

2024 Old Tappan Camp Serendipity Day Camp Handbook

SUMMER RECREATION CAMP PROGRAMS

DATES: JUNE 27-JULY 26TH

NO CAMP JULY 4TH OR 5TH

DAYS: MON-FRI

TIME: 9AM-1PM

ELIGIBLE CAMPERS:

**OLD TAPPAN CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN
THROUGH 6TH GRADE IN THE FALL.**

FEE: \$515.00 FOR 4 WEEKS OF CAMP

LOCATION: STONE POINT PARK

RAIN LOCATION: TBD

SPACE IS LIMITED

Camp Overview

Our camp is run at Stone Point Park each year and is open to entering K-6th grade Old Tappan resident children. Serendipity runs from 9am-1pm each day.

Our fixed and assigned group sizes will remain small with 2 Camp Counselors for each of our groups. Groups are approximately 10-12 campers grouped by grade when possible. Groups of Campers and their Counselors will remain together and move from program to program for the entire camp day.

Campers participate in:

Arts & Crafts- Each day campers will create a new age-appropriate art project. Some projects will be completed in a day...others may be completed of the course of a few days. Sometimes they will work on group projects.

Field Games & Field Activities-Are typical outdoor summer games and group activities. Field Games are for our older Campers (3rd--6th) and would be games like "Steal the Bacon", "Capture the Flag", Gator Ball, Nuk'em. Field Activities are for our younger Campers (k-2nd) and include parachute games, tag games, kickball etc....

Field Sports/Court Sports- For our 2nd-6th graders. Traditional sports are played (soccer/basketball)... but campers are also introduced to new sports/activities either on the field on the basketball court.

Quiet Games- For our k-1st graders...Board games...Chalk games...jump rope...reading etc....

Music- K-2nd graders enjoy music-based games and activities.

Campers also enjoy Free Play and Playground times in their groups....

Heat Conditions

We will be spending the entire day outside due to lack of an indoor location. We have a sprinkler system set up all day for campers to run through and cool off; campers are encouraged to cool off frequently on very hot days. We remind campers to stay hydrated throughout the day and to take frequent breaks when necessary. Additionally, we have numerous locations that provide shade (natural and man-made) and schedule a portion of our programs in these shaded areas.

Inclement Weather Conditions Policy

In the event we experience weather conditions which make it unsafe for Campers to be outside two scenarios could take place:

1) ADVANCED NOTICE- CANCELLATION

Anticipated inclement weather may cause us to cancel or RELOCATE camp that day prior to the start of camp. If this determination is made, it will be done as early as possible either the night before or, at the latest, in the morning before the start of camp.

You will be contacted via email (the email you supplied when registering with community pass) that the park is closed for the day and camp is either cancelled or relocated.

****If we are given permission by the Old Tappan Board of Education, Camp will be relocated to either CDW or TBD school for the day.**

2) "DAY OF" DECISION – CANCELLATION

If we have begun camp activities and unanticipated dangerous weather begins, camp will have to be cancelled for the day if conditions are not expected to pass and outdoor play is deemed unsafe. Parents will then be notified to pick campers up from Camp.

You will be contacted via the email you used when you signed up on Community Pass.

UPON RECEIPT OF THIS EMAIL, YOUR CHILD MUST BE PICKED UP IMMEDIATELY AS CONDITIONS AT THE PARK HAVE BEEN DEEMED UNSAFE!!!

Refund Policy

In the event we are unable to secure an indoor rain location at either of the schools, a daily refund to be given after there have been 3 full cancelled days of camp due to rain; Refund will be calculated beginning with the 4th day of closed camp. No other refunds will be given after June 1st.

A Few Additional Notes About Weather Conditions

- Parents are encouraged to monitor the weather conditions to avoid delayed pick up of the campers. Although we do have some shelter, it is limited and is not ideal for extended periods of time.
- If camp is cancelled...Counselors will remain responsible to ensure the safety of campers until parents arrive. Please do not take your camper home until they have been signed out by their Counselor....it is important that parents adhere to the regular pick-up procedures.
- If weather conditions are mild and show signs of passing, campers may be brought under the pavilion temporarily until the conditions pass and camp activities may be resumed. This would only occur when no lightning has been detected by our lightning alert system.

Lunch For Campers Staying for After-Camp Programs (1pm-1:30pm)

Campers who have signed up for our Camp, should bring lunch. Lunch will be held under the pavilion and will be supervised by Counselors. Campers are expected to sit and eat in an orderly manner and to clean up after themselves each day! Camp rules of behavior apply to our after-camp lunch care.

Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

Drop off:

- Campers should be brought to the basketball blacktop where they will be met by their Group Counselors.
- Parents are asked to make sure their camper is signed in for the day before they are left with their Group.

Pick up:

- Parents should come to the basketball blacktop at the end of the day and sign their camper out with their Counselor.
- Please do not take campers without signing them out.
- Only campers who have submitted a note in advance to their Counselors will be permitted to leave without a parent signing them out.
- Only parent/authorized guardian will be permitted to pick up camper. If someone other than a parent/authorized guardian is picking up a camper, a written note must be submitted to the Counselor prior to pick up.

Items Needed Each Day

- Sunscreen applied. Campers may bring additional sunscreen, but Counselors can only apply spray sunscreen.
- Snack /Beverage in disposable bag.
- Water Bottles (clearly labelled with camper's name)
- Appropriate Footwear- Sneakers (or another covered footwear) are highly recommended. Activities will take place outside and are at times extremely active.
- Appropriate Dress- Campers will have Arts and Crafts every day and will be playing on the baseball fields and in the grass.... Please make sure your camper is dress appropriately for the nature of activities each day.

A Note About Dogs

For the safety of the children, dogs are prohibited on the premises before, during, and after camp hours.

Public Access to the Park

Please be aware that Stone Point Park will be closed to the public during all Camp hours. Once Campers have been dropped off the parking lot entrance will be closed. Signs will be posted throughout the park indicating that the Park and playground are not open to the public until after 1:30pm each day that camp is in session. This is for the safety of our Campers as we do not want individuals not affiliated with the camp or parents/guardians roaming the campgrounds.

GENERAL RULES/POLICIES

Campers must follow all of the “Rules of Camp Serendipity” as detailed below and must be aware of our policies governing behavior. These will be explained to campers on the first day of camp and will be reinforced as needed. We ask parents to review these rules with your child so that they are fully aware and understand their responsibility as a Camper. We want Campers to enjoy this opportunity with their friends to be in a relaxed and fun filled environment, but we do need to emphasize to our Campers the need to observe certain rules of behavior.

Rules of Camp Serendipity

- 3) Be considerate and respectful of others in what you say and what you do.
- 4) Treat your Counselors and other campers as you would want them to treat you.
- 5) Cooperate with other Campers and enjoy the opportunity to support and encourage one another.
- 6) Always follow the instructions/directions of your Counselor at all times while at Camp, as they are in charge of your safety!!!
- 7) Do not wander off from your Group; and do not go anywhere while at Camp without a Counselor.
- 8) Clean up after yourself each day. Do not leave garbage for others to pick up. Encourage fellow Campers to do the same.
- 9) No Cell phones/electronic devices of any kind are permitted to be out and used during camp hours.
- 10) Do not bring extra items from home as they could be easily lost and are not needed during the camp day.
- 11) Follow your Counselors instructions throughout the day.
- 12) Have FUN!

Unacceptable Behavior

- 1) Excluding other Campers from any activities...EVER!!!
- 2) Hurtful words to others
- 3) Disruptive or Disrespectful behavior
- 4) Bullying
- 5) Fighting
- 6) Abusive actions of any kind

This unacceptable behavior is ultimately destructive to the Camp and its goal of providing a safe, fun and relaxed atmosphere for the children. It will not be tolerated by our Counselors or Supervisors. Campers must refrain from this behavior to ensure the safety of themselves and other campers.

Policy Regarding Behavior

If a child is observed exhibiting any of the above, the following steps will be taken:

- **First Warning:**
 - The Camper will be informed by their Group counselor that his/her behavior is not acceptable and why this is the case.
 - The Group Counselor will work with the Camper to correct the behavior immediately; counselor will also advise a Supervisor and Parent of this behavior and what was discussed with the Camper.
- **Second Warning:**
 - If the behavior persists Parents will be advised at the time of pickup that behavior has persisted; and they will be asked to discuss behavior with Counselor/Supervisor/Parent and Camper present.
- **Third Warning:**
 - Should this behavior continue, the Counselor again will advise the child that their behavior is not appropriate for camp.
 - The counselor may remove the Camper from the Group and bring to a supervisor for a “cooling off period”.
 - Counselor/Supervisor/Parent/Camp Director and Camper will be asked to discuss this, and Camper may be removed from Camp. No refunds will be issued for removal based on behavior.

Parents: Please notify your child’s counselor immediately of any behavior issues that you are made aware of and believe needs to be brought to our attention. It is important that we are made aware of issues that may be going on unnoticed by our Staff... **we want to know if there are issues early so, they can be addressed early!!!**

If, after speaking with the counselor on these matters, you are not satisfied with the results, please notify one of the on-site Supervisors (Supervisor/Camp Director or Rec. Director).

Recreation Director: Gloria Wiesner, email: Recdirector@oldtappan.net

Camp Director: