



2020

PARENT HANDBOOK

A guide to your child's
success at camp.



Channel 3 Kids Camp
73 Times Farm Road
Andover, CT 06232
www.channel3kidscamp.org

Welcome to the Channel 3 Kids Camp!



The Vance's
Brian, Jes
Charlotte & Annabelle

Thank you for enrolling your child into our camp program- they are about to embark on a summer to remember. I have been in their shoes before; I was a camper at Channel 3 Kids Camp in my youth. Chances are, as your camper packs their bags for a week at camp, they will be full of excitement with a touch of nervousness; eager to try new things, make new friends, and create summer memories that will remain for a lifetime. Thanks to an adult like you, your child had been given this opportunity to put their best foot forward at camp.

The summer of 2020 is rooted in maintaining tradition with an infusion of new programs and a 21st century approach to whole child wellness. We focus on social emotional learning at camp, supporting campers navigating engagements with staff, peers, and themselves in all activities. We seek advice from parents, caregivers, and those who know their children best to provide a unique and fulfilling adventure.

If you have any questions after reading out parent handbook please reach out to us and we are happy to help!

All the best,
Jes Vance
Camp Director



American Camp Association Accreditation

Channel 3 Kids Camp is proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association.

An ACA Accreditation means that your child's camp cares enough to undergo a thorough review of its operation (up to 300 standards) — from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. American Camp Association standards reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation.



Did you know?

Please review this important information about camp.

FEES

If you have an **outstanding balance**, payments must be made **prior to your child attending camp**. Please connect with Deb Walters at (860)742-2267 x107 with any questions.

HELLO & GOODBYE

Overnight camp runs Sunday - Friday. Drop off on Sunday is **no earlier** than 2:00 pm. Pickup on Friday is **no later** than 2:00 PM. If your child is taking one of our buses, **detailed information will be sent out 1 week prior to their confirmed session.** If you need to make any changes to your child's transportation, please connect with Melissa at m.shea@channel3kidscamp.org.

MEDS

If your child will be bringing **prescription or over-the-counter (OTC) medication(s) to camp**, they must be in their **original packaging or containers.** The medication(s) & the **Authorization for the Administration of Medication Form** must **match exactly** in order for your child to stay at camp. If there have been any **changes** to your child's medication(s) after they have been confirmed, a **new authorization form** must be completed and signed by your child's doctor. Please submit the new form to Melissa prior to your child's arrival at camp.

MAIL

Campers love to receive mail during their stay. Please send "snail mail" **BEFORE** your child arrives at camp to ensure they receive it while they are here. Letters may be addressed to: **Channel 3 Kids Camp Attn: (Camper's name and session #) 73 Times Farm Road, Andover, CT 06232.** Please do not send food or candy.

BEHAVIOR

We attempt to provide a **complete and enjoyable** camping experience for **all children** who enroll. The camp believes that **no child has the right** to ruin the camp experience for another child. If a child's behavior is **not within the expectations of the camp**, we will attempt to work with him or her to modify that behavior. If modification opportunities fail, we will call you to help us find solutions to camper's behavior.



If this attempt fails, **the camper will not be able to remain at camp and you will have to pick your child up immediately.** In cases of **severe behavior**, if the camp administration deems the child to be potentially harmful to self or others, there will be **no modification attempts** and the **camper will have to be picked up immediately.**

Homesickness **can be a real issue** for children. Apprehension about going away from home, worrying & missing parents, and a general fear of the unknown are all **common feelings for children.**

Whatever session choice you make, be sure your child knows that you expect him or her **to attend and participate** for the entire session. Let them know you will be glad to see them after the session. If you tell your child that you will pick them up if they feel homesick, chances are good they will become homesick during the session. Please keep in mind that all our staff has been trained to help children work through their homesickness. As phone calls often worsen homesickness, we do not allow children to use the phone. If any severe problems do arise, we will call you immediately and discuss with you what you feel the best options are for your child.

We understand what your child brings to camp is important to them. Our staff works hard to support campers in keeping their belongings together, but there are times things become lost or misplaced. You can help us help your camper by **making sure all items brought to camp are labeled with their full name.** The camp can not be responsible for any campers personal belongings. Items left behind are held for a minimum of 4 weeks after which we will donate them to a local charitable organization.

As part of your child's welcome package, we include a detailed packing list of what to bring to camp. The items listed are chosen to help your child have the most comfortable experience during their stay. Please do not pack food, electronics, or money. Food attracts critters, electronics distract campers, and nothing is for sale at camp. We pride ourselves on our rustic, outdoor facility and ask that campers do not pack anything that cannot become stained or dirty.

HOME-SICKNESS

LOST & FOUND

PACKING



We also suggest campers **do not pack anything of great personal value to them.** As mentioned previously, **the camp can not be responsible for lost or misplaced items.**

Please do not send a cell phone, tablet, or other electronic device with your camper. There is no Wifi in the woods and cell phones and other electronics are expensive and can become lost or stolen. More importantly, **their usage can interfere with and even sabotage a child's overall experience at camp.** A camper who spends time immersed in technology or communications may do so at the expense of getting to know fellow campers and counselors. **Summer camp offers a great opportunity to learn about and navigate social situations while not being constantly connected to and immersed within a digital/virtual world.** Should we find your child with one of these items, we will hold onto it and return the device to them on departure day.

CELL PHONE POLICY

During the summer, our kitchen staff **serves over 3,000 meals a week,** working hard to accommodate a wide variety of food allergies and medically necessary dietary restrictions. Our **menus are based on USDA guidelines,** ensuring that each meal meets current Government nutritional standards. Because kids can be "picky eaters" we always offer a basic alternative to every meal. As much as we wish we could accommodate all campers' meal preferences, our **priority must be accommodating campers with food allergies and medically necessary diets.**

We post all summer menus online. You can locate them by visiting our website www.channel3kidscamp.org. If you have any questions regarding the menus or would like to discuss your campers dietary needs, please contact our Food Service Director Matthew Bonneau at m.bonneau@channel3kidscamp.org or (860) 742-2267 x103. Bon Appetit!

MENU



Bunk Requests

Channel 3 Kids Camp **does not accept requests to bunk with friends.** If there is a **unique circumstance** that you feel **we should take into consideration**, we are happy to work within our parameters to accomodate your child's needs.

Connect

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information. It is important to us that you are aware and understand these policies before your child arrives at camp. We strive for excellence in providing both you, and your child, the tools needed for a successful camp week! Should you have any questions before, during, or while your child is here at camp, below are the numbers you need to know.

Program Administrator - Melissa Shea (860) 742-2267 x109
(Year round) Questions regarding registration and camp programming.

Business Manager - Deb Walters (860) 742-2267 x107
(Year round) Questions regarding camp fees and payments.

Summer Program Office - (860) 742-2267 x101
(June 21 -August 21) Call this number if you have questions regarding your child while they are here at camp.

Health Lodge - (860) 742-2267 x125
(June 21 - August 21) Call this number if you need to speak to one of our Nursing staff.

Ashley's Place Nurse - (860) 742-2267 x126
(June 21 - August 21) Call this number if you need to speak with the nurse in Ashley's Place.

Camp Director -Jes Vance (860) 742-2267 x100
(Year Round) j.vance@channel3kidscamp.org

Thank you for choosing Channel 3 Kids Camp!



Bus Schedule for Overnight Camp



Channel 3 Kids Camp has been providing transportation to and from camp for over 60 years! With bus stops located around the state, we make it convenient for families to send their children to camp.

Bridgeport

Blackham School
425 Thorne St.

New Haven

Fair Haven M.S.
164 Grand Ave.

Windsor

Bureau of Ed. Services
for the Blind
184 Windsor Ave.

Willimantic

Windham High
355 High St.

Hartford

SAND School
1750 Main St.

Manchester

Ocean St. Job Lot
205 Spencer St.

New Britain

Gaffney E. S.
322 Slater Rd.

Norwich

Big Lots
43 Town St.

Waterbury

Wallace M. S.
3465 East Main St.

New London

Bob's Discount Fur.
389 N. Fortage Rd.

Own Transport By Car

73 Times Farm Rd.
Andover, CT 06232

You will receive an email confirming your child's transportation and scheduled departure and pick-up time 1 week before their camp session. Campers must be at the bus stop 30 minutes before their scheduled departure time.

Packing List

This list was created as a guide to help you prepare your child for a successful camp experience. All clothing and belongings should be clearly marked with the campers's name. Please note that **Channel 3 Kids Camp will not be held responsible for lost or damaged items.**

Channel 3 Kids Camp will no longer provide bedding (blankets, sheets or pillows) for campers. **Please ensure you pack a pillow & sleeping bag or pillow, twin sized sheets & blanket for you child.**

Clothing

- 5 pairs of shorts
- 5-6 shirts
- 1-2 sweatshirts/fleeces/sweaters
- 2 long sleeve shirts
- 1 pair of jeans/long pants
- 3 pairs of pajamas
- 1-2 bathing suits (no 2 piece)
- 1-2 pairs of sneakers
- 7 pairs of underwear
- 7 pairs of socks
- 1 rain coat or poncho
- 1 light jacket
- 1 pair of old sneakers for river wading
- 1 pair of shower shoes

Equipment

- 2 towels (shower/pool)
- Laundry bag (for dirty clothes)
- 1 Water bottle (w/name)
- 1 hat or visor
- 1 flashlight/headlight
- Insect repellent & Sunscreen

Toiletries

- 1-2 wash cloths
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body soap
- Comb/brush
- Additional personal toiletries as needed.



DO NOT PACK

Money or valuables, food or snacks, ANY ELECTRONICS, weapons, cameras

Please review this camper agreement with your child. Talk with them about the expectations listed below and the consequences for not upholding these standards. Have them sign and date it. Next, find a spot on the fridge to display this agreement and revisit it with your child as you both prepare for their camp stay.



CAMPER AGREEMENT

I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMP ACTIVITIES AND TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH MY COUNSELOR AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY HEALTH AND SAFETY WHILE I AM AT CAMP. I

FURTHER AGREE THAT I WILL RESPECT ALL OTHER CAMPERS AND ALL CAMP PROPERTY. I UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN BE SENT HOME FROM CAMP (AND NOT ALLOWED BACK THE FOLLOWING YEAR) IF I CAUSE PROBLEMS TO STAFF OR OTHER CAMPERS (**FOR EXAMPLE: FIGHTING, BAD LANGUAGE, DISRESPECT TO OTHERS, OR DAMAGE TO CAMP PROPERTY**). I ALSO AGREE TO WEAR THE BRACELETS THROUGHOUT MY ENTIRE STAY THAT ARE GIVEN TO ME IN ORDER TO SIGNIFY MY SAFETY.



Signed _____

Camper Name

Channel 3 Kids Camp



