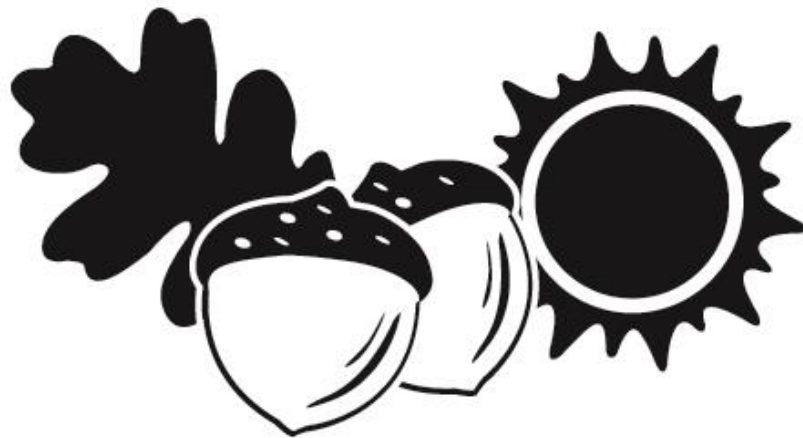


DEDHAM COMMUNITY HOUSE

SUMMER CAMP

2019

PARENT HANDBOOK



DCH

SUMMER CAMP

The Dedham Community House Summer Day Camp complies with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and is licensed by the Dedham Board of Health.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Dedham Community House (DCH) Summer Camp Program is to provide a fun, safe, comfortable, enriching, and reliable environment that fosters emotional maturity and promotes the physical, social and intellectual well-being of the school-aged child. We seek to balance attention to children as individuals and group members.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Camp:

Jamie O’Sullivan, DCH Camp Director
Jeremy Birkline, DCH Teen Camp Program Director

Camp Phone #: 781-329-3500

Dedham Community House:

Michelle Persson Reilly, Executive Director
Jennifer Putnam, DCH Program Director
Diana Walsh, Office Manager

DCH Main Office #: 781-329-5740



HOURS OF OPERATION

Regular camp hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We do offer an extended hours program starting at 7:00 am and ending at 6:00 p.m. Please refer to the extended hours policy and procedures for extended hours pricing.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Please note that camp will be closed on July 4th, when it falls on a weekday, in accordance with the Independence Day national holiday.



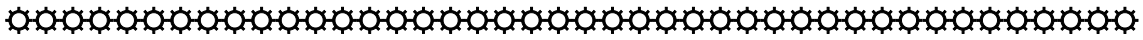
DROP OFF AND PICK UP

For your child’s safety and to avoid traffic jams, parents are asked to enter DCH via the circular drive at the corner of High and Ames Streets, forming two (2) lanes on either side of the driveway. A camp staff member will then meet your child at the car and escort him/her to the camp check-in table. Parents should exit the property via Ames Street. This driveway is one-way – again, enter at the corner and exit via Ames Street. At pick up, enter and exit this same way and a camp staff member will bring your child to the car. Please use caution and travel at 5 MPH. DO NOT EXIT YOUR VEHICLE as it causes traffic jams. If you wish to escort your child into camp, please park in one of the metered spaces on High Street and walk your child to the camp check-in table. When using the driveway during drop-off and pick-up please be sure to have your Driveway Placard visible to DCH Camp Staff.

If a child is to go home with someone other than the designated person(s), parents must send a note or, in the case of an emergency, must telephone the camp office at (781) 329-3500, with full details. The person picking up should not go through the driveway line unless they have a Driveway Placard (see below).

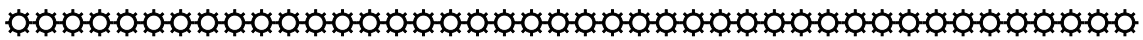
DRIVEWAY PACARDS

You will receive two (2) pick-up placards at Meet the Counselors Day or on your camper's first day of camp. Pick-up placards will be used to ensure we match children to the people who are supposed to pick them up. Please keep the placard in your car and be ready to show it to camp staff at pick up time by placing it on the driver's side of your dash board. The placard will have your child's name(s) and group(s) and our camp logo. If you do not have your placard we will ask for ID at pick up time. If your child will be picked up in different cars or by another authorized person, please make sure the extra placard is passed on to the necessary people. If this is not possible, the person picking up should park on the street and walk to the camp office for pickup with their photo ID.



ATTENDANCE POLICY

If your child will be absent, please call the Camp Office at (781)329-3500. We will call parents/guardians/other contact name to verify all absences not brought to our attention.



CAMPER RELEASE PLAN

DCH Campers will only be released to their parents/guardians or individuals designated by their parents/guardians in writing. Acceptable forms of written notification include:

- 1) DCH Pick-up & Emergency Form
- 2) Written note signed by the parent
- 3) E-mail sent to camp leadership from parent/guardian

Campers 10 years of age and older can be released at the end of each camp day to walk home with written permission provided to the camp that will be kept in the camper's file. Written permission needs to only be provided once. Walkers will not be released until 4:00 pm each day and they must check-out with their Head Counselor and one of the Camp Directors before leaving each day. The camp must be notified in any event of a change such as a parent pick-up, etc. Notification can be made via a phone message, written note or an e-mail to the camp.



CAMP ATTIRE AND WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

Your child should wear t-shirt, shorts, underwear, sneakers and socks and on cooler days a sweatshirt or jacket. In the event of rainy weather, please pack an extra set of clothes for your child. **Clogs, sandals, flip flops or bare feet are not allowed.** Parents must apply sunscreen each day before arrival. Sunscreen and insect repellent (summer is tick season) will be re-applied periodically throughout the day.

Please also send to camp:

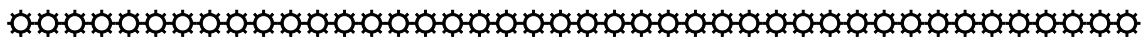
- Hat or visor
- Bathing suit and towel
- Sun block--SPF 30 or more is strongly recommended
- Insect repellent
- Water bottle
- A mid-morning snack (**to be packed in the backpack separately from lunch**), lunch and afternoon snack (to be packed together in the lunchbox / lunch bag as these items will be kept refrigerated)

Each item that comes to camp must be clearly marked with your child's name. The Dedham Community House Summer Day Camp is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items. At the end of the summer season all lost and found items will be donated to a local charity organization after Labor Day.

Do not send to camp

- Video Games
- Computers/iPads/Tablets
- Toys of any kind including sports equipment
- Cards (Pokémon, Bakugan, etc.)
- Cell Phones
- Music Players
- Gum and Candy
- Pocket Knives/Weapons: **NO PERSONAL BOWS ALLOWED FOR ARCHERY**
- Medications not prescribed by a physician.

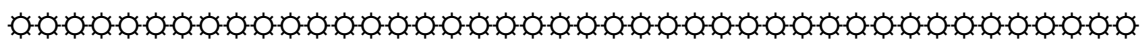
Any unauthorized items which children bring to camp may be confiscated and returned to the parent at the end of the day.



SUN BLOCK AND HYDRATION

The summer brings hot and humid days and with that is the need for adequate protection from the sun and its harmful effects. Much of our program takes place in the outdoors. We provide shade structures throughout the campus. Sun block will be applied often throughout the camp day. **Parents should apply sunscreen to their child before dropping off daily and send sun block in your camper's backpack.** For older campers and campers who we do not have permission to apply sunscreen to we will continuously remind them to re-apply it to themselves.

Water breaks will be taken often. Water is available in the Rec Room, outside the Rec Room and at the pool. On extreme weather days we will also have extra water coolers available. We encourage children to refill their water bottles and drink as much as possible throughout the camp day.



CAMP PEANUT POLICY

The DCH Summer Camp is **NOT** a peanut-free program. However, some weeks' specific groups within the camp may be made peanut free due to severe or extensive allergies within the group. Notification will be sent home in a timely manner to prepare parents for these weeks. Please contact us should you wish to request your child's group be peanut-free or if you need to make special arrangements for Friday cookouts.



GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION & WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

On the DCH Website, located within the Summer Camp section is a page entitled "Info for Families." Here you will be able to find out the most up to date information for each session. Check back weekly to get info for the upcoming session of camp. On Fridays, a newsletter, written by the groups themselves, will be posted on the "Info for Families" page referenced above and will highlight each group's activities from the current week of camp.



CAMPER GROUPS

Campers are organized into groups of up to 25 children based on the grade they will enter in the fall. Each group is led by a head counselor who is a college student or graduate and one or more assistant counselors who are either college or high school students. For the Kindergarten and First Grade groups, there will be no more than

5 campers per counselor. For all other groups there will be no more than 10 campers per counselor. DCH summer camp meets or exceeds all Board of Health minimum camper supervision ratios.



RAINY DAYS

In the event of inclement weather, the DCH summer camp will run as close to a regular camp schedule as possible utilizing indoor space in the Main House, the gymnasium and at the Allin Church, located next door to DCH.



FIELD TRIPS

Bus Field trips are optional and require additional registration and payment.

For all trips, the following rules apply:

1. Parents must sign-up for trips using the field trip registration form or with their online registration. All trips must be paid for at registration. Campers will not be placed on the trip roster before payment is made.
2. Children will wear camp T-shirts and/or tags identifying the program with the DCH Main Office and Camp Office phone numbers on them.
3. Children will be supervised at all times. Appropriate state counselor/camper ratios will be maintained. A counselor certified in CPR and First Aid will travel on all field trips and be responsible for the First Aid Kit.
4. Face counts and attendance will be taken periodically throughout the trip.
5. Transportation for field trips will be by chartered school bus.

Occasional walking field trips to local destinations in and around Dedham Square may be taken. Again, proper ratios and safety precautions will be taken and parents will be informed of trips ahead of time.

If you change weeks during the summer your field trip fee will not be refunded, if applicable, as all arrangements are made prior to the trip.



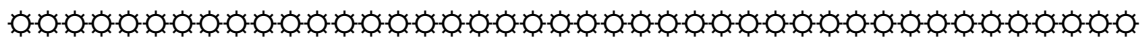
STAFF TRAINING

All camp staff attend an orientation that covers all policies including but not limited to: medical care, discipline, abuse and neglect, child abuse, fire evacuation, lost camper plan, lost swimmer plan, contingency plans for no-show or unregistered campers, and traffic control plan. Additionally, all Camp Leadership, Head Counselors and Specialists and most Assistant Counselors are certified in CPR and First Aid.



PARENT PARTICIPATION & CAMP VISITS

The DCH Summer Day Camp welcomes parent visits at any time during the program. It is best to contact the camp office ahead of time to let us know of your plans but it is mandatory to check in with the directors to let them know that you are visiting. Parents will be escorted by camp staff and must wear a visitor badge while on camp property. The DCH Summer Camp does not allow for parent chaperones on our field trips.



MEDICAL CARE POLICIES

First Aid / Medical Care

Only Summer Camp staff with current certification in Basic First Aid and CPR can administer First Aid.

If first aid or medical care is provided to your camper during the day you will receive an email or telephone call and a copy of the incident/accident report at pick up.

Storage & Administration of Medication

Medications will only be administered if they are brought to camp in the original containers bearing the pharmacy label. All over the counter medications for campers shall be kept in the original containers containing the original label, which shall include the directions for use. Medications will only be administered with written permission from the camper's parent or guardian.

Epinephrine (EpiPen): Camp staff certified in First Aid & CPR will be allowed to administer an injection to a camper at the first signs of a severe allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. Campers may only self-administer an epinephrine shot if they are capable of self-administration and have the written permission of the camp health care consultant and their parent/guardian. Epinephrine pens will be carried by Head Counselors in a red backpack that stays with the group at all times.

At the end of your camper's session we ask that you pick up all medications. Any medications left at camp after September 1, 2019 will be disposed of.

Mildly Ill Camper

If a camper receives a minor injury or is feeling ill, he/she will be accompanied by a counselor to the health office and the Health Care Supervisor will be notified. Parents will be notified either by phone or at pick-up of any complaints and/or treatments received.

Please do not send your camper to camp with the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100 or more
- Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Head Lice
- Pink Eye
- Strep throat (can return after 24 hours on antibiotics)

Return After Illness

A camper may return to camp following an illness when he/she:

- Has been fever free without medication for 24 hours
- Has not vomited in the last 24 hours
- Has not had any instance of diarrhea in 24 hours
- Is able to participate comfortably in activities

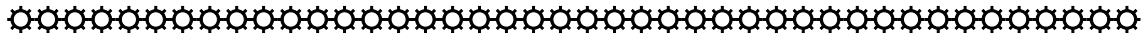
Injury/Illness Notification Procedures

In the event a camper has suffered a minor injury (head & other injuries more than a scrape, cut, slight bump or bruise) or minor illness, of which emergency medical attention is unnecessary it will be the policy of the DCH Summer Camp to:

- 1) Contact the parent or legal guardian via e-mail (from camp@dedhamcommunityhouse.org) to inform them of the injury/illness and the current status of the camper, steps taken to this point and further plan of action (parents will be asked to respond to this e-mail if possible via a response e-mail or phone call to the camp at 781-329-3500)
- 2) If there has been no response to the e-mail after 1-hour (assuming there has been no worsening of the camper's symptoms) a call from the camp leadership to the parent or legal guardian will be placed just to apprise them of the situation.

- 3) If e-mail response has not been received or phone contact not made camp leadership will apprise the person picking-up of the situation and send home written notification of the incident in case the pick-up person is not a parent or legal guardian of the camper

The goal of this injury communication is to keep camper’s families up to date with what is happening in these situations at the DCH Summer Camp and to allow them the opportunity to decide if they would like to make arrangements for the camper to be picked up and further examined by a nurse or doctor.



GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

We welcome input, both positive and negative, and we depend on your feedback in order to offer the best camp experience available for your child. If there is a situation which is of concern, please contact the Camp Director. If the Director does not get back to you immediately it is because he/she is supervising the counselors or with a camper and you can expect that your call will be returned by the end of the day. The DCH Program Director and Executive Director are also available for your questions, comments or concerns.



BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT, CODE of CONDUCT and REMEDIAL POLICIES

The behavior management, code of conduct and remedial policies of the DCH Summer Camp program are designed to provide guidance and support to children as they develop self-discipline while ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for all.

We believe that through a consistent, well-articulated and respectful system of behavioral expectations and corresponding discipline, children will understand and accept the importance of considerate individual and group behavior.

The basic guidelines listed below apply directly to all children and will be used in determining their eligibility to continue as participants in the DCH Summer Camp Program. Before attending the program, we ask that parents discuss the following principles with their children:

DO UNTO OTHERS--Children are to listen to, respect, and follow directions given to them by all program staff. Children are also expected to respect each other. Bullying, teasing, swearing, name-calling and other verbal or physical abuses are not allowed.

THERE IS NO “I” IN TEAM--Children must stay with their groups at all times unless express permission is granted.

WHAT’S MINE IS YOURS--Children are expected to respect all property—that of the camp, other people, and themselves. Parents of children who deliberately damage or break something will be responsible for paying for damages.

IF YOU TAKE IT OUT, PUT IT BACK--Since we all participate in the camp program, we will all take part in cleaning up. Each group is responsible for the cleanliness and maintenance of the particular section of the camp they are using at any given time, thus children and staff will learn that if they made the mess, they must clean it up, and, the camp will be a cleaner, more attractive, more organized place for all of us to share.

Disciplinary Procedures

All camp staff are trained in behavior management during staff training and have signed acknowledgement of our behavior and disciplinary policies. .

Minor disciplinary incidents are handled by the counselor in one or more of the following ways:

VERBAL WARNING: The child will be asked to discontinue the inappropriate behavior. Counselors will identify the behavior, explain the need for change, and suggest a possible alternative action or direction.

PRIVATE DISCUSSION: A counselor will express support and confidence in the child's ability to make a good decision and discontinue the behavior. Future consequences will be discussed in the event that the behavior continues.

REMOVAL FROM THE AREA: The child will be asked to leave the area or activity until capable and willing to return without displaying the inappropriate behavior in question. The child may participate in other activities provided appropriate behavior is displayed.

TIME OUT: A child may be asked to sit away from the activity but in view of a camp staff member in order to gain control and behave appropriately. Children will remain in the "time out" area for no more than the number of minutes corresponding to his/her age. Ideally, children will learn to give themselves a time-out when they need it. Campers will be given calm activities to help with the de-escalation of their behavior. These can include art supplies, fidget toys, or playdough.

Suspension and Termination

Major disciplinary incidents will be referred to the Camp Director and DCH Program Director. When a child's behavior is consistently a problem, we will utilize the following steps:

PARENT CONFERENCE: Conferences will occur on the day of the problem behavior for staff and parents to discuss ways of improving the child's behavior. Parents' cooperation and support are an important part of resolving any behavior problems. An incident report will be placed in the child's file.

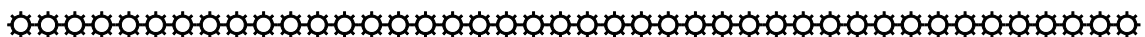
SUSPENSION FROM PROGRAM: If this step is reached, a letter will be given to the parent on the day the child is suspended with a conference to explain why suspension is warranted. The letter will inform the parent/guardian of the length of suspension and the reason(s). An incident report will be placed in the child's file.

TERMINATION FROM PROGRAM: If the child's behavior has not improved at this point, we are left with no choice but to terminate. A parent conference would be scheduled to inform the parent and a letter provided to confirm the termination. An incident report will be placed in the child's file. Recommendations for other summer programs will be included in the termination letter.

Note: Should a child's behavior be determined to be physically dangerous to self or others, DCH reserves the right to remove, suspend and/or withdraw the offending child immediately or to take such action as DCH determines is necessary or appropriate and a parent conference will be scheduled promptly after such action is taken.

Prohibitions

Corporal punishment, including spanking, is prohibited. No camper shall be subjected to cruel or severe punishment humiliation, or verbal abuse. No camper shall be denied food, water, or shelter. No camper shall be punished for soiling, wetting, or not using the toilet.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DCH Summer Camp families have the right to review all DCH Summer Camp policies, including background check, health care and discipline policies as well as grievance procedures, upon request.