



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

DAY CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

MEETING WATERS YMCA



We are committed to nurturing the potential of every child and teen, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility.

Camping, like many Y programs, is about learning skills, developing character and making friends. Camping teaches self reliance, a love for nature and outdoors, and the development of attitudes and practices that build character and leadership—all amidst the fun of canoeing, archery, swimming, talent shows and meaningful relationships. Y counselors are dedicated to making sure camp is an amazing experience for every camper.

We have 50 years of experience providing a safe, thriving environment for young people to explore personal interests, build self-esteem, develop interpersonal skills, discover the creativity and health benefits of the outdoors, and make lasting memories and friendships.



OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To help children develop to their fullest potential physically, intellectually and socially.
- ◆ To deliver the program in a safe, fun, supportive, caring and positive environment.
- ◆ To support and strengthen families.
- ◆ To build lifelong camp memories and friendships.
- ◆ To have FUN!!

YMCA camp programs offer a fun and unique experience that gives children and teens the opportunity to meet new friends, explore nature, discover new interests, be physically active and create memories that last a lifetime.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lewis Day Camp Facility (802) 885-8131 Call this number any time your child will be absent, or with questions, concerns or compliments.

MWYMCA main office (802) 463-4769 Call this number for billing or general information.

Camp Director (802) 380-5475 For emergencies only.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP

From the south: Take I-91 no. to Exit 7 Springfield. Bear right at the end of the off-ramp. Travel less than 1/4 mile, passing under the I-91 overpass and turn left onto Rt. 5 south. Travel less than 1/4 mile. Our drive is on the right, at the end of the bridge that crosses over the Black River.

From the west: From downtown Springfield, travel east on Rt. 11. Turn right onto Rt. 5 south. Travel less than 1/4 mile. Our drive is on the right, at the end of the bridge that crosses over the Black River.

From the Fall Mountain Area: From downtown Charlestown, stay on Rt. 12 until the left turn that will take you across the old Toll Bridge between Charlestown and Springfield. Pass under the I-91 overpass and turn left onto Rt. 5 south. Travel less than ¼ mile. Our drive is on the right, at the end of the bridge that crosses over the Black River.

From the North: Take I-91 so. to Exit 7. At the end of the off-ramp, turn right. Turn left onto Rt. 5 south. Travel less than ¼ mile. Our drive is on the right, at the end of the bridge that crosses over the Black River.

WHAT TO BRING...

Please label everything that you send to camp with your child.

- ◆ **Lunch**— we will once again participate in the summer lunch program. Parents must select whether their child will participate and receive lunch each day, or bring his/her own. If provided by parents, the child should bring a healthy lunch and plenty of water or juice. Due to limited refrigerator space, lunch should be in as small a container as possible - large zip-lock bags are great! Please do not send hard lunch boxes or coolers. Please mark your child's lunch clearly.
- ◆ **Snack**—Snack is to be provided by the parent. It is a long, demanding day at camp so we have two snack times each day. Please pack enough snacks for these two important health breaks. A snack that does not require refrigeration is requested.
- ◆ **Water**—Lewis Day Camp receives its water from two onsite wells, but even with two systems we cannot always keep pace with water needs. Please pack at least one large water bottle every day. (Freeze a water bottle the night before and it serves as an ice pack in the morning and a cool drink by mid-day!)
- ◆ **Bathing suit and towel**— Every child will swim each day of camp, so a bathing suit and towel are a must.
- ◆ **Water shoes or old sneakers**—for canoeing and swamp walks.
- ◆ **Sun block**—applied by the parent in the morning and sent with child for daily application- clearly labeled with your child's name. We do not provide sun block. Lotion form is preferred to spray.
- ◆ **Insect Repellent**—clearly labeled with child's name.
- ◆ **Foul weather gear**—pack warm clothing and rain gear, essential in our unpredictable New England climate.

... AND WHAT NOT TO BRING ON THE BUS OR TO CAMP

Campers should not bring: chewing gum, candy, soda, cell phones, electronic games, music players, pocket knives, toys, Pokémon or other trading cards, personal toys or anything of value.

Meeting Waters YMCA is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus Schedules

Below is the schedule and location of stops, with pick-up and drop-off times. Busses will not stop at any other location along their route. Children from any town are welcome to ride the bus. You may use the bus stop most convenient for you or bring your campers directly to camp. Changes to your designated pick up or drop off location must be approved through the Camp office, including picking up a child who normally rides the bus.

Northern

Westminster	(8:00/4:55)	EES Head Start Administrative Office (2nd Building on Buck Drive)
Bellows Falls	(8:10/4:45)	School St. Ext. side of the Meeting Waters YMCA
Chester	(8:30/4:25)	Chester-Andover Elementary School parking lot
Springfield	(8:45/4:10)	First set of bleachers at the town park/Riverside Middle School

Southern

Brattleboro	(8:00/5:00)	Green Street School
Putney	(8:15/4:40)	Putney Inn (morning) and Putney Co-Op (afternoon)
Walpole	(8:35/4:20)	Real to Reel parking lot
No. Walpole	(8:40/4:15)	Rt hand lot behind St. James Church
Charlestown	(8:50/4:05)	Charlestown Middle School lower parking lot on Main Street

We are grateful to the owners/directors of these sites for their support. Please be respectful of property & business operations.

Morning Pick-up: Children must be at the bus stop before or at the designated time and must be accompanied by an adult at all times. The bus will depart promptly on schedule. If your child misses the bus, it will be your responsibility to get them to camp or to let us know s/he will not be attending camp that day.

Afternoon Drop-off: At the scheduled drop off time, the responsibility of the Meeting Waters YMCA ends whether an adult escort is present or not. Given the number of children and bus stops, we cannot wait for escorts who are tardy. Please be sure you, or a designated escort, are at the stop on time.

If you need to contact the bus, call the camp and we will relay a message or give you the number for the bus.

All expectations for behavior at camp apply to the bus ride as well. We reserve the right to exclude a child from the bus service for a specified period of time if their behavior is unsafe or inappropriate.

Camp Drop-off and Pick-up

Please do not drive up to the pavilion from 8:45-9:15 am or 3:45-4:00 pm. There are over 100 children and 20 staff members walking on the camp road at these times.

Please bring children to camp between 8:45 and 8:55 am at the lower parking lot just inside the camp entrance. You must wait with your child until the first bus arrives. Children should walk up to camp with campers and staff when the first bus arrives. Children may be picked up at the lower parking lot between 3:45 and 4 pm. You must pick your child up by 4:00. There is a \$1 per minute late pick-up fee starting at 4:00.

The watch of the staff member on pick-up duty will serve as the official time.



BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

The campers and staff will co-create a set of rules and expectations for their group within the first day of each session. However, there are baseline expectations.

Please review these expectations with your child prior to his/her first day at camp.

- ◆ Treat others the way you they want to be treated.
- ◆ Speak and act with respect and courtesy.
- ◆ Use kind, positive words.
- ◆ Respect others' bodies, feelings and personal space.
- ◆ Stay with the camp staff - It is never okay to leave your group unless you have the permission of one of the camp staff.
- ◆ Respect the property of the YMCA.
- ◆ Use sports, arts & craft and other equipment only for what they are made to do.
- ◆ Put things back where they belong.
- ◆ Keep all areas clean after use - throw away or recycle your trash and all trash you find.
- ◆ Always clean up after yourself.
- ◆ Keep track of your belongings.
- ◆ Be sure you have everything you started with when you move from one place to the next.
- ◆ **LABEL EVERYTHING YOU OWN** so it may be returned to you if it is found.
- ◆ Use others' belongings only if they have allowed you to do so.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our day camp's approach to discipline is based on showing respect to everyone with the ultimate goal of every child having fun while growing and learning. Should a discipline problem arise, we are committed to a seven-step progressive discipline process. The aim is to use the "problem" as a learning opportunity at each step along the way. In most cases we will start the process at the beginning. We reserve the right to begin the process at any step, including immediate dismissal from camp, for serious behavior problems.

Attending summer camp is beneficial to every child's personal development. The experience teaches essential leadership and social skills and helps youth develop confidence and independence.

DISCIPLINE PROCESS

The typical process is as follows:

- ◆ **Redirection:** Redirect the child away from the scene of the incident to a different activity or small group.
- ◆ **Talk with child(ren) about the incident:** Discuss what happened, how it could have been resolved and what will happen if the same behavior happens again.
- ◆ **Remove the child from the situation:** The child will be moved from the group and the activity to a quiet, supervised spot where he/she can calmly discuss the incident.
- ◆ **Incident Report:** Staff will complete an incident report and discuss the situation with the parent(s). The parents then need to sign and return the report to indicate their understanding of the need for behavior changes and consequences for future violations.
- ◆ **Call parent:** If a serious behavior problem occurs staff will contact the parent. In this case, a parent or designated escort must pick the child up within one hour of the phone call.
- ◆ **Meeting with the parent(s):** If violations of camp policies and expectations occur on a repeated basis or are related to physical or emotional safety, the child will not be allowed to return to camp until our staff has had an opportunity to meet with the parent (s). Such a meeting will focus on the concerns, potential solutions and behavioral guidelines to which the child must adhere in the future.
- ◆ **Removal from the Day Camp Program:** If the behavior continues or represents an immediate threat to others' physical and emotional safety, the child will be removed from the program without a chance to return. All program fees are non-refundable for dismissal based on behavioral problems. In addition, if the camper is registered for future camp sessions, the deposits for those sessions



COMMUNICATION

Parent-Camper-Staff Communications

A successful summer camp experience requires open, honest and caring communication between staff and campers as well as staff and parents. We all have the same goals... a safe, enriching experience for your child. Your child will be respected as an important resource in creating a camp experience that is meaningful and rewarding for him/her and the other campers. Given that common ground, we look forward to hearing your concerns, compliments and feedback and, should we have compliments or concerns, we will share them with you as well. Please contact the Camp Director at 802-885-8131.

Absences

You must call the camp phone number whenever your child is not able to attend the program for any reason. There is voicemail service on the phone so a message can be left any time, day or night.

Child Care Concern Line

We choose to license our Day Camp program as a School-Age Child Care Program with the Division of Child Care Licensing of the State of Vermont. The main reason we do this is so that working parents have the opportunity to take advantage of Subsidy Programs designed to assist middle and lower income families with the cost of quality child care. To be licensed requires our staff, facilities and curriculum to be of the highest quality. However, should you have any concerns, we encourage you to contact us and/or the State of Vermont's Child Care concern hotline at 1-800-540-7942.

HEALTH POLICIES

Sick Child Policy

These guidelines have been established for the comfort and well-being of your child and that of other children at camp. Children who do not feel well should stay home. If a child becomes ill while at camp, we will call you. State regulations require you to pick up your child within one hour of the call.

Sick Child Policy Continued

Children will not be permitted to come to camp if:

- ◆ They pose a significant health risk to other children,
- ◆ They are feeling so poorly that they require an excessive amount of time from staff,
- ◆ They feel so poorly they need comfort from their own parents.

In the event that your child develops or contracts a contagious disease or head lice, please contact the Meeting Waters YMCA within 24 hours.

Accidents and Injuries

We'd like to think that no child will be injured while in our care this summer, but given there will be 400 campers, injuries can happen. All camp staff are trained in CPR and community first aid. If a child has a minor injury he/she will be treated and cared for in the office until they feel ready to return to camp activities. You will be notified of the injury through a note from the Camp Counselor or the Camp Director.

In case of a medical emergency, the Director will take whatever steps necessary to ensure the safety of the child. These steps may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Attempt to contact parent/legal guardian
- ◆ Attempt to contact those listed on emergency form
- ◆ Attempts to contact child's physician.

If we cannot contact parent/guardian or physician we will do any or all of the following:

- ◆ contact another physician
- ◆ call an ambulance
- ◆ have child transported to the emergency care unit in the company of a camp staff member.

If the emergency warrants immediate care, a Camp Director will call an ambulance to transport the child to an emergency care unit and then proceed to contact parent/guardian.

Medical/ Health Insurance

We do not carry health or medical insurance for campers. Parents must include their own personal/family insurance information on the registration form. This information will be used only if outside medical assistance is required.

MEDICINES AT CAMP

If you indicated on your registration form that your child needs to receive medicine during camp hours, you will receive a Medication Release Form. If you do not receive this form, or if your child begins needing medication after you have already returned the registration forms, please call the office or stop by camp to fill out a form. All prescription medicines to be administered at camp must:

- ◆ Be brought in the original prescription container and include written instructions as to quantity, time for administration, name and phone number of the prescribing doctor, and any other directions;
- ◆ Be clearly labeled with the camper's name;
- ◆ Be accompanied by the Meeting Waters YMCA medication release form, or a copy is on file in the office;
- ◆ Be brought directly to a Camp Director or Senior Staff by the camper or their parent;
- ◆ There should be enough medication to last a session.

Please note: We do not dispense non-prescription medication such as aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen or over the counter allergy medicine. This should be taken before coming to camp if necessary.

Allergies/Asthma

If a child's health records indicate allergies/asthma, camp staff will discuss the symptoms and procedures for care with the child's parent(s). A special information sheet listing all medications, health issues and allergies will be kept at camp. Staff will be informed regularly of all health issues within their group. If a child has an allergy/asthma attack the staff will follow procedure for care as outlined on the special information sheet.

Children requiring an inhaler or epipen will not be permitted at camp without it.

Immunization Record/Health Form

Each child is required to have up to date immunizations as mandated by the Vermont Child Care Services Division. All health related information must be accurate and kept up to date. Please notify camp directors of any information changes during your child's time at camp.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Family Nights

We host Family Nights on 7/17, and 8/7. Campers, parents, grandparents, siblings and any other members of your family are welcome. Every family night is open to campers and their families from any session.

Campers will show you around camp; you may participate in activities that support our Healthy Family Home initiative; each group will present a skit or songs and we will end with a traditional campfire.

Please, no pets.

Camp Shirts

Beautifully designed camp T-shirts will be available for the low cost of \$10.00. We



will send ordering information home with your child during the session. T-shirts will be available by returning the form or at Family Night. We get parents' sizes too!

Protocol for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect

All camp staff is mandated to report any signs of child abuse or neglect as soon as there is reasonable cause to believe that abuse or neglect may have occurred. The following steps will, and must, be taken:

- ◆ The staff member immediately informs the Camp Director and completes an incident report which is given to the Camp Director.
- ◆ The Camp Director will review and evaluate the situation.
- ◆ The Camp Director, together with the staff member, will call the Division of Social Services within 24 hours of initial report.

Policy Regarding Staff Babysitting

YMCA staff may not be alone with program participants outside of YMCA programs (this includes babysitting). This policy is part of our stringent Child Abuse Prevention policies and practices.

MEETING WATERS YMCA

Strengthening the foundations of community in the Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, Springfield and Fall Mountain regions by fostering youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Main Office: 66 Atkinson Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 phone: 802-463-4769
Southern Office: 28 Vernon Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301 phone: 802-246-1036
Lewis Day Camp: Route 5/Missing Link Road, Springfield, VT 05156 phone: 802-885-8131

www.meetingwatersymca.org