

Parent Manual



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Due to changes in state regulations and camp policies that may occur, information in this manual may be subject to change.

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Day Camp Parent Manual

Welcome to Bronx House Summer Day Camp! Our goal is to help campers relate to their peers and counselors, help them grow and participate in group situations and help them widen their range of interests and experiences. The program emphasizes an outdoor setting and provides opportunities for satisfying experiences in many, many different areas. We want everyone to be prepared for the wonderful camp season we're going to have!

Contacting Us

The Bronx House number is 718-792-1800. The switchboard is open from 7:30am to 9:00pm during the summer.

We love to hear from parents, so please contact your child's Unit Leader in regards to any feedback, concerns or issues. The camp staff checks their email and voicemail every day after we return from camp and will respond to you as soon as possible. Unit Leader email addresses will be provided before camp begins. Please contact ext. 0 in regards to general questions like bussing, trip schedules, etc. Please contact ext. 230, 227 or 267 in regards to payment information.

Camp Schedule 2022

Full Summer	Monday, June 27 - Friday, August 16 (closed July 4)
Session 1	Monday, June 27 - Friday, July 22 (closed July 4)
Session 2	Monday, July 25 - Tuesday, August 16
Pre-camp Tours	(TBD)
Parent Visiting Days	(TBD)

Camp Hours

Monday–Friday, approximately 7:35am-5:45pm. Departure/arrival time will depend on assigned bus. The bus assignment email will be sent on June 23rd by 9pm.

Campers who return directly to Bronx House at the end of the day must be picked up according to their individual bus schedule. For buses that are scheduled to arrive to Bronx House before 5:30pm, parents can pick up at the scheduled time, but must pick up by 5:30pm. If you pick up late you will be charged a late fee of \$20 every half hour.

Early Drop Off begins at 7:00am and Late Pick Up ends at 6:30pm. Parents participating in Late Pick Up will be charged a late fee of \$20 every half hour for arriving after 6:30pm.

Sample Camp Schedule

Arts & Crafts	Campers will have the opportunity to be creative in a variety of themed arts & crafts projects through painting, assembling, coloring and more.
Instructional Swim	American Red Cross certified swim staff will teach basic swim skills to beginners and advanced techniques as they progress. As campers become better swimmers they are promoted to higher swim levels.
Lunch	Campers can bring their own lunch or utilize the cold lunch that we receive from the Dept. of Education.
Archery	How to properly handle and shoot a bow and arrow is taught and guided by a

trained specialist, allowing campers to increase their skills throughout the summer.

Dance	Choreography to popular songs engages campers in dance that both boys and girls can develop creative movement skills from.
Rec. Swim	Campers can practice the skills they've learned during instructional swim while having fun with their friends playing games like Marco Polo, shark or just relaxing and cooling off in one of our pools.
Basketball	Campers can bring their own snack or eat what we provide then participate in a group activity afterwards.
Educational	Each K-4th grade camper participates in engaging age-appropriate reading activities twice per week. 5th-6th grade campers participate in S.T.E.M activities twice per week and K-6 th grade will participate in math once per week.

Health and Safety

1. All campers are required by the Department of Health to have a physical examination and submit a current medical certificate prior to the opening of day camp.
2. Please make sure to notify camp staff of all allergies or important medical information. This is for your child's well-being and safety!
3. Our camp infirmary is well-equipped and staffed by a registered nurse. In the event of an illness, accident or emergency, staff will contact the parent.
4. Children that feel sick in the morning should not be brought to camp. Parents will have to drive or arrange transportation to camp to pick up sick children.
5. Each camper must complete a daily health screening card that will be provided (depends on COVID-19 protocols).
6. In the event that someone may be required to quarantine, the current NYS DOH policy in effect will be adhered to and a negative PCR must be provided.

Transportation

1. Campers can take the bus at Bronx House or at an intersection in the neighborhood.
2. Intersection pick up must be selected by the parent and paid for regardless of how close the location is to your home. We do not automatically assign intersection pick-ups.
3. All parents will receive emailed notification of their child's designated pick-up point with a schedule indicating time of A.M. departure and P.M. return via email on June 23rd by 9pm.
4. Buses cannot wait for campers in the morning or pick-up person in the evening. It is important to observe the schedule.
5. Return times are estimates. Unfortunately, we do not control the traffic.
6. Each bus has a bus counselor who is responsible for taking attendance as the child gets on and off the bus and maintaining safety while the bus is in transit. All of our camp counselors and supervisors also ride on the buses.
7. If your child is to be picked up by someone other than the "regular" person, we require a written note to that effect prior to the day that a change will occur.
8. If you encounter problems with transportation please contact our transportation coordinator, TBD.

Clothing, etc.

What to Wear

- Casual Shorts & T-Shirts
- Sneakers with Socks (Velcro sneakers for younger campers if possible)
- Hat (optional)
- Rain jacket or poncho for rainy days
- Sunscreen

What Not to Wear

- Open-toe/open-heel shoes
- Sandals or Flip-Flops
- Long Pants/sweat pants
- Dresses

Swim Attire

- Appropriate Swim Suits (2)
- Towels (2)
- Bag for the wet clothes
- Water shoes or slippers

1. Children should be dressed in clothing that washes easily as they will get dirty.
2. For kindergarten children we recommend sending an extra set of clothes and sneakers in a labeled plastic bag to leave at camp.
3. Camp shirts should be worn on trip days.
4. Additional camp t-shirts, bags, water bottles and other camp gear are available for purchase.
5. **ALL CLOTHING AND TOWELS SHOULD BE LABELED** with the camper's name. Use a black sharpie marker. Please label camper bags and towels to help ensure campers go home with their items.
6. Clothing and towels will get lost during the summer. Bronx House is not responsible for lost items. Please contact your child's Unit Leader in regards to specific lost items and we will do our best to locate them, but we make no guarantees. We have a lost and found at camp, mostly with items without names.

What to Leave At Home

Because it is one of our objectives to provide a full out-of-city experience in a natural environment, we strongly urge that parents remind children to leave the following items at home:

VIDEO GAMES, CELLPHONES, MP3 PLAYERS, TABLETS, TOYS, MONEY (except for trips), SWIMMING AIDES, JEWELRY, CANDY, PLAYING CARDS, etc.

Electronics Policy

Camp should be fun, so cellphones, videogames, tablets, music players and other electronic devices and their use are prohibited at camp and trips. Any such electronics found in use will be confiscated by a supervisor and returned to the parent at the end of the day. This policy will be strictly enforced. Bronx House is not responsible for lost items.

Staff/Grouping

1. Leadership for each group includes one Senior Counselor and one Junior Counselor, and for the younger groups a third counselor/C.I.T. (Counselor in Training).
2. All staff must attend pre-camp training sessions.
3. A group includes approximately 12-15 children, boys, girls, or co-ed. In grouping, the following aspects are considered. (Bronx House reserves the right to make final decisions regarding grouping.)
 - Age
 - School/grade
 - Friendships
 - Degree of social and emotional maturity
4. Campers are required to stay with their group and counselors at all times.

Lunch/Snack

1. Lunches that we receive from the D.O.E may be available daily. The menus will be provided upon receipt from the D.O.E. Parents can send their children with lunch if they prefer or the child does not like what is on the menu.
2. **As many children are severely allergic to peanuts and other types of nuts, please be considerate of this risk. Please send your child to camp with food that does not contain peanuts/nuts.**
3. Lunches must be sent in an insulated bag with an ice pack and marked with the child's name and group number. No paper bags or glass bottles please.
4. There are no microwaves for heating lunches.
5. Please try to send a healthy lunch, keeping sugary products to a minimum.
6. A light snack is provided every afternoon.

Activities/Trips

1. Campers will participate in a variety of activities and trips. Activities include; swimming, sports, nature, gardening, arts & crafts, high/low ropes course, climbing wall, music, dance, theater, archery, yoga and more.
2. All campers are encouraged to participate in all scheduled activities.
3. The camp calendar will indicate special events, fun days, Olympics, etc. Please note these days because your child may be asked to wear something specific related to a theme. We want all campers to enjoy these days and feel like they are a part of the program.
4. *All campers attend trips throughout the summer as scheduled. A schedule of trip locations and days is provided on the camp calendar and a permission slip must be signed. ***(COVID-19 safety protocols that may be in effect may limit our ability to conduct trips.)***
5. All campers must wear their Bronx House Day Camp t-shirts on trip days.
6. We will post pictures and videos on our Bronx House Day Camp Facebook page throughout the summer.

Swimming/Boating

1. One of the major objectives of our Day Camp program is to teach swimming to all campers in conjunction with Red Cross instruction and safety regulations.
2. For swimming, a simple bathing suit without too many straps or buckles is advisable. Bathing shoes or flip-flops are optional. Also include 2 plastic bags for the wet clothing after swim.
3. A camper must bring 2 bathing suits and towels daily (on rainy days too!).

4. All campers will be tested periodically during the season to determine their level of skill in swimming.
5. All campers will be required to participate in both instructional and free swim.
6. All campers are required to wear life preservers in the paddle and rowboats. Staff is always present on the boats.
7. It is strongly recommended that all children bring waterproof sunscreen and use it throughout the course of the day. Please teach your child how to apply the sunscreen themselves as we cannot help them (except with spray bottles).

Rainy Day Program

1. Camp facilities at Pearl River are adequate for programming on rainy days. Please dress your children accordingly with raincoats, hats, etc. Always send a bathing suit, as morning weather often changes.
2. On certain days, we do offer alternate programs at Bronx House or “rainy day” trips in the tri-state area.
3. Umbrellas are discouraged; they have a tendency to become “hazards.”
4. For rainy day forecasts please dress your child in their camp t-shirt in case trips are scheduled as the weather sometimes changes overnight.

Zero Tolerance /Anti-Bullying Policy

At Bronx House, we believe every child has the right to a safe and fun filled summer experience. Our camp philosophy and mission is to ensure that every camper gains self-confidence, makes new friends and goes home with great memories. Bullying is inexcusable and we have a zero tolerance policy towards all types of bullying.

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, gossip, hit, kick, or intimidate another person with the intent to hurt or have power over that person. Bullying can occur at all age levels.

Zero tolerance means that Bronx House will address all incidents of bullying seriously and will work with staff and parents to immediately affect a solution to the bullying situation. However, if the situation persists, with the willful hurting of others, we will immediately take appropriate action to remove the offending child from camp.

Parent Notifications

1. From time to time, parents will receive robocalls from Bronx House regarding changes in schedule or late arriving buses. Please make sure to listen to those messages carefully as they contain important information. We will be sending out a “test” call 24-48 hours prior to the start of camp. All robocalls will come from 718-792-1800. Please do not reply.
2. Parents will be notified immediately if their child is experiencing a medical emergency. In the event of a non-emergency medical issue, you will be notified via a phone call for injuries beyond minor cuts and scrapes.
3. If you move, change jobs, or change your telephone number during the summer, you must notify us of such a change. It is imperative that we have your most current phone numbers (cell, work, and home).
4. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist children to adjust to the camp setting. Your full cooperation is expected. Disruptive behavior will be addressed in the following manner:
 - The child will be given a brief time-out in order for him/her to cool off and think about his/her actions.

- If misbehavior continues or is severe, parents will be notified via a phone call.
- A child may be suspended or dismissed from summer camp depending on the severity of an incident, regardless of the date and the amount of notifications received from the unit leader prior to the child's current actions. There are no refunds for suspensions. Dismissal from camp will correspond to the refund policy in the registration agreement.
- Physical violence will not be tolerated and may be grounds for immediate suspension or dismissal from camp. See the Zero Tolerance/Anti-Bullying Policy.

Ten Tips For A Successful Summer

Following these tips will help make camp a great experience! Please review this list with your child.

- ✓ Be a kind groupmate and be respectful of everyone's ethnicities, backgrounds and differences.
- ✓ Do everything with enthusiasm.
- ✓ Try new things.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to take chances or look silly.
- ✓ Be cooperative.
- ✓ Let your counselors help you get the story! Many situations that happen are misunderstandings.
- ✓ Have a "can-do" attitude.
- ✓ Smile a lot.
- ✓ Participate. After all, that's why you're here!
- ✓ Have fun!!

Bronx House is inspected and licensed by the Rockland County Department of Health, 50 Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970. A copy of the inspection can be obtained from the Rockland County Department of Health at 845-364-2608.