

CLAYTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CAMP P.E.A.C.E.



CLAYTON

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Cc: Clayton connected

Parks and Recreation

SUMMER CAMP

PARENT HANDBOOK

2026



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SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

Table of Contents

Welcome	3
Camp Site Directory	4
Health, Wellness, and Safety Protocol for 2026	5
Camp Policies and Procedures:	6
Camper Eligibility	6
Registration	6
Payment Procedures	6
Daily Camp Times	7
Check-in/Check Out	7
Daily Camper Supplies	8
Camper Illness/Accident	9
Camper Emergency Procedures	9
Camper Medication	9
Parental Concerns	9
Mandatory Reporting	10
Swimming	10
Dress Code	10
Camper Discipline	11





Parks and Recreation

SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Summer Camp Program!

Our Summer Camp program provides a supervised environment where youth can experience: Life Skills Development, Arts and Crafts, Education and Enrichment, Sports and Fitness, and Cultural Programs. Additionally, the program emphasizes character development through activities that focus on cooperation, teamwork, and respect for others. Camp P.E.A.C.E gives kids an opportunity to have a safe place during the summer and improve their social skills, self-esteem, people-orientation skills, hand-eye coordination, and more!

Camp Goals

- Emphasize the teaching and learning of skills and activities.
- Teach and instill the concept of teamwork through planned activities.
- Create mutual respect for other people and their ideas, thoughts, and actions.
- Introduce campers to new activities.
- Maintain a safe and respectful learning environment.
- Deemphasize competition and emphasize fun in activities.
- Provide positive role models for the children.

Mission

To provide a quality Summer Camp experience for Clayton County youth, ages 5-13, by offering a holistic approach in providing recreational services. The Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department Summer Camps are designed to provide a supervised environment where youth can experience an instructor-based curriculum, including Life Skills Development, Arts and Crafts, Sports and Fitness, Education and Enrichment, and Cultural programs. Summer Camp also emphasizes character development through cooperation, teamwork, and respect for others. In summary, the overall objective of Summer Camp is to provide youth with the positive aspects of recreation, while allowing the campers and the staff an opportunity to interact and learn from each other.

**Yours in Recreation,
The Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department**





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SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

Summer Camp Sites

Camp P.E.A.C.E Manager

Jessica Gilchrist

Office (678) 479-5137

(Cell) (678) 758-4092

Email – jessica.gilchrist@claytoncountyga.gov

Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center

1475 East Fayetteville Rd.

Riverdale, GA 30274

Center Manager: Jeryl Hadley

Summer Camp Coordinator: Jalen Moore

TR Summer Camp Coordinator: Trinity Clark

Phone: (770) 603-4001

Jim Huie Recreation Center

9045 Tara Blvd.

Jonesboro, GA 30236

Center Manager: Jessica Gilchrist

Summer Camp Coordinator: Ariona Evans/Makayla Morris

Phone: (678) 479-5133

Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center

3499 Rex Road

Rex, GA 30273

Center Manager: Rakim Watson

Summer Camp Coordinator: Janae' Hill/Michael Smith

Phone: (770) 472-8042

South Clayton Recreation Center

1837 McDonough Road

Hampton, GA 30228

Center Manager: Jimmy Lovett

Summer Camp Coordinator: Isaiah Cherfils/Cortney Bright

Phone: (770) 347-0200





Parks and Recreation

SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

COVID-19 Camp-Specific Procedures and Policies

If at any point, staff or campers exhibit COVID-19 symptoms; test positive for COVID-19; or have been exposed to anyone with symptoms or a confirmed case within the last 3 days will not be allowed to return until they have been cleared by a medical professional or tested negative for COVID-19.

COVID-RELATED DAY-TO-DAY CAMP EXPERIENCE

- Rooms will be assigned to each group and their belongings.
 - o Groups will not enter other group's assigned rooms until the group has exited the rooms.
 - Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in an assigned room.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for each group.
- Counselors will disinfect high-touch areas for their group use between rotations/breaks.
- Separate games/activities for each age group
- Staggered time slots for bathroom breaks
- Staggered time slots for swimming – allows time for groups to get in and out of the swim and locker room area.
- NO visitors allowed.

FACILITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND PROCEDURES FOR SUMMER CAMP

- .
- The Meeting Room will be deemed an isolation area for sick workers/campers (will be disinfected by facility staff daily).
- Staggered gym and swim schedules to allow for disinfecting.

See Health, Wellness, and Safety Protocol for 2021 in regards to our response to COVID-19.





Parks and Recreation

SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

Summer Camp Policies and Procedures

CAMPER ELIGIBILITY

To provide activities best suited to the varying ages of children, campers will be grouped according to age, thereby appropriately addressing their physical, emotional, and social needs. Clayton County Parks and Recreation Summer Camps are available to children between the ages of 5-13. Therapeutic Camp is available for campers between the ages of 6-21, as long as the child is enrolled in school. Campers will be grouped into the following age groups:

YOUTH GROUPS

- 5-6 years old
- 7-8 years old
- 9-10 years old
- 11-13 years old

THERAPEUTIC GROUP

6-21 years old

REGISTRATION

For registration purposes, the age control date is **June 1, 2026**, and each child will remain in the same age group for the duration of the summer camp. Parents or guardians are required to present an **original birth certificate** at the time of enrollment.

Camp spaces will not be reserved for any week unless **full payment has been received**. Children who are **expelled from camp due to disciplinary reasons will not be eligible for a refund**. Enrollment is offered on a **first-come, first-served basis** until program capacity has been reached. All forms are required to be completed and submitted to the designated staff at the time of enrollment.

PAYMENT PROCEDURES

Weekly camp payments are due by **7:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the upcoming week of camp**. Payments may be made at the **Recreation Center where your child is enrolled** or online. Online payments will be available **beginning March 30, 2026 for weeks 1,2,3 & 4** by visiting www.claytonparks.com.

Please note that if payment is not received by **7:00 p.m. on the Friday before the next week of camp**, your child's camp slot **may be forfeited**.

*Payments can be made by debit cards, credit cards, money orders, or cash. Money orders should be made to the Clayton County Board of Commissioners or CCBOC. If paying in cash, please provide the exact amount. Our Camp has a **NO REFUND/NO EXCEPTIONS** policy.*





Parks and Recreation

SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

Camp begins June 1, 2026, and ends July 24, 2026. Camp operates from 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

Each child's safety is a top priority for the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department. Each child must be signed in and out daily by a parent or authorized adult with a **valid photo ID** present at pick-up. Children will only be released to the authorized individuals as listed on the child's Summer Camp application/information form.

It is imperative to our camp's success that campers **arrive at camp no later than 9:00 a.m.** daily. If your child will not arrive at summer camp by 9:00 am, please contact the Coordinator or Supervisor on duty at your respective campsite as soon as possible. Parents **MUST** escort the camper into the designated area and sign the check-in sheet. The parent/guardian or authorized individual, who is listed on the application, must present valid identification before the child will be released.

A late pick-up fee of \$3.00 per minute will be assessed to parents who do not pick their children up by 6:00 p.m. after their initial written warning. All fees are due and payable at the time the child is picked up.

If a child is to be picked up before the conclusion of the day's activities, the parent must report to the Program Coordinator or Supervisor on Duty, who will then notify the child's counselor that the authorized person is here for the child. The Program Coordinator will assume care for the child when released by the Counselor until the parent/ guardian or authorized person has signed the child out. **The Counselor or other staff will not stop a group activity to escort the child to the parent.**





Parks and Recreation

SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

Summer Camp Policies and Procedures

DAILY CAMPER SUPPLIES

Campers should bring the following items to camp (please label all items sent to camp with your child's first and last name) **Please use a permanent marker.**

- Swimsuit (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
- Towel (**Everyday**)
- Back Pack/Bag (**To store items not being used**)
- Prescribed medication in original packing (**If necessary**)
- Sun Block (**Optional**)
- 1 Snack (**Everyday**)
- Change of clothes.
- Hand sanitizer
- Mask (**Optional**)

Please do not send lunches that require heat/refrigeration of any kind

Do not send any toys (i.e. game boys, cell phones, iPods. etc) with your child when they come to camp. Toys from home tend to provide an unnecessary distraction for the other campers when the staff is trying to implement a game or activity.

The Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department will not be responsible for any lost or stolen items. Parents will be notified individually should a child need to bring money or other items to camp.

Parents are strongly encouraged to help their child pack for camp daily to ensure that inappropriate items are not being brought to camp.





Parks and Recreation

SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

CAMPER ILLNESSES/ACCIDENTS

In the event a camper becomes ill or has an accident, the Program Coordinator or Program Supervisor will notify the parent/guardian. Due to the large number of children participating in camp, there are instances when the Program Coordinator will advise that a child not attend camp or request that they be picked up early. These instances include, but are not limited to the following: a camper who has two or more episodes of diarrhea; a camper who is running a fever of 100 degrees or more; a camper who has vomited more than once; or has any combination of the above symptoms. If your child is suffering from any of these or other symptoms (such as pink eye, ringworm or any other contagious illnesses), your child must stay at home until the condition subsides (See Communicable Disease Form).

For minor accidents/injuries, the camp staff will provide minor first aid and subsequently will provide the parent/guardian with a copy of the accident/injury report form.

See Health, Wellness, and Safety Protocol for 2021 in regards to our response to COVID-19.

CAMPER EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency, the camp staff will notify appropriate County emergency medical personnel. Then the parent or guardian will be notified of the situation. If the parent/guardian is unavailable or cannot be reached, the camp staff will notify the Emergency Contact individual listed on the registration form.

CAMPER MEDICATION

If a camper is required to take any form of medication during the day, the *Health History Form* must contain that information. The parent/guardian of the camper must provide the Program Coordinator with the medication, in its original bottle and with exact directions for administration. **Campers must self-administer all inhalers and injectable medication**, under the direct supervision of the Program Coordinator. Staff will have a copy of each child's medical needs as noted in the *Medication Permission Form*. Campers will self-administer all sunscreens, lotions, and bug sprays.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

If you have concerns, suggestions, or complaints regarding the summer camp program, please see the Program Coordinator and complete the Parent Concern Form. The form will be given to the Center Manager and addressed as soon as possible.





Parks and Recreation

SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

MANDATORY REPORTING

As required by Georgia law, if any member of our staff suspects abuse or neglect of a camper, will be immediately reported to the Clayton County Police Department (to include, but not limited to, patterns of severely late pick-ups.)

SWIMMING PROCEDURES

Campers will be given a swim test before entering the pool. Non-swimmers will not be permitted in water deeper than their shoulders without a life vest. Unless a camper can swim at least 50 yards, they are considered a non-swimmer. Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department does provide life vests. If your child brings their own life vest, it must be approved by a lifeguard. It is mandatory for Camp Counselors to supervise and interact with campers at all times while they are in the pool. There will be certified lifeguards on the pool deck and summer camp staff in the pool at all times.

SWIMWEAR

Campers must wear appropriate swimwear. Girls must have a one-piece swimsuit and boys must have the swim trunk with the netting. Goggles are permitted in the pool. Pool toys and floatation devices are not allowed in the pool. Children with skin infections, open wounds, nasal or ear discharge, or any communicable disease, will not be allowed in the pool.

DRESS CODE

Campers need to wear comfortable, cool, and appropriate clothing. **For safety, it is required that campers wear tennis shoes to camp (no open-toe shoes).** It is up to the discretion of the Program Coordinator whether or not something is inappropriate for camp. Campers should not wear expensive jewelry. **Each camper is responsible for his or her property.**

The following apparel items are prohibited at campsites: short shorts; spaghetti strapped tank tops; strapless tops, t-shirts displaying profanity, nudity, or illegal substances; sagging/baggy pants; bandannas; and do-rags.

CAMPER ILLNESSES/ACCIDENTS





Parks and Recreation

SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

CAMPER DISCIPLINE

There may be times during camp when it becomes necessary to administer discipline to a camper. The methods of discipline used are:

1. Speak individually to the camper
2. Remove the camper from the activity for a short period and provide documentation of the circumstances
3. Conference with the camper's parent
4. Expulsion from camp

Please be advised that if a child brings a weapon to camp, intentionally harms others, vandalizes property, or displays other extreme behavior, he/she will be dismissed from the program and the appropriate authorities will be notified. No refunds will be made if this occurs.

