

# 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 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 7:30-9:00 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?** Per the updated guidance from NYS, we will encourage campers who are not vaccinated to wear masks, however they are not required.
5. **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. Once you have registered, there will be a section on our online forms sent to you where you can make this request.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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 ext. 2131.
9. **Can I bring my child's forms on the first day of camp?** **The Health Form should be submitted PRIOR to your child's first day at camp.** All other forms may be brought with your child on their first day of camp, however we encourage you to turn in all forms before the first day to ensure a quicker check-in process. If you are bringing your child's forms the first day, you will need to bring it to the Camp Director at the large pavilion (not the Park Office!)
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. **What is your cancellation/refund policy?** You must call the Parks & Recreation Office to report a cancellation (518-439-4955 ext 2131). 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. 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.

12. **Where are the camp forms?** Once you have registered you will receive an email from CampDoc directing you to fill out all required forms online.
13. **What should my child bring to camp each day?** Everyday children should bring a backpack with a packed lunch (non-perishable and no glass containers), large water bottle, 2 masks, 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, flips flops or other pool appropriate footwear, and an extra set of clothes.
14. **Can counselors apply sunscreen and/or bug spray to my child?** Yes, as long as you have filled out the Permission Form for us to do so. 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.
15. **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.
16. **Can my child bring their electronic device?** Please leave all electronic devices 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.
17. **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.
18. **What if my child is not a strong swimmer?** All campers are swim tested to determine if they are a "swimmer" or "non-swimmer" and will be identified as such via color coded wrist bands. Campers may retest the next time we visit the pool if they did not succeed the first time. Non-swimmers are permitted in the shallow end of the "L" shape and splash Islands only. Swimmers can use all pools. We employ a "Buddy System" when swimming. This means swimmers are paired up with another swimmer of the same ability. They must remain with their buddy at all times and "Buddy Checks" are conducted every 15 minutes. The Head Guard and/or Aquatics Director performs the swim tests.
19. **What supervision is employed during swimming?** We have lifeguards, an extra camp lifeguard for just campers and camp counselors that actively supervise.
20. **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 depending. Activities range from arts & crafts, team-building games, sports or large group games, nature-based activities, swimming, playing on the playground, field trips, on-site special events, and more!
21. **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 ext 2131. 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!