



Parent Guide

Outdoor Summer Program 2021

June 28th - August 27th, 2021
Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM EST
Extended Day Until 6:00PM EST

Welcome Parents and Campers of New York Society of Play!

Gear up for adventure and prepare for a summer of epic proportions! If you live near Brooklyn, the New York Society of Play Summer Program is taking over a park near you!

Campers will have a blast during our original, one-of-a-kind Live Action Role Playing Game (LARP), which incorporates elements of foam swordplay, item collecting, cartography, orienteering, arts & crafts, and so much more! Your campers will become true heroes and go on exciting missions to save the fantasy world they're playing in!

After lunch, campers will get active with our Foam Sword program, taking part in cooperative and team-based competitions including Capture the Flag, Jedi vs. Stormtroopers, and Wizard Wars.

Later in the day, campers will sit down with our master storytellers for a socially-distanced pen and paper Role Playing Game in the style of Dungeons & Dragons! Your child will play a main character in one of our popular settings: Marvel Superheroes, Star Wars, Harry Potter, and more! RPGs are an invaluable exercise in problem-solving, arithmetic, reading comprehension, and public speaking, all on top of being incredibly fun!

Our camp is run on a social contract that highlights and reinforces healthy and inviting play environments - **Trust, Consent, Cooperation, Respect, and Safety**. These values are at the heart of every activity we do, and our staff and campers work hard to exemplify these values.

In light of current circumstances, we are also making several important changes to ensure our Summer Program is as safe as possible for all attendees:

- Our summer program will be capped at 12 children per day, divided into 2-3 separate groups, to ensure that all campers get all the care and attention they need to have the best socially-distanced experience possible!
- While our summer program will primarily take place outside, we will also have access to indoor spaces during instances of inclement weather. Adjacent online sessions will be available for those who aren't comfortable with indoor activities at local gaming cafes.
- We will be following strict CDC and state guidelines on social distancing, mask-wearing, and sanitization.

Reservations are typically made in week-long increments.

We are closely tracking the development of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to provide the kids the best and safest experience. These protocols will be routinely updated to reflect the recommendations of CDC, local city agencies, and other public health organizations. Please check back periodically or reach out to us if you have questions, as some elements of this booklet may change!

Alioune N'Gom
Director

(Disclaimer: Any pictures of children or instructors without masks was taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic)

Dates & Times

Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, EST

Extended Day Until 6:00PM EST

June 28th - August 27th, 9 Weeks Total

Locations

This summer, our program will primarily take place outdoors. We will have 2 park locations in Brooklyn (McCarren Park and Fort Greene Park) as well as an indoor site for pickup and drop off. We will offer the option of attending our summer program indoors or online in case of inclement weather. Addresses for our sites are listed below:

Outdoor	Drop-Off/Pick-Up/Indoor	Extended Day Pick-Up
McCarren Park	<u>Last Place on Earth</u> 531 Graham Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11222 Phone: (315) 230-4381	<u>Brooklyn Free School</u> 372 Clinton Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11238 Phone: (718) 499-2707
Fort Greene Park	<u>Squarrel Cafe</u> Location: 572 Atlantic Ave Brooklyn, 11217, NY Phone: (718) 237-4286	<u>Brooklyn Free School</u> 372 Clinton Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11238 Phone: (718) 499-2707

Outdoor Summer Program Pricing

("Early Bird" pricing available through 5/1/21)

Package	Regular Price	Early Bird Special	Sibling Price	Early Bird + Sibling Special
1 Weeks	\$450	\$405	\$405	\$364.75
2 Weeks	\$800	\$720	\$720	\$648
4 Weeks	\$1,550	\$1,395 + <i>Free Sword!</i>	\$1,395 + <i>Free Sword!</i>	\$1,255 + <i>Free Sword!</i>
9 Weeks (Full Summer)	\$3,000	\$2,700 + <i>Free Sword!</i>	\$2,700 + <i>Free Sword!</i>	\$2,430 + <i>Free Sword!</i>
Late Pickup 3:30-6:00	\$40/day			

- Weekly Packages can be spread out and used non-consecutively
- Sibling/Pod Member price reflects 10% discount for all siblings/pod members after the first full-camper.
- First purchase will include an additional \$30 surcharge for 3 official camp t-shirts, which campers will be required to wear during the day's activities.

Absence/Refund Policy

At the New York Society of Play, we understand that, especially now, circumstances can change at the drop of a hat. We have worked to provide a refund policy with flexible solutions.

All policies listed assume that absences and reschedules are not COVID-related. We have an entirely different set of COVID related considerations in our section detailing what happens if there is a COVID outbreak at our program.

Refunds will be based on the total value of your original purchase divided by the number of days you have reserved.

(i.e. The refund amount will depend on whether the original reservation was made with an early bird discount, a multi-week discount, or a sibling discount)

- **All requests for reschedule or cancellation must take place at least 48 hours before the day in question in order to receive a monetary refund.**
- **Any families who do not attend due to cancellation 48 hours prior to the start of the day will receive a refund equal to 50% of the original amount paid for that date, OR an NYSoP online voucher equal to 50% of the original amount paid for that date.**
- **Any families who cancel less than 48 hours prior to the start of the day in question will NOT receive a monetary refund, but may request an online voucher equal to 25% of the original amount paid for that date.**
- **Any family who is able to produce evidence of a positive COVID test dated within 7 days prior to the date of cancellation will be offered a 75% refund for the original amount paid for that date.**

- Any families who do not attend due to cancellation within 24 hours prior to the start of the day may reschedule their attendance to a day where seats are available. If no seats are available, they will receive an online voucher equal to 25% of the original amount paid for that date.

Daily Schedule Example

9:00-9:30am	Arrival at drop-off site
9:15-9:45am	Walk to park
9:30-10:00am	Social contract review
10:00-11:00am	LARP
11:00-12:00pm	Battle games
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00-3:00pm	RPG
3:00-3:15pm	Walk to drop-off site
3:15-3:30pm	Dismissal
3:30-5:00pm	Late dismissal

What to Bring

T-Shirts

Children will be required to wear an official New York Society of Play shirt. This will help identify your camper in our outdoor parks. Your first camp booking will include a one-time \$30 fee for three shirts (*one each: green, purple and yellow - no substitutions*). You will also be able to purchase additional shirts for your camper for \$10 each. Please make sure to provide a freshly-laundered shirt for your camper every day.

Lunch and Snack

Please include a nutritious lunch for an active day outdoors in the heat in a heavy-duty lunch container. We will eat outdoors whenever possible and adhere to social distancing protocols. You may also pack your child a snack to eat as needed during the day. There will be no designated snack time.

Water

Adventuring is thirsty work! Please make sure to bring your child to the drop-off location with a sealable container clearly labeled with their name, OR a bottled water. We will make runs to the water fountain in the park over the course of the day, but will not have bottled water or containers to provide to campers.

Hand Sanitizer or Hand-Sanitizing Wipes

Please make sure your child has a portable container of hand sanitizer or sanitizer wipes for personal use. We will keep hand sanitizer on site, but we still ask that campers have their own for primary use.

Sunscreen

Please supply your child with a container of sunscreen. We will have a limited amount on hand for our staff, but cannot guarantee the proper SPF for each child, nor that there will be enough sunscreen for every camper. Campers will be asked to apply sunscreen periodically throughout the day.

Appropriate Attire

Your child will be moving around and engaging in physical activity. Please bring your child to our summer program in loose-fitting, weather-appropriate clothing, including their provided and clean NY Society of Play T-Shirt. Athletic shoes are also a must.

Two Face Coverings

Parents must supply their campers with two face-coverings each day. The second will be a spare in the event that the first becomes unusable. If your child does not have a face covering, they will be provided one by the staff on an emergency basis. We will only have a limited number of these extra masks, so please plan accordingly. Face coverings must be worn according to [CDC Guidelines](#). If your child refuses to wear their face covering properly during the day, they will not be allowed to participate. If necessary, campers may distance themselves from the group to take a break from their mask during the day.

Pickup and Drop-off

Who is allowed to pick up my child?

When you sign your child up for our summer program, you will be asked to submit an emergency contact card through Google Forms. This card will contain information like personal and work phone numbers, allergies, and a list of approved persons to pick up your child. NO ONE ELSE will be allowed to pick up your camper without your explicit, written consent. You can add someone to this approved list at any time by emailing frontdesk@nyplays.org with their name and phone number.

Emergency Communications/Procedures

Upon enrollment, you will be asked to fill out an emergency information sheet, which will include the phone numbers of any guardians, as well as any individuals who are authorized to pick up your child from the summer program. In the case of an emergency, we will respond in order of priority as is provided on the emergency information sheet.

When filling out your emergency information sheet, please include at least 3 emergency contacts. These contacts will be the backup contacts we will reach out to if we are unable to get in touch with you.

Aside from the parents and/or guardians, only the individuals on your camper's emergency contact list will be able to pick up your child.

To add a new individual to your camper's emergency contact sheet, please contact bookings@nyplays.org the day before the individual is needed to pick up your camper, at the latest.

Pickup and Dropoff

- A typical day of drop-off will involve dropping off your child at the designated indoor site for your summer program location.
- To prevent overcrowding of the indoor space, we will have a counselor outdoors greeting parents and campers. For safety, we ask all parents to stay outside of the location during the drop-off and pickup. We will ask you to sign your child in on the daily attendance sheet on the allocated area next to your child's name.
- While you sign in and out, we will conduct a forehead temperature check. If your camper has a temperature above 100.4 degrees, they will not be allowed to attend. We do recommend that you check their temperature every day prior to leaving for the day to avoid any inconveniences. If your child is experiencing a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19, please refrain from bringing your child to the summer program.
- If during dismissal your camper's temperature comes in at 100.4 degrees or more, the head instructor will ask that you stay until after dismissal to discuss alternatives.
- Before your child enters the indoor space, confirm once more that they have their lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, second mask, and hand sanitizer. For safety, we will not be able to leave the site to purchase any of these items for your child if they don't have them.
- Any newly-designated pickup persons will need to provide a government-issued photo I.D.

Lateness

In the event that you are running late for morning drop off, the head counselor will remain at the indoor site until 9:45am to escort any latecomers to the park. If you know you are going to be late for your 9am arrival time, please contact your site manager by phone or our official Whatsapp group text message. (You will be given this contact information for your site manager upon enrollment.)

If you are on schedule to arrive after 9:45am, you will be required to drop off your child at the park. Our locations within the park will change from day to day to accommodate different activities, park density, and weather. Please reach out to the head counselor via text or phone as soon as possible and they will provide you with a precise location for drop-off. Please note that it may take a few minutes for us to respond and organize an on-site drop-off.

In the event that you are running late for afternoon pick-up, please reach out to the site manager via text message rather than calling. Their focus will primarily be on safely returning campers to their families at the pick-up location, and calls can make it difficult to do this efficiently and safely. We have a grace period of 30 minutes for pick-up lateness. After 4:00, you will be billed \$15 for every 30 minutes past the hour.

Extended Day

We will provide an extended pick up as needed until 5:00 PM each day. We offer this service for \$30 each day of late pick-up, and \$120 for a full week of late pick-up. Late pick-up takes place at our indoor sites. Late pick-up activities may include RPGs, board games, arts & crafts, or helping to design the LARP programming for the next day! If you are unable to pick up your camper by 5:00, we kindly ask you to call upon an alternative pick-up person.

Social Contract

Each day, instructors and campers engage in a short, child-lead meeting where campers discuss their growing understanding and personal implementation of our social contract. These values are at the heart of each activity we do here at the New York Society of Play, and our campers exemplify these values as well!

In order to have fun, one must be safe and happy. Our Social Contract serves as a guide for everyone to have fun in a safe, respectful, and communicative way within our program. All players, regardless of age, are expected to uphold these five pillars of our Social Contract.

The New York Society of Play Social Contract

SAFETY

- We must cultivate an environment where no one is in fear of encountering physical or emotional harm
- We must be mindful of the tone we use with others, being kind, and using our bodies and words in a safe and responsible way
- If nobody feels as though they are in danger, we can build trust, relax, and have fun!

RESPECT

- We must cultivate an environment where everyone feels respected and listened to.
- This includes not interrupting, listening to others, and engaging with the thoughts and ideas of others in a sincere manner.
- If everybody feels respected, everyone will feel as though they can safely participate and their voice will be heard.

TRUST

- We must cultivate an environment where all players trust one another and behave in a trustworthy way.
- This includes, following rules, abstaining from cheating, being honest, allowing others the opportunity to fail, and forgiving them when they do.
- Once everybody has developed mutual trust, we will have entered a mindset where we can feel safe to learn from our mistakes instead of fearing them.

COOPERATION

- We must cultivate an environment where people are willing to compromise and understand the needs of their playmates
- This includes aligning our goals (even when playing competitively!), considering the desires of others, and acting in ways that promote the fun of the group over the individual.
- When we cooperate during play, we show respect for the ideas of others, lessen the likelihood of conflict, and learn to have fun, even when we do not get our way.

CONSENT

- We must cultivate an environment where people feel they are autonomous and empowered to make their own choices.
- This includes communicating our intents and goals before acting, not forcing any individual to play any game or take any action they do not want to, and respecting the goals and desires of others when interacting as a group.
- When we respect the consent of others, everyone is empowered to feel validated in their goals and desires. Respecting consent will allow us to feel safe and trust the other members of our group

Disciplinary Protocol

At the New York Society of Play, we want to be as transparent as possible when it comes to how we interact with campers who are struggling to be their best selves. We know that high energy activities, heat, excitement, home stress, COVID, and just being a kid can elicit strong emotions and occasional adverse behavior. In the event of an incident which requires intervention by a counselor, we will follow these steps to address the behavior:

- The counselor will stop play as necessary.
- The student(s) will be taken aside privately and the counselor will help the student(s) identify the behavior that caused the incident.
- The counselor will help identify which element of the social contract the behavior is at odds with, and develop a strategy for how to approach the issue, using the social contract to guide them.
- If multiple campers need to be spoken to about a single incident, all campers involved will be removed safely from play while the counselor speaks with each camper individually. If necessary and/or productive, they will speak to all parties involved after this and enable reconciliation over conflict. The counselor will ensure that all campers involved understand what is expected of them. And then will the campers be allowed to rejoin the activity.

If a camper is really struggling to maintain an acceptable standard of behavior and accumulates multiple infractions, the camper in question may be asked to take a 5-10 minute time-out to reflect under the supervision of the site supervisor, who will have a more comprehensive conversation with the camper about their behavior. If the camper is emotionally unable to rejoin the activity, or if issues are recurring with no sign of behavioral correction on the part of the camper, they may have to sit at home base for the remainder of the activity, under the supervision of the site supervisor.

We will also communicate with each camper's guardians about any behavioral issues.

L.A.R.P. (Live Action Role Play)

What is a LARP?

LARP stands for Live Action Role Playing Game. In a LARP, players use their imaginations and bodies to play a character who interacts in a shared fantasy world with other players. WhileLARPs take many forms, most involve elements of movement, play-acting, and props.

What makes our Larp special?

Our LARP takes place in a fantasy/medieval setting where your campers will take on the roles of heroic knights and wizards. They will use foam swords, spells, and a variety of collectible item cards to embark on special missions all across the park.

On these missions, the instructors will portray both enemies and allies as they help players imagine every location they come in contact with. The players will work together to solve any problems or puzzles presented in the mission.

Missions may incorporate elements of physical challenges, arts & crafts, negotiation, orienteering, cartography, and more! Upon completion of each mission, players will receive rewards to add to their ever-growing collection of item cards. These missions will form an overarching saga spanning the entire Summer!

We are taking many precautions to ensure the safety of the campers, including a COVID-safe combat system built around the concept of social distancing!



(Pictures were taken pre-COVID. All play is compliant with CDC mask wearing and social distancing guidelines.)

Battle Games

A battle game is like a LARP, minus the role play! Battle games are short, active, high-intensity games that usually last 5 to 10 minutes, and are played in rounds. Typically played on teams, battle games are a great source of exercise, as well as a fun way to practice teamwork and strategy. We play swashbuckling-inspired takes on classics such as *Capture the Flag* and *Werewolf*, as well as completely original games like *Jedi vs. Stormtroopers* and *Wizard Wars*!

Safety

In addition to the Social Contract, we use the following rules of conduct to ensure a safe play environment:

- *Respect the social contract at all times. Players violating the social contract may have to sit out.*
 - *No jumping or diving*
- *Respect your counselor and peers, listen to any game-stopping calls*
 - *No hitting the head, neck or groin*
 - *Stay in the designated play area.*
- *Do not play with campers who are out-of-play*

Our instructors are trained to identify and preemptively stop any behavior which may lead to an unsafe play environment. In the highly unlikely event of an injury, our staff are trained in first-aid and crisis response protocol, which includes communicating with caregivers and documenting any incidents immediately after they are resolved.



(Pictures were taken pre-COVID. All play is compliant with CDC mask wearing and social distancing guidelines.)

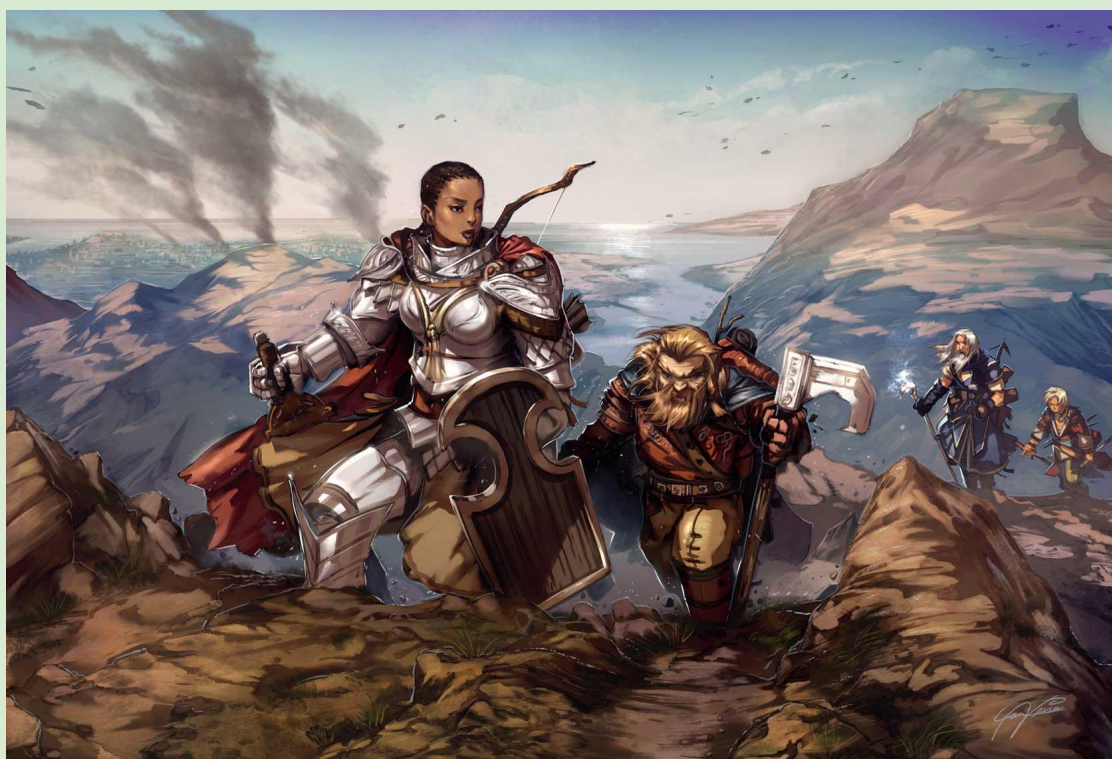
RPG (Role Playing Game)

Tabletop Role Playing Games have come a long way since the days of Dungeons & Dragons! Using pen, paper, dice, and their imagination, your camper will take on the role of a main character in a fantastical setting. These RPGs are an invaluable exercise in problem-solving, arithmetic, reading comprehension, and public speaking. Plus, they're a lot of fun!

RPG Schedule

Our RPG sessions will be self-contained week-to-week, with a story beginning on Monday and ending on that Friday. At the end of the week, campers get to bring home their character sheet as a memento of their adventure! We will have a rotating roster of RPGs over the Summer accommodating up to 6 players. We will run 2 different RPGs per week, extending to a 3rd RPG in more populated weeks. At the beginning of each week, campers will be asked which RPG they would like to participate in for that week based on options available. Take a look at our RPG schedule below to see what we are planning to run over the course of the Summer!

Week of	RPG Offerings
6/28	Dungeons & Dragons, Star Wars
7/5	Superheroes, Harry Potter
7/12	Dungeons & Dragons, Superheroes
7/19	Harry Potter, Star Wars
7/26	Dungeons & Dragons, Star Wars
8/2	Harry Potter, Superheroes
8/9	Dungeons & Dragons, Harry Potter
8/16	Dungeons & Dragons, Superheroes
8/23	Superheroes, Star Wars



Health Policy

At New York Society of Play, it is our goal to have a fun Summer while maintaining a safe environment. As we look to our in-person summer program, we are being particularly mindful of global health challenges and prepared this document to inform you of our health and safety policies. These policies will evolve throughout the Winter and Spring in order to adapt to circumstances as they unfold, and as new information becomes available. Here's to a safe and fun Summer!

Face Covering

- All staff and campers will be required to wear an appropriately-sized and fitted [CDC-Approved](#) face covering over at all times, with a few exceptions as noted below.
- The face coverings must be worn according to [CDC Guidelines](#).
- Parents must supply campers with **two** clean face-coverings each day. (The second will be a spare in the event the first becomes unusable.)
- If your child does not have a face covering, they will be provided with one by the staff on an emergency basis. (We will only have a limited number of these extra masks, so please plan accordingly.)
- If a child needs relief from their face covering at any time, they will be required to maintain at least 10 feet of distance from others.
- Campers will be allowed to remove their face coverings to eat and drink. Campers must be socially distanced from others by 10 feet when eating or drinking.
- We reserve the right to send home any camper who refuses to follow the above outlined policies during the day.

Cleaning and Sanitation

To ensure the safety of our staff and campers, our summer program will adhere to hygiene and sanitation protocols set by the state of New York and the CDC. You may find these guidelines [here](#).

Bathrooms

Campers will use public restrooms at both indoor and outdoor sites. Counselors will have all the necessary supplies to maintain safe hand-washing hygiene protocols.

Communication

We will be communicating our schedules and program information via email. During the day, we may also need to send more timely group texts via the Whatsapp messaging platform. These Whatsapp groups will also allow you to communicate with the staff if you happen to be running late, have trouble locating the group, or need to cancel at the last minute. We ask that anyone who is unable or unwilling to use the app keep our phone number available for texts and calls should we need to communicate with you during the day.

Emergency Communications/Procedures

Upon enrollment, you will be asked to fill out an emergency information sheet, which will include the names and phone numbers of any guardians. In the case of an emergency, we will respond in order of priority as is provided on the emergency information sheet.

Minor injuries

1. Call a "Hold Play" which immediately stops play
2. Assess injuries and check if the camper is able to easily move/sit up/stand on their own, without assistance.
3. If the camper's injuries are minor, we will apply first aid as needed
4. Regardless of the severity of the injury, any incidents will be reported to the head counselor and logged accordingly. The incident report binder can be found at the home base.

Major Injuries

1. If a camper is unable to respond, move, stand, or are in severe pain, the attending counselor will alert the head counselor by walkie-talkie.
2. The instructor will apply the appropriate first-aid care while the site director contacts guardians and EMT, with the order in which both parties are contacted depending on the severity of the situation.
3. After contacting any necessary parties, the site manager will go to the scene of the injury and take over watching the injured camper. All parties will be ordered to return to home base.

4. Once the site manager is on the scene, they will stay with the injured camper as a supervising adult, accompanying them until their guardian is present.
5. The instructor present at the time of the incident must file an incident report at the soonest possible opportunity.

Check-in Health Procedure

Upon arrival at the indoor site each morning, and during dismissal in the afternoon, the greeter will perform a temperature check on each camper. This temperature reading will be kept as part of your child's attendance record in an effort to track spread of the virus

- Individuals with a fever of 100.4 degrees or more, recent contact with someone infected with COVID-19, or exemplifying other symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend the summer program.
- We encourage parents and staff to be on the alert for signs of illness and to remain home if anyone in your household, your camper or anyone your camper has been near are sick with COVID-19 or symptoms.

Drop-off and Pick-Up Protocol

- Caregivers and campers must wear a face covering and remain socially distant at all times when dropping off picking up your camper.
- To pick up your child, speak to the greeter who will verify you as the child's caregiver and verbally confirm with both caregiver and camper.
- Caregivers must wait outside while their camper gathers their belongings.

Weather Policy

- On days where it rains or the temperature exceeds 102 degrees, we will move to our indoor location for summer program activities. There, we will play games that adhere to our social distancing and health regulations.

Grouping and Pods

- Each site will accommodate no more than 12 children.
- Children will be divided into a younger group and an older group at the beginning of the day; these are the groups they will remain in during the day's activities.
- Children may switch counselors and peers over the course of the day. For this reason, we will enforce social distancing and face-covering at all times.
- Counselors will go over health and safety expectations and protocol at the beginning of each day.