

Adventure Day Camp

Frequently Asked Questions

What do the children need to bring to camp?

ALL campers should arrive wearing their bathing suit under clothing. For footwear, sneakers or water shoes are best. Bring 2 towels, a water bottle, a nut-free snack and lunch, extra clothes, sunscreen, goggles, and a plastic bag for wet items (**morning-only campers** need a snack but NOT a lunch).

Apply sunscreen before camp and send a labeled bottle of sunscreen with your camper (spray preferred). Sunscreen will be reapplied one time daily. If you have signed the medical form to give permission, then a counselor will reapply. Otherwise, campers need to be able to apply it themselves.

Please label ALL personal belongings with your child's name, including the yellow Recreation Center t-shirt that he/she receives on the first day of camp attended.

Do I have to fill out a medical form?

Yes. Your child will not be admitted to camp unless this is returned to us by the deadline and is complete. **The deadline for submitting your child's medical form is the Thursday prior to your child's start date at camp.**

Blank medical forms are available at the Recreation Center Front Desk or on our summer camp website.

Please note that there is a section on the form for you, the guardian AND your child's physician. Both sections must be filled out and signed. Please allow plenty of time for this step because most medical practices have many such forms to complete. We will also accept a copy of your child's school health form for the physician section if dated within 2 years of the camper's start date. If school form expires during campers' enrollment, an updated Medical Form will be required.

Please return the Medical Form to the front desk at the Recreation Center OR fax to (203) 431-2761 Attn: Camp Director.

How do you handle allergies?

First, we strictly enforce our nut-free food policy by not allowing campers to unwrap or eat a food brought from home that we suspect contains nuts. Please check all packaging such as granola bars, popcorn, etc. for traces of nut products. Campers are not separated at snack or lunch time according to their allergy status.

Second, EpiPens should be clearly labeled with your child's name. They are stored in the medical bag assigned to each group's head counselor and travel with the group as that group moves from activity to activity. Additionally, this bag goes on all field trips, as do all medical forms.

If your child has an allergy, please be sure to clearly note this on the medical form. Come June, you may also request a pre-camp meeting with the Camp Director to discuss your child's specific allergy-related needs.

What time does camp begin and end?

The full day programs begin at 9:00 am and end at 4:00 pm.

The morning-only Explorers and Pioneers programs begin at 9:00 am and end at 12:00 pm.

Is there an extended-day option?

Extended day options are not available this year. However, you may consider our Creative Care Program (ages 5-10).

It's available Monday to Thursday 4:00 - 5:00 pm

May I drop my child off at the curb?

Yes, and in fact, this is our procedure for campers arriving at and leaving from camp due to COVID protocol and limited parking. Curbside drop-off is assigned at 8:45 am or 9:00 am (see COVID-19 plan available on our website by June 1).

We also provide curbside pick-up at 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm. We ask families to put GROUP and CAMPER name on a sign in the front window of your vehicle. Parents pull up to your group sign as far forward as possible while not blocking the crosswalks or handicap spaces. Camp staff will approach and assist campers into/out of vehicles on the Curb Side ONLY. Do not drop off your child unless a staff member is present, and please do not leave your vehicle. For safety, drive slowly and use your directional while pulling away from the curb, as cars will be passing on the left side.

What if I want to pick up my child early from camp?

We require that any child who will be leaving camp early bring a note stating the time of departure, the reason for the early dismissal, and the name and phone number of the person picking up the camper, even if that person will be the parent or guardian. The note should be signed and dated by the parent or guardian, given to counselor, and will be authorized by the Camp Director. Parent/Guardian must pull up to curb and call (203) 431-2755 and ask for the Camp Director or the Camp Coordinator. Child(ren) will be brought to you.

How is Adventure Day Camp organized and staffed?

Campers are organized into age groups and do age-appropriate activities together. Our experienced Camp Director and Coordinator are responsible for planning activities and trips each week of camp. Each age group has a Head Counselor who handles most of your child's needs on a daily basis. This highly experienced staff member is your best resource for questions during camp. There are also assistant counselors for each group. Campers should learn their counselors' names.

We provide the following staff-to-camper ratios:

Explorers and Pioneers: 1:5 Rangers, Travelers, Trailblazers & Voyagers: 1:7 Discoverers: 1:10

We reserve the right to combine age groups or cancel specific age groups due to low enrollment.

What type of outdoor activities will my child do at camp?

We utilize all of the outdoor areas of our Recreation Center campus. Outdoor activities include nature studies (pond visits, nature walks, etc.), archery, outdoor water fun, relay games, sports, scavenger hunts, walks/hikes on our paved trails. Special events are also planned for all groups. Campers in grades 2-6 will visit Martin Park Beach on Tuesdays.

Will my child visit Martin Park Beach and/or the pool?

It depends on which age group your child is in.

Explorers will not go to the pool or beach. However, we will cool off with outdoor water games, sprinklers, and the Spray Bay. Please apply water-proof or water-resistant sunscreen at home (and send sunscreen with child each day that they can apply themselves or if given permission, applied by a counselor).

Being a bit older, Pioneers, Rangers, and Travelers will enjoy the zero-entry section of our pool for recreation swim. They will also enjoy all of the other water activities on campus as described above. Trailblazers, Voyagers, and Discoverers also enjoy the outdoor water activities and will be scheduled for recreational swim in the main pool.

Grades 2-6 will have time for fun at Martin Park Beach on Tuesdays.

Swim ability tests will be given by the aquatic staff to determine skill level at both the beach and pool. You may speak to the Camp Director with any questions or concerns.

Will my child be receiving swim lessons?

Every camper has the option to register for one of our full Red Cross certified lessons. If lesson is during camp hours, our staff will be available to get your camper to his/her assigned class.

Parent must notify our Camp Director via email when registering for this option.

What types of field trips will my child go on?

This year our field trips are focused on outdoor activities and locations, while minimizing travel time on the bus. All counselors will be equipped with disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer for their group.

On the Monday of your campers' field trip week, detailed information will be sent home with your child. ALL campers are given a bright yellow shirt to wear on field trips, including Martin Park Beach. Field trips are weather permitting. See field trip schedule in our handbook and on our website.

In the event of poor weather, you may call the Front Desk the morning of the trip for updates. There are no refunds for canceled field trips. However, we make every attempt to replace a canceled field trip with a social and age-appropriate activity.

What if I do not want my child to participate in a particular field trip or they are unable to attend part of it?

This child would have to stay home that day. All of your child's counselors will be leaving the building and children may not join another group. This sometimes comes into question when a child has an afternoon doctor's appointment or morning summer school. No refunds are given in these situations.

My child is at the younger end of your age range. Does he/she need to be potty trained?

All campers need to be fully potty trained and four years old by the camper's start date. No exceptions will be made.

What if my child has a special need?

The medical form asks for information about your child that counselors should be aware of. Please share information about any special needs your child may have on that form (i.e. prone to ear infections, allergies and carries a kit, has a hearing deficiency, has an IEP, physical/social limitations, etc.). Feel free to attach additional sheets if necessary. Provide as much information as possible so that we may accommodate your child to ensure his/her camp experience is positive and fun. You may also arrange a pre-camp meeting to discuss any special needs/requests with our Camp Director.

Who should I speak to about my individual concerns?

If you have questions or concerns that we have not addressed in our printed materials or on our website, please call the Recreation Center Front Desk at (203) 431-2755. Our staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you still have questions or concerns, please ask to speak with the Camp Director or the Camp Coordinator, or send an email to campcoor@ridgefieldct.org.

