Delaware State Parks Summer Camp FAQs 2026

Delaware State Parks summer camps typically host over 1,200 children in nine sites across the Delaware State Park system which includes the Brandywine Zoo. Connecting children to the outdoors and the natural and historical/cultural resources of Delaware State Parks is at the heart of our camp mission. But our **primary goal is to provide a safe and fun experience where all campers feel welcome and included.** We cannot wait to hear the laughter and see your campers smiling faces this summer! This document is provided to address the questions we hear the most. If you have additional or follow-up questions, please contact us. Summer Camps - Delaware State Parks

REGISTRATION

I need help registering for camp. Who can I contact?

You can find contact information for each park in the camp flyers on the summer camp page https://destateparks.com/SummerCamps. If you need assistance, you can contact StateParkPrograms@delaware.gov Please list the park you are inquiring about.

I have an account already, but I can't login. Where can I get help?

Contact the park by calling the camp location you are interested in, and request to speak to a Program Manager for help. You can also email the general email account listed on the Delaware State Parks camp page.

What ages does my camper need to be to attend camp?

Campers need to be the age listed on each camp to attend. When you set up a camper profile, our online system will show you the camps your child is able to attend. There is a short grace period that is accounted for in the system. Your camper is only age-eligible for the camps that appear in their profile. If camper does not fit within the age range (and grace period) they are not able to register for that camp this year.

Are there limits on how many camps we can register for?

Due to high demand, several park locations will have registration limits for the first few days of registration. After this initial period, registration will be opened up without limitations for the remaining spots in camp. This allows 1 camp registration per camper for the first 48 hours of camp registration. After online registration has been open for 48 hours, you can register for additional sessions.

I'm a member of the Delaware Zoological Society, how do I register?

Members of the Delaware Zoological Society receive the benefit of early registration for Brandywine Zoo camps and will be contacted with special registration details. If you have questions please email Camps@BrandywineZoo.org.

I don't have my immunization records, can I still register?

You will be able to create a family profile but you will not be able to register until all information has been entered and payment is made. If you have questions about immunization records, please contact the Program Manager (at the park your camp takes place in) for assistance. If records are not fully completed or found to be inaccurate, your registration may be cancelled.

CANCELLATION

What is your cancellation policy?

Cancellation and/or requests to reschedule must be received BY the first Monday in June (June 1, 2026) and will be subject to a $50 administrative fee. There will be no refunds or rescheduling after Monday June 1, 2026.

I want to cancel camp before June 1, 2026. How does that work?

From your family profile you can select and cancel any reservation before June 1, 2026 (less a $50 administrative fee). The Program Manager will process the refund once the cancellation is made.

I registered for the wrong camp. How do I change the session?

Contact the Program Manager by calling the park your camp is located at for more information.

WELLNESS

What is your illness protocol in camp this year?

Please help us keep our camp environments healthy by ensuring that campers arrive healthy.
If your camper is experiencing symptoms of illness such as fever, diarrhea, and/or vomiting please keep them home until they are free of symptoms for 24 hours (without fever reducing medicine).

- Campers diagnosed with strep throat or conjunctivitis (pink eye) must be cleared by their doctor to return to camp.
- Campers who have a fever or test positive for COVID-19 must be fever free for 24-hours without the aid of medication.

Thank you for helping us make this a great summer season! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

What is your medication protocol at camp?

Delaware State Park camp staff receive training in American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED. They cannot administer medication. Staff is able to assist campers who can self-medicate. If your camper needs to take medication during the hours of camp operation, an additional Medication Waiver must be filled out by a parent or guardian of the camper with a portion that must be completed by the camper's doctor. This form must be presented at least 30 days before the start of camp. **Camp staff is not responsible for reminding the camper when to take the medication, nor will they administer it to the camper.**

TRAINING & YOUTH PROTECTION

What type of *first aid* training do camp staff receive?

Camp staff are trained in American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED.

What is your Youth Protection Policy?

Delaware State Parks places great emphasis on providing a safe environment for children. Our Youth Protection Policy outlines our guidelines for staff, interns and volunteers working with day camps. The document focuses on safety while children are in our care. As a part of this policy, camp staff complete Delaware State Parks training on practices to prevent sexual, physical or emotional abuse and to recognize and react responsibly to indications of abuse in participants.

What type of training does camp staff receive regarding youth protection?

The State of Delaware has a mandatory child abuse, neglect, and dependency reporting

requirement: if you have reason to suspect abuse, you must call 1-800-292-9582. All persons having reasonable suspicion must report directly to the hotline and may not rely on another to make the report on their behalf. Camp staff receive youth protection training which covers mandatory reporting. In the past this has been offered either by the Beau Biden Foundation or the State of Delaware. In addition, our team reviews our Youth Protection Policy which each camp staff has to sign.

Are there additional trainings camp staff receive?
Delaware State Park camp staff receive multi days and levels of training at the start of camp season. This includes a full day of camp specific training to go over our camp protocols, facilitation and safety. Camp staff are trained in American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED and receive youth protection training that in the past has been offered by the Beau Biden Foundation or the State of Delaware. Depending on the camp, our staff may lead kayak trips, drive the state park mini-bus or lead other specialty activities or programs (like rock climbing, animal programs). Staff leading those activities receive additional training in those areas.

OTHER POLICIES AND DETAILS

Is there a camper Code of Conduct?
In order to maintain a safe and peaceful camp environment where all campers feel a sense of belonging, we require parents and campers to understand the importance of adhering to the code of conduct which includes the following agreements:

Follow the camp schedule;
Bring only the listed items to camp (no weapons, electronic items, etc.);
Show respect to counselors, directors, and fellow campers by not using foul language, name-calling, or fighting;
Follow all safety rules set forth by the camp staff.

*See behavior policy (below) for steps if campers don't follow the code of conduct.

Does your camp have a behavioral policy?
Yes, as camp is meant to be a fun, safe, and educational activity for all we do have a behavioral policy. For the benefit of all campers, it is important that children behave appropriately within the camps. If it becomes necessary to take disciplinary action, the steps followed are outlined below.

- 1st incident: The camper will receive a verbal warning and an explanation as to why the behavior is inappropriate (whenever possible away from other campers).
- 2nd incident: Staff will determine an appropriate consequence for the camper's actions (examples may include a time out or exclusion from participating in an activity). The camper's parents will be notified of the behavior when they arrive to pick the child up.
- 3rd incident: The child will be excused from camp without a tuition refund.

The camp staff reserve the right to excuse the camper from camp following a first incident in cases of serious behavior problems. In cases where campers are excused from camp, we additionally reserve the right to assess participation in remaining camps of this season in relation to this policy.

What is your cell phone or electronics Policy?
Campers are not allowed to use *electronic devices during camp. This includes handheld cell phones, gaming devices, headsets and headphones, tablets, computers, MP3 players, and digital audio and visual recorders. Camp counselors carry phones and/or radios in case of emergencies.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are valuable and may be lost or damaged during camp. In addition, one of the advantages of camp with Delaware State Parks is getting children outdoors and engaged with their peers. Carrying cell phones can present an opportunity to be disengaged from the camp setting. If campers are seen with an electronic device, counselors will ask them to store them in their camp cubby or storage space. If needed, campers can check their phones during lunch. For field trips, if parents wish campers to bring cell phones, the camper will be responsible for carrying and storage. We do not recommend campers bring cell phone to many of our camp activities, such as hiking, water activities, kayaking, etc.

Delaware State is not responsible for lost, broken or stolen cellphones.

*Exceptions are made as a part of medical plan of care, please contact the Program Manager to discuss further.

Is there a Counselor in Training or other leadership opportunities my camper can explore?
Counselor in Training (CIT) opportunities exist at some park locations. These are volunteer opportunities and follow our volunteer process of application and interview. Additional some camp forms, such as camper release form and medical forms are needed. Typically CIT opportunities are listed to 1-2 weeks per summer to give as many students the opportunity as possible. Please contact the park Program Manager for details.

Youth Conservation Corps, Internships, Jobs
Our Delaware State Parks summer camp create a wonderful community where campers tend to return year after year. As they move into their teens many campers begin asking about other opportunities to be involved in camp and Delaware State Parks. In addition to the CIT opportunities referenced above, we offer many volunteer, intern and job opportunities. To learn more about these amazing opportunities like our Youth Conservation Corps, Delaware State Parks Internship Program, and other job and volunteer positions. Visit the links below.
School and Youth Engagement - Delaware State Parks
Volunteer - Delaware State Parks
Youth Conservation Corps - Delaware State Parks

Holidays
In observation of holidays, camp will note be held on June 19 and July 3, 2026.