



# DELAWARE STATE PARKS

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## *Delaware State Parks Summer Camp Frequently Asked Questions*

*January 2021*

### **General Changes to Camp for 2021**

#### **What are new changes to Delaware State Parks Day Camps for 2021?**

Delaware State Parks Day Camps will be run similarly to 2020. All camps will follow the most up to date Delaware Division of Health and Human Services (DHSS) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance and recommendation of the American Camping Association (ACA).

#### **Why have some camps in Delaware State Parks not been offered for 2021?**

Delaware State Parks has been evaluating which of our parks are able to offer camps this summer amid the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. Based on evaluation of facilities, staffing and other considerations, the following locations will not be offering camps this year: Killens Pond State Park and Brandywine Creek State Park. Selected camps at the following sites will run, but may have limited hours, registration and activities: Alapocas Run State Park, Bellevue State Park, Cape Henlopen State Park, Lums Pond State Park, Trap Pond State Park, White Clay Creek State Park, and the Brandywine Zoo.

#### **What is your refund policy this year?**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are offering a liberal cancellation policy. At this time, full refunds will be given.

#### **Are you having before / after care this year?**

Some camps may be offering before and after care. Other camps may not be able to offer this service due to time needed for cleaning and disinfecting, and because our before/after care programs consist of intermingled camp groups. Please contact your camp's manager to determine if it is available.

#### **What will camp group sizes look like this year?**

As recommended in the DHSS guidance for summer camps, camp cohorts may be limited. In some cases, camp groups will consist of fewer campers to accommodate social distancing inside the camp facilities.

### **Why are you not having field trips this summer?**

Off-park field trips may not be offered this summer following DHSS guidance to limit campers' interactions with other groups. Parks may have inter-park/zoo travel, either by hiking or socially distanced rides inside a park minibus. Campers will have assigned seats separated from other campers. This may result in multiple bus trips.

In camps where field trips are cancelled, alternate activities or supplies will be provided for the campers.

### **What happens on extreme weather days?**

Park day camps operating this summer have dedicated camp facilities. However, there may still be size limitations within different park locations. In the event of extreme weather where outside programming will be difficult, we may elect to cancel camp that day. A prorated refund will be provided.

## **Communication / Screening / Camper Drop Off & Pick Up**

### **What safety guidelines are in place for camp?**

All camps operating in Delaware State Parks are following guidelines set by DHSS and incorporating recommendations in place by the CDC and by ACA.

### **What health screening procedures will take place this summer?**

Similar to 2020, all staff and campers are required to complete a 14-day health self-screening prior to the start of camp. In addition to this pre-screening, daily screening of camp staff and campers will take place. Screening will include a temperature check, symptom questionnaire and exposure questions. If any camper or staff member has any symptoms, temperature above 100.4F or recent exposure to someone with Covid-19, they will not be permitted at camp until cleared by their primary care physician.

### **What Covid-19 training is camp staff receiving?**

Camp staff have been trained on cleaning and disinfecting the facility related to Covid-19, proper use of Personal Protective Equipment, and giving First Aid and CPR care during Covid-19. In

addition, camp staff have been trained on effective strategies for social distancing and health recommendations while working with children during Covid-19.

### **How will drop-off and pick-up look this summer?**

Most Delaware State Park Day Camp programs will conduct staggered drop-off and pick-up of campers by vehicle. Parents/guardians will remain in their vehicle at all times during drop-off and pick-up. If vehicle drop-off/pick-up is not feasible for pre-determined reasons, the Camp Director or Interpretive Program Manager will contact you with an approved alternate plan.

A camp staff member will conduct a screening of each camper before they are checked in. All campers will be escorted to the day camp facility by a staff member.

You will receive more information regarding times and particular procedures from the park conducting your day camp session prior to the start of camp.

### **What other procedures do you need parents/guardians to follow this summer?**

To help everyone have a safe camp season we need parents/guardians to help by doing the following:

- Make sure to conduct the 14-day pre-screening of your child.
- Keep children home if sick or experiencing any symptoms.
- Parents/guardians will not be allowed into day camp facilities.
- We recommend having one parent/guardian to drop-off and pick-up their camper for the entire week.
- Parents/guardians must wear a face covering during drop-off and pick-up.
- We ask that you disinfect your campers' belongings that come home each day.

### **What can we be doing to prepare our children for camp this year?**

Talk to your child(ren) about washing hands, safe coughing, healthy behaviors, 6-ft social distancing and wearing a face covering.

Please teach and reinforce at home proper handwashing procedures:

(<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>)

Provide your child with a face covering they will be comfortable wearing.

If needed, do some activities with your child where you both wear face covering to practice wearing them. Below is a resource from Kidshealth.org on talking to children about face coverings. <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-masks.html>

Make sure you label all the items your child will be bringing to camp (ex. Lunch box, water bottle, hat, towel etc.) and remind them to keep all items together.

### **Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns before camp or after camp starts?**

Each park site operating day camps will have a dedicated communications person. This person will reach out to you prior to camp with more details about your child's camp and contact information if you have further questions.

### **Social Distancing / Cleaning & Disinfecting / Preventative Behaviors**

#### **Will campers and staff wear face coverings at camp?**

Yes, campers and staff will wear face coverings indoors and outside in accordance with the guidelines set by DHSS.

As per the DHSS guidelines for Face Coverings for Children the following face covering guidelines will be in place. ( <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/guidance-for-face-coverings/> )

- *Campers and staff will be wearing face coverings as they are required by the Division of Public Health.*
- *Children aged kindergarten and up must wear a face covering while indoors or in outdoor spaces open to the public, or while in attendance at any indoor gathering with members of other households, irrespective of physical distance.*
- *Children may be allowed to remove face coverings as directed by camp staff during certain outdoor activities when proper social distancing is practiced, and in areas separated from the public.*
- *All children must wear face coverings unless there is a health reason why they should not.*
- *Face coverings are not required while eating or drinking.*
- *Parents/guardians should consult with the child's health care provider if necessary (e.g., for children with certain conditions such as asthma), to determine if an individual child is able to safely and consistently wear a cloth face covering while in camp.*

#### **Who provides the face covering for the campers?**

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide a face covering and labeled container/bag for each camper.

As noted in the DHSS recommendation on face coverings:

- *Parents/guardians should provide cloth face coverings for their own child/children.*
- *Parents/guardians should provide a sufficient supply of clean/unused cloth face coverings for their child each day to allow replacing the covering as needed and have a plan for routine cleaning of cloth face coverings.*
- *The number of cloth face coverings needed for each child will vary by child and by day.*
- *Parents/guardians should be sure the cloth face coverings are:*
  - o *Clearly marked with the child's name and room number/teacher's name*
  - o *Clearly marked and/or designed to distinguish which side of the covering should be worn facing outwards so they are worn properly each day.*

*NOTE: If a parent supplies surgical face masks rather than cloth face coverings, they may also be used according to the guidance above.*

### **How are you addressing social distancing in camps this summer?**

We will be spending as much time as possible outside in the park. We have modified games to address distancing and have trained staff on procedures to talk with campers about the importance of distancing.

### **What cleaning measures are being taken this year?**

Cleaning protocols will include all frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and a general disinfecting of the day camp space once a day with EPA-approved disinfectant. Use of shared materials will be limited when possible or cleaned between uses.

### **What types of activities will campers be doing at camp?**

We will be doing many activities that are within the local park including hiking, educational programs, games, and crafts related to the theme of each camp. Some parks have the ability for fishing or water play, specialty camps (like rock climbing) will be indicated in the camp description. Please contact the park for specific activities.

### **What steps or notifications will be enacted in case a camper or staff member is sick?**

Children or staff that exhibit signs or symptoms of being sick are not to report to camp until their primary care provider clears them.

Campers or staff who exhibit signs or symptoms of being sick while in camp will be isolated and monitored by camp staff. The Parent/guardian will be contacted to pick-up the child. Camp staff will be sent home. Campers or staff will not be allowed to rejoin camp until their primary care provider clears them.

The camper or staff member may be sent home for mild symptoms like persistent coughing or sneezing. While these may be allergy induced, coughing and sneezing can be infectious and even a mild illness or allergies may result in the need for a doctor's note to return to camp.

If a child or staff member is suspected of having Covid-19, or symptoms that could be related to Covid-19, park staff will contact the Division of Public Health for guidance. Depending on the guidance provided by Delaware Division of Public Health, the camp may close to clean and disinfect. Prorated refunds will be dispersed for Covid-19 related closures.

### **What if there is a confirmed Covid-19 case in campers or staff?**

In the event that the facility experiences a positive Covid-19 case in either a staff member or camper, the Interpretive Program Manager (or designated communication person) will contact Division of Public Health to discuss next steps.

### **Who do I contact if I still have questions?**

If you have additional questions you can contact the Interpretive Program Manager. Contact information can be found at [www.destateparks.com/summercamps](http://www.destateparks.com/summercamps) or by calling the park.

### ***Resources***

<https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/reopening/phase2/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>

<https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/field-guide-camps>

<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/06/12/campguidance061220>