

Questions Often Asked Before Camp

Q. When will we receive our children's bus and group information?

A. You will receive this important information the week before camp. If you have any special request for group placement or pick-up and drop-off timing, please do not wait to receive the letter. Many times we can accommodate special requests if we have enough advance notice. If you *do not want* your contact information shared with your child's group, please call or email us to let us know by June 1st.

Q. We are registered for the second session. Can we use the weekend club in the first session?

A. All parents and campers are members of our weekend club throughout the summer. Grandparents are also welcome without charge. Siblings of campers who are camp-age (3-yo) and above but who are not enrolled campers are charged \$10 for their summer weekend membership. Guests of our camper families, including family members not including siblings and grandparents (e.g. cousins), are welcome with a fee of \$7 for adults and children (15 and under).

Q. Our child has never been to Deerkill before and has some fears about coming to camp 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 love to watch little children as they get off the bus the first day. Almost invariably they get off holding the hand of a new friend - usually a child a year or two older who has magically assumed the role of "big brother" or "big sister". (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.)

Everyone is encouraged to bring their young children to our weekend club on the Saturday or Sunday before camp—June 25th and June 26th. (Our weekend club, but not camp, will also be open on Monday July 4th). Our new campers will find that our beginner pool is warm and shallow. They will make new friends and look forward to their first day of camp.

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. When can we visit camp?

A. You can visit anytime except lunchtime (11:30 to 1:30). All you have to do is call ahead to let us know when you're coming. When you arrive, you will sign in at the gate and receive your nametag. It is best to come either early in the morning (9:30), or early in the afternoon (1:30). Please note that if you arrive after 2:30 PM, you will be requested to park across the street from our entrance.

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. Encourage your children to drink water when they get home, and on very hot days don't let them run around outside after dinner. (Some children do not like to drink water. And we have found that usually when children are "tired" after they get home it is because they don't drink enough water when their counselors encourage them to do so.)

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.

If you have health questions please do call and ask for our nurse. 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 she will call you back.

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 **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 on the bus as it tends to melt and make a mess. Please note that state law does not allow snacks to be eaten on the bus.

Q. Should I send sunscreen in with my child?

A. We have lots of shade at camp, but of course children are in the sun while they are playing ball sports or swimming in the pool. We recommend waterproof sunscreens. The new lotions really do not wash off, but it is still important to put it on heavily – most people do not put enough on. Please apply sunscreen each morning and also send in a labeled bottle with your child at the start of the summer – our counselors will ensure that it is re-applied in the afternoon. 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.

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 and all iPods, 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.

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

See you soon!