



DAY CAMP 2025

# Parent Handbook

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# Dear Bushy Hill Day Camp Families,

Welcome to Bushy Hill Day Camp! We are so excited to see new and returning campers this summer!

My name is Emily Nelson, and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the Director of Bushy Hill Day Camp for summer 2025. After joining Bushy Hill in 2022, I've spent time with campers and staff, and I'm excited to build on the camp's strong foundation with some fantastic new changes for this summer. Our experienced Assistant Director, Kimball, and Program Coordinator, Jill, are returning and we are welcoming a mix of familiar and new faces to our wonderful team of counselors who are ready to create a fun and engaging experience for our campers!

Our two-week sessions this summer will allow campers to dive deeper into our 750-acre property and explore its unique habitats during their daily hikes. Activities will focus on environmental education and outdoor skills and exploration. We'll also focus on teamwork and confidence-building through team-building activities and our "learn, do, share" model, designed to help campers grow and build strong friendships.

This handbook is here to answer any questions you may have about our program. As always, please reach out with questions! We are excited for a wonderful summer ahead and can't wait to see you soon!

Yours in camping,

*Emily, Kimball, and Jill*



# Session Dates:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Session Dates</u>
Session 2	June 24th - June 28th
Session 3	July 1st - July 5th
Session 4	July 8th - July 12th
Session 5	July 15th - July 19th
Session 6	July 22nd - July 26th
Session 7	June 29th - August 2nd
Session 8	August 5th - August 9th
Session 9	August 12th - August 16th
Session 10	August 19th - August 23rd

All sessions run Monday - Friday.

Drop-off window is 8am to 9am & Pick-up window is 4pm to 5pm

AM care is available from 7.30am & PM care is available until 6pm



# Daily Packing List

- ☒ Water Bottle
- ☒ Sunscreen
- ☒ Bug Spray
- ☒ Morning Snack
- ☒ Lunch
- ☒ A change of clothes
- ☒ Swimsuit
- ☒ Towel
- ☒ Rain Boots/Rain Jacket  
(For Rainy Days)

# What Not to Bring



Knives, including multi-tools



Tobacco, alcohol, drugs



Weapons of any kind



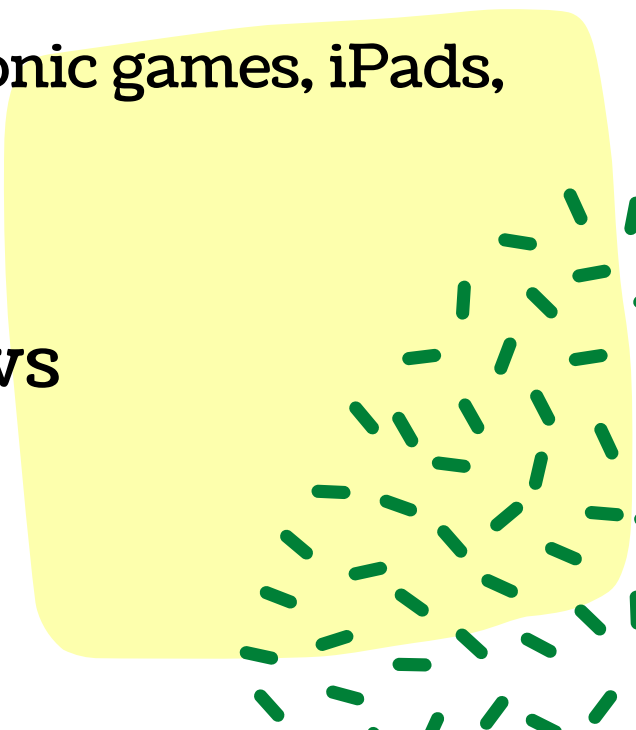
Pets or animals



Cell phones, electronic games, iPads,  
or any electronics



Bows and arrows



# Health & Safety

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

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

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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 healthcare provider.**
- 

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

# Health & Safety

Parents will be notified via phone call from a director if their camper:

- has a fever of over 100 degrees
- has a tick removed from their person
- anything that needs approval from parents (medication that was not signed off on in medical forms, etc.)
- anything requiring off-site treatment (Emergency Room, Urgent Care, or Wildwood Pediatrics)

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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 at the camp Health Center 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!

# Cell phone Policy

As we prepare for another enriching summer at Bushy Hill Day Camp, we want to ensure that every camper's experience is both safe and immersive. To maintain the spirit of adventure and camaraderie within our camp community, we have implemented a cell phone policy.

Campers are not permitted to have their cell phones visible at any time during their day at camp, except for extenuating circumstances approved by a member of the Bushy Hill Day Camp Leadership. This measure ensures that campers remain fully engaged in the activities and interactions that define the camp experience.

Additionally, we strictly prohibit the use of cell phones as cameras or for taking photos of other campers during their time on the property. This policy fosters a sense of respect for each individual's privacy and encourages meaningful connections among campers.

We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines, as they contribute to the overall safety and enjoyment of all campers. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our cell phone policy, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of our leadership team.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care and well-being of your child as we embark on another memorable summer together.





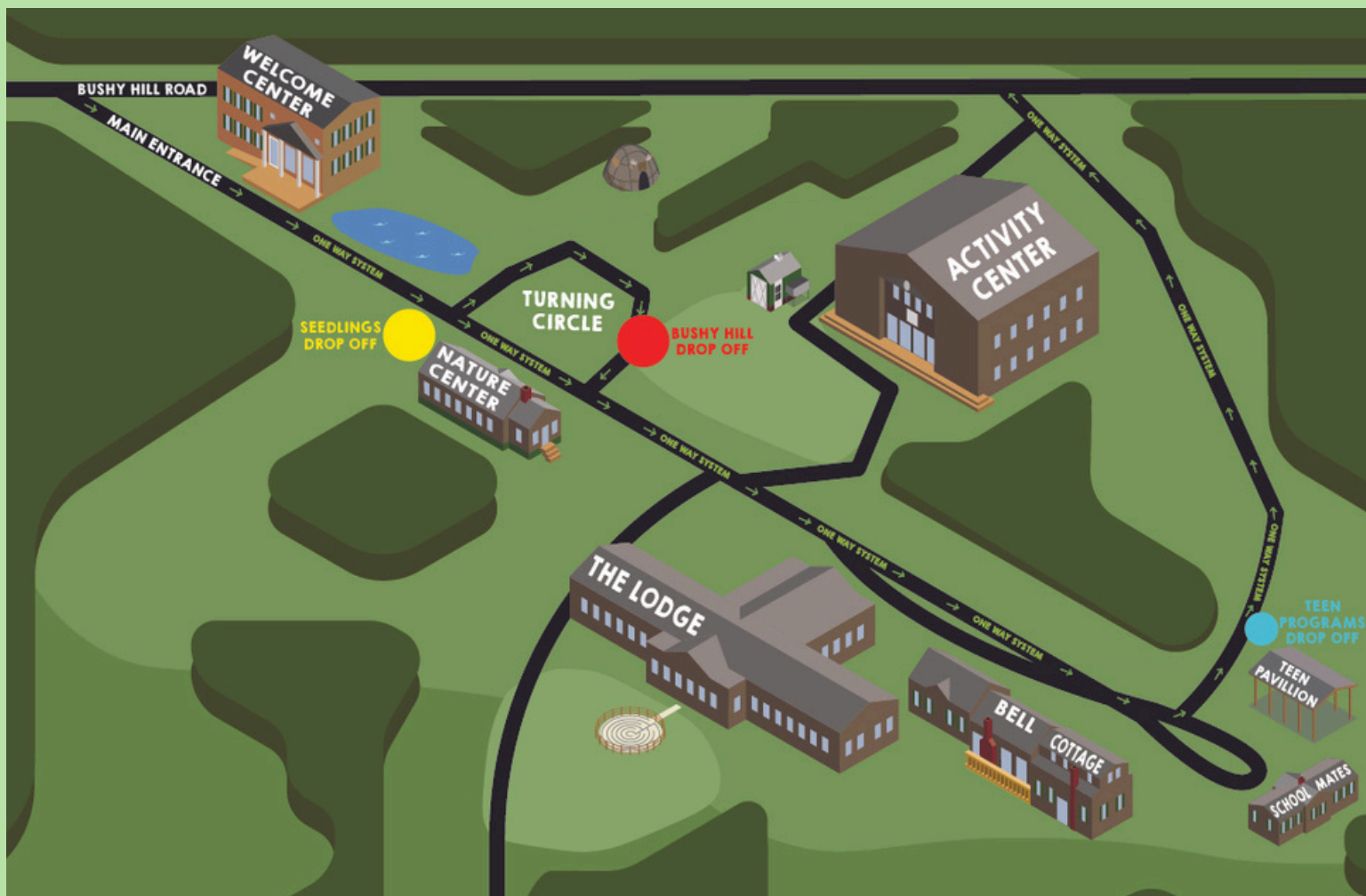
# Daily Schedule

Time	Activity
7:30am - 8:00am	<b>Before Care*</b>
8:00am - 9:00am	<b>Drop off Period</b> Upon arrival, campers will participate in large group games on the field until all of the campers arrive.
9:00am - 11:30am	<b>Field Group Adventures</b> 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	<b>Lunch</b> Campers will eat their lunches on the trail before heading to swim time.
12:00pm - 12:30pm	<b>Change Time</b> Campers will use one of our buildings to change for swim time.
12:30pm - 2:30pm	<b>Waterfront</b> Waterfront time includes free swim, water fun activities, boating, fishing and building sand castles on the beach.
2:30pm - 3:00pm	<b>Change Time</b> Campers will use one of our buildings to change out of their bathing suits before heading to Snackertainment.
3:00pm - 3:45pm	<b>Snackertainment</b> Campers enjoy an afternoon snack provided by us while watching their counselors perform skits and camp songs.
3:45pm - 4:00pm	<b>Closing Circles with Field Groups</b>
4:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>Pick Up Period</b>
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<b>After Care*</b>

**\*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.



**All sessions run Monday - Friday.**

**Drop off window is 8am to 9am & Pickup window is 4pm to 5pm**

**AM care is available from 7.30am & PM care is available until 6pm**



# Drop-off / Pick-up During a Storm

If you are dropping off or picking up your camper to Bushy Hill Day Camp and it is thundering and/or lightning out, campers and staff will be gathered in our gym (giant building next to the field). **Please do NOT park and walk your camper(s) across the field.**



Instead, please continue past our parking lot and nature center, and drive to the next gravel road on your left. This road wraps around the back of our field and brings you up to the gym. Please do NOT exit your car unless absolutely necessary (and if necessary, please pull up past the gym and off to the side of the road so as not to block traffic behind you). In the morning, your child can hop out of the car and come into the gym where we will mark them present.

In the afternoon, again, please stay in your car, roll down your passenger window to let staff know who you are picking up. We will escort your camper(s) to your car. If you need to help them secure seat belts, please pull up and off the road so other cars can still pass. The exit will be just around the next couple of turns in the road. There will be an EXIT sign, too.

# 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.

The Bushy Hill Cell phone is 860-316-8240.

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 23D (Old Exit 15) Kid City parking lot	7:45am	5:30pm
Rt 9, Exit 13 (Old Exit 8) Beaver Meadow commuter lot	8:00am	5:15pm
Rt 9, Exit 10 (Old Exit 7) <b>EXACT LOCATION TBD</b>	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

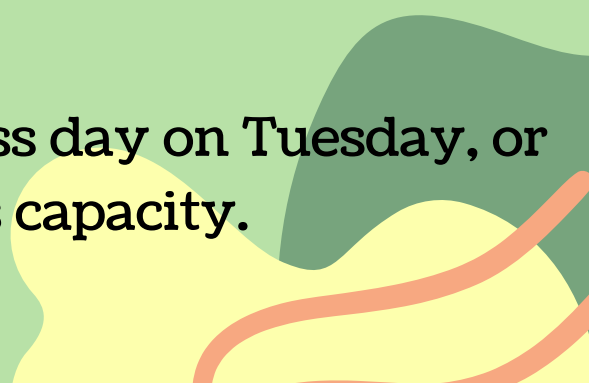
We are so excited to continue to offer our overnight campouts again in 2024!

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, campers will have a hot dinner on the back deck of our overnight camp dining hall. This will be followed by our evening activity. Our evening activities may include a sunset boating adventure, swimming, 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.

The signup deadline is end of business day on Tuesday, or once the overnight meets capacity.





# 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.

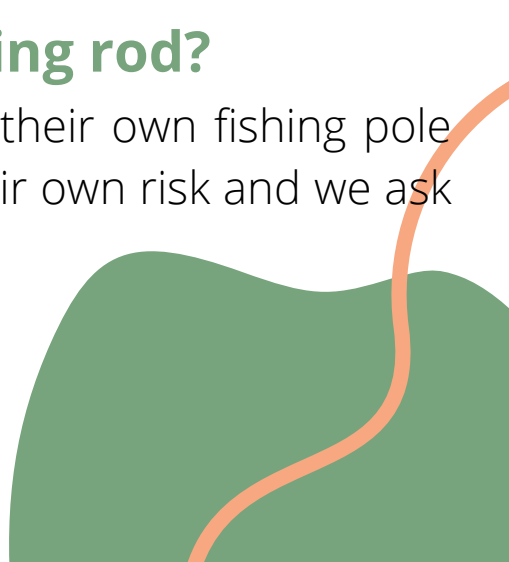
## Can my camper bring their phone to camp?

At Bushy Hill, we emphasize the importance of connecting with nature, with the staff, and with other campers. We are a tech-free camp, so we ask that our campers leave their phones at home. Let's unplug from technology and plug into nature! You can see our full policy on page 4 of this handbook.

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

## Can my camper bring their own fishing rod?

We love fishing! Campers are permitted to bring their own fishing pole from home if they so wish. As always, this is at their own risk and we ask to please not send any barbed hooks.



# Quick Reference

General Inquiries:

*Email: [director@bushyhill.org](mailto:director@bushyhill.org)*

Attendance/Emergencies/In-Session

Camper Questions:

*Call the Camp Cell: 860-316-8240*

After Hours:

*Email [director@bushyhill.org](mailto: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!