

(Nancy K. Keeling, Administrator)

Authorized Signature

Number: CW-IM-05-003

Issue Date: 3/1/2005

Topic: Foster Care

Subject: Referrals for Camp To Belong: A Camp for Siblings Separated in Foster Care

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Field CW Staff |

Message: The Camp to Belong Request for Referrals is attached in both Word and WordPerfect format. Please note the due date for referrals is **March 21, 2005**.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

Contact(s):	Milli Morisette	Karyn Schimmels	
Phone:	503-945-6635	503-945-6646	Fax: 503-945-6969
E-mail:	Milli.morisette@state.or.us	Karyn.schimmels@state.or.us	

CAMP TO BELONG

An Experience for Siblings Separated in Foster Care Request for Referrals for the June 2005, Camp To Belong

This document is divided into four parts:

- #1. A Quick Overview of Camp To Belong
- #2. What We've Learned
- #3. Where to Find More Information
- #4. Referral Process

#1. A QUICK OVERVIEW OF CAMP TO BELONG

WHAT: A five-day camp in Colorado for siblings separated from one another in substitute care
WHO: Kids ages 8 to 18+
WHEN: June 13 - June 18, 2005
WHERE: Gypsum, Colorado

CAMP FACTS

- Staff to camper ratio is 3 to 4 kids for each counselor.
- Camp activities include fun and meaningful opportunities for siblings to have experiences together, such as horseback riding, rafting, swimming and wall climbing.
- The Camp includes a **Sibling Enhancement Program** designed for brothers and sisters who have been separated from each other as a result of not being placed together.
- Camp also includes a **Life Seminar Program** for campers 14 years and older, and is designed to support teenagers in foster care as they approach their emancipation from the foster system. They may visit colleges, or meet with career planners, military recruiters, and representatives from service organizations to talk about different career paths available after high school.
- Camp includes **Therapeutic Art** activities to provide opportunities for kids to create personal objects to give each other; everything from photos to a Sibling Pillow with art and personal messages.

March 21, 2005 is the due date for referrals

#2. WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

HISTORY

This is the 4th year Oregon DHS is planning to send kids to the National Camp To Belong. In previous years, we've sent brothers and sisters to both the Colorado and California Camps.

THE KIDS

They've loved and treasured the experience, no matter how old or skeptical they were at the beginning. All of them want to go again. Siblings have made wonderful connections resulting in kids seeing each other more after they return to Oregon - sometimes because they initiate it; other times because their foster parents see the need for it.

TRANSPORTATION

Airfare arrangements to and from the Camp are made through CampToBelong and facilitated by staff at DHS. All Campers will fly to and from Camp together - leaving Portland Airport on June 13th, returning on June 18th. Transportation details will be available in April and sent to caseworkers for each Camper. DHS staff, and/or volunteers approved by DHS, will escort the Campers during their flights to and from Camp.

COMMITMENT

There is a time and paperwork commitment for all of us relating to this project.

Caseworkers will determine who may be appropriate; contact the kids and their foster parents regarding participation. Caseworkers will submit one referral for **each sibling** to the review committee. If the referrals for the sibling group are accepted by the review committee, there will be a set of documents to complete - Camp To Belong Registration Forms and other travel forms required for Oregon children in foster care. In addition, the Camp To Belong registration will ask whether the children's names and/or photos can be used when creating video materials relating to the Camp experience. For example, two years ago, two of our campers were featured in a short segment on Good Morning America. We've also had campers participate in the video tape used for fund raising, recruiting campers, etc. used within Oregon. This generally requires us to have both parental and the camper approval, depending on the camper's legal

status. This is optional, but will need to be addressed when completing the Camp registration forms.

Campers, along with their caseworkers and/or foster parents, will be required to attend a four hour orientation scheduled for Saturday, May 21st, in Salem at the Oregon Foster Parent Association Office. The office is located at 707 13th St. SE, Salem Oregon, 97301.

Staff and/or foster parents are responsible for transportation of Campers to and from the Portland Airport. In previous years, we've had funds available to reimburse folks for these expenses. We expect to have those funds available again this year.

This opportunity requires a great deal of coordination among all of us but results in a great experience for kids.

March 21, 2005 is the due date for referral

#3. FOR MORE INFORMATION

The above provides only a brief overview of the camp, Oregon's history of participation, and the referral and application process. For more specific information about Camp To Belong, or consultation regarding specific children and arrangements, you may:

1. Check out CampToBelong on the Web Site at <http://www.camptobelong.org>
2. Contact Karyn Schimmels at 503-945-6646 or karyn.schimmels@state.or.us
3. Contact Milli Morisette at 503-945-6635 or milli.morisette@state.or.us

March 21, 2005 is the due date for referrals

#4. REFERRAL PROCESS

WHO TO REFER

Kids ages 8 and above can be referred.

Kids who are separated by placement in different families/homes/centers, AND as a result, have had little opportunity to spend time together. Because these kids are often in different counties, sometimes in different states, making the referral requires coordination with other staff and the caregivers.

When deciding who may be appropriate, consider the following:

The Camp Staff are prepared.

They expect to be working with and helping kids who:

- have not participated in "camping activities" - rafting, horse back riding, arts and crafts etc.,
- have not spent time with their brothers and sisters,
- might be upset by feelings and thoughts that come up during this time, and
- have emotional and physical limitations, are on medication, need special attention.

If you have kids you'd like to refer, are wondering if they'd be appropriate and would like further consultation, contact Karyn Schimmels at 503-945-6646 or karyn.schimmels@state.or.us. She's been very involved in the project for the past few years, is a Camp counselor, and also a DHS employee.

The referral format assumes you have completed the following:

1. Reviewed the information;
2. Contacted the kids, foster parents, and other staff;
3. Everyone has agreed the kids you're referring should go to Camp To Belong.
4. **Then, please e-mail a referral for each sibling to Milli Morisette at milli.morisette@state.or.us by March 21, 2005.**

AND THEN . . .

- Referrals will be reviewed by a committee of DHS staff and foster parent representatives.
- All caseworkers will be notified whether or not their kids have been selected to submit a Camp Application by March 31, 2005.
- There will be a quick turnaround time for paperwork to be completed.
- For children selected to participate, Milli Morisette will send a complete registration packet that will need to be returned no later than April 22, 2005.
- Milli Morisette and Karyn Schimmels will review and submit the completed registration packets to Camp To Belong.
- The June flight arrangements, roundtrip from Portland to Colorado, will be made through the Camp To Belong organization and once you are given that information you can start planning the travel arrangements to get the kids to and from the airport.
- You will also be responsible for ensuring each camper comes to the planning meeting on May 21 in Salem.
- Camp To Belong staff will mail additional Camper information directly to each Camper prior to camp.

Camp To Belong 2005 Referral
(Complete one for EACH sibling)

Referrals must be e-mailed to Milli Morisette at milli.morisette@state.or.us by **March 21, 2005**.

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Case Number: _____ Person Letter: _____

Foster Parent/Caregiver Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please check: Eligible for or enrolled in the Independent Living Program

Caseworker: _____ Branch Office: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Summary of sibling group: (Things such as date(s) entering substitute care, estimated time continuing in substitute care, reasons for current separation, amount and duration of current contact, foster parent/caregiver support for participation in CampToBelong, anticipated changes in contact after Camp and why.)

Other siblings in this sibling group:

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____