



Questions Often Asked Before Camp – (With 2021 Updates)

Q. Our child has never been to Deerkill before and has some fears about the first day. What should we do?

A. Children are remarkably perceptive. Your own concerns are easily communicated. If you have confidence that your child can deal successfully with new situations, he or she will almost certainly fulfill your expectation. Assure your child that concern about new experiences is perfectly normal, and communicate confidence in your child's ability to deal with this new situation. But don't belabor the point – constant reassurances are not reassuring.

We do encourage all of our parents to have their children wear a mask for a few days PRIOR to camp, if only to prepare for what it will feel like when riding the bus or from time to time at camp. Having this experience will ease this transition, especially if they put on their “superhero” masks and can make a game of it.

We love to watch little children as they get off the bus the first day. Almost invariably they get off excited to meet their new camp friends. (We also have bus counselors on all of our buses, and counselors are always waiting to greet new campers as they get off of their buses the first day.)

Q. How can we tell if our children are doing well at camp?

A. If your children are happy they are probably doing just fine. But if you have any questions or concerns please call. We will be happy to have your child's Group Leader call you at a convenient time. We will also be sending out surveys and your child's Group Leader will call you the first few weeks of camp.

We encourage our counselors to discuss any problems their campers may be having with the Camp Directors and with parents. Please don't hesitate to call if you believe your child has a problem at camp.

Q. Remind me, what should we send with our child to camp?

A. In a typical year we ask that parents send their children in with two bathing suits (which stay at camp for the week), a change of clothes (for younger campers who may require them) and a labeled bottle of sunscreen to keep at camp for reapplication during the day (please do apply sunscreen each morning prior to the start of camp). Sunscreen sprays work great for covering the body while sunscreen sticks are easiest when applying to the face. We also encourage all campers to wear baseball caps and, if possible, long sleeve UV shirts for swimming. **THIS YEAR WE ALSO ASK PARENTS TO SEND THEIR CHILD IN WEARING A MASK (FOR THE BUS RIDE) AND WITH A SECOND LABELED MASK TO BE HELD BY THE GROUP COUNSELOR FOR THE WEEK, TO BE HANDED OUT TO CAMPERS AS NEEDED.** Group counselors will be carrying the masks in individual bags for each camper in the staff backpack they wear.

Q. Should I send snacks in with my child?

A. We have unlimited food during lunch and a snack in the afternoon. Nevertheless, if your children are very hungry when they get off the bus, you may send a nutritious snack for your child to eat **after** arriving at camp or **prior** to boarding the bus for the ride home. Out of respect for campers with allergies, please do not send any snacks containing nuts. We also ask that you do not send chocolate as it tends to melt and make a mess. Please note that snacks are not allowed to be eaten on the bus for safety reasons.

Q. What screening process are you conducting on a daily basis?

A. All parents/guardians of campers as well as staff will need to complete a **DAILY SCREENING FORM** prior to boarding the bus or arriving at camp, confirming they do not have a fever, they do not have symptoms and have not been exposed to anyone with symptoms – this is per NY State guidelines. We will be sending this link to you by email prior to camp and it will also be available on the Deerkill camp app.

FOR MORE Q&A'S, PLEASE TURN OVER



Q. Should we bother you with our children's "silly little problems"?

A. If your child feels something is a problem then it is not a "silly little problem." Virtually all of the small issues that we hear about after the summer would have been easily corrected if we had known about them earlier. Please don't hesitate to call us. We are available every evening Sunday through Thursday.

Q. What about our children's health?

A. Make sure your children get enough sleep and lots of water. We encourage our children to drink lots of water during the day. Remind them that when their counselors tell them to drink as their group passes our many water fountains that they should – we will have individual cups available. Encourage your children to drink water when they get home, and on very hot days discourage them from running around outside after dinner. (Some children do not like to drink water - we have found that usually when children are “tired” after they get home it is because they aren’t drinking enough water before and after camp.)

People ask us about ticks and mosquitoes. We have neither the brush nor the heavy vegetation that encourages the presence of deer ticks. Nevertheless, do look at your children when they bathe at night. Fortunately, we do not have an issue with mosquitoes at Deerkill and bug spray is rarely required.

If you have health questions please do call and ask to speak with one of our Camp Nurses. Also, if you have questions about your child's health before your child leaves for camp just give us a call early in the morning and they will call you back.

Q. How can I get in contact with my child during the camp day?

A. If you need to contact your child during the camp day, you may call the main office at (845) 354-1466. Please do not send cell phones in with your child. We have a strict no electronics policy here at camp and all iPods, Kindles, Game Boys and cell phones will be confiscated if they are being used during the camp day. Although we do allow phones and game devices on the bus (which can be locked up at camp), we have found that often electronics that are brought to camp are lost. Please leave them at home if at all possible.

Q. When can we visit camp?

A. Unfortunately this year due to state regulations regarding COVID-19, there will be no parent visiting permitted.

Please do not hesitate to call with any other questions you may have.

See you soon!

Todd and Rebecca