



CAMPER & PARENT HANDBOOK

2011

OUR 54th SUMMER

54 Wilder Road, Suffern, NY 10901

(845) 354-1466 Fax: (845) 362-4597

Email: directors@deerkilldaycamp.com

www.deerkilldaycamp.com

The Rhodes Family Since 1958

HELP US MAKE YOUR CHILDREN'S SUMMER A GREAT ONE

Welcome to our Deerkill community! We are honored that you have selected Deerkill as your children's camp, and we want to do everything possible to make their summer happy and worthwhile. You can be a big help to us. If your child has any problems or concerns, please let us know about them as soon as possible. Don't be afraid to "bother" us – we are very discreet and that is why we are here. We are always available at camp during the week, as well as every evening from Sunday through Thursday by phone. And, if you would like to speak with your child's Group Leader, or swim instructor, they will be happy to call you at a time that is mutually convenient. Also, if there are any changes at home that may have upset your child, kindly let us know. Then we can give that little extra attention that often means so much.

**IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT US AT ANY TIME, PLEASE CALL
THE CAMP OFFICE AT (845) 354-1466.**

You may also email us with your questions at directors@deerkilldaycamp.com. **Note that while we do often check our emails, please do not email us time-sensitive requests in the summer (e.g. transportation, dietary, etc.) as we may not check our email during the camp day.**

WHO'S WHO AT DEERKILL

NAME	POSITION	EMAIL
Bob and Karen Rhodes Todd and Rebecca Rhodes Rothman	Owners / Directors	directors@deerkilldaycamp.com
Alan Malden	Director / Head Counselor	Please email Directors
Jennifer Murphy	Transportation Director	transportation@deerkilldaycamp.com
Deloris Caro	Office Manager	office@deerkilldaycamp.com
Cathy Malden	Summer Office Manager	Please email Directors
Sandra Riley	Medical Director	Please email Directors
Mat Malden	Waterfront Director	swim@deerkilldaycamp.com

DEERKILL'S ONLINE COMMUNITY

CampMinder Online Family Accounts

To access your account, where you can update your contact information and check weekly photos and the latest news, simply visit www.deerkilldaycamp.com and click "Log In" on the right side. If it is your first time visiting your account, you will need to retrieve your password using the email you have previously provided to us. After logging in, you may change your password. Once in the Photos section, you can browse different dates for various albums.

Social Media

You can keep up with the latest news around camp at the following sites:

DKDC Blog: www.deerkilldaycamp.com/news

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5349344929>

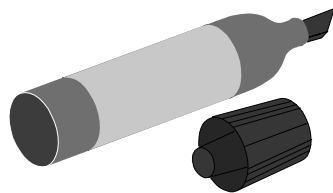
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DeerkillDayCamp>

CAMPER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our camp philosophy is based on our three fundamental principles of community, tradition and fun. For over half a century, children have been coming to Deerkill to learn about the world around them, gain new life skills, and build self-esteem, all of which are critical to youth development. We have four main goals for your children this camp summer:

- Goal 1: To provide opportunities for campers to become more independent while building self-esteem and confidence in their abilities.
- Goal 2: To encourage each child to learn to thrive in a group environment and larger community.
- Goal 3: To encourage each child to challenge themselves by attempting new things and gaining new skills.
- Goal 4: To provide each camper with a safe and secure environment and opportunities for fun.

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure your children achieve these goals this summer.



CAMPER LABELS

All clothes and everything brought to camp should be marked with your **camper's first initial and last name**. We will be sending out ordering information for several label companies prior to the summer. Anything that is "lost" is returned immediately if it has a name on it, but unmarked belongings often find their way to our Lost & Found. At the end of the summer, we will send along anything left at camp with names, but anything without an owner is donated to local charities.



HEALTH FORMS

We have enclosed our camp health forms. You will notice that there is an emergency medical release at the bottom of the front page of Health Form 1. The New York State Department of Health requires emergency contacts, a parent's signature on the emergency medical release and the doctor's signature on the back of the form. If it is impossible to have your child examined

before the start of camp, please make an extra copy of the front page, sign the emergency medical release, and fax page 1 to us at 845-362-4597. **We must have the emergency medical release prior to the start of camp.** Also, the Board of Health reviews our records early in July, so please send us the completed form as soon as possible after the examination.

We have also enclosed the form for Administration of Medications (Health Form 2). This needs to be completed by any parents who choose to authorize Deerkill to administer any of the medications on the back page. We require this for any Over the Counter medicine. This form also requires a physician signature per the Board of Health.

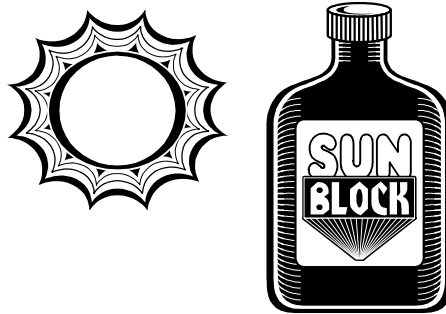


WHAT TO BRING AND WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

TOWELS: Fortunately, **it is not necessary to send towels** to camp. Towels sent from home frequently become wet, dirty or join our Lost & Found. We have found that it is much easier for everyone if you let us supply your children's towels. Since we have our own laundry at camp, we know that our towels are clean and dry. Also, except for our 3- and 4-year old Flippers and Dolphins, please do not send bathrobes or water shoes as our locker rooms surround our pools.

BATHING SUITS: We ask that parents send **two bathing suits** to camp on Mondays and leave them here for the week. We will make sure that they are properly hung up to dry and that they go home on Friday to be washed over the weekend. Parents may send in plastic bags for wet bathing suits to be taken home on Fridays.

CAMP "UNIFORM": The camp "uniform" consists of a pair of shorts, a t-shirt, **sneakers** and a baseball cap (to provide shade from the sun). **On rainy days, please remember to send along a sweatshirt or raincoat** with your camper's name. All rainy day activities are indoors however campers will walk outside between periods. On "photo" days and trip days each session, we will ask that all campers proudly wear their Deerkill t-shirt. Of course, campers love to wear their own tie-dye creations on our annual Tie-dye Day. Also keep an eye out for our weekly special dress-up theme days when you receive the summer activity calendar prior to camp.



SUNBLOCK LOTION: We recommend sunscreen of SPF 30 or above. When applied before camp in the morning, the best water-resistant lotions will last for the whole day. Please do not use expired lotion as it may be ineffective. We have lots of shady areas at camp but if your child is very fair, swims at every opportunity or chooses to spend an optional period on the ball field, he or she will probably need to bring sunscreen to camp with their name on it. Just send a note to your child's counselors and he or she will be happy to re-apply it during the day. We also strongly recommend that you encourage your camper to wear a baseball cap while out in the sun.



ROLLER SKATES: Children age 7 and over may skate during Club Hour if they wish. We have skate lockers so that children can leave their skates or roller blades at camp. Children may bring either ball bearing skates or roller blades. Please also send a helmet, wrist guards and elbow and kneepads in a sturdy plastic bag and we will make sure they are put on before your children skate. Please don't forget to write at least a first initial and a last name on all equipment.

SOFTBALL GLOVE: On days that older campers are scheduled for softball, they may bring their own glove. If they forget to bring their glove, they can share a glove with another child.

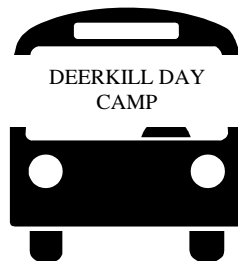
TENNIS RACQUETS: Children scheduled for tennis instruction may use either our lightweight racquets or they may bring their own. We also provide the tennis balls during tennis instruction. However, campers who choose tennis for Club Hour may choose to bring their own racquets.





ELECTRONICS: We believe camp is a place for your child to connect with other campers in the real world. We offer a large variety of activities every moment your child is at camp to give them this opportunity. Therefore, we have a firm policy banning the use of cell phones, video games, devices with headphones (iPods, etc.) and other electronics while children are at camp. **Please do not bring cell phones, Gameboys, iPods and other expensive items to camp.** While we discourage campers from bringing electronics we understand that they may like to use these devices on the bus ride. If a camper brings a cell phone or other electronic device on the bus, it should be locked in their group locker before first period and retrieved after the last period of the day. We are not responsible for these items as they can, and often do, get misplaced, broken or stolen. **For campers who violate our cell phone policy, they will receive a warning. Repeated violators may lose the privilege of participating in the next group trip.** We appreciate your support of this policy.

Any campers who bring alcohol, drugs or any weapons on to the campgrounds will be dismissed from camp immediately.



TRANSPORTATION

We want to guarantee that all campers are picked up and returned home as quickly and safely as possible. If you have a child who just does not like to keep his or her seatbelt on, please remind them that our counselors are responsible for bus safety and will insist that all campers keep their seatbelts on securely throughout their trip. Your child's bus counselor is also responsible for the social atmosphere on the bus. If your child is unhappy on the bus for any reason, please don't hesitate to discuss the problem with the bus counselor and/or Bob, Karen, Todd, Rebecca or Jennifer. We are very discreet and find that virtually all bus problems are easy to solve when we know about them. The sooner you call us the faster we can resolve the issue.

In the morning, we ask that you wait with your child for the bus. A few minutes lost waiting for children at their homes or at our central pick-up locations quickly becomes real time by the end of a minibus route. Please do not board the bus with your child as this often delays our buses. You should also be waiting outside when the bus returns at the end of the day. **We will not drop a child off at home unless we know that you are there waiting or we have prior written**

authorization. We will leave a young child in the care of another adult (e.g. a babysitter or doorman) ONLY if we have your prior written approval. A more detailed discussion of our transportation policies is contained on the transportation form enclosed with this handbook. **Please return that form if you wish to authorize other individuals to pick up your child.**

Please do not give your child oral permission to: 1) Go home on a different bus, 2) Go home to another child's house, or 3) Wait at camp because somebody is picking them up. We must have your permission 24 hours in advance if you are changing your childcare arrangements at the end of the day. You can call us in advance so you know there is room on the bus and we know what your plans really are. You should also send a note if possible with your child or by email at least 24 hours in advance. We have often heard "I am going home to my father's house today," or "My grandmother is picking me up" only to find when we call home that the child has their days or weeks confused. If we cannot reach you we will keep your child at the camp rather than send them out on a different bus. **If your child is sick or is going to be absent, please call the bus company first and then the camp (bus phone #'s will be provided prior to camp).**

For parents dropping children off at camp, please park across the street from our entrance and walk your children in to camp as buses do enter and exit our lots in the morning.

Standard bus company policy is to NOT allow food or drinks to be consumed on school buses while in transit. Please be considerate of our campers with nut allergies and do not send your children with any snacks containing any nut products.



SWIM INSTRUCTION

We take swimming very seriously at Deerkill. Our system is never to force a child, but to encourage him or her to progress in the water – we have had wonderful success with our campers in the pool. We heat our pools to 82 degrees so that we can go swimming even when it is a little cool and we try to ensure that every camper is placed in the right swim group the first day of camp. If you have any concerns about your child's swim group or his/her progress in the pool, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sometimes children ask, "Why am I doing this again? I did this last year." Review at the beginning of the summer is very important because swimming is a progressive activity. Children often forget skills during the winter and it sometimes takes two or even three weeks before children reach the level of physical conditioning that enabled them to perform specific skills the previous summer. In order for children to swim in the deep end of our pools, they need to pass a

deep-water test. Campers will be given this test when their instructors feel they are ready. Campers who do not initially pass the test may retake the test once they demonstrate progress.

MEDICAL CARE

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION: At Deerkill we require that if a child appears to be injured or appears to have an illness the child must be brought to our Medical Director, who is solely responsible for diagnosis. In case of an injury we will always call the parent if the injury involves anything more than a small scrape or a minor bruise.

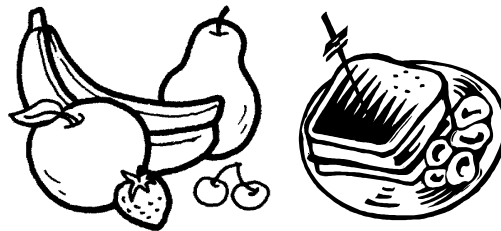
We always ask that children with bruises return to the nurse for periodic re-examination after ice has been applied. In the case of bruises that may conceivably indicate the presence of a sprain or broken bone we will call you if pain or swelling persists after ice has been applied. We will also call you if the injury takes place near the end of the day and we are not able to evaluate the injury over time. Pain may develop hours after a minor mishap. It should not be ignored.

If your child has a fever or may have a communicable illness we will ask you to pick your child up. If you do not have transportation we will personally escort the child home if necessary.

Visits to the emergency room are very rare. If we do have to take your child to the emergency room we will inform you as soon as possible. Under most circumstances, when there is a need for further medical attention we go to an appropriate local physician. Here again we would call you to coordinate with you and your physician.

ILLNESS: If your child has a temperature in the morning or if your child may have a communicable illness (e.g. pink eye), please do not send your child to camp. A child with a temperature or stomach illness should stay at home for at least 24 hours after symptoms subside before returning to camp. If you have any doubts, call us between 7 AM and 9 AM and we will have our Medical Director call you back. Sick children do not enjoy their camp day and the Board of Health does not allow children with communicable illnesses to remain at camp.

Please don't hesitate to discuss health questions with our EMT/Nurse.



LUNCH

We publish the menu for each week in our famous weekly newspaper, "Deerkill Days," which is sent and emailed home on Fridays. We serve simple menus with food that almost all children like. We ask campers to try everything as this is part of their learning experience – we are typically very successful. In no case will we permit a camper to leave the table hungry. A hot entrée is served every day except deli day. Soy butter, jelly, turkey, tuna and cream cheese

sandwiches as well as salad are always available at lunch along with fresh fruit and yogurt. We serve water first to hydrate our campers followed by regular and chocolate milk.

Sometimes older campers want to inhale their food and run off to our Club Hour. But our food is prepared fresh every day and it can take time to cook and serve seconds, thirds and even (on Pizza Day) fourths. Please remind your older children that if they have big appetites, we will satisfy them, but they will have to be patient.

VISITING CAMP

As we are proud of our spacious and un-crowded campground and our mature staff, we welcome parents who would like to visit during the summer. **We simply ask that you call in advance of your visit** to ensure we don't have more than a few parents visiting one group at a time. You may visit camp any day from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM and from 1:15 PM to 3:00 PM. Sometimes parents come later in the afternoon and they just see children eating their ice cream or swimming – if you come in the afternoon, try to come early. You are welcome to come for the day, but parents are **required to leave during lunch and Club Hour**. You will receive a nametag when you arrive at our gate and you will be asked to go to the office to sign in. **Please remember that children must be signed out at the office if they are leaving camp with you.**

WEEKEND CLUB

We will be starting our weekend club on Saturday July 2nd. The weekend club opens at 12:00 P.M. and closes at 5:00 P.M. every Saturday and Sunday through Sunday August 21st. It will also be open on Monday July 4th. Bring your beach chairs, bring your lunch, but, most important, bring yourselves. Lifeguards will be provided.

Even if your child is enrolled for one month you are invited to come on weekends throughout the summer. And grandparents are always welcome free of charge. There is a season charge of \$10 per child for siblings over the age of 3 who are not enrolled at Deerkill. **Guests are allowed to attend the weekend club on Saturdays only.** Sunday is reserved for our families. Guest fees are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. Directions are available at www.deerkilldaycamp.com. Please note that the number at the pool on weekends is (845) 354-3663. You can call this number for updates on the pool club during inclement weather. If you lose the handbook the number is also on your membership card which you will receive in the spring.

Many families visit during the weekend before camp (July 2nd – 4th). It is a great opportunity for children who have not been to Deerkill to jump in the pool and make new friends before camp starts. It is also a convenient way for parents to drop off any required medications (be sure to bring the original packaging with valid expiration date).

BIRTHDAY PARTIES: If you would like to have a birthday party at Deerkill for a Deerkill camper, our only charge is the usual \$5 for each child and \$7 for each adult **unless you have 10 or more non-Deerkill guests**. For parties with 10 or more guests from outside of Deerkill, there will be a minimum charge of \$200, the price of which includes up to 25 non-Deerkill guests and semi-exclusive access to our lower pool with waterslide, staffed by a lifeguard. Parents who would like to reserve Deerkill for a party must call in advance to reserve a picnic area. Parties will be limited to two parties per weekend day.



SEE YOU THIS SUMMER!

THE DEERKILL DAY CAMP ANTHEM

"Down at Deerkill"

(Sung to Raffi's "Down By The Bay")

REFRAIN:

Down At Deerkill, Where We Play All Day
Out In The Sun, And In The Shade
I Don't Want To Go Home, I Want To Stay,

Did You Ever Make A Pot In The Ceramics Hut?
Down At Deerkill,

(REFRAIN)

Did You Ever Run Amock On The Fire Truck?
Down At Deerkill,

(REFRAIN)

Did You Ever Take A Ride On The Water Slide?
Down At Deerkill,

(REFRAIN)

Baseball, Basketball, Volleyball, Dodgeball
Down At Deerkill!