camp Ondessonk is a self-sufficient organization that relies entirely on camper fees, grants, and contributions to operate. Unlike many other camps, prices are all-inclusive; all kids have access to all activities with no additional fees, period. Realizing that we serve a wide variety of families with varying abilities to pay, we've adopted a 3-tier pricing program. **(Note: In light of the economy, we have not raised prices this year.)** Please review the descriptions and decide which of the three prices your family is able and willing to pay for your child's camp experience. **This is strictly a voluntary honor system and in no way influences the experience children receive.**
- Financial Assistance** State funds are available through the Title XX program and private funds are available through the Camp Ondessonk Campership Fund for any families who need it. **Camp Ondessonk donors, volunteers, and staff work hard all year to ensure that this fund is well-stocked for families in all situations, and we highly encourage you to take us up on it!** Please contact the registrar at the number above, ext. 109.
- Same Family Discount!** A 10% discount will be provided for every second session of camp purchased by one immediate family, and a 20% discount will be provided for every third and additional session of camp purchased by one immediate family. Discounts will apply to the lesser session fee. This discount does not apply to Fourth of July Camp for Families.
- Refunds** Any cancellation made at least FOUR WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR CAMP DATE will receive a full refund less the \$100 deposit. No refund will be given after that time unless there is a documented medical emergency. No refund will be given due to an early departure. If cancellation is necessary, contact the registrar at 877-659-2267 or 618-695-2489 ext. 109.
- Layover Campers (Optional)** Because families asked for it! Campers ages 11-16 that choose to attend multiple sessions back-to-back are welcome to take advantage of this program. This supervised, one day/one night session will include exploration in the Shawnee National Forest, a special overnight campout, swimming, meals, and other activities. All-inclusive fee is \$82, available 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 7/14, 7/21, and 7/28.
- Take The Bus To Camp (Optional)** Camp Ondessonk offers private, insured motor coach transportation provided by Cavallo Bus Lines. At least two counselors are assigned to each bus to supervise campers and serve as resources of camp information. Lunch cost is the responsibility of the camper. Routes and bus times may be cancelled or changed. If so, ticket holders will be notified. Typically, reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance. You are welcome to inquire about availability if interested in booking within the two week period. Bus cancellations must be received two weeks prior to camp session to receive a refund. **Note: Camper luggage packed in Rubbermaid-type trash-cans or other large trunks or containers will not be allowed on the bus.** Luggage space is limited. Please arrive at the bus stop 15 minutes before scheduled times— schedule does not allow waiting for late arrivals. Bus service will not be provided July 4 or July 7, 2012.

City	2-Way	1-Way	Depart Sunday	Return Saturday	Pick up & Return Spot
Tinley Park, IL (Chicago)	\$145	\$106	6:30 am	5:45 pm	Wingate Hotel, I-80 Exit 148B
Dwight, IL	\$131	\$103	8:00 am	4:15 pm	Becker's BP Hot Rod Gas Station, I-55 exit 220
Bloomington/Normal, IL	\$122	\$97	9:00 am	3:00 pm	McDonald's, I-55 Exit 160A
Springfield, IL	\$112	\$84	10:15 am	1:15 pm, Lunch Stop	Capital City Pkg Lot, I-55 exit 94
Fairview Heights, IL	\$94	\$72	12:00 pm, Lunch Stop	11:30 am	McDonald's, I-64 Exit 12

# Campers, this page (front & back) is for you! We can't wait to see you.

*First, we've got to take care of some business. Ask a parent if you need help with anything!*

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
School & City \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed as of 6/1/13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male Female  
Parent #1 Work # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent #2 Work # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent #1 Cell # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent #2 Cell # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Name & # \_\_\_\_\_  
Ambassador Program #? (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Will you be taking the bus or staying over between weeks? Check the box for these optional services if you need them:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a round trip ticket \_\_\_\_\_ I would like a one-way ticket to camp \_\_\_\_\_ I would like a one-way ticket home

I'm coming from (city) \_\_\_\_\_ On \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/12

Riding bus from camp to (city) \_\_\_\_\_ On \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/12

**Layover Weekends:** \_\_\_\_ June 9 \_\_\_\_ June 16 \_\_\_\_ June 23 \_\_\_\_ July 14 \_\_\_\_ July 21 \_\_\_\_ July 28

**Approval for Camp Ondessonk participation is granted without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, military status, or gender. Camper religion or creed must be compatible with Camp Ondessonk's goals.**

## Camper Behavior Agreement: The following section must be completed by the child being registered.

I understand that my behavior will be monitored by the staff of Camp Ondessonk. Inappropriate behavior for the camp setting will not be permitted. Camp Ondessonk has two major rules. The first is SAFETY. The second is COURTESY. Specific rules and policies are similar to those used in schools. I understand that I could be sent home for breaking Camp Ondessonk rules. Campers are given more complete information about this subject upon arrival.

- SAFETY: Ondessonk campers are to avoid situations in which their safety or the safety of others is at risk.
- COURTESY: Ondessonk campers must be courteous to all of God's creatures; this includes people, plants, and animals.

**Your signature indicates that you understand Camp Ondessonk's behavior expectations. By signing here, you agree to follow the rules of safety and courtesy.**

Camper's printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Use Only**

Session \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Group \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Session \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Group \_\_\_\_\_

Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ %

## Campers, this page (front & back) is for you! We can't wait to see you.

*Now onto the important stuff, please tell us all about you! We'll do everything we can to make this the best week ever.*

T-shirt Size (circle) YM YL S M L XL XXL

What diocese does your family live in? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about camp?

\_\_\_ School \_\_\_ Church \_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_ Print Ad \_\_\_ Camp Fair \_\_\_ Radio/TV \_\_\_ Online \_\_\_ Family

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Yrs at Camp O (circle one) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Friends you want to bunk with (Groups must be mailed in the same envelope to stay together):

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) \_\_\_\_\_

7) \_\_\_\_\_ 8) \_\_\_\_\_ 9) \_\_\_\_\_

Backpacking, Horse, Rock and Lodge campers do not need to select a unit – lodging for these campers is preassigned.

**Although unit choice is not guaranteed, tell us your favorites & we'll do our best! Rate: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th:**

\_\_\_ Amantacha Treehouse  
\_\_\_ Brebeuf Cabin  
\_\_\_ Tekakwitha Lodge  
\_\_\_ Daniel Treehouse

} **These are only  
for boys at Coed  
& Mini camps!**

\_\_\_ Lalande Treehouse  
\_\_\_ Goupil Treehouse  
\_\_\_ Lalemant Treehouse  
\_\_\_ Garnier Treehouse

} **These are only  
for girls at Coed  
& Mini camps!**

**To My Unit Leader:**

Hi! My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I like to be called \_\_\_\_\_. I am feeling \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ about coming to camp this summer. The thing I am most looking forward to is  
\_\_\_\_\_, and the thing I am a little nervous about is \_\_\_\_\_. What  
is your favorite part of camp?

Looking forward to meeting you! For now, I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_. See ya!

Heepwah (a camp saying meaning everything good),

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Here Camper

# Parents, this page (front & back) is for you! Registration in 3 Easy Steps:

Read about registration basics, our 3-tiered pricing (including plentiful Financial Assistance options) on Page 4 of the brochure, then proceed:

## Step 1: Alternate Pickup Information

In order to keep my child safe, the following adults are the only people authorized to pick my child up from Camp Ondessonk: We must have information for all authorized adults, including parents, should a camper have to leave camp early. (Includes bus campers!)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_

## Step 2: Select Your Session (1st & 2nd choice)

Traditional Camps					
Check the box next to a session and payment level.	A	B	C		
<b>Mini Camp</b> -8 and 9 years only (Full amount due with registration)	\$275	\$255	\$235		
Mini: June 6-9					
Mini 2: July 1-4					
<b>Mini Camp Explorers</b> -8 and 9 years only (\$100 to hold registration)	\$539	\$489	\$439		
Mini Exp.: June 3-9					
<b>Traditional Camp</b> -10-15 years only (\$100 to hold registration)	\$539	\$489	\$439		
Coed 1: June 3-9					
Coed 2: June 10-16					
Coed 3: June 17-23					
Boys: June 24-30					
Girls 1: July 8-14					
Girls 2: July 15-21					
Coed 4: July 22-28					
Coed 5: July 29-Aug 4					
<b>Lodge Camp</b> - 11-16 years Must be a Lodge member. (\$100 to hold registration)	\$500 (\$350 as 2nd session of summer)				
Coed 5: July 29-Aug 4					
<b>Counselor In Training (CIT)</b> 15 yrs old Register with this form or online. See page 9 for application details.	\$800	\$750	\$700		
CIT Applicants: Rank order of preferred Sessions.	CIT 1 Coed 6/3-6/16	CIT 2 Coed 6/10-6/23	CIT 3 Coed 6/17-6/30	CIT 4 Girls 7/8-7/21	CIT 5 Coed 7/15-7/28

## Adventure Camps

Check a box next to a session and payment level. (\$100 deposit to hold registration)	A	B	C
<b>Horse Camp - Level 1</b> , 12-15 years only	\$585	\$535	\$485
Coed 1: June 3-9			
Coed 3: June 17-23			
Girls 1: July 8-14			
Coed 4: July 22-28			
<b>Rock Camp - Level 1</b> , 12-15 years only	\$560	\$510	\$460
Coed: June 17-23			
<b>River to River Backpacking Adventure - Level 2</b> - 13-16 years only	\$870	\$820	\$770
Coed: June 3-16			
<b>Horse Adventure - Level 2</b> , 13-16 yrs only	\$585	\$535	\$485
Coed 2: June 10-16			
Girls 2: July 15-21			
Coed 5: July 29-Aug 4			
<b>Rock Adventure - Level 2</b> , 13-16 yrs only	\$560	\$510	\$460
Coed: June 24-30			
<b>Horse Expedition - Level 3</b> , 14-18 yrs only	\$950	\$900	\$850
Coed: June 24-July 7			

## Step 3: Calculate and Submit fees

Deposit only - \$100 each session  
(full payment due 4 weeks prior to arrival) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full Camp Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Layover weekend - \$82 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to contribute to our Campership Fund so that other families may send their campers? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check/Money Order Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my: Visa MC Discover  
In the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Okay, maybe it's more like 3.5 easy steps.  
Please detach and mail to us at:**

**Camper Registration  
Camp Ondessonk  
3760 Ondessonk Rd.  
Ozark, IL 62972**

### Rate A

Based on the actual cost of participation.  
Includes expenses for staff, maintenance, food,  
programs, supplies, and wear/tear depreciation.

### Rate B

This is our partially subsidized rate. It  
does not fully reflect the true cost of  
participation.

### Rate C

This is our standard subsidized fee.  
It does not reflect the true cost of  
participation.

**PS - Looking to register for our Fourth of July Family Camp? Please call us or go online for an application.**

Family Camp is July 4-7! Children <5: free, Ages 5-8: \$82, 9+: \$125 **OR** Family Rate of \$350 for 1st 3 family members, \$82 for each additional



## Waiver of Claim: \*\*THE BELOW SECTION MUST BE REVIEWED, ACCEPTED, AND SIGNED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF CAMPER BEFORE REGISTRATION CAN BE ACCEPTED\*\*

**Camp Ondessonk is for those who enjoy camping. Rules for participation in the program are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability. It is understood that all campers will be treated as individuals and respect shown for normal differences in tastes, preferences, abilities, and a range of behavior patterns. Camp Ondessonk reserves the right to dismiss a child from the camp whose special needs we are not able to meet or whose conduct is not in the best interest of the total camp, without refund.**

**Permission for Camp Ondessonk to use Photos / Video / Likeness:** I hereby release to Camp Ondessonk and/or the American Camp Association the use of my child's photograph, image, likeness and/or voice as recorded on video tape or film for the purpose of promotion, videos, yearbooks, website or publications. I hereby release any and all claims against Camp Ondessonk, Catholic Diocese of Belleville, its representatives, or officers arising in connection with the usage of my child's photo, likeness and/or voice. I acknowledge that this release is formal and final and understand that Camp Ondessonk, Catholic Diocese of Belleville, may proceed in reliance thereon. The undersigned in this release desires to assist in the work of Camp Ondessonk, Catholic Diocese of Belleville, by making their child's image, likeness, or voice available.

**Horseback Riding and Instruction:** (All Traditional, Horse Adventure, and Horse Camp campers are given the opportunity to participate in staff supervised equine activities including a ground lesson(s), ring ride(s), and trail ride(s). Mini-Campers experience a ground lesson and ring ride.) Camp Ondessonk's horses are carefully chosen for soundness and appropriate temperament. Even so, under the Illinois Equine Liability Act, each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risk of engaging in and the legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities. I acknowledge and understand that participation in equine activities involves inherent risks, including but not limited to (1) the propensity of an equine to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to the participant; (2) the inability to predict an equine's reaction to sound, movement, objects, persons, or animals; and (3) the hazards of surface or subsurface conditions. Notwithstanding this knowledge and awareness, I assume all risks of my minor child/ward's participation in equine activities and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of such activities.

**Climbing Related Activities:** (Senior Campers, CITs, Rock Camp, Rock Adventure, and Lodge Campers may or do participate in rope and anchor protected High Challenge Course, and/or Climbing Wall, and/or Rock Climbing activities. **All campers** participate in supervised exploration hikes in rocky areas of uneven terrain, requiring navigation near bluff-tops, into narrow rock formations, and in other natural areas): I, as a parent/guardian of a participant, understand my child will be participating in activities that involve periods of physical exertion, balancing, heights (up to 80 feet), lifting, pushing, pulling and climbing. I know most activities will be outdoors where my child will need to watch for slippery and/or uneven footing, limbs and branches, insects or animals and possible exposure to extreme or inclement weather. I acknowledge that my child must be at least 10 years of age to participate in challenge course or rock climbing programs. I fully understand that this physical activity involves risk of injury. I understand the risks may include loss or damage to personal property. I understand that my child will not be forced to do any activity and that despite all reasonable precaution taken, a guarantee of absolute safety is impossible. My child agrees to exercise good personal judgment and to ask for help if my child is concerned about personal safety and to be responsible for deciding if a proposed activity is appropriate for him/her. My child agrees to inform the instructors of any physical, mental or medical condition that might affect his/her ability to participate or affect other members of my group. My child also realizes that failure to tell that information could result in serious harm to him/her or others. I also state that my child is not under and will not be under the influence of any non-doctor prescribed chemical substance, including alcohol. My child agrees to comply with safety instructions given and to be responsible for his/her own personal safety and well being. I understand that all possible precautions are taken to insure that all programs and activities sponsored by Camp Ondessonk are conducted by mature and qualified personnel in a safe and responsible manner. I understand that Camp Ondessonk in the challenge course or rock climbing programs will provide a minimum staff/participant ratio of 1:14. I voluntarily assume the risks of the activities and my child agrees to report any injuries before leaving the premises.

**Registration Deposit, Refunds, Early Departures, Insurance, and Special Circumstances:** I understand a non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 per child, per session is required with registration. Account balances are due 4 weeks prior to the camper's arrival, and I authorize Camp Ondessonk to charge any fees due at that time to my credit card on file (if applicable). Any registration submitted less than 4 weeks prior to arrival must be paid in full at the time of registration. The balance of fees is refundable for medical reasons only, and will be issued upon receipt of Doctor's authorized medical reason. Camp fees include staff supervision, lodging, meals, crafts and program activities. Bus transportation to and from camp is extra. FEES DO NOT INCLUDE COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL/ACCIDENT INSURANCE. Camp Ondessonk does not carry comprehensive medical, accident, or loss of personal property insurance for program participants, due to the fact that it would drastically increase the cost of our program fees. Please review the insurance policies that protect you and your family to be certain that the proper coverage is in place. I understand that no refunds will be issued for campers going home early, for disciplinary action, or homesickness. Ondessonk is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal items. I realize if there is any existing custodial situation regarding guardianship of the child registered, Camp Ondessonk staff will only communicate with the parent/guardian who has registered the child and whose signature appears on this registration form. Additionally, Camp Ondessonk staff will not release any information to anyone who inquires about the above registered camper/child. Camp Ondessonk will not become involved with situations that arise between custodial parents or situations that arise between non-custodial parents. It is up to the individuals that registered the child to share information with any other custodial parents/guardians who may be sharing custody of the above-mentioned child.

**Medical Care:** I give permission to Camp Ondessonk to administer routine medical care. In the event of an emergency requiring advanced care, I understand every attempt will be made to contact the parent/guardian. In the event that the parent/guardian cannot be reached, I give permission to Camp Ondessonk to secure proper medical treatment and to the physician selected by the Camp Director to hospitalize, secure proper treatment and to order injection, anesthesia or surgery for my child as named above. Camp Ondessonk has my permission to use my credit card on file to pay for prescription drugs for my child if needed while at camp. I understand that any medical expense will be billed directly to me or to my insurance company with Camp Ondessonk's basic participant accident insurance being secondary. I also give permission to Camp Ondessonk to transport my child off the camp property by vehicle for purposes of medical care and/or scheduled program activities as deemed appropriate by camp's medical personnel or the Camp Director in the case of scheduled program activities.

**Parental Approval:** I approve this application and certify that our child is in good health. I also agree to provide a current and complete health history form prior to my child's attendance.

**Acknowledgement of Waiver Terms:** For value received, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledge, I, on behalf of myself and my minor child/ward, X\_\_\_\_\_ (camper name), hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless, Camp Ondessonk, Catholic Youth Camp, Diocese of Belleville, and its directors, officers, employees, clergy, volunteers, officers, board members and/or agents from and against any and all claims, accidents, injury, losses, suits, damages to property, or costs (including attorney fees) arising out of, resulting from or relating to my minor child/ward's participation in equine activities, including but not limited to horseback riding in or around the premises operated by Camp Ondessonk, climbing related activities, and other activities part of the Camp Ondessonk schedule and experience. I further acknowledge that (1) I am the parent/guardian of the minor child/ward identified above; (2) I have read and understand this release in its entirety; (3) I fully understand and accept its terms; (4) I understand the balance is due four weeks prior to the date of camper arrival, should the camp need to litigate in cases involving any unpaid fees I will be responsible for the camp's legal expenses including any NSF fees; and (6) I am aware this is a waiver and a release of liability and I sign it voluntarily.

**Bus riders:** In an emergency, please contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ In the event of an accident resulting in injuries to my child, I understand attempts will be made to reach me by phone. If I cannot be reached by phone, I hereby give permission for advanced medical attention to be administered. I am aware this is a waiver and a release of liability and I sign it voluntarily.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Traditional Camps** Campers learn and practice skills like canoeing, archery, riflery, horseback riding, and woodsmanship. Participants also get a chance to swim on a daily basis. At night, campers enjoy campfires, a Native American ceremony, a campout under the stars, the Tuesday Night Game, life in one of Ondessonk's signature treehouses or cabins, and much more.



**Mini Camp** Ages: 8 & 9 years old only  
The perfect way to get to know Camp O. Mini Camp is a special 3 day session for younger campers who are not quite ready to stay away from home for a whole week. This program provides a supervised introduction to camping with lots of individual attention.

**Mini Camp Explorers** Ages: 8 & 9 years old only  
Mini Camp Explorers offers adventurous children an extended experience building upon our popular Mini Camp offering. Young campers will spend the entire week discovering all of the Camp activities and traditions.

**Traditional Camp** Ages: 10-15 years old  
This is the program that started it all. Boys, Girls, and Coed sessions are scheduled throughout the summer. Participants enjoy each of Ondessonk's long-standing traditions; including an Exploration Hike, the Tuesday Night game, Marathon, and more. Unlike many summer camps, Ondessonk does not charge additional fees for horseback riding or senior camper electives.

**Fourth of July Family Camp** All ages  
Ever wish you had a summer cottage on the lake for vacation? This year you can! Join the Camp Ondessonk staff for a three day, three night experience with enough adventure, family fun, and memories to last a lifetime. Stay with your entire family in one of Ondessonk's rustic units, enjoy meals in the dining hall, and participate in many of Ondessonk's traditional activities. Need a short break? Talented Ondessonk staff members happily provide childcare at no additional charge for a portion of each afternoon.

**Counselor-In-Training (CIT)** Ages: 15 years only  
Two week leadership training program designed to prepare participants for possible future counselor positions. Register with paper application or on-line to receive official program application. Those not accepted will receive a full registration refund. Additional application details will be sent to registrants.

**Lodge Camp** Ages: 11-16, must be a Lodge member  
The Loyal Lodge of Ondessonk and Tekakwitha is an honor society for campers who have shown their loyalty and dedication to camp in an exemplary way. Lodge Camp campers enjoy the highlights of Camp while living in a unit led by Lodge officials. Campers receive a discount if choosing Lodge Camp as the second session of their summer. Please see registration form for details.

**Super Camper Layover Weekend** Ages: 10-16  
This one day, one night session will include an extended hike in the Shawnee National Forest, a special overnight campout, swimming, meals, and other activities. Please see the registration form for a list of available weekends.





**Adventure Camps** Working in small groups with two or three staff members with specialized training, campers focus on one set of skills for an entire week. This creates an opportunity for remarkable knowledge and skill growth. To help parents make good choices for their children, these programs are divided into three levels. Like Traditional Campers, Adventure Campers are eligible for induction into Lodge, Ondessonk's honor society.

**Level 1** - *Campers in level 1 sessions spend their days building skills, their evenings enjoying traditional Ondessonk activities like the Tuesday night game, and their nights in one of Ondessonk's signature cabins.*

**Horse Camp** Ages: 12-15 years old  
Campers spend their week at the Ondessonk Stables with their very own horse. Detailed instruction is provided by our CHA Certified Instructors in basic horsemanship and riding technique in our arena. All week long campers will also enjoy trail rides through our pastures and forested trails, plus an overnight horse camp-out and a camper horse show!

**Rock Camp** Ages: 12-15 years old  
Campers scale beautiful sandstone rock formations and learn life-lessons while ascending new heights! Rock Camp includes detailed instruction in climbing technique, basic knots, safety systems, and an exhilarating 300 foot zip-line on the High Challenge Course!

**Level 3** - *Experienced Ondessonk Adventure Campers only. An epic opportunity to put into practice all you've learned at Camp Ondessonk over the summers!*

**Horse Expedition** Ages: 14-18 years old  
Hone your Horsemanship, horse-packing, outdoor living, and trail stewardship skills as legendary Ondessonk Wranglers guide you on a two week backcountry pack trip through the majestic Shawnee National Forest. Eligible campers will have completed at least one of Camp Ondessonk's Level I or Level II equestrian programs in a previous summer, or are scheduled to attend either Horse Camp or Horse Adventure during Coed I or II during Summer 2012. This program will fill fast, and spots are limited!

**Level 2** - *These adventure filled sessions offer more time away from the main area of Ondessonk, a higher level of challenge, and more advanced instruction. Level 2 Campers spend most nights in the back-country and return to the main area to enjoy end of session all-camp activities like Special Activity, Marathon, and the closing campfire.*

**Horse Adventure** Ages: 13-16 years old  
Exploring the scenic backcountry trails of the Shawnee National Forest offers the perfect opportunity to expand horsemanship skills and develop outdoor skills. Campers will receive instruction and supervision from CHA Certified Instructors throughout their trip. Evenings are spent taking care of the horses, setting up the campsite, cooking meals, and relaxing around the campfire.

**Rock Adventure** Ages: 13-16 years old  
Rock Adventure campers enjoy maximized rock climbing time by using convenient and comfortable backcountry campsites located near the climbing. The early part of the session is spent climbing at Pakentuck. The Rock Adventure schedule is designed for participants to develop skills and knowledge on progressively challenging climbs, culminating at Jackson Falls, an amazing Shawnee National Forest climbing area near Camp Ondessonk.

**River to River Backpacking Adventure** Ages: 13-16 years old  
After a 3-day introduction to the basics of backpacking, campers hike the beautiful Shawnee National Forest via the famous River to River Trail, stopping often to swim, camp, and explore along the way. Trail highlights include Garden of the Gods, One Horse Gap, Lusk Creek Canyon, Indian Kitchen, Owl Bluff, Jackson Hole, Crow Knob, Bay Creek Reservoir, and Jackson Hollow.





## New Camper Open House - April 29th, 2012, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Visiting camp is a great way to prepare young campers (and nervous parents) for the Ondessonk experience. Join us for our open house to meet our staff, tour the grounds, touch a horse, make a craft, and get all of your questions answered. Can't make it to camp on the 1st? Call us to schedule a private tour! Please RSVP by calling 618-695-2489 or 877-659-2267.

## Open House & Homecoming - June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, 10:00am-5:00pm

Please join us for this free event to kick off our 53rd summer of camp spirit. A free barbeque lunch will be served from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Camp will be open for swimming, hiking, horseback riding, and other activities. Please visit [Ondessonk.com](http://Ondessonk.com) for more details.

## Ondessonk Ambassador Program

Spread the word about Camp Ondessonk and earn a discount by hosting a camper recruiting party in your home! Parents are encouraged to invite their children's friends and families into their homes to learn more about Camp Ondessonk. Any host family participating in the Ambassador program will receive a \$25 discount for each new camper signed up at their recruiting party. It's easy; Camp will provide you with a DVD, Dominos Pizza, Camp Trivia Game and marketing materials. Please call 618-580-0441 for more details and your Ambassador Packet.

## Arrival/Departure

- Arrival Day registration is from 1 – 3:30 pm. To allow our staff to prepare, the camp gate will not open until 1 pm. Plan to have a great lunch at a reasonable price from Tommy's Café at Camp Ondessonk.
- Departure Day check out is on the last day of the session. Please Join us for a departure day parent reception at 9 am in the Chapel. Campers will be available to depart at 9:30 am. All campers must be picked up by 10:30 am.
- Please call 877-659-2267 to arrange a late arrival or early departure.
- Driving directions to Camp Ondessonk are available at [ondessonk.com](http://ondessonk.com) or in the Parent Information Packet.
- Please note that Fourth of July Family Camp check-in is from 3 – 4 pm.



**It's the one place where I can completely be myself, become best friends with strangers, and most of all create the best memories that I will keep forever.** -Alicia, 2011 Camper





**I am grateful to Camp O for sparking my love and appreciation of the outdoors. My experiences during those weeks at Camp are some of my most treasured memories from growing up. -Jamie, Camp O Alumni**



## Vision and goals:

The vision of Camp Ondessonk, a camp founded on the Catholic Faith, is to be the world's best youth camp. Inspired by positive role models, campers will experience the wonders of God's creation through adventurous, challenging activities in a unique, rustic environment.

Ondessonk's goal is to provide meaningful experiences that:

- Encourage spiritual growth
- Improve self-esteem
- Foster independence
- Teach responsibility
- Enhance social skills
- Create lasting memories



## Camp Ondessonk

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