

## **All About Camp!**

The City of Mississauga is committed to providing a safe, secure and inclusive environment for all of its participants. The following important information will assist parents and guardians in becoming familiar with our operating standards. For more information please call your local Community Centre.

The first day of a new program can be a bit of a scary time for some, particularly if they are not accustomed to being on their own. It would be to the advantage of your child and the Leaders if your child is prepared and ready to be left on their own. *All children must be fully toilet trained and be able to take care of their own bathroom needs.*

To assist us, we ask that parents/guardians not stay at the program or observe from outside. Should your child experience any difficulties, staff will be sure contact you.

### **Inclusion:**

All of our camps and programs welcome children of all abilities to participate. Children who have a physical or intellectual disability and children with behaviour difficulties are included into program activities with a support worker provided by the family, if required. For further information or for assistance in developing a recreation plan for your child please call the City of Mississauga's Community Child/Youth Consultant 905-615-3200 ext. 5479.

### **Camp Hours:**

Full Day Camp supervision begins at 9:00am until 4:00pm, Monday to Friday unless otherwise specified. Half Day Camp supervision begins at 9:00 am until 12 pm or 1:00 pm to 4:00pm unless otherwise specified.

Extended Hours programming is also available at most facilities. If you are in need of extended care for your child(ren) please register for both the Camps Extended Hours program and Camp program at your selected facility. Extended Hours offers supervised active and quiet games, crafts and activities before and/or after the regular program hours. All participants will be supervised by Recreation Staff.

### **Late Fees:**

Children must be picked up at the end of the program. A late fee charge of \$5.00 for each 15 minute interval (or part thereof) after the close of the program will be charged to those who are late. The fee must be paid to the staff on duty before the child returns to the program the following day. Parents who are consistently late may be asked to withdraw their child from the program.

### **Safe Arrival and Dismissal:**

A completed Parent Release Agreement must accompany your child on the first day of camp before they will be admitted into camp.

To ensure the safety of all children in our program, parents/caregivers are required to physically escort their child into the program location each day. Staff will sign your child in.

At the conclusion of the program, parents/guardians must sign-out their child from the program. Parents/guardians/those authorized to pick up your child must show **photo identification** with them **each day** to identify them. *Please ensure that all persons listed on the Parent Release form are aware of this requirement.*

Children will only be released to those individuals listed on the Parent Release form who provide photo identification, any changes must be made in writing. Children are not permitted to leave unescorted without written consent from a parent or guardian.

### **Medical Information**

For the safety of participants and staff, the City of Mississauga Recreation & Parks Division has developed specific procedures for the administration of medication to participants during program hours.

Children requiring medication while at camp must have a completed Parent Medication Consent form on site. Medication must be stored in its original container with only the one day's dosage in it and submitted to camp staff each morning for secure storage. For the safety of all children at the camp, please do not place medication for self-administration in with your child's belongings.

### **Severe Allergies & Inhalers**

If your child has a severe allergy (i.e. peanut) or is required to use an inhaler during program time, please notify the Staff and record it on your child's Parent Release Agreement form. A completed Epinephrine Administration Waiver Form is required for all children who carry an epi-pen. Children who use an epi-pen or inhaler must bring it to camp each day and carry it on their person. A fanny pack is recommended.

### **What to Wear and Bring**

As many activities are conducted outdoors, clothing should be very casual and comfortable. Running shoes are required. Please dress your child appropriately for weather conditions. Please label all items with your child's name.

- Full Day Camps: Lunch and two snacks each day, beverages
- Half Day Camps: Snack and beverage

Due to the increased number of children at camp with peanut/nut allergies, we recommend that peanut/nut products not be included in your child's snack.

Children are asked not to bring personal or expensive toys or other items to camp. The City of Mississauga is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items brought to camp.

### **Swimming**

Many of our full day camps include recreational swimming as part of the programming. Some camps will be bussed to a pool for their swim. All City of Mississauga pools are supervised by fully qualified lifeguards. Deep end tests will be conducted each week.

On swimming days please send your child with a bathing suit and towel. Please label all items with your child's name.

### **Emergency and Illness**

Should it be necessary for you to contact your child due to an emergency, please call the Community Centre and we will assist to make whatever arrangements are necessary.

Should your child become ill at the program the parent/guardian will be notified immediately. Arrangements must be made for the child to be picked up if required.

### **Safety**

Safety is OUR number one priority. All our staff are certified in Emergency First Aid and must attend an comprehensive training session prior to the start of the program.

It is extremely important that all participants understand the rules and expectations regarding safety and behaviour established for the program. Program Staff will discuss these rules and expectations with the participants on the first day of the week's program. Failure to comply with the Camp rules and expectations may lead to dismissal of participants from the program.

Please discuss the importance of safety and appropriate behaviour with your child prior to the first day of the program.

If there is anything that we should know about your child to help us make Camp a more enjoyable experience, please let us know (i.e. allergies, fears, injuries, special needs, first language other than English).