

# CAMP LINDEN PROGRAM - 2016

Each morning half of the campers go to the swimming pool while the other half rotate through the environmental education program. They switch after lunch. Each camp day ends with an all-camp meeting, where we review the activities of the day, announce the plans for the next week, and sing the Camp Linden Song.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION - WEEKLY THEMES

**Week 1:** Campers walk through our fields, greet our chickens and goats, and sit under a tree, experiencing the natural world with all of their senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. They harvest and plant in the garden. Campers learn what plants and trees need to live and grow, and why vegetation is essential to our own survival. This lesson covers photosynthesis.

**Week 2:** A volunteer, dressed as a honey bee greets the campers, and tells them about the importance of insects, especially bees and butterflies, in pollinating our food, as well as the environmental hazards facing these species. Campers learn about plant propagation, flowers, seeds and pollination. They pick and eat wild berries. They “pollinate” a model flower. They also catch bugs, and examine their catch, before releasing them.

**Weeks 3:** Campers wade in the Brandywine Creek and examine the fish, insects and plants that live in and around its waters.

**Week 4:** Chief Shelley DePaul of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania introduces campers to Native American culture through narrative, drumming, dancing, examining artifacts, and engaging in Lenape crafts and games. Her program stresses the Lenape values of respect for all of nature, including every person, animal, plant and natural object.

**Weeks 5:** Campers learn about organic gardening from our Three Sisters Garden, which follows the Native American method of growing corn, beans and squash together. They hike on our trail to a local corn field and compare the modern method of growing a single crop in an area, which depends upon chemical fertilizers and insecticides. In the Nature Center they learn about the many uses of corn, roll out tortillas, and pop corn. At the end of the day they take home a pamphlet about cooking with beans.

**Weeks 6:** Campers harvest from the garden. We honor the planet with a parade and parachute games with an inflatable globe. The ceremonies concludes with a harvest feast and farewell.

## SWIMMING

Campers receive at least a half hour of swimming instruction each day, as well as free swim. The first week we assess each camper’s level of swimming skill. Beginners receive instruction in basic skills through a combination of group activities and individual attention. More advanced swimmers receive coaching to improve their form and learn new strokes. We place special emphasis upon life-saving strokes. We also provide water safety instruction to all campers.