



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **CAN I SEE THE CAMP?**

Yes! We host in-person Open Houses at Camp Pikati and virtual information tables by appointment. These are great opportunities to ask questions and learn about camp. The Camping Services Office is also open to visits by appointment for families, The Camping Services Office is also open to drop-in visits from all families.

### **HOW DO I REGISTER FOR CAMP?**

Paper applications are available at the West Suburban Y, and online registrations are accepted through our website: <https://www.wsymca.org/camps/Pikati>.

### **DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING AFTER I REGISTER?**

After you register, you will receive an invitation to CampSite, our camp web app. There you will need to complete the required forms. You can use this to stay up-to-date on the latest news during your camper's session!

### **COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR CAMP IN 2021:**

**Face Coverings:** Staff are required to wear face coverings any time they are indoors and any time maintaining 6 feet of distance between them and another person is not possible. We ask the same of campers. We believe that this is the best way to keep our campers and staff and their families safe.

**Social Distancing:** As much as is possible at camp, we will be asking our campers and staff to remain 6 feet apart from others. When necessary, staff will move closer than the 6-foot distance in order to address camper needs.

**Increased Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures:** We have vastly increasing our cleaning and sanitizing procedures at camp. All activity areas and equipment are cleaned between uses with the help of our group counselors and cleaning staff. Whenever possible, we have individual equipment for campers that is only theirs to reduce the possibility of spreading germs.

**Increased Handwashing and Sanitizing Stations:** We have added additional hand sanitizing stations around camp. We have also rented additional handwashing stations. This is to promote a culture of healthy hand hygiene at camp this summer. Campers and staff will be required to wash or sanitize their hands between activities, and there are mandatory hand washing breaks before and after lunch.

**Daily Screenings:** Every day you will be asked to complete and sign a questionnaire regarding your camper's health and possible exposure to COVID-19.

Camper Age Requirements	Children's groups	Membership Required	Transportation	Hours of Camp	Staff Ratio
3-12 years old	Groups are based on age and grade	No but you receive a reduced rate with a membership at the WSYMCA	Not Available	8:00AM-4:30PM	1:5 (3-5 years old) 1:8 (6-8 years old) 1:10 (9+ years)

## HOW DO CAMPERS GET TO CAMP?

Campers may be driven directly to camp at your selected drop off/Pick up time. Once you register you will be sent instructions on how to sign up at a later date.

**Staggered Drop-Off & Pick-Up Times:** This summer, drop off at camp will be staggered in order to reduce traffic and the number of people on camp at any given time. You will need to select your drop off time each week, and you will be asked to drop your camper(s) off at that time each day that week. The drop off window will be from 8:00AM to 9:00AM. As with drop off times, pick up times will also be staggered this summer. The pick-up window will be from 3:30PM to 4:30PM. You will need to select a pick-up time that you are able to commit to each week that your camper is at camp. At pick up, you will need to sign your camper(s) out by showing a photo ID or using your secure PIN Number issued to you through Campsite

## HOW DOES PIKATI WELCOME NEW CAMPERS?

Before a camper arrives, families must fill out a "Camper Confidential" form on CampSite. The responses are reviewed by the Camp Administrative Staff who notifies select staff of the needs, interests, and expectations of new (and returning) campers. When campers first arrive at camp, counselors facilitate "get-to-know-you" and "Welcome-to-Camp" activities to help campers acclimate to the pace of camp-life and integrate into the community.

## CAN MY CAMPER REQUEST A FRIEND IN THEIR GROUP?

Yes! We do our best to accommodate one friend request for each camper. Requests can be made on your camper's "Camper Confidential" form.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MEDICAL AND FIRST AID ARRANGEMENTS?

Camp Pikati has an EMT or higher certified medical officer on staff and on site for the summer who is dedicated to working with families to serve the health needs of each individual camper. We also boast a 100% First Aid, CPR, and AED certified staff.

## WHAT IS YOUR STAFF LIKE?

We seek to hire caring, responsible, and positive servant-leaders. We set the highest expectations for our staff to be the best role-models and nurture a culture of inclusion and youth development at camp. Most of our staff members were campers and L.I.T.s (Leaders-in-Training) at Camp Pikati themselves, and all of our staff undergo a thorough screening and interview process.

## WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP LIKE?

**Activities:** While there are restrictions in terms of the activities we can run at camp, we also know that we have an incredibly creative staff who will find ways to safely run some of our camp-favorite games. Some of the activities we will be running include: Arts & crafts; kickball, tennis baseball, and other sports-type games and skill drills that allow for social distancing; archery; free swim; improvisational games; and word game. Other activities will use modifications to ensure camper and staff safety. For example, our Arts and Crafts programming will include, whenever possible, individual materials (markers, crayons, pencils, etc.) for each camper. Finally, campers will stay with their group cohort for the entirety of the camp day, meaning there will be no afternoon elective periods this summer.



**Swimming:** All swimming at Pikati this summer will be done as free swim. We will still use the Test, Mark, Protect system to ensure the safety of all of our campers and staff in the water. Because we will have fewer campers in the pool at one time, camper groups will have swim 2-3 times per week. Campers will be swim tested on the first day that their group is scheduled for swim, and they will be marked with a colored bracelet depending on their swim level. Campers who are designated as "non-swimmers" based on their swimming assessment will need to wear a life jacket in order to swim.



**Water Fountains:** This summer, water fountains will not be used. Please ensure that your camper comes to camp with their water bottle everyday so that they can stay hydrated.



## WHAT SHOULD MY CAMPER BRING EACH DAY?



### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT RAINS?

Our goal is to spend as much time outdoors as possible this summer. We have purchased carport tents so that groups can remain outside and stay dry in the event of rain. On days when there is additional inclement weather (i.e. thunderstorms), we will move campers indoors, keeping them socially distanced with masks on.

### DO I NEED TO PROVIDE A LUNCH?

We offer Summer Eats which is a federally funded summer food program which allows campers 18 or under a free lunch and snack. You can also pack a lunch if you choose. A Daily menu will be posted on the Pikati web page during the summer.

### ARE CELL PHONES ALLOWED AT CAMP?

Cell phone and smart phone use, including calls, texting, internet, and apps (along with other electronic devices) are not permitted at camp. There are phones in the camp office for camper use at the Director's discretion (508-358-7000). In the event that a cell phone is needed, prior approval must be obtained from the Camp Director. Any staff member who sees a cell phone in use without approval may hold on to the phone until dismissal at end of day.

### HOW DO I KNOW IF CAMP IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Camp Pikati is an enthusiastic and energetic camp with something for everyone. We pride ourselves on making sure that every camper, regardless of personality or interest, finds their place at camp. In addition to our unique camp games and traditions, we offer many specialty activities including: Archery, Arts and Crafts, Drama, Nature, New Games, Sports Leagues, and Challenge Course activities.

