

## **If Thanksgiving was celebrated at Camp Waupaca For Boys**

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I often wonder what sort of programming we would have at Camp Waupaca during various holidays or observances. I am putting a twist on this one by making it a “tell us this would NEVER happen at camp without ever telling us this would NEVER happen at camp”. Here is my program idea for this sort of Thanksgiving program at camp:

### **8:30 AM**

Wake-up 1 hour later than normal – I mean, it’s a holiday, right?

### **9:00 AM**

Flag raising, with the arrival of a Pilgrim and Native American on horseback to declare this to be a day of thanksgiving throughout all the camp, from cabin 1 to cabin 15, the CIT Village, from the far fields to the Old Beach, from the golf course to the craft shop, from the mess hall to the rec hall.

### **9:15 AM**

Traditional Thanksgiving breakfast of hotcakes, cornbread, potatoes, and various ciders to drink

### **10:00 AM**

Return to cabins and get dressed up as Pilgrims and/or Native Americans

### **10:15 AM**

Meet at the horseshoe, where program director **Ron Lavine** will divide the camp into 4 communities:

Puritans  
Jamestown  
Patuxet  
Wampanoag

There will be a relay race, similar to the Blue & White War Super-Duper Relay. Teams will gather in separate locations to assign campers to the various relay race events. All participants will then practice their parts. This activity will last until 12:15 PM

### **12:30 PM**

Dinner to be served in the mess hall. Menu includes: squirrel, rabbit, and gopher meats (expertly seasoned, and grilled behind the dining hall by **Ann Towne**, **Andrea Wanty**, and **Norma Snyder**), various squash casseroles, and breads. Various ales for beverage.

### **1:15-2:30 PM**

Wisconsin mandated rest hour (a nod to **Joel Kettler** here)

### **2:30 PM**

The start of the relay begins with the Grand Sachem or Royal Governor from each team trying to get an archery or musket bullseye, respectively. Overseeing the safety of the target shoot are **Phil Steinberg** and **Alan Greene** (Greene was pardoned by the Pilgrim and Native American from the flag raising ceremony for his misdeeds on the rifle range some 60 years earlier).

Once a team has achieved a bullseye (as determined by **Howie Resnick** – riflery and **Joe Hecht** – archery), the next person in line goes to their events.

#### **4:30 PM (approximately)**

The relay race comes to its final event: the **Dick Rist** "Rusty Hatchet Event," the turkey slaughter, at the Flag Pole. One person from each team must sharpen a dull hatchet while a second person attempts to grab a turkey from a pen, crudely built by **Wayne Towne** and **Erv Kasian**. Once the team has a sharp hatchet and a turkey, they attempt to slaughter the turkey with one whack of the hatchet to the neck. After the turkey has been beheaded and declared dead by Nurses **Rosemary Clotiaux** and **Maxine Greenstein**, both team members defeather the turkey. Once at least 50% of the turkey feathers have been removed (as determined by **Mike Lurie**), one of the team members races to the ladder outside the office, climbs up, and rings the bell to declare victory. The other 3 teams must also complete this task, otherwise they will be barred from the Thanksgiving supper. The nurses will attend to the wasp stings that occurred during the ringing of the bell. The turkeys are turned over to the kitchen staff for preparation for the Thanksgiving Supper Feast (think final banquet here).

#### **5:00 – 6:45 PM**

Everyone returns to their cabins to wash up for supper and enjoy some free time Thanksgiving activities:

**Wayne Towne** will be at the horseshoe telling settler stories

**Erv Kasian** will show everyone how to make their own nails, like in the 1600s

**Jim Haggerty** will be at the rifle range explaining how to properly load a musket – shooting will be allowed

**Warren Metzdrff** will be at the waterfront helping anyone who wants to learn how to build an outrigger canoe

**Rick Poole** will be at the Trip Shack teaching everyone how to brew their own ale

**Paul Warshauer** will be rehearsing a show in the rec hall, re-enacting the first Thanksgiving

**Bob Mowen** will lead a nature tour throughout camp, identifying all the critters and fowl that would have been eaten back in those days

**Mike Euer** will be teaching the watermelon clap and the cantaloupe clap at the office

#### **6:45 PM**

Flag lowering – the Pilgrim and Native American from this morning ride in on horseback and declare a mutual understanding of fellowship for all time between the white settlers and indigenous peoples.

#### **7:00 PM**

Thanksgiving feast supper – traditional meal consisting of turkey, stuffing, yams, mashed potatoes, vegetables, casseroles, breads, ales and ciders. Smoking of peyote will be permitted, expertly supervised by **Rick Passman**.

#### **8:00 PM**

Desserts of pies (pumpkin, apple, pecan, rhubarb) and ice cream and coffee and tea

#### **8:30 PM**

We gather at the horseshoe for the traditional Camp Waupaca Indian Ceremonial. Some young buck summons fire from the Great Chiefs where the sachems failed. Afterwards, everyone files into the Tyrone Guppy Theater, where **Paul Warshauer** and the Tyrone Guppy Players present a re-enactment of the first Thanksgiving.

#### **9:00 PM**

At the conclusion of the presentation, **Paul Warshauer** leads the assembly in the singing of Taps

#### **9:30 PM**

Lights out. No canteen tonight.