

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

2024





Akron Recreation & Parks exists to enrich all lives, engage the community, and empower the future.

Vision Statement

Akron Recreation & Parks engages our diverse communities by being the leader in recreational activities in facilities, public spaces and venues throughout Northeast Ohio.

Mission Statement

Akron Recreation & Parks provides fun, safe and affordable opportunities to enhance quality of life and encourage deeper connections with our community.

Values We Work Within

1. We are team oriented professionals with strong work ethic and high expectations, creating positive and healthy environments.
2. We are committed to the families and individuals in our community through the dedication and service we provide.
3. We are determined to solve problems with passion, creativity and fairness.
4. We earn the trust of our community by being dependable, compassionate, and honest.

General Information

What to Bring to Camp

- Backpack or bag labeled with child's name along with the following items.
 - Refillable water bottle
 - Sunscreen
 - Bug spray
 - Set of extra clothes
 - Sandals for water days
 - Swimsuit and towel for water days
- Lunch in a lunch box or bag (if lunch is not specified as provided)
 - Send plenty of food for lunch and snacks. Children are actively playing all day and get hungry.
 - Pack a healthy, substantial, nut-free lunch that does not require refrigeration.
- Camp apparel
 - Campers should wear tennis shoes daily. Older tennis shoes are best because they're already broken in and can get dirty. No crocs or flip flops.
 - Clothing that can get dirty and are weather appropriate.
 - Camp shirts should be worn on all field trips.

What Not to Bring

- Personal Items
 - Toys
 - Sports Equipment
 - Money (with the exception of field trips)
 - Animals/Pets
 - Video Games
 - Air pods or earbuds
 - iPad or tablets
- Cellphones
 - Parent/guardian must request permission from the Recreation Supervisor in order for the child to be able to bring their cellphone for emergencies and medical purposes. The cellphone must remain in child's backpack.

Akron Recreation & Parks and its staff are not responsible for any items or money that are lost or damaged at camp. Any items brought to camp are the sole responsibility of the camper. Parents and campers should understand this policy and accept any risk before bringing items to camp.

Alcohol, drugs and weapons are strictly forbidden at all camps and programs. Should any of these items be found in one of our programs, the Akron Police will be contacted immediately to address the situation and remove items.

Policies and Procedures

Check-in / Check-out

For your child's safety, each child must be signed in at camp every morning and signed out every evening by an authorized adult. Children ages 12 and under may not sign themselves into or out of camp. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy. Persons authorized to sign a camp participant in and out of camp must be 18 years of age or older and named as a parent/guardian in the participants registration or listed as an emergency contact.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

When picking up or dropping off your children, please adhere to posted speed limit and parking signs at the community centers. Parents/guardians are asked to park in a parking spot out in the parking lot rather than pulling up at the curb and in a fire lane for safety reasons.

Early drop-off is not permitted. If you need to pick up your child early, please let staff know so they can have your child ready when you arrive.

In rare cases, due to extreme weather or other unforeseen circumstances, we may need to close. Staff will communicate camp closures to parents as soon as possible.

Staff reserve the right to call another authorized pick-up or the Akron Police if staff believe a camp participant could be in danger. Examples of this may include alleged abuse, a parent showing any signs or symptoms of extreme illness, intoxication, etc.

Late Fees

A flat fee of \$10 will be assessed to any individual picking up a camper later than five minutes after the program end time. In addition to the flat \$10 fee, a fee of \$1 per minute will be assessed. Any late fees must be paid in full. Chronic lateness will result in removal. Staff are not permitted to drive children home. If the child does not get picked up and all other attempts to reach backups have been made, staff are required to contact 911.

Absences

We recognize that camp may coincide with planned family outings or vacations. We ask that if your child is unable to attend, please contact the center and let us know in advance, if possible. Refunds or credits cannot be granted for missing camp due to illness, lice, behavioral concerns or other unforeseen emergencies or situations. Staff will NOT call parents/guardians if a child does not attend camp as registered.

Control of Communicable Diseases

Camp participants with the following symptoms should stay or may be sent home and remain at home until they are symptom free for 24 hours without the benefit of over the counter medications. For more severe illness, the re-admission criteria may be longer and require a physician note to return to camp.

- Fever 100 degrees or higher
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Difficulty breathing
- Severe cough
- Purulent (Pus) eye discharge, pain or swelling
- Evidence of lice, scabies or other parasitic infections
- Evidence of rash, red streaks or discharge from a bug or tick bite
- Skin irritations such as rashes, boils, fungal or other infections
- Severe lethargy

Camp participants with evidence of lice are not permitted to return to camp until they are determined to be free of lice and nits. Children with scabies are also not permitted to come to camp until treated and re-checked.

If the child has developed a communicable disease or any member of the immediate household has a communicable disease, we ask that parents or guardians notify camp.

First Aid and Injuries

For basic cuts, scrapes and bumps or bruises, staff will administer band-aids, water and or ice, complete an incident report if necessary and inform parent/ guardian when picking up the child. In the case of a more serious injury, parents will be notified and 911 will be called if needed.

Camp Rules and Expectations

1. Always stay with the group. Campers must always stay with a leader or staff member.
2. Listen and follow directions.
3. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
4. Participate with a positive attitude.
5. Work together and be kind.
6. Make safe choices and have fun!

Camper Code of Conduct

It is the goal of Akron Recreation & Parks to provide a fun, safe and healthy environment for all camp participants. In order for all recreation program participants to have a safe and enjoyable experience, children who attend camp are expected to follow the Code of Conduct below and to interact appropriately in a group setting.

- We are all responsible for our actions.
- We respect each other and our environment.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- Honesty will be the basis for all relationships and interactions.
- Not bring to camp, nor have in my possession, any object that would be harmful to others.
- The use of profanity, offensive language or name-calling will not be tolerated.
- Keep my hands to myself: no pushing, hitting or inappropriately touching others.
- Be enthusiastic, thoughtful, open-minded and involved,
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Listening and paying attention are mandatory for a safe and fun camp.
- Respect other members, parks users and program participants using Akron Recreation & Parks facilities.
- Respect for all equipment, facilities, and grounds is expected.

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

The Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct establishes clear guidelines for parents/guardians regarding interactions with children (other than their own), other parents and camp staff. The Parent Code of Conduct explains the expectations we have for our parents and ask that you become familiar with the following guidelines:

- Parents/guardians shall read and be responsible for all sections of the Summer Camp Guide and submit any health conditions during registration or directly to the Recreation Supervisor.
- Parents/guardians shall read and be responsible for the contents of any camp email updates you receive.
- Parents/guardians shall refrain from touching or physically contacting any child in the camp program other than their own.
- Parents/guardians are not permitted to verbally insult, harass or interrogate any child, parent, or staff in the camp program.
- Parents/guardians should always approach a staff member when they have a concern regarding another camper's behavior and/or interactions at camp.

Failure to abide by any of the guidelines listed above will result in a meeting with the Camp Supervisor and/or Recreation Supervisor and possible removal from the camp program.

Disciplinary Procedures

When a camp participant does not follow the Code of Conduct, the following steps may be taken:

1. Staff will redirect the child to a more appropriate behavior.
2. The child will be reminded of the behavior guidelines and camp rules and a discussion will take place.
3. The Recreation Supervisor will be notified of the problem and will meet with the child.
4. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may result in the removal from the program. There are no refunds for camp participants who are removed from the program due to violations of the Code of Conduct.

The following behaviors are not acceptable and may result in the immediate and indefinite suspension of a camp participant:

- Behaviors that endanger the health and safety of children and/or staff, volunteers and members.
- Stealing or damaging any Akron Recreation & Parks grounds on or off-site, or personal property.
- Leaving the camp program without permission.



- Continuous disruption of the program with consistent disrespect.
- Refusing to follow the behavior guidelines and/or camp rules.
- Acting in a lewd manner.
- Bullying

If a camp participant's behavior at any time threatens the immediate safety of him/her, other campers, or staff, the parent/guardian will be notified and expected to pickup the child immediately.

No refunds will be issued for campers who are suspended or expelled. Children who are suspended, expelled, or whose illness prohibits participation must be picked up from camp within 60 minutes of notification. Akron Recreation & Parks reserves the right to modify, repeat, accelerate steps or not use the outlined processes as the situation demands. Akron Recreation & Parks is not responsible for loss or theft of personal property.

Behavior Agreement

The behavior agreement is to help you understand the importance of behaving during camp. Akron Recreation & Parks provides and expects only the very best from our campers and proper behavior is important for the safety and well-being of you, the camper, as well as other campers and staff. All children who attend Akron Recreation & Parks' camps and programs are expected to follow the rules and behave in an acceptable manner.

Site: _____ Camp: _____

Name: _____

Parent/ Guardian's Name: _____

In order to participate in this program, we (parent and child) agree to the Camper and Parent Code of Conduct. We understand that we will be suspended or expelled from camp if we do not follow this agreement.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Child's Name: _____