

# Camp Wyandot Parent Handbook



# 2010



***Our Mission:*** “To build caring confident youth and future leaders.”

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# Resident Camp

**WELCOME!** We're glad you're going to be a part of the Camp Wyandot family this summer. It will be an exciting adventure! Thank you for entrusting your camper to us. We realize that the decision to send a child to camp is a big decision and we truly appreciate the opportunity to create positive life-long memories for your camper. The Camp Wyandot experience is magical! Part of that magic is the partnership we form with our camp families and the support of parents and guardians to help us build caring confident kids that appreciate our natural world. Thank you for partnering with us this summer.

## **CONTACT INFO**

Mailing address: Camp Fire USA Central Ohio Council  
1890 Northwest Blvd. Suite 240  
Columbus, OH 43212

Office Phone: (614) 481-8227 Fax: (614) 481-8229  
Website: [www.centralohiocampfire.org](http://www.centralohiocampfire.org)  
Camp Wyandot Phone: (740) 746-8433

## **PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK**

The following information is important and will help create a truly unique and enjoyable experience at for all our campers. It is designed to give parents and care-givers pertinent information regarding rules and polices, as well as tips and guidelines. Your child's attendance at camp indicates that you have read and understood the information in this handbook and you accept these rules and policies as part of the agreement. If for any reason you do not understand or do not agree with the information in this handbook, please let us know so we can either clarify our intentions or allow for a cancellation.

## **Balance of Camp Registration Fee**



The balance of the camp fee must be received by the DEADLINE LISTED BELOW. Any registrations not paid in full by the deadlines listed will be removed, and the slot will be offered to those on the waiting list! You may pay by check, cash, Visa or MasterCard, and/or you can make a payment on the website.

<i><u>Session attending</u></i>	<i><u>Deadline for full payment</u></i>
One, July 5 - 8 (Mini Trails)	May 30
One, July 5 - 10 (WoHeLo Trails)	May 30
One, July 5 - 10 (Traditional Camp)	May 30
Two, July 11 - 17	May 30
Four, July 18 - 24	June 30
Five, July 25 - 31	June 30

## **Cancellation Policy / Refunds**

The \$100 deposit is nonrefundable. Eighty percent (80%) of the balance will be refunded to those who give written cancellation notice at least 2 weeks prior to the first day of your child's camp session. No refunds will be made to those who cancel after this date.

In the event that the camp needs to send a camper home, no refunds are given unless for medical reasons. We rarely send children home for disciplinary reasons, but if the child's behavior is repeatedly abusive (physically or verbally) towards other campers or staff, or if the child's actions pose a threat to the safety of others or him/herself, or if that child commits what can potentially be considered a criminal action, the parents will be called to come pick up the child. It is unfair to have one camper's poor behavior ruin the experience of the other campers. This is why we reserve the right to dismiss a child who is unreasonably unruly without refund.

## **Arrival and Check-In**

Arrival and Check-In time is between **3:00 and 4:30** pm on the opening **Day** of each session. Please do not plan to leave your child early as the staff will be busy preparing camp and will not be available to monitor early arrivals. The Check-In process involves registration/cabin assignments, camp store deposit, and checking in with the nurse.



*Make sure you have the following forms in-hand:*

- Consent form
- Health forms

## **Departure and Check-Out**

Departure time is **10:00 to 11:00am** on the closing **Saturday** of each session. **(For Session 5 Mini Trail only, check-out is Thursday, July 23, 6:30-7:30 pm.)** Your camper will be very excited to see you, so please make every effort to arrive on time! Parents/guardians must present identification and sign a check-out form before any camper will be released from camp. If another person will be picking up your child, a written note, dated and signed by the parent/guardian, indicating the name and relationship of that person to the camper, must be submitted at check-in. **No camper will be released to anyone other than the parent/guardian or other person identified by the parent/guardian at check-in.**

## **Cabin Mate Requests**

Camper may request to be housed with a friend if they wish. We make every attempt to honor such requests provided the request appears on both camper's forms. Frequently, one camper requests another without discussing it first. If the request is not agreeable to both children (and their parents), this can create an unhappy situation between all parties on arrival day. Housing requests that exceed one child, (such as three children requesting each to be in the same cabin) cannot

be guaranteed. It is too difficult to try to accommodate large group requests, and they are unfair to the rest of the campers who might be assigned to the cabin group. When two campers of different ages request to be in the same cabin, the older camper will be placed in the younger cabin at our discretion provided we feel the age differential is not too significant. Please be sure that the older camper is aware of this before making the request, as they may find this arrangement upsetting.

*Camp Fire USA does not guarantee the placement of campers in any specific unit or cabin in any given session! We reserve the right to switch unit and cabin assignments at our discretion.*

### **Health Forms**

Two medical forms are enclosed and must be completed by the parent/guardian **AND** physician. Please note that all campers are required to have a medical exam by a licensed physician within 12 months prior to their first day of camp. **The completed "Camper Health Care Recommendations", with physician's signature, must be brought to camp at the time of arrival. The "Health" form is completed by the parent and also must be brought to camp.** Campers will not be permitted to stay at camp without the completed forms.

Also, be aware we cannot admit campers to camp if we suspect they have lice. If your child has recently had, or currently has lice, anticipate your camper will likely not be admitted to camp.

If your child has any special medical or behavioral needs that you would like to discuss with the camp Nurse or Director prior to the camp session, please contact the Camp Fire office. The call will be forwarded to the Nurse or Director who will call you back to discuss these needs.



### **Medications**

All medications brought to camp shall be **in the original containers** clearly marked with your child's name and directions for use. Please provide only enough medication for their time at camp. ALL medications must be given to the camp Nurse at Check-in. It is mandated by the state that all medications at camp be under the control of the nurse. This includes prescription medication, over the counter medicine such as vitamins and cough drops, natural meds (such as herbs) and band aids. Please do not withhold any routine medications while your child is at camp.

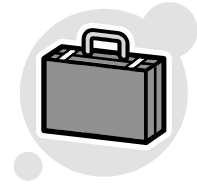
### **Insurance and Illness**

All campers are covered by limited sickness and accident insurance. If your child does become ill while at camp we will notify you prior to taking the child to the doctor. If your child is ill, please do not send him/her to camp. Campers who arrive

with illnesses will be sent home immediately. Medical Expenses incurred while at camp are ultimately the responsibility of the parents / caregiver.

## **PACKING LIST**

The following packing list is a suggested list of items to pack for a week - long session. We recommend older clothes, as new things are likely to get quite dirty and stained.



Please remember to label all clothing with your camper's full name!

Since our campers will be walking more than they do at home, socks and sturdy shoes will help make for a more enjoyable camping experience. The weather is typically humid, but may be quite chilly at night.

A carry-all for toiletries is most helpful since the bath houses are a short walk from the cabin!

Some parents of younger campers have found it helpful to place daily outfits (including underwear and socks) together in separate ziplock bags. That way, your child can simply pull out a bag and have an outfit.

**DO NOT PACK ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE TERRIBLY UPSETTING TO LOSE OR HAVE DESTROYED – NO VALUABLES**

- Completed Medical Form & Parental Consent Form
- Backpack
- Sleeping bag, pillow, and twin size fitted sheet (may bring extra sheet and blanket if desired)*
- Underwear (at least one pair per day with extras)*
- T-shirts (at least 1 per day, plus some extras)*
- Shorts (at least 1 per day, plus some extras)*
- Jeans or slacks (several pair)*
- Warm jacket or sweatshirts*
- Tennis shoes (at least two sturdy pairs of close-toed shoes; sandals, flip flops or aqua shoes are only allowed to be worn on pool deck & in the shower house)*
- Socks (at least one pair per day as socks must be worn every day, plus some extras)*
- Swimsuit*
- Pajamas*
- Flashlight and extra batteries*
- Rain poncho*
- Towels and Wash cloths (at least one bath towel and one beach towel)*
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, comb, brush, etc.)*
- Laundry bag*
- Pen and Pencil*
- Stationary, envelopes, and stamps*
- Insect/tick lotion (no aerosols!)*
- Water bottle*

*Camp Fire USA is not responsible for any items lost while your child is at camp.*

*Please check the Lost & Found before leaving camp. All unclaimed items will be held at the Camp Fire office until August 12. Anything left after this date will be donated.*

### **Items Not Permitted at Camp**

In order to ensure a safe and healthy experience for all campers at camp, as well as meet program objectives, **the following items are not permitted to be brought by campers:**

- Weapons of any kind (includes knives, firearms)
  - Fireworks of any kind (includes firecrackers, smoke bombs, etc.)
  - Tobacco
  - Alcohol
  - Controlled substances (including marijuana, illegal drugs)
  - Radios and CD players
  - Cell phones (see official policy)
  - walkie talkies, 2-way radios, iPods / MP3 players
  - Pets
  - Food, soda, Candy and Gum
- Anything of value that the camper would be distraught if it was lost or destroyed!*

### **Valuables/Personal equipment**

Camp Wyandot is not responsible for loss or damage to clothing or personal possessions. It is strongly recommended that valuables, such as money or jewelry not be brought to camp.

### **A note on electronic devices**

Campers are not permitted to bring any electronic devices. Camp is designed to offer campers opportunities to reconnect with nature and interact face to face with each other to practice making friends. Walking around with headphones on is counterproductive to this process.



### **Housing**

Campers are housed rustic cabins with counselors and other campers. Linens are not provided so most campers prefer to bring a sleeping bag and one or two sheets for bedding so they can opt to sleep in or under the sleeping bag. Cabins do not have electricity or running water. There are bathroom and shower facilities a short walk from the cabins. Except for limited items, personal belongings are not unpacked but kept stored in a sturdy suitcase, duffel bag, or trunk.

### **Camp Wyandot Store**

Many Camp Fire and Camp Wyandot items are available for purchase at the Camp Wyandot store. These include sweatshirts, t-shirts, bandannas, water bottles, stamps, etc. You may wish to deposit additional money in your child's store



account. Before departing on that final day please stop by the camp store to claim any unspent money in your child's account. **Any unspent money left in the store accounts after departure day will not be refunded, but assumed to be donated to the staff appreciation fund!**

### **Staff**

If you ask campers, their favorite counselors are super-heroes. Super-heroes or not, each counselor goes through a rigorous screening process including interviews with the Camp Director, reference checks, and a criminal background check. We hire people from every walk of life chosen for their integrity, their energy, and their community spirit, and are passionate about helping us fulfill our mission.

At no time during a Camp Fire USA program may a staff person be alone with a single child where he or she cannot be seen, heard or observed by others. Staff may not be alone with children they meet in Camp Fire USA programs outside of the program. This includes babysitting, sleepovers, unsupervised visits or meetings, excess phone calls or emails, inviting children to their home or taking them places after the camp period ends. Please don't encourage or permit this and inform the camp of any violations.



### **Telephone Calls**

We are striving to develop strong, independent youngsters who can think and function on their own as part of a community. Our staff, as professional role models, are trained and prepared to assist campers in dealing directly with any issues that arise. Telephone usage by campers is counter productive to the process of engaging the circumstances at hand. It erodes the development of building character in a community setting, and erodes our ability to provide guidance from within the context of the immediate situation!

Camp is full of activity and telephone calls can become quite distracting. However if you must get a message to your camper we will pass it along, or in case of emergency, please call the Camp Director at 740-746-8433. The Camp Director's door is always open to campers should they wish to discuss anything. As issues arise, we will contact you on behalf of your camper, and collectively decide the best course of action.

*OUR OFFICIAL CELL PHONE POLICY: Cell phone use by campers is prohibited. We will immediately confiscate any cell phone in camper's possession and return them at the end of the session. Campers found loaning a cell phone to others may be dismissed without refund. Please help us with this policy as it is designed to help all campers remain engaged here and have a better and more meaningful experience while at camp. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.*

### **Mailing Address**

All campers enjoy receiving a cheery note from home. Write a positive note to your child for delivery at mail call on Monday. Leave the note at check in on Sunday. Please note, mail arriving after your child has left camp will not be forwarded.

Address any cards or letters to:

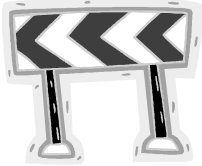
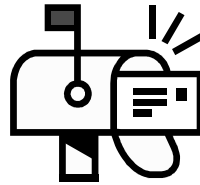
Camper's Name

Cabin or Unit

Camp Wyandot

23834 Clearcreek Rd.

Rockbridge, Ohio 43149



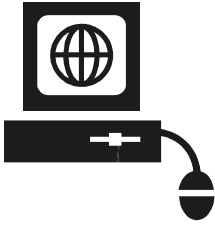
### **Risk**

Many activities at camp involve a known and reasonable risk. We do everything possible to minimize them and provide a safe environment for our campers. However, as with any type of high energy physical activity, there is always risk involved and the possibility of the unforeseen. This is to notify parents and campers that they have the responsibility as a voluntary participant to abide by all rules, and to listen to and follow all instructions given by activity leaders as well as using their own common sense. In the event of an unforeseen or reasonably unpredictable circumstance, or an athletic type injury, it should be known that by you and your child's voluntary participation in an activity, you are aware of and have acknowledged the existence of a risk and that you clearly share in its assumption. Camp activities with a known risk factor include all sports, hiking, adventure activities, camp craft activities, outdoor cooking and fire building, swimming, aquatics, rafting and canoeing, physically active games, archery, nature exploration boating, and fishing.

### **Photo Release**

Camp Wyandot takes official photos and videos throughout the summer of campers involved in every aspect of the camp program. Some of these photos will be put on Camp Wyandot web sites and/or used in a wide array of Camp Wyandot marketing material. The identities, addresses, and personal reference of those pictured are kept confidential. Please be aware that by registering your camper you grant permission for their image to be used by Camp Wyandot. Please be aware we are not responsible for unofficial images that may make it into public space.

The official photo release is listed in article three of the parental consent form.



### **The World Wide Web and Myspace, Facebook, etc**

In general, our camp views social networking sites such as FaceBook, MySpace or blogs positively and respects the right of campers to use them as a medium of self-expression. However parents do need to be in tune with what they are and the potential risks.

We share the concerns of many families, schools, and camps regarding the dangers associated with young people's use of social networking Web sites. The risks range from online sexual solicitation to cyberbullying to the damaging of one's own reputation, other's reputations, school admission status, or job prospects by posting inappropriate information on personal pages.

Anyone can create a "profile" on such Internet sites and chronicle their lives, by sharing favorite foods, music, hangout spots, and posting pictures and videos of themselves and their friends. Users can post most anything whether true or false. Mischievous children have been known to create profiles of other children, posting false and damaging information about them and posting incriminating pictures taken at parties and, yes, summer camp.

The current technologies allow for users of cell phones to take pictures or videos, and then download them directly onto the Web for public view. This is certainly one consideration for why most camps do not permit campers to have cell phones, yet they are often smuggled in at the urging of nervous parents used to being in constant touch with their children. This seems like a relatively innocuous parenting choice until you consider the ease with which candid inappropriate material of unsuspecting subjects (other children), can find their way into the public domain via the Web.

We do have our camp counselors sign an electronics policy prohibiting them from posting inappropriate material regarding camp on their profiles, as well as prohibiting them from sharing contact details or communicating with campers in these forums.

We ask our campers and their parents, to be respectful in all electronic communication and blogs regarding or referencing camp. Please help us as we strive to make a positive impact on the lives of children.

To better educate yourself and your children we suggest [www.webwisekids.org](http://www.webwisekids.org) and [www.cyberangels.org](http://www.cyberangels.org).

## **TIPS TO HELP MAKE YOUR CHILD'S STAY AT CAMP A LITTLE EASIER**

- Have your child spend the night with friends a few times before sending him/her to camp. This will get your child use to staying away from home before staying a week a camp.
- Have your child look for things with a flashlight at night. The sun is the only source of light in our cabins so when the sun goes down, the lights go out and we rely on flashlights.
- Have your child help you pack for camp. This will let him/her know exactly what is in the bag and will make it easier for your child to pack when it is time to leave camp.
- Send a shower caddy! Traveling to and from the shower house, little things get dropped! A caddy helps the camper keep his/her belongings together.
- We only have showers (no bathtubs). Showers can be scary especially in an unfamiliar place. Have your child practice using a shower at home before coming to camp.
- Remember to **LABEL EVERYTHING!!** Living with other people, clothes can start looking the same! Please send old clothes.

*Hopefully these tips will help make your child's stay at camp a little easier and more comfortable. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to learn responsibility and be self-directed while being away from home (with a little help from the counselor, of course)!*

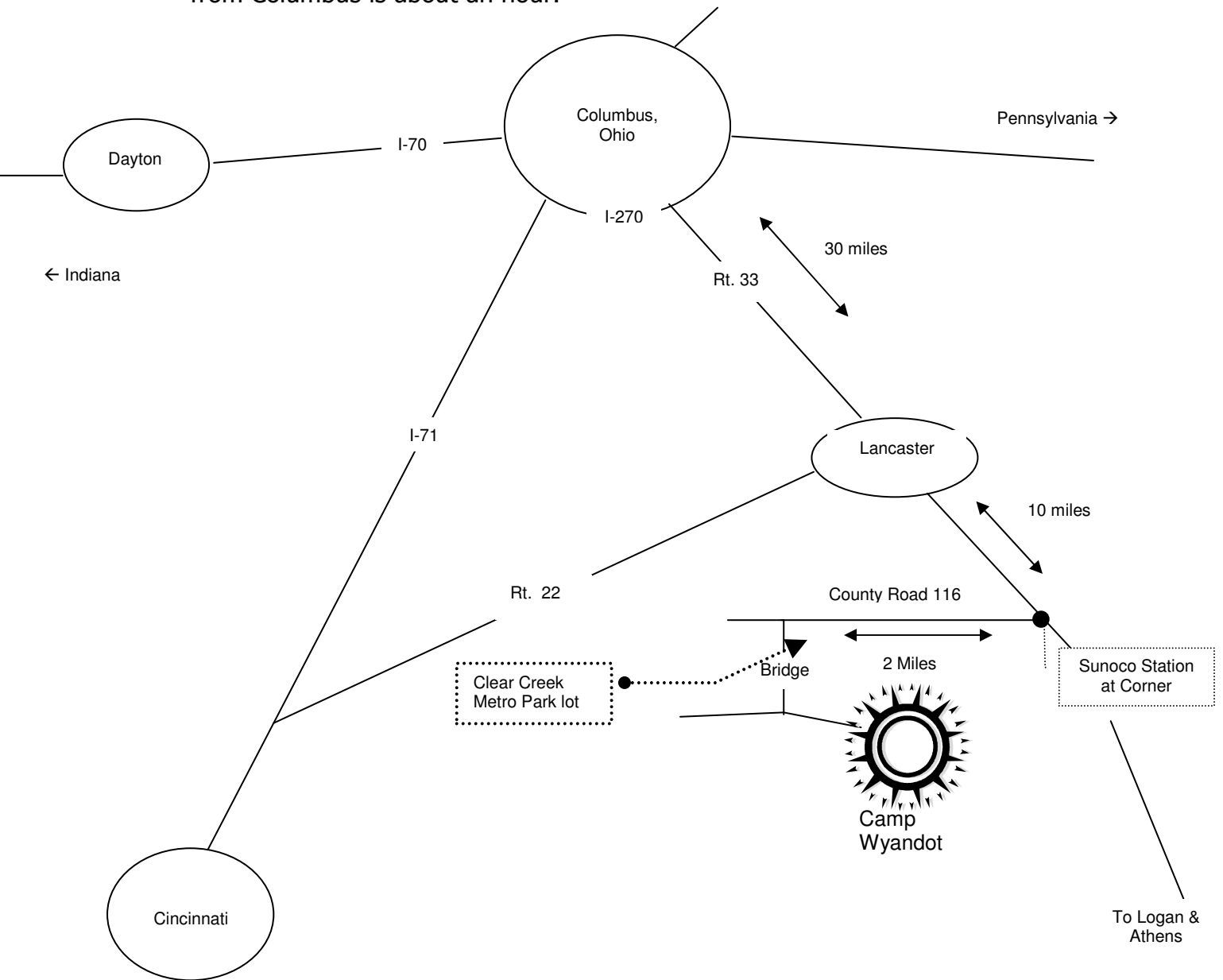
## **FIVE (5) FACTS ABOUT HOMESICKNESS**

- Homesickness is a normal stage of development and can happen at ***all*** ages. (Parents get it too, sometimes worse than kids!)
- It may happen the first summer at camp, or the 4<sup>th</sup> summer.
- Children may worry about what's going on at home (dad's business, mom was sick when I left, family pet, etc.). Assure your child that you will be fine without him/her.
- Communication is important. Please communicate with the Camp Director, Nurse, or Counselor about any situations at home that may be of concern to your child.
- In cases of severe homesickness, the Director will contact you for more information and to seek your help with the situation. Please remember that campers are not allowed to use the phone; this may make the situation worse.
  
- For even more info, visit the parent section of [www.campspirit.com](http://www.campspirit.com)

*These facts are intended to help you. We want your child to have a fun and successful experience at camp. We'll see you there!!*

**Directions (from Columbus) to Camp Wyandot**

Take Route 33 East, towards Lancaster and then follow signs toward Logan. Do not take Lancaster Business Route. Watch for signs and follow them to Clear Creek Metro Park and turn right on County Road 116. There is a Sunoco Station on the corner. Follow County Road 116 about 2 miles until you see a Metro Park parking lot on your left. Turn left on the road just past the parking lot (Camp Wyandot sign) and cross bridge then turn left into camp. The camp phone number is 740-746-8433. The address is 23834 Clear Creek Rd. Rockbridge, Ohio 43149. Travel time from Columbus is about an hour.





## **ARRIVAL DAY CHECKLIST**

- Health form (a four page form that required a parent / guardian signature as well as a physician's. Campers will not be admitted to camp without this completed form.)
- Consent form (a two page form that gives consent from a parent / guardian for your camper to participate in camp as well as important contact details. Campers will not be admitted without this completed form.)
- Medications (All medications must be in a properly labeled original container. Camper must turn in all medications including over the counter varieties.)
- The gear from the packing list (don't forget the Flashlight with extra batteries, a sleeping bag, and a shower tote!)
- Pre-written letter (campers love getting mail! Consider pre-writing one to drop off on opening day, and we will get it to them on Monday)
- Directions to camp (We aren't hard to find.... Unless you haven't a clue where to look!)
- Your camper! (It's never happened yet.... Don't be the first!)