



Biddeford Teen Center
550 Main Street, Biddeford
(207) 282-4167, Cell (207) 298-4464
Biddeford Rec Dept (207) 283-0841

September 2023

Dear Biddeford Teen Center Families,

The Biddeford Teen Center Supervisors have put together this letter for families so that we can share a bit about the center and the park amenities. It is important that we keep you informed as to how the Teen Center works, as we seldom see parents at the center due to our hours of operation.

We are a free and open door policy program offered through the Biddeford Recreation Department. Our goal as a center is to provide a safe place for youth in our community. The center is a safe place that offers teen-based community resources. The supervisors function the center as though it belongs to the teen members. Run by teens, for the teens with supervision. Teen Center Supervisors, Kris Hovasse and Ally Demeule work with a teen elected committee that help set policies and rules. Kris and Ally also determine what programs, activities, trips or items make the center more fun.

All Teen Center members will be offered a free daily snack. We have a variety of concessions available for purchase. We have gaming systems, movies and music available for use in the center. **The media for the electronic devices used at the teen center are non-explicit, T for teen or PG-13.** Please be aware that your 11 or 12 year old may be watching movies or playing games not in their age range. Please let staff know if your student is not permitted to watch certain rated games and/or movies. We ask that teens bring headphones for their personal devices, such as phone, laptop or personal game device.

The Teen Center is located at 550 Main Street, Rotary Park. Rotary Park is a city park with 75 acres, a youth football field, a softball field, a boat launch, a swimmers beach, two playgrounds, trails, wooded areas, a skate park, a basketball hoop, a dog park, a Riverside disc golf course, and the Teen Center.

The Teen Center offers the following activities: Pool, foosball, air hockey, video games, reading area, various tournaments, art and crafts, cooking projects, movies, field trips, and special events.

Teen Center Staff incorporate life skills workshops into their monthly schedules.

Special events and field trips may also be late at night or weekend day.

Our standard hours of operation are 2pm to 6pm, Monday through Friday. We follow the Biddeford School Department calendar for holidays, closures and snow days. We open at 12:00pm on early release school days.

Transportation home each day is available to Biddeford residents that attend the center whose parent/guardian has signed a waiver. *Students can only be transported from our program with a signed waiver on file.*

The teen center has an open door policy. Open door policy means teens are free to come and go at any time. Teens are required to register for the free membership. Once paperwork is in and registration is completed, they may come and go as they please. Please be sure to read the packet with your teen. Parents and guardians are only required to sign the last page, but we as staff would like you to be aware of our operation procedures and rules. While the teens may come and go out of the teen center building to enjoy Rotary Park amenities and more, **Teen Center staff are only responsible for what happens inside the Teen Center.**

We provide our teens with volunteer opportunities, both at the Teen Center and for the City of Biddeford. In most cases, transportation is provided to community events or activities.

The Teen Center works with many organizations, which provide many resources to the youth that come to the center. The Teen Center works with the following organizations: OUT Maine, Caring Unlimited, Preble Street, Youth Full Maine, and Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition, Biddeford Climate Task Force, Biddeford Community Garden and Heart of Biddeford. The teens will have access to these resources during teen center visits from the organizations. Throughout the year, we will have the opportunity to perform community service with these organizations.

Every year the Teen Center Supervisors also nominate a selected few teen center members to attend the Maine Youth Action Network, which is an overnight seminar in the fall.

If you have any questions regarding the Biddeford Teen Center, please call 207-282-4167. We are looking forward to another fun filled and successful year with our teens and the program.

Sincerely,

Ally Demeule and Kris Hovasse