



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CAMP SATUCKET FAMILY HANDBOOK SUMMER 2026



OLD COLONY YMCA - EAST BRIDGEWATER BRANCH
635 Plymouth Street, East Bridgewater, MA 02333
508-378-3913 | campsatucket@oldcolonymca.org
WWW.OLDCOLONYYMCA.ORG/CAMP

WELCOME – FROM THE CAMP DIRECTOR!

ENSURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

At Camp Satucket, we're all about giving your child the best foundation for growth and development. We carefully select summer camp counselors we believe will be positive role models, provide your child with the tools necessary to develop friendships, build confidence, set healthy boundaries, and feel empowered. Most importantly, we create a safe and caring community where your child's well-being is our top priority.

Our goal is to curate a welcoming, creative, and supportive environment through our youth programs and activities that engage, encourage, motivate, and build self-esteem through shared experiences that foster your child's individuality and unique spark.

We are passionate about providing an unforgettable camp experience with amazing role models, so you can rest assured knowing you've chosen the right place for your child this summer. These are the memories that last a lifetime, and we truly believe Camp Satucket is the perfect place for your family. The camp staff and I can't wait to meet your camper and have the Best Summer Ever! See you soon!

Sincerely,
Kaitlyn Pennington, Camp Director

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WELCOME!

Welcome to Old Colony YMCA Camp Satucket where we are for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. We are delighted to offer a summer of fun, friendships, exploration, and discovery for children and teens. This handbook is designed to present our policies, procedures, overview of camp, arrival/departure information, important reminders, and communication options.

Camp Satucket is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and local Board of Health. Families may request copies of our background check policies, health care policies, and discipline policies, as well as procedures for filing grievances.

CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR EMERGENCIES: Camp Office | 508-350-1954

Associate Executive Director

Catherine Colantuone | ccolantuone@oldcolonyymca.org | 508-378-3913 x1920

Camp Director

Kaitlyn Pennington | kpennington@oldcolonyymca.org | 508-378-3913 x1942

Assistant Camp Director

Jake Corbett | jcorbett@oldcolonyymca.org | 508-378-3913

Camp Nurse

774-539-8749 | Available by phone June 22nd - August 28th only

For Reporting Absences: Please use Pickup Patrol to report absences at the start of the camp day. If there is an error or you are unable to report an absence, please use our office number 508-350-1954.

*Please note: During the camp day, camp leadership staff are not always available to take your call; however there is always a member of the Camp Satucket staff available to answer or refer your call to the appropriate staff person. All calls will be answered in a timely manner.

TUITION/REFUND POLICY

- \$60 non-refundable registration fee per week per camper due upon registration.
- Balances must be paid in full no later than June 1, 2026, or upon registration thereafter. **Tuition must be paid in full prior to your child attending camp.**
- Tuition refund may be awarded for medical reasons (doctor's note required) or relocation of family with proper documentation with director approval. A formal request for refund must be made in writing.

CAMP OVERVIEW

STAFF RATIOS

Staff Ratios —Camper to Staff ratio is 1:10 for campers ages 7 and up. Campers age 4.5–6 will be in ratios of 1:5. Campers will remain in their groups for the entire day.

SWIM TIME

While at Camp Satucket, your child will be participating in water fun and safety. This will be the time for the children to cool down throughout their camp days and learn more about being safe in the water! While in the outdoor pool, all campers are required to wear a coast guard approved lifejacket, unless they pass the 'swim test'.

CAMP LUNCH

Lunch is not provided, so please be sure to pack your child a lunch and plenty of snacks each day!

WE ARE A PEANUT-AWARE CAMP; WE ARE NOT A PEANUT-FREE CAMP!

If your child has a peanut allergy, please include it on their medical forms. All counselors will be notified and will make sure your child will not be near other children consuming peanut products.

We cannot refrigerate or microwave your child's lunch, so please pack it in a cooler. Please do not use a food delivery service, such as Door Dash, UberEats etc.

Please provide a variety of snacks for your child. It is a very busy, active day and lunch alone will typically not suffice.

CHILD SAFETY—WORKING TOGETHER

Everyone shares a responsibility to help keep children safe, ensure their rights are protected and that their needs are met. The safety and wellbeing of the children and youth in our care is our primary concern. Old Colony YMCA has zero tolerance for inappropriate behavior involving children, and we take multiple steps to prevent child sexual abuse within our organization.

STAY IN THE LOOP

- Be sure to stay in the loop by checking your emails and Facebook for weekly camp updates!
- We will also utilize Class Dojo to communicate with our families! Stayed tuned for more information to be emailed from our camp team on how to connect to ClassDojo!

OFF HOURS CONTACT BETWEEN STAFF AND CAMPERS

The YMCA prohibits staff members from babysitting for, caring for, providing instruction to, or engaging in a social relationship outside of approved YMCA activities with children (other than family) who participate in YMCA programs or class activities. This policy is designed for the protection of all involved – children, staff members, parents, and the YMCA. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to talk to the camp director.

CAMP OPTIONS FOR 2026

TRADITIONAL DAY CAMP

- Highlighted in the sample schedule below
- Full week option only
- Adjusted to ensure that your camper has the safest, most fun summer possible.
- 9:00am to 4:00pm daily
- Rolling drop-off and pick-up

4-WEEK CIT OPTION (15 YEAR OLDS)

CITs (Counselors in training) will have the opportunity to work with our Role Models as mentors, while engaging with our campers in a hands-on learning environment! CITs will gain additional experience through team building, asset development, service learning projects, and mock interviews. They will also be exposed to various trainings from some of our YMCA leadership staff!

A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP SATUCKET (SAMPLE SCHEDULE)

8:00-9:00am	Extended AM Care (\$)
8:50-9:10am	Parent/Guardian Drop Off and Bus Arrival (\$)
9:15-9:30am	Opening Flag Pole Ceremony
9:30-10:30am	Archery
10:30-11:30am	Arts & Crafts
11:30-12:30am	Lunch
12:30-1:30pm	Swim Change & Outdoor Pool
1:30-2:30pm	Science
2:30-3:00pm	Theme Activity
3:00-3:45pm	Closing Flag Pole Ceremony & Transition to Dismissal
3:45-4:10pm	Parent/Guardian Pick Up and Bus Departure (\$)
4:00-5:00pm	Extended PM Care (\$)

CAMP FUN

- **Outdoor pool** to splash around with your friends
- **A challenge course** to experience new heights
- **An arts & crafts** cabin to invoke creativity
- **An archery range** to enhance your skills and accuracy
- **A sports program** to release your energy
- **A science program** to experiment the unknown
- **Camp spirit** that includes a variety of theme days, visit our website for theme calendar!

SO MANY OPTIONS
ARE AVAILABLE!

HELP YOUR CHILD
LEARN
DEVELOP
ACHIEVE



PREPARING FOR CAMP

CLOTHING

Plan on dressing your camper in comfortable clothes. Ensure your camper is familiar with personal items and can identify them in the event of a loss. **Label everything** including swim suits, towels, lunch boxes, etc. Campers **MUST** wear closed-toe shoes that will provide support and tread (sneakers work best). Crocs are permitted to be worn throughout the camp day, but cannot be worn on the archery range or ropes course. All clothing should be appropriate for outdoor play. We recommend sending them in clothes that are OK to get dirty, as our fun activities sometimes end with a lot of mess! All campers should bring a swimsuit and towel every day.

BACKPACKS

Backpacks are good for transporting items to and from camp. Please label the backpack with your camper's name! Campers have a designated area to leave their backpack during the day. Backpacks with wheels are often more of a hindrance than a convenience, as they are hard to wheel over the grass, wood chips, and terrain.

LUNCH, SNACKS, & WATER

We do not provide lunch at camp, nor can we heat up or refrigerate food, so be sure to pack your camper a lunch and plenty of snacks each day! Lunches will be left at their group's meeting area. **All campers should bring a refillable water bottle** as we have water stations available to our campers at all times. Again, there is no refrigeration available but freezing a water bottle makes a great ice pack and a refreshing afternoon drink!

SUNSCREEN

We ask that you apply sunscreen to your child before you drop them off at camp each morning, and that you provide them with sunscreen to be kept in their backpacks. Sunscreen should also be labeled with your camper's name. Counselors will have campers reapply sunscreen multiple times throughout the day.

BUG SPRAY/HAND SANITIZER

We ask that you provide your child with bug spray and hand sanitizer to be kept in their backpacks. Items should be labeled with your camper's name. Counselors will have campers reapply multiple times throughout the day and depending on the activities they are participating at camp.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Camp is a natural setting to retreat from the amenities of electronic technology and to discover self-potential, group dynamics, friendships, and nature. Cell phones, iPad/tablets, kindles, Nintendos/portable gaming devices, MP3 Players/iPods, Pokémon or other trading cards, toys, etc. do not fit into the camp setting. Please do not send any valuable or meaningful items to camp with your child - leave these items at home. Cellphone use is prohibited at camp and devices will be taken away if they are used. (See cell phone policy and personal device policy below). There is a zero tolerance policy for any vapes, tobacco, nicotine, or any substance abuse on camp property. Any child with these items in their possession will be removed from camp property and have cause for termination. No refunds will be provided.

LOST & FOUND NOTICE

All lost & found items can be claimed during pick up and drop off at the designated bin located at the camp office. Counselors and groups also stop by the lost and found periodically throughout the week. We **STRONGLY** recommend and ask that you label ALL camper items so we may do our best to return them to their rightful owner. Reminder: Campers need to leave their personal toys, belongings, and electronics at home. They are **NOT PERMITTED** at camp. **The Y and our staff will not be responsible for items that are lost, stolen, or damaged.**

CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL DEVICE POLICY

Campers are not permitted to use personal electronics at camp. This includes cell phones, smart watches used for communication, tablets, handheld gaming systems, and any similar devices. Camp Satucket encourages campers to be fully present at camp and engage in activities, build friendships, and enjoy an unplugged camp experience. If a camper brings a device to camp, it must remain turned off and stored in their bag at all times. If camp staff see a camper using or displaying a personal electronic device, it will be confiscated by leadership for the remainder of the day. The device will be returned to the parent/guardian at dismissal. Exceptions may be made for campers with a documented medical need. Any medical exception must be communicated to camp leadership in advance and supported by appropriate documentation or a medical note. If a Camper needs to reach their parent/guardian during the camp day, they will be permitted to use the phone in the camp office.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PHYSICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

Up to date physical and immunization reports must be on file BEFORE the child attends their first day of camp.

HEALTH FORMS: All required health forms must be completed in the registration packet through UpBup. In accordance with state regulations, no child will be permitted to be at camp without all required documentation completed.

PHOTO NOTICE

The following photo release is contained in the camp registration and enrollment forms you have filled out for your camper(s). "It is understood and agreed that Old Colony Y reserves the right to take and utilize pictures, likenesses, videos, and testimonials of participants for promotional purposes including, but not limited to, reports, publications, brochures, emails, our website and other instances of online presence in perpetuity." If for any reason you do not want your child photographed, please be sure that you have written "DO NOT PHOTO" on the application.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

Care Plan for Mildly Ill Campers

When a camper feels ill, the responsible counselor will remove the child from activities to determine whether the child is over-heated or over-tired. If after a period of time, the child still feels ill, the responsible counselor will take him/her to the nurse's station. After discussion and examination the camp nurse will determine if the child should be separated and lie down for a while, or if the parent/guardian should be called to pick up the child. The child who is not sent home will remain in the nurse's station until recovered to a point where they can rejoin regular camp activities.

Plan for Administering Medication

1. When a camper needs either prescription or non-prescription medication administered during camp time, the parent/guardian will fill out and sign the authorization to administered medication to a camper form. This form will be given to Camp Director or responsible counselor, along with the medication in its original container bearing the pharmacy label (showing prescription number, date filled and prescriber's name, name of medication, directions for use and patient's name). In the case of non-prescribed medication, the parent will write out and sign detailed instructions for dosages.
2. The camper's counselor will take the instructions and medications to the camp nurse, who will lock the medication in the storage cabinet (or put in refrigerator, as is appropriate) and log in the information on the child's daily log for medication administration.
3. The camp nurse will review all requests for administration of medications, compare them with the health record, and using the Health Care Consultant Acknowledgement of On-Site Medications Form, given signed written orders for the health supervisor.
4. When it is time for administration of the medication, the child's counselor will take them to the nurse's station to receive the medication from the camp nurse, who will log in each day's administration on an individual Daily Log of Medication Administration Form.
5. When no longer needed or at the end of camp, medications will be returned to the parents/guardians via camp leadership or will be destroyed (parents/guardians will indicate in their written instructions which they prefer). We do recognize that inhalers and epi-pens may need to travel around camp with the camper. If this is the case, our nurse will work with parents/guardians on determining the best plan for storage/travel of the medication. Please feel free to contact our nurse with your concerns at 774-539-8749.

Plan of Emergency Care

In the event that a camper requires immediate emergency care a camp counselor, camp nurse, or camp director will begin EAP by dialing 911.

- For emergencies: Dial 911; Fire 508-378-2071; Police 508-378-7223
- Campers will be brought to the nearest available hospital. Most emergencies will be transported to South Shore Hospital: 781-624-8000 or Boston Medical Center - South: 508-427-3000

RAINY DAYS AND EXTREME HEAT

In the case of thunder, lightning and torrential downpours, all campers are brought inside. When inclement weather hits, our campers will be transitioned indoors, and stay in one specific area of the building if necessary. We ask families to plan ahead as indoor space is limited. In the case of light rain we try to continue all activities outdoors utilizing the pavilions and tent areas. However, ropes course, archery, and other activities may be closed and campers moved to alternate activities/locations. In the case of extreme heat, we utilize all shaded areas, implement extra swim/water activities, and utilize limited indoor facilities to move some activities inside with A/C. We do request that you prepare your camper with clothes/gear for all weather. Camp leadership staff will make decisions during inclement weather to ensure safety for all campers.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Attendance is taken at the beginning of every day. If a child shows up late, we will add them to the attendance to make sure they are accounted for. If your child will be absent for a day, please call the camp office or report it in Pick Up Patrol.

PICKUP PATROL

PickUp Patrol is an online platform that allows camp staff and families to manage absences, late arrivals, early dismissals, changes in end-of-day plans, and authorized pickup persons. PickUp Patrol allows staff to manage dismissal time more safely and efficiently and provides an additional layer of security for you children. You will receive an email each Friday prior to your child attending a week of camp to access PickUp Patrol.

CAMP ARRIVAL INFO

Extended AM Care 8:00–9:00AM AND Parent/Guardian Drop Off 8:50–9:10AM

Please follow the route as designated by the camp team and any signage. A camp staff will escort your child from the vehicle through the camp gates and check in process. All drop off will be rolling. Please do not exit your vehicle.

Bus Drop Off

Please arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to your bus's scheduled departure. A camp staff member will meet you to check in your camper. Campers are NOT to be left unattended at bus stops. *All bus times are approximate and stop locations are subject to change.

Late Arrivals/Drop Offs

Once the camp gates close, all late drop offs must be walked to the camp office by an adult and signed in. Staff will then escort the camper to join their group. Please report late arrivals through PickUp Patrol to allow staff to minimize the transition time for your camper. Campers start their day promptly at 9:30am so please try to make every effort to get your child here prior to that start time so they do not miss activities.

EARLY DISMISSAL

- No child may leave the camp grounds for early dismissal without an authorized pickup person signing them out with a member of the camp leadership team.
- All early dismissals MUST check in at the Camp Office with a valid photo ID.
- If a child is to be released early, we must be informed in writing, via PickUp Patrol, or by phone call.

DUE TO DISMISSAL PROCEDURES: NO CAMPER WILL BE DISMISSED BETWEEN 3:00–3:45PM

CAMP DEPARTURE INFO

Traditional Camp Pick Up 3:45–4:00PM AND Extended PM Care 4:00–5:00PM

Pick up will resemble drop off and will be rolling. Please follow the route as designated by the camp team and any signage and do not exit your vehicle. Authorized pick ups should have their ID ready. Once ID is verified, camp staff will escort campers to their vehicles.

Bus Pick Up

An authorized pick up person must be present at the bus stop with ID. If no one is present, the camper will be brought back to camp for dismissal. Please arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to your bus's scheduled arrival. *All bus times are approximate and stop locations are subject to change.*

Late Pick Ups

Late pick ups will not be permitted at camp. All campers must be picked up no later than 4:05pm (or 5:00pm if registered for Extended PM Care). A late fee will be assessed as follows: Within the first ten (10) minutes after camp's closing time, the fee will be \$30.00 per child. If the child is still not picked up after the 10 minutes, there will be an additional fee of \$2.00 per minute per child. If a child is not picked up within one hour of the camp's closing time and we are unable to reach a parent/guardian or emergency contact, we are mandated to call the Child-at-Risk Hotline, as is required by the Department of Children and Families.

WALKERS

A waiver must be signed to allow your child to walk or bike to and from camp or a bus stop. Waivers must be met with approval from the Camp Director. **Child must be 13 years of age or older.**

**ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS:
ALL persons INCLUDING
PARENTS/GUARDIANS picking up
campers must have a PICTURE ID and
be listed as an authorized pickup. This
is necessary to maintain the highest of
standards. PARENTS DO NOT NEED TO
EXIT THE CAR FOR DROP OFF/PICK UP.**

ASSET DEVELOPMENT AT CAMP SATUCKET

Camping experiences hold tremendous opportunities to build Developmental Assets. They take young people away from their everyday environment and, at their best, create an asset-rich experience for the campers, linking them with caring adults and older youth, engaging them in stimulating, challenging activities, developing leadership skills, and cultivating positive peer relationships. Though individual camper experiences varied, a major study of camps by the **American Camping Association** found that, overall, children, parents, and camp staff all reported improvements in positive identity, social skills, physical and thinking skills, and positive values and spirituality.

CAMP SATUCKET IS DEDICATED TO INTEGRATE ASSET DEVELOPMENT THIS SUMMER BY:

- Creating ways for young people to get to know each other. Including **getting-to-know-you activities** and community-building activities.
- Being clear about **boundaries and expectations**. At camp, we create a list of rules and expectations and enable the campers to offer their ideas.
- Recognizing that some young people may not have much **experience with camp**. They may resist trying certain camp activities because of their inexperience—or their fear of failure.
- Integrating a service project into their camp activities. We ask that the children pick up after themselves, especially after lunch time.
- Expecting camp counselors to be **role models**. Training them about this critical aspect of their role and how important it is for them to exhibit positive behaviors to campers.
- Engaging young people in leadership roles in our camp, particularly the CIT program. Veteran campers can be mentors for first-time campers.
- **Emphasizing an educational aspect** to our program. This year, we are offering Science, Music, and Art to provide campers with broad educational experiences.
- Our goal is to inspire teachable moments throughout a camper's day that will keep their minds engaged while having fun. Sending your child to camp will enable them to stay on track through creative positive learning experiences. The Y recognizes that all children experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. We provide building blocks necessary for a child's development.
- **Empowering young people by giving them choices** during activities. For example, in a craft activity, offering two or three different project choices using the same set of materials.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING AT THE EAST BRIDGEWATER Y ALL YEAR!

Y FAMILY TIME

Serving families has always been at the heart of the Y. We are a place they can find respite from social, economic, and educational challenges, and learn how to overcome them. We desire for every family to build stronger bonds, achieve a greater work/life balance, and become more engaged within the community.

YMCA MEMBERSHIPS

We hope that you will consider joining us as a member of the YMCA. If you are interested in becoming a member and benefiting from our savings on program rates, please contact our Membership Experience team for more information.

Membership, Health & Wellness Director: **Jeff Hunt**

- Email: jhunt@oldcolonyymca.org
- Phone: 508-378-3913 x1914

BEHAVIOR POLICY AT CAMP SATUCKET

ADDRESSING CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS

Part of healthy youth development includes learning how to get along with others, managing conflicts, and working together as a team. Camp provides the ideal setting for these skills to develop. All types of youth come to Y camp. Some are excited to be there and adapt readily to the activities and excitement of the day. But other youth may be nervous or even anxious about the camp experience. When youth are struggling in the camp setting we want to do all that we can to help the youth have a positive experience.

Our philosophy of behavior management and camper support is that children do not want to act out or lose control. In fact, challenging behaviors sometimes occur when a youth needs additional attention, does not feel safe, or needs help managing overwhelming feelings like anger or fear. Our goal is to work with your child to provide them with the support that is needed to help the child make a more positive adjustment to camp.

For this reason we have implemented the “Camper Support Protocol.” The advantage to the Camp Support Protocol is that it provides a process to proactively identify campers who need extra support. By immediately responding to youth who need extra support, behaviors can be more rapidly addressed and it is less likely that those behaviors will escalate. In support of this goal, we have a clinician and camper support specialists on staff who work in conjunction with counselors and leadership to support campers in navigating difficult experiences by making behavior support plans, developing social skills, and communicating with families. **We believe in supporting the needs of our campers, not in managing their behaviors.** Camper support is accomplished through a positive and strength based approach which respects the child as an individual. Setting reasonable and positive expectations, offering choices, and having an opportunity to verbalize feelings encourages children to develop self-control through understanding. Every effort is made to avoid enrollment disruption for a youth and family.

TERMINATION AND SUSPENSION

It is our goal to ensure the safety of everyone in the program. Therefore, a child may be suspended and/or child care services may be terminated from the Old Colony Y Camp Programs for the following circumstances:

- Inability to meet child’s needs.
- Lack or falsification of information for child’s enrollment file
- Excessive inappropriate language/swearing.
- Disrespect for Y and/or other’s personal property.
- Failure to abide by Association Policies.
- Non-payment of child care services.
- Non-compliance with required parental paperwork (complete enrollment packet)
- If a child’s behavior poses a risk to themselves, other children, and/or staff immediate suspension and/or termination will result.
- If a child brings in a hazardous item or illegal drug/tobacco or drug paraphernalia.
- Inability of parents to interact with program personnel or other participants and families at the camp in a professional manner
- Persons in our programs that are involved in possible litigation against the Old Colony Y will not be permitted to participate in our programs until a settlement is resolved and approval from the Executive Director has been received
- Bullying other children or making other children feel uncomfortable or unsafe in attending the program
- Leaving the program area or camp grounds
- Stealing

Failure to abide by these and all program expectations may result in suspension and/or removal from the program, for the safety of other campers and staff.

- **Hitting, fighting, or inappropriately touching another camper will result in the camper immediately being sent home for the day**, and camp staff will set up a meeting with parents/guardians to discuss next steps
- All other incidents will be handled as follows
 - 1st incident: verbal warning
 - 2nd incident: written warning, parents notified
 - 3rd incident: camper sent home or suspended for 1-3 days; re-entry meeting required
 - More than 3 incidents may result in camper dismissal from the program

YMCA staff and management reserve the right to terminate a child from the day camp program if the child’s behavior is disruptive to the program and/or compromises the safety of themselves, other children, and/or staff. Termination will extend to the after-school program and camp the next summer.

ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND FAMILIES

We hope to work in partnership with you and your family to help ensure that your child has a positive camp experience. There are several things you can do to engage in this process:

Talk to your child about the camp experience. Ask them to describe the activities. Ask who their friends are and what their counselor is like. While children often respond to the question “What did you do at camp today?” with “Nothing”, we can assure you that a lot of things happen at camp. Sometimes campers are too tired after the camp day, but they may be talkative on the morning ride or waiting for the bus.

Reassure your child. Children get anxious just like adults. They may worry about disappointing you. They may wish they could stay at home during the summer. They may have fears about swimming or bugs or not making friends at camp. These are all normal worries, and we want to work together with you and your camper to help them overcome some of their fears during the summer. You can encourage them to try new things and be open to new experiences.

Being a parent/guardian is hard. There are many difficult decisions to make. You don’t want to overreact to situations because you know that many concerning behaviors are normal—but you don’t want to fail to get your child help if it is needed. If your child indicates they are having a bad experience or they refuse to talk about camp and you have concerns—please contact us. **Do not diminish your child’s concerns.**

Your child may be exposed to behaviors that they have not seen or experienced before. Our camps are very diverse. We have children with developmental disabilities and from all walks of life. We have children attend camp whomany different behavioral needs or who have experienced traumatic life events. For the most part, this exposure is part of growing up and can be a positive experience in developing empathy as children learn how to interact with all types of people. But if your child has strong feelings of fear or doesn’t feel safe, it should be addressed. We encourage you to contact us and come in to speak with us about a situation that may be troubling your child.

Help us problem solve. When campers have difficulty with some of these skills, or if they aren’t having as much fun at camp, we want to work with you as caregivers to help develop supports and a plan to help them succeed. If your child is having difficulties, it may be hard for them to tell you or to give you reasons why. Specific questions may be helpful. Some things you might wish to ask include: “what feels hard about going to camp? Is there someone at camp you can talk to about your worries or difficulties? What would you change to make things better?” we want to work with you to help your child have a positive experience!

Understand your child may not see everything. When we have conversations with campers about their behavior, or meet with their caregivers, we do not do so in front of the group. We avoid shaming or embarrassing campers. So your camper may not know the steps that are being taken to make behavior plans, set consequences, or support other campers in making positive choices. Please know that we are always taking steps to make sure camp is safe for all.

CAMP SAFETY PLAN

Our goal is to make sure camp is a safe place for all campers and staff. In support of this goal, we ask all campers to follow our camp safety expectations. Each week counselors review our 'R.E.A.C.H. for the stars' expectations with campers, outlined below. Please review these, the four core values pledge, and the anti-bullying pledge with your child before camp they attend camp as well.

R.E.A.C.H FOR THE STARS VALUE PLEDGE

- I will be **Responsible** for my everyday duties, the things I use, and the areas I am in.
- I will be a caring and **Empathetic** person to those who participate in the YMCA Program and the people in the YMCA building.
- I will **Accept** others for who they are, and be respectful of other people's feelings, property, and body.
- I will work towards making the camp **Community** a safe place for all, and will follow the YMCA expectations.
- I will be **Honest** when I make mistakes and honest when I have not done what I was responsible for.

R.E.A.C.H for the Stars



YMCA FOUR CORE VALUES PLEDGE

I pledge my commitment

To the four core values

Of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility.

To use them in my thoughts, words, and actions,

To be the BEST person I can be!

ANTI-BULLYING PLEDGE

We are all friends at the Y

We will not bully others

We will help others who are being bullied by speaking out and by getting adult help

We will use extra effort to include all others in activities

We will display the core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility

CAMPER EXPECTATIONS

- Use appropriate language at all times (which includes not using swear words or making negative remarks to or about others)
- Keep their hands to themselves (not hit, kick, bite, or otherwise hurt other campers/staff)
- Ask permission before leaving a program area (Campers must be supervised by a staff member at all times when attending camp).
- Remain in their assigned groups at all times unless additional support is being provided by support staff. (Additional supports are provided on a need basis and should not exceed more than 10% of the campers day.)

CAMPER SUPPORT PROTOCOL

PURPOSE | To proactively provide support to campers who have behavioral or emotional challenges in the camp setting.

GOAL | To provide the youth with supports needed to participate in healthy engaging activities at camp.

NOTE: Emergency and safety concerns are handled immediately. This includes: runaways, fights, assaults, fire setting, serious threat of violence or suicidality.

- 1. Identifying Behaviors of Concern |** On Monday of each camp week counselors observe camper behaviors throughout the day to identify “behaviors of concern.” These behaviors will be identified as “Yellow Flag” behaviors that indicate the need for the camp staff to slow down, look at the situation, and figure out a better way; or “Red Flag” behaviors that indicate a more serious situation to be addressed.
- 2. Documenting and Notification of Concerns |** At end of day (especially Mondays) counselors will fill out the camper concern form and deliver to leadership at the camp office before leaving for the day.
- 3. Administrative Review |** A camp leadership staff reviews all forms before leaving camp to ensure there is nothing requiring immediate follow-up.
- 4. Camp Support Planning and Coordination Meeting |** Every Tuesday morning at 7:30 the Camp Support teams will meet. The team is chaired by the Camp Director along with the Assistant Camp Director, Camper Support Specialists, Camp Clinician, and counselors or nurse if requested. Camper Support Plans are completed. Following this meeting the Clinician assists with any “Red Flag” situations and Camper Support Specialists begin implementation of plans.
- 5. Camper Supports |** Camper Supports may include providing more attention, adding additional staffing/CIT to the camp group when possible, or a morning or afternoon (or both) check-in by our Camp Support Specialist. We may also have a clinical social worker or leadership staff observe the camper’s behaviors to help us determine how we might help the camper and counselors to better support the camper’s needs or to talk with the camper about the behavioral challenges. Another part of the plan may be to contact you. As the parent/guardian, you have the most experience in addressing with your child’s feelings and behaviors and you may have ideas or strategies for us to use in the camp setting.
- 6. Daily Support Meetings and Follow Up |** Each day the Director or designee and Camper Support Specialist will sit down in the morning to review all Red Flag Support Plans and progress, and any Yellow Flag Plans where the behavior is escalating. These meetings direct the course of the Camper Support Specialists’ in terms of the situations that need follow-up or a strategy adjustment.

CAMP’S RESPONSE TO BEHAVIOR ISSUES

Our goal is to work together with our staff and camp families to do all we can to help your child and all children have a positive camp experience. That said, there are some behaviors that are very serious. Hitting, bullying, cursing, and running away are all behaviors we will need to address with parents/guardians. In general, we do all that we can to avoid dismissing a child from camp. However, when serious issues arise, it is critical that families work with us to address the behavior to ensure the safety of all. Campers that require three written documentations or are not succeeding in our camp environment and care will be terminated. These serious safety concerns include but are not limited to: runaways, fights, assaults, fire setting, serious threat of violence/harm to self or others, suicidality, and/or the programs ability to keep your child safe.

BUS TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

Please arrive at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to your buses' scheduled departure time. It is important to have all parents/guardians and campers at the bus stop to ensure an efficient bus route. Please note that a child may not be left alone while waiting for the bus. A parent/guardian must be with the child to ensure proper safety.

If your child is a "walker" and will be arriving and departing the stop alone, please be aware that you take full responsibility for their safety and must have completed the appropriate waiver. The Old Colony YMCA is not responsible for the children until they are safely on the bus or signed out at the end of the day.

An authorized pick up person must be present at the bus stop with ID. If no one is present, the camper will be brought back to camp for dismissal. Please arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to your bus's scheduled arrival.

The opportunity to ride on the camp bus is a privilege that may be revoked if behavior issues occur on the bus. Campers are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner which includes:

- No yelling on the bus
- Remain seated at all times
- No destruction of the bus or personal property
- No food or beverage consumption while on the bus

Please make sure you discuss appropriate bus behavior with your camper prior to the start of camp to ensure a safe and successful camp season. Inappropriate behavior, destruction of bus or personal property, or endangering the safety of the bus riders may result in exclusion of that person from using the bus.

All bus times are approximate and stop locations are subject to change.

Red Bus: Weeks 3-10		Stop Address	AM	PM
1	Easton YMCA	25 Elm St, North Easton	8:00	4:50
2	OCY DJL Brockton	137 Newbury St, Brockton	8:15	4:40
3	Davis School (Brockton)	380 Plain St, Brockton	8:25	4:35
4	West Bridgewater Middle-Senior High School	155 West Center St, West Bridgewater	8:35	4:25
5	Bridgewater Raynham High School	415 Center St, Bridgewater	8:45	4:10
Blue Bus: Weeks 3-10		Stop Address	AM	PM
1	East Middle School	464 Centre St, Brockton	8:00	4:54
2	Target (Abington)	385 Centre Ave, Abington	8:12	4:43
3	Papa Gino's (Whitman)	674 Bedford St, Whitman	8:21	4:34
4	Shaws (Hanson)	476 Liberty St, Hanson	8:33	4:23
5	Cape Cod Café (Halifax)	300 Plymouth St, Halifax	8:45	4:11

STAY CONNECTED WITH CLASS DOJO

CLASS DOJO is where we will be sharing photos and updates of campers throughout the day! Use the QR code for your campers age group to join!

4-6 Year Old Campers

7-8 Year Old Campers

9-10 Year Old Campers

11-15 Year Old Campers



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Meningococcal Disease and Camp Attendees: Commonly Asked Questions

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is caused by infection with bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*. These bacteria can infect the tissue (the “meninges”) surrounding the brain and spinal cord and cause meningitis, or they may infect the blood or other organs of the body. Symptoms of meningococcal disease may appear suddenly. Fever, severe and constant headaches, stiff neck or neck pain, nausea and vomiting, and rash can all be signs of meningococcal disease. Changes in behavior, such as confusion, sleepiness, and trouble waking up, can also be important symptoms. In the US, about 350–550 people get meningococcal disease yearly, and 10–15% die despite receiving antibiotic treatment. Of those who survive, about 10–20% may lose limbs, become hard of hearing or deaf, have problems with their nervous system, including long-term neurologic problems, or have seizures or strokes. Less common presentations include pneumonia and arthritis.

How common is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is becoming much less common. Over the past 20 years, the overall incidence of meningococcal disease in the US has declined ten-fold. Twenty years ago in Massachusetts, there were 80–100 cases of meningococcal disease per year. In contrast, for the past decade, the average is approximately 12 cases per year. Declining rates of meningococcal disease may be due in part to the introduction of meningococcal vaccines (initially recommended routinely in 2005 for adolescents aged 11–12 years, unvaccinated college freshmen living in residence halls) as well as other factors such as the decline in cigarette smoking, which may impact susceptibility to this disease.

How is meningococcal disease spread?

These bacteria are passed from person to person through saliva (spit). You must be in close contact with an infected person’s saliva for the bacteria to spread. Close contact includes activities such as kissing, sharing water bottles, sharing eating/drinking utensils, sharing cigarettes, or being within 3–6 feet of someone who is infected and coughing and sneezing.

Who is most at risk for getting meningococcal disease?

People who travel to certain parts of the world where the disease is very common, microbiologists, people with HIV infection, and those exposed to meningococcal disease during an outbreak are at risk for meningococcal disease. Children and adults with damaged or removed spleens or persistent complement component deficiency (an inherited immune disorder) are at risk. Adolescents and people who live in specific settings, such as college freshmen living in dormitories and military recruits, are at greater risk of disease from some of the serotypes.

Are camp attendees at increased risk for meningococcal disease?

Children attending day or residential camps are **not** considered to be at an increased risk for meningococcal disease because of their participation.

Is there a vaccine against meningococcal disease?

Yes, there are multiple meningococcal vaccines. Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menveo and MenQuadfi) protects against 4 serotypes (A, C, W, and Y) of meningococcal disease. The meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) protects against serogroup B meningococcal disease for people aged 10 and older. Pentavalent meningococcal vaccine protects against serogroups A, B, C, W, and Y. It may be administered to persons aged ≥ 10 years when both a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine and meningococcal B vaccine are indicated at the same visit.

Should my child or adolescent receive the meningococcal vaccine?

Different meningococcal vaccines are recommended for a range of age and risk groups. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) is routinely recommended at age 11–12 years with a booster at age 16 and is required for school entry for grades 7 and 11. In addition, these vaccines may be recommended for additional children with certain high-risk health conditions, such as those described above.

Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) is recommended for people with certain relatively rare high-risk health conditions (examples: persons with a damaged spleen or whose spleen has been removed, those with persistent complement component deficiency (an inherited disorder), and people who may have been exposed during an outbreak). Adolescents and young adults (16 through 23 years of age) who do not have high-risk conditions may be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years of age, to provide short-term protection for most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. Parents of adolescents and children at higher risk of infection because of certain medical conditions or other circumstances should discuss vaccination with their child’s healthcare provider.

How can I protect my child or adolescent from getting meningococcal disease?

The best protection against meningococcal disease and many other infectious diseases is thorough and frequent handwashing, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette. Individuals should: wash their hands often, especially after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food (hands should be washed with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand gel or rub may be used if hands are not visibly dirty); cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and discard the tissue in a trash can; or if they don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve. not share food, drinks, or eating utensils with other people, especially if they are ill.

Contact their healthcare provider immediately if they have symptoms of meningococcal disease. If your child is exposed to someone with meningococcal disease, antibiotics may be recommended to keep your child from getting sick.

You can obtain more information about meningococcal disease or vaccination from your healthcare provider, your local Board of Health (listed in the phone book under government), or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Divisions of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or on the MDPH website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations>.

For additional information on Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD), please visit the CDC’s website: [Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Trends](#) | [Meningococcal](#) | [CDC](#)

