the YMCA

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Family Handbook

Summer 2022

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COVID-19 & YOUR CAMPER

The health & safety of our campers and staff is our top priority. Our vaccine policy is based on the most recent information from the CDC and RI Department of Health.

- At check-in, families will participate in health screening questions.
- All campers will be required to have a negative Covid test no more than 72 hours prior to the start of the camp session. The results of which must be brought to camp for check-in. If your child is vaccinated, proof of vaccination can be shown in lieu of a test. If your child has had Covid within 90 days of the start of the session we ask that you bring proof of the positive test with you.
- Rapid testing will be conducted by the on-site healthcare professional as needed.
- Physical distancing and outdoor activities will continue to be encouraged wherever possible.
- Regular hand washing and hand sanitizing will be incorporated into our daily schedule on a more frequent basis and hand sanitizer will be readily available.
- There will continue to be enhanced cleaning around camp.

Acceptable Proof of Vaccination Status

Vaccine status may by proven using any of these options:

- CDC COVID-19 vaccination record card or a clear photo of the card;
- Vaccine administration record from a vaccine provider, including an individual's doctor, pharmacy, or other official immunization record from within or outside the U.S., including a photo or photocopy.

*Fully vaccinated is not requiring a booster.

2022 CAMP SESSIONS AND DATES

One Week Sessions Available

For children ages 7 to 15

- Session 1: July 3 – July 9
- Session 2: July 10 – July 16
- Session 3: July 17 – July 23
- Session 4: July 24 - July 30
- Session 5: July 31 - August 6
- Session 6: August 7 - August 13
- Session 7: August 14 - August 20

Two Week Sessions

For children ages 7 to 16

- Session 1: June 26 – July 9
- Session 2: July 10 – July 23
- Session 3: July 24 – August 6
- Session 4: August 7 – August 20

Four Week Sessions

For children ages 7 to 16

- Four Week Special 1: June 26 – July 23
- Four Week Special 2: July 24 – August 20

Leaders-In-Training Sessions

Must be age 16 by June 20, 2022

- Leaders-In-Training Session 1: June 26 – July 23
- Leaders-In-Training Session 2: July 24 – August 20

Counselor-In-Training Sessions

(Must be age 17 by June 20, 2021. Application Required)

- Counselor-In-Training Session 1: June 26 – July 23
- Counselor-In-Training Session 2: July 24 – August 20

Sailing Camp

- August 21 - August 27

Dates to Remember

December 31 – Early Bird application deadline
May 15 – Camper Forms due
June 1 – Transportation information due

ABOUT CAMP FULLER

Established in 1887, YMCA Camp Fuller has been a leader in residential camping for 134 years. Located on Point Judith Pond in Wakefield, RI, Camp Fuller has 68 acres of beautiful forest and coastline.

With one, two, three, and four week sessions, Camp Fuller has programs for campers ages 7–16 including sailing, wind-surfing, kayaking, archery, climbing, arts and crafts, and more.

Core Values

As a YMCA camp, the Camp Fuller programs are intentionally guided by the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. We have also adopted an additional core value unique to Camp Fuller that drives everything that we do – PASSION!

Caring – We recognize the good in everyone and are invested in their well-being.

Honesty – We acknowledge our strengths and weaknesses and communicate with a transparency that enables others to believe in us.

Respect – We show honor and consideration for ourselves and others through our words and actions.

Responsibility – We are accountable for our individual actions and are aware of the impact we have on each other and the environment.

Passion – We embrace new people and experiences and pride ourselves in contributing positively to the Camp Fuller community.

Camp Staff

Year-round Leadership Staff

Benjamin Allis, Executive Director · ballis@gpymca.org

Rachel Terceira, Camp Director · rterceira@gpymca.org

Steve Stratton, Program Director · sstratton@gpymca.org

Summer Staff

Our staff are a big reason your child will want to come back year after year! We select only the most caring and talented young adults to be role models for our campers and many of our staff were once campers or CITs at Camp Fuller themselves.

Camp Fuller also works with industry leading international staffing agencies to hire staff from around the world to educate campers about other cultures, build friendships around the globe, and work toward global citizenship and understanding.

In past years, Camp Fuller has welcomed staff from England, Scotland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Canada, Sweden, Holland, Spain, Denmark, Turkey, Ukraine, Poland, and other countries around the globe.

Traditions

Camp Fuller has a rich history and tradition that bring a sense of community to both current campers and alumni. Some examples include:

Council Fire – Our opening and closing ceremonial camp fire offers campers the opportunity to perform skits, songs, dances, jokes, poems, or anything else of their own creation with the camp community.

Theme days/weekends – These fun-filled days change throughout the summer, but some of our favorites include twin day, the 4th of July, field day, pirates and navy day, and more!

Cheers/Chants – Each summer our creative staff and campers create new chants to debut at meal times!

Reflections (Formerly Devotions) – These nightly reflective conversations led by our counselors help cabins of campers bond and reflect on topics meaningful to them.

Meals

Meal time is a time where the entire camp community comes together to eat, chant, sing, and have fun! All campers eat at tables with their cabin mates and counselors in our dining hall.

Meals are served family style and there are always vegetarian and gluten free options for those with documented dietary restrictions. Lunch and dinner are accompanied by a robust salad bar and fruit is available throughout the day.

*This is a nut free facility

Weekends

Weekends at Camp Fuller involve an exciting change in routine. Saturdays often involve whole camp themed competitions including field games, water relays, and artistic creations. The day ends with a cookout and a separate evening activity for our Sherman/Junior campers and Jungle/Senior Hill campers. Sundays are a day to rest, spend quality time with cabin and division mates, and prepare for the upcoming week. Campers will spend the remainder of the day with their divisions playing games, swimming, and making memories!

CAMPER EXPERIENCE

Our Four Divisions

Camp Fuller is divided into four divisions based on campers' ages and genders. Each division has 7–9 cabins that become the campers' homes away from home. These divisions help give kids a sense of belonging at camp.

- Junior – younger males (pictured top right).
- Sherman – younger females (pictured top left).
- Senior Hill – older males (pictured bottom right)
- Jungle – older females (pictured bottom left)

Each division has its own unique culture and traditions. Campers are placed in a division that is age appropriate for them given the age breakdown of campers in that current session.

Cabin Life

Campers share a cabin with about eight other bunkmates and two counselors. In some cases, there may be a counselor-in-training facilitating fun and supervision within the cabin as well. Our cabins are rustic and most do not have electricity. Each cabin has bunk beds and storage space for the camper's personal belongings. There is a separate bathhouse in each division that is maintained daily for campers and staff to wash and shower. We pride ourselves in providing an authentic summer camp living space.

Campers spend most of their days out and about participating in activities according to their daily schedule. Time is spent in the division and cabins prior to meals, during siesta (rest hour), and following the close of daily activities. These are great opportunities for campers to get to know one another and build new relationships through playing cards, sharing books, and recounting experiences from the day. Each evening, campers participate in an activity with their cabin or with the division as a whole. Some of our favorite evening activities include: paddle boarding, capture the flag, plaque making, and s'mores and storytelling by a fire.

Cabin Privacy

Most of our cabins have only one room where all campers and staff sleep in bunk beds. As a result, there is limited privacy available as everyone, including the counselors, gets changed in the cabin. Please speak to your camper prior to camp about our living situation, especially if they get embarrassed easily or are uncomfortable with this type of set up.

Cabin Assignments/Buddy Requests

Cabin assignments are not finalized until the week prior to the start of a session and are revealed on check-in day when campers arrive. Campers are placed in age appropriate cabins within their division.

Buddy requests must be submitted with all other camp forms by May 1 in order to be taken into consideration. Campers may only request to bunk with one buddy. In order for the request to be guaranteed, the request must be mutual, meaning that both campers have requested each other, and age appropriate at the discretion of the Camp Director. In order to create a welcoming camp environment for all campers, chain buddy requests are prohibited.

Gender Inclusion

YMCA Camp Fuller is committed to ensuring access, inclusion, engagement, and affirmation for all. We actively promote a culture of equity that is free from bias and injustice. We strive to make Camp Fuller a brave space where all identities are welcomed and celebrated. We are actively working to remove institutional barriers that limit the ability of anyone to develop their full potential.

Daily Schedule

Everyday at Camp Fuller is an opportunity to build friendships and learn something new! Here is a look at a typical daily schedule at Fuller!

7:30am – Wake up Bell
8:00am – Flags/Breakfast
8:30am – Cabin Cleanup
9:15 – Activity Period 1
10:00am – Activity Period 2
10:45am – Activity Period 3
11:30am – Activity Period 4
12:15pm – Return to Cabins
12:45pm – Lunch
1:15pm – Siesta (cabin rest period)
2:30pm – Activity Period 5
3:15pm – Activity Period 6
4:00pm – Activity Period 7
4:45pm – Activity Period 8
5:30pm – Return to cabins
6:30pm – Dinner
7:00pm – Free time on soccer field
7:45pm – Cabin or Division Activity
9:30pm – Reflections
10:00pm – Lights out

Program Areas & Activity Sign Ups

Camp Fuller values camper independence and choice. Each Sunday evening, campers have the opportunity to create their own activity schedule for the following week during our program showcase. Prior to the program showcase, counselors will go over activity options with campers so they have an idea of the activities they are interested in. Each camper will receive a blank schedule with eight activity periods for them to fill. Each activity has a sign up station where they can enroll in that activity.

Activity offerings vary from week to week, but some of our traditional offerings include:

Sailing	Canoe & Kayaking	Mountain Biking
Arts & Crafts	Reading	Climbing Tower
Swimming	Volleyball	Soccer
Windsurfing	Music	Archery
Chess	Basketball	Outdoor Education

...and more!

In order to ensure the safety and supervision of all of our campers, many of our activities have a maximum capacity. Although we do our best to help campers create schedules that include their preferred activity selections, it is important for them to be open to trying something new and developing new skills.

CAMP FORMS

Camper paperwork will be available on Camp Space which is our online paperwork platform. In the spring after you register your camper, you will receive an email from Camp Space when the paperwork is available to be completed. All camper paperwork must be submitted via Camp Space by May 1, 2022.

Fees and Pricing

All campers are charged a non-refundable deposit and Camp Improvement Fee at the time of registration to secure their spot. The Camp Improvement fee contributes to upgrading and maintaining our camp facilities and is determined by your camper's length of stay. Please see our 2022 Camper Registration form for camp fees.

The balance of your fee is due on May 1. We can charge the balance to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express. Alternatively, you may mail a check made out to YMCA Camp Fuller to the following address:

YMCA Camp Fuller
619 Camp Fuller Road
Wakefield, RI, 02038

Checks must be in United States Dollars. There is a $25 fee for returned checks.

If the balance of fees is outstanding past the due date, your registration may be canceled.

Payment plans must be established in advance and receive approval from the camp director. All balances must be paid in full prior to your camper's arrival.

For pricing of additional options such as tubing, laundry, and more, please see the "Additional Options" section.

Financial Assistance

At Camp Fuller, we are dedicated to helping make camp accessible to families. Applications for financial assistance are available upon request.

Cancellations/Refunds

Cancellations must be dated and submitted in writing to the camp office. All refunds are subject to the approval of the director.

Before May 1, 2022 deposits are refundable minus a $25 processing fee. After May 1, 2022 refunds will be given in the case of cancellation due to a medical emergency with documentation from a doctor.

Refunds for cancellations due to other reasons may be given in the form of credit towards future summers at camp at the discretion of the executive director.

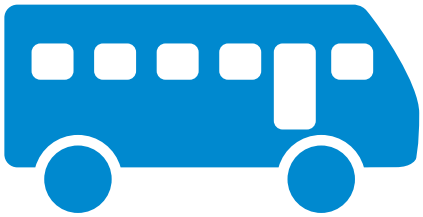
If your child leaves camp in the middle of their stay for any reason, refunds will be given at the discretion of the executive director.

For refund policies regarding additional options, please see the "Additional Options" section.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Camp Fuller offers the following additional options you can choose to add to your camper's registration:

Transportation



Camp Fuller provides transportation services to and from camp from:

- Logan International Airport in Boston, MA
- T F Green Airport in Warwick, RI
- Kingston Train Station in West Kingston, RI
- Providence Train Station in Providence, RI

Transportation requests must be made prior to June 1. Any additional costs associated with traveling as an unaccompanied minor will be the responsibility of the camper's family.

Tubing/Water Skiing

Registration for your camper to participate in tubing or water skiing is available through our online registration for $225 per week. When you register your camper to tube, they will spend five 1½ hour sessions enjoying time with their peers on Pt. Judith Pond. Campers must pass the swim test on check-in day in order to participate. In the event that inclement weather prevents us from safely running this activity, we will do our best to make up missed sessions. In the event that we are not able to make up any missed sessions, the prorated amount will be moved to the camper's Camp Store Account. If a camper refuses to participate in water skiing upon arrival, they will sign a refusal waiver and no refund will be given.

Birthday Parties

We love celebrating birthdays at Camp Fuller! If your camper will be celebrating their birthday at camp, you may consider purchasing a birthday party for their cabin. Camper birthday parties cost $65 and include 3 pizzas, drinks, cake, and decorations. LIT camper birthday parties cost $120 and include 6 pizzas, drinks, cake, and decorations. To add a birthday party to your camper's registration, please visit our online registration platform.

Changeover Weekend

For $125, campers who are staying more than one session and are unable to be picked up in between can register to stay at camp during changeover weekend. Changeover weekend includes all meals and supervised activities.

No refunds will be awarded after May 1 if you register your camper to stay changeover then choose to pick them up instead.

Camp Store

The camp store offers a variety of souvenirs for campers to purchase throughout their stay including sweatshirts, t-shirts, stuffed animals, flashlights, playing cards, and more. Starting this year snacks and ice cream will be available. As we do not allow campers to carry cash at camp, we do require that purchases be made through the camper's camp store accounts. You can create and add money to your camper's store account through our online registration platform. We generally recommend $50 per two week session.

A refund for remaining camp store balances MUST be requested in writing to the camp office before September 1. Any remaining balances as of September 1 will be donated to the Staff Appreciation Fund.

Early Drop Off/Pick Up

Check-in and check-out days are very busy at Camp Fuller as we are working hard to prepare to welcome hundreds of camper families. Therefore, there is an additional $100/camper fee to drop off or pick up your child early. Early drop offs to camp must occur between 9:00am-11:00am on Sundays.

Early pick ups must occur between 9:00am and 6:15pm on Fridays. Requests for this service must be made to the Camp Office at least three days in advance to ensure that we are adequately prepared at those times. You may add an early drop off or pick up service to your camper's registration through our online registration platform.

Laundry

Campers who are staying for longer than two weeks and staying through changeover may consider registering for laundry service for $50/two-week session. Laundry goes out each Monday and Tuesday. It generally takes about 24 hours for campers' laundry to be returned. Camper families are required to provide a sturdy laundry bag clearly labeled with the camper's first and last name. You may add laundry service to your camper's registration on our online registration platform.

DISCLAIMER: YMCA Camp Fuller is not responsible for any lost or damaged clothing.

No refunds will be awarded if your camper chooses not to send their laundry out during their stay at camp.

CAMP PREPARATION AND PROCEDURES

Packing List

We recommend packing together with your camper. This allows your camper to know where everything is and develop a sense of responsibility for their items. This is also a great opportunity to talk to your camper about the experiences ahead, expectations, and goals for their time at camp!

The list below includes the suggested amounts for a two-week session (Adjust accordingly for a one-week session).

We recommend packing in a large duffle bag or trunk that can be stored under your camper's bunk. There is a 14 inch clearance under the bunks where luggage is stored.

Please label ALL of your camper's belongings.

Clothing

8-12 T-Shirts
1 White t-shit to tie dye
2-3 Bathing suits
1-2 Long sleeved shirts
6-8 Pairs of shorts
2-3 Pairs of long pants/jeans
1-2 Sweatshirts
2-3 Pairs of pajamas
13-15 Pairs of underwear/socks
1 Raincoat/poncho
1 Pair of sneakers (required for some activities
1-2 Pairs of flip flops/waterproof sandals
    1 Pair of shower shoes
    1 Pair of water shoes
Toiletries (soap, shampoo, hairbrush, toothbrush, toothpaste)
Dress clothes for Banquet

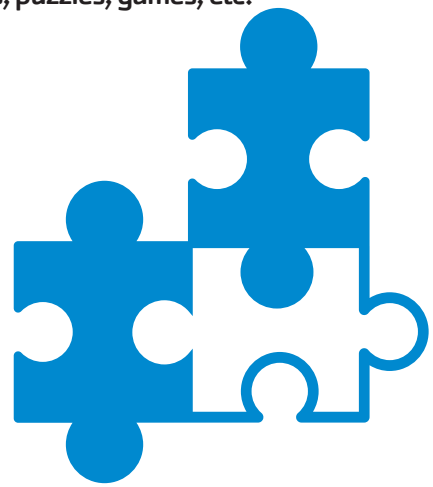
Gear

1 Twin size fitted sheet
1 Blanket, comforter, or sleeping bag
1 Pillow and pillow case
2 Bath towels
2 Beach towels
1 Laundry bag (labeled)
2 Water Bottles
Sunscreen
Bug spray
1 Flashlight with extra batteries
1 Backpack
1 Shower caddy
Pre-addressed envelopes and stamps
Books, puzzles, games, etc.

What NOT to bring to camp

Campers may NOT bring any of the following items to Camp Fuller:

Electronic devices—even if WiFi is disabled
E-Readers
Walkie-Talkies
Electronic Watches
Cash
Nut products
Tobacco products
Drugs and drug paraphernalia
Alcohol
Weapons of any type



Food Policy

Campers are allowed to bring healthy snacks to camp to share in their cabins. We ask that any food be stored in an airtight container no bigger than a shoe box as to not attract animals. Camp Fuller does NOT allow any products containing nuts and will confiscate any products to be stored in the camp office for retrieval on check-out day.

Lost and Found

Our staff will do their best to help campers keep track of all their belongings, but the Camp is not responsible for any lost or damaged items. Lost and Found items are displayed on a fence in the middle of Camp during the session and throughout Check Out Day. Please look through these items before leaving Camp Fuller and double check your camper's cabin to ensure your camper has all of their belongings prior to departure. Personal items left at Camp are donated to a charitable organization two days after the end of each session.

Check In/Check Out Procedures

Arrival and departure days are exciting for everyone at Camp Fuller! Camp Fuller Road is only wide enough to account for one way traffic at any given time. Additionally, we have limited space for vehicles on camp property. We are looking to improve our check in/out procedure and will send information closer to the start of camp.

Check In Day Procedure 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Information will be emailed prior to the start of camp.

Check Out Day Procedure 9:45am – 11:30am

Information will be emailed prior to the start of camp.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CAMPER

Phones/Technology

At Camp Fuller we pride ourselves on providing an environment where campers and staff can unplug, take stock of the environment around them and engage with their peers. For this reason, cell phones, digital cameras, tablets, smartwatches, and any other devices that connect to WiFi are prohibited at camp.

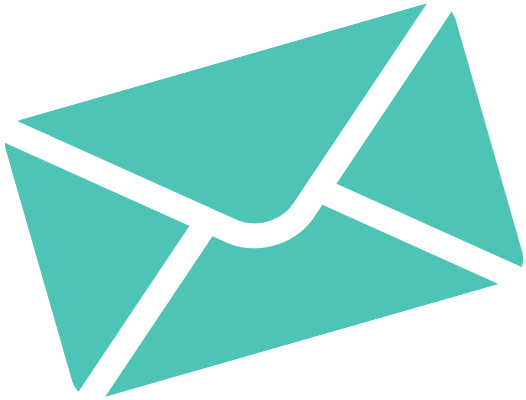
In the event that a camper is in possession of one of these devices, it will result in disciplinary action. If campers arrive with any banned technology, staff will keep it safe in a lock box in the Administration Building.

Mail

We encourage you to send traditional mail to your camper by addressing a letter in the following format:

Camper Name
Division and Cabin Number
YMCA Camp Fuller
619 Camp Fuller Road
Wakefield, RI, 02879

Care packages must be no larger than a shoe box. Oversized packages will be stored in the camp office for families to retrieve on check-out day.



Bunk 1

Another method for communicating with your child is through Bunk 1. You can create an account to have access to camp photos as well as bunk notes. Bunk notes are on-way electronic messages similar to emails that get printed and delivered to campers daily. Campers do not have access to the internet, but they are able to write letters in reply and send them out daily.

Our Philosophy on Social Media and Photos

We do post pictures throughout the session, mainly on Bunk 1. There may also be posts on Instagram and Facebook. While we do our best to post often and photograph all of our campers, it cannot be guaranteed that each camper will appear in a photo – sometimes they are too busy having fun to strike a pose! Our campers always come first, so the running of Camp takes priority over photo posting. We thank you in advance for understanding our philosophy on photos.

Visits

Although 1–2 weeks may seem like a long time for you, we assure you time flies for your camper! Because campers are busy doing their activities, making friends, and having the time of their lives, we do not have any visiting day during camp sessions.

CAMPER CARE

Below you will find important information on medical care provided at camp and the information we need for each camper prior to their arrival. In order for your child to participate in camp, we require the documents listed below to be current and accurate. Please review this section carefully, as some of the items have been updated.

Required Medical Documentation

Campers may not be at Camp without the following forms. These forms can be accessed through your Camp Space account. These forms need to be uploaded to your Camp Space account by May 1.

- Current Physical Examination (conducted within 12 months of arrival)
- Immunization History (with evidence of all required vaccines. See "Immunization" section for details)
- Health History & Insurance Information
- Covid-19 vaccination information

Health Insurance

Health insurance or healthcare enrollment information must be provided for each camper by May 1. If a camper requires medical care by a doctor or hospital, including but not limited to prescription drugs, dental/ orthodontic services and/or eyeglass repairs, the parent or guardian will be financially responsible.

Immunizations

As YMCA Camp Fuller puts the health and safety of its community above all else, all campers and staff are required to provide proof of vaccination and/or previous infection with the following diseases per the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines:

Measles	Varicella	Pertussis
Mumps	Hepatitis B	Tetanus
Rubella	Diphtheria	Polio
		Meningococcal meningitis

Please note, per CDC guidelines Camp Fuller requires two separate vaccinations with both MMR and Varicella unless previously infected, four polio vaccines, three hepatitis B vaccines, Tdap within the last ten years of attending camp, one meningococcal meningitis for those over 12 years old and two for those over 16 years old.
Reference: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our immunization requirements, please contact the Executive Director at 401.783.5359.

Medications

Medication is administered under the supervision of health center staff after breakfast, lunch, dinner, and before bed daily. Campers are prohibited from having any prescription or over-the-counter medications on their person, in their belongings, or in their cabin. All medications are stored at the Health Center. This includes rescue inhalers and epi-pens.

All medications need to be picked up at the health center on Check Out day by the parent or guardian. We dispose of all medications left behind 48 hours after the end of your child's session.

Advil, Tylenol, throat lozenges, antacid tablets, loratadine, calamine lotion, Benadryl, and a variety of first-aid creams and ointments are maintained at the Health Center. We ask that you do not bring over-the-counter medications, nutritional supplements or vitamins to camp unless they are prescribed by a physician.

"Medication Vacations" – Some parents consider it in their child's best interest to remove or reduce the dosage of some behavior management drugs, such as Ritalin, while their child is at Camp. It is our experience that "Medication Vacations" can cause difficulties for campers and their cabin mates. If you are considering this option for your camper, please call the Camp Director, who can discuss this option with you.

Emergency and Non-Emergency Care

Emergency Care – In case of an emergency, campers are either taken to the emergency room at South County Hospital in Wakefield or Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence and parents or guardians are called immediately.

Non-Emergency Care – If there is a non-emergency situation, such as ear infection, the nurse will communicate with parents about the situation. If you live locally, it is preferred that arrangements be made for families to take their camper to their primary care doctor when possible. When this is not possible, Camp can arrange for campers to be seen at a South County Health Express Care facility in Westerly or East Greenwich.

Any medications prescribed as a result of an injury or illness while at Camp are billed to the camper's Camp Store account. Camp is not responsible for any medical charges incurred while your child is at Camp. Charges are billed to your family's medical insurance or directly to parents/guardians.

Mental Health

We strive to make sure every child has the best time while attending Camp Fuller. We realize that many campers may need some extra support in order to have a successful experience while at Camp. We educate our staff about children's mental health conditions, teach them how to observe with an open mind and make individual connections with each camper in order to help campers participate to the level that is right for them.

When necessary, division leaders, health center staff and/or camp director will facilitate communication to parents to gain further insight or suggestions based on what may work at home or in school for that child.

Camp is in a unique position to provide opportunities for all campers to improve cognitive and behavioral development. We ask that parents give as much insight as possible on their camper's health forms and mental health forms. This will help us set each camper up for success. In the event that a camper becomes a risk to themselves or others during their time at Camp Fuller, we will contact the camper's parents/guardians for immediate pick up.

Self-care and Personal Hygiene

While we are lucky to have such a qualified team of health center staff, our goal is to keep campers happy, healthy and out of the health center. Counselors are trained to monitor the personal hygiene of campers. Campers are able to shower before meals each day and staff will remind campers to wash their hands, especially before meals.

Staying hydrated is a big focus for our staff and campers. To help your camper stay hydrated, please be sure to send them to camp with a labeled water bottle.

Sun safety is another area of personal care that staff are trained to check in with campers on. To avoid sunburns, campers are regularly reminded to apply sunscreen and we encourage campers to pack their own sunscreen to ensure they are always staying safe in the sun.

Although our staff is trained to monitor the wellbeing of our campers, it is important for campers to have basic independence in maintaining their personal hygiene (teeth brushing, hair brushing, showering, etc.)

Bug Bites – Camp Fuller is surrounded by a beautiful coastline and forest. Campers spend just about the entire day outside. It is important for campers to use bug spray daily to prevent bug bites. Campers with open wounds will be sent to the health center to monitor for infection.

Ticks – Our maintenance team makes it a top priority to keep grass cut low and cut back any brush or shrubs that are along trails, which helps reduce the chance of campers getting a tick. Counselors regularly remind campers to check their bodies for ticks during their shower time. Ticks are removed by a member of the health center team and campers are monitored for symptoms of Lyme disease. It is important to send your camper to camp with bug spray to help prevent tick bites.

Lice – We encourage families to check their child for head lice prior to arriving at Camp. Our trained staff check for head lice and the presence of nits on the first day immediately following camper swim tests. If evidence of head lice is found, campers will be treated in the Health Center.

Poison Ivy – Campers are encouraged to take cool showers whenever they venture into the woods after an activity. Although most cases of poison ivy will be handled at the health center, severe cases may need outside medical attention.

Homesickness

It is very normal for campers of all ages to experience homesickness at camp. Our staff are trained on managing camper homesickness and working through it to help campers have a positive experience. It is common for children to feel homesick for the first few days as they adjust to being in a new place with new people. It is important to talk with your camper about homesickness and strategies to address it before summer to help lead to a more successful experience at camp.

In the event that a camper develops a more severe case of homesickness than is typical, the Assistant Camp Director will work with that camper and family to support them in having a successful session at camp. From our experience, we have found that homesickness tends to get worse when campers are able to speak directly with family members at home. As a result, we do not allow campers to call home during their stay at camp.

Here are some things that families can do before and during camp to manage potential homesickness with their camper:

Do not promise to pick up your child if they are homesick. Instead, reassure them that they can have a fun experience and encourage them to speak with their counselors about how they are feeling while they are at camp.

Do not tell your child they can call home because we do not allow campers to use the phone or internet. Instead, encourage them to write letters expressing how they are feeling.

Remind your camper that it's normal to miss home and that their counselors are there to help them through it.

Talk to your camper about a time when you may have experienced homesickness and what helped you through it.

Brainstorm some fun activities that your camper could do with their cabin mates when they might be feeling sad i.e.) card games, puzzles, bracelet making, drawing, etc.

Behavior Management

At Camp Fuller we pride ourselves in creating supportive and child centered environments where children have free choice and plenty of opportunity to learn more about themselves. We understand that no one is perfect and that we all make choices, both good and bad. In the event that campers struggle to make positive choices, we will seek to work with them and create a plan to better accommodate them. We believe that discussion and reflection paired with logical consequences when appropriate are the best tools for motivating children to be their best selves. The emotional, mental, and physical safety of all campers is important to us and we will consider dismissal in the event that these forms of safety are jeopardized by the choices of campers.

Mandated Reporting

It is important to know that Camp Fuller takes the health and safety of our campers very seriously. All of our staff are trained to be aware of signs of child abuse and are considered mandated reporters by the state of Rhode Island. If there is any suspicion that the safety and wellbeing of a camper might be at risk in a camper's life outside of camp, we are required by law to file a report with the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families.