



DAY CAMP 2023

Parent Handbook

Dear Bushy Hill Day Camp Families,

New & returning families, welcome to Bushy Hill Day Camp!

After our most successful and busy summer in 2022, we are so excited to see all of our campers & staff this year!

This summer I am thrilled to be back with our campers on a regular basis. For those who don't know me, my name is Jen and I am a Bushy Hill "lifer." I started as a 6-year-old camper way back in the early 1980s and spent every summer with Bushy Hill until my early 20s when I moved away to teach in New Hampshire. But, Bushy Hill runs deep in these veins and I missed my home too much to stay away! I moved back to CT in 2012 and have been running Bushy Hill programs ever since! Most recently I opened our new day school at Incarnation Center, the Steward Outdoor Day School. This has led me to help with camp from my office desk more often than not in recent years, but this year I am excited to say I'll be back to greeting campers and families each day and taking on a more active role again!

This handbook is here to answer any questions you may have about our program. As always, please reach out if you have any further questions and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Best Wishes,

Jen Malaguti

Bushy Hill Summer Camp
Director



Session Dates:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Session Dates</u>
Session A	June 19th - June 30th
Session B	July 3rd - July 14th
Session C	July 17th - July 28th
Session D	July 31st - August 11th
Session E1	August 14th - August 18th

Daily Packing List



Water Bottle



Sunscreen



Bug Spray



Morning Snack



Lunch



A change of clothes



Swimsuit



Towel



Rain Boots/Rain Jacket

(For Rainy Days)

Health & Safety

In order for your child to attend camp, we must have:

A form filled out by your child's health care provider or a copy of your child's health form from school (physical must be within 2 years).

If your child requires an **inhaler, EpiPen, or prescription medication** while at camp, we must have the following:

- a) The medication/inhaler/EpiPen in its original container.**
 - b) A Medication Administration Form, signed by you and your child's health care provider.**
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If your child requires extra attention while at camp due to physical or behavioral needs, we must have a care plan form on file before camp begins:

- a) Download sample form
 - b) Work together with our staff to create a care plan specific to your child's needs
 - c) Sign, submit and keep a copy for your records
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If your child becomes sick or injured at camp: **The majority of our staff are First Aid & CPR certified.** We have registered nurses on camp every day. The pediatrician's office and hospital are 15 minutes away. If a camper needs to see a doctor, we will notify parents immediately!

Daily Schedule

Time	Activity
7:30am - 8:00am	Before Care*
8:00am - 9:00am	Drop off Period Upon arrival, campers will participate in large group games on the field until all of the campers arrive!
9:00am - 11:30am	Field Group Adventures Campers will start their day hiking on our property with their field group of approximately 10 campers within their age cohort. They will learn skills such as fire making, shelter building, plant identification, and play trail games, tag games and Capture the Flag!
11:30am - 12:00pm	Lunch Campers will eat their lunches on the trail before heading to swim time!
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Change Time Campers will use one of our buildings to change for swim time!
12:30pm - 2:30pm	Waterfront Waterfront time includes free swim, water fun activities, boating, fishing and building sand castles on the beach!
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Change Time Campers will use one of our buildings to change out of their bathing suits before heading to Snackertainment!
3:00pm - 3:45pm	Snackertainment Campers enjoy an afternoon snack provided by us while watching their counselors perform skits and camp songs!
3:45pm - 4:00pm	Closing Circles with Field Group
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Pick Up Period
5:00pm - 6:00pm	After Care*

***Before and after care are available at an additional cost.**

Drop Off/Pick Up Location

Day Camp drop off and pick up takes place at our field outside of the gym/activity center and across from the Nature Center. There will be signs directing you to this spot. Please park in the parking spots available at the gravel turnaround across from the Nature Center.



Transportation

We offer transportation on 3 different routes (shown below). There are staff members on each route to ensure the safety of the campers along the way. Campers must sign in and out of the bus each day so we can ensure everyone is accounted for.

Bus Stop	AM Pick Up	PM Drop Off
Branford (Exit 56 commuter lot)	7:55am	5:45pm
Guilford (Exit 58 commuter lot)	8:05am	5:35pm
Madison (Exit 61 commuter lot)	8:15am	5:25pm
Clinton (Exit 63 commuter lot)	8:25am	5:15pm

Bus Stop	AM Pick Up	PM Drop Off
Rt 9, New Exit 24A	7:45am	5:30pm
Rt 9, New Exit 16	8:00am	5:15pm
Rt 9, New Exit 11	8:10am	5:00pm

Bus Stop	AM Pick Up	PM Drop Off
Old Lyme (Big Y parking lot)	8:05am	5:15pm
Old Saybrook (Mystic Market)	8:15am	5:00pm

Food at camp

Lunch:

Campers must bring a lunch with them every day. Please note that we will not have the ability to keep lunches in a fridge so it will need to be packed accordingly.

It is also important to note that **we are a nut-free camp.**

Snack:

Snack is provided after our waterfront period and before our campers head home.

If you think your camper will need additional snacks for the morning, you are more than welcome to pack them, but please be aware that **we are a nut-free camp.**



Swimming

Swimming is a HUGE part of our camp day and something that our staff and campers love. Who wouldn't want to cool down in a beautiful lake on a hot summer's day?!

To keep our campers safe at the waterfront, all campers take part in a swim test on the first Monday of every session. They are able to test for three different areas: **WHITE** Pool, **RED** Pool and **BLUE** Pool! Each section of our swim front is designated using lemon lines.

WHITE POOL

White tag swimmers are just learning how to be comfortable in the water and will stay in the shallowest section of our swim front where you can touch the bottom the whole time.

RED POOL

Red tag swimmers complete a swim test to gauge their endurance and ability to tread water.

BLUE POOL

Blue tag swimmers are confident swimmers who are able to complete a longer swim test for endurance and tread water for a longer period of time.

Outside of our swim areas, all of our campers are required to wear life jackets when swimming in open water, for example, when swimming out to the water trampoline. Our strongest swimmers (blue) are able to remove their life jackets when participating in these activities but must put them back on for the swim back to the beach area.



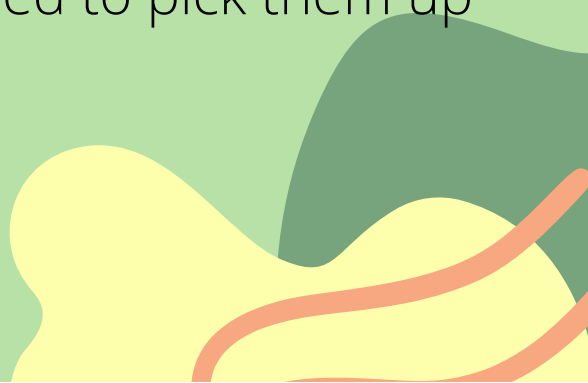
Overnights

We are so excited to offer our overnight campouts again this summer!!

When our overnight campers arrive in the morning, they bring all of their sleepover materials with them and leave them in our building for the day. At 5 pm, when all other campers have left for the day, our overnight campers will have a rest hour, where they can set up their tents and hang out with their friends!

Next, we will all head to dinner at the dining hall, followed by our evening activity. Our evening activities may include a sunset boating adventure and/or a night hike led by our counselors. We finish off the evening with a campfire and s'mores!

In the event that a camper needs or wants to leave the campout, families should be prepared to pick them up if required.





F.A.Q.s

What should my camper wear?

Our priority is to keep our campers safe and happy. Campers should wear clothes that they feel comfortable in and are able to get a little dirty. Campers must wear close toed shoes unless they are at the waterfront, at which point open toed shoes are allowed.

What do you do on days with poor weather?

On rainy days, we will continue to stay outside as much as possible, so we always recommend sending your camper with a rain jacket and rain boots. For more severe weather, we have an assigned indoor space where we are able to continue the camp fun.

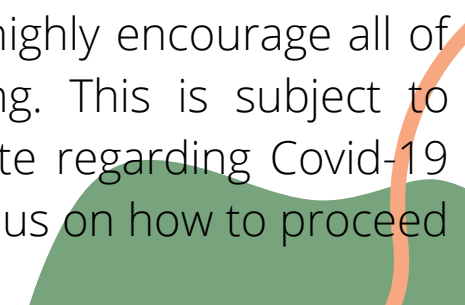
Can my camper bring their phone to camp?

At Bushy Hill, we emphasize the importance of connecting with nature, with the staff, and with other campers. We are a technology-free camp, so we ask that our campers leave their phones at home. Let's unplug from technology and plug into nature!

**Please note that staff members do carry cell phones to stay in contact with our directors and in case of an emergency.*

Are vaccinations required at camp this year?

We are not currently requiring vaccinations, but highly encourage all of our campers to get vaccinated before attending. This is subject to change based on mandates provided by the State regarding Covid-19 protocols. Additionally, these protocols will inform us on how to proceed with masks during this summer.



Quick Reference

General Inquiries:

Email: director@bushyhill.org

Attendance/Emergencies/In-Session

Camper Questions:

Call the Camp Cell: 860-876-3565

After Hours:

Email director@bushyhill.org

Registrations/Payment Assistance:

Call our main office: 860-767-0848

Hours: 9am-5pm, Monday - Friday

Mailing Address:

*P.O. Box 577
Ivoryton, CT, 06442*

Physical Address:

*253 Bushy Hill Rd,
Deep River, CT, 06417*



Best Summer Ever!



Camp friends are the best friends!



Farm Adventures



Bushy Hill Rocks!

See you soon!