

Discovery Day Camp FAQ

Our camp are inspected twice and licensed by the Albany County Department of Health. Inspection reports can be reviewed at the Elm Avenue Park Office.

1. **What are the camp hours?** Camp hours are 9:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M. Monday-Friday. Check-in will not start until 9:00A.M. sharp each morning.
2. **Is there an early/late care option?** Yes, you may enroll your child in an early and/or late care program. Early care is 7:45-9:00 A.M. and late care is 4:30-5:45 P.M.
3. **What is the counselor to camper ratio?** Children will be split into small group sizes with the same counselors for the week. Department of Health ratios for day camps in NYS are 1:12 and these ratios can change depending on the type of activity. For specific information, please visit: <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/>
4. **Will masks be required?** We suggest families follow [CDC mask guidance](#). Camper will not be required to wear masks outdoors at Discovery Day Camp.
5. *(Please note: Mask guidance is subject to change based on local or state requirements).*
6. **Can my child be placed in a group with their friend?** We will try our best to place children with their friends, however due to the amount of requests and limited group sizes, all request may not be possible. Please email friend requests to hmaltby@townofbethlehem.org.
7. **Is there a Health Director on site?** No. The Health Director visits the camp on a weekly basis to oversee the implementation of the written safety plans' medical components and is available by phone during the camp day. The Health Director reviews and maintains campers' confidential medical histories with the Camp Director before the start of each week.
8. **Are counselors CPR/AED or First Aid certified?** The Camp Director, Assistant Director and some additional staff are certified in CPR/AED and First Aid. All staff receive basic training on first aid, emergency epi pen administration and inhalers at staff training.
9. **Is there someone on site that can administer medication?** No. Self-administration procedures are used at our camps. To learn more about these procedures, please contact the Park Office at 518-439-4955 option 7.
10. **When is payment due?** Payment for the first week of camp is due at the time of registration. Payment for all other weeks is due by June 1. Online registration must be paid in full at time of registration.
11. **Are there any sort of discounts?** Yes! New in 2022 we have implemented a sibling discount of \$10 off one sibling's registration fee and a \$30 discount if you register for all 6 weeks of camp!
12. **What is your cancellation/refund policy?** You must call the Parks & Recreation Office to report a cancellation (518-439-4955 option 7). CAMP STAFF DO NOT REPORT CANCELLATIONS. There will be a 10% processing fee for each week paid or you can choose to have the payment go back on your household account without the processing fee.

Once camp has started, cancellation requests must be received **prior to the start of the second day** of the registered session. No refund will be issued if the cancellation request is not received prior to the start of the second day of the registered session. There will be a 10% processing fee and you will receive to a pro-rated

refund. Refunds take approximately 4-6 weeks by check. Household credits may also be issued and do not require the processing fee. Household credits apply instantly to your account.

13. **Where are the camp forms?** Once you have registered you will receive an email from e-Pact directing you to fill out all required forms online. Your child's e-Pact account must be completed before your child can attend camp.
14. **What should my child bring to camp each day?** Everyday children should bring a backpack with a packed lunch (non-perishable and peanut/tree nut free preferred), large water bottle, hand sanitizer, swim suit, towel, sneakers, and FDA approved sunscreen. **PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME.**
Optional (but helpful) items include: a snack, bug spray, flip flops or other pool appropriate footwear, and an extra set of clothes.
15. **Can counselors apply sunscreen and/or bug spray to my child?** Yes, only if you have signed the authorization form in e-Pact. Please label sunscreen/bug spray with your child's name and APPLY BEFORE arriving at camp. The Camp does not provide sunscreen, as advised by the Albany County Department of Health. Counselors are trained to apply and reapply sunscreen/bug spray throughout the day. For medical & safety reasons we can only apply the products that you send with your child, if you give us permission to do so.
16. **Do counselors perform tick checks?** Yes! Counselors are trained to do visual tick checks on campers throughout the day as well as teaching the campers to check their own body.
17. **Can my child bring their electronic device?** Please leave all electronic devices and toys at home. Not only do items tend to get misplaced at camp, we also want the campers to enjoy the activities and summer camp experience without the distraction of electronics or arguing over toys. The Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for lost or damaged personal property.
18. **Where do the children go if there is extreme weather?** Children will stay under the large and small pavilions for the majority of the day, however, the Warming Area and Park Office conference room are often utilized in cases of extreme weather. When indoors, unvaccinated campers will be required to wear a mask (*Please note: Mask guidance is subject to change based on local or state requirements*).

19. **How do you assess children for swimming?**

New York State Children's Camp regulations require us to swim test all campers. Campers are swim tested on their first day of camp by aquatic staff that possess a Water Safety Instructor (WSI) certification to determine if they are a "swimmer" or "non-swimmer" and will be identified as such **via color coded plastic wrist bands that they should keep on their wrist for the week.** Non-swimmers (**red bracelets**) are permitted in the shallow end of the "L" shape and splash Islands only. Swimmers (**green bracelet**) can use all pools. The aquatic staff conduct the swim test requirements with all campers before they swim. If a camper gets a red bracelet, they are given feedback on what they should work on in order to earn a green bracelet.

Discovery Day Camp swim test requirements come from the Waterfront Safety Instructor course materials and NYS children's camp requirements of identifying "swimmers" and "non-swimmers."

Discovery Day camp test requirements for "swimmers" aka green bracelets are as follows:

1. Take their swim test in the Olympic pool
2. Feet first entry into water greater than chest deep and completely submerged
3. Swim 20 meters, swim using the front crawl and use rhythmic breathing.
4. Exit from water using the ladder

** Please note, if campers place feet on the bottom of the pool or dog paddle, campers will automatically earn a red bracelet. Any camper that doesn't feel comfortable in the Olympic Pool will test in the L-shape pool and receive a red bracelet.* Campers may request a re-test the next time we visit the pool if they did not succeed the first time.

We employ a "Buddy System" when swimming. This means campers are paired up with another camper of the same swimming ability. They must remain with their buddy at all times and "Buddy Checks" are conducted every 15 minutes.

21. **What supervision is employed during swimming?** Lifeguards and camp counselors are in charge of supervision at the pool complex.
22. **What kind of activities do the children do at camp?** The daily schedule varies by day and age group, however children will utilize all areas of Elm Avenue Park, including the pool complex (weather permitting). Activities range from arts & crafts, team-building games, sports or large group games, nature-based activities, swimming, playground, on-site special events, and more!
23. **How can I get ahold of someone at the camp during the day?** Please call the Park Office with any questions and/or concerns at 518-439-4955 option 7. Use the camp cell phone number **only when it is an emergency**. The camp cell number will be provided in a welcome email before your child attends camp!