

Hints for Marking Clothing & Equipment

Your help is needed and much appreciated to help eliminate so much lost and found items!

- We much prefer the *sew-on labels* as they don't come off and don't fade out.
- The *iron-on label* is the next best thing, but we have seen them peeling off if they weren't securely ironed at the right temperature for that fabric.
- The *camp stamps* would be the next best purchase as they last quite a while and don't seem to fade out or wash off and blur.
- Your last choice would be the *indelible pens* which can fade and bleed with numerous times of getting wet or during washing, thus becoming unable to distinguish the name.
- If the items are dark colored and all you have is black ink, put the name on white material or paper and use clear packing tape to put over the top to seal it from any moisture.

Please, please, please spell out the first name or nickname and last name, if you must use initials please use first & middle with the last name spelled out. Please don't use just your last name, as we may have several families with that same last name and the same goes for first or nicknames, example Will, Peter, John, etc. as we have many of these. Proper labeling will insure that items are recognized and sent home or given to the right camper.

Hats = Sew-on labels on inside brim of the camp or tag if there is one. Also on the underneath side of the band as a last resort.

Sandals = Sew-on labels inside the straps (making it inconspicuous), preferably where it does not rub on the foot. Some people have attached the tag like you find in clothing to the straps by sewing it on. These two ways work awesome in getting the names to stay. (The bad part is that you have to do it to both shoes; however, you should get both shoes back and that makes it worthwhile!)

Crocks & Water Shoes = These items are the hardest to mark. Pens will work if placed in a spot that won't get rubbed off. Our suggestion would be to buy some durable fabric and sew on the tag keeping it long enough to wrap around the strap somewhere and sew the ends together so that it won't come off. They will be having so much fun that they won't even notice that it is on there. Should other campers also have the same type or size shoes, they will quickly know what ones are theirs. If they don't have straps then you should sew in a tag on the inside or outside where it again won't rub on the foot. We have LOTS of lost and found shoes at the end of camp for this reason.

Shoes = Sew-on labels inside the tongue of the shoe as it will stay put and won't be noticeable to anyone, please remember to do both shoes. They wear socks usually and it won't rub on the foot. This is where we will be looking for tags. This works well for sneakers and hiking boots.

Socks = These can have sew-on labels on the outside of the sock as no one will see them anyway. Especially for the expensive "Smartwool" Socks and liners. Some people have used a camp stamp for the foot part of the sock and it stays well and is readable.

Pants & Underwear = The sew-on labels are awesome for these items but so are the iron-on tags! They can be attached to the waistband or bottom hemline (where it is out of sight as a first choice), or on the care tags found on the seams inside. Pants sometimes have pockets and you can attach them to the inside of the pocket, especially if they are dark pants with white pocket liners. Underwear can be sewn on the outside waistband as it won't rub on their skin and most people don't see it anyway.

Shirts, Jackets, Sweatshirts = The sew-on labels are awesome for these items but so are the iron on tags! They can be attached the neckband or bottom hemline (where it is out of sight as a first choice), or on the care tags found on the seams inside.

Waterproof Bags & Rain Gear = This is where the indelible pens come in to play as they work best on these items. **Rain gear:** Please put the full camper name on the rain gear inside the neckline or put the name inside if the company has put a "this belongs to" area. Pants should be marked on the inside waistband, pocket or pant leg. Anywhere it doesn't get lots of wear.

Waterproof bags: If the name is on there very clear anywhere, we will find it. Use the straps, on the body of the bag or any where inside or out, near the top of the bag.

Laundry Bags = Use an iron-on label and fuse it together with another label around the pull cord near the top but not to obstruct the closing of it. You can do the same to the bag itself for the front or back.

Sheet, Blankets, Pillow Cases, Pillows & Towels = Iron-on label for all of these or sew them on to the corner or tags of the bedding if you don't wish to mark on the item itself.

Duffels = Should have full camper name on them either inside or outside, but again, sew-on labels are best, but markers will work if the writing is clear. This also includes backpacks, fanny packs, etc.

Baseball Gloves & Balls = Indelible pens will work and can also use sew-on labels inside the glove. Of course the balls would have to have the full camper name in pen.

Tennis Racquets & Lacrosse Sticks = Use an indelible pen to spell out the full camper name on the inside of the frame where the webbing is. You can also put clear packing tape over the name on a part of the handle that doesn't get much wear, and it is a good place to use the indelible pen. Sometimes it can be on the end of the handle.

Water bottles or CamelBaks = Use an indelible pen to spell out the full camper name on the item or put duct tape with the name printed on it somewhere on the item. CamelBaks can have a sew-on label on the straps and mark the bladders if they are taking them out.

Books & Magazines, etc. = Please put the full camper name on these items inside the cover. Do the same for playing cards, board games, knitting bags, knitting needles, craft items, and packets of stationery.

Flashlights or Headlamps = Flashlights should be marked with full camper name using indelible pens, again you can put clear packing tape over the name to help it not wear off. Headlamps can have sew-on labels attached to the strap.

Crazy Creek Chairs = Please put the full camper name on these anywhere around the logo, sew on a label to the strap or whatever you can. Often they are left and have no names.

Sunglasses & Water Goggles = Please be sure to mark these items with the full camper name using an indelible pen on the inside, frames, or rubber straps, once again you may wrap clear packing tape over the name on the strap.

Fishing Poles & Tackle Boxes = Please be sure to mark all pieces of the fishing poles and put clear packing tape over the name and label the tackle boxes with the full camper name as well as the gear inside. Indelible pens work great on these items.

Disposable Camera = Please mark with camper name, by using an indelible pen and putting clear packing tape over it. It is a shame to find cameras here that have someone's prize photos.

All other items = Bug spray, deodorant, soap dishes, shampoo, combs, etc. should have the full camper name on them using indelible pen.