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teatown.org
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Teatown Natural Science Summer Day Camp

Parent Information

CAMP PROGRAM

Full-day camp runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and half-day camp runs from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Each week has a natural science or environmental theme.

Groups explore different habitats (pond, field, marsh, stream, and woodland) and participate in activities, games, and crafts based on the theme of the week. Campers at Cliffdale Farm participate in typical Teatown activities along with field investigations, citizen science projects, and leadership development.

A typical day at Teatown begins with the campers gathering at their respective areas for an introduction to the day's activities. The counselors often have an object on the table to pique the groups' interest in the topic of the day. After a short gathering time, groups begin their daily exploration. Some groups (mostly older campers) may choose to spend the entire day out on the trails: these groups bring their lunch and any equipment necessary along with them. Younger groups typically plan for a short hike, games, a craft, or story each day to complement the weekly theme.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Withdrawal from camp prior to June 14, 2023 results in a partial refund, less a 25% administrative charge based on the *total* camp fee, not on any deposit you may have paid. **No refund for any reason after June 14, 2023.** After that date, tuition will be applied towards Teatown's financial aid fund.

There are no exceptions made in the case of illness.

COVID PROTOCOLS

Teatown is keeping campers and staff healthy by adhering to the following procedures:

- Camp staff provides handwashing opportunities throughout the day, especially before and after eating.
- If your camper tests positive: Isolate for at least five days. The camper may return after Day 5 if they have been fever-free for 24 hours and display no other symptoms. Masking continues to be required on Days 6 through 10, both indoors and outdoors.
- If your non-vaccinated camper is exposed to COVID-19, but remains asymptomatic: The camper may remain at camp. Masking is required from date of exposure, and the camper must test on Days 3 and 5. Continue to wear a mask through Day 10.

- If your vaccinated camper is exposed to COVID-19, but remains asymptomatic: The camper may remain at camp. Test on the fifth day after the exposure and monitor the camper for symptoms throughout.
- If your camper has recovered from laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the last three months remains asymptomatic: The camper may remain at camp. Test on the fifth day after the exposure and monitor the camper for symptoms throughout.
- Teatown Lake Reservation frequently reviews CDC, NYS, and DOH guidelines to determine when quarantines should be recommended to participants.

EXTENDED CARE

We offer extended care both before and after the camp day. Children are supervised by camp staff and take part in simple activities, such as reading, drawing, and puzzles. The rates and times of extended care are:

- 7:45am – 8:45am: \$80/child weekly
- 3pm – 5pm: \$160/child weekly

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

Please follow directional signs when dropping off and picking up campers. Pull up to the marked areas to drop off campers:

- Gravel lot drop off for 8- to 14-year-old campers – Bushmasters, Junior Naturalists, and Explorers. Parents dropping off in the gravel lot should remain in the car. Counselors will escort campers from the gravel lot to their assigned areas after the entire group arrives.
- Nature Center lot for 4- to 7-year-old campers – Discoverers and Trekkers. Parents dropping off in the Nature Center lot should park and escort their children to their assigned area.
- Cliffdale Nature Girls and Earth Stewards should be dropped in the lower Lakeside lot on Blinn Road at 8:45 am and then will be bussed to Cliffdale.

A note written and signed by a parent/guardian and given to a Camp Director or an email to camp@teatown.org is required for release of your child to another person.

GROUP AREAS

All groups will have assigned meeting areas on the lawn behind the Nature Center or on the gravel lot lawn.

In the event of severe inclement weather, groups will move to the following indoor areas:

- Half-day Discoverers and Trekkers (4- to 7-year-olds) and Full-day Discoverers and Trekkers (5- to 7-year-olds) meet in the Owl's Nest, which is accessed directly from the main parking lot.
- Bushmasters (8- to 9-year-olds) meet in the Carriage House.
- Junior Naturalists (10- to 12-year-olds) meet in the Science Center.
- Explorers (13- to 14-year-olds) meet in the Discovery Room in the Nature Center.
- Cliffdale Nature Girls and Earth Stewards meet inside the Cliffdale Farm shelter on Teatown Road.

STAFFING

Teatown exceeds the ratio required by New York State law for Day camps, which is one counselor/twelve campers (1:12), to offer the best possible camp experience. Our ratios are as follows:

- Discoverers and Trekkers: two counselors/ten campers (1:5 ratio)
- Bushmasters, Cliffdale Nature Girls, Earth Stewards, and Junior Naturalists: one counselor/eight campers (1:8 ratio)
- Explorers: two counselors/twelve campers (1:6)

Our staff includes Senior Counselors (18 years old and up); Junior Counselors (16 years old and up); and Counselors-in-Training (CITs) (15 years old with previous camp experience). Tipping counselors is at the parents' discretion.

All staff participate in a mandatory training week. Topics covered in training include:

- COVID-19 Protocols
- Group Dynamics
- Emergency Procedures
- First Aid
- Teaching Techniques
- Animal Handling
- Fire Safety
- Lightning Safety
- Lost Camper Procedure
- Child Abuse

CAMPER'S ATTIRE

We're outside with your children rain or shine, so please be sure to dress for the weather. Please see our guidelines to help your camper dress for success.

- Footwear
 - Hiking/work boots or old sneakers work best. Rainboots are fine, but tend to be heavy and lack support. If you send a child in rainboots, consider sending an extra pair of shoes they can change into.
 - No sandals, please.
 - Socks should be worn every day. They help eliminate blisters! Send extra socks: children may get their feet wet.
 - Two pairs of sneakers/boots are recommended for the camp season: one to wear, one for the next day – this allows for drying time!
- Clothing
 - Lightweight and light-colored clothing works best to keep campers cool during the hot summer.
 - Shorts are acceptable, but keep in mind that most groups travel off trails, and ticks and scratches are a possibility.
 - Groups do explore/hike in the rain: rain jackets and/or pants are strongly recommended! No umbrellas.
 - Label any extra clothing with the camper's name and place in a daypack or plastic shoebox.
 - Lightweight hats are good for keeping the sun off the camper's face and neck.
- Masks are strongly encouraged indoors – please pack an extra!

ANIMAL POLICY

Teatown has an extensive live animal collection. All children are encouraged (but not required) to touch and handle our non-native ambassador animals.

No pets/animals from home are allowed at camp without the permission of the Camp Director. Visiting animals must be brought to camp in a secure container.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Medical staff
 - Teatown has a doctor-on-call to answer questions and provide health care information to camp staff.
 - Health Directors and Senior Counselors are certified in CPR and First Aid.
 - A full-time EMT on summer camp staff acts as the camp nurse.
 - Four staff are certified as Health Directors.
- Lyme
 - All camper's shoes and socks are sprayed with an appropriate insect/tick repellent before going out each day. For more thorough coverage, we suggest that you spray your child's clothing with an appropriate insect/tick repellent **before coming to camp**. Thorough tick checks should be done at home every evening.
- Rabies
 - Campers and staff are instructed to avoid potential rabies-carrying animals (dead or alive) while hiking.
- Regional Emergency
 - As directed by Westchester County Office of Emergency Management, if evacuation of camp is necessary, children will be transported by county buses to the H.C. Crittenden Middle School in Armonk.
- Potassium Iodide (KI)
 - Potassium iodide (KI) is stocked by Teatown to dispense to campers as a protective measure, only in the event of an emergency as advised by the Westchester County Department of Health. A signed waiver must be on file at Teatown for us to provide your child with KI.
- Medical Forms
 - All campers are required to have a current health history and immunization record (including COVID-19 vaccines), signed by the camper's physician, **before** attending camp. No campers will be allowed to attend camp without these records.
 - We strongly encourage COVID-19 vaccines for those who are eligible, but do not require them for participants. Please provide a record of your child's COVID-19 vaccine status.
- Illness
 - You should not send your child to camp if they have a fever, skin rash, or any other visible sign of contagious illness. If your child becomes ill or needs medical attention, we will notify you, followed by the emergency contacts that you have provided if you cannot be reached. For your child's safety, you should be able to pick them up within one hour of receiving a call.
- Campers with Disabilities and Medications
 - We welcome children with physical, developmental, communication, emotional, behavioral, and learning variations. At this time, we have limited capacity to accommodate paraprofessionals or one-on-one aides at camp. If your child requires special accommodations, please email camp@teatown.org or call 914-762-2912 x128 to begin a dialogue about camp and our fit for your child.
 - Camp counselors cannot distribute medication or take responsibility for a child's medication schedule. For children who require medication, it must be administered with oversight by our EMT or by the child themselves.

- If your child requires medications while at camp, we must have the medication in the original container with doctors' orders (i.e. administration and dosage). This includes Epi-pens.
- All Directors and Senior Counselors are trained in Epi-Pen use.
- Toilet Training
 - Campers must be able to use the facilities unassisted. That includes being able to remove clothing, sit on the toilet, wipe themselves using an appropriate amount of toilet paper, put clothing back on, flush the toilet, and wash and dry hands.
 - Your child should be largely accident-free. We offer frequent opportunities to use the facilities for our youngest campers, but know the urge can be sudden. Your child should feel comfortable asking to go as needed.

LUNCH & SNACKS

- Please pack a snack. Snack is not provided, though we will have a limited supply of pretzels or similar available should a child forget their own.
- Snacks brought to camp by parents for a group to share may not contain peanut products and must be okayed by a Camp Director.
- All full-day campers should bring an ample, nutritious, non-perishable lunch and drink every day. All lunch bags and containers should have the camper's name legibly marked on the exterior. Many groups spend the entire day in the field, so lunch bags should have adequate "cool packs" to ensure that the lunch is kept fresh.
- Water bottles marked with the camper's name are required for all campers.

WHAT TO LEAVE HOME

We want camp to be a place where children come to connect with friends, counselors, and nature. Help us keep the focus on outdoor fun.

- We ask that cell phones, hand-held electronic games, and music players or speakers be left at home.
- For your child's safety and as well as the safety of other campers, pocketknives are **not** allowed in camp.
- Apply sunscreen and insect repellent at home. Please do not send children to camp with these items, as they often get "shared" unintentionally with other campers.

One thing is guaranteed: your camper will come home tired, happy, often wet, and sometimes muddy! Be prepared!

DISCIPLINE AND GUIDANCE

Camp staff create clear behavior expectations at the beginning of every session. Our staff practices positive reinforcement and offers age-appropriate reminders and guidance to help children reflect on how their behavior does or does not meet expectations.

In the event that a child cannot meet behavioral expectations, we will notify parents by phone or at the end of the camp day so that we can work together to create behavioral goals and a plan to achieve them. If your child engages in behavior that creates an unsafe learning environment for themselves or other campers or staff, they will be dismissed from camp without a refund.

General Rules

Children are expected to:

- Cooperate with staff and follow directions at all times.
- Respect the property of Teatown, staff, and other campers.

- Stay with their group and in designated group spaces.
- Avoid inappropriate physical contact with other campers and staff.
- Refrain from any behavior that creates an unsafe learning environment for themselves or any other camper or staff member.

COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND COMPLAINTS

We welcome them! Whether positive or critical and constructive, we want to hear your thoughts. Please contact us at camp@teatown.org or by phone at 914-762-2912 x128. Please leave a voicemail if we are away from our desks.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

The best way to reach us is through our email address, camp@teatown.org. You can also call us at 914-762-2912 x128.