




HELLO PARENTS & GUARDIANS! WELCOME TO SUMMER CAMP 2023

Thank you for your interest in an exciting experience for your child this summer.

We are confident your child(ren) will enjoy themselves tremendously as they participate in a variety of creative, fun, active and exciting games, songs, sports, arts, drama, outdoor challenges, visits from special guests, swimming and so much more.

We hope you will partner with us this summer to provide the most positive experience for you and your camper. As a start, this Welcome Guide will answer many questions concerning your child's upcoming summer day camp experience.

Should you have any questions please email us at recreation@newtecumseth.ca, or contact Client Services at 705-435-3900, choose option 2.



The health and safety of our campers and staff are of paramount importance. We will be strictly adhering to the current Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit guidelines in conjunction with complete guidance provided in the Ministry of Health's expectations for Day Camps.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Town of New Tecumseth is committed to providing a positive, engaging recreation experience for all participants. To achieve this goal, we expect campers to:

- Show respect and consideration for staff and fellow campers
- Be cooperative and participate in camp activities
- Respect camp rules, the facility and program equipment
- Our camp staff will work with campers on the first day of camp to encourage their input in writing and reinforcing the camp rules and expectations.

STAFF

- Our summer camp staff are carefully selected based on their past experiences, skills, enthusiasm, and the ability to work with children.
- All our staff must attend mandatory training on topics such as leadership, motivation, teamwork, parent feedback, policies, and procedures, as well as specifics about camp programs and management expectations.
- All our staff are certified in First Aid and CPR, as well as HIGH FIVE Principles of Healthy Child Development.

SUPERVISION

We want you to know that your child is in a caring and safe environment. We guarantee the safe supervision of your child by monitoring and maintaining staff to child ratios for the appropriate age group and by completing head counts throughout the day, from one transition to the next.

IS YOUR CHILD READY TO ATTEND CAMP?

All campers must be program ready. To be program ready, campers must be able to:

- Take direction and instruction from a staff member
- Interact and participate within the camp environment (based on the camper's abilities)
- Interact and participate in a way that is safe for themselves and others
- Use the bathroom and changeroom independently
- Attend school successfully
- Campers must be 5 years of age by the start of the program.

Town of New Tecumseth camp staff training includes sessions on inclusive recreation. While our staff are passionate about helping every child participate to their full potential, they are not able to provide the same level of support as educational assistants, behavioural therapists, or other professionals in this field.

AGES

Children must be the minimum age required on the start date of the camp program. Age requirements are specific and indicated in the program description.

5 years - 11 years unless otherwise specified.

For exceptions, please contact camp@newtecumseth.ca

WAITLISTS

Waitlists Work! Camp staff review waitlists on a weekly basis and do their very best to accommodate as many campers as possible, while still maintaining the integrity and safety of the program. We encourage you to use our waitlist system!

CAMP LOCATIONS

Alliston Memorial Arena (AMA)
Alliston Rotary Pool (ARP)
New Tecumseth Recreation Centre (NTRC)
Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre (TCFC)
Tottenham Conservation Area (TCA)

WEATHER

All camp locations have both an indoor facility and nearby outdoor play spaces. Campers will spend time throughout their day outside. In the event of inclement weather, program plans will be adjusted to ensure the safety and comfort of all campers. Outdoor activities will be relocated to a nearby indoor location.

SAFETY MEASURES – WHAT TO EXPECT

- Headcounts are taken multiple times throughout the day
- Low camper to leader ratios
- Campers will be divided into separate SQUADS with a designated leader
- Designated camp rooms for each Squad with space for personal items
- Dedicated supplies for each Squad
- Designated sign in/out locations
- Balanced outdoor programming (weather permitting)

SCHEDULES & ABSENTEEISM

If you know in advance that your child will be absent, please send a note to the Camp Staff and/or contact your local recreation centre at 705-435-3900, choose option 2 prior to 9:00am. *Camp Staff will be calling home daily to confirm absenteeism.*

FULL DAY CAMP – DATES, FEES, HOURS & EXTENDED CARE OPTIONS

Camps are offered from July 4 to September 1, 2023, and are location specific. There is no camp on Monday July 3, in lieu of Canada Day.

*Camps will not operate on Monday August 7, 2023 (Civic Holiday)

- Camps operate Monday – Friday
- Camp Fees are indicated online through our registration portal or on the town website, in the “**Day Camp**” section of the Parks, Recreation and Culture tab.
- Campers may not arrive earlier than 9:00am and must be picked up promptly at 4:00pm.
- Parents/Guardians requiring morning Extended Day Care may drop off their child(ren) between 7:30am - 9:00am.
- Campers must be picked up between 4:00pm - 5:30pm during afternoon Extended Day Care. (Additional fees apply)
- Aqua Adventures – swim campers are to arrive at 8:45am at the Alliston Rotary Pool and are to be picked up from the Alliston Memorial Arena at 4:00pm.
- Extended Care is not available at the Aqua Adventures – Swim camp being held at the Alliston Memorial Arena.

LATE PICK-UP PROCEDURE

Campers must be picked up by 4:00pm or 5:30pm (if in EDC) at their camp location. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of \$6.00 per participant for every 15 minutes according to our clock and sign out sheets.

If for any reason you are running late, please notify your local recreation centre at 705-435-3900, choose option 2 indicating your child's name and their specific camp location/program. This information will be passed along to the Camp Staff.

CAMPER PICK UP, DROP OFF AND SAFE ARRIVAL

- Each child is required to complete a **CAMPER INFORMATION FORM (CIF)** prior to attending camp. This form will be added to your family account and kept on site at the camp location your child attends each week. The **CIF** will be available during your online registration as it is on the town website as well as being emailed to you prior to your chosen camp week. Paper copies will also be available at each camp location.

- Children 9 years and under **MUST** always have adult supervision during morning drop off and afternoon pick up.

- Please ensure that regular chaperons and emergency contacts are indicated on your **CAMPER INFORMATION FORM (CIF)**. Only those listed will be permitted to pick up your child(ren)

- These individuals will be required to show proper government issued identification upon pickup (i.e., driver's license). Campers are **NOT** allowed to leave the program without informed consent from a parent or guardian.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Once your camper is registered, you will receive a camp newsletter, prior to the camp start date you have registered your child for, detailing the weekly schedule, daily routine, and general camp guidelines.

Please ensure we have your correct email address on file for all camp related information.

- A different newsletter will be sent out for each camp, each week. The newsletter provides valuable information about your child's time with us, including the **THEME** details and any extra items to bring on a specific day.

- Theme details will be incorporated into a craft, special guest, game, or activity.

- Camp Groups will follow a program plan created by Senior Camp Staff allowing for a consistent daily routine, scheduled guest visits and rotation within our facilities and around other user groups.

Please review the camp details and expectations for a successful week with your child.

SWIMMING/SWIM TESTS

Camps will participate in weekly swim times at the Alliston Rotary Pool. The Aqua Adventure Campers will walk to the pool while other camps will be transported by bus. Lifeguards will conduct swim tests to ensure campers meet the **Admission Guidelines** – which can be found on the **“Swimming”** page on the town's website.

If your camper does not want to participate in the swimming component, please let staff know in the morning and other activities will be provided.

- Camps may also have waterplay at their camp location – if applicable, this will be indicated in the camp newsletter.
- Unfortunately, group and private swim lessons are not available this summer.
- Public Swimming options and details are listed on the “**Swimming**” page on the town’s website.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please ensure that all medical concerns and/or special care requirements are documented on the **CAMPER INFORMATION FORM (CIF)**

- Should your child require medication, use of an asthma inhaler or Epinephrine while at camp, additional medical forms will need to be completed and can be done on the first day of camp.
- Forms do take a few minutes to complete, please arrive early on your first day to ensure all information is accurate.

ILLNESS PROTOCOL

- If your child becomes ill during camp hours, a parent/guardian will be notified immediately to pick up your child.
- For the safety of all campers in the program, if your child has a communicable disease (i.e. pink eye, chicken pox, infection, etc.) or any COVID -19 symptoms, please refrain from bringing your child to camp until they are no longer contagious.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP?

Prior to the camp start date, you have registered for, an email will be sent with the weekly camp newsletter attached.

To enhance your camper’s experience, please remember to bring the following items with your child each day and clearly mark your child’s name on the items sent.

- Hat and sunscreen (apply at home and pack in bag)
- Morning & Afternoon snack
- Lunch (no nuts please)
- Refillable water bottle
- Bathing suit, towel, water shoes(optional) – as required.
- Closed toe/heel shoes – Open toe sandals and crocs are not appropriate for camp activities.
- Weather appropriate clothing for outdoor activities.
- Extra set of clothing and face masks(optional) – in a separate small bag, within your backpack.
- Any prescription medication that might be needed during the day in the original container.
- (Optional) Well-fitting masks (e.g. non-medical)

WHAT TO WEAR TO CAMP?

Campers should wear comfortable clothing that is weather and activity appropriate. Camp is active - being able to run, jump and play allows for a much more successful day. Dress in layers as our indoor locations may be cooler than the warm temperatures outside.

- Please discuss with your child(ren) the importance of caring for and keeping track of their belongings, as The Town of New Tecumseth is not responsible for lost, missing or stolen items.

- Please label your campers clothing and personal items so that lost items can be identified. Campers are advised not to bring valuables to camp.

WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME?

Camp is a time to make friends and have fun! To avoid distractions and lost items, please leave all valuables, electronics and toys at home. If these items are present, they must remain in the camper's backpack while at camp.

- Please be aware that each camp location and facility has its own LOST and FOUND box. Lost and found items are kept for one week and then donated.

SNACKS AND LUNCHES

- Please remember to pack lunches and snacks that will not spoil. Two (2) or more drinks are advisable, preferably in a refillable container as campers will be outdoors and active throughout their day.

- Please be sensitive to those campers with life threatening food allergies. All camps are "NUT AWARE". We ask that you do not send products containing nuts or that may contain nuts listed on the labels. Strict guidelines will be followed to ensure all campers are safe.

- Please remind your child(ren) that they are not to share any food with the other campers.

CAMPER CONDUCT WHILE ATTENDING CAMP

Camp staff strives to maintain an atmosphere of mutual caring, respect, and understanding throughout the summer. Proper participation and conduct by your child is expected and includes the following rules:

- Respect other's feelings and property
- Cooperate with each other.
- Listen to your group leaders.
- Stay with your group.
- No fighting, yelling, hitting, or cursing.
- Tell a group leader if someone/something is bothering or upsetting you.
- Clean up after yourself.
- Come to camp with the right attitude.

Please discuss and reinforce these behavioural expectations with your child.

BEHAVIOUR GUIDELINES

- The Recreation and Culture Department recognizes the responsibility of staff to deal with disruptive behaviour of participants. These guidelines apply to children and youth participating in all recreation programs, including summer camps.

- Staff will use approaches that are positive, supportive, consistent, proactive, and based on logical consequences.

- Disruptive behaviour will be handled in a fair and consistent manner using progressive behaviour management strategies.

- Please inform us of any family or behavioural concerns. Staff will make every effort to accommodate participant needs; however, The Town of New

Tecumseth reserves the right to withdraw your child from camp should their behaviour jeopardize the physical safety and security of themselves, participants, staff, or property.

- Communication will be provided to all parents/guardians should a situation arise.

PARENT CONDUCT

Our staff seek to provide an excellent experience for your child during their time at camp. If you have an issue that needs to be addressed, feel free to discuss this with the staff in a manner that is appropriate and respectful.

Our aim is to exceed your expectations with the programs and instruction we offer. If you have any concerns, please feel free to speak with the Camp Staff on site or contact them at camp@newtecumseth.ca

FRIENDLY FEEDBACK

When camp comes to an end this summer, we will start planning for next year. We value community feedback and want to hear about your personal experiences with our programs and facilities.

An online customer feedback survey will be emailed at the end of the summer.

This is your opportunity to tell us what we are doing well, and where we may need to make improvements.

INCLUSION OPPORTUNITIES

Campers of all abilities and/or special needs are welcome to participate in our summer camp programs. We are committed to providing positive accessible and inclusive experiences and recognize that some individuals require additional support in order to successfully participate.

Participants will require one-to-one (1:1) support to participate in camp if they:

- Require additional support at school, in the home, or in the community with basic needs such as dressing, toileting or feeding.
- Tend to exhibit aggressive behaviours.
- Do not understand danger.
- Have a physical, developmental and/or learning disability that affects their communication, mobility, comprehension and/or socialization.

For more information regarding support staff or inclusion opportunities please contact us at recreation@newtecumseth.ca.

LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

Our LIT & CIT Camp Programs teach fundamental skills to prepare for future camp staff. Participants will be provided with a general understanding of what is required in a camp setting, preparing them to volunteer at camp or other seasonal programs and events.

Being a volunteer is a great way to meet new people, to be active in your community and to have some fun! It's also an excellent opportunity to gain valuable work experience learn new skills and to complete your mandatory high school community hours.