



Stratham Recreation Day Camp

Located at Stratham Memorial School

2023 Family Handbook

Please be sure to review carefully

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Our mission is to provide a safe and engaging environment where Campers can participate in exciting recreational activities while fostering personal growth, friendship, and lifelong memories. We strive to create a positive and inclusive community that encourages self-discovery and teamwork among Campers and Staff.

2023 Family Handbook

Welcome to the Stratham Recreation Camp Family Handbook!

We are delighted to welcome you and your family to the Summer 2023 Stratham Recreation Day Camp. This handbook has been created to provide you with important information about our camp, its policies, and the resources available to you. It serves as a guide to ensure that everyone involved, including campers, parents, and staff, can have a positive and enriching experience.

At Stratham Rec Camp, we believe in creating a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where children can explore, have fun, and make lasting memories. Our camp is designed to provide a wide range of engaging activities, encourage opportunities for personal growth, and meaningful connections with peers and mentors.

This handbook aims to provide you with a comprehensive overview of our camp's policies, procedures, and expectations. It covers topics such as camp schedules, behavior guidelines, field trips, and communication channels. It is important that you review this handbook thoroughly and familiarize yourself with its contents.

We encourage you to use this handbook as a reference throughout your child's camp experience. It will serve as a valuable resource for answering frequently asked questions, addressing concerns, and understanding the underlying values and goals of our Camp's mission.

We believe that the success of our camp relies on open communication, collaboration, and mutual respect between the camp community and our families. As partners in your child's growth and development, we welcome your feedback, questions, and active involvement.

We are committed to ensuring that your child's time at Stratham Rec Camp is both enjoyable and meaningful. Our dedicated staff is here to support you and your child, and we look forward to creating a positive camp experience together.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your child. We are excited to embark on this journey with you and create lasting memories!

Warm regards,

Emma Hancock - Stratham Rec Camp Director
Autumn Agri - Stratham Rec Camp Assistant Director

Camp Vision

For our staff:

- Hire fun-loving, enthusiastic, highly motivated camp counselors.
- Provide training and resources to encourage collaboration and creativity among counselors and campers.
- Ensure staff are highly knowledgeable about camp policies and procedures.
- Establish and build strong connections to the Stratham community.

For our campers:

- Encourage enthusiastic participation in a variety of fun, engaging, collaborative activities.
- Provide a physically and emotionally safe environment that supports challenge by choice.
- Help foster respect, responsibility, and compassion.
- Provide programs and activities that help children grow with confidence while developing their talents.
- Create an environment that encourages new friendships and connections.

Weekly Themes

Week 1: July 10th Wacky Spirit

Welcome summer with some wacky spirit! Each day will see a different wacky theme, like crazy hat day, tie-dye day, and mismatch day. We will end the week with a special tie-dye craft for campers to wear throughout the summer! Specific themes will be announced to campers at the beginning of the week and communicated through TeamSnap!

Week 2: July 17th Wet N' Wild

This week, we'll dive into the world of water. We will be playing a lot of water games! We plan to get wet every day, so don't forget to bring your bathing suit and a towel!

Week 3: July 24th Superheroes

We'll find the hero in all of us this week. Who's your superhero? Be ready for a fun-filled week of superhero-themed activities, including our superhero day and our world-class superhero obstacle course competition.

Week 4: July 31st Olympics

This week, honor your Olympic Spirit by participating in fun Olympic-themed games. Teams will be awarded medals for competing in games, culminating in an Award Ceremony at the end of the week!

Week 5: August 7th Survivor

The last week of camp, and it's time to see which campers can hold on the longest and endure the physical challenges posed by our counselors. Campers will be pushed to be as creative as possible to make arts and crafts with the items provided to them.

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Daily Schedule at SMS

8:30 am	9:00 am	Camp drop-off
9:00 am	9:15 am	Morning Meeting
9:15 am	10:00 am	Rotation 1
10:00 am	10:15 am	Break / Morning Snack
10:15 am	11:00 am	Rotation 2
11:00 am	11:30 am	Recess
11:30 am	12:15 pm	Rotation 3
12:15 pm	1:15 pm	Lunch and Camp Choice
1:15 pm	1:45 pm	Social Time
1:45 pm	2:00 pm	Break
2:00 pm	2:30 pm	Whole Camp Activity
2:30 pm	3:00 pm	End of Camp Cheer and Dismissal

Weekly Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Full day at SMS	Full day at SMS	Full day at SMS	Field Trip to Wallis Sands Beach*	Half day at SMS / Half day at Stratham Hill Park

Monday-Wednesday: Campers will spend the entire day at Stratham Memorial School with a weekly special guest. The week's special guests will be communicated through Team Snap.

Thursday: Campers will take the bus to Wallis Sands Beach to spend the majority of the day there.

Friday: Campers will take a walking field trip to spend half the day over at Stratham Hill Park

**Week Three Campers will attend Wallis Sands Beach on Wednesday, 7/26, instead of Thursday, 7/27. They will have a full day at Stratham Memorial School on Thursday, 7/27.*

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Field Trips

Wallis Sands Beach

Campers can attend weekly trips to Wallis Sand Beach. Campers will be able to play in the water, on the sand, and picnic at the beach. Campers should bring their everyday camp belonging with additional sunscreen. Camper may also bring **up to \$5** for the Wallis Sand Snack Shack. Campers can only purchase snacks; lunch must be packed for beach field trips. The field trips to Wallis Sands are for Campers only at this time; **at this time, CITs will not attend Wallis Sand Field Trips.** Any changes to field trip attendance or schedule will be communicated through TeamSnap.

Wallis Sands Beach Schedule

8:30 am	9:00 am	Camp drop-off
9:00 am	9:15 am	Morning Meeting
9:15 am		Load up buses and leave for Wallis Sands Beach
9:50 am	1:45 pm	At Wallis Sands Beach
1:45 pm		Load up buses and leave for SMS
2:05 pm	2:30 pm	Arrive back at SMS and Recess
2:30 pm	3:00 pm	End of Camp Cheer and Dismissal

Stratham Hill Park

Campers and CITs will occasionally attend walking field trips to Stratham Hill Park using the walking trails between Stratham Memorial School and the town park. These walking field trips are scheduled for Fridays (pending weather), and campers will spend half of their day at the park. Campers and CITs will take their backpacks, snack, lunch, and other items with them. Campers and CITs will get to play on the Park's playground, walking trails, and fields with their group and counselors.

Friday Schedule for Stratham Hill Park

8:30 am	9:00 am	Camp drop-off
9:00 am	9:15 am	Morning Meeting
9:15 am	10:00 am	Recess
10:00 am	10:15 am	Break / Morning Snack
10:15 am	1:45 pm	Stratham Hill Park
1:45 pm	2:00 pm	Break
2:00 pm	2:30 pm	Recess
2:30 pm	3:00 pm	End of Camp Cheer and Dismissal

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Pick-Up & Drop-Off Procedures

Pick Up & Drop Off is located at Stratham Memorial School's parent pick-up on the side of the building. Please travel in a one-way direction through the parent drop-off, using the same direction as the school year parent pickup line. Please be sure to **drive safely and cautiously**; your child's safety is very important to us. Families may use one of the two pick-up/drop-off lanes marked by the cones/chalk.

Drop Off

8:30 am - 9:00 am

- Families, please remain in the car
- Campers cannot exit the car until they are checked in by a staff member
- Campers **must** exit the car using the passenger's side
- Campers will join their group after they are checked-in

Pick Up

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

- Please remain in the car & have the camper's **name plate visible on the dashboard** (this will be given to you on your first day of camp)
- Have your ID ready
- If your child is going home with another camper, please send a note that morning or update TeamSnap. No child will be permitted to go home with another camper without written permission.

What to Bring to Camp

Essentials for Camp

Please label everything with your camper's first and last name and their group!

- Backpack to carry/hold items
- Water bottle (please no glass bottles)
- Morning and Afternoon snacks
- Lunch
- Bathing Suit and Towel
- Weather-appropriate clothing (sunhat, rain jacket, sweatshirt, extra clothing if necessary)

Leave at Home

- Valuables include but are not limited to, cell phones and other electronics such as iPods, hand-held video games, etc.
- Bikes, skateboards, rollerskates, etc

Lost & Found

Families are urged to label all personal articles belonging to their camper, including lunch boxes. Families can also check the lost and found box located next to the checkout table for lost items. **Lost and found boxes will be cleaned out, and items will be donated at the end of camp each week.**

Stratham Recreation Day Camp is not liable for any lost or damaged personal articles/items.

Communication

Families are encouraged to communicate regularly with Stratham Rec Camp staff. If families have questions throughout the week or day, they can reach the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director using the contact information posted to Team Snap. The Camp Director and Assistant Camp Director's phone numbers will also be posted on your camper's nameplate used for Pickup.

TeamSnap

Stratham Rec Camp uses Team Snap to regularly keep in contact with families. **Please download the TeamSnap mobile app** to have quick and convenient access to messages or call the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director. Your TeamSnap account will have access to camp schedules and announcements.

Using TeamSnap

Please use TeamSnap for the following:

- Update authorized Pickup contacts and Emergency contacts (include first and last names as well as phone numbers to reach them).

It is important to have accurate and updated contact information if the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director needs to get a hold of you in an emergency. We recommend having at least three contacts listed on your camper's TeamSnap account.

- Notify us of changes in arrival times, dismissal times, or any attendance changes (if your camper is out for the day, please let us know!)
- Receive updates from the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director regarding schedules or special guests.



Behavior Expectations

We are thrilled to have your camper join us for an exciting and fun-filled summer. To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all campers and staff, we have established the following behavior expectations. We kindly request that families review these guidelines with their campers to help them understand the standards of behavior we uphold.

Respect Others:

- Treat fellow campers, camp staff, and volunteers with kindness, respect, and inclusivity.
- Embrace and appreciate the diversity of backgrounds, cultures, and abilities among campers and staff.
- Refrain from any form of bullying, teasing, or exclusionary behavior.

Listen to and Follow Instructions:

- Pay attention to instructions provided by camp staff and follow them fully.
- Seek permission from a staff member before leaving designated camp areas or engaging in any activity.

Use Positive Communication:

- Use kind and respectful language when interacting with others.
- Refrain from using foul language, derogatory remarks, or hurtful jokes.
- Resolve conflicts peacefully, seek assistance from camp staff if needed, and be a good listener.

Participate Actively and Engage:

- Embrace the opportunities provided by the camp and actively participate in activities and group discussions.
- Respect the rights and participation of others, listen attentively, and contribute positively to the camp community.

Maintain a Safe Physical Body

- Keep your hands and body to yourself
- Respect the space and boundaries of others.

Failure to adhere to these behavior expectations may result in appropriate consequences, which may include discussions, reminders, preferred activity restrictions, or, in extreme cases, temporary or permanent dismissal from the camp. Our primary goal is to create a safe and inclusive environment where campers can thrive, learn, and have a memorable summer camp experience.

Stratham Rec Day Camp Behavior Agreement

This document serves as a guideline for maintaining a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all camp participants. **By signing this contract, campers and their families acknowledge their commitment to following the specified expectations listed on Page 7 and understand the consequences of violating them.** The purpose of this contract is to promote positive behavior, personal growth, and a sense of responsibility among campers. To achieve these goals, this contract incorporates a warning and three-strikes policy.

1. **Verbal Warning:** A warning is an initial notice given to a camper for behavior that does not align with the established expectations of camp. It is designed to raise awareness and provide an opportunity for self-reflection and improvement. The warning will be communicated to the camper verbally, clearly identifying the specific behavior that needs to be addressed and the expected changes required. ***If your Camper has needed three or more verbal warnings on the same day, the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director will communicate this to a parent/guardian at pick-up or make a phone call home if necessary.***
2. **Loss of Privileges:** If the camper persists in inappropriate behavior after the verbal warning, they should be given a loss of privileges. This may involve a temporary removal from the activity or group or loss of certain privileges, such as participation in a preferred activity or game. The goal is to create a consequence that is appropriate and proportionates to the misbehavior while giving the camper an opportunity to reflect on their actions. A loss of privileges will **never** be centered around bathroom use, food, or water. ***After a loss of privileges, the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director will communicate this to a parent/guardian at pick-up or make a phone call home if necessary. Written documentation of the Camper's behavior will be recorded.***
3. **Removal from the Group:** If a camper's behavior is unsafe, putting themselves or others in harm's way, the Camper will be removed from the group and spend the needed time with the Camp Director and/or the Assistant Camp Director. ***If the camper's behavior continues to escalate or they cannot safely and successfully rejoin their group, the Camp Director and/or the Assistant Camp Director will contact a parent/guardian for early dismissal and discuss the next steps for the camper's success. Written documentation of the Camper's behavior will be recorded.***
4. **Break from Camp:** If a camper is still consistently struggling with following and respecting the expectations of camp and not keeping themselves and others safe, the Camp Director and/or the Assistant Camp Director may ask the parent/guardian to have their camper take the following day(s) off. ***If the unsafe behaviors continue after the initial break, another temporary or permanent removal from the summer camp program may be warranted. Written documentation of the Camper's behavior will be recorded.***

The Camp Director and Assistant Director have the ultimate say regarding behavioral consequences.

Stratham Rec Day Camp Behavior Agreement

The Stratham Rec Day Camp Staff are committed to the following expectations when navigating Camper behavior and success:

Clear Communication: Ensure that camp rules and the behavior expectations are clearly communicated to both campers and their parents/guardians before the camp begins. This will provide a framework for addressing behavioral patterns.

Consistency: Apply the behavior expectations consistently to all campers to promote fairness and a sense of community. Consistency is crucial for campers to understand the consequences of their actions and to feel that they are being treated fairly.

Positive Reinforcement: While the behavior expectations focus on addressing inappropriate behavior, it's equally important to recognize and reinforce positive behavior. Encourage and reward campers who consistently exhibit good behavior, as this will help create a positive camp environment.

Individual Differences: Take into account individual differences and the age group of the campers when implementing the behavior expectations. Younger campers may require more frequent reminders and reinforcements, while older campers may respond better to logical consequences or peer-mediated interventions.

Remember that the ultimate goal is to create a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable summer camp experience for all campers while helping them learn and grow, and, most importantly, have fun!

By signing below, campers and their parents/guardians acknowledge that they have read and understood the terms of this Behavior Contract and agree to comply with its provisions throughout the summer recreation camp.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date