



The Lantern Family Program



- Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp – Stokes Forest, NJ – 973.948.3550 -

The best way to ensure a healthy and prosperous future for L.G. Cook 4-H Camp is for us to have a camp nice and full of campers every summer. No empty bunks means that as many children as possible are enjoying our transformative, “classic-1951-summer-camp-experience” *and* that we will be able to continue to offer this experience for generations to come. And what is the best way to get that nice full camp with no empty bunks?

It’s YOU. Word of mouth is by far the most effective camp marketing, and no one can spread the word better than our camp families who know firsthand the value of the program L.G. Cook offers.

As a “thank-you” to all the folks who support Camp by sending us brand-new campers, we have created our “Lantern Family Program” to give some nice incentives for sending campers our way.

Participation is simple – just refer one brand-new camper (who has never attended L.G. Cook before and isn’t an immediate member of your family) to attend a week of Camp this summer. Be sure that the new camper indicates that they were “referred by a Lantern Family” on their application, and to list YOUR name.

In exchange, as a Lantern Family member you are then entitled to:

- An annual “Lantern Family” T-shirt for your camper.
- An invite for the whole family to our Summer Kick-Off Lantern BBQ.
- A \$50 registration discount for *next* summer for every camper you refer this summer. (If you send five campers our way, you’ll receive a FREE WEEK OF CAMP the following season.)
- And of course, most importantly, you get to help a new camper experience a week of here at L.G. Cook 4-H Camp.

Lantern Family Membership is on a yearly basis, so if you refer a new camper to Camp each summer you can continue to enjoy all the benefits that come with being an L.G. Cook 4-H Camp Lantern Family.

If you have any questions at all, please reach out to us at the Camp Office at 973-948-3550. Thanks for supporting Camp!



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Why the “Lantern” Program?

Throughout history, people have huddled around the campfire for warmth, protection, and a sense of community. At Summer Camp, that tradition of the campfire is still alive and well. At the beginning of the week, the campers gather around an opening campfire to take in the camp spirit by singing, laughing, and becoming introduced to the rest of the Camp. On the last night, we celebrate all that the campers have accomplished and the friendships and memories they've made at our closing campfire. And what do we do in between? We have a whole lot more campfires. Campfires in classes like Trail Guide and Survival, for s'mores on Cabin Choice Night and the over-night camping trip. The campfire is not just an integral component of Summer Camp program, but to us represents the spirit of 4-H Camp itself. When camp ends and summer is over, how can our campers take that campfire and spirit back home with them? Why, in a lantern of course.

Here at Camp, we've got an old lantern that holds the light of the camp spirit. It is this lantern that is brought to every opening campfire, the flame within it sparks the fire and marks the ceremonial beginning of the camp week. At the end of the week, the CIT who is the recipient of the Thomas Murphy award carries this shining lantern and leads the camp through the darkening woods to our Honor Camper ceremony. The fire from the lantern is then used to spread the light to candles held by every single member of Camp. As our campers stand in a circle holding a small illuminated piece of camp spirit, they can observe how much light comes from each of them, and how all together these little flames can light up the dark forest. Taps is sung, the candles are extinguished, and only the old camp lantern remains lit. Except, the spirit that has grown stronger and spread from that first opening campfire still remains and the campers themselves have become the lanterns; they are now the holders of the camp spirit.

The lantern is on our logo, on our Staff shirts, and represents much of what we hope camp will be: a portable piece of spirit for our campers to permanently carry with them.