



Insiders Guide to:



Welcome to the Illahee family! We are thrilled you've decided to join us this summer. Whether this is your first or your fifth summer at camp, we think you might find some of these "helpful hints" as beneficial to your packing and preparation for camp. We asked Caroline, our "intern" and long time Illahee camper and counselor what advice she might offer based on her thirteen years worth of Illahee "insider" knowledge.

In addition to our "What to Bring to Camp List Link" (<http://campillahee.com/planning/preparation.php>) , we hope that the Inside Scoop from Caroline will help you get ready to have The Best Summer Ever!



Since girls are constantly on the move at camp and trunks are being dug through to find costumes and Nike shorts each day, it's important to leave anything valuable at home. It is easy for things to get lost in the shuffle! **Any nice jewelry or other valuable items are best kept safely at home.**



As girls get older and move up to Pineview, they transition to living out of their trunks as opposed to keeping clothes on shelves in the cabin. If you are a rising eighth grader attending either the June or July session, it's a great idea to **organize your trunk** so that sifting through it day-to-day is manageable. If you're attending the August session, you will be up on Pineview even earlier!



A **soft-sided trunk** is the new thing! They make for fabulous storage in the cabin after everyone unpacks their bags (on Hillbrook and Heigh-Ho), and they are a particularly good choice if you ship your trunk. We especially like the one at C&N Footlockers: http://www.everythingsummercamp.com/product.php?pc_product_id=494



Although camp sheets and blue wool blankets are provided, many older girls do **bring their own sheets** as well as cute, flowery comforters to dress up their bunk bed. However, bringing enough sets of sheets per weeks at camp is a must, because personal sheets don't spend a day in the laundry room like the rest of the girls' clothes!



In addition to flowery comforters, many girls bring **pictures of family and friends** to hang around their bed. You may want to bring some thumbtacks or Scotch tape to hang your pictures. Yearbooks and photo albums are also fun things to bring.



You are **never too old to bring stuffed animals** or blankets to Illahee. You may even find one on your counselor's bed!



Put your name on everything! This is not an exaggeration. We really do mean everything. <http://mabelslabels.com>



Costumes are a must! A few simple items are plenty since most girls combine forces and share generously with everyone in their cabin. Oversized sunglasses, tutus, and colorful spandex seem to make stage appearances quite often. Girls are constantly dressing up as Falling Creek boys, Disco Divas, or who knows what for the County Fair, Air Band, or a Campfire skit.



We play a camp-wide game of **Capture the Flag** each session; half of camp is on the red team, and half is on the blue team. When you pull into Illahee on Opening Day, your color will be revealed...even-numbered cabins are blue, and odd-numbered cabins are red! Since you won't know your team until Opening Day, it's a great idea to bring both a red and a blue t-shirt.



In the June and July sessions, the girls have a **dance** with one of the boys' camps in the area. Square dance attire or cute summer outfits are perfect for the dance. We keep it cute *and* classy at Illahee; an Illahee girl would never show a midriff!



Some girls like to add some "pizzazz" to their **Sunday Whites** (White shorts and a white Illahee Polo Shirt) by wearing cowboy boots, rain boots, colorful Toms, or even LL Bean Duck Shoes and a cute belt.



Socks seem to "disappear" in the laundry. It's a great idea to pack a small, **mesh lingerie bag** to put socks in before sending them to the camp laundry. This way, they all come back safely and in a bundle!



Bedroom slippers are a great idea, but make sure you pack slippers that will survive walking over a few white rocks.



A **bookbag with padded shoulder straps** will always come in handy, whether it's for a day hike, a trip to Sliding Rock, or toting riding boots to the barn.



There is nothing worse than having to Duct Tape flip-flops to your feet for a trip down **Sliding Rock**. Make sure you pack some Chacos, Tevas, or an old pair of tennis shoes (shoes that strap onto feet & can get wet) that can accompany you down the best water slide of your life!



Since summer brings hot weather, the cabins can get a little warm, especially after an exciting morning on the sports field! A **battery-powered fan** that can clip onto a bunk or be held by hand will help manage a humid summer afternoon or two.



Emails are certainly time efficient and get news to your daughter at lightning speed, but there is something so very "campy" about receiving a letter via **snail mail**. You just can't beat Mom and Dad's handwriting, you know?



Snail Mail is like gold around here; however, **packages are not**. Save the gifts and candy as a treat for after camp! Please let any family members know this as well.



It is true; we savor our time away from the "Real World" at Illahee. Please do leave your **iPods, Kindles, and cell phones** at home. Your counselor will take them up on the first day, anyway. Unlike adventure and excitement, they don't have a place at Illahee.



After rest hour, we open **the “Ship’s Store”** to sell necessities, Illahee clothing, sodas and snacks! We offer a range of Coke products as well as Cheerwine. Cheerwine is definitely an Illahee favorite- there isn’t anything much better than an ice cold Cheerwine on a hot afternoon! The girls are given one drink per week from the Ship’s Store.



Crazy Creek chairs are a staple in any Illahee girl’s belongings. They’re great for campfire, worship service, or friendship circle in the cabin. You can order one through Illahee at campillahee.com/store/storedescriptions.php.



Choosing activities can be challenging since we offer such a wide range. There is no “right” or “wrong” schedule at camp; it’s the perfect chance to spend weeks doing what interests *you*. Choosing activities gives you the freedom to choose things that you might not get a chance to participate in at home. Activities at camp are a fabulous opportunity to learn, grow, and try new things. Check out the activities we offer: campillahee.com/sneak-preview/program.php



Campers take **Swimming** as an activity until they pass Red Cross Swim Level Six. Some girls test out of the swim levels by taking lessons at home before camp and having their swim teacher sign off on the Red Cross document. The level requirements can be found here: <http://campillahee.com/activity/arc.php>



We do swim in a fabulously refreshing lake at Illahee, which means natural lake water comes with the territory. If I were you, I’d save my in-season Lilly Pulitzer bikini for a trip to the beach! We would hate for her **best bathing suits** to come home a little off-color ☺.



Starting this summer, counselors will all be donning their most stylish **one-piece bathing suits** when sunning themselves at the swim lake. Since it’s the latest trend at Illahee, one-pieces are always a great idea, particularly when heading into the icy waters of Sliding Rock. Also, one piece of a bathing suit is much easier to keep up with than two...

In addition to wearing swim suits for swimming; bathing suits make quite the costume attire. You may even end up mismatching and layering tops and bottoms over clothes before heading on stage!



As you and your parents pack for camp, we hope you find this Insider’s Guide to Illahee helpful to the excitement of getting ready! Please do remember these are suggestions; none of the above is required for having an amazing summer at Illahee. Even if you accidentally leave something at home, we are positive you will have the

BEST summer ever with us at Illahee!

