

# **2022 Summer Camp Program** **Parent Handbook**

## **River Otters Summer Camp**

**A 6 Week Camp for Children Entering  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

## **Bobcats Summer Camp**

**A 6 Week Camp for Children Entering  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Epping Parks & Recreation Department**

**157 Main St**

**Phone: 603-679-3006**

**eppingrecreation@gmail.com**

### **Mission Statement**

"It is our mission to provide a safe, comfortable, consistent environment which allows youth to have fun and reach their full potential, both socially and emotionally."

To that end, we have established expectations and procedures for how we will play, learn and work together.

# Camp Descriptions

## River Otters Summer Camp:

(Program Cell: 608-9016)

Camp Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm

Extended Day Camp: 7:30am-5:30pm (Additional Cost)

Location: Watson Academy Classrooms

## River Otters Summer Camp:

Each day includes a variety of fun activities designed to build social skills, self confidence, creativity, and physical fitness. Campers are assigned to groups according to their age. Enrichment activities include, but are not limited to art, sports, music and science based activities. Each camper will go on 3 trips per week to various activities. You will be provided with a Trip Schedule prior to the start of camp with Trip Dates, Locations and Times. Trips listed in the camp brochure are tentative trips and are subject to change. Transportation will be provided by Epping Recreation, via their mini-buses and school bus rentals on Wednesday trips. Weekly camp cost covers all activities, trips, admission costs, transportation and staff supervision.

## Bobcats Summer Camp:

(Program Cell: 608-9076)

Camp Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm

Extended Day Camp: 7:30am-5:30pm (Additional Cost)

Location: EMS Cafe & EMS Gym

## Bobcats Summer Camp:

We strive to provide a safe, fun environment filled with enrichment activities. All programming is open to youth entering 4th - 8th grade. Daily programming includes a jam-packed schedule of music, sports, arts & crafts, outdoor adventure, cooking, water games and much more. There are plenty of choices for everyone and plenty of field trips throughout the week to keep our participants active and entertained. The Bobcats have either a large trip, mini trip or show each day of camp. As always, camp cost covers all activities, trips, admission costs, transportation and staff supervision. You will be provided with a complete list of these trips, times and locations. Trips are subject to change.

## Participant Expectations

Epping Recreation offers a SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE! This program is **not** intended as simple child care. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION during scheduled activities and trips is EXPECTED! If your child does not want to participate in this program, please reconsider signing them up! **No refunds** will be given to participants who do not show up on registered days. Please be sure your child understands these guidelines before attending our Recreation programs.

For the **Safety of All Participants**, we kindly request that children:

- Treat ALL staff and other children with respect, including when instructions are given
- Taunting, name calling, bullying, profanity or physical violence **will not be tolerated**.
- Respect others' boundaries and personal space.
- Play safely and dress appropriately for the program.
- Treat and use equipment properly and follow the rules for all activities.
- Stay in supervised areas at all times.
- Find a staff member they feel comfortable discussing concerns or questions with.
- Participate in scheduled programs or discuss with staff if there are concerns.

**Remember.... Coming to Summer Camp is your choice!**

## Behavior Policy:

Both River Otters and Bobcats Summer Camps strive to provide a safe and healthy environment for all participants and staff involved. We have a strict policy of zero tolerance for bullying and abusive behaviors. We utilize a behavior log, when necessary, to track individual participants behaviors that are found to be unsafe or inappropriate for the camp environment and its participants. Participants will be given clear expectations and guidance by staff to help them understand and follow the rules and behavioral expectations of the program. If a participant displays inappropriate behavior at a level that warrants action, the behavior or action will be recorded in the behavior log and shared with the parent or guardian, either at pick-up, or if necessary by phone at time of behavior. We will make every attempt to work with participants and parents on any behavioral issues that may arise, but our number one responsibility is to provide a safe environment for ALL participants and staff. In extreme cases, participants may be suspended or expelled from the program. There will be NO REFUNDS given as a result of this action. If your child has any health or mental deficits that may affect his/her ability to follow behavioral expectations, please make an appointment to speak with the Recreation Director or Assistant Director. We are unable to accommodate one on one care during our programs, but are willing to work with parents on plans or strategies, when possible, that may help the child be successful during their camp experience. Parents must be available to pick up their child, if necessary!

## Playground Rules

Participants are expected to follow the school's playground rules as expected during the school year. Staff are trained in the rules and safety concerns of the playground equipment and will provide supervision and direction to children at all times on the playground. We will be utilizing the playground at EES for all age groups

## Rules for Riding the Bus

1. The driver is in charge of the bus. Participants shall obey the driver promptly.
2. Participants shall occupy the seat designated for them by the driver/ supervising staff.
3. Feet shall be on the floor and out of the aisle.
4. Hands and arms shall be kept out of the aisle and inside the windows.
5. Participants are to remain seated until the bus reaches the designated area and comes to a complete stop. Children are to remain seated until directed by the driver or group leader.
6. Physical abuse and/or use of abusive language to others or the bus driver will not be tolerated.
7. Please refrain from loud talking, whistling or shouting. Remember—unnecessary noise is distracting to the driver, and his/her concern is your safety.

Riding the bus is a privilege. This privilege may be temporarily denied or permanently revoked if misconduct of your child jeopardizes the safe operations of the bus or the safety of the children riding the bus.

## Discharge Policy

The Epping Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of a child for the following reasons:

- Failure to pay. Your child will not be allowed to attend programs that have not been paid for in advance of the time attending!
- Not following policies outlined in this handbook
- The child has special needs which the program cannot meet. Please see Parks & Recreation Director to discuss in advance of registration. We will make every effort to accommodate special needs, whenever possible, including allowing a parent or caregiver to accompany a child with special needs, if appropriate. (Refund will be given in this case)
- Physical and/or verbal abuse of staff or children by parent or child -NO REFUNDS

## Expectations of Parents

**Parents or those on pick up list need to bring their ID's with them.** The staff will check to make sure they are on the approved pick up list before releasing the child to you. If you have any concerns about people on the approved pick up list please contact the Camp Director or Assistant Director of the Recreation Department.

Please remember to send your child with everything he/she needs for the program.

- Water bottle (20oz.) or more -REQUIRED! Please label your child's bottles!
- Lunch & Snacks (at least two) **(We do not have a refrigerator/microwave for lunches)**
- Dress your children appropriately for activities/weather. Please send fair skinned children with hats and sleeves instead of tank tops to help with preventing sunburns!
- Necessary medication. (Please see Camp Director)
- Sunscreen and Bug Spray - Sunscreen is REQUIRED.. **Please label** your child's bottles! Spray Sunscreen is best, but our staff will assist young children with lotion type if necessary on legs, arms, face, ears and neck areas only!
- Sneakers - No open toe shoes or sandals! You may send sandals during beach days, but please include sneakers in their bag for any play times at parks and back at school/Watson.
- **NO TOYS FROM HOME PLEASE.**

Please let us know when someone not listed on your child's registration/ participation form will be picking up your child. We will need this in writing. Please provide a letter at drop off or pick up and let the staff know.

#### Summer School:

Please let us know if your child is attending summer school as soon as you know (At Reg. if possible) so that we can make arrangements to meet your child at the school when they are done or bring them to school if they have early drop off. Due to trip schedules, we need to make sure that children are assigned the earliest school/reading program slots available. We will be requesting that on some trip days, children are released from school at 10am. We will provide a list of trips and bus times to the school and parents once registered.

**Absences:** Please call the Camp Director Cell by 8:00 AM at 608-9016 or 608-9076 to let us know if your child is going to be absent from the program. It is important that we know if you have had a change of plans or if your child is sick and will not attend a registered day! We do not want to be holding buses for trips, waiting for children to arrive who are not planning to attend that day!

#### Drop Off & Pick Up:

For Bobcats, the EMS Cafe If looking at the High School front entrance camp pick up and drop off will be at the far right door with the small set of stairs off of the Cafeteria. You can park in front of the building and wait for someone to come out to get your child. During free play time (the beginning and end of the camp day) the kids will have the choice of the gym or stay in the cafeteria. Please be patient with the staff while they go get your child! We will also have use of the Playground, Shade Structure and fields this summer. A sign will be posted if we are out of the building. If you have any questions at drop off or pick up, please call the Camp cell at 608-9016. For River Otters, Drop off and Pick up is at Watson. Please enter Circle at the High School Entrance Sign side and wait in car at front door. A staff will be out to assist you.

### Early Drop-Off / Late Pick-Up Policy (Extended Day Camp Option):

We offer extended hours, at an additional cost, before and after camp to accommodate parents work schedules. This option is the "Extended Day Camp" option on the Registration Form, which covers you from 7:30am-5:30pm. You must register in advance and pay for this service, so we can ensure that we have adequate staffing on for the number of expected campers!

Early Drop-Off, prior to 7:30am IS NOT ALLOWED!! There will be no staff present at the program to watch your child prior to 7:30am!

Late Pick-UP, after 5:30pm IS NOT ALLOWED!! There will be a \$5 late fee charged for every 5 minutes late beyond 5:30pm, **due upon pick-up**. You will receive ONE warning day! If you have not paid for PM Extended care, pick-up time is at 4:30pm! If you arrive after 4:40pm, you will be charged for the extended daily rate of \$5, **due upon pick-up**. If you repeatedly pick up beyond your pick-up time, you may be required to register for "Extended Day Camp" option for the remainder of the summer or if already registered for late pick up, your child may be removed from the program.

### Sick Child Policy:

- We cannot accommodate sick children at our program!
- We will send your child home if he or she is sick! This includes, but is not limited to: vomiting, diarrhea; fever over 100 degrees, lice and conjunctivitis (pink eye), strep throat or any other contagious illness.
- When your child is sick you must return the Recreation Departments' phone call promptly (within 30 min.) and make necessary arrangements for your child's pick-up.
- Any child who has been absent due to a contagious illness, must provide a note from a doctor/negative covid test saying that he or she is well enough to participate and is no longer contagious. Your child should show no symptoms of illness for a 24 hour period, without the use of fever reducing medication, before returning to any program. (Please help us keep germs out of camp!!!)
- If your child has lice, your child is **not** able to attend any recreation programs. Your child can resume attendance when there is no evidence of lice and treatment is underway. (Dr. Note)
- These are the recommended strategies by the CDC for preventing people from becoming ill, preventing the spread of illness between people, and to treat people who are ill. We will follow these recommendations at the Recreation Department.
  - Require respiratory etiquette which includes covering nose and mouth or to cough by sneeze into the fold of their elbow.
  - Encourage frequent hand washing especially after coughing, sneezing and bathroom use.
  - Provide time to wash hands before eating at snack and lunch times.
  - Isolate ill persons immediately from others and send home.
  - Require symptomatic individuals to remain home until negative covid test and they are free of vomiting or fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
  - Continue to perform routine cleaning and regularly clean areas and items likely to have

frequent hand contact.

## Medical Needs:

- Each participant must have a medical form with a signed waiver on file 48 hours before the first day your child will attend or he/she will not be allowed to attend. If there are any medical changes that should be noted on the medical form during the course of your child's attendance at our program you must notify us immediately. This includes new medications.
- The Health portion of the Participation Form needs to be COMPLETELY filled out, including reactions and other important info. for staff to be aware of. If your child has a particular health concern that may warrant extra attention or awareness from staff, please contact the Camp Director or Parks & Recreation Director, prior to the first day of camp to discuss! This will allow for additional staff education, as needed and **the first day of camp is not a good time to discuss this**, as it is often busy and there is lack of privacy and time to educate staff.
- Members of the recreation staff are trained in CPR, First Aid, and Epi-Pen Injections, but are **not able to administer non-emergency injections**.
- The staff will make every attempt to communicate with parents in the event that a child is injured during the day, either with a phone call or at the end of the day at sign-out, depending on the severity.
- Participants needing medication during the program must have a parent authorization form on file, stating the exact time and dosage of the medication to be administered. Please see the Camp Director or Parks & Recreation Director prior to the first day of camp, if your child will be taking medication during the camp day. This will give us time to make sure we have a clear understanding of what is being taken, when and how, along with any other info. needed to keep your child safe and healthy during camp.

## Divorced/Separated Parents & Guardians Policy:

The Epping Parks & Recreation Department recognizes that many families have experienced divorce or separation. We feel that in order to best support and care for our participants it is important that we be able to maintain good relations with all significant adults in their lives, to include grandparents or other relatives caring for children or foster children.

If you need to discuss any matters of importance in relation to divorce/separation and any other issues that may help us in the care of your child, please make an appointment to meet **privately** with the Camp Director or Parks & Rec. Director, without your child present!

We need to have a clear understanding of the following:

- What the custody arrangements are
- Which parent to contact first for general questions and in an emergency
- Who is responsible for payments
- Who is or is not authorized to pick up your child (court paperwork may be required)
- Who are the significant adults in your child's life and their relationship to your child, especially if we are to have contact with them

In an effort to minimize situations that may be uncomfortable for you, your child, our staff or other participants, we ask that you refrain from talking about custody issues, visitation disputes, problems with, or negatively about your child's other parent in front of our participants, including your child. Please note that we cannot deny a parent access to their child, solely based on the word of the other parent. We need to have the court order authorizing this request, if applicable.

If there are any altercations between parents, program participants will be moved away from the incident and police will be notified.



## Payment Policy:

We prefer payment by check. If paying with cash, you must give cash payments **directly to the Camp Directors, Assistant Director or ask for the staff in charge** and obtain a receipt at time of payment. Please make checks payable to "Town of Epping". **Check Payments** may be mailed, given directly to Camp staff or placed in Recreation Mailbox at Board of Selectmen's Office at Town Hall. Receipts are available upon request. Please do not drop off payments to school office or school staff during the Summer! Tax ID # is 02-603-5184. Please retain all receipts and Tax ID # for your yearly taxes. Email Tiffany with any billing questions, eppingrecoffice@gmail.com.

### Payment Structure

- When you register your child for our summer program you must pay a minimum deposit of 25% of total balance, to be submitted **with a registration form. No registrations will be accepted without 25% minimum payment!**
- **Registrations are first come first served and space is limited. Registrations open on town voting day in March.**
- There are two payment options:
  - 4 Payment Plan: 25% due at registration, 25% due by June 1, 25% Due July 1 and remaining balance due prior to last week registered or by Aug. 1, whichever comes first. Attendance will be denied if not paid in full prior to each week attending.
- **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER JUNE 1st!**

### Financial Assistance:

At this time, we have established a small fund for assistance through the Rec. Dept. for summer programs. If you require financial assistance please let us know. Funds will be limited and awarded based on need and in the order received. Funds will not cover the entire cost of camp. You will be responsible for the remaining balance, due in advance of each week attending. Funds will have a maximum allowed amount per summer. If you receive funding this year, you will be moved to the bottom of next year's list, if there is more need than funding next year. If you have questions regarding the process for applying for financial assistance please call Nicole, Parks & Recreation Director at 679-3006.

