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For Immediate Release:

2025 Waterbury Recreation Summer Camp – Registration Launches February 4

Waterbury Recreation is excited to announce the details of our Summer Day Camp 2025. Most importantly, registration begins on February 4.

Every year, we aim to improve our camp. We listen to feedback from families and staff, and have taken the time to update our program with many of these requests, while continuing to emphasize building a safe, fun, and enriching child care option for our community.

In 2025, we will continue to offer themed camps: themes are a terrific way to cater activities to campers' interests. We will make sure that pool time happens nearly every day, weather and field trip schedules permitting. We will continue to offer swim lessons to all campers in 2025, but will be moving them later in the day to make drop-off less stressful and (hopefully!) have warmer swimming conditions.

At the request of families, registration will open one month earlier this year. Waterbury residents will be able to register for camp on February 4th, and non-residents will be able to register on February 6. Prices will increase one month later on March 4th.

This year's camp prices will increase to allow us to run a high-quality camp, yet we will be keeping our camp as affordable as possible. The full session camp (8 weeks) will cost \$1,325 for residents and \$1,825 for non-residents. Purchasing the full 8-week camp session will still cost residents only about \$165/week for 45 hours of care, meaning \$4/hour. We will also continue to focus on our scholarship fund. In Summer 2024, 6 families received scholarships to camp, and we foresee growth in this number for 2025.

Last summer, we faced staffing challenges of not finding enough available candidates with management and supervision experience. We are aware that this impacts the quality of our camp and are doing our best to address this gap.

The biggest change we are making, with the intent to improve the safety and quality of our camp, will be serving fewer campers this year. Reducing the size of our camp will allow us to hold camp at just two locations, helping with staffing challenges and improving oversight. Downsizing will also allow us to transport each of our camps in the recreation vans without making multiple trips, making mini field trips more frequent and efficient. Should we be able to secure needed staff, we will increase the number of campers signed up for camp.

To continue meeting the needs of the community, we will focus on serving those families and individuals with the greatest need for childcare. This will mean a new age/grade cutoff, and we will only be serving rising 1st-6th graders. If we find additional, qualified, experienced camp directors to hire for the summer, we will consider opening more spots in our camps, beginning with our youngest camp, Rising Stars*.

In Summer 2025, we want to continue developing a strong staff training program while providing quality child care; we need both the time and bandwidth to work closely with our staff throughout the summer and the months leading up to camp to achieve this goal. We will begin the hiring process as early as December 2024, and smaller camp sizes will give camp directors and recreation staff more time to work closely with counselors throughout the summer to help them achieve their professional goals and to better serve campers and families. The increased attention to younger staff will help prepare the camp for future staffing needs.

We are taking care of our community's children and we know how important they are. We understand for some families, these changes will have a large impact. We are committed first and foremost to operating a safe program. Should there be additional updates, we will share via news, social media, and other community resources.

Learn more about Waterbury Recreation Summer Day Camp at: [Waterbury, VT Recreation: Summer Day Camp - 2025](#)

*Formerly "K-Camp", renamed to recognize that these campers are rising 1st graders!