

Princeton Recreation Department Summer Day Camp Guide

The Princeton Recreation Department welcomes you to Summer Day Camp! Inside this packet you will find information, rules, and procedures about our camp. We ask that you read this information thoroughly. If you have any questions about the program, please contact:

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Recreation Office – 609-921-9480

GENERAL INFORMATION

Camp Overview

PRD Day camp is an outdoor camp that takes place at the Community Park South Complex. This includes Community Park Pool, Community Park South Fields, Community Park playgrounds and basketball courts, and Community Park North.

The camp day is filled with activities such as games, sports, arts & crafts, trips to the playground, and nature walks. The camp day may also include special performances like magic, science, and animal shows.

Our Summer Camp Philosophy and Goals

Princeton Recreation Department (PRD) Day Camp is designed to keep campers active, excited, and socially involved through a variety of activities within a safe and supervised camp setting. All our activities are planned and implemented with the following goals in mind:

- Encourage children to be social and boost their self-confidence in a group setting.
- Promote teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect among fellow campers as well as camp counselors.
- Provide a positive, safe, and supervised environment in which children can play and learn.
- Develop skills and knowledge through a variety of activities such as swimming, sports, arts and crafts, team play and library time.

Eligibility

Princeton Recreation Day Camp is open to children who are entering grades 1-6 in the Fall of 2023. Day Camp is open to campers that reside in Princeton, as well as children of full-time Princeton municipal employees.

*Non-residents should register for the waitlist on Community Pass. When registering, your child will automatically be placed on the waitlist. You will be notified – at a later date – if space is available.

Camp Schedule

Day Camp is 6 weeks long. You can sign up for one week or all six! The dates are listed below:

Week 1: June 26 - June 30 Week 2: July 3 - July 7 (no camp 7/4)

Week 3: July 10 - July 14 Week 4: July 17 - July 21

Week 5: July 24 - July 28 Week 6: July 31 - August 4

Register for 2 or 3 weeks to receive a 5% discount. Register for 4 or more weeks to receive a 10% discount! Must register for multiple weeks all at once to receive a discount.

There are no prorated prices for partial attendance of the day camp program.

Program Registration

Registration is processed through our online registration system. The web address is:

<http://register.communitypass.net/princeton> under "2023 Day Camp & Teen Travel Camp"

If you prefer a paper registration form or if you would like to apply for financial assistance, please visit the Recreation Office.

Princeton Recreation Day Camp offers a variety of activities including swimming at CP Pool, nature walks, sports, special performances, local trips and much, much more! The PRD Day Camp is held on the grounds of Community Park South. Our campsite includes use of C.P. Pool, baseball/soccer fields, tennis courts, pavilions, basketball courts, playground sites, the C.P. North Pond and nature trails, as well as all of the other Princeton Recreation Department facilities.

Staff

Our staff is comprised of a Camp Director, 2 Assistant directors, six Group Supervisors, and multiple counselors for each group. All camp leaders and counselors participate in a camp orientation and basic first aid training.

Camp Groups

Each grade(s) is grouped by color for easy identification.

Campers are divided into the following groups and colors:

Grade 1 boys and girls:	YELLOW
Grade 2 – boys and girls:	TAN
Grades 3 /4 – girls:	PINK
Grades 3 /4 – boys:	RED
Grades 5 /6 – girls:	ORANGE
Grades 5/6 – boys:	BLUE

Community Park Pool Group Youth Swim Lessons

Weekday lessons are Tuesday and Thursdays and have time slots based on age group.

There are no makeup or rain date classes. Registration & more information coming soon!

Level 1 – Child MUST leave parent willingly, follow directions and be comfortable in a group. (New swimmer)

Level 2 – Ability to float on back and stomach with little help from the instructor. Child should be able to submerge face and hold breath. Child must have some movement skills.

Level 3 – Child should have water movement skills. Focus will be on breathing, proper positions and movement.

Level 4 – Child should be able to swim width of pool and feel comfortable in water without direct-instructor support.

Lunch

Lunches are gathered each morning and stored in an air-conditioned room.

Helpful tips for campers that bring their lunch from home:

- Mark your camper's lunch container with their FULL name.
- Pack an additional REFILLABLE water bottle, labeled with a name.
- Use a reusable ice pack.

Campers are encouraged to bring snacks, especially if they participate in after camp.

The pool concession stand is open for campers to buy lunch or snacks during pool time. Campers are responsible for any money and belongings that they bring to camp. **WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT CAMPERS DO NOT BRING LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY TO DAY CAMP.**

Camp Attire

Please Note: If your child plans to change from clothes to a swimsuit or vice versa, they must be able to do this without counselor assistance, and in a timely manner.

Campers should wear comfortable, cool clothes and gym shoes that are suitable for athletic activity.

Campers can wear their swimsuit to camp under their clothes.

All belongings should be put in a backpack labeled with your camper's name.

If your camper would like to wear sandals or flip-flops around the pool, that is permitted – if they also have athletic shoes.

Apply sunscreen before camp and send SPRAY sunscreen in their backpack.

Camp T-shirts are handed out the first week of camp. Encourage your camper to wear their t-shirt! It is a great way for us to quickly identify a PRD camper! (Please write their name in their camp shirt on the label.) Staff is NOT allowed to assist with sunscreen application – unless it is spray-on.

Daily Backpack Checklist

- LUNCH!
- Towel and swimsuit
- Sunscreen (spray preferred)
- Athletic shoes or sandals
- Plastic bag (to hold anything wet)
- Water bottle with your child's name on it
- Snack (if needed)

What to leave at home

Our camp days are filled with many fun activities and most of the supplies are provided. Occasionally, there may be a time that campers might bring something from home for a special event or program.

Backpacks are always left in designated areas but are often unattended. Please remind campers to only touch their own personal belongings. The Recreation Department will not be responsible for lost items.

It is important that campers leave items at home that might not be appropriate for camp such as:

- Cell phones (Please call the office if you need to reach your camper)
- Toys
- Electronic devices
- Weapons/Look-alike

Camp Procedures

Location

Day Camp is located at Community Park South. Our 'home base' is the park pavilion. We utilize the park pavilion, ball fields, tennis courts, municipal pool and Community Park North. Drop off and pick-up area is at the Race/John Street parking lot near Community Park School. (Generally referred to as "The Hill") In the case of inclement weather, camp is held indoors at Community Park School and drop-off/pick-up will be at the main entrance to CP School.

CP Pool

Campers will eat lunch inside the CP Pool complex with their camp groups and counselors. All campers have the option to swim at Community Park Pool every day from approximately 12:00 to 1:45 p.m.

FAQ'S

What do I do if I need to drop my child off to camp late?

Park at "The Hill" and walk your camper down to the main pavilion in Community Park. Connect with a staff member who can use a walkie-talkie to locate your child's group. Walk your child to the group, and be sure to connect directly with a staff member so that the staff is aware of the late arrival.

After Camp Pick Up is at the following locations: (Approximate Times)

3:00 - 4:00 - at the Pavilion in CP South

4:00 - 5:15 - at the Pool

5:15 - 5:30 - at the Hill

It's pouring rain! Is camp still on?

Yes, camp is held rain or shine. On rainy days we conduct camp at Community Park School. Please use the school driveway to drop off and pick up campers. Do not use the side entrance to the gym. Weather updates are posted through email, and on our social media pages.

What does the camp do on extremely hot days?

We have the option of utilizing Community Park School on very hot days. We also extend the swim time at the pool. There are several small, air-conditioned rooms that we utilize to give the campers a break from the heat.

Can my child ride their bike to/from Day Camp?

Yes. Bring your own lock. The bike rack is located next to the pavilion in C.P. South.

My child participates on the swim or dive team. How will he/she get to camp from swim team practice?

We will have a counselor escort all children that participate on the Swim or Dive Team to the campsite each morning when the swim/dive team practice is over.

Parent/Guardian Notification

Please be aware that we will contact parents/guardians for the following:

- Camper that becomes sick or injured during camp or request that a parent be called because they do not feel well.
- Camper that requests that a parent be called because they do not want to be at camp.
- Camper has a disciplinary matter.
- Camper that does not have lunch, swimwear, or proper clothes.

Behavior / Discipline Procedures

Campers are expected to always exhibit appropriate behavior to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment. As with any large group of children, a discipline policy must be enforced by PRD and the Day Camp staff. We ask that you, as parents, review this information with your child so they are aware and understand the consequences of unacceptable behavior. Below, is a list of unacceptable behavior that will not be tolerated:

- Leaving designated group without permission
- Disruption of activities or programs
- Disrespectful behavior toward participants or staff
- Unacceptable physical contact
- Communication in an unacceptable manner

Discipline Procedures

Camp staff will reinforce appropriate behavior through firm statements and redirection of activity. Listed below are the discipline procedures for campers who are exhibiting unacceptable behavior.

Time outs are used as a disciplinary measure for minor infractions of the camp rules. During a time out, a camper will have to sit out from activities including games, crafts, swimming or a special event. If the misbehavior continues, or if a more-serious infraction has taken place, we reserve the right to issue a more serious disciplinary procedure including – but not limited to – suspension or expulsion from camp. **1st Strike: (Warning)** a form will be given to the parent/guardian to be signed and acknowledged by the parent/guardian and camper.

2nd Strike: (Warning/ Suspension) a form will be given to the parent/guardian to be signed. A meeting will be held with the camper and parent/guardian in which suspension for the following day may be a result if deemed necessary by the camp director or PRD staff.

3rd Strike: (Warning /Suspension/Dismissal) a form will be given to the parent/guardian to be signed. Participant may be suspended for more than one day or dismissed from the program. Refunds will not be given to participants who are dismissed or suspended due to behavior issues.

The PRD Staff reserves the right to suspend or expel any camper whose actions are seen as detrimental to the camp program.

Swimming and Pool Time

The Day Camp gathers in the pool complex between 12:00pm – 1:45pm to eat lunch and swim. Each group has a designated area to sit, leave their backpack and enjoy the pool. On very-hot days, pool time is often extended.

All campers are given a swim test prior to pool use. Swim level wrist bands are issued so that staff can identify campers and swimming abilities quickly and easily. Campers with questionable swim abilities are required to stay in certain areas of the pool. CP Pool has lifejackets available for use during pool time for non-swimmers.

Wristband colors:

Blue - all pools

Green - main pool only

Red – 1st or 2nd grader family bay and shallow end of main pool & wading pool

To use the diving well and slide, children under the age of 11 must pass the CP Pool swim test. Swim tests are administered by the lifeguard staff.

While in the pool complex, camp staff monitors all pools, locker rooms, designated group areas and the front gate.

Medications

Any camper requiring any type of medication during camp hours must speak directly to the Camp Director. We highly recommend that the medication schedule is altered to fit times outside of the camp schedule, if possible. Medications and written instructions signed by the parent/guardian must be given to the Camp Director.

Please notify the Camp Director and Group Supervisor if your camper(s) has any physical limitations, or needs special attention in the pool, etc.

Photographs or Videos

Throughout the summer, pictures and videos may be taken of classes and programs in progress at Day Camp. These pictures may be used for marketing purposes. By registering for the program, unless otherwise stated, you have given us permission to use your child's photograph.

Lost and Found

Please encourage your camper to keep track of their belongings. PRD is not responsible for lost or stolen items. All belongings left at camp will be placed with the pool Lost and Found. Items are generally held for two weeks, and then given for donation.

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING PHONE NUMBER FOR ALL COMMUNICATION WITH
CAMP STAFF.

RECREATION OFFICE: 609-921-9480

Please check our Facebook page for weather, and camp updates.

www.facebook.com/princetonrecreation

[@PrincetonRec on Twitter!](https://twitter.com/PrincetonRec)

