

Camp Thoreau 2018

Parent Handbook

Welcome to Camp Thoreau! Since our first camp season in 1951, our goal has been to provide an environment in which both campers and staff can learn, grow and have fun with one another. As you prepare for an exciting summer with us, please keep in mind the following:

**Important Camp Dates**

Pre-Camp Open House: Friday, June 22, 2018 from 6 to 8pm

Meet your camper’s counselors, take a walk around camp, and see for yourself why kids love Camp Thoreau!

Camp Thoreau 67th Birthday Party & Family Picnic: Tuesday, July 10th, 6pm to 8pm

Help Camp Thoreau to Celebrate 67 years! Enjoy a picnic dinner and campfire at camp with your family, while your camper shows you all of their favorite spots at Camp Thoreau!

**Code of Conduct:**

1. Campers treat others with courtesy and respect.
2. Campers should always stay with their group.
3. Campers follow safety rules and listen to camp staff.

The Camp Director reserves the right to withdraw any camper, at any time, when their behavior interferes with the rights and safety of others. Refunds are not extended in these circumstances.

**Mandatory Camp Forms** (To be completed on CampDoc.com – please contact us if you have not received your CampDoc invitation or have any questions on how to use CampDoc to fill out forms & upload documents.)

*All forms must be on file in the camp office prior to the first day in order for campers to attend camp.*

**Attendance** Notify the Camp Office of all absences, late arrivals and early dismissals.

Camp Hours:9:00 am (8:45 drop off begins – please, NO EARLY DROP OFFS unless you are registered for AM Extended Day) to 3:45 (3:35-3:45 pick up)

Office phone: 978-831-1300 Email: camp@thoreau.com

**Late Arrivals (After 9:00am):** Check in at the camp office before sending your child down to camp.

**Early Dismissals (Before 3:30pm):** Notify the Camp Office prior to dismissal. A phone call/note/email from the parent or guardian is mandatory. If the Camp Office does not receive prior notice – expect that it will take your camper 15 – 20 minutes to come up to the Office from Camp.

**Transportation & Authorized Pick Up**

**Transportation ID Card:** Each family is issued 2 ID cards which ***must*** be presented when picking up campers from camp or from the bus.

**Walk Waiver:**  A signed waiver is required for any camper who has parental permission to walk/bike home, to the Thoreau Club or from their bus stop.

**Transportation Changes:** Parental communication is required prior to making any changes to established routine.

**Authorized Pick Up:** Contact the Camp Office with any changes to your Authorized Pick-up people; adding, deleting or updating.

**The 2018 Bus Route is as Follows (Please contact us ASAP if you need to sign up for the bus but have not already done so.):**

Cambridge, Belmont, Arlington, Winchester, Lexington

\*times may be subject to change – we promise to keep you updated!

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| **AM PM TOWN** | **STOP** |
| 7:40 4:45 Cambridge | Trinity Armenian Church(Spark St. & Brewer) |
| 7:50 4:35 Belmont | Behind Old Macy’s (Claffin Street) |
| 8:00 4:25 Arlington | Mass. Ave. at Arlington High School |
| 8:10 4:15 Winchester  | Ridge St. & Aricia Lane  |
| 8:20 4:10 Lexington  | Mass. Ave. at the Munroe Center |
| 8:25 4:00 Lexington  | Wood St. & Old Mass Ave. Parking Area  |
| 9:00 3:30 Concord  | Camp Thoreau!  |

**The 2018 Van Route is currently being determined and may not be available all sessions. If you do not see your town listed, but have registered and paid for transportation, we will be in touch to set up transportation for your camper.**

**Medical**

Camp Thoreau staff are not specifically trained to supervise or teach campers with disabilities. For campers with disabilities that may impact their experience and who are interested in attending Camp Thoreau, we encourage parents to contact our office in order to discuss their camper’s specific needs and requirements with camp administration to see if we can accommodate your camper.

Based on her professional discretion, the camp nurse will contact parents/guardians regarding first aid, illness and medical issues which occur at camp via a phone call. A mildly ill camper is considered to have the following signs or symptoms: Temperature of 99.9o F or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, mild dehydration or a local allergic reaction. If a camper should present with one or more of these symptoms, then parents/guardians will be requested to pick up the camper.

* Campers are not accepted at camp without a current physical and immunization list on file in the Camp Office.
* Prior to camp we ask that you screen your children for communicable diseases such as head lice.

**Sunscreen Waiver - NEW THIS YEAR**

As of April 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is requiring Camps to issue a written document to families regarding our sunscreen policies, with signed authorization. Please see the enclosed waiver and be prepared to fill out/return this form to Camp Thoreau on the first day your camper attends.

**Medication**

Medication to be administered by the camp nurse must be in the original pharmacy container with the correct name, date and instructions. Medication must be given directly to the camp nurse accompanied by a completed “Authorization of Administration of Medication to a Camper” Form and the Physician’s Orders.

**No Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phone use is not permitted for campers at Camp Thoreau. (And is also limited to only necessary camp-related communication between staff.) Please refrain from sending your children to camp with a cell phone. In the event of an emergency, call the camp office at (978) 831-1300.

Exceptions to our cell phone policy include our Wildlife Valley "overdays", our Forest Ridge overnights, and our Summit/CIT day and overnight trips. On these occasions, campers may choose to bring a cell phone. However, those bringing cell phones on these occasions ***must*** inform staff and give them to camp staff to hold until needed. There will be a designated time during these events for campers to call home, if necessary. Cell phones will immediately be returned to camp staff to hold until the event has concluded. If a camper needs to use the cell phone outside of this designated time, he/she will be supervised by camp staff and then return the phone to staff. Cell phones will be locked up securely throughout the entire event.

**What to Bring to Camp**

* Picnic style lunch (no refrigeration provided). At Camp Thoreau, we respect our environment by following a “carry in, carry out” rule. All campers are required to bring home with them any remains from their lunch. We suggest sending a large Ziploc bag in their lunchbox for trash. Alternatively, campers may order lunch through RedApple Lunch (see enclosed flyer)
* Close toed shoes. Flip-ﬂops and other forms of sandals are not permitted. Please send your child to camp in a pair of sneakers, trail shoes or hiking boots.
* Camp appropriate bathing suit. No bikinis, please. Also, a special request from our Aquatics Staff – please avoid girls’ swimsuits with lots of ruffles – these can impact buoyancy in our youngest swimmers and affect their swimming abilities.
* Towel
* Sunscreen & bug spray
* Water bottle
* An extra change of clothes (for Neverlanders)

**What to Leave at Home**

* Candy and gum.
* Pocket knives or other weapons, including squirt guns.
* ALL electronics (cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, electronic games, etc.)
* Items of great personal value.
* T-shirts or other apparel with bad language, alcohol products (i.e. beer logos) or any word that is inappropriate or may be offensive to others.

**Lost and Found**

We encourage labeling all items brought to camp. Items left behind at camp will be collected and brought to lost and found. Counselors will help campers locate lost items. Labeling all items will help us locate and return lost items.

*Upon request, parents/guardians have the right to review background check, health care and discipline policies as well as procedures for filing grievances.*