

Hello Everyone, and Welcome to Waterbury Recreation Summer Day Camp 2025!

Camp is just around the corner, and we are excited to welcome campers to an action-packed, fun-filled summer program! **Please read this email carefully** – family engagement will help in our goal of creating a safe, fun, exciting summer program. You can also expect to receive weekly email updates including highlights from our previous week, and information about field trips or other big events coming up in the next week. These email blasts will be our primary form of communication with families throughout the summer, so please take the time to read them!

In This Email... (more details provided below)

- **CONTACT EMAIL:** If you need to contact leadership at camp, please email daycamp@waterburyvt.com
- **FIRST DAY CHECK-IN:** Parent/guardian MUST check in face-to-face with staff at drop off. Plan on 10-20 minutes depending on wait times.
- **JUNE 23 DROP OFF:** Weather permitting, all camps drop off at Anderson Park.
- **ABSENCES/DAYS WITHOUT CAMP:** Please let us know in advance if your child will be absent. No camp on July 4th or August 1st.
- **FAMILY HANDBOOK:** Linked below; please review!
- **IMPORTANT FORMS:** Make sure you have filled out: Emergency Contacts; Authorized Pick-Ups; Allergies/Medications/Behavioral Plans.
- **HOME BASE LOCATIONS:** Rising Stars will start their day at Anderson Park; all other camps will meet at Brookside Primary School.
- **DROP OFF/PICK UP – DAILY PROCEDURE:** Parent/Guardian MUST check-in with staff! Only Authorized Pickup People and Emergency Contacts may pick-up. Pickup will be at Anderson Park for all camps, weather permitting.
- **WHAT TO BRING:** Packing list below.
- **WHAT NOT TO BRING:** Electronics and other toys should stay home!
- **DAILY SCHEDULE:** See below for an outline of our daily schedule.
- **STAFF INTRODUCTIONS:** Get to know our directing staff!

Contact Email: Our leadership team all has access to daycamp@waterburyvt.com . If you need to contact camp about drop-offs, pick-ups, absences, etc. this email address will land in the inbox of our entire leadership team (meet them at the bottom of the email!) and is the most efficient way to contact camp.

First Day Check In: When arriving on your first day of camp (if you will not attend the 1st day of the 1st week of camp, please follow these steps on the first day your child DOES attend), please be sure to **check-in with a staff member face-to-face**. You will be asked to confirm details of your child's registration, receive your child's camp T-shirt, as well as a packet of important information; this process could take 10-20 minutes depending on what time you arrive (especially on June 23rd , day 1 of camp), so please plan accordingly. On all other days of camp, we need you to check in with staff at drop-off and pick-up, but it will be a much quicker process.

June 23rd Drop-Off: **On the very first day of Week 1 of camp, all campers will be dropped off at Anderson Park (27 Butler St.)** , weather permitting. On all other days, drop off for Rising Stars will be at Anderson, while the themed camps (Creative Kids, Action & Energy, and Adventure & Exploration) will have drop-off at Brookside Primary School (back entrance).

Pick-Up: **We will end each day at the pool/Anderson Park** for all campers, weather permitting. If you plan to pick up during the scheduled pick-up time from 4-5pm, plan to pick up from Anderson. Only Authorized Pickup Persons and Emergency Contacts will be permitted to pick up children, and they must check-in with a staff member face-to-face to sign their child out.

Absences: While no refunds will be provided due to daily absences, we do ask that you inform us if your child will be absent from camp. Having knowledge of absences in advance helps us better adjust staffing numbers and provides a more enjoyable camp experience for all. **There will be no camp on July 4th or August 1st .** If you have registered for the full 8-week session of camp, but know you will miss certain weeks, we would appreciate you sharing those dates with us ahead of time.

Family Handbook: Please make sure you have read through the handbook before your first day of camp. This includes important information about our

camp policies and procedures: [Summer 2025 Family Handbook](#)
For Spanish: [Summary of Handbook - Spanish](#)

Important Forms: Before camp starts, please review the following documents to ensure a smooth start to the summer.

- **Emergency Contacts** – please check your MyRec account to confirm the information provided is complete and accurate; these will be our go-to points of contact in case of an emergency!
- **Authorized Pickup Persons** – on your MyRec account, please confirm this is up to date! If no names are listed, we will assume that only listed Emergency Contacts are authorized to pick up your child. Children may not leave the program with anyone NOT on this list, unless they are registered with permission to “sign themselves out”.
- **Allergies, medications, and behavioral plans** – please double check your registration form to make sure this information is complete and accurate. If you have listed a behavior plan, you may be contacted by Anna Duffy, our Assistant Camp Director who specializes in this area, to follow up about your response or with questions on how best to prepare for your camper to have a fun and successful summer.
- **Free lunch program partnership** - We have already collected registrations for free breakfasts/lunches at the time of registration (if you registered late, this may not have been an option on your registration form). If you need free meals and have NOT registered for this option, please let us know ASAP; please note that numbers are finalized for the first 2 weeks of camp, so late registrations for meals will only be for meals beginning in week 3 of camp. If you did not register for meals, we are not able to provide meals for your camper; if you DID register for meals, we expect your child to accept these meals in order to avoid the food waste we experienced last summer. If you registered for meals and no longer want them, please let us know ASAP.

Home Base Locations: Please note that we will be at just 2 base locations this year to help camp run more smoothly.

- **Anderson Recreation Building:**

- 27 Butler St. - please come check in with staff after you park!
- Rising Stars
- **Brookside Primary School:**
 - 47 Stowe St. - families should check in with staff in the gym (back entrance of the school) if staff are not outside.
 - Creative Kids Camp, Adventure & Exploration Camp, Action & Energy Camp

Drop-off/Pick-Up: Please make sure you check in with a staff member during both drop off and pick up!

- Drop off – 8-9am
- Pick up – 4-5pm @ Anderson Park (weather permitting)
- We CANNOT accommodate early drop-offs!
- Late pick-ups will result in a fee of \$2 per minute added to your account balance. If you are more than 10 minutes late, this fee increases to \$4 per minute.
- If you need to drop-off or pick-up outside the hours listed above (ie. after 9am or before 4pm), please contact staff at least 24 hours in advance whenever possible to arrange for the drop-off/pick-up. We will be moving around town and the surrounding area, and may not be at Anderson or Brookside outside of these hours; if we go off-site, locations will be listed at each base location. All drop-offs and pick-ups must be completed face-to-face with staff. Please do not leave children at a camp location without checking in with staff first.

Packing List: Please label all items with your child's first and last name!

- **Weather-appropriate clothing** - (ie. raincoat when rainy!) + change of clothes
- **Sunscreen!** - we will give lots of sunscreen reminders, but are not permitted to administer sunscreen to campers; they must bring their own!
- **Water bottle** – we will have refill stations, but campers must have a bottle.
- **Lunch** – campers must bring a lunch each day, unless pre-registered for free lunches.

- **Snacks** – we will take snack breaks, but we do not provide snacks. Please send plenty of food, as it is a long day full of activity!
- **Proper Footwear** – good walking shoes required! Sneakers or sandals with heel strap work well.
- **Swimsuit & Towel** – bring every day!
- **Medications** – as needed
- **Bug Spray** – optional
- **Sun Hat** – optional, recommended!
- **Small Daypack/Backpack** - optional
- **Swim Shirt** – optional, recommended since we will spend time each day at the pool, and sunscreen tends to wash off quickly
- **Swim Goggles** - optional

What *Not* to Bring: Please leave all electronics, toys, and other personal items not listed above at home. If they arrive at camp, campers will be asked to leave them in their backpack for the day. If campers are unable to follow guidelines after reminders, staff will hold on to camper's items until a caregiver retrieves them at pick up. Waterbury Recreation is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Daily Schedule: Our daily activity schedule will change week to week and camp to camp, with adjustments for mini field trips, visiting educators and performers, and swim lessons, but here is a general overview of a typical camp day. Please note that each themed camp will have different programming, but we recognize the importance of getting to hang out with your friends at camp: there will be weekly all-camp activities, as well as daily pool/park time when camps will spend time together.

- 8-9am - Drop off and free choice time @ home base location (see above)
- 9-11 – Morning Activity Block (Instructor workshop, Mini Field Trip, Visiting Performer, Excursion around town on foot, or All-Camp Event)
- 11 – Walk to Anderson, swim lessons OR prepare for lunch @ Anderson
- 11:30 - Lunch (11 for Rising Stars!) @ Anderson park (weather permitting)
- 12:00 – Quiet activity/Story time

- 12:30-4 – Pool time and Activity time @ Anderson park (weather permitting)
- 4-5pm – Pick up @ Anderson park (weather permitting)

Staff Introductions: We will include staff bios in the weekly email. This week, we would like to introduce you to our Directing Staff: our Recreation Director, Program Coordinator, Camp Director, and Assistant Camp Director.



Katarina Lisaius, Recreation Director: Welcome to Waterbury Recreation Summer Camp! I am thrilled to be a part of another summer at Waterbury Rec. I've been with the department for almost two years and have ushered in some changes to camp, including all camp swimming lessons, themed camps, and for this summer: our instructor model. I've also overseen some recent upgrades in the department, including a new playground surface at Hope Davey Park, upgrades at the pool for summer 2025, and partnerships for community events! My background is in the state and federal legislation supporting education, child care, youth opportunities, as well as economic security and meeting basic human needs. In my free time I play field hockey and tennis, enjoy snowboarding, and love to garden. I am looking forward to a wonderful summer!



Katie Mandyck, Recreation Program Coordinator/Camp Director: Welcome to camp! I'm looking forward to my second summer at Waterbury Rec. I joined the department in Fall of 2023 following 5 years living, studying, and working in Austria, where I received a Masters in European Ethnology, worked on my German skills, coached basketball, taught English, and did lots of skiing and hiking in the mountains! My prior experience includes work in Wilderness Education summer camps, tutoring and teaching English, and working with kids in a wide variety of settings. At Waterbury Recreation, I run our Afterschool Program, create program schedules and organize the day-to-day of Summer Camp, work on community events, and this year, began leading fitness classes and hosted a 3x3 basketball tournament during the winter! In my free time, I enjoy hiking, swimming, skiing, visiting with family and playing with my baby nephew, cooking, training for my next running race, and refereeing Youth Soccer.



Katie Martin, Camp Director: I am from Waterbury Center, VT, and have worked at Waitsfield Elementary School for 5 years as an intensive student support specialist. I also coach high school field hockey at Harwood. I enjoy hiking, camping, reading, and playing in adult field and ice hockey leagues in my spare time. I'm excited for my first summer with the Waterbury Rec family!



Anna Duffy, Assistant Camp Director: Hi All! I am excited to announce that I will be an assistant camp director this summer at Waterbury Rec! I am from Waitsfield, where I attended Green Mountain Valley School for ski racing for middle and high school. I attended Saint Michael's College and graduated in 2023. For my first-year post-grad I worked at Harwood Middle School as a Special Education teacher. I am currently working on my graduate coursework at Saint Michael's College for a Masters in Special Education and a Masters in Clinical Counseling Psychology. Aside from

schooling, I am also a Resident Director on campus, living and working alongside the first-year students. Looking ahead at the summer, I am excited to be coming back and seeing familiar faces at camp! Similarly to when working in schools, I am hopeful that I can apply my knowledge and skills to support our campers with self-regulation, social development, and overall self-advocacy in balancing the complexities of a fun and dynamic environment such as a summer camp. I am excited to see all of you again soon!

Please reach out with any questions. We're excited for another great summer!!

Katie Mandych & Katarina