

2026

June 2026 / Vol 70

Elmwood Handbook

2026 Guide for Families



See you at camp!

**Transportation
Information**



Mark your calendars!

**Important
Dates**

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Elmwood Day Camp
900 Dobbs Ferry Road
White Plains, NY 10607
(914) 592-6121

CAMP DATES & STRUCTURE

Camp Dates

Monday, June 29th-Thursday, August 20th

Closed: Friday, July 3rd to celebrate Independence Day

Camp Structure

Stepping Stones: Children entering a 3's, 4's or kindergarten class in the fall.

Lower Village: Children entering 1st or 2nd grade in the fall.

Upper Village: Children entering 3rd or 4th grade in the fall.

Upper Village Seniors: Children entering 5th or 6th grade in the fall.

The Group

Every child will be placed in a group of up to 15 children. The group will have two to three counselors who will spend the entire day with their campers.

Every two to three groups will have a Division Head. Our Division Heads are experienced teachers, school psychologists, social workers or other professionals in the field of education. They will oversee the groups, mentor the counselors, communicate with parents/guardians and work to ensure a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for our campers and staff.

COMMUNICATION



Camp Office Summer Hours:
Monday-Friday 6:30 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Camp Office Phone Number:
(914) 592-6121



We are always interested in speaking with you about your children. Please do not hesitate to call our office to speak with your child's Division Head, Gregg or Hillari.



A phone call is the best way to reach us. During the camp day we are not able to regularly check email.



You will receive emails and texts throughout the summer regarding late stays, hikes and other camp events.



Weekly photos will be posted on the Companion app.



Check your email for our weekly summer recaps!



"Follow" us on Instagram and "like" us on Facebook!



DAILY

PACKING LIST

Each day, please pack the following items in your camper's backpack. ALL ITEMS BROUGHT TO CAMP (EVEN SHOES) SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELED WITH YOUR CAMPER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME AND GROUP NAME.

CAMPERS MUST WEAR ATHLETIC SNEAKERS AND SOCKS TO CAMP EVERYDAY!

Many campers choose to wear their first bathing suit to camp.

2 bathing suits (even on rainy days)

Pool shoes

Sunscreen

Change of underwear and shorts if needed for after swim

Raincoat (in case of rain)

Goggles (if desired)

Hat (if desired)

A filled water bottle

*ONLY ONE BATHING SUIT IS
NEEDED FOR OUR
STEPPING STONES HALF-DAY
AND MINI-DAY CAMPERS.*

NEW FOR 2026

In-camp daily towel service.

There is no longer a need to pack towels.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Medical Team & Facility

Our long-time nurse, Diane Rakoff, will oversee the Health Office. We also partner with Dr. Samantha Lowe, a White Plains Hospital Pediatrician. She will be available to consult with us via telephone throughout the camp day.

Our Health Office will be located outdoors with access to an indoor space when needed. If a camper is not feeling well, they will have adequate space to be cared for that is separate from other campers.

Medical Forms

The Westchester County Department of Health requires that all campers submit medical forms prior to the start of camp. Those forms are the Online Health History, the Physician's Examination and Medication Consent Form, an Immunization Report, and the Sunblock and Insect Repellent Form. For campers with food or insect bite allergies, an allergy form is required as well.

Medication at Camp

In order for any camper to receive medication at camp, the Physician's Exam and Medication Consent Form must be filled out and signed by the parent/guardian and the child's physician. Over the counter medications are provided by camp when needed, but we will always call a parent/guardian first to discuss the use of Tylenol or Benadryl.

If sending in other over-the-counter medications, please deliver them prior to your child's first day of camp. If sending in prescription medications, they must be in the original pharmacist's container, and the Medication Consent Form needs to be submitted with specific timing and dosage instructions.

Illness During the Summer

If your child is not feeling well in the morning or has a fever, please do not send your child to camp. Your partnership is critical in helping to keep our entire camp community safe and healthy. We are committed to calling you if your child becomes ill or injured at camp.



LUNCH & SNACK

Our carefully planned menu is made with fresh, high quality ingredients and love! Morning snacks are served every day and will include a wide variety of options.

Each camp group is assigned a lunch time and a specific set of tables that will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized between each lunch period.

Each group will have a designated time in our food service area where Leadership Team members will serve the children from our covered food bars.

An afternoon ice cream treat, frozen juice bar or cookie snack is served daily.

Our comprehensive food listing and allergen guide is available upon request.

Our food service is 100% peanut and tree nut free. Gluten-free items are available every day. Please contact Hillari about any allergies or concerns.

CAMPER DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

Camper Morning Drop-Off
8:25-8:45 am

Camper Afternoon Pick-Up
4:10-4:20 pm

Procedures

Our commitment to your child's health and safety requires elaborate and specific procedures. We both appreciate and need your cooperation to ensure the safety of our entire community.

Please have your family ID tag hanging from your rearview mirror PRIOR to your arrival at camp. Arrive only during the drop-off/pick-up windows noted above.

Drop-off and pick-up may take up to 15 minutes once you arrive at camp.

Please ensure that your child is wearing their camper name tag on their first three days of camp.

When you pull into camp, please follow staff directions carefully, drive slowly and follow the flow of traffic.

When directed to do so, please put your car in park. Please remain in your vehicle, and a staff member will help your child(ren) out of/into the car. In the morning, staff will escort children to their assigned group.

You will be directed as to when to pull out of camp safely.

We must be notified in advance before all late arrivals and early departures.

Late Arrivals

Vehicles will not be permitted to enter camp between 8:45-9:15 am. Late arrivals must happen after 9:15 am.

Early Departures

Early departures MUST be at one of the following times:

11:00 am

1:00 pm

2:30 pm

3:00 pm

Our police and fire authorities require that we keep all local streets clear of parked and standing cars. This includes Green Acres Lane, Palisades Avenue, Landers Manor Road and the firehouse adjacent to camp.

Our commitment to your child's SAFETY and WELL-BEING requires elaborate transportation procedures. We both need and appreciate your cooperation.

Campers are assigned to a specific bus or van for the summer. Campers will not be able to ride on unassigned vehicles for the purpose of playdates or other reasons.

You MUST notify the office of any transportation change. You can do so by calling the office or submitting a written note. Please give all written communication directly to your child's bus counselor.

Do not email transportation changes.

If your child will not be coming to camp, please call Elmwood in the morning.

Grown-ups will not be able to enter the camp vehicle.

In the afternoon, the bus counselor must see a known adult before dropping the camper off.

Our bus counselors will be visiting the homes of our campers the week before camp for a meet and greet. They will introduce themselves and provide you with their contact information for the summer.

A photograph showing the interior of a bus. In the foreground, a woman (the bus counselor) is talking to a young girl with long dark hair. Behind them, other children are visible, including a boy in a blue shirt and a girl in a pink cap. The bus has large windows and an "EMERGENCY EXIT" sign above a door.

CAMP

TRANSPORTATION

CAMP PROGRAM

Group Schedules

We will mail schedules home at the start of the summer. Please note that scheduled activities may be adjusted from time to time.

Swim

Daily swim instruction occurs in our three heated pools. Every child is assessed by our Water Safety Instructors and placed in the appropriate American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim level.

At the end of your child's first week, we will send home a postcard telling you what group they are in and what skills they are working on. Look for a special swim envelope in your child's backpack.

As campers pass levels, you will receive email communication with the exciting news.

Club

Club is a daily activity where 1st through 4th graders participate in an elective. Every Friday, campers will choose an elective for the following week. We offer a range of exciting Clubs. This is a great opportunity for campers to specialize in areas of greatest interest to them.

Second Grade Specialties

Second Grade Specialties happen every other week and expose campers to workshops in magic, circus arts, and martial arts.

Upper Village Intensives

"Intensives" is often Upper Villagers favorite time of the day! 3rd and 4th grade campers pick one Intensive from the following four choices.

Discovery: Robotics and Engineering

League: Competitive Sports

Performance: Rehearse and perform an original show

Art V.I.B.E.: Fine Arts Experience

Majors and Minors

5th and 6th graders have the opportunity to specialize even further. They choose Majors where they receive 90 minutes of instruction in their chosen field. Majors last for two weeks. Campers also choose a weekly minor.

CAMP PROGRAM

Rainy Day

We intend on staying outdoors unless there is thunder/lightning or heavy rain.

When we must go inside, campers are provided with a wide range of indoor activities including: movies, gaga, science, yoga, game shows, and arts and crafts.

Upper Village campers will often travel to the nearby Leffell School for use of the indoor gymnasium or other local facilities such as bowling alleys and movie theaters.

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays at camp! Division Heads will announce birthdays daily at morning meetings and give the birthday camper a hat and fuzzy. Birthdays are celebrated in each child's group with Elmwood cupcakes. Please do not send any additional treats.

Hiking & Trips

All campers entering 2nd grade and above will go on a group hike. Hike locations are:

2nd Grade: Turkey Mountain

3rd Grade and above: Harriman State Park

On the day of the hike, please have your child wear long pants, socks and sneakers and pack a refillable water bottle. We recommend spraying your camper's pants and sneakers with insect repellent in the morning and strongly suggest checking them for ticks upon their arrival home. Camp will be providing lunch and snacks for their hike.

Special Events

Special Events are unique programs and theme days filled with Elmwood traditions and a few surprises. Throughout the summer, every age group participates in their own special events. Every other week, we also have exciting all-camp programs. Check out the camp calendar for specific dates and details.

Dress Up Days

Dress up days take place weekly. Please refer to your Elmwood calendar, and be on the lookout for email and text reminders and updates.

STEPPING STONES

(entering a 3's class, a 4's class or Kindergarten)

Sarah Berkowitz

Lauren Dermody

Rachel Fein

Miranda Kalle

Lindsay Ross

LOWER VILLAGE

(entering 1st or 2nd grade)

Jen Stein-Lower Village Director

Morgan Jaffee

Delilah Kalle

Brittany Marcus

Adam Newman

Emma Tashoff

Elizabeth Villegas

UPPER VILLAGE & SENIORS

(entering 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th grade)

Julie Rubin-Upper Village Director

Kathy Benitez

Michael Berkowitz

Fred Kahn

Sean McInerney

Molly Raik

Christina Zrowka

SUMMER DIVISION HEADS

Camper orientation is for campers entering a nursery 3's class through campers entering kindergarten and NEW campers entering 1st through 2nd grade. For older campers who want to visit camp before the first day, please reach out to Hillari or Gregg to arrange an individual appointment. Please arrive no earlier than five minutes before the scheduled start time.

Campers Entering a 3's Class Wednesday, June 24th

10:30 am-11:30 am

Campers Entering a 4's Class Saturday, June 20th

SS4A-12:30-1:30 pm

SS4B-2:15-3:15 pm

SS4C-11:00 am-12:00 pm

SS4D-2:15-3:15 pm

SS4E-3:45-4:45 pm

Campers Entering Kindergarten Saturday, June 20th

SSKA-11:00 am-12:00 pm

SSKB-12:30-1:30 pm

SSKC-2:15-3:15 pm

SSKD-3:45-4:45 pm

SSKE-12:30-1:30 pm

SSKF-3:45-4:45 pm

SSKG-2:15-3:15 pm

NEW Campers Entering 1st Grade Saturday, June 20th

9:30-10:30 am

NEW Campers Entering 2nd Grade Saturday, June 20th

11:00 am-12:00 pm

GROUP BBQS

Campers entering 1st through 3rd grade will have a special late stay after camp. We look forward to hosting these evenings which include a camper pool party followed by a camper/grown-up activity and barbeque.

Grown-ups, please plan on arriving at 5:30 pm.

LV1A, LV1B, LV1C, LV1D & LV1E

Wednesday, July 22nd

LV1F, LV1G, LV1H, LV1I & LV1J

Wednesday, July 15th

LV2A, LV2B & LV2C

Tuesday, July 14th

LV2F, LV2G, LV2H & LV2I

Monday, July 20th

UV3A, UV3B, UV3C & UV3D

Monday, July 27th

UV3F, UV3G, UV3H & UV3I

Tuesday, July 28th

UPPER VILLAGE LATE STAYS & OVERNIGHTS

Campers entering 3rd grade through 6th grade will have some trips and events that require late pick-ups. Please plan to pick your child(ren) up at Elmwood on the dates listed below. There will be additional trips listed on the calendar with regular transportation home.

Wednesday, July 8th

Seniors Quassy Amusement park-7 pm

Wednesday, July 15th-Thursday, July 16th

Seniors Club Getaway Overnight
(regular transportation home)

Thursday, July 16th

4th Grade Splashdown Beach-6 pm

Wednesday, July 22nd

Seniors Camelbeach-7:30 pm at Leffell

Tuesday, August 4th

3rd Grade Splashdown Beach-6 pm

Wednesday, August 5th

4th Grade Super Late Stay-8 pm

Wednesday, August 5th-Thursday, August 6th

Seniors MA Overnight-7:30 pm on August 6th

CAN I SEND MY CHILD TO CAMP WITH A CELL PHONE OR TABLET?

We love a technology-free summer at Elmwood!
Please do not send your child with a cell phone, smart watch or other personal technology device.

How can I contact my child's Division Head?

Never hesitate to call!
(914) 592-6121

How can I contact Gregg and Hillari?

(914) 592-6121
gregg@elmwooddaycamp.com
hillari@elmwooddaycamp.com

Emails are checked in the early morning and evening only. At other times, please call!

WHAT DO I DO IF I NEED TO ADJUST MY CHILD'S TRANSPORTATION?

You **MUST** notify the office of any transportation changes. You can do so by calling the office or submitting a written note.

If sending a note, please give it directly to your child's bus counselor or the greeter at camper drop-off.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK. PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL TRANSPORTATION NOTES.

WHAT IS THE TIPPING POLICY AT ELMWOOD?

Elmwood is a non-tipping camp. We believe this is consistent with the values of our camp community. If you choose, cards of appreciation from campers and families are always welcome.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS