

PARENT MANUAL

2017 SUMMER CAMP PATRIOTS



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the City of Port Wentworth Leisure Services Camp Patriots! We know there are many choices when it comes to camp and we thank you for choosing to send your children to Camp Patriots.

The packet of information will help you to have a better understanding of the events and guidelines regarding your child's time at Camp Patriots. A **careful** reading will answer many questions and help you prepare for your child's time at Camp Patriots this summer. Together, we can work to give your camper a confident growing experience that will last a lifetime.



CAMP PATRIOT GOALS

The goals of Camp Patriots are to help its participants between the ages of 6 and 12 grow physically, mentally, emotionally and to have fun. Using the City of Port Wentworth's facilities and providing challenging activities in both small and large group settings under the guidance of caring and well-trained counselors, the City of Port Wentworth Camp is designed to provide your Child with a unique rewarding experience.

WHAT GOES ON AT CAMP PATRIOTS

All the activities that will take place during the Safety camp will have carefully planned out activities by our Leisure Services Department. It is the goal of this group to expose the campers to a variety of activities and experiences daily. In doing so, the activities will provide a level of supervision and structure that will offer many different challenges during the week.

A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

- Pre-Camp (parent drop off) 7:30AM – 9:00AM
- **Camp Starts 9:00am** (opening ceremony and announcements)
- Small group activities
- Snack
- Lunch
- Large group activities
- Snack
- (closing ceremony)
- Post Camp (parent pick up) 4:30pm-6:00pm. Pick up by 6:00pm

Please note that we will be outside every day, weather permitting. Exposure to outdoor elements will occur, so please take this into consideration when preparing for camp activities. All campers will be required to stay with their group and go outside.

- Week (1) May 22-May 26 - Aloha to Summer Time Week
- Week (2) May 30-June 2 **Closed Monday** - Moving and Grooving Week
- Week (3) June 5-9 - Back to the Future Week
- Week (4) June 12-16 - Sizzling Safety Week
- Week (5) June 19-23 - Earth Week
- Week (6) June 26-30 - Pay It Forward Week

- Week (7) July 5-7 **Closed Monday** - Let Freedom Ring
- Week (8) July 10-14 – Super Hero Week
- Week (9) July 17-21 – Wallow, Splatter, and Splash Week
- Week (10) July 24-28 – Race to the Finish “Olympic Week”



FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Special activities and field trips are scheduled throughout each week of Camp Patriots. You will be notified about all upcoming events by camp staff. Please pay by the deadline to ensure your camper's spot for each of the weeks.

When returning from a field trip, we do our best to arrive back to camp on time, but inclement weather or traffic problems might delay our arrival time. We appreciate your patience when this occurs. If you need to pick up your child early, please let camp staff know ahead of time.

A Field Trip Permission Statement is included on the Camp Registration Form. Campers will not be allowed to leave the campsite or the City of Port Wentworth gymnasium without this statement being signed by a parent or legal guardian.

The City of Port Wentworth reserves the right to suspend any child's field trip privileges for disciplinary or safety reasons.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to participate in special activities with their children during the camp day. We also know that some parents may have a special talent or skill that they would like to share or teach. If you are interested in participating or volunteering during camp, please speak with the Leisure Services Director so arrangements can be made.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR CAMP PATRIOTS

The following items are needed to ensure that your camper will have a fun-filled day. Please label your child belongings with a permanent marker:

- Athletic Shoes and Socks – No sandals, flip flops, crocs, or Heely's
- Lunch (w/ drinks and snacks in a lunch box or cooler)
- Duffel bag or book bag
- Sunglasses/Cap or Hat
- Water bottle

LUNCHES EVERYDAY

Children **must bring their lunch and drink (no soda) everyday unless specified.**

Lunches will NOT be refrigerated or heated in the microwave. Will have picnic lunches daily!

Lunches must include a drink and eating utensils (plastic ware).

Due to an active schedule, please make lunches healthy and nutritious and not spoil easily.

Drinking fountains are available throughout the day. Children are encouraged to drink plenty of water and to carry a water bottle with them.

Please label the outside of the lunch box/container, as many look alike.

Refer to www.choosemyplate.gov for examples of a healthy lunch.

VALUABLES/LOST AND FOUND

Do not bring **ANY** items of value such as, but not limited to, cell phones, I-Pods, CD players, CDs, DVDs, Handheld games, Trading Cards, toys, movies, etc. If your camper brings any valuable to camp, it will be taken up and returned to you at the time of pick up that same day. If it is brought back, it will be taken away for one week and returned to the parent at the end of the 5 days at the time of parent pick up.

There will be a designated area for Lost and Found. Please check this daily. Unclaimed items will be donated on a bi-weekly basis.

The City of Port Wentworth will not be responsible for the loss of valuables or personal property items. It will be your camper's responsibility to keep up with his/her belongings, not the City of Port Wentworth, or the camp staff.

MEDICATION AND MEDICAL CONCERNS DURING CAMP

The City of Port Wentworth will assist those campers who have prescription medications. In order to do this, the parent or guardian must complete and sign the City of Port Wentworth Medical Authorization Form and turn it in to the Leisure Services Director. Any medication must be in the original container with the prescription label and directions on the container.

Please note that the City of Port Wentworth staff will follow the directions on the label in all cases, even if it conflicts with the parent's directions. Please notify the Leisure Services Director of any medical problems or if the camper is on any medication. This information is vital to providing your camper with the appropriate care.

The City of Port Wentworth staff will not dispense any over the counter medications to the campers such as, but not limited to, Tylenol or Benadryl, even if it is provided by the parent.

WHEN ILLNESS/HEALTH CONCERNS OCCUR DURING CAMP

When your camper is ill for any reason, please do not bring him/her to camp that day. It is our policy not to accept campers when any communicable disease is present. This is a preventive measure to protect the other campers. If your camper comes to camp ill or becomes ill at camp, you will be notified to pick up your camper. If you cannot get here within 1 hour, you must make other arrangements for his/her pick up.

We ask that you keep your camper at home if there are signs of: Fever, Frequent or Severe Pain, Frequent Coughing, Conjunctivitis, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Lice, etc. Children with Communicable Diseases, such as, but not limited to Strep Throat, Chicken Pox, Flu, Ringworm, etc., must also be kept at home but the City of Port Wentworth must be notified immediately, so that other parents can be notified of exposure.

If your camper is being treated for any of these conditions, he/she must be kept out of camp until the parent can provide a Doctor's note stating that the camper has been treated and can return without risk to others.

It is also the parent's responsibility to make sure that all provided phone contact numbers are working numbers. If at any time the number is not working, the parent must provide new numbers. If a parent does not provide the proper information and it continually becomes difficult to reach someone due to insufficient information, it can result in dismissal from the program.

MEDICAL TREATMENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The City of Port Wentworth is committed to providing your child with a safe and healthy camping experience. We will contact the parent or legal guardian immediately should care be given and/or the services of physicians are required.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

A camper's behavior is a great concern to us. We expect all campers to respect, listen and to follow the camp staff's instruction. We also expect our counselors to treat the campers with respect and courtesy. **We have a behavior form that needs to be signed by the child and the parent and returned to Leisure Services Department before child can start camp.**

*** Refunds or credits will not be given if a camper is suspended from camp.

IMPORTANT: Any act that could be considered dangerous to the campers or staff is grounds for immediate suspension/dismissal. Any act which threatens the life of another child or staff will result in immediate suspension or dismissal from the program.

Campers may be removed from their group for rule violations and placed in a separate activity area with other campers. Once the problem is corrected, campers may return to their group.

Just as we expect the Camp staff to treat parents with dignity and respect, we expect the parents to treat the staff with the same manner. Any parent or guardian who shows disrespect to our staff will automatically forfeit their child's spot in the program, effective immediately. Also, any authorized pick up who displays the same unacceptable behavior will be removed from the pick-up list and not be allowed on the program's premises.

BULLYING

Bullying is the nation's growing trend of peer on peer abuse. Camp staff is trained on preventing, recognizing and dealing with this behavior; but, we also need help from the parents to assist us in addressing these situations. Encourage your camper to speak up and tell camp staff if they are being bullied. Some children may wait until they get home and tell the parents. If this happens, please call and let us know immediately so we can resolve the situation promptly. The City of Port Wentworth wants campers to have a positive experience at camp. This unacceptable behavior will not be tolerated and will be dealt with appropriately.

DROP OFF / PICK UP EXPECTATIONS AND FEES

Drop Off:

From 7:30 am – 9:00 am, campers need to be signed in at the front door of the P.B. Edwards Jr. Gymnasium. Children are not allowed to be dropped off without being signed in. Also, you will not be allowed to leave your child unless a payment has been made for that week.

If a Field Trip is scheduled for that day and you are late there will be no one to keep your child back at camp therefore you must miss camp that day.

Pick Up:

Parents are expected to pick up campers any time during or before the close of camp. Should you be late to pick up a camper, there will be a late charge of \$1.00 per minute per camper, beginning at 6:05 pm. If you need to pick up a camper during normal camp hours, please notify the Leisure Services Director as soon as possible.

Each camper must be signed out each day by his/her parents, guardian, or by an authorized person, aged 18 or older, whose name is listed on the Registration Card. Please note that no camper will be released in the care of a child under the age of 18. A picture I.D. will be required for verification before the camper can be released.