

2012 STAFF APPLICATION

For Office Use Only

Received: \_\_\_\_\_
References: \_\_\_\_\_
Interview: \_\_\_\_\_
Background: \_\_\_\_\_
Contract Sent: \_\_\_\_\_
Contract Rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_
Guidelines: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please Attach a
Recent Photo
(You may email a photo to
summer@alpinecamp.com)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for a position as: [ ] Counselor [ ] Other: Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prefers to be Called: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age next June: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Drivers License #: \_\_\_\_\_ Drivers License State: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate Your General Health (circle one): Excellent Good Average Poor

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Where Born?: \_\_\_\_\_

Where is your Church membership? \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

College Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Class (circle one): Fresh Soph Jr Sr Grad

Major/Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Vocational Goal: \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Who told you about Alpine: \_\_\_\_\_

Motive for wanting to work at Alpine: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your attitude toward "To the Prospective Alpine Camp Staff Members" contained in attached pamphlet? \_\_\_\_\_

What experience have you had that you consider to be valuable background for serving on a camp staff? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had experience leading groups in the past few years? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

We are a Christian Camp. Please give a brief testimony of your relationship to Jesus Christ and your purpose in life:

(Please attach additional pages if you need more space)

Please describe any prior camp experience as a camper (where & when): \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity Qualifications:** In the following major activities list, place a (1) next to the activities that you are proficient to *ORGANIZE AND INSTRUCT*. Place a (2) next to the activities that you are qualified to *ASSIST*.

_____ Canoeing	_____ Kayaking	_____ Disc Sports	_____ Mountain Biking	_____ Fencing
_____ Riflery	_____ Weight Lifting	_____ Earth Games	_____ Wilderness Skills	_____ Horseback Riding
_____ Archery	_____ Football	_____ Crafts	_____ Video/Multi-Media	_____ Photography
_____ Tennis	_____ Minor Sports	_____ Glee Club	_____ Cross Country Running	
_____ Climbing	_____ Guitar	_____ Computer/Web	_____ Fly Fishing	
_____ Basketball	_____ Swimming	_____ Drums	_____ Project Adventure (Ropes Course)	

Please list your top 3 Activity Preferences: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any experience or training you have with the activities you marked above: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have American Red Cross certification (i.e. Small Craft Safety, Emergency Water Safety, CPR, Lifeguard Training, First Aid) or YMCA Lifeguard, BSA Lifeguard, or Royal Lifesaving Bronze Medallion? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is it current? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you play a musical instrument? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what instrument? \_\_\_\_\_

What age group would you prefer to work with? \_\_\_\_\_

Counsellorships are only available to those who have a conscientious respect for organization and the need for compliance with rules and regulations that place the welfare of campers ahead of personal interests. How do you feel about this?

What is your goal in life? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you still be energetic and show enthusiasm even though your responsibility may become rather routine? \_\_\_\_\_

Is a limited time off schedule satisfactory with you? \_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:** Please list former employers.

1. Former Employer/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

2. Former Employer/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCES:** Please provide four (4) adult references, at least three (3) being out of college. List at least one (1) former employer and **do not list relatives**. If you know a former Alpine counselor, Alpine camper parent, or other Alpine Alum, please list him/her as one of your references. **Please complete ALL of the information below** (we cannot process your application without this information):

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a personal website and/or blog or participate actively in someone else's? **Yes No** (circle one)

If yes, provide all website and/or blog information: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide profile names for Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Foursquare, or other social networking sites\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\*We will friend you using the profile "Alpine Camp". Please accept our friend request in order to be considered for employment.

### GENERAL BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

What Christian ministries have you been involved in? (i.e. R.U.F., Campus Crusade, BSU, Church, Young Life, etc.)

How would you describe your ability to get along with others? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your strongest quality as a person? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your weakest quality as a person? \_\_\_\_\_

My goals for my campers in my cabin would be: \_\_\_\_\_

If I discovered that two of my campers were smoking marijuana I would: \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life at the moment of salvation. I believe this is: \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking in tongues, interpretations, and public physical "healings" are not part of the ministry of Alpine Camp for Boys.

How do you feel about these things? \_\_\_\_\_

To me, the many "gray areas" of life for the Christian like "social" drinking, smoking, attending questionable movies, etc. are:

Do you smoke?  Yes  No If yes, how much? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you drink?  Yes  No If yes, how much? \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the word or words that BEST describe YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS on the following subjects: (indicate how YOU stand – NOT the way you feel towards others):

1. DRINKING ALCOHOL

a. Freedom b. Acceptable c. Moderately d. Understandable e. Sinful f. Harmful g. Avoid h. Confidential i. Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. SMOKING

a. Freedom b. Acceptable c. Moderately d. Understandable e. Sinful f. Harmful g. Avoid h. Confidential i. Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. MARIJUANA

a. Freedom b. Acceptable c. Moderately d. Understandable e. Sinful f. Harmful g. Avoid h. Confidential i. Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. PREMARITAL SEX

a. Freedom b. Acceptable c. Moderately d. Understandable e. Sinful f. Harmful g. Avoid h. Confidential i. Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. HOMOSEXUALITY

a. Freedom b. Acceptable c. Moderately d. Understandable e. Sinful f. Harmful g. Avoid h. Confidential i. Other \_\_\_\_\_

### HEALTH INFORMATION

Please list any special conditions, problems or limitations, including physical or mental impairments, which might interfere with your ability to perform the job for which you are applying: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever suffered a nervous breakdown, anxiety, depression or other mental disorders? If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you under the care of a health professional, doctor or counselor for physical or mental problems? \_\_\_\_\_

Alpine Camp cannot employ a person using drugs, unless prescribed by a physician. Please describe any prescribed medications you are currently taking and for what purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you perform the essential functions of the job (i.e. high level of physical activity, typical diet) for which you have applied without special accommodations? **Yes No** (circle one) If no, please describe accommodations needed: \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND CHECK**

Have you ever been convicted of any crime involving a minor? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a felony crime? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently under indictment or on probation for any crime? \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please describe in more detail: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUSION**

If I don't get a job at Alpine Camp this summer, I will: \_\_\_\_\_

If I am hired and sign a contract with Alpine Camp, I consider my signature and my word binding: **Yes No** (circle one)

I would break my contract only for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

What is the earliest date you would be available this summer? \_\_\_\_\_

By the signing of my name below, I affirm: (1) I have no physical or mental handicaps that would interfere with camp routine; (2) I am a professing Christian; (3) If employed, I will enter into the spirit of the Camp; and (4) I have completed this application truthfully and further give permission for Alpine Camp for Boys, Inc. personnel to confer with the references listed in this application regarding my previous work history and performance or other information that might be beneficial. I hereby freely and voluntarily waive my right of access to any information contained in these reference forms for Alpine Camp for Boys, Inc. and agree that the statements contained therein shall remain confidential.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**2012 DATES**

- Pre-Training: May 18 – 23, 2012  
(subject to change pending activity assignments)
- Staff Training: May 24 – June 1, 2012
- First Term: June 2 – June 27, 2012
- Second Term: June 30 – July 25, 2012
- Junior Camp: July 28 – August 7, 2012
- Staff Wrap-up and Departure: August 8, 2012

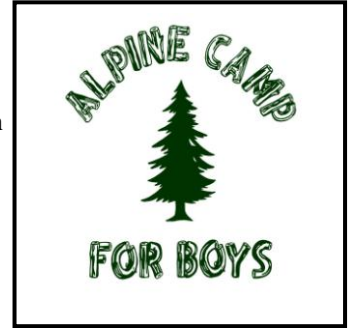
**MAIL APPLICATION TO:** Alpine Camp for Boys, P.O. Box 297, Mentone, AL 35984

**FEDEX/UPS TO:** Alpine Camp for Boys, 138 County Road 619, Mentone, AL 35984

# BACKGROUND CHECK

## AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE

As part of our hiring background and investigation, we may obtain consumer reports or prepare an investigative consumer report. The investigative consumer report may consist of contacting all listed prior employers to verify your employment history. It may also include, but not be limited to, credit information reports, criminal history reports and driving history records. Under the provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 USC at 1681-1681u) as amended, before we can seek such reports, we must have your written permission to obtain the information. You have the right, upon written request, to a complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of the investigation. You are also entitled to a copy of your rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.



### AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Name

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Dates Lived Here: \_\_\_\_\_

Addresses for the Past Seven Years: (include street, city, state and zip code) and Dates of Residence

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Dates
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Dates
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Dates
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Dates

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Other Names & Years Used (including maiden name): \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby authorize verification of all information in my employment application from all sources of employment, education, motor vehicle, financial history including a credit report, criminal history, personal character, and worker's compensation records in accordance with ADA, labor and wage records, etc. or any part thereof, and authorize any duly authorized agent of **IntelliCorp Records, Inc** to obtain, whether the said records are public or private, and including those which may be deemed to be privileged or confidential in nature and I release all persons from liability on account of such disclosures. Information appearing on this Authorization will be used exclusively by **IntelliCorp Records, Inc** for identification purposes and for the release information which will be considered in determining any suitability for employment. I certify that I have made true, correct, and complete answers and statements on my employment application, any supplements to it and in any interview in the knowledge that they will be relied upon in considering my application for employment. I agree to provide additional information that may be requested to process my employment application. I authorize without reservation, any party or agency contacted by **IntelliCorp Records, Inc** to furnish the above-mentioned information. This authorization is valid during the course of my employment to the extent permitted by law. **Note: a credit history will be obtained. This report shall be used for employment purposes only, and will have no adverse affect on my credit score or my ability to use my credit for any purchases that I may deem necessary.**

\*\*I hereby do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_ authorize you to contact *my current* employer for Employment and Reference Verifications (This will authorize immediate inquiries to the Human Resources Department and to any listed supervisors or references in the Employment/Reference Section of your application.) I have the right to make a request to **IntelliCorp Records, Inc**, upon proper identification, to request the nature and substance of all information in its files on me at the time of my request, including sources of information, and the recipients of any reports on me which **IntelliCorp Records, Inc** has previously furnished within the two year period preceding my request. I understand and agree that any omission, false statement, misleading statement, or answer made by me on my application or any supplements to it and in any interviews will be sufficient grounds for rejection of employment and my discharge after employment.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# ALPINE CAMP FOR BOYS

## TO THE PROSPECTIVE ALPINE CAMP STAFF MEMBER:

As Director of Alpine for Boys, Inc., please let me share a few thoughts on camp counseling with you. I would ask that you read through these next few pages very carefully, and I request that you give this job application much serious thought before returning it to me.

Alpine Camp for Boys was established in 1959 for the purpose of offering to young boys a rewarding experience amidst the beauty of God's nature and under the leadership of dedicated Christian men. The site itself was chosen because of its magnificent beauty. Situated on the crest of Lookout Mountain, massive rocks, a rushing waterfall, and rustic log buildings form the rugged setting which both challenges and inspires.

There are many things that determine the success of a summer camp program, but the most important factor is the camp leadership, the men chosen to serve as counselors and instructors for the young campers. No camp is any better than its staff. For this reason, it is only after a personal interview, investigation of references, and much careful and prayerful consideration that a man is selected to serve on our camp staff.

Camp counseling is a serious task and a job for responsible people only. Camp counselors should consider their job as a chance to serve youth as well as an opportunity for personal development. Being responsible for the lives and character molding of young boys is not "kid stuff". Most parents send their son to camp because they know the strong influence a good camp can have on his life. Alpine Camp accepts this TRUST with deep concern and responsibility. As Camp Director, I cannot accept this responsibility alone. I employ the best men I can find to share this responsibility with me.

Alpine feels a very keen sense of responsibility for the spiritual growth of its campers. We endeavor to provide a strong Christian atmosphere for our boys. In selecting staff members we look for Christian men who have a firm faith in Jesus Christ and are concerned for the spiritual welfare of young boys.

The camp staff must set the best example possible. Youth is impressionable; therefore, the camp environment must be strong, clean and wholesome. The boy in camp is under the direct influence of the camp and its staff twenty-four hours a day amidst surroundings and under conditions which makes him particularly susceptible to character influences. This is a great challenge. Are you willing to accept your share?

Camp counseling will be a happy experience for ambitious people, especially if you receive satisfaction from doing a job well. It is a full time job with adequate time off, but it is only fun to good, clean people who love children and will place their interests ahead of self in every instance.

In camp work, job detail and devotion to duty are highly important! One must have a sincere desire to follow instructions as well as give of his talents and ingenuity - all in good spirit and harmony with the camp administration. It would be impossible to offer you a complete "job description". A camp counselor gives all of his time to camp except during his time off. At Alpine, each counselor is given two nights out of camp each week. This time off begins after his last afternoon activity. Each staff member must understand that he will be performing a responsible assignment with the welfare and care of campers his foremost interest and time off a subordinate consideration. We expect you to feel needed in our organization. We expect you to be present and useful at all times except during your scheduled time off.

Every counselor at Alpine will live with and have charge of not more than seven campers in his cabin. This responsibility is regarded as second to none at Alpine. A good cabin counselor is tremendously popular and influential with his campers. He is expected to be a father, brother and friend to his boys. His influence is tremendous - prepare yourself!

As a young boy, I had the privilege of attending Alpine Camp for Boys for six summers. My counselors during those six summers played a major role in helping me become the man I am today. Since my days as a camper, I have spent fourteen summers serving on staff. I am convinced that a summer camp program provides young college men with a terrific opportunity to impact the lives of children and at the same time experience incredible personal growth.

As you can see, camp counseling is serious business. It is an inspirational and educational experience. If you think you might be further interested in summer employment at Alpine Camp for Boys, please complete the Staff Application and return it to us.

D. Glenn Breazeale, Jr.  
Director  
Alpine Camp for Boys, Inc.

During the summer of 1971, one of our staff members kept a diary of his daily impressions of camp. Below you will find excerpts from his diary. These are the thoughts and impressions of Tom Patterson of Memphis, Tennessee, written during the summer after his sophomore year at Vanderbilt University. Tom did an exceptional job as a cabin counselor

for our 14 and 15 year old boys and as a member of our Team Sports crew. We appreciate his permitting us to share this with you. We believe this will give you real insight into staff life at Alpine. All names of campers and counselors have been changed.

**June 11th - At Home - 1:00 AM.** - I'm not really sure what my reasoning is for keeping a record, or diary, or whatever you might want to call it of this summer, but for some reason I want to do it. I don't know who, besides myself if anyone at all - will ever read this, but please do not be too critical of the grammar or spelling. I'm not going to worry about it, so why should you?

Perhaps I'm writing it because I hope some of my friends might like to glance over it and see how this summer was for me day by day. I'm sure it's also because I'm so sentimental, and I want something to remember this summer by because I know it's going to be such a wonderful experience. I guess I also hope that by writing this thing I'll be able to gain something extra that I might not gain if I didn't write it. I want to be able to look back and possibly see how and if I grow and change. I suppose it's fairly obvious that I do anticipate something to happen to my life - I hope so anyway. Oh well, we'll see alter on today when it all gets started.

**June 11th - At Alpine - 10:30 PM** - From now on I'll probably be writing about this time for convenience sake. This camp is out-of-site. Besides the campgrounds themselves being so beautiful, the staffers are tremendous. I've met some fine people. Before Camp's over I hope to know some of them very well, especially Tom Johnson and Terry Jones. They both seem extra sharp. Of course that pretty much depends on which cabins we all live in. Oh well, I'll just have to see as time goes on. It's going to be great.

**June 12th - 11:00 PM** - Today was fine. It started off just a little chilly. It gets flat cold here at night. They say it will be warmer later in the summer. Of course, the bed is absolutely wretched. It would sag to the floor if I didn't have my foot locker beneath it. I wonder what it's doing to that, however, I'm almost afraid to look. I got to see more of the Camp today, especially the river. It gets more and more gorgeous. I with Bill were here. We started getting the camp in shape today. Me and a couple of other fellows have to get the basketball courts in shape. That's quite a job. We're going to fix them with that tennis court stuff that look like tiny gray gravel. I know what to call it, but won't try to spell it. We're also getting mentally prepared for the Camp. They've got a couple of good speakers. One of them will be here all summer and the other leaves Monday.

**June 14th - 11:50 PM** - This was really a good day, but I'll have to keep my account short because I'm extremely tired. We worked very hard today and will do so again tomorrow. Tonight we had a picnic on top of the mountain overlooking a very beautiful canyon. It was gorgeous. Now there are so many stars in the sky that it's almost more white than it is

blue. I saw my first falling star tonight. I also took over the lead in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alpine Camp Golf Tournament at Mary's Carpet Golf. I shot a 3 under par 42. I should have done better. I really choked the last three holes. I've got to rack now. I was really dead this morning. Imagine how I'll feel tomorrow.

**June 16th - 10:30 PM** - Today was another average day as far as work goes. We did receive our permanent cabin assignments. I was shocked and flattered to discover I had been put in with the oldest boys. Richard Bailey and I live in the "dorm" which is supposedly the resort of Camp. It does have its own double bathroom which will be nice and we have a desk of sorts. There are two main rooms with 8 racks in each. Richard and I are in a small room between them. It is really pretty nice yet extremely rustic. I have a much better mattress now. I'm also going to enjoy very much living with Richard. He's a wonderful person, and I'll enjoy getting to know more about him. He is going to be teaching Nature.

**June 19th - 10:00 PM** - Opening Day - This will be very short. I've got to get my light out so the campers will sleep. I've got a good group. One boy, Jim Taylor, has been separated from most of his friends and is a little unhappy. I've made a good impression on him, though, and I hope we can fix everything. All the campers I've met seem fine. I was awfully tired today to be at my best, but I did okay.

**June 21st - 10:20 PM** - Well, we had our first regular day of Camp today. Things went pretty well. I got exhausted during my six hours of football in the hot sun. That sun simply saps my energy. It burns my eyes. Everyone likes my blue sun glasses. I'm having trouble with cabin inspection. Richard's cabin has beaten us both days so far. We're just going to have to get on the stick I guess. I hate to lose in anything. I agree with Bo Cannon - a good loser is a loser. If you can brush a defeat off without thinking twice about it, you'll get in the habit of losing and pretty soon that's all you'll be doing. Of course, you should always be a good sport, a gracious loser, and never let a loss hold you down for too long a period of time. Good grief What's gotten into me? I'm not giving a talk to the campers now. That was this afternoon.

**June 24th - 12:33 AM** - This must really be short as I'm exhausted. I had my first night out tonight. I am so happy. I love my fellow staffers so much. They are just great. We went to Chattanooga for a delicious steak dinner then played Goofy Golf (what else). I was much better in my activities today but I dread tomorrow. Maybe it will rain. I pray!

**June 24th - 10:00 PM** - Well, it didn't rain today, but once I got up things weren't bad at all. As a matter of fact I was very lively today. During my off period I even played wiffle ball. We won, of course. I'm in an awfully cocky mood right now. I'm not sure why. I'm really happy because Jim Taylor participated tonight for the first time in our sentence prayers after our cabin devotional. I really like him a lot and would like to help him. He's unhappy about something, but I

don't want to turn him off. He's really intelligent and right now he'd do anything I say (Maybe he's not so intelligent after all).

**June 26th - 11:30 AM** - I can't understand it. I wasn't particularly tired today though I should have been. Today was good but nothing exciting happened. We had a really good devotional period tonight and after it was over several of the boys talked to me for a long time. They're fine boys. My first week with them has been really fast. Oh, by the way; we finally won cabin inspection today. When they announced it I literally went bananas. I threw the book I was holding in the air, then my shoes, then my shirt, screaming all the time. My campers didn't even care, but I wanted to win badly, so badly that I even dreamed about cabin inspection last night. I suppose I'd call it a nightmare because - you guessed it - we lost.

**June 29th - 9:40 PM** - I walked around in a daze all day today. I was totally exhausted. That's not good since I have to stay up all night tonight. One of the chiefs is nominated for "Great Son". In order to achieve this rank, he must keep a fire going all night (with wet wood) read scriptures assigned by a counselor (me), and meditate on them, and tomorrow he is under a silence ban all day long. I'm going to go with him tonight. We'll be in the woods somewhere. Great! He's really a great kid who has been searching for some answers lately. I hope I can help him tonight. I couldn't have a better opportunity. I know why they call us counselors now. I've been doing quite a bit of counseling lately. Every night after devotionals the kids come to my bed with questions. I hope I'm helping them somehow. I love them all.

**June 30th - 5:00 PM** - Last night was a wonderful night. The stars were beautiful, and I think we both felt God's presence with us. I was really tired today, though. I fell asleep during rest period and woke up late this afternoon when some camper came in and asked if he could leave a snake in a cabin for Bailey. I looked up to see a 2 1/2 foot king snake wrapped around his arm about six inches from my head. He must have been able to tell by the look on my face what I was going to say because before I had time to scream he was on his way out fast.

**July 4th - 10:50 PM** - I can't write long tonight because the campers are restless. I really wish I could write tonight because I'm not tired and we get to sleep until 8:00 AM tomorrow. We're celebrating July 4<sup>th</sup> and it's Lazy Day. Today was a good day. Since it is Sunday it was relatively restful. The weather was beautiful. This afternoon we had a good, but brief, staff basketball game, then a softball game with the campers. For our devotional tonight after vespers we just "rapped" together. I hate the word rap. It's so overused, but that's what they called it. These boys are so hungry for knowledge of Christ and His teachings that it's hard to satisfy them all. Well, I'll do what I can with God as my strength and let Him take it from there.

**July 8th - 12:30 AM** - Today is John Roger's birthday. I bought him a ring at the washateria. This must be short tonight because I have to hurry and pull the covers up to my head. We've been on the dock telling ghost stories, and I'm spooked. I had to whistle back to the cabin to keep the monsters away. Then that idiot dog Princess scraped the outside of our cabin and scared me green.

**July 8th - 10:45 PM** - It rained again today. Great Scott! How long can it last? Please don't rain tomorrow. Everyone's excited about going to Six Flags. Today during my free period I went with Jeff Gilbert and 4 campers (chiefs) up the river in canoes to go blueberry picking. We had a fantastic time, and we'll have blueberry cobbler Saturday. Tonight after everyone was in bed Jim Taylor came to my room to talk. I think he has really felt God's presence here and has Him in his heart. Tears filled his eyes as he told me how much he loves God. He's now very concerned about his good friend, another camper, and his relationship to God. I'm so excited. I love that boy something fierce. I'll really miss him when he leaves. I can't believe they'll be leaving a week from tomorrow. It seems they've just gotten here. I'm really dreading that last day when I have to tell everybody good-bye. I'm sure I'll cry.

**July 15th - 12:30 AM** - Today was another relatively uneventful day. We had a pretty cool thunder storm during rest period. Of course, I missed a lot of it because I fell asleep. Poor Jimmy Shaw was talking to me last night, and I fell asleep while he was talking. Tonight for the first time I really started feeling low about the campers leaving. I can't believe, the first session is already over. Everything I can remember about this place from the first day I got here seems like it happened yesterday. I dread saying good-bye to my fellow staffers in four more weeks.

**July 15th - 11:30 PM** - Well, I feel simply terrible. I'm never able to express to anyone how I feel at times like these so there's no need to try and write it. I feel terribly hollow, though. I'll really miss all these jokers even though they have been a regular pain at times. They've been a blessing also, and I'm sure that is how I will always remember them. I think it should be noted that it rained today. Only fitting since it rained most of the session. I surely hope it's not raining while we're loading trucks and buses tomorrow. I'm leaving with the first load at seven o'clock. I'm chaperoning the campers returning to Memphis. We will go by chartered bus to Birmingham and fly to Memphis. I'm glad I'll miss most of the good-byes. I'll also be getting home by 11:00 AM. I'm glad of that. I imagine I'll have to get my hair cut before dinner time tomorrow night.

**August 17th - At Home - 11:45 PM** - As always when I write this thing, I'm exhausted. I've finished reading over the whole thing and am extremely glad I kept up with it. It was rough at times, but now it was worth it. There were some things I said that I wish I could take back, but I guess they're a good indication of how I felt when I wrote them, and

that's what I was looking for. I still can't believe my summer at Alpine is over. It all seems so short. It was an experience I know I'll never forget.

In February of 1997, Mr. O. received a letter from a former camper and counselor, Richard Pittman of Greenwood, Mississippi. Richard enclosed his signed contract indicating he would be returning for his third summer on staff. Below you will find Richard's letter. We appreciate Richard's permitting us to share this letter with you. We believe his letter will

reveal the value he placed on his first two summers as an Alpine counselor. At the close of the 1997 camping season Richard spent three months in Chile participating in a National Outdoor Leadership School course in Sea Kayaking and Mountaineering. In January 1998, Richard returned to Alpine as a year round staff member serving as an Administrative Assistant. Richard is now a physician in Atlanta, GA and sends his son to Alpine every summer.

February 3, 1997

Mr. Richard C. O'Ferrall, Jr.  
Alpine Camp for Boys  
138 County Road 619  
P.O. Box 297  
Mentone, AL 35984-0297

Dear Mr. O.,

I can hardly express to you how excited I am about coming back to camp this summer. My heart is really overflowing with anticipation and hope about what lies ahead. I have already begun to pray about how I might serve there, and God would bless the camp, the boys, and your administrators.

There is no way for me to accurately express how much God has used Alpine to change my life. From the first summer when I began to struggle with my identity as a Christian, to last summer as I struggled and squirmed more while being sanctified as we served our Father. Now I am already so engaged emotionally and physically in trying to make this summer the best term of camp ever.

One of the main reasons I love Alpine is because I get to feel a part of it. You do not run it as if it were just your camp, but you allow it to be our camp. You allow us to feel ownership. You allow us to belong. Though my generation has such a pronounced struggle with commitment, through Alpine I have discovered that the commitment to serve Christ is the only way that can begin to fill us to the capacity of His love on earth. We are so led by the illusion that happiness lies not in service, but in being served; not in having to struggle, but by coasting. We seek experiences that indulge and cultivate the self to a point that we do not even have time or desire to serve our Savior. Yet, God is so good that he till lays it on the hearts of 60 men each summer to come and serve Him as an Alpine counselor.

Paul said something to me the other day which I agree with so much that I will appreciate it here, "Alpine is a place that I believe in." I do not mean it in the way that it is a cult, but rather I believe in camp, because I see it as a genuine place of ministry in which God's kingdom is advanced and enjoyed on a very practical level. I have found no place where I feel that my spiritual gifts can be utilized as well as they are there. It seems I am taken to my limit each summer, only to have my limits stretched by God's grace.

I am so thankful to be able to work for you and with you now in recruiting and this summer in camp. I love you and I will continue to pray for you and your family. Thank you for letting me be a part of what God is doing at Alpine.

Your servant in Christ,

