

Discovery Day Camp FAQ

Our camp is inspected twice and licensed by the [Albany County Department of Health](#). Inspection reports can be requested by contacting them.

1. **What are the camp hours?** 9:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M. Monday-Friday. Check-in begins at 9:00 A.M. sharp.
2. **Is there an early or late care option?** Yes, Early Care runs from 7:45–9:00 A.M., and Late Care from 4:30–5:45 P.M. Enrollment is required, and both options have separate fees from the camp fee.
3. **What is the counselor-to-camper ratio?** We follow NYS Department of Health guidelines (1:12, adjusted for activity) More details: [Children’s camps in NYS](#).
4. **Where are the required camp forms?** After you register, you will receive a separate email from e-Pact inviting you to fill out your child’s required forms. These required forms should be completed **AT LEAST 2 WEEKS BEFORE** your child attends camp so that camp staff may thoroughly review your child’s information. Your child cannot attend camp without completing these forms.
5. **Can my child be placed in a group with their friend?** Please list friend requests in your child’s e-Pact account under “Camper Details” **at least 7 business days prior to your child attending camp**. We’ll do our best to accommodate.
6. **Is there a Health Director on site?** A Camp Nurse oversees safety plans and reviews medical histories weekly, however she is off-site during camp hours.
7. **Are counselors CPR/AED or First Aid certified?** Key staff are CPR/AED and First Aid certified; all staff receive basic first aid and emergency epi-pen training.
8. **Is there someone on site that can administer medication?** No. We follow self-administration procedures only. For details, contact the Park Office at 518-439-4955, ext. 2131.
9. **When is payment due?** First-week fees are due upon registration; all other weeks by May 1. **Online registrations must be paid in full.**
10. **Do I have to pay to put my child on the waitlist?** No. Payment is not required to join the camp waitlist. If a spot becomes available and your child is enrolled from the waitlist, payment is due within 2 hours of notification. You will be notified via email and phone call.
11. **Are there any discounts?** Yes! \$10 sibling discount (applies to one sibling in household) and \$30 off per child for registering all 6 weeks.
12. **What is your cancellation/refund policy for camp?** You must call the Parks and Recreation Office to report a cancellation (518-439-4955 ext. 2131). **CAMP STAFF ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING CANCELLATIONS.**
 - **Cancellations more than 5 days before camp starts:** 90% refund
 - **Cancellations 5 days or fewer before the camp starts:** 50% refund
 - **Cancellations during the camp week:** No refunds
13. **What should my child bring to camp each day?** Daily essentials include a backpack, lunch, snacks (peanut/tree nut free is preferred), water bottle, swimsuit, towel, sneakers, clothing change, sunscreen. Optional: bug spray, pool footwear. **PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD’S FIRST AND LAST NAME.**
14. **Do counselors perform tick checks?** Yes! Counselors conduct visual tick checks and teach campers to self-check. Families are encouraged to re-check at home.

- 15. Can my child bring toys from home?** We ask that toys from home, stay at home to avoid loss or disruption. Bethlehem Parks and Recreation is not liable for loss or damage to personal items.
- 16. Can my child bring their cell phone to camp?** Please leave cell phones at home to ensure full engagement of the camp experience and prevent monitoring challenges for counselors.
- 17. Where do the children go if there is extreme weather?** Campers will use pavilions, the Warming Area, or the Park Office (cooling station) as needed.
- 18. How do you assess children for swimming?**
NYS 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 (**orange bracelets**) are permitted in the shallow end of the "L" shape pool and Splash Islands only. Swimmers (**Black bracelets**) can use all pools.
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 black 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 using the front crawl and 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 an **orange bracelet**. Any camper that doesn't feel comfortable in the Olympic Pool will test in the L-shape pool and receive an **orange bracelet**.*
Campers may request a re-test.
- 20. What supervision is employed during swimming?** Lifeguards, counselors, and leadership staff monitor the campers in the pool complex.
- 21. Do you offer swim lessons at camp?** Swim lessons are not offered through the camp program. However, the Parks and Recreation Department offers swim lessons, with registration opening in early April. There is an 8:30–9:00 AM swim lesson time slot (before camp starts at 9:00 AM). **Parents are responsible for bringing their child from the lesson and checking them in at camp.**
- 22. If my child is a non-swimmer or doesn't want to swim, what can they do?** Children designated as "non-swimmers" are allowed in Splash Island, the shallowest part of the L-shaped pool. Non-swimmers **may not** enter the deeper end of the L-shaped pool, it will be roped off. Children who don't want to swim can bring a quiet activity to do while sitting on their towel, such as a coloring book, reading, or making friendship bracelets. **Swimming is part of the daily schedule, and all campers go to the pool for about an hour and 15 minutes each day.**
- 23. What time is swimming?** Campers go to the pool **before it opens to the general public**, from approximately **10:45 AM to 12:00 PM.**
- 24. What kind of activities are offered at camp?** Activities include arts and crafts, games, nature activities, swimming, playground, themed-activities, and special guest performances.
- 25. How can I get hold of someone at the camp during the day?** Please call the Park Office with any questions and/or concerns at 518-439-4955 extension 2131.