



Camp Thoreau 2019

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:

First Day of Camp: **Monday, June 24th** Last Day of Camp: **Friday, August 16th**

Camp Thoreau Mid-Summer Celebration: **Thursday, July 18th, 6pm to 8pm**

Help Camp Thoreau to Celebrate 68 years! Enjoy a picnic dinner, evening swim and campfire at camp with your family, while your camper shows you all of their favorite spots & activities!

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 – no exceptions!!!

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): MUST check in at the camp office before going 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 2019 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, Lexington (Winchester Stop will be added S4)

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

AM	PM	TOWN	STOP
7:40	4:45	Cambridge	Trinity Armenian Church(Spark St. & Brewster)
7:50	4:30	Belmont	Behind Old Macy's (Clafflin Street)
8:00	4:20	Arlington	Mass. Ave. at Arlington High School
8:15	4:05	Lexington	Mass. Ave. at the Munroe Center
8:25	3:55	Lexington	Wood St. & Old Mass Ave. Parking Area
8:45	3:35	Concord	Camp Thoreau!

The 2019 Van Route includes stops in: Chestnut Hill, Newton, Wayland & at the Noyes School in Sudbury. Please contact us for more information on Van availability if not already registered.

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 99.9° 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 – in CampDoc 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. This has now been added to the camper health forms you filled out in CampDoc.

Medication

Medication to be administered by the camp nurse must be provided in the original pharmacy container with the correct name, date and instructions and must be given directly to the camp nurse on the first day of the camper's session accompanied by the written Physician's Orders. All documentation re: Authorization of Administration of Medication to a Camper must be complete in CampDoc.

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 specific senior 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. If an emergency were to arise on an Overday, Overnight or Off-site trip, our staff will contact a camper's listed Emergency Contact(s). Please make sure that this information is up-to-date and let us know if anything should change during the camp season.

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.