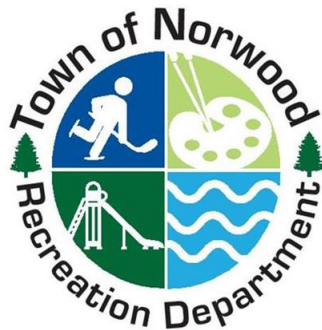


NORWOOD PLAYGROUND PROGRAMS 2021



PARENT PACKET

Town of Norwood Recreation Department

Civic Center

165 Nahatan Street

Norwood, MA 02062

781-762-0466

Web: <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>

LETTER TO PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

Dear Parents or Guardians:

This summer will look a little different than previous summers. We will be limiting camp group sizes and they will travel together as a group for the entire week of camp. Safety is our number one priority and we have put together a fun week of camp, with safety in mind. Some of the bigger changes are:

- No Field Trips
- Hours are 9am- 3pm with an option for extended day until 4pm.
- Sizes of each camp group
- Adding a third location to keep numbers at camp sites down
- Practice Social Distancing from other groups
- Sanitizing of campers hands and equipment more often
- No lunches provided

We are fortunate to have many energetic and enthusiastic staff leading summer 2021. We are looking forward to a great summer and hope you are as well.

We have developed this packet to give you some general information about how the program is run, answer some frequently-asked questions, and update you on the changes that have taken place for this summer. Thank you for your anticipated attention and if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to ask any of our well trained staff or get in contact with the Recreation Department at 781-762-0466.

See you this summer!

Katie Seastedt
Norwood Recreation
Assistant Director

Christina Grande
Norwood Recreation
Program Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Playcamp Director
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Playground Supervisors:

Christina Limon
Tessa Ryan
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Ryan Connolly

GENERAL INFORMATION

All camp locations will run from 9am-3pm with an option for extended day until 4pm. At drop off families will be required to answer some questions in regards to your camper's current health status and their contact with others who might be sick. Sick campers are required to stay home and this will be strictly enforced. We have worked with our Health Department to come up with COVID-19 guidelines to ensure that we are doing everything we can to keep our campers and staff safe. We will be disinfecting equipment regularly throughout the day and sanitizing/washing hands more often than usual. Our camp staff will be required to wear masks or face coverings, and we ask our campers to bring a mask/face covering and a towel. We will do our best to keep campers 6 feet apart, but at times when they can't they will need to put on a mask.

We have worked with our Program Coordinator, Supervisors, and Camp Counselors to ensure they know proper procedures and protocols when it comes to camp related activities, and confident we will have a fun summer.

We will bring in some outside entertainment to the camps, as we will not be going on field trips for the Summer of 2021.

STAFF TRAINING

All staff members go through an extensive pre-summer camp training that reviews our policies and procedures. In addition, all staff must be First Aid/CPR certified prior to the start of the Playcamp season. The last training day focuses on setting up the program, organizing the day-to-day, and providing a site-specific orientation that walks the counselors through a typical day of Playcamp. In addition, we will be offering a mid-summer training to re-energize staff half-way through the summer.

DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES

All programs begin at 9:00am. Please be sure to drop off at that time or no later than a half-hour after the camp day begins. Pick up is promptly at 3 pm. If you are late, you will be charged a late fee of \$5 for every 5 minutes you are late, and will need to pay off the balance before the camper returns to camp.

Please pick up promptly at the designated pick-up time, as staff is scheduled to be cleaning and doing other duties at the close of the day, and many of our staff have multiple part-time jobs to balance.

When Dropping Off/Picking Up this summer, we will take one family at a time and have check in spots on the ground so we are socially distancing while at drop off. Our staff will sign your child in and out with your verbal permission. PLEASE make sure you check in/out with the person with the clipboard. All camp staff will point you in the right direction of who has the clipboard.

If you plan on picking your child up earlier than the designated pick-up time, we ask that you inform the site supervisor that morning. No child will be allowed to leave the playground unless arrangements are made **IN WRITING** that morning. A child is not allowed to leave the playground unless accompanied by a parent or approved guardian. No child will be allowed to walk or ride their bikes home without written consent from their parent/guardian.

DAILY DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP LOCATIONS

Families will pull up to location, a staff member will come to the car to do a temperature check and sign the participant in. At pick up, a staff member will come to your car to ask the name of participant and bring them to your car. Adults shouldn't leave vehicle during pick up or drop off.

Junior Play(Hawes) Pick up and Drop off at Pool area

Playcamp (Hawes) Pick up and Drop off by Coakley football field

Senior Play (Hawes) Pick up and Drop off by Middle School Entrance

Cleveland: Pick up and drop off by Front Entrance of school

Father Mac's : Pick up and Drop Off by baseball backstop.

At each site please look for signage; we will also post a video on social media of a mock drop off and pick up!

***Senior Play participants will be able to sign themselves out only at the conclusion of the day. Signing out during camp hours will not be permitted* This would have to be IN WRITING to the supervisor at the beginning of the day. If they have a temperature at sign in, they will have to walk back home.**

ABSENTEE PROCEDURE

You do **NOT** have to call the Recreation Office when your child will not be attending the program for one day. We take attendance and if children are not there we will mark them as absent. **No refunds are available for any missed time at camp.**

CANCELLATION

Due to a consolidated summer season with limited spaces available, there will be no refunds unless there is a medical reason with medical documentation. If you register for all weeks of camp, and then realize you can't attend, there will be NO REFUND.

The Norwood Recreation Department does not allow sharing or splitting the session with another person or family member, as the slot is solely for that child in camp. Should slots open, the Norwood Recreation Department will contact people from our waitlist.

DOGS

For everyone's safety, no dogs, or other animals/pets, are allowed to be brought to the program at any time.

SNACK

Snacks are not provided; please pack a snack with your child's lunch. Please pack a nut free snack if possible. We will break from activities mid-morning for a snack. Occasionally, local ice cream trucks will come by the playgrounds to sell items; they are of no affiliation with the Town of Norwood. Campers can purchase products from the ice cream truck at the Site Supervisor's discretion. If you are okay with your child purchasing ice cream and/or other snacks from these vendors, please send them with a small amount of money, not to exceed \$5 per child, as monies tend to get misplaced. If you do not want your child to buy or eat food from these vendors, you need to instruct them not to purchase anything. Playground staff is not responsible for determining who can and cannot go to the ice cream trucks or eat the food.

LUNCH

Lunch and drinks are not provided, please pack a lunch each day for your child. There is no refrigeration available. Please do not pack items that will spoil in the heat unless you send them in a small cooler with an ice pack. A sturdy lunch bag or box is best so lunches do not get crushed. Many participants do bring a large, square cooler as it doubles as seating for lunch. Please pack enough snacks and extra drinks (like water or sports drinks) as well to prevent dehydration. Please tell your children not to share food with other children due to the high number of allergies.

LOST & FOUND

Staff will give reminders throughout the day to gather their belongings. Many things get misplaced during the summer. Please check the Lost and Found bin at your campsite often and remove any items that belong to your child. At the end of every session, the lost and found bins at each site are emptied and brought to the Recreation Department. If items are not claimed, they will be donated. Label everything and do not send valuables! The Norwood Recreation Department is not responsible for lost items.

SPENDING MONEY & VALUABLES

Please do not send your child to the playgrounds with any large sums of money or valuables. **The Town of Norwood is not responsible for these items.** Please check your child's backpack and remove these items before they come to playcamp. There are many participants in the programs; things get lost, misplaced, or even taken by another by accident, so please use caution. **Items such as cell phones, iPods, Video Game Consoles, and anything and everything you or your child considers valuable should NOT come to the program!**

Label **EVERYTHING!** This includes water bottles, towels, and personal items. If you are sending money with them, please put it in a small bag with their name on it. Senior Play will be able to walk to local places to buy ice cream and/or snacks with counselors.

SWIM TIME

Due to the limited hours of Hawes Pool and Father Mac's this summer, campers will have limited swim time during the week of camp. They will have the option to swim at least twice a week if not more.

****Norwood Recreation Department lifeguards are on-duty at all times when our campers are in the pool. Additionally, playcamp staff is present in the pool area during pool time.****

FOOTWEAR

We suggest sending your child in sneakers because they will be doing a lot of running around! Sneakers are preferred over sandals and flip flops. Sandals and flip flops can result in sore feet, blisters, or other bumps and bruises. We do a lot of running and games and we do not want anyone to stub their toes or have their foot stepped on. Sandals/Flip Flops can be worn during the day at the parent's/guardian's discretion. Sandals and flip-flops are recommended to be worn when entering and leaving the pool area. For safety reasons, rubber-soled shoes or sneakers are preferred.

CLOTHING

Our program philosophy supports active (and often messy) play! For this reason, we request that your child wear comfortable play clothes to the programs. Offensive or inappropriate messages on clothing could result in the child needing a change of attire. We do lots of running and

SUNSCREEN

Please lather your child up with sunscreen before they arrive at the playgrounds each and every day, even if it is cloudy out! Please put sunscreen bottles in a small plastic bag with your child's name on it and have them keep it in their backpack. Instruct them how to reapply and to not share with other children because of allergies.

Counselors are not allowed to reapply sunscreen to a child, unless it is the kind that can be sprayed on them. Counselors can supervise campers as they are putting their own sunscreen on. **Our camps have a strict no giving medicine policy.** .

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

The staff is trained to foster good behavior by creating a trusting environment that promotes appropriate behavior. Time and effort is placed on anticipating behavior problems and creating an environment that helps avoid bad behavior.

Expectations are realistic and limits are clearly explained and supported by this environment. When behavior problems occur, attempts are made to redirect the child to more appropriate behavior. **The staff will not tolerate any misbehaving at the Playcamps.**

If staff members feel a child is acting inappropriately they will send a **“warning notice”** home with the child. **The child will not be allowed back into the playground until a parent or guardian signs the warning notice and returns to the site supervisor. If a child receives 3 warning notices, we will ask the parent or guardian to meet with the playground supervisors to discuss appropriate disciplinary actions.**

The Recreation Department reserves the right to immediately expel a child, based on the situation, without refund of a payment, if a child poses a safety risk at camp. Such examples of this behavior would include excessive tardiness for parent pick up, derogatory slurs, physical altercations, or leaving/threatening to leave the designated program area. **The same behavior expected during the school day is expected at camp.** Referrals and recommendations for alternative programs that may be better suited for the participant will be shared, when these situations arise.

CAMPER BEHAVIOR POLICY

Appropriate behavior is expected from all participants at all times in recreation programs. To ensure safe and enjoyable programs and facilities for all participants, the Norwood Recreation Department has developed the following **Code of Conduct**:

Campers must:

- **Show respect to all participants and staff**
- **Show respect for equipment, supplies, and facilities**
- **Refrain from using foul language and obscene behavior**
- **Refrain from causing bodily harm to other participants or staff**
- **Absolutely no Alcohol or Tobacco products on camp premises, this includes vaping. (If caught will be removed from the rest of sessions and summer - no refund)**

MEDICAL FORMS & HEALTH INFORMATION

The Recreation Department Health Form needs to be filled out and returned to the Recreation Department office located at 165 Nahatan Street, inside the Civic Center, **BEFORE** your child starts the program. **If we do not have this form on file prior to the start of the program, your child will not be allowed into the programs.**

All forms must be in one week before your child starts. Once you fill out the paperwork once, you will be all set!

If a child requires medication during playground, please inform the site supervisor at the start of the first day. If a child cannot administer medication by him or herself, a parent/guardian **MUST** come to the playground to administer the medication. **Staff members cannot administer medication, as they are not licensed professionals.**

****If a camper is injured at camp and goes to the Doctor, we will need a Doctor's note before the camper returns to camp.**

EPI-PEN PROTOCOL: Must be labeled with your child's name on it. The EPI-PEN must be current, in the original box, and in a labeled zip-lock bag. Please talk with the site supervisor and fill out the appropriate paperwork to set up a designated time and date to pick up the EPI-PEN. Due to campers safety any medicine will not be permitted in campers bags. . **Epi Pens MUST BE checked in and out each day, we do not keep them overnight.**

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In case of an emergency, the parent/guardian will be notified immediately. Make sure the staff at the playground has a phone number where you can be reached from 9:00am-~~23~~:00pm. Please double check with the staff that the phone number ~~is~~ listed on their roster (which is generated from our database) is the correct phone number. Please also include an emergency contact person in case you cannot be reached.

SICK CAMPER PROCEDURES

We ask that you do not send your child to camp if they are not feeling well that morning. A child may not remain at or come to camp if he/she has any of the following symptoms:

- Fever over 100°F
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Inflammation of the eyes
- Abscess or draining sores
- Rash, unless determined to be non-contagious by a Doctor's note

A child may need to be sent home due to illness, when he/she represents a health risk to other children or staff. If a child is contagious or not feeling well enough to participate in group activities, he/she must remain at home. Parents will be contacted when a camper becomes ill at camp. The child will be provided with quiet activities while waiting for his/her parents. We realize that it is difficult for working parents and guardians to leave work for a sick child, but we take your child's best interest into consideration when calling you.

**** If a camp group has a positive case of COVID-19 within their group, that camp group of 8 campers and staff will have to participate in 14 day quarantine.**

The group of campers and staff shall follow local public health guidelines for isolation and quarantine. No members of that group will be allowed to return to the program until they are released by their local health department or the MA Community Tracing Collaborative.

TYPICAL DAY

The Norwood Playground programs foster an environment of play. Counselors will introduce many playground games, sports, arts, and crafts, as well as special events. Children are asked to try new activities, as it may become their favorite new activity or they might meet a new friend from the interaction. Children at the

Norwood Playground programs have the freedom to choose from a wide variety of activities, and although we encourage them to try new things, it is okay if they do not want to participate.

HIGH HEAT DAYS

Children will take part in limited outdoor activities on high heat days and will be given several water and shade breaks throughout the day. Alternative activities may include quiet games, water play, and special events. Please send your child with a water bottle every day that they can refill and carry with them. Hydration begins the night before so please help keep your children hydrated by encouraging them to drink lots of water at home and throughout the camp sessions.

RAINY DAY PROCEDURE

If there is inclement weather, the staff has a rainy day plan to keep your children active and still having fun, even if it is not outdoors! We have an agreement with the School Department to use the facilities in case of rain. The locations are as follows:

**Savage Center for Father Mac's
Cleveland School**

Coakley Middle School

Campers and staff will be in the gymnasium, cafeteria, or classrooms of the respective buildings. No one will be allowed in the pools when thunder has been heard or lightning has struck. Lifeguards have a procedure that they will follow and will let counselors know when it is safe for children to return to the water.

Frequently Asked Questions

| <u>What Should Your Camper Bring to Camp?</u> | <u>What Should Your Camper Leave at Home?</u> |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MASK ● Sneakers ● Tee shirts ● Shorts ● Backpack ● Change of clothes ● Appropriate weather gear ● Hat or visor (optional) ● Bathing suit ● Towel – ALL CAMPERS MUST BRING TOWEL FOR SUMMER 2021 ● Sunscreen ● Lunch and snacks ● Water bottle ● Epi-Pen (if necessary) ● BIG SMILE ● POSITIVE ATTITUDE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Electronic devices ● Cell phones ● Jewelry ● Makeup ● Toys from home ● Weapons of any sort-fake or real! ● Trading cards such as Pokemon or Yu-Gi-Oh |

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| <u>Camper Expectations</u> | <u>Important Responsibilities for Parents</u> |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stay with your group at all times ● No climbing on gates, fences, or trees ● No inappropriate or abusive language permitted ● No hitting, kicking, or other physical abuse permitted ● Listen to and respect the rules and boundaries of games and activities ● All campers will be expected to display good <i>teamwork</i>. How we play is more important than whether we win or lose! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Label all belongings ● Check the lost and found if any of your campers belongings are missing ● Be on time when dropping off and picking up your child ● If you are running late for pick up, please call the Norwood Recreation Department, so the appropriate site supervisor can be notified ● Ensure that all camp forms are filled out completely and on time before your child attends the first day of camp ● Make camp aware in writing if someone other than the parent/guardian will be picking up if not listed on the pick-up list ● Advise the site supervisor of any health concerns your child might have ● Explain camp rules and expectations to your child prior to the start of camp ● Ask questions if you want information on camp activities ● Read the camp newsletter, so you're up-to-date |