



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# CAMP CLARK FAMILY HANDBOOK SUMMER 2026



**OLD COLONY YMCA—PLYMOUTH BRANCH**  
200 Hedges Pond Road  
508.888.2290 | [CAMPCLARK@oldcolonymca.org](mailto:CAMPCLARK@oldcolonymca.org)  
[WWW.OLDCOLONYYMCA.ORG](http://WWW.OLDCOLONYYMCA.ORG)

# WELCOME, FROM THE CAMP DIRECTOR!

## ENSURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

It is our goal at Camp Clark to provide the building blocks necessary for child development. We purposely hire summer camp counselors who we believe will be positive role models and provide your child with the tools necessary to develop friendships and confidence; to feel empowered; to set boundaries; and to ensure your children are in a safe community where their best interests are our #1 priority. It is our objective to provide a creative learning environment through our youth programs and activities to engage, motivate, and induce self-esteem and to light your child's individual and unique spark.

We are dedicated to producing a great camp with exceptional role models so you and your child can rest assured that you picked the right place for your summer experience. Those are the experiences and memories that last a lifetime... We are sure you will agree that Camp Clark is the perfect destination for your child and family! The summer camp staff and I are excited to meet your camper! See you all very soon!

**Sincerely,**  
**Kailey Hennessey, Camp Director**

## HANDBOOK CONTENTS

Welcome Letter.....	2	Rainy Days and Extreme Heat .....	8
Contact Information.....	3	Attendance Policies.....	8
Tuition/Refund Policy.....	3	Arrival Information.....	8
Staff Ratios .....	4	Departure Information.....	9
Camp Lunch.....	4	Asset Development/Family Strengthening....	9
A Typical Day at Camp.....	5	Asset Development/Family Strengthening...	10
Camp Options for 2025.....	5	Behavior Policy.....	11
Preparing for Camp.....	6	Camper Support Protocol.....	12
Lost & Found.....	6	Youth Contract.....	13
Physicals & Immunizations.....	7	Class Dojo.....	14
Photo Notice.....	7	Bus Transportation and Safety.....	15
Medical Concerns .....	7	Commonly Asked Questions .....	16-17

## **WELCOME!**

Welcome to Old Colony YMCA Camp Clark 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 Clark is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and local Board of Health. Parents/guardians may request copies of our background check policies, health care policies, and discipline policies as well as procedure for filing grievances.

## **CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION**

**FOR EMERGENCIES: Camp Office | 508.888.2290**

### **Camp Director**

Kailey Hennessey [khennessy@oldcolonymca.org](mailto:khennessy@oldcolonymca.org) | 508-888-2290 x 2351

### **Assistant Camp Directors**

Emily Palladino [epalladino@oldcolonymca.org](mailto:epalladino@oldcolonymca.org) | 508-888-2290 x 2359

### **Camp Billing Coordinator**

Karen Buck [KBuck@oldcolonymca.org](mailto:KBuck@oldcolonymca.org)

### **Camp Nurse**

508-888-2290 x 2356 | Available by phone June 22nd—August 26th 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 508-888-2290.

\*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 Clark 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 registration fee per week per child. This fee is non-refundable.
- Payments must be paid in full no later than June 6, 2025 or upon registration thereafter. Payments must be paid in full prior to your child attending camp.
- Tuition refund may be awarded for medical reasons (doctors 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 4-6 will be in ratios of 1:5. Campers will remain in their groups for the entire day.

## SWIM TIME

While at Camp Clark, 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! Children younger than 8 years old will be required to wear a life jacket while participating in all water activities. Children 8+ will be given the option to take a swim test to test out of wearing a lifejacket during swim time, but will still be required to wear a life jacket during other water activities.

## CAMP BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Utilize our Breakfast and lunch program or pack your camper with a lunch! Breakfast and Lunch is available through the Plymouth Public Schools at **NO COST**. Please be sure you have indicated on the camp forms whether or not you would like to have your child receive camp lunch. All provided lunches are held to Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) standards. We cannot refrigerate or microwave your child's lunch, please pack your lunch in a cooler. All lunches will be stored in the shade. **WE ARE NOT A PEANUT-FREE CAMP!** If your child has a peanut allergy, please write it on your medical forms. All counselors will be notified and will make sure your child will not be near other children consuming peanut products.

Lunch will **NOT** be provided week 2 and 11

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 our weekly camp updates!
- This year we'll be relying on ClassDojo to communicate with our families! Stay tuned for more information from our Camp Clark team on connecting 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/guardians, and the YMCA. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to talk to with the camp director.

# CAMP OPTIONS FOR 2026

## BASIC 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 for parent/guardian drop off campers

## 4-WEEK CIT OPTION (14-15 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 best YMCA leadership staff including Listen First and Bully Prevention to name a few!

## A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP Clark (SAMPLE SCHEDULE)

8:00-9:00am	Extended AM Care (Optional, Additional Cost)
8:50 -9:15am	Parent/Guardian Drop Off and Bus Arrival (Optional, Additional Cost)
9:15-9:25am	Opening Ceremonies
9:25-10:05am	Archery (7+)
10:15-10:55am	Arts and crafts
11:05am-11:40pm	Swimming
11:40-12:10pm	Lunch
12:10-12:40pm	Theme Period
12:40-1:15pm	Sports Field
1:25-2:05pm	Music
2:15-2:55pm	Ropes Course
3:05-3:30	Clean-Up/Gather Belongings/Closing Ceremonies
3:50-4:00pm	Parent/Guardian Pick Up and Bus Dismissal (Optional, Additional Cost)
4:00-5:00pm	Extended PM Care (Optional, Additional Cost)

## CAMP FUN

- **Waterfront Swimming** to splash around with your friends
- An **arts & crafts** cabin to invoke creativity
- An **archery range** to enhance your skills and accuracy
- A **sports program** to release your energy
- A **challenge course** to experience new heights
- **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. Be sure the 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 some support and tread (sneakers work best). Crocs are permitted to be worn throughout the camp day but cannot be worn on the archery or ropes courses. 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

Utilize our lunch program or pack your camper with a lunch! 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 microwave or 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.

## BUGSPRAY/HAND SANITIZER

We ask that you provide your child with bug spray/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, Nintendo DS/DSI, MP3 players, iPod, 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.

## LOST & FOUND NOTICE

All lost & found items can be claimed at pick up and drop off. We strongly recommend labeling all camper items. Reminder: Campers need to leave their personal belongings and electronics at home. They are **NOT PERMITTED** at camp. **The Y and our staff will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged toys or electronics.**

# 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. 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 application 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 he/she 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/guardian 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 him/her 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 the counselor 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 extension 2356.

## 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 508-830-4213; Police 508-830-4218
- Campers will be brought to the nearest available hospital. Most emergency will be transported to: Beth Israel Deaconess Plymouth 508-746-2000

## RAINY DAYS and EXTREME HEAT

Rain Days: We ask families to plan ahead as indoor space is limited. When inclement weather hits, our campers will be asked to move indoors, and stay in one specific area of the building if necessary.

In the case of extreme heat, we utilize all shaded areas, implement extra swim/water activities and we utilize lodges indoors 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 missing a day, please call the camp office or report it in Pickup Patrol.

## PICKUP PATROL

PickUp Patrol is an online platform that manages dismissal time more efficiently and safely. Families conveniently submit plan changes for their children through the web app. Camp Clark can easily track absences, early dismissals and end-of-day plans. The system helps speed up dismissal time and adds a layer of security for your children. You will receive an email the Friday prior to your child attending Camp to register for Pickup Patrol.

### ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS

ALL persons **INCLUDING PARENTS/GUARDIANS** picking up campers must have a **PICTURE ID and be listed as authorized on your registration form.** This is necessary to maintain the highest of standards.

## CAMP ARRIVAL INFO

### Extended AM Care 8:00-9:00am AND Parent/Guardian Drop Off 8:50 - 9:00am

Please follow the route as designated by your camp team. A camp staff will escort your child to his or her group. All drop off will be rolling.

## Bus

Please arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to your buses scheduled departure. a staff member will meet you at a designated area to check your camper in. Buses will arrive at camp at 9am and all campers will be escorted to their groups to be checked in. \*All bus times are approximate and stop locations are subject to change.

## Late Drop Offs

All late drop offs **MUST** be walked to the Camp Office by an adult and signed in. Once the camper is signed in, a staff member will meet you at a designated area to walk your camper to join their group for the day. It is crucial to make every effort to follow your drop off time.

## EARLY DISMISSAL

- No child may leave the camp grounds for early dismissal without his/her parent or guardian signing him/her out in front of the camp with a leadership staff present.
- All early dismissals MUST check in at the Camp Office, present their picture ID for verification, and sign their camper out before the camper will be released
- If a child is to be released early, we must be informed in writing on 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—3:50–4:00pm AND Extended PM Care 4:00–5:00pm

Parent/guardian pick up will resemble drop off as it will be a rolling pick up procedure. Parents/guardians will enter the parking lot at Camp Clark with an ID ready. Parents/guardians will procedure to same location as drop off to sign out camper. Once ID is confirmed, camper will be escorted to the car by a YMCA camp staff.

### Bus Pick up

An authorized person must be present at the bus stop with an ID. If you are not present for the camper, they will be brought back to camp for dismissal. \*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 by 4:00 pm (or 5:00 pm if registered for Extended PM care). A late fee will be assessed as follows: Within the first ten (10) minutes after the center's closing time, the fee will be \$30.00 per child. If the child is still not picked after the 10 minutes after the closing time of the site, there will be an additional fee of \$2.00 per minute/per child. If a child is not picked up within one hour after the center's closing time and we are unable to reach a parent/guardian or emergency contact person, 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 with approval from the Camp Director. **Child must be 13 years of age or older.**

## ASSET DEVELOPMENT AT CAMP CLARK

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/guardians, and camp staff all reported improvements in positive identity, social skills, physical and thinking skills, and positive values and spirituality.

## CAMP CLARK 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 camping**. They may resist trying certain camping activities because of their inexperience—or their fear of failure.
- Integrating a service project into your camp activities. We ask that the children pick up after themselves, especially after lunch time. We also have the LIT group help in the community.
- Expecting camp counselors to be **role models**. Train 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 LIT and CIT program. Veteran campers can be mentors for first-time campers.
- **Emphasizing an experiential educational aspect** to our program. This summer we are implementing a literacy program for **ALL AGES** which will be a daily activity for them.
- 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, if you have a craft activity, consider having two or three possible outcomes that use the same materials.

## FAMILY STRENGTHENING AT THE PLYMOUTH 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 Director: Aiden OLaughlin

Email: [aolaughlin@oldcolonymca.org](mailto:aolaughlin@oldcolonymca.org)

Phone: 508-927-3100 ext. 2313

# BEHAVIOR POLICY AT CAMP CLARK

## MANAGING 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 is that children do not want to act out or lose control. In fact, challenging behaviors sometimes occur when a youth needs extra attention, or does not feel safe, or needs help managing overwhelming feelings of anger. 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 the behaviors can be more rapidly addressed and it is less likely that the behaviors will escalate. We believe in behavior support not managing behaviors. Behavior 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 Child Care Program for the following circumstances:

- Inability to meet child's needs.
- Lack or falsification of information for child's enrollment file
- Excessive bad 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 deal in a professional manner with program personnel or other parents at the center.
- 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 to attend the program. Leaving the Program Area.
- Stealing.

## 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 suicide.**

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 director at camp office before leaving for the day.
3. **Administrative Review** | Camp Administrator reviews all forms before leaving camp to ensure there is no need for 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 Administrator (Director or designee) along with nurse, Camper Support Worker, clinician, and counselor if requested. Camper Support Plans are completed. Following meeting the Clinician assists with any “Red Flag” situations; Camper Support Worker begins implementation of plans.
5. **Camper Supports** | Camper Supports may include providing more attention, adding additional staffing/ CIT added to the camp group, or a morning or afternoon (or both) check- in by our Camp Support Specialist. We may also have a clinical social worker or administrative staff observe the camper’s behavior to help us determine how we might help the camper and counselors to better manage the behavior 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 dealing with your child’s feelings and behaviors and you may have ideas for us to use in the camp setting.
6. **Daily Support Meetings and Follow Up** | Each day the Director or designee and Camper Support Worker 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 Worker’s Day in terms of the situations that need follow-up or a different strategy.

## CAMP’S RESPONSE TO BEHAVIOR ISSUES

Our goal is to work together with our staff and with parents/guardians 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 want to address with parents/guardians. In general we do all that we can to avoid dismissing a child from camp. However, when we do have serious issues it is critical that families work with us to address the behavior. Camper’s 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, suicide, and/or the programs ability to keep your child safe.

## ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

We hope to work in partnership with you to help ensure that your child has a positive camp experience. There are several things you can do to help 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 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. If your child is not having fun at camp it may be difficult for the child to tell you or to give you reasons why. Specific questions may be helpful. Some things you might wish to ask include: “Are you worried that something bad will happen at camp? What comes to mind when you say you don’t like camp? Is there anyone at camp you can talk to?”

**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 living up to your expectations.

**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 the child has not seen or experienced before. Our camps are very diverse. We have children attend camp who may have serious behavioral problems or who have experienced traumatic life events. For the most part this exposure is part of growing up and can be a positive experience as children learn how to deal with all types of people. But it is not good if your child is scared or doesn’t feel safe. Again, we encourage you to contact us and come in to speak with us about the situation that may be troubling your child.

## YOUTH VALUES PLEDGE & ANTI-BULLYING PLEDGE

Please review with your child the following values pledge and anti-bullying pledge.

### FOUR CORE VALUE 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

## 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!

### 4-5 Year Old Campers:



Scan Me

### 6-7 Year Old Campers:



Scan Me

### 8-9 Year Old Campers:



Scan Me

### 10-15 Year Old Campers:



Scan Me



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## BUS TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

Please arrive at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to your buses' scheduled arrival or 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 or 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. 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.

The opportunity to ride on the camp bus is a privilege that can be revoked if behavior issues occur on the bus. We expect campers to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner which includes:

- No yelling on the bus
- Campers must be 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 proper bus behavior with your camper prior to the start of camp to ensure a safe and successful camp season. Unruly 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.

### BLUE BUS

### WEEKS 4-9

TOWN	STOP	STOP LOCATION	AM	PM
Marshfield	1	Library	8:05	4:50
Plymouth	2	183 Court Street (Former Benny's Plaza)	8:30	4:25

### GREEN BUS

### WEEKS 4-9

TOWN	STOP	STOP LOCATION	AM	PM
Plymouth	1	Nathaniel Morton (Front of School)	8:05	4:55
Plymouth	2	North High School	8:15	4:45
Plymouth	3	Manomet Post Office	8:30	4:30
Plymouth	4	Redbrook YMCA Parking Lot	8:50	4:10

### RED BUS

### WEEKS 4-9

TOWN	STOP	STOP LOCATION	AM	PM
Kingston	1	Elementary School	8:25	4:35
Plymouth	2	Hedge Elementary	8:35	4:20

### YELLOW BUS

### WEEKS 4-9

TOWN	STOP	STOP LOCATION	AM	PM
Caver	1	Carver Elementary School	8:10	4:45
Plymouth	2	West Plymouth Square	8:20	4:35
Plymouth	3	Algonquin Heights	8:30	4:20

### PURPLE BUS

### WEEKS 3 & 10 ONLY

TOWN	STOP	STOP LOCATION	AM	PM
Marshfield	1	Library	8:00	4:55
Kingston	2	Elementary	8:20	4:35
Plymouth	3	183 Court Street (Former Benny's Plaza)	8:30	4:30
Plymouth	4	North High School	8:45	4:15

### ORANGE BUS

### WEEKS 3 & 10 ONLY

TOWN	STOP	STOP LOCATION	AM	PM
Carver	1	Carver Elementary	8:00	5:00
Plymouth	2	Algonquin Heights	8:15	4:45
Plymouth	3	Nathaniel Morton (Front of School)	8:25	4:35
Plymouth	4	Manomet Post Office	8:40	4:20

# 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  $\geq 10$  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](#).