

Explorers' Camp Summer Day Camp Parent Handbook

**Town of Wickenburg
Parks & Recreation**

155 N. Tegner Street
Wickenburg, AZ 85390



Camp Overview

Our summer day camp program operates six weeks during the summer. Camp operates from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm, with early drop-off available at 7:30, Monday through Friday, based at the Rec Center at Coffinger Park, 175 E Swilling Avenue.

Operating a summer program is a team effort. The Program Manager, Recreation Leaders, and Recreation Aides work together to produce a safe and fun experience where campers can feel accepted, successful, and energized.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from Camp on his/her scheduled day due to illness or any other reason, please call (928) 668-0552.

Sign In/Out

For the safety of the participants, only parents/guardians or an authorized person designated on the registration form will be able to sign a child in and out each day. **A child may not sign themselves in or out!** There are no exceptions! This is strictly enforced. This also provides parents an opportunity to see the activity schedule planned for the day. Those picking up a child will be required to show I.D., so please remember to bring it in with you, this is for your child's safety and not to inconvenience you.

Drop Off/Parking

To drop a camper off at camp, parents/guardians will bring their camper to Coffinger Park, Recreation Center.

Directions: Coming North: From N. Tegner Street turn right onto Swilling Ave. Take an immediate Right onto Swilling Ave. Park in designated parking spots at Coffinger Park parking lot.

Pick Up

If you plan to pick up your child early, please inform the recreation staff so they can plan accordingly.

Authorization for Release

A child enrolled in the Town of Wickenburg Summer Camp Program will only be released to those persons authorized with their actual signature on the registration form. NO exceptions will be made without the advance written permission of the parents or telephone authorization. Individuals may be required to show proof of I.D. to the staff the first time the child is picked-up. If only one person has the sole custody of a child, then a legal document must be on file with the site stating the name of the legal guardian. This is for your child's safety and not to inconvenience you.

Medication

The Recreation Leader, the Program Coordinator, or the Program Manager, are the only individuals allowed to administer medication during camp. To authorize giving medication to a child, the parent/guardian must complete a “**Medication Release Form**” and bring the prescribed amount of medication in the **original container**. Forms are available at the site. Medication will be kept secure and away from other campers.

Illness

All children become ill from time to time. It is important for parents who have children in the Summer Camp Program to understand that their child's health affects the health of other children and staff members in the program.

Do not take a child who has signs and symptoms of being ill to the Summer Camp Program. These symptoms are as follows:

1. Fever. They must be fever free for 24 hours in order to return.
2. Any contagious disease such as strep throat, pink eye, chicken pox, etc.
3. Vomiting.
4. Serious/hard coughing or difficulty breathing.
5. Rash/sores.
6. Diarrhea.
7. Mucus or pus from red eyes.
8. Thick drainage from the nose.
9. Sore throat.

If your child becomes ill during the program, staff will try and contact a parent or authorized designee to pick-up the participant. Please notify staff if phone numbers change at any time during the program.



Emergencies

If your child has an accident, injury, or emergency while at Summer Camp, that requires medical treatment by a health care provider, a staff member will immediately notify the child's parents. For this reason, it is essential that all forms have current names and phone numbers. A written emergency report will be filled out.

Personal Items

Please do not permit your child to bring personal items such as Game Boys, Play Station games, cell phones etc. to the program. The Town of Wickenburg is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or broken items. The site has several toys and lots of activities to keep your child busy and entertained. Items not claimed will be donated at the end of camp.

Snacks

Participants will receive a morning snack provided by the Town of Wickenburg. Parents are encouraged to send along a water bottle every day.

Dress for Camp

Campers should wear closed toed shoes (such as tennis shoes) to participate in our fun games. Flip flops may be only worn at the pool. Campers need to bring a swim suit each day, as well as a towel. Please make sure that your camper has proper sunblock applied. Recreation Staff is not allowed to put lotion on campers but they will spray sunblock on a camper if needed.

Daily Schedule*



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|-------|--------------------------------|
| 7:30 | Early Drop Off |
| 8:00 | Normal Drop Off |
| 8:00 | Morning Meeting |
| 8:20 | Activity Block 1 |
| 9:20 | Prep for Pool Time/Snack Break |
| 10:00 | Swim Lessons |
| 11:00 | Activity Block 2 |
| 12:00 | Lunch / Free Play |
| 12:30 | Campfire Time |
| 1:30 | Parent Pickup |

*Times and activities may change due to other planned activities.

Program Mission

To create a collaborative and experiential learning camp that allows children to be curious, have an imagination, and gain a sense of wonder regarding the world around them. Emphasis on character building, socialization, and creative exploration.

Program Goals

Each camp's session will focus on a different theme that encompasses the idea of exploration on multiple levels. Games, activities, crafts, arts, music, dance, and food will be centered around the session's theme.

1. Build self-confidence, self-awareness and self-esteem.

Youth who possess these abilities are more successful in later life, and are more likely to continue their education, be promoted at work, and have long-term relationships. Helping campers develop these essential growth areas can help them overcome many of the challenges that they will face in future years.

2. Decrease self-imposed limits and try new things.

By practicing in a safe environment, campers will be more likely to challenge themselves in the future and open their eyes to new opportunities.

3. Develop ability to make good choices, formulate independent decisions and take responsibility for actions.

The ability to make good choices leads campers to be productive members of society and increases the chance that they will be able to live independently as adults. Individuals who can take responsibility for themselves are also more likely to be honest, respect society values, and develop a moral compass which provides a clear basis for understanding right and wrong.

4. Encourage understanding and appreciation for the world and other communities.

Exploring other countries, cultures, and time periods of the world allows children to be curious, use their imagination, and gain a sense of wonder regarding the world around them. Learning the history of these countries and their cultures elevates a campers understanding of cultural differences and similarities.

5. Expand appreciation for the outdoors, including physical activity and natural surroundings.

Richard Louv, who wrote the book *Last Child in the Woods* and coined the term “nature-deficit disorder,” suggests that “the disconnect with the outdoors, especially the natural world, is...one of the core reasons for so many of the physical and mental problems” with which children are now being diagnosed. Depression, anxiety, obesity are only the start of what happens “when kids move inside and interact with their video games and computers instead of outside playing with each other and using their imaginations” (2010). Additionally, children who understand the world around them are more likely to be good future stewards of the environment.

6. Enhance social competence and expand the desire for social interaction.

The ability to engage appropriately with others is not always inherently understood or able to be acted upon. Camp gives children who experience failure or distress in social settings the chance to start fresh and have positive interactions, which in turn increases their desire to do so when they return home.

7. Cultivate sportsmanship and cooperation by working as a team and interacting positively in a community setting.

Children who can work well with others are more successful academically and more likely to develop healthy relationships in the future. Being part of a functioning team helps them develop empathy, allows them to practice perspective-taking and enables them to develop a less egocentric view of the world. Teamwork enables children to move from intrapersonal (individual) ways of thinking into interpersonal (with others) communication, and helps children in all aspects of their academics. Additionally, learning to work as part of a group sets campers up for professional success in the future, as many businesses now look at teamwork skills when evaluating employability.

Winning and losing are both realities of participating in a world with other people. Whether on the soccer field or playing a board game, campers develop a sense of teamwork and camaraderie which broadens their ability to have an attitude of good sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is comprised of: (1) a commitment to fair play, (2) pride in the spirit of the game (3) accepting both victory and defeat with grace and (4) the ability to “shake hands and move on.”

Discipline Policy

In order to ensure the safety of all participants and staff in the Town of Wickenburg's Summer Program, the following discipline policy will be strictly implemented and enforced. Please read the policy, sign, and return to camp. All rules will be discussed with participants on the first day of the program.

When a participant needs guidance, the following options are utilized:

- ✓ Participant is encouraged to verbalize his/her feelings and to think of alternative solutions and their possible effects.
- ✓ Participant is redirected to a different area.
- ✓ If a participant has lost control and is unable to reason, "time out" will be used. The "time out" technique is used when the staff member feels it is the only way to calm the participant down.
- ✓ If needed, a parent note will be sent home.
- ✓ Suspension or dismissal from the program.

Some actions will result in an automatic suspension or dismissal from the Summer Camp Program. Parents will be contacted immediately to pick-up their child from the program. The participant will be suspended for the following day(s) and/or dismissed from the program. The following are actions that will result in automatic suspension or dismissal:

1. Showing extreme disrespect or disruption (abusive language).
2. Damaging the Recreation Site or supplies or stealing property.
3. Endangering another child or staff verbally (threats) or physically (hitting, spitting, biting, throwing objects, etc.).

The Town of Wickenburg reserves the rights to withdraw a participant from the program if all discipline options have been exhausted and/or demonstration of extreme behavior that put participants and staff in danger (i.e. verbal or physical actions including fighting, threats) No refund will be given.

I have read the Town of Wickenburg's Summer Day Camp Discipline Policy and fully understand the process to be used for discipline issues.

Participant's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____