**Adventure Day Camp**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What do the children need to bring to camp?**

Full day campers should bring a **nut-free lunch & snack**, water bottle, sneakers, a bathing suit, sunscreen, hat & towel every day. **Morning only** campers should bring a nut-free snack, bathing suit, towel, hat, sunscreen and change of clothes.

**Apply sunscreen before camp.** Sunscreen will be reapplied one time daily if you have signed the medical form to give permission and have packed a labeled bottle of sunscreen. Otherwise, campers need to be able to apply it themselves.

Please label ALL personal belongings with your child’s name. Please also put your child’s name in 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. However school health form **MUST** be dated within one year of the camper’s start date.

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, epi-pens 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 does all medical forms.

If your child has an allergy, please be sure to clearly note this on both the medical form and the registration form. 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 Explorers and Pioneers morning programs begin at 9:00 am and end at noon.

The Camp Expedition groups run 9:00 am-12:00 pm;12:00 am-4:00 pm or 9:00 am -4:00 pm.

**Is there an extended-day option?**

You may extend your child’s day from 7:30 am – 6 pm with the “Sunrise/Sunset” option, which is offered every day.

Before-camp care opens at 7:30 am at a cost of $30 per week per child, **whether using one or five of the days.** For the safety of your child, please walk your child to the designated room and be sure to notify the counselor of your arrival. Do not drop your child off before the designated start time, as staff will not be available.

After-camp care stays open until 6:00 pm for the additional weekly fee of $35 per week per child, **whether using one or five of the days** in the week registered. There will be a fine for tardiness after 6:05 pm and potential exclusion from future use of this program. There is a $5 discount if your child is enrolled in both the Sunrise and Sunset service within the same week.
May I drop my child off at the curb?
Yes, and in fact, this is our preferred procedure for campers arriving at and leaving from camp due to limited parking. Curbside drop-off begins at 8:50 am. We also provide curbside pick-up at noon and 4:00 pm. Parents are asked to pull all the way up to the second set of glass doors and pull to the curb to let other traffic pass. Our senior counselors use walkie-talkies to facilitate the process. Parents must stay in their driver’s seat and children must unload on the curbside of the vehicle. Make sure a counselor is present when you drop off your child.

Parents may prefer to walk their child into camp. For safety purposes, those parents are asked to park in the parking lot and use the crosswalk.

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 and authorized by the Camp Director. Check-in at the front desk when picking up early.

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. Campers should learn their Head Counselor’s name. There are also assistant counselors for each group.

We provide the following staff-to-camper ratios:
Explorers and Pioneers: 1:5  Rangers, Travelers, Trailblazers & Voyagers: 1:7  Discoverers & Navigators: 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?
Outdoor activities include utilizing outdoor areas of the Recreation Center campus for nature studies (pond visits, nature walks, etc.), archery, outdoor water fun, relay games, sports, scavenger hunts, playground time, walks/hikes on our paved trails. Special events are also planned for all groups. Campers in grades 2-8 will visit Martin Park Beach once a week.

How often 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 played with sprinklers, the Slip and Slide, mini pools, Spray Bay and outdoor water slide. Please apply waterproof or water-resistant sunscreen at home (and send sunscreen with child each day that they can apply themselves).

Being a bit older, Pioneers, Rangers, and Travelers will have basic camp swim lessons with a certified Red Cross instructor as well as recreational swim time in the pool. They will also enjoy all of the other water activities on campus as described above. Rangers also enjoy the outdoor water activities. Trailblazers, Voyagers, Discoverers and Navigators also enjoy the outdoor water activities and will be scheduled for pool time three to four times a week. There is a swim ability test in order to place campers in appropriate areas of the pool each week. You may speak to the Camp Director with any questions or concerns.

Grades 2-8 will have time for fun at Martin Park Beach on Tuesdays. On alternate days, they will enjoy outdoor water fun with our inflatable water slide and sprinklers. They will also use the Recreation Center pool and enjoy water games, tumble buckets and the indoor water slide. Swim ability tests will be given by the aquatic staff to determine skill level at both the beach and pool.

Will my child be receiving swim lessons?
Every camper has the option to register for one of our full Red Cross certified lessons held during 8:30-9:30 am. Our staff will be available to get your camper to his/her assigned class. Parent must communicate with the Camp Director to discuss any swim lesson accommodations. If your child is a Pioneer, Ranger, or Traveler then basic camp swim lessons will be included in his/her camp day. Trailblazers and Voyagers have time with trained Water Safety Instructors to practice and refine their strokes through exciting games and relay races. One does not replace the other.
What is the benefit to having basic camp swim lessons?
To be a good swimmer, your child should swim year round. Our basic camp swim lesson will emphasize fun, water safety, and life-long skills. These lessons are a support to and build upon the Red Cross certified lesson within a larger group. A full Red Cross certified lesson is based on a standardized curriculum providing more individualized attention within a smaller group.

All regular beach and pool regulations will be enforced by our staff and followed by our campers. It is important that you inform the Head Counselor if your child uses ear plugs or nose plugs or has any other special water-related needs.

What types of field trips will my child go on?
Each Monday, specific information about the week and field trip permission slips for that week will be sent home with your child. ALL campers are given a bright yellow shirt to wear on all field trips, including visits to Martin Park Beach. All field trips are weather permitting. Once booked, exact field trips for each age group are posted on the Recreation Center website.

Rangers and Travelers will enjoy field trips each week to places such as Fun Factor, Pump It Up (indoor bounce houses), nature centers, etc. Trailblazers, Voyagers, Discoverers, and Navigators take longer trips, to locations such as Splash Down Water Park, Lake Compounce and Brownstone Quarry.

Some of our field trips are weather sensitive and we may not always be able to go another day because of reservation limitations. In the event of poor weather, you may call the Front Desk the morning of the trip for updates. There are no refunds for cancelled field trips. However, we make every attempt to replace a cancelled 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 three 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 (i.e.: prone to ear infections, allergies and carries a kit, has a hearing deficiency, has an IEP, physical/social limitations, etc.) on both forms. 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 Jim Rafferty, at 203-431-2755 x142.

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. You may also choose to walk your child into camp the first day or two to personally discuss any specific concerns with the Camp Staff.