



4.2.24

Greetings Safari Camp Parents,

I hope you're as excited about this summer's camp program as I am. If you're anything like me, I'll bet you can't wait for the summer to start!

With camp registration scheduled to open on April 8th, I wanted to share some information about our camp plans so you are fully apprised of the updates that have been made to this year's program.

Leadership - As a result of a redistribution of responsibilities within the Recreation Department, Alisha Keezer will no longer be overseeing the Safari Camp program. Alisha is still overseeing the Cub Care program and will have a different set of responsibilities this summer. I, Daniel Hammond, have been honored with the responsibility of camp program coordination. I have an extensive background in the summer camp industry and am working hard to make each program the best it can possibly be. Hannah McCurry, last summer's Assistant Director, has been promoted to the Camp Director position. Hannah is looking forward to her new responsibilities and helping the camp to grow. Hannah has always been a great support to both campers, parents and staff and looks forward to seeing everyone this summer.

Location - Safari Camp will operate at the J. Richard Martin Community Center this summer. We will not be operating at the JFK School. This location shift will provide us with more autonomy over the way we utilize our space and ensure that each group has its own dedicated space that will not be shared or occupied by other equipment or belongings. The new location will also allow both campers and staff to be better supported by year round members of the Recreation Department. We are currently making updates as needed to each of the spaces we will utilize to prepare them for the summer ahead.

Schedule - Safari Camp will operate from 8am through to 5pm. While these hours are slightly shorter than last summer, the change has been necessary to ensure appropriate staffing of the program. Please do not plan to arrive and drop your child off at camp prior to 8am - the staff will not be opening the doors until the scheduled start time. Please also ensure that your child has been picked up by 5pm to avoid late pick up charges.

Program - In addition to regular camp activities such as games, sports, arts, crafts, special events and field trips, this summer each grade level will have its own theme which will remain consistent over the course of the summer. Many of the activities that each grade enjoys will relate to their theme in one way or another. Our hope is that by providing some general direction with each theme, both campers

and staff will have an enhanced camp experience. While the camper's focus will obviously be on having fun and enjoying camp, we also hope that they will learn something new and combat summer learning loss without feeling like they are at school.

Each grade's theme is listed below:

- Kindergarten - All about Me!
- 1st Grade - Under the Sea
- 2nd Grade - Safari
- 3rd Grade - Heroes & Villains
- 4th & 5th Grade - Astronomy & Space

Meals – The Biddeford School nutrition program will be providing **FREE breakfast and lunch for every camper**. Meals will be delivered to our location each day and available to all who would like to receive them. Menus will be available prior to the summer and will include both hot and cold lunches depending on the day's scheduled activities.

Registration Forms – This year's camp registration form has been updated. The form will be available on the Safari Camp Webpage when registration opens. In addition to registering either online or in person at our office, the camp registration form must be completed and submitted to the Recreation Department. The PDF document is fillable online and can be emailed to summercamp@biddefordmaine.org.

The Inclusion Request Form is now included with the registration form. Please use this form, whether you are requesting accommodations or not, to ensure we have all the information needed to provide the best care possible for your child. The more we know, the better we can prepare for a successful summer.

Payments - To register for camp your Biddeford Recreation account must be in good standing, without outstanding balances, or, already have appropriate payment plans in place for any back balances. **A deposit of \$500 is required at the time of registration. The remaining balance must be paid in full before camp begins or a payment plan must be initiated that will completely pay for camp by August 16th.**

Payment plans/ automatic electronic payments will be required for all families with outstanding balances by June 14. If a payment plan has not been set up by June 21, your child will not be permitted to attend camp until a payment plan has been initiated.

If you have any additional questions please reach out to our office on (207) 283-0841.

I wish you the very best for a wonderful spring and look forward to seeing you this summer!

Daniel Hammond
Program Coordinator
Biddeford Recreation Department