



The Day Camp with the
Away Camp Atmosphere

2026 PARENT HANDBOOK

Located at: 802 Ponus Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840 Mailing address: P.O. Box 4718, Stamford, CT 06907
P: 203-966-2937 • E: info@campplayland.com • F: 203-966-2325 • www.campplayland.com

Dear Families,

Your child's summer of fun is almost here! To assure a happy experience kindly consider the following:

CAMP PLAYLAND PHILOSOPHY

Camp Playland implements a very simple philosophy – ***camp must be safe, camp must be fun and camp must be instructional.*** We want every camper to have the best summer possible. This is attained when parents and the Playland staff work together.

CAMP HISTORY / LEADERSHIP

Camp Playland is a third generation family business. The Bloom family takes tremendous pride in maintaining the best traditions in camping excellence. Walter and Pearl Bloom and Sy and Adele Breslow founded Camp Playland in 1957. In 1976, the Breslows retired and Gary Bloom became his parents' partner. **In 2011, Steve Bloom joined his parents, Gary & Barbara, as owner/director. Matt Dudics (Director) and Mary Garesche (Associate Director) complete the year round leadership team.**

CAMP CONTACT LIST

- ❖ Camp Office Landline – (203) 966-2937
- ❖ Camp Email – info@campplayland.com
- ❖ **Text Us** Camp Office Cell (monitored 7:00am-5:30pm) – (203) 999-4966
- ❖ See Division Leader Phone Numbers on Page 8

CAMP DATES AND HOURS

Camp will operate Monday, June 22nd-Friday, August 7th. Session 1 is Monday, June 22nd-Friday, July 17th. Session 2 is Monday, July 20th-Friday, August 7th. There is no camp on Friday, July 3rd. Buses arrive on campus between 9:00am and 9:30am and depart at 4:00pm. We offer a short day option for Pre-K campers (not entering Kindergarten) with a 2:10pm parent pick-up. Early parent drop-off (8:00am) and late pick-up (5:30pm) are available at no extra charge.

PRE-CAMP VISITS AND ORIENTATION

**CAMPER ORIENTATION IS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 20th. OPEN HOUSE FROM 9:00am-12:00pm
REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED.**

**We will have an additional orientation for Pre-K Campers (not entering kindergarten)
on Wednesday, June 17th from 10:00am-12:00pm**

First time campers are encouraged to visit prior to the first day of camp. Returning campers are welcome, too. Our campus is always open for tours by appointment. Please call or email to schedule a visit.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parent communication is through text message, email and phone calls. Please see a list of pertinent phone numbers on page 8. Our Directors and Division Leaders are available anytime and are happy to provide updates for you. We encourage you to contact the camp ASAP whenever you have questions, suggestions or concerns. We can resolve issues when we know about them. We want to hear from you and take great pride in “getting it right.”

TIPPING POLICY

CAMP PLAYLAND HAS A NO TIPPING POLICY.

Catch the spirit! Get ready for the best summer ever!

HEALTH REGULATIONS

A current health form for each camper is required. Health forms must be completed and signed by your pediatrician. We accept school health forms. Health forms are valid for three years from the date of the last examination. If we have a current form on file from last summer, we will forward it to this summer. **Health forms must be on file *PRIOR TO JUNE 22nd, 2026***. Blank health forms can be found on our website.

MEDICATION

Medication to be dispensed by the camp nurses and/or stored in the office must be **in the original prescription bottle or box and accompanied by an authorization of medication form signed by your doctor and parent/guardian**. This includes Epipens™. “Authorization for the Administration of Medication by Camp Personnel” forms are on our website and must be current within 12 months. This form needs to be returned *only* if the camp is to dispense medication to your child. If your camper will require medicine to be left with the camp nurse, please arrange a time prior to your camper’s first day of camp to drop-off the medicine. Campers may not carry medication with them.

CAMP NURSE(S) & ILLNESS

We have two nurses at all times in our nurse’s office. If campers/counselors are determined by the nurses to have an observable illness, such as constant coughing, stomach issues, vomiting, respiratory infection, a temperature over 100.4 or any other illness, campers/counselors will be sent home.

HEAD LICE

Head lice is a nuisance but not a medical issue and we do our best to mitigate the risks of spreading. Please check your camper for head lice before the start of camp. If you find lice, please notify the camp so we may alert other families to check heads. Any person with head lice will be sent home to be treated. We provide disposable shower caps for any activities that require helmets.

CLOTHING

Please see a packing list on page 7. Dress your child according to the weather. Camp is a very physical environment. Children should wear sneakers and socks (no sandals, open-toed shoes, flip-flops, Crocs™, etc.), shorts, t-shirt, sweatshirt (on cool days) and a hat. A camper may wear a bathing suit to camp and change into a dry suit after the first swim. Camp Playland is not a uniform camp. A complimentary Camp Playland backpack, t-shirt and sweatshirt will be given to each camper during their first week of camp.

RAINY DAYS / EXTREME HEAT

We follow our regular sunny day schedule as much as possible. In the event of rain, we will switch to our rainy day schedule, which includes special activities in covered areas. On extremely hot days we will slow activities down, stay in the shade and ensure campers are staying hydrated. Groups will have access to A/C buildings for breaks whenever needed.

BIRTHDAYS

Campers who celebrate summer birthdays will be recognized at flag raising on their special day. We kindly request parents not send or bring in snacks or goody bags to celebrate a birthday or any other occasion.

PARENT VISITATION

Camp Playland is closed to visitors during the camp day. Communication between parents, camp directors, division leaders will be very fluid. We pride ourselves on being responsive to questions and concerns. Parents and Camp Playland will partner to create a healthy, fun and instructional summer for campers and counselors.

LUNCH & SNACK

Lunch catered by **FLIK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DINING** will be served every day. Everyone is provided a bottle of water at lunch. An afternoon snack is provided daily. The lunch menu is available on our website. Please communicate any food allergies/concerns prior to the start of camp. We have lunch options available for campers with dietary needs.

CAMP PLAYLAND IS A "PEANUT/NUT/SESAME SENSITIVE" ENVIRONMENT

Campers and counselors may not bring peanut butter or other peanut/nut products to camp. Campers will not be allowed to share food. All food we provide is peanut, nut and sesame free.

WATER

Water filling stations and cups can be found around campus, never far from reach. Groups will take many water breaks throughout the day.

ATTENDANCE

Please contact the camp office by 8:00am if your child will be absent or is arriving late so that we may notify the bus counselor.

TRANSPORTATION

Most campers will be picked up and dropped off by school bus/van. We provide door-to-door pick up and drop off. Details regarding routes will be emailed prior to your child's first day. Campers should wait at the street for the bus. Please help expedite the trip by being early. There will be a bus counselor on every bus. Please help our buses stay on schedule by keeping conversations with bus counselors brief; instead always contact the camp office with questions. In the morning, if a camper is not waiting outside, bus counselors are instructed to wait 3 minutes before departing. Please be ready to receive your child at drop-off time in the afternoon. The return times are approximate. The camp office tracks buses on GPS. Please call or text the office if you need the exact bus location. If there is no adult waiting to receive a camper at drop-off, bus counselors have been instructed to keep the child on the bus and continue the route. The bus counselor will contact the camp and we will contact you to arrange pick up.

Campers transported daily by car (and not utilizing early drop off/late pick up) may be dropped off between 9:00am and 9:30am and be picked up after 4:05pm. Detailed instructions are available on the website.

We thank you for your patience with the timing of our buses, especially on the first few days of camp. Bus routes may change slightly due to traffic. We work hard to ensure all buses are as punctual as possible.

BUS CONDUCT

To ensure a safe and enjoyable ride for all campers, we ask that children follow these important bus rules. All Playland buses are equipped with seat belts, and campers are required to remain seated with their seatbelt fastened at all times. Campers are expected to keep hands and belongings to themselves, use respectful language, and follow all directions from the bus counselor and driver. For safety reasons, eating or finishing breakfast on the bus is not permitted due to choking hazards and food allergy concerns. We strongly discourage bringing electronic devices or cell phones on the bus. Please note that the camp is not responsible for lost or damaged items. Disruptive or unsafe behavior may impact a camper's bus privileges. Thank you for your support in reinforcing these expectations.

♪ DEAR CAMP PLAYLAND, HATS OFF TO THEE!
FRIENDSHIPS, MEMORIES, FUN-FILLED ACTIVITIES
TRUE & STRONG, UNITED ARE WE
WITH A RAH, RAH, RAH, SIS, BOOM, BAH,
STOMP YOUR FEET, CHA, CHA, CHA
HATS OFF TO CAMP PLAYLAND!

EARLY DROP-OFF & LATE PICK-UP

Parents may drop-off as early as 8:00am and pick-up as late as 5:30pm. You may do this as needed. Please notify us when you are utilizing this option.

DISMISSAL CHANGES

If you wish to pick up your child or change your afternoon transportation, the camp office must be notified before 2:00pm by text, phone call or email. Due to limited capacity on buses/vans, we cannot always accommodate campers riding another vehicle. If you are picking your child up after camp, please arrive at 4:05pm or later.

EARLY PICK-UPS / LATE ARRIVAL

Please notify the camp office if you are picking up early. No campers will be released without permission from the Playland office. We will make every effort to get your child to you quickly for early pick-up, but please allow ample time if you need to have your child to an appointment. Picking up between 3:45 and 4:00pm can be difficult as we are loading buses/vans. If you arrive at this time, you will be asked to wait until after dismissal (4:05pm).

2:10pm pick-up for “Short Day” campers – Some Pre-K campers (not entering kindergarten) will be picked up by parents at 2:10pm. Parents who have opted for early pick-up will drive into camp at 2:10pm. The campers will be escorted by Playland staff to the pick-up person. All individuals picking up campers must be listed as emergency contacts.

CAMPER / FAMILY INFORMATION

You may update your contact information, emergency contact information and special notes about your camper through the Companion App or our website, www.campplaylandofnewcanaan.com. Click on “FAMILY LOGIN” (top bar). If you have trouble logging in, please call or email camp.

PHOTOGRAPHS / CAMPANION APP

Our camp photographers and social media specialists will take many photos every day. All photos will be uploaded onto the *Companion* App, which features facial recognition technology. The *Companion* App can be downloaded for free in any App store. Your log in is the same as your CampInTouch Login on the Camp Playland website. If you need assistance logging in contact the camp office. Follow @campplayland on Instagram for stories, reels and posts of our camp day!

GROUPING

Groups are made up of approximately 14-18 campers with 3-6 counselors per group. Campers are grouped by school grade. Groups of campers entering 2nd grade and older are single gender. Groups of campers entering 1st grade and younger are coed. If your child wishes to be grouped with a special friend, be sure you have indicated this to us on your Camper Information Form, located in your parent portal. We do not accept negative requests. Group rosters will be posted on the website in early June.

SCHEDULES

Group schedules will be posted on the website in early June.

NEW FOR 2026

New activities and areas for summer 2026 include the Nature/Mining Treehouse, Playtopia - a new village playground, pizza for lunch, 'Broadway Belts,' Expanded C.I.T. program, 'Free choice Fridays' for rising 3rd graders, new electives for rising 4th - 8th graders.

SWIMMING

Swimming is an important part of camp life. We want every child to love swimming, and we understand all children learn at their own pace. We will never force a child to swim and will work diligently to ensure that every camper feels comfortable at the pool. **Campers entering 2nd grade and younger have two swim periods daily and will be grouped by swimming ability. Campers entering 3rd grade and older swim once per day. Campers will enjoy free swim and small group swim lessons in our three heated swimming pools:**

- The "Pre-K Pool" (1 to 2 ½ feet) for campers entering Pre-K
- The "L Pool" (2 to 3 ½ feet) for campers entering Pre-K, K and 1st Grade
- The "Deep" pool (3 ½ to 10 feet) for campers entering 2nd grade and up

Counselors will assist young campers with changing, keeping track of possessions and applying sunscreen after swimming. Campers do not need to bring swim devices from home (floaties, bubbles, etc.). Instructors will utilize kickboards, barbells and noodles to aid in stroke development.

Jon Zajdel and Mike Lepoutre are our aquatics directors and have a team of certified lifeguards/swim instructors. Group counselors assist with swim classes.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Weekly special events are planned throughout the summer. A Special Events calendar is mailed to each family and posted on our website.

SENIOR / C.I.T. TRIPS

Senior Campers (rising 7th and 8th graders) will leave campus for trips every Wednesday. Trips are posted on the Special Events Calendar. [C.I.Ts](#) (rising 9th & 10th graders) will go on day trips twice a summer.

STAFF

We are very proud of our professional, mature and nurturing counselors. Camp Playland employees are teachers, college and high school students 16 and older. Counselors in training (C.I.Ts) are 14 & 15 year old Playland alumni. All counselors are interviewed by our directors. We check references, perform thorough background checks and train counselors during staff orientations.

STAFF HANDBOOK

We have protocols in place to ensure a safe environment for campers and staff. Our staff handbook is posted alongside the staff roster on the camp website. Please visit this document to learn about Camp Playland's safety procedures.

ACCREDITATION

We are proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association and are licensed and inspected by the state of CT.



Camp Packing List!

(Label Everything)

Campers should bring a backpack with the following:

- ✓ 1 or 2 bathing suits and swimshirts.
 - o Campers entering 3rd grade and older swim once a day.
 - o Campers entering 2nd grade and younger swim twice a day. Some of these groups have back-to-back swim periods and only need one bathing suit. Kindly check your daily schedule.
- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Swim goggles
- ✓ Sunscreen (preferably spray and/or stick)
- ✓ A sweatshirt on chilly days and/or a rain jacket on rainy days

We prohibit electronic devices and cell phones on campus.

A camper may wear a bathing suit to camp and change into a dry suit after the first swim. Campers are encouraged to bring swim goggles. Always pack swim clothes even if the weather is threatening. Please apply sunscreen prior to coming to camp. Counselors will assist campers in reapplying sunscreen after each swim. We do not share sunscreen.

CLOTHING

Dress your child according to the weather. Camp is a very physical environment. Children should wear sneakers or other closed toed shoes. (no sandals, open-toed shoes, flip-flops, etc.), shorts, t-shirt, sweatshirt (on cool days) and a hat. Camp Playland is not a uniform camp. A complimentary Camp Playland t-shirt, backpack and sweatshirt will be given to each camper during their first week of camp.

Raincoats and warmer clothing should be packed on rainy or cool days. Always send swim clothes as we often return to our regular schedule when the inclement weather passes. Swimming pools are heated.

WATER

There are disposable cups and water filling stations all over campus. Campers do not need to bring water bottles to camp. Groups stop for frequent water breaks and ensure campers are staying hydrated. Every camper is given a cold bottle of water with lunch.

LOST AND FOUND

We make every effort to return lost clothing or other personal items. Please label everything including: towels, shoes, socks, underwear, raingear, goggles, etc. Lost items that are not labeled will be placed on our "Lost & Found Clothes Line". We discourage campers from bringing objects of personal value to camp.

Division Leaders Contact List

These phones are monitored 9:00am-4:00pm

Pre-K Division Leaders

Tigers, Bengals, Bears

- ❖ Vivi Torres - (203) 996-3438

Grizzlies, Lions, Cheetahs

- ❖ Lynnet Karamanian - (203) 999-4857

K Division Leaders

Beavers, Chipmunks, Jaguars

- ❖ Debbie Ravina - (203) 996-4274

Porcupines, Woodchucks, Otters

- ❖ Kat Shockley - (203) 996-4871

Lower Camp Division Leaders

Coyotes, Roadrunners, Robins

- ❖ Emma Zachary - (203) 996-5720

Bobcats, Cardinals, Seagulls

- ❖ Colby Stalteri - (203) 999-3562

Middle Camp Division Leaders

Broncos, Eagles, Owls

- ❖ Jake Isolda - (203) 999-5812

Hawks, Blue Jays, Ravens

- ❖ Rachel Wolfe - (203) 996-6518

Upper Camp Division Leaders

Badgers, Cougars, Vikings

- ❖ Andrew Pavia - (203) 996-4186

Explorers, Mustangs, All Stars, Super Seniors

- ❖ RJ Cavaliero - (203) 999-3582

Leopards, Sandpipers, CITs

- ❖ Lola Butler - (203) 667-1566

Navigators, Panthers, Trailblazers, Super Seniors

- ❖ Izzy Weiss - (203) 999-4394

*If you are unable to communicate with the Division Leader or you need further assistance contact Steve Bloom (203-966-2937, steve@campplayland.com). Your satisfaction is of the utmost importance.