

# PARENT HANDBOOK

## CAMP GORDYLAND

SUMMER 2023



RIVERBROOK REGIONAL YMCA  
404 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897  
[riverbrookymca.org](http://riverbrookymca.org)

### CAMP DIRECTOR WELCOME

To Our Camp Gordyland Family,

Thank you for choosing the Riverbrook Regional YMCA's Camp Gordyland! We are committed to providing a safe and fun environment that nurtures our campers' friendships, creativity, confidence and skill-building. Our camp motto is "Make Friends, Make Memories, Make a Difference." Our staff team personifies this motto in the activities we plan, how we train our staff, and in the way we communicate with our camp families.

This handbook is our traditional "how to" guide and contains practical information to help prepare both you and your child for their week(s) at camp. While no two summers or weeks are exactly the same, we hope this provides you with a guide to our procedures, policies and traditions at Camp Gordyland! Whether this is your first summer with us or you are a lifelong Gordylander, please be sure to check in for updates and new segments! We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, concerns or feedback. Additional information can also be found on our website at [riverbrookymca.org/campgordyland](http://riverbrookymca.org/campgordyland). To stay up to date with what's going on throughout the year and during the summer, follow our social medias [@campgordyland](https://www.instagram.com/campgordyland) on Instagram and "[Camp Gordyland Parent Page](#)" on Facebook. We look forward to an exciting and memorable summer with your family!

Best Wishes,



Mike Kazlauskas  
Senior Camp & Sports Director

Kimberly Fejes  
Assistant Camp Director

### WHAT'S NEXT?

#### OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

Registration Begins

#### JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>

Regular Camp pricing starts

#### MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>

Last day to switch weeks  
with NO FEE

#### MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

Balance is drafted

#### MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

Any registration now  
requires full payment

#### JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

#### Camp Forms Due:

- ⇒ Physical Exam record with  
doctor's signature &  
immunizations
- ⇒ *Emergency Contact*
- ⇒ *Individual Care Plan*
- ⇒ *Medication Administration*

#### DURING CAMP

See our Camp Calendar

#### PRO TIP

Read the entire handbook ☺

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CAMP DIRECTOR WELCOME	1
The Why	3
<b>OUR TEAM</b>	
Year Round Leadership Team	3
Summer Support Directors	4
Summer Staff	4
<b>BEFORE CAMP NEED TO KNOW</b>	
Registration, Enhancement Fee & Balance Payment	5
Financial Aid	5
Group Assignments & Wait List	5
Change/ Drop Policy	5
Special Needs	7
Extended Day Options	6
Outside Care Policy	6
<b>FIRST DAY OF CAMP PREPARATIONS</b>	
Required Health Forms & Medication	8
What to Bring/ Wear/ Leave at Home	9
Health & Illness, COVID-19, First Aid	10
Camper Health & Wellness: Sunscreen, Allergies, Lice & Ticks	11
Concussion Management	12
Toileting & Accidents	12
Behavior Management	13
Waterfronts & Swimming	14
Camp Emergencies	14
<b>DAY OF CAMP EXPERIENCE</b>	
Camp Arrival & Dismissal	15
Late Drop-off/ Early Pick-up and Lost & Found	16
Activities & Groups	17
Birthdays & Ice Pops	18
Gordy's Glossary	19
Gordyland Theme Weeks	21
Gordyland Calendar of Events	22
Child Protection	24
Quick Reference Contact Sheet	26

## THIS IS WHY:

### OUR MISSION:

The Riverbrook Regional YMCA is a charitable organization dedicated to maximizing the personal potential of all individuals in the community.

### OUR VALUES:

Our community is based on the YMCA pillars of Caring, Honesty, Responsibility, Respect and Unity. We incorporate these values throughout camp and most notably within our Color Teams that each group is assigned to:

COLOR TEAMS	VALUES
RED	CARING
ORANGE	UNITY
YELLOW	RESPECT
GREEN	RESPONSIBILITY
BLUE	HONESTY

### OUR MOTTO:

MAKE FRIENDS,  
MAKE MEMORIES,  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## YEAR ROUND LEADERSHIP TEAM

**MIKE KAZLAUSKAS,**

#### SENIOR CAMP & SPORTS DIRECTOR

Mike has been a part of the Camp Gordyland family since 2007 where he started as the Outdoor Living Specialist. Later on he became a Head Specialist and was certified in Archery. During his time as the Archery Specialist, he helped develop the Archery Program where we now have a competitive Archery Program and have classes running year round at two locations. Before becoming the Director of Camp Gordyland, Mike was the Assistant and Camp Free to Be Director. Presently, Mike oversees our Wilton's Camp Gordyland along with our Norwalk's Camp Sunrise and Race 4 Chase. When Mike isn't busy with all the Camps, he teaches Preschool Sports Classes and Cardio, playing Pickleball and overseeing the Paddle Program.

**Did you know?**

Mike is also a volunteer Firefighter for the town of Ridgefield and is one of our Color Team Judges during the Summer!

**CONTACT:**

[MKAZLAUSKAS@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG](mailto:MKAZLAUSKAS@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG)

**CHRISTINA FOLEY,**

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR/ DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMMING

Chris has been a long time member and staff over the past few decades at the Wilton Y. She joined our Camp Gordyland family in 2012 and has been our Director of Special Needs Programming since. Chris is always there for her campers and their families so that they may have the best camp experience. She is there for her staff and fellow directors to assist in creating a welcoming environment for ALL. When Chris isn't working on Camp, she can be found at the Front Desk working with our Members and overseeing our Special Olympics programs and our other Special Needs activities.

**Did you know?**

Chris used to be an instructor at the Y and has been a Red Team general for more than 10 summers!

**CONTACT:**

[CFOLEY@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG](mailto:CFOLEY@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG)

**KIMBERLY FEJES,**

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD & SCHOOL AGE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR/ ASSISTANT CAMP DIRECTOR

Kimberly has been a part of the Camp Gordyland family since 2009 where she began as the Creative Arts Camp Counselor. For the next 7 summers she served as the Specialist Director where new activities such as Gordy's Gourmet and Face Off were developed. Most recently, Kimberly acted as the Camp-To-Come-To Director for 5 summers before taking on the Assistant Camp Director role. When Kimberly is not working on Camp special events, planning and hiring, she is the Preschool & Afterschool Director while also overseeing the Child Watch area and Kid Zone & Parents Night Out Programs. She can also be found preparing for the Annual Halloween Spooktacular & Breakfast with Santa.

**Did you know?**

Kimberly has ran two half marathons through Walt Disney World and is one of our Color Team Judges during the Summer!

**CONTACT:**

[KFEJES@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG](mailto:KFEJES@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG)

**SAMANTHA LUSHER,**

#### AQUATICS & RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Sam joined our Camp Gordyland family in 2017 as our Aquatics Director. She is no stranger to the Y and Camp world after working at the Greenwich Y for a number of years in both areas. Sam leads her Waterfront Director team and lifeguards where they oversee all water areas. When Sam isn't helping with Camp prep, she can be found teaching and coordinating the Swim Lesson program and ensuring that our Y is safe for all.

**Did you Know?**

Sam used to be a competitive swimmer all through high school and college and is one of our Color Team Judges during the Summer!

**CONTACT:**

[SLUSHER@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG](mailto:SLUSHER@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG)

## SUMMER CAMP SUPPORT DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR	ROLE	CONTACT	HOW CAN THEY HELP
MOLLY BLOSSER	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF IT & MEMBER FINANCE DIRECTOR	<a href="mailto:MBLOSSER@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG">MBLOSSER@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG</a>	CAMP CHANGES/ DROPS; NEW MEMBERSHIP
MARIA BONINI	DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<a href="mailto:MBONINI@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG">MBONINI@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG</a>	CAMP HIRING
SHANA RUSSNOK	CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<a href="mailto:SRUSSNOK@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG">SRUSSNOK@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG</a>	CAMP WAITLIST UPDATES
MICHELLE WISHNA	MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR	<a href="mailto:MWISHNA@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG">MWISHNA@RIVERBROOKYMCA.ORG</a>	UPDATING MEMBERSHIP/ ACCOUNT ACCESS

## SUMMER STAFF

Camp Gordyland is led by a team of enthusiastic, certified Camp Directors and group leaders that have over 100 years of collective camp experience. Our Camp Staff, from Specialists, Counselors, and Aides to Lifeguards, are composed of young adults 16 years and older. Our hiring process begins in January and is extensive as we select candidates who have childcare experience and a genuine love for working with children. No matter the staff's level of childcare experience, all receive extensive training prior to camp starting.

Upon hiring, A **thorough background check is conducted on each staff member**. This includes a search of the Judicial Department for convictions, the state child abuse registry and the National Sex Offender Registry.

### STAFF TRAINING

To prepare our staff for a safe, encouraging and successful summer camp experience for ALL, they attend at least 13 hours of mandatory trainings.

#### SKILLS:

- Trainings include Child Protection, Camper Behavior Management, Water Safety, Inclusion, Risk Prevention, Emergency Protocols, and Trauma Management.
- Our First Aid, Ropes, Archery, and Waterfront Staff have further specialized training and certifications including American Red Cross Lifeguarding and First Aid & CPR.
- Additionally ALL Staff at the Wilton YMCA are Mandated Reporters and HIPAA certified.



## REGISTRATION

- Rolling Registration October 15<sup>th</sup>– August 7<sup>th</sup> based on availability per week/ per age group.

Early Bird Pricing: October 15<sup>th</sup>– January 19<sup>th</sup>

### CAMP PRICING GUIDE

#### Enhancement Fee

This is a one-time fee per child, per year. The choice is \$15, 20, or \$25. 100% of the monies will go towards enhancing your child's camp experience through updating existing activities or adding new ones. If you are adding camp weeks, following your initial registration, and do not want to be charged the camp enhancement fee again, *please contact Molly Blosser at [mblosser@riverbrookymca.org](mailto:mblosser@riverbrookymca.org)*.

#### Camp Balance

All camp balances are due by **May 4<sup>th</sup>**.

If you register online, the balance will automatically be set to charge on May 4<sup>th</sup>. If you do not want an automatic charge and would prefer a bill be sent, please email Molly Blosser at [mblosser@riverbrookymca.org](mailto:mblosser@riverbrookymca.org) after registration to remove the automatic charge. Any registrations not set to automatically charge will have bills mailed in April.

#### Financial Aid

Registrations that occur prior to a Financial Aid award are not applicable for the scholarship. The Riverbrook Regional YMCA offers camp scholarships to qualifying families. We encourage families in need of assistance to submit applications as soon as camp registration opens to secure a spot in first choice of weeks. Should you be offered assistance, payment plan arrangements can be made through the business office at the time of award acceptance. If you are in need and looking for Financial Aid, please complete the application and wait to hear about a scholarship before Registering. All camp policies apply to financial assistance awards. Applications are available on the [Riverbrook Regional YMCA web page](#) or at the front desk. Applications must be completed in full and submitted with the required supporting documentation to Molly Blosser. **Please do not register before hearing about an offered award** as prices will not be discounted on registered weeks. All registrations will be made via the business office. Applications for camp assistance will not be accepted after May 1, 2023.

#### Group Assignments & Wait List

While registering, if there are no spaces available in the week you request, you will automatically have the option of being added to the waitlist for that week once you complete the registration process for your weeks. **If a space should open up, you will be contacted by a camp director.** You will have 2 business days to respond. If we do not hear from you in that time, we will assume you are not interested in registering for that week and will move onto the next camper on list.

Part of the Camp Gordyland motto is to "Make Friends" and we believe that some of the best friends made, start at camp! During registration, campers can include "friend requests" as well as campers not to be placed with. We take these requests into account when we create each camp group every week of camp. While we try to place friends together, sometimes we are not able to make every request.

## BEFORE CAMP



#### **POLICY:**

##### **Changing Weeks:**

Prior to **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023** there is **NO** change fee. After March 15<sup>th</sup>, there is a \$25 fee for any change made.

*Please be advised that change requests for weeks are **NOT** guaranteed and are based on availability.*

##### **Dropping Weeks:**

**Any weeks dropped before March 15<sup>th</sup>**, the YMCA will keep \$50 of your deposit per week and the remainder will be refunded.

##### **Any weeks dropped between March 15<sup>th</sup>–**

**May 31<sup>st</sup>**, the YMCA will keep \$100 of your deposit per week, any additional monies paid will be put on as a YMCA credit.

***Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, no monies will be refunded or credited.***

***To Make Changes or to Drop Weeks, please complete the "Change/ Drop" Form [here](#) and submit to [mblosser@riverbrookymca.org](mailto:mblosser@riverbrookymca.org).***

### Outside Care Policy

We understand that the bonds made between campers and staffs are positive and many parents are impressed by the staff's maturity, skills with the children and more, so much so that Parents and Campers may want the staff to babysit. It is the policy of the YMCA that staff who meet program participants and members under the age of 18 in a YMCA program, may not provide outside care services to participants.

All employees sign this policy upon hire.

If there is a *pre-existing* relationship, the employee must obtain an "Unsanctioned Childcare Waiver" from Camp or Human Resources. The waiver must be fully completed acknowledging that the staff person is not working in their capacity as a YMCA employee and that the parent or guardian will NOT hold the YMCA liable for any actions of the YMCA employee while performing outside care.

Please do not ask staff or campers (C.I.T.s) to babysit or transport your child.

## Extended Day Options

Registration for Extended Care opens in the Spring and must be completed prior to the week of care needed. *For example, camp begins Monday, June 26th. In order for a camper to attend Extended Care starting this first week, registration would need to occur by Monday, June 19th.* Registration closes on the Monday of the week prior for Extended Care.

Campers may sign up for classes offered during the PM Care time, Swim Lessons, Dance, Basketball, etc. Parents are responsible for notifying the Camp Directors of these registrations and then Camp Staff will be scheduled to bring the camper to and from the Camp PM Care and their class.

**For additional camps... Please Check our Website for updates**

\*Additionally there is advanced single day AM or PM Care available. \*

Care Option	Hours	Cost	Notes
<b>AM Care</b>	8-9am; Monday-Friday	\$75/ week	
<b>PM Care</b>	End of camp- 6pm; Monday-Friday	\$150/ week	
<b>AM/ PM Care Combo</b>	8-9am; End of camp- 6pm Monday-Friday	\$210/ week	
<b>Archery Academy</b>	End of camp- 6pm; Offered Weeks: Monday- Friday	\$275/ week	Child must be going into 3rd Grade or above



## SPECIAL NEEDS

### BEFORE CAMP

You must contact Christina Foley at [cfoley@riverbrookymca.org](mailto:cfoley@riverbrookymca.org) or 203-762-8384 ext. 207 to discuss your child's needs, to arrange a support staff or to answer any questions. Registration is based on program availability, required **support is available on a first come first serve basis.**

The Wilton branch of the Riverbrook YMCA is dedicated to providing a positive, supportive and welcoming experience focused on each person's individual needs. Our programs, including our summer camps are structured to accommodate and support all our participants to the best of our abilities. We feel that every person, adults and children should be given the opportunity to participate in all that the YMCA has to offer.

At Camp Gordyland, our campers are fully immersed in their camp group and participate in all the activities of the camp day. At the discretion of the Special Needs Director, campers may be assigned shared paraprofessional support. Support staff will motivate campers to be actively engaged in their group activities and provide modification when needed.

All our programs and camps are open to students who participate in summer school and we will work to accommodate each school districts schedule. The CIT program can be extended to accommodate campers beyond the age of 16 and up to age 21, provided there is availability. All campers, including CIT's, registered as an extension of a school supported program are required to attend with district support. Individuals registered for all programs may be asked to provide outside support if deemed necessary.

Please see specific camp based on age/grade for fees and times. The Wilton YMCA reserves the right to deem if a camper requires additional support. At this time, the Special Needs Director or Camp Director will contact the family to discuss the proper plan.



### REQUIRED FORMS\*—Must be submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup>,

*Campers attendance on their 1st day of camp may be in jeopardy without the required documents*

#### FORMS & DOCUMENTS FOR EACH CAMPER

##### 1. Physical Exam & Immunization Record\*

- The physical examination form must be current within 24 months of your campers last day in camp.
- Please submit a copy of your child's most recent physical exam and immunization record. You may use the form we provide online, a copy of your school physical, or your states health exam form. The form **MUST** be signed by the doctor,
- In the event your child has not received immunizations, as per the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, you must provide us with an Immunization Waiver. Please contact the office for details.

##### 2. Emergency Contact Form\*

- Must be completed annually for each camper
- All fields must be completed and the alternate Emergency Contacts listed, **MUST** be different than the Parents & Guardian listed per State of Connecticut requirements.

##### 3. Individual Care Plan

- The State of Connecticut states an individual plan of care is necessary when a child has a special health care need or disability and it is necessary that special care be taken or provided while the child is at the youth camp.
- Complete the form IF your camper has any of the following: Allergies, Asthma, Vision/ Hearing/Speech, Chronic Illness, Diabetes, Seizures, Dietary Needs, Developmental Variations, Emotional/Behavior Needs, History of Contagious Disease.

##### 4. Medication Authorization Form & Emergency Action Plan (2+ Forms)

(MUST BE BROUGHT TO FIRST AID TABLE WITH MEDICATION ON 1ST DAY OF CAMP)

- This form must be completed for a camper to receive any medications (prescription or over-the counter) .
- This form must be signed by both a parent/guardian AND a prescribing health care professional, even for over-the-counter medications like pain relievers.
- The form must be valid through your child's last day of camp. Often the form is good for the school year, but not the summer, so a new one may be needed.
- You must complete one form for each medication brought to camp and the information on this form must match the label on the medication.
- Please review this form carefully before coming to camp. We are unable to dispense medications to campers without this properly completed form.
- The medications must be in the original containers and properly labelled. This includes epi-pens and inhalers -- often the label is on the box and parents don't realize they **MUST** bring that box with the label, as mandated by the State of Connecticut.
- Medication must be valid through your child's last day of camp.
- Medication must be picked up by the parent on the child's last day. All remaining medication will be destroyed one week after camp ends.

\* DENOTES, Required for ALL campers, other forms listed, are required based on the needs of the camper. Please speak with a Camp Director or Camp First Aider for additional questions\*



## FIRST DAY PREPARATIONS

### What To Pack

**We recommend bringing a backpack each day, so your camper can keep all their belongings together safely in one place & easy to carry**

☐ **Snacks** (for the morning & afternoon if you'd like)

☐ **Lunch with an Ice Pack**

All Foods **MUST** be **PEANUT/TREENUT FREE**

☐ Beach Towel

☐ Goggles

☐ Change of clothes

☐ Water shoes (Crocs, Natives, Keen— any with an ankle strap)

☐ Refillable Water Bottle

☐ Sunscreen & Bug Spray

☐ Sweatshirt/ rain jacket



### What to Wear

☐ **Swimsuit** (or pack it)

☐ **Shorts & T-shirt**

☐ **Sneakers**

☐ **Hat** (or pack it)

☐ **Sunscreen**

**\*\*LABEL ALL ITEMS BROUGHT OR WORN TO CAMP\*\***

## What Not To Bring

We want our campers to make connections and foster friendships, to best serve the mission, please be sure to adhere to these guidelines.

Campers should NOT bring any of the following items to camp:

- Pets
- Water Guns
- Trading/ Gaming Cards (Pokémon, etc.)

We are a SMOKING Free Campus. Please keep the following at home:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco products
- E-cigs, Juuls, vapes, etc.
- Weapons of any type
- Drugs or Drug paraphernalia

\*We ask that all electronics and smart devices be left at home. Please refrain from bringing items with significant financial and emotional value as we are not responsible for any lost, stolen or broken items.

We understand that many of our older campers will have cell phones. Please note that phones may not be used during the camp day except at designated times for our Teen Campers & CITs. These campers will also sign a device usage agreement with consequences if not used appropriately. All other campers should keep their phones and other devices at home during the camp day.

If any item is lost during the Camp day, please check the Lost & Found. Lost & Found items may take 24-48 hours to appear. Be sure to label your items so you can find them in the Lost & Found!



Search: Wilton Family YMCA Preschool

### GORDYLAND TIP:

Label **EVERYTHING** and you will have a greater chance of finding it again!

## CAMPER HEALTH & ILLNESS

Campers must be healthy, injury-free and well enough to participate fully at activities. Please keep sick campers home to avoid germs and illnesses being spread to other campers and staff. If a camper shows signs of illness, the First Aid Staff will contact the parents/guardian to pick them up.

Campers must be fever/symptom free for **24 hours** without the use of fever reducing medication, no longer contagious and healthy enough to participate in all camp activities before returning to camp. If it is deemed that a child cannot participate in that camp day, then we will re-evaluate whether or not a child is able to remain at camp. (This includes swimming and other water or outdoor activities.)

If your child shows any of these signs, they will not be able to remain at camp that day:

- Runny nose (due to allergies or a cold) that produces thick, green or yellow discharge, indicating infection. If your child's runny nose is due to an allergy, you must have a doctor's note indicating the child may be permitted to return to camp. In the case of a cold, keep your child at home until the discharge is clear
- Deep congestion in the chest, labored breathing or cough.
- Loose bowels that are noticeably more odorous, indicating internal disorder. Also some medications may result in non-contagious diarrhea. Check with your physician.
- Temperature above 99.9 degrees oral or temporal.
- Eyes that are pink, watery, and possibly oozy, as with conjunctivitis.
- Suspicious rash.
- Vomiting.
- Head Lice.

If any of these conditions become apparent during the daily session, the parent, or authorized alternate adult, will be contacted to pick up the child immediately. The child will then remain out of the camp for the **next camp day** and may return on the following day. (Example: If sent home Tuesday, can return to camp on Thursday)

If your child is diagnosed with an illness by a pediatrician (i.e. Pink eye, strep throat, coxsackie etc.) the parent must notify the Camp Directors within 24 hours so that the rest of the parents can be informed of this illness.

### FIRST AID

Our Camp First Aiders adhere to state requirements for the administration of medication, oxygen and insulin. The Camp First Aid Staff are located in the main building to the right of the Y Entrance at the Camp First Aid Station. In the event of an emergency or illness, the Camp First Aider will notify parents/guardians after appropriate medical steps have been taken, which may include calling 911. Once the Emergency Responders have arrived, they will make the decision about transportation and care. Unless otherwise notified, any camper that requires further medical attention may be transported to Norwalk Hospital. In addition, a doctor is on call and supervises our medical and emergency procedures. The Camp First Aid Staff will notify parents of all serious injuries, including any related to the head area, that occur at camp and will use their professional discretion for mild injuries. If you have a concern, please feel free to email [gordylandfirstaider@riverbrookymca.org](mailto:gordylandfirstaider@riverbrookymca.org).

## COVID-19

If your child is experiencing any symptoms relating to Covid-19, included, but not limited to the following:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sneezing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Please keep your child home and test them. If your child receives a Positive test result, Rapid and or PCR, please report it to our Camp First Aider at [gordylandfirstaider@riverbrookymca.org](mailto:gordylandfirstaider@riverbrookymca.org) immediately. COVID-19 is a reportable disease per the State of Connecticut.

Please remain at home if someone in your household is awaiting test results, even if symptoms are mild or generally asymptomatic.

Per CDC Guidelines, positive individuals should remain at home for 5 days.

For the most up-to date info, please visit:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html)

## CAMPER HEALTH & WELLNESS CONTINUED

### Lice:

If lice are suspected in your child's camp group, your child may be checked for lice. If the camp has any concerns over the appearance of Lice or nits in your child's hair, you will be contacted to pick up your child that day. We ask all campers to be free of nits before returning to camp to ensure containment of exposure. Before your child may be permitted to return to camp, they will be checked by the Camp First Aid Director or designated staff member.

### Ticks:

Campers spend most of their time outside at Camp. Some of our areas are wooded and we expect that campers may come in contact with ticks. We encourage you to wear repellent, check your child for ticks daily, especially after a shower. Call your doctor if your child gets a fever or rash.

The Y is sprayed every Fall and Spring for Tick Prevention.



### Sunscreen:

Campers should apply sunscreen and bug repellent before coming to camp each morning. There is also scheduled time for sunscreen to be reapplied in the afternoon. Campers are reminded throughout the day to reapply sunscreen as well. Under camp guidelines, staff cannot apply sunscreen unless it is the spray. If campers need sunscreen reapplied during the day, please show them how and counselors will remind them to do so your child's physician strongly recommends that they need more sunscreen application, the Authorization for the Administration of Medications form must be completed by the physician. The camper will be taken to the Camp First Aider at the appropriate times for it to be reapplied.

### Staying Hydrated at Camp

We ask that you provide a full refillable water bottle for your child each camp day. We have water stations throughout our camp grounds so children can refill their water bottles. Counselors will remind campers to re-hydrate often and we encourage campers to drink water throughout the day.

### Allergy Protocol

Campers with peanut/tree nut allergies range in severity. While our Y is a Peanut/ Treenut Aware Facility, our Camp is NUT FREE and we ask that camp families refrain from bringing peanut/treenuts products as well as "made in a facility that processes peanut/treenuts". **If you are interested in bringing in a special treat to celebrate a birthday, we encourage Popsicles/Ice Pops/Italian Ice.** All products need to be preapproved by a Camp Director before being served to campers to account for any other food allergies in the group.

#### Camp Gordyland's Protocol for a "Peanut-Free" Camp

1. All lunches will be inspected by your child's Counselor at the beginning of each day
2. Any foods that contain peanut/tree nut products or are processed in a plant with peanut products will be discarded. Please inspect your child's food ingredients for possible traces of peanuts/treenuts. Other examples may include food cooked in peanut oil or from a restaurant, Pesto and Nutella (contains hazelnuts)

INGREDIENTS: RICE, RICE BRAN OIL, CANE SUGAR, SALT, CHILI, SOY SAUCE POWDER (SOYBEAN, CORN, SALT, MALTODEXTRIN, SOYBEAN OIL), GARLIC, CITRIC ACID, TOCOPHEROL (VITAMIN E). CONTAINS: SOY. MANUFACTURED IN A FACILITY THAT PROCESSES PEANUTS. GLUTEN-FREE • VEGAN

A. Example:

3. If your child's lunch or snacks contain nut processed products, parents will be called first and the food will be held by a staff person. We will provide a substitute lunch of a jelly or cheese sandwich, if a new lunch can not be provided by the parent. There may be a fee for continual disregard for this policy.
4. Campers are not permitted to share food.
5. Please send in box labels for food that is not sold in individual packages for quick review by Camp Staff.

## CAMPER HEALTH & WELLNESS

### Concussion Management

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury or (TBI), “that changes how the cells in the brain normally work. A concussion is caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. Concussions can also result from a fall or from campers colliding with each other or with obstacles, such as a goalpost” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009)

Signs of a concussion may include (what the camper looks like):

- Incoherent / slurred speech
- Constant attempts to return to play
- Slow / clumsy movements
- Constant motion
- Loss of consciousness
- Disproportionate / inappropriate reactions
- Amnesia / memory problems
- Balance problems
- Confusion / disorientation / irritability
- Act silly / combative / aggressive
- Trouble resting / getting comfortable
- Repeatedly ask same questions
- Lack of concentration
- Dazed appearance
- Slow response / drowsiness
- Restless / irritable

Symptoms of a concussion may include (what the camper reports):

- Headache or dizziness
- Over sensitivity to sound / light / touch
- Nausea or vomiting
- Ringing in ears
- Blurred or double vision
- Feeling foggy or groggy

If there is any sign that your camper may have suffered a concussion due to a trauma to the head, they will be removed from activities immediately. The Camp First Aider will evaluate your child and make a call home so that you can follow up with your primary care physician. Your camper will not be permitted to return to camp activities until written medical clearance from a licensed health care professional is received. For more information on Connecticut regulations regarding concussion protocols for licensed youth camps please visit [www.ct.gov/oec/camps](http://www.ct.gov/oec/camps).



## FIRST DAY PREPARATIONS

### Toileting & Accidents

All campers at Camp Gordyland **must** be potty trained. If a child soils their underwear/ has a bowel movement accident, you or your emergency contact (in the event we cannot reach you) will be called to come to camp to pick up your child. If a child has **two** or more of type any type of toileting accidents, Camp Gordyland reserves the right to refuse to allow the child to attend camp until such time as Camp Gordyland is reasonably certain that a further accident is unlikely. The camper may return the next day unless the child's accident was induced by an illness.





### Camper Responsibilities

As a summer camp participant, you are expected to:

- Avoid fights or verbal abuse of other children
- Be fair and accepting of others eager to join any activity
- Work and play safely
- Use appropriate, acceptable language
- Be kind, considerate, helpful and respectful toward others
- Share equipment and materials fairly and use them properly
- Respect property, especially things that do not belong to you
- Cooperate with others, and with adults who are here to help you
- Speak out when you witness unfairness or offensive language or behavior of others
- Be a good sport whether you win or lose
- Be honest and truthful with everyone
- Leave valuable property at home.
- Respect all Camp Staff

### Camper Rights

As a summer camp participant, you have the right to:

- Be free from teasing and put-downs
- Have a safe, calm, clean and orderly environment
- Be free from fear of physical harm
- Have a fair turn in any group activity
- Make mistakes without being ridiculed by others
- Seek help from adults who are here to help you
- Be treated with dignity and respect by everyone

### BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

We ask all our campers to agree to the following:

I agree that while participating in Programs at Camp Gordyland:

- ☐ I will listen & follow all safety instruction given by YMCA Staff
- ☐ I will be respectful of those around me
- ☐ I will care for the Camp & Y environment and equipment I use
- ☐ I will be honest when I do not understand and ask questions

I understand that disrespectful behavior is not tolerated in the Y & Camp Gordyland Community. If I am having a hard time, the following steps may be taken:

- ⇒ Conversation with Counselor
- ⇒ Conversation
  - ⇒ with Leadership Team (my Age Group Director or similar)
- ⇒ Conversation with the Camp or Assistant Camp Director
- ⇒ Placed on Behavior Contract
- ⇒ Suspension for Camp
- ⇒ Dismissal/ Expulsion from Camp Gordyland

Throughout these interactions the parents will be kept informed about the challenges and progress made or plans set in place. If a child's behavior determines that they must be picked up from camp early on the day of the incident, if a timely pick-up does not happen or depending on the time of day of the incident, it may be determined that they must be out of camp for the following day.

\*No refunds or credits will be given.\*

# WATERFRONTS & SWIMMING

Our aquatic staff holds current Lifeguard, First Aid and CPR for the Professional Rescuer Certifications.

## Daily Swimming– Grades PreK-4th

We encourage campers to participate in water activities to learn water safety and develop stamina/skills. This essential activity helps with the camper's overall health as the water cools them down in the hot summer temperatures. Camp-To-Come-To and Free-To-Be campers are provided with a combination of general instruction and recreational free swim times throughout the week. At the beginning of each camp week, campers will be tested for their abilities and comfortability in the water (pool). This procedure allows us to place campers into a "swimming group" appropriate to their abilities. On Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Lessons take place and Monday & Friday are Free Swim Days. In addition to the pool, the pond or "beach" is scheduled for Free-to-Be and Camp To-Come-To regularly. Campers 5th Grade and older are scheduled to enjoy recreational swim most days. When swimming in the 25 yard or 50-meter pool, all campers must wear color arm bands based on their swimming level, similar to picture at right. Swim level will be determined by the weekly swim test. Children must keep the bands on at all times or they cannot participate in the swim activity.

While swimming at any designated Waterfronts, campers may be required to wear a Wave Headband that we use as a drowning prevention tool.

## Dock Test

A dock test must be passed at the beach in order to swim out to the dock (passed the lane line), roughly in the center of the pond.

In order to pass the dock test, campers need to be able to:

- Swim out to the dock in the deep-water area (10 feet deep)
- Face must be in the water (goggles are encouraged)
- Tread water for two minutes without holding onto a lifeguard and with their ears above the water
- Swim back to the shallow end

A camper is welcome to retry the dock test at their next Beach Period. Campers that pass the dock test will wear a bracelet to be easily identified. A camper may be asked to retest at any time at any Aquatic Director's discretion.

## Buddy Checks

Swim "buddy checks" are conducted every 7 minutes to ensure all swimmers are accounted for. An air horn will sound in the event a camper is not accounted for at the swimming area or vicinity. The land and water will be searched until the child is located. All emergency procedures will go into effect with coordination of the Camp and Aquatic Staff. Camp Gordyland practices these drills during camp hours. They are better known as "Pond Drills".



## Inflatable Water Elements

At our beach waterfront, there are several areas designated as our "inflatables." While participating in this activities, all campers and staffers, regardless of abilities are required to wear a Coast Guard Approved PFD provided by the Y.

## CHILD SAFETY

### Life Jackets

While participating in Water Front Activities, there may be times when wearing a Coast Guard Approved PFD or Life Vest/ Life Jacket is required for the activity or deemed necessary for the camper to wear in order to safely participate. One such time may be during Free Swim. Other required times are at the Inflatable & Corcl Activities. For questions, contact Sam Lusher, Aquatics

Director at

[slusher@riverbrookymca.org](mailto:slusher@riverbrookymca.org)

### Water Testing

Kiwanis Pond is tested on a weekly basis. The Local Health Department ensures that it is safe for us to swim in this area. Should we have to close the pond for any reason, we do our best to provide additional water activities will be available to our campers.

### Camp Emergencies

We devote significant time and attention to emergency procedures during our staff development and training. We have specific procedures for lost campers or members at the waterfront or on land, as well as for fire, severe weather, and medical emergencies. We practice these procedures throughout the summer so that campers and staff will be prepared in the event of an emergency. The Wilton Y has also implemented a Lockdown Procedure, which is a part of the staff training.



## Drop Off & Pick Up Locations

CAMP	OUTSIDE	INSIDE
CTCT (PREK-K)	Right Baseball Field	Activity Center
FTB (1-6TH)	Left Baseball Field	Gymnasium
TEEN CAMP (7TH & 8TH)	Left Baseball Field, far side	Outside Studio Building (to the right of the 50 Pool)
CIT (9TH +)	Drop- Off: Tent behind the right Baseball Field Pick-Up: Between the Ball Fields	Drop- Off: Tent behind the right Baseball Field Pick-Up: Gymnasium
AM/ PM CARE	Activity Center	Activity Center
ARCHERY ACADEMY	ARCHERY RANGE (PAST THE PAVILION)	MEETING HOUSE



## Camp Arrival

On your first day of camp, please look for the Camp Board, near the Free-To-Be and Camp-To-Come-To Baseball Fields. On the board you will look for your camper's name and it will specify the camp group your child has been placed in. Then you can proceed to the right or left field, depending on your camper's age. Look for your child's camp group sign posted along the fences. Once at the group sign, you will meet the counselors and sign your child in on the clipboard. Be sure to share any important info with your child's counselor.

Every day, parents/guardians are required to escort campers to their group and sign them in on the clipboard.

If you can not locate your child's name on our Camp Board, or they are "blacked out", please proceed to our Camp "Help Table" with the green table cloth. There we will determine the issue. You may need to complete paperwork and see the First Aider or pay a bill.

The first day of each camp week is very busy, so please bring extra patience. We will help all of our camp families. Any Director in a "Green" shirt will do their best to help your needs.

Gordy loves other animals, but please keep your pets at home or in the car during pick-up & drop-off. Thank you for helping to keep our campers, staff & families safe!

Pets are not allowed on Campgrounds due to allergies and for the safety of the campers and staff.

## Camp Dismissal

Each day, parents/guardians are required to pick up their camper from their group by signing them out on the clipboard.

- Photo ID is required by all persons picking up and can and will be asked at any time (no matter how many times you have picked up your child)
- Campers can only be picked up by a parent/guardian or by someone listed on their emergency contact form or as an Authorized Pick-Up

Please ask the person designated for pick-up to meet the camper at their group sign. Trying to sign out in transition to the field, at the gravel or over the fence is not allowed. We understand you may be in a hurry and it is more convenient, however this ensures the safety of all our campers during a very busy time. \* If you do have an appointment, please pick up your child early.\*

\*C.I.T.s must have the proper documentation to sign out at the end of each camp day.\*

\*\* Failure to sign your child out may result in a "Lost Child" search until the child is located.\*\* If this becomes a persistent problem, 3x or more, a fine or other consequences may be established.

## CAMP EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

### Late Drop-Off

Camp Groups remain on the field until almost 10am. If you are dropping off your camper late, you may enter the field and a director will help you locate the counselor so you can sign in your child.

We ask that you bring your camper to the Front Desk, inside the Y building, and our Membership Staff will relay that there is a late camper to be picked up. Please wait with your child until you have signed them into their group.

### Early Pick-Up

An Early Pick-Up is any pick-up before 2:30.

If you are picking your camper up early, please check in at the front desk. For camp security purposes, please **do not** roam the camp property to look for your child's group. At the front desk, you will be need to tell them your child's name and group, and then a Camp Director or the counselor will bring your child to the Lobby. **Again, photo ID's will be checked.**

Please be sure to inform your child's counselor about the early pick-up so they can keep the child out of a water activity if it is around their pick-up time. Otherwise, you may need to wait for your child to leave a water front and change.

If you arrive to pick-up your child after 2:30pm, you will need to wait until they arrive to the field for regular pick-up. This is policy in order to ensure ALL Campers transition safely and are ready for the end of the day.

### LOST & FOUND

The Camp Lost & Found area can be located to the right of the Right Baseball field along the 25 Yard Pool exterior wall. Please be sure to inspect the area periodically, especially if something is missing. It is always best to label all items that won't wash off.

Camp Gordyland cannot be held responsible for items left behind. All unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable organization at the of the summer.

If we are able to locate an item that was left behind, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to pick it up.

### TOKENS OF THANKS

Gordyland Staff are free to accept notes of Thanks you believe they are deserving of. If you have questions about who your child's specific staff who provided care, please feel free to email your child's unit director or the Assistant Camp Director. If a staff person leaves prior to your child's last day, we will happily connect the staff with your token of thanks.

## FIRST DAY PREPARATIONS

### Don't Forget!

- ☐ Bring your ID to all pick-ups, and ask any other person who is pick-up to bring their ID
- ☐ Write a note if someone else will be picking up your child
- ☐ Leave pets at home
- ☐ Apply sunscreen before drop-off
- ☐ Bring Hot Dog Money on Hot Dog Wednesday, 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5 (unless otherwise noted— check your Camp Calendar)



# THE CAMPER EXPERIENCE

## DAY OF CAMP

### COLOR TEAMS

#### Red

**Value:** Caring

**Traits & Description:**

- Help others
- Be sensitive to other's feelings
- Treat others as I would have them treat me

#### Orange

**Value:** Unity

**Traits & Description:**

- Becoming a whole group
- Accept & celebrate diversity

#### Yellow

**Value:** Respect

**Traits & Description:**

- Value the worth of every person and myself
- Listen to other's ideas & feelings

#### Green

**Value:** Responsibility

**Traits & Description:**

- Be accountable for my behavior
- Make sure my actions match my value

#### Blue

**Value:** Honesty

**Traits & Description:**

- Tell the truth
- Do what ought to be done

## GROUPS

Each group is composed of 10-11 campers based on the age or grade. To ensure the safety of our campers and quality of our program, Camp Gordyland maintains a lower maximum amount of campers per group than mandated by the State of Connecticut. We follow a ratio that ranges from 1:10 to 2:14. For our younger campers, 3-5, we maintain a ration of 2:10.

Camp Gordyland is divided into 3 "Camps", Camp-To-Come-To (CTCT), our 3-5 year old campers, Camp Free-To-Be (FTB), for campers 1st- 6th Grade and **Teen Camp**, our 7th & 8th Graders. C.I.T.s are incorporated throughout camp groups CTCT- 6th grade and at Activities.

Every Camp Group is assisted a Color Team, from one of our five Character Values. Teen Camp Groups are all Orange and the other four colors are divided throughout the other camps and groups. Campers find out their color on the first day of each week. Campers may purchase or wear their "Color Team" shirt on Fridays for our Color Pride Day! \*These "Color Teams" may change for your child based on attendance\*

## CAMP ACTIVITIES

While your child is at camp, they will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities. All activities are designed to be age and developmentally appropriate. This includes using the concept of progressive programming, so that as your camper returns year after year, they have new activities to look forward to. The schedule for each group is preset prior to summer starting. Most activities are scheduled at least once a week, while there is always at least one waterfront per day. Changes and adaptations are made due to weather, special events like Color Games, Carnival, and more. Below is a chart of the activities based on the age group.

### CTCT

- |                 |                     |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| • Arts & Crafts | • Mini Golf         | • Sensory Station         |
| • Beach         | • Outdoor Adventure | • Splash Pad              |
| • Fishing (4+)  | • Picnic Games      | • The Kindness Connection |
| • Gaga          | • Playground        | & MORE                    |
| • Inflatable    | • Pool              |                           |
|                 | • Preschool Sports  |                           |

### FTB 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

- |                 |                        |                           |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Arts & Crafts | • Inflatable           | • Splash Pad              |
| • Beach         | • Mini Golf            | • Sports                  |
| • Climbing Wall | • Ninja Warrior Course | • Street Hockey           |
| • Dug-out Derby | • Outdoor Adventure    | • The Kindness Connection |
| • Face Off      | • Picnic Games         | • Wall Ball               |
| • Fishing       | • Playground           | & More                    |
| • Gaga          | • Pool                 |                           |



### FTB 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 9 Square
- Archery
- Arts & Crafts
- Beach
- Climbing Wall
- Dugout Derby
- Face Off
- Fishing
- Gaga
- Inflatable
- Mini Golf
- Ninja
- Warrior Course
- Outdoor Adventure
- Picnic Games
- Playground
- Pool
- Sports
- Street Hockey
- The Kindness Connection
- Wall Ball
- & More

### FTB 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

- 9 Square
- Archery
- Arts & Crafts
- Beach
- Camper
- Climbing Wall
- Dugout Derby
- Face Off
- Fishing
- Gaga
- Gordy's Gourmet
- High Ropes Course
- Inflatable
- Mini Golf
- Ninja
- Warrior Course
- Picnic Games
- Playground
- Pool
- Sports
- Street Hockey
- The Game Zone
- The Kindness Connection
- Wall Ball
- & More

### TEENS

- Archery
- Arts & Crafts
- Basketball
- Beach
- Beach Volleyball
- Dugout Derby
- Face Off
- Fishing
- Gaga
- Gordy's Gourmet
- High Ropes Course
- Inflatable
- Mini Golf
- Ninja Course
- Paddle Tennis
- Picnic Games
- Playground
- Pool
- Sports
- The Kindness Connection
- Wall Ball
- Street Hockey
- & MORE



## DAY OF CAMP



### BIRTHDAYS

We love a Gordyland Birthday!

Be sure to tell a Camp Director and we will make a special announcement at Opening Ceremonies.

Icy treats are a fun favorite for Birthday Celebrations & More. Please be sure that any popsicle or special treat is PEANUT/ TREE NUT FREE AND Made in a NUT FREE FACILITY.

Drop the treat off with a Camp Director and we will keep it frozen until Lunch.

### ICE POPS

A cool treat on a hot day is just the BEST! Campers and staff may bring in a popsicle treat at any time. Please drop it off with a Camp Director in the morning. Please LABEL the package and we will bring it to Lunch.



We hope this Glossary helps you and your camper better understand the Gordyland Culture and to help you better understand and learn about your child's Day at Camp!

Word	Definition
Aaron Britton Cystic Fibrosis Kickball Game	Annual fundraising game between the Staff and Directors that takes place after camp hours on the baseball field for families to attend!
Albino Gator	A White (Plastic) Gator that is hidden by a Director for the Teen Camp Group to be found throughout the week. It will earn points for your color team.
Big Show Belt	The Belt that is awarded to the best overall performance of the Color Games "Big Show" between all the Character Value Colors.
Britton Bucks	Currency that is given to campers for being kind and following the character values of the YMCA. Can be traded in for prizes at Heat Wave throughout the week after camp.
Camp Song	The custom Camp Gordyland song that the campers sing every morning during Opening Ceremonies.
Carnival	The Special Event during Carnival Week. There are no rides, but many games to play for the campers, an inflatable to jump on and prizes to win! Takes place during camp.
Character Rock	The massive painted rock by the Beach that is awarded to the Color Team with the most points at the end of the Summer. Everyone on that color gets to paint it on the last day of Camp.
CIT	Counselor In Training - Campers who are of age and able to help counselors with groups and specialists during activities throughout the camp weeks.
Color Games	A large event that takes place on the Friday of Color Games week where all camp groups compete against each other to win the Big Show Belt! Parents are welcome to attend.
Color Run	A camp wide event where staff and campers wear white and run around the YMCA with friends and get covered in water, paint and powder leaving a beautiful design on all who attend!
Corcl	A plastic mini "boat", like a snow saucer, that campers can traverse our pond with. Holds up to 250lbs!
Counselor	A staff member in a yellow shirt who is responsible for the campers in their group. Supervision, participation and communication are some of the many responsibilities of these staff.
Director	A staff member in a green shirt who is responsible for the campers as well as the staff that they oversee within camp. Many Directors are responsible for specific areas or age groups.
Double Dance	A part of the day that takes place during Color Games week where that group is in the gym with the rest of their color team and get to practice for Color Games for two periods in a row.
Dress-Up Day	Typically on Thursdays, all campers and staff can dress up to the theme of what the camp week is. No weapons are allowed.
Dunk Your Director	A fundraising event that takes place typically after camp hours. Campers can donate for a chance to dunk their directors in a dunk tank.
Gaga	"Dodgeball for your legs" - played in a hexagon "pit," campers can hit a soft ball into each others legs to get others out. Needs to hit knees and below. No double touches!

## Gordy's Glossary Continued

### DAY OF CAMP

Word	Definition
Golden Gator	A Gold (Plastic) Gator that is hidden by a 1st -3rd grade group to be found daily. It will earn points for your color team. Be ready with your clue!
Gordy	The Alligator Mascot that lives in Florida when not visiting our friends at Camp Gordyland!
Gordy Gram	A take home keepsake that counselors write for their campers about how wonderful their week was at Camp Gordyland!
Gordyland Gazette	A weekly newsletter that is sent home to parents via email about what happened during the week or what is coming up! It is also read to the campers on Monday and has fun activities for to the groups to do!
Gordyland's Got Talent	The Talent Show that is performed by Campers and Staff. Not all need to perform. Only those who would like to participate, campers will be randomly chosen to perform at camp. Parents are welcome to attend.
Gordy's Gourmet	An activity for the older campers that teach them how to prepare fun and easy snacks over our very own camp fire.
Green Gator	A Green (Plastic) Gator that is hidden by a 4th-6th grade group to be found daily. It will earn points for your color team. Be ready with your clue!
Heatwave	A station that is set up after the camp day throughout the week where children who earned Britton Bucks can cash them in for prizes. Real money is also accepted. 1 Britton Buck = 1 Dollar (in Camp Gordyland)
Homecoming Football Game	Annual fundraising game between the Staff vs Directors that takes place after camp hours at the High School field for families to attend!
Hot Dog Day	Typically on Wednesdays, all campers can get up to two hot dogs for lunch. 1 for \$3 and 2 for \$5. Cash only.
Opening Ceremonies	The beginning of our day on the camp fields where we go over announcements, play a game and sing the camp song!
Polka-Dot Gator	A Polka Dot Painted (Plastic) Gator that is hidden by a CTCT grade group to be found daily. It will earn points for your color team. Be ready with your clue!
Specialist	A staff member in a golden shirt who is responsible for the campers who attend their activities. They will supervise, teach, communicate and participate in their camp activity.
Support Staff/ Aide	A staff member in a yellow shirt with a heart on their sleeve that help our campers with special needs. Paras can be 1 on 1 or 1 on 2.
Treasure	A "Golden Ticket" is hidden for different age groups. These are only hidden in safe areas to search. A one word clue is given every Tuesday and Thursday. The group that finds it gets a special prize.
Treasure Clues	A one word clue that is given every Tuesday and Thursday to help groups find the Treasures around Camp Gordyland.
Waterfront Director	A Staff Member in a Green or Red shirt, who oversees the 2 pools, splash pad and the pond areas at the YMCA.



# Theme Weeks 2023



## Week 1

June 26-30

## Believe in Magic

Special Event: Magician/ Illusionist

## Week 2

July 3-7

## Stars & Stripes

No Camp Tuesday, July 4th

Special Event: Visit from local heroes

## Week 3

July 10-14

## All Star Carnival

Special Event: Carnival Day- July 12th

Dunk Your Director- Thurs. July 13th during pick-up

## Week 4

July 17-21

## Neon Nonsense

Special Event: Color Run- July 20th

## Week 5

July 24-28

## Color Games XXXI

Special Event: The Big Show - July 28th

## Week 6

July 31-August 4

## Gordyland's Got Talent

Special Event: Talent Show - August 4th

Director vs. Staff Football Game- Wed. August 2nd

## Week 7

August 7-11

## Mission Possible

Special Events: Egg Drop

CF Staff Kickball Game-Wed. August 9th @ 6:30pm

Teen Camp Sleepover Thurs. August 10th- Fri. 11th

## Week 8

August 14-18

## Splash Bash

Special Events: Water Palooza

### Color Key



All Camp Activity



Family Event



Parents Encouraged to Attend  
Special Event

# Gordyland Calendar of Events

DAY OF CAMP

## Camp Gordyland 2023 Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June 26-30 Week 1 "Believe in Magic"	Welcome to Camp! Meet your Counselors	Express Drop Off	Express Drop Off Hot Dog Day-- 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5	Express Drop Off Dress Up Day Dress Up Ideas: Pirates, Royalty, Wizards, Witches, Fantasy, Magical Creatures, Scientist, Halloween	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color
July 3-7 Week 2 "Stars & Stripes"	Meet your Counselors	No Camp Happy 4th of July!	Express Drop Off Hot Dog Day-- 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5	Express Drop Off Dress Up Day Dress Up Ideas: Patriotic, Heroes of any kind	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color
July 10-14 Week 3 "All Star Carnival"	Meet your Counselors	Express Drop Off	Express Drop Off Special Event - Carnival Day (Wear your sports jersey) Change *Hot Dog Day is FRIDAY*	Express Drop Off Dress Up Day Dress Up Ideas: Sports, Athlete, Carnival Dunk your Director at 3:15pm	Express Drop Off *Hot Dog Day-- 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5* Wear your Color Team Color
July 17-21 Week 4 "Neon Nonsense"	Meet your Counselors	Express Drop Off	Express Drop Off Dress Up Day Dress Up Ideas: WACKY WEDNESDAY NEON DRESS UP Hot Dog Day-- 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5	Express Drop Off Special Event: Color Run: Wear White	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color

# Gordyland Calendar of Events

DAY OF CAMP

## Camp Gordyland 2023 Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>July 24-28</b> Week 5 "Color Games XXXI"	Meet your Counselors	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color Hot Dog Day-- 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color Special Event: The Big Show
<b>July 31-August 4</b> Week 6 "Gordyland's Got Talent"	Meet your Counselors	Express Drop Off	Express Drop Off Hot Dog Day-- 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5 Staff vs. Director Homecoming Football Game	Express Drop Off Dress Up Day Dress Up Ideas: Theme: Celebrities	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color Special Event: Gordyland's Got Talent
<b>August 7-11</b> Week 7 "Mission Possible"	Meet your Counselors	Express Drop Off	Express Drop Off CF Staff vs. Director Kickball Game at 6:30pm Hot Dog Day-- 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5	Express Drop Off Dress Up Day Dress Up Ideas: Secret/ Special Agent; Super Hero Teen Camp Sleepover	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color
<b>August 14-18</b> Week 8 "Splash Bash"	Meet your Counselors	Express Drop Off	Express Drop Off Hot Dog Day-- 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5	Express Drop Off Dress Up Day Dress Up Ideas: Theme: Island/ Tropical/ Beach/ Water Creatures	Express Drop Off Wear your Color Team Color Last Day of Camp!

The Riverbrook Regional YMCA is dedicated to protecting any Youth who enter our facility. Regardless of the role within our Y, Camp Counselor, Lifeguard, Fitness Instructor to our CEO, each and every Y Staff is a Mandated Reporter. As a Mandated Reporter it is the Staff's responsibility to report any suspicion of abuse to the local authorities. Staff will make a report to the local Department of Children & Families if a child discloses abuse, they witness abuse or suspect. We take any disclosures seriously.

During the course of our hiring process, all staff are background checked and those over the age of 18 are fingerprinted per State of Connecticut regulations, in addition to the rigorous interview process.

A thorough background check is conducted on each staff member. This includes a search of the Judicial Department for convictions, the state child abuse registry and the National Sex Offender Registry.

Following hiring, all staff must complete various trainings specific to camp as well as how to protect the children in their care. These trainings include Appropriate Touch, Child Abuse Prevention— which included Peer-to-Peer and Adult to Peer, Aquatic Safety and Mandated Reporter Training.

Among these trainings and outlined in both our Camp Staff & Riverbrook Regional YMCA Employee Handbook are the following rules:

In order to protect the Wilton Family Y staff, volunteers and program participants, at no time during a Y program, may a staff person be alone with a single child where they cannot be observed by others. As staff supervises children, they should place themselves in a way that others can see them.

Camp staff will use appropriate language and maintain themselves in an appropriate manner. Swearing is never acceptable: either by staff members or in music lyrics being played on campgrounds.

Staff shall not leave a child unsupervised at any time.

#### Restroom Supervision:

Staff will make sure that the restroom is not occupied by suspicious or unknown individuals before allowing children to use the facilities. If staff is assisting the younger children, doors to the facility must remain open. Such as Staff can stand in the doorway while child is using the restroom. The policy allows for privacy for the children and protection for the staff (not being alone with a child).

No child, regardless of age, should ever enter a bathroom alone on a field trip. If it is a single use facility, the counselor will check to make sure the restroom is unoccupied.

Staff should conduct or supervise private activities in pairs, especially when campers are changing clothes. When this is not possible, staff should be positioned so that they are visible to others.

Staff will respect children's rights not to be touched in ways that make them feel uncomfortable.

Staff and volunteers may not be alone with children they meet in YMCA programs outside of the YMCA. Providing any form of childcare services outside of the work you perform at the YMCA, for children who are members or participants in any YMCA programs is prohibited. This includes babysitting, private lessons, lifeguarding, sleepovers, inviting children to your home etc.

Adult staff may not date program participants, members, or other staff under the age of 18 years.



As much as it is the Staff's responsibility to protect the children at camp and help them in situations outside of camp, it is important to teach them how to protect themselves.

Here are some tips:

### How to teach appropriate touch to a child:

Rule 1 – Private is Private – everywhere a bathing suit covers is just for the child

Rule 2 – You have a voice – say "Stop" or tell an adult you trust

Rule 3 – The "Uh-Oh" feeling – feeling something is wrong

Rule 4 – Respect – child shouldn't touch another child or adult inappropriately – value privacy

Rule 5 – It's not your fault – it's against the law

### 4 Rules that should always be Followed

#### 1. No Inappropriate Touch or Language

Use only appropriate language and touch in addition to verbal encouragement, this can include high fives, side hugs, fist bumps.

#### 2. No Alone Time

Make sure all conversations are observable and interruptable

#### 3. No Favoritism

Treat every child with the respect and attention they deserve

#### 4. No Outside Contact Between Children and Staff

Keep all interactions professional and transparent. Use official Y channels for communication.

Please respect the staff and do not request to follow them on social media, and encourage your campers who may have social media to do the same, as well as follow safe practices online.



# Quick Reference Contact Sheet

 <p><b>Camp Director- Mike Kazlauskas</b></p>	 <p><b>Assistant Camp Director- Kimberly Fejes</b> <i>Color Team bundles Questions; CF Football Game Fundraiser</i></p>	 <p><b>Camp First Aid Directors</b></p>
 <p><b>FOLLOW US ON</b> Instagram</p>	 <p><b>Director of Special Needs- Christina Foley</b></p>	 <p><b>Color Team Bundle Ordering</b></p>
 <p><b>Extended Care Registration</b></p>	 <p><b>Lost &amp; Found Missing Item Sheet</b></p>	 <p><b>Cystic Fibrosis Raffle Donation</b></p>
 <p><b>Camp-To-Come-To Director</b></p>	 <p><b>Free-To-Be- Director Email</b></p>	 <p><b>Teen Camp Director</b></p>



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**  
**OPENING REGISTRATION DAY**  
**FOR SUMMER 2024**