

THE NEWCOMERS “ABC GUIDE” TO WINNI 2007

Hi and welcome to Winni! We are thrilled that you are with us and hope you will have a wonderful week. Please remember that we have all been in your shoes or sandals and been “first timers” here and appreciate that it can be awkward and a bit challenging. However, we think you will find the natives to be friendly, the atmosphere relaxing, and everyone to be inviting so join on in! As a public service to our friends joining us for the first time here at "Winni", here is our brief guide to some of the landmarks, jargon, and customs that you may experience.

A - “Animals” - Here at Winni, we like the animals, even the bats. They are the ones keeping the mosquito population down and dropping reminders on our shirts that they probably need to be washed. They rarely if ever mingle with the humans except to remove an occasional mosquito from your hair. Don’t feed the animals, especially the ones in your cabin.

B - “The Business Manager” - All things that involve a dollar sign are the business of this manager. If you do not see him by the end of the week, he will find you. He made the housing roster, he knows where you live, you cannot run, you cannot hide, and you cannot bounce checks more than a couple of times without him noticing. Good thing he is wonderful guy named Jon Rowe to whom the GEMS office gives praise as long as we continue to receive our luxurious 5 star accommodations.

C - “The Chaplain” – Your spiritual guide through the religious melting pot of Winni is your chaplain, the most remarkable Jim Peters. The Chaplain is the spiritual tour de force behind the organization of the evening’s vespers programs and attending to the spiritual growth and concerns of the community. If you have lost your spirit, he not only knows where it is but probably can help you cut a deal to help get it back.

D - “The Dean” - Seeing as the conference you are attending is indeed an educational conference (to which you used to pay tuition rather than registration), it is only right that the figurative head of the community should be our Dean. Rather than rising to power through obscure PhDs and political maneuvering, the Dean is a beloved member of the community who sacrifices a good deal of time and mental health to making sure that the week goes smoothly. Enjoying his 2nd year at the helm at Dean is Tom Weston Jr. who is a Winni old timer and Deans don’t come any nicer than he.

E - “The Evening Coordinators” – Sue and Paul DiTucci are your Evening Coordinators. They are responsible for planning and putting on the evening programs, such as the Sunday Barb N Bill Concert, Barn Dancing, the Campfire Songfest, The Hoot, Movies, etc. They are fun people who work hard to spread the fun around! Do tell them about your ideas for having fun!

F - “Folk Music” – Welcome back to the land of the sing-a-long. There are lots of opportunities for singing with people here. Play or sing informally around your cabin, at vespers, in the Hoot, at the bonfire, or on the porch. Bring out your instrument and make a joyful sound and eventually people will gather round!

G- "The GEMS" - The name of the esteemed daily newspaper you are reading. Next to the New York Times, the GEMS is the second most requested newspaper here at Winni to clean up spills in the cabin. The GEMS editors (yours truly-Din Stevens, Bill Milford) are people to be feared for the power of the press is awesome. However, they are people who are often in the most need - of help, coffee, and mostly, integrity. You have what we most need, copy... and the fingers to type it. Come by and visit and watch us turn your most trivial characteristic into front page news.

H - "The Hoot" - The Hoot, or Hootenanny, is our annual talent show where everything and anything goes as long as it is in reasonable good taste (negotiable) and less than 3 minutes long (non-negotiable). If you are in the Hoot, prepare your act with focus, care and a stopwatch. If you are not in the Hoot, prepare yourself with a good chair and a cushion for your derrière.

I - "The Inn" - Our gathering place for meals and home to the few, the proud and sweaty Inn residents. The Inn Porch is the mecca for the pre-meal singing and schmoozing. The Dining Hall in the lower part of the Inn is the actual place where we eat. The heat and humidity are often quite high in the dining hall in order to keep the food hot. You can eat inside, on the picnic tables, Inn Porch, or wherever you are most comfortable so you can digest peacefully. While some campers believe that place is somewhere in a restaurant in Center Harbor, we staunchly maintain the rumor that the camp food is a delicious and nutritious wonderland.

J - "Jupiter, Mars and Lots and Lots of Stars" - You are here during the peak season for watching falling stars so don't be surprised at night to see people laying horizontally on the green. The ones looking up are watching for falling stars. The ones facing down are people from Dock Road trying to find their way back to their cabin.

K - "Kudos, Thank You, and Appreciation" - This is a large community of volunteers here at Winni that make everything happen. Nobody is paid big bucks to do anything around here so a "thank you" is always in order.

L - "The Labyrinth" - A human maze designed to create a walking meditation. Follow the path and it will lead you into the center of the Labyrinth, follow it out and you are not in it anymore. Get the picture? Rats get cheese for doing something similar however your reward is a spiritual insight or inner peace. Walking the Labyrinth, may lead you to a "aha" moment about your life or just an acute awareness that you are standing in the middle of a large drain field. Your journey to the Labyrinth may be deeply personal however we might suggest simply following the marked path that's on the road to the Lake past Gibbes House.

M - "Morning Watch" - A lovely service held around 7:30 am in the outdoor chapel (just down from the Inn). This is the first organized spiritual awakening to the day unless you awoke to discover something in your sleeping bag that is traditionally not supposed to be there. It is a wonderful time to have a quiet gentle worship service with a magnificent backdrop of the lake catching the morning light. Try to go at least once during the week. (Also known as "Morning What?") This year's coordinator is Renate Seitz so contact her with your morning offerings for this wonderful service.

N - "NNEsRE" (pronounced *NEZ-ree*)- 'Tis the Northern New England School of Religious Education, the formal name for the conference you are attending. It started out as a leadership training school for lay people working in the church and has evolved into an ecumenical community gathering for folks who know folks who have known folks who have come here. The conference center that you are actually at is **GPC or Geneva Point Center**.

O - "Ooooooooooooo to GEORGIE" - Every morning, at more or less half-past eight, we go *ooo-ooo-oooh to Georgie*. Or at least so goes the song that we traditionally sing every morning. Whilst it is nice to imagine that the tune was written about a little tyke going to cabin to cabin, historians have burst that little bubble by alleging that Georgie is actually Mt. Washington (Georgie Washington – get it?) and the song is about waving to a pile of rocks with trees on it. This interpretation makes perfect sense, except that Mt. Washington is not in fact visible from Geneva Point Center.

P - "Porch Potatoes" – Life forms found on the Inn Porch. These native creatures are intensely focused on having a relaxing week at Winni, and thus are a model for the entire community. Their activities include chatting, greeting passersby, and a demanding regimen of almost non-stop rocking.

Q - "Queue" – See Scoop Shop. This is what you will be waiting in....

R - "The Red Barn" - This is the wonderful gathering place for intergenerational dancing and games led by our recreational leader extraordinaire, Barb Siftar. It is also a great place just to hang out and sing, talk, or see what a little bat poo

can do for the luster of your hair. The barn is located for your convenience at the end of the green.

S - "The Scoop Shop" - GPC has two major retail outlets. The first is the gift shop which is often open around meal times and the other, which is most coveted, is the Scoop Shop. Nothing helps cool off a hot day or buy off an anxious child like the promise of quality ice cream or creamy milk shake.

T - "The Tryst, Trees and Nature" - Be sure and take some time during the week to take a walk. Venture into the beautiful grove of Pines behind the Chapel. Ask an old timer to take you out to see the Tryst. Or take the long road down to the beach by Dock Road. This is a beautiful piece of property and GPC has worked hard to maintain its pristine beauty.

U - "Underwear and Laundry" - We here at the GEMS highly recommend that you change your underwear everyday. We do, with each other. However, if you should ever want to wash said underwear, do note that to the right of the Scoop Shop is the laundry room. Bring quarters, detergent, and the willingness to fold whoever's clothes you find in the dryer you want to use.

V - "Vespers" - Our evening worship service. This is often held at different sites during the week -- the chapel, the pines behind the chapel, etc. This is a wonderful time to reflect on the beauty of our surroundings and community. On Wednesday afternoon, we hold a traditional Memorial Service by the lake at the Council Ring. Our Chaplain, Jim Peters organizes Vespers and welcomes your input (readings, ideas, music, etc.) and participation.

W - “The Watermelon Seed Spit Off” -

This annual event is held on Friday just before our final Vespers service (go figure). If you see people spitting during the week, just tell your kids that they are practicing for the big game. If people tell you this is a light-hearted old-timey contest, don't believe 'em. The grudges and hard feelings formed here last the whole year through and participants come back prepared to “spit to win”. If a seed flies your way you should not take it personally unless you are five feet or more away from the spitting platform paper. This is just one of the many athletic activities you can take part in. Others include the **Winni Softball Game, Capture the Flag, Ultimate Frisbee, and the Winni Swimmi.**

X - “X-Rays” - Don't say we didn't tell ya so.... Wear sandals or shoes lest you end up spending the day in Meredith waiting for a doc in the box to tell that you should have done so in the first place.

Y - “Young People” - We here at Winni love our Young People. This is an extraordinary place for them to grow personally and to experience the joy of an intergenerational community. While it “takes a village” and we all look out for one another, talk about your expectations of communication and behavior with one another. Tell them before 7 am and after 10 pm is *quiet time*, lest they wish to experience the dark side of the Dean.

Z - “Zebu” – An Asiatic ox domesticated and differentiated into many breeds. Not commonly found around Winni but highly coveted by Scrabble players for their worth, especially over triple word squares.