

R.A.N.G.E.R.S.

Responsibility Achieved through a Non-regimented Group Experience in a Rustic Setting

- WHO: Teens entering grade 9
- WHEN: Program runs sessions 2-5. Refer to your particular registration dates.
- WHERE: Rangers live on camp property at the Birches.

Rangers is a unique program that designed to be flexible and tailors to the needs and goals of each group. By living at the Birches, which is in a self-contained space in the woods away from Main Camp, Rangers are able to design parts of their day through group discussion and consensus. With Rangers Directors facilitating a productive discussion, your group will create their own goals and a schedule for the session. Instead of entering a pre-designed program, you and your group members will be the driving force behind a two-week experience that results in a tightly-knit, thriving community. Your group may choose to plan an all-teen gathering at the Birches, participate in an environmental activity, take a short bike trip, play sports, or do an on-camp service project. The flexible design of the Rangers program empowers to make appropriate individual choices, stick to goals, and play an integral part in a community. Depending on the group, each Rangers session takes on a new feel and has a unique experience.

TRAVEL TO CAMP: Rangers will ride to Camp Echo on the buses departing from the McGaw YMCA, if not already at Echo for layover. Check the bus schedule in the Parent Information Booklet.

PROGRAM NOTES: Even though the group largely determines the Rangers experience, the program is embedded with several consistent experiences to ensure its success. Your group will have plenty of time to build cohesiveness through initiative games, the team elements course, and the high ropes course. As active members of the community, you will share in the duties of the upkeep of your wilderness site, cooking meals, and campfires. You will have the opportunity to bond with your group off camp property by embarking on a three-day canoe trip (weather permitting) on one of Michigan's local rivers - most likely the Pine River. You will also be able to reflect on you own personal growth and development by spending a night in the woods by yourself (the SOLO).

THE SOLO: For the first week and a half, you'll prepare for your SOLO by taking large group nature hikes, small group explorations, and "still hunts" (spending small amounts of time alone at your chosen location). As a culmination of these preparatory activities, you will be encouraged to spend the night alone. Throughout the evening, counselors will check on you to ensure your safety. However, they will try to maintain the integrity of your SOLO experience by not making themselves noticeable. The SOLO is a unique time of solitude, reflection, relaxation, and simplicity – a contrast from the rest of your Rangers experience. The SOLO outing is optional and can be tailored to address the concerns of each camper, adhering to the "challenge by choice" ethic that guides all of Camp Echo's adventure-based activities.

TRAVEL HOME: Rangers will take the bus from Camp Echo to the McGaw YMCA in Evanston. Bus departure information and progress is posted and updated every 30 minutes on the Camp Echo website. In order to meet your child on time and avoid waiting at the McGaw YMCA for the busses to arrive, please check the website frequently. Participants signed up for another Echo program next session may spend the time at home or register to stay as a layover camper.