SUMMER PROGRAM
Parent Handbook

Camp Welch
127 North Main St.
Assonet, MA 02702
Tel: 508-644-5275

www.fallriverbgc.org

This camp must comply with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and be licensed by the local Board of Health.
If your child is exposed to someone with meningococcal disease, antibiotics may be recommended to keep your child from getting sick.

You can obtain more information about meningococcal disease or vaccination from your healthcare provider, your local Board of Health (listed in the phone book under government), or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or on the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph.

Provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in accordance with M.G.L. c.111, s.219 and 105 CMR 430.157(C). Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization, 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 Updated March 2018
ATTENDANCE (DROP OFF & PICK UP)
Due to Covid-19, we will NOT be providing transportation to and from Camp Welch. Parents/Guardians will need to drop off and pick up directly at camp. Camp will operate from 8am to 5:30pm this summer. Campers will receive a health screening before being allowed to enter camp property. We ask parents to self-screen before trying to drop campers off.

CAMP FEES AND PAYMENTS
Payments for camp sessions are due on the Friday BEFORE the camp week. Full payment is required for weeks that your child is registered to attend the program regardless of the camper’s attendance. Parents/Guardians are still responsible to pay for those weeks that are reserved whether camper attends or not. Failure to pay on time will result in suspension from the program and the club until all debts are paid.
Full Week Camp Fees are $180 EACH week. A discount of $50 per week is given for siblings who reside in the same household and are attending the same week.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICIES
Camper cancellations must be submitted in writing, 2 weeks in advance, in order to not be charged for the week. Without proper notice, you are required to pay for the week even if your child does not attend camp for the week.

PICK-UP AUTHORIZATION & POLICY
Pick-up authorization has been noted on the membership form and on the registration form. Children will only be released to the people named on the forms. If a child is to be picked up by someone other than an authorized person, the program must be notified IN WRITING. Parents or designated persons picking up children are required to report to the proper area and sign out the child.

For your child’s safety, we will not allow your child to leave the site without an authorized person. All people picking up children, including parents, MUST have picture identification available.

We will not release a child to anyone we suspect to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
At pick up and for your child’s safety:
We are asking parents to call the camp office when they arrive for pick up and your camper will be brought to you.

LATE PICK UP POLICY
Parents must make every effort to pick-up their children before 5:30 p.m.

Is there a vaccine against meningococcal disease?
Yes, there are 2 different meningococcal vaccines. Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra and Menveo) protects against 4 serotypes (A, C, W and Y) of meningococcal disease. Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) protects against serogroup B meningococcal disease, for age 10 and older.

Should my child or adolescent receive meningococcal vaccine?
That depends. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra and Menveo) is routinely recommended at age 11-12 years with a booster at age 16. In addition, this vaccine may be recommended for children with certain high-risk health conditions, such as those described above. Otherwise, meningococcal vaccine is not recommended for attendance at camps.
Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) is recommended for people with certain relatively rare high-risk health conditions (examples: persons with a damaged spleen or whose spleen has been removed, those with persistent complement component deficiency (an inherited disorder), and people who may have been exposed during an outbreak). Adolescents and young adults (16 through 23 years of age) who do not have high risk conditions may be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years of age, to provide short term protection for most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. Parents of adolescents and children who are at higher risk of infection, because of certain medical conditions or other circumstances, should discuss vaccination with their child’s healthcare provider.

How can I protect my child or adolescent from getting meningococcal disease?
The best protection against meningococcal disease and many other infectious diseases is thorough and frequent handwashing, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. Individuals should:
1. wash their hands often, especially after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food (hands should be washed with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand gel or rub may be used if hands are not visibly dirty);
2. cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and discard the tissue in a trash can; or if they don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve.
3. not share food, drinks or eating utensils with other people, especially if they are ill.
4. contact their healthcare provider immediately if they have symptoms of meningitis.

creased risk for meningococcal disease because of their participation.
TICK INFORMATION
At Camp Welch, we work to limit the risks of your child being exposed to ticks. We have trained staff who will help to teach campers to be aware of ticks. We will conduct tick checks during the day, but strongly encourage parents/guardians to do a tick check when at home. For more information about ticks please visit: www.tickencounter.org

Meningococcal Disease and Camp Attendees: Commonly Asked Questions
What is meningococcal disease?
Meningococcal disease is caused by infection with bacteria called Neisseria meningitidis. These bacteria can infect the tissue (the “meninges”) that surrounds the brain and spinal cord and cause meningitis, or they may infect the blood or other organs of the body. Symptoms of meningococcal disease can include fever, severe and constant headache, stiff neck or neck pain, nausea and vomiting, and rash. In the US, about 350-550 people get meningococcal disease each year and 10-15% die despite receiving antibiotic treatment. Of those who survive, about 10-20% may lose limbs, become hard of hearing or deaf, have problems with their nervous system, including long term neurologic problems, or have seizures or strokes.

How is meningococcal disease spread?
These bacteria are passed from person-to-person through saliva (spit). You must be in close contact with an infected person’s saliva in order for the bacteria to spread. Close contact includes activities such as kissing, sharing water bottles, sharing eating/drinking utensils or sharing cigarettes with someone who is infected; or being within 3-6 feet of someone who is infected and is coughing and sneezing.

Who is most at risk for getting meningococcal disease?
People who travel to certain parts of the world where the disease is very common, microbiologists, people with HIV infection and those exposed to meningococcal disease during an outbreak are at risk for meningococcal disease. Children and adults with damaged or removed spleens or persistent complement component deficiency (an inherited immune disorder) are at risk. Adolescents, and people who live in certain settings such as college freshmen living in dormitories and military recruits are at greater risk of disease from some of the serotypes.

Are camp attendees at increased risk for meningococcal disease?
Children attending day or residential camps are not considered to be at an in-
WHO SUPERVISES MY CHILD
There are trained staff members that supervise your child at all times. All staff undergo mandatory trainings and orientation before they can work at Camp Welch; topics include team-building, conflict resolution, mandated reporting, child abuse and neglect, as well as concussion training. All Lifeguards are certified through the American Red Cross in Lifeguarding, First Aid, CPR and AED. All staff undergo a background check and SORI check.

The staff to camper ratio is: 6 year olds—1 staff per 5 campers, 7 to 14 year olds—1 staff per 10 campers.

Your child will be assigned a group and staff member at the beginning of the week. This is the group they will remain with and travel through activities with.

Groups are determined by the age of the child.
· Ages 6 & 7 (Cardinals)
· Ages 8, 9 & 10 (Blue Jays)
· Ages 11 to 14 (Eagles)

WHAT TO BRING/WEAR
Backpack, a swim suit, towel, hat, appropriate footwear (no flip-flops at activities), snacks, and a water bottle. Please have your child dress according to weather conditions. Inclement weather programming provided, but campers must bring rain gear. Please write camper’s name on all personal items.

WHAT NOT TO BRING
Cell phones (campers who need to call a parent/guardian should go to the Office, hand-electronics/games, toys, sporting equipment, collectible cards and animals. Additionally, weapons, drugs or alcohol of any kind are prohibited.

ALERT BRACELETS
Campers with severe medical issues, severe food allergies and asthma will be given a bracelet that they MUST wear while they attend camp. This alert bracelet will allow ALL camp staff to identify your child in the event of an emergency and keep an “extra” eye on them at their activity. Bracelets need to be kept on all day, preferably all week. A new bracelet will need to be issued if they DO NOT have one in the morning.

LOST & FOUND
Found items are held at the end of each day. If lost items are labeled, we call the child’s name and bring them the item. Unlabeled items will taken to the lost & found shed at the end of the camp day. Camp Welch is not responsible for notifications will be sent home with your camper within 24 hours.

Allergies:
Must be documented on the child’s medical form. Those associated with food products will be posted in the kitchen and First Aid Office.
If severe, it is the parent’s responsibility to provide a well-balanced nutritious meal for the child.

We are a peanut free environment. Please DO NOT send your child with snacks or foods that contain peanuts. The child will not be allowed to eat any snack containing peanuts.

MEALS AND SNACKS
Children are served a full well-balanced meal in the dining hall at their designated meal times. No child shall be subject to denial of food, or punishment related to eating or not eating of food. Menus are available and posted at both the Boys & Girls Club and Camp Welch offices.
Do not send your child with a hot lunch, they do not have a way to heat it up.

Small snacks and drinks are available to purchase during the day. Do not allow the campers to carry money, we instead give them canteen cards with the amount of money they have available to spend. Canteen cards can be purchased at camp in the camp center. Children are limited to spend no more than $1 dollar a day. A $5 dollar canteen card should last your child all week. Campers are responsible for holding on to their own canteen card. Cardinal (Ages six and seven) cards are held for them in the office and brought to the canteen area daily. Lost cards will not be replaced.

SUN EXPOSURE
Campers are encouraged to wear wide brimmed hats and/or sunglasses and wear sunscreen. We recommend all campers and staff apply sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30 on all exposed skin, even on cloudy days before being dropped off at camp. Campers at activities in the sun are asked to rest in the shade periodically and take group water breaks to prevent over exposure to heat and sun. Campers at anytime can go to the nurse’s station and ask for sunscreen to be reapplied. Sunscreen is also reapplied as needed and may be applied to them by camp staff.

BUG SPRAY
We recommend all campers and staff apply bug spray with DEET according to the recommendations on the product label. Campers at anytime can go to the nurse’s station and ask for sunscreen to be reapplied. Bug spray is reapplied as needed and may be applied to them by camp staff.
following symptoms:
- Temperature of 100° or more
- Vomiting or diarrhea;
- An unexplained rash;
- A contagious disease (ex. Chicken pox, measles, etc)
- Conjunctivitis
- If a child is prescribed antibiotics, the child must be on that medication for at least 24 hours before returning to Camp. If your child has a communicable disease, please notify the Camp office as soon as possible.
- If your child becomes ill at Camp, parents/guardians will be contacted to make necessary arrangements to pick-up their child.

The child can return to Camp when:
- Their temperature is consistently below 100° for 24 hours without medication;
- An infection has been diagnosed and your child has been on antibiotics for 24 hours;
- It has been 24 hours since the last vomiting or diarrhea episode;
- Nasal or Eye discharge has subsided;
- Their rash has subsided, or a physician has determined it not contagious;
- Ringworm has been treated and covered.
- The child has a doctor’s note to return to the program.

Injuries:
The Health Care Supervisor will treat routine scrapes and cuts. A minor injury report form will be filled out and given to the parent/guardian at pick up. In all cases of serious illness or accident the Camp Health Care Supervisor will contact the parent/guardian. In the event they cannot be reached the signed authorization on the child’s health form will allow the Camp to secure the proper treatment.

Medication Policy:
All medications that must be administered during Camp hours require written permission from the parent/guardian and prescription medications require written orders from the child’s licensed physician or dentist.

All medications are kept in the First Aid Office and must be in the original prescription bottle, clearly labeled with the camper’s name, date, frequency and dose.

Campers will only be allowed to carry and administer their own medications (such as an inhaler or EpiPen) with written permission from a parent/guardian and their primary care provider (physician, nurse practitioner, physician’s assistant).

In the unlikely event of a widespread medical or other problem at Camp, written any damaged, lost or stolen items.

**ACTIVITIES**
A variety of activities are planned for your child throughout the day. While our staff to child ratio is 1 to 10, campers will move as a group from activity to activity. Your child should be able to participate in all camp areas at minimum of once a week.

**SWIMMING POOL INFORMATION**
The pool is monitored by Red Cross Certified Lifeguards during the designated swim times. The pool is locked when not in use.

All children are given a swim test before being allowed in the deep end of our swimming pool. A swim test consists of swimming across the pool using the freestyle stroke efficiently without touching the bottom. The lifeguard on duty determines whether your child will be allowed on the deep side. The head lifeguard will give the **FINAL** approval.

While your child may be able to swim in your backyard pool, due to the volume of children that utilize the pool while it is open, your child needs to be a STRONG swimmer. Again, the head lifeguard give the **FINAL** approval. Swimming lessons are offered daily at camp, weather permitting, at no additional charge.

If the pool is closed per state regulations, the camp will provide alternate programming.

**BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE**
**Prohibitions:**
- Corporal punishment, including spanking, is prohibited;
- No camper shall be subjected to cruel or severe punishment, humiliation, or verbal abuse;
- No camper shall be denied food, water or shelter as a form of punishment;
- No child shall be punished for soiling, wetting or not using the toilet;
- No Camper shall be subject to abuse, neglect, and cruel, unusual, severe or corporal punishment including any type of physical hitting inflicted in any manner upon the body.
- No Camper shall have punishments which subject a child to verbal abuse, ridicule, or humiliation; denial of food, rest or bathroom facilities, punishment for soiling, wetting or not using the toilet, or punishment related to eating or not eating food.
Camp Rules:
- We keep our hands and feet to ourselves. No physical contact is allowed.
- Report any incident to the nearest counselor.
- We do not throw anything, except sporting equipment during activities, sticks and stones must stay on the ground.
- No swearing, no inappropriate conversations or language.
- No cell phones allowed.
- No bringing home any insects, animals or aquatic life from Camp.
- We show respect for others.
- We stay within the designated Camp boundaries and never wander off alone or leave Camp property.
- We listen to each other and follow directions.
- We are on time for lunch, line up and assemblies.
- We help to keep camp clean, and use the designated trash barrels.
- We play safely and fairly.

Anti-Bullying:
Children are entitled to a fun and pleasant Camp experience, therefore, Camp Welch cannot serve children who display chronic disruptive behavior. Such behavior is defined as physical or verbal bullying that may involve but is not limited to behavior that:
- Requires constant attention from the staff,
- Inflicts physical or emotional harm on other children,
- Abuses the staff physically or verbally
- Ignores or disobeys the rules that guide behavior during the day at Camp.
- Threatens the health, safety, or well-being of any person or animal, or the smooth operation of the Camp.

Any disciplinary actions are recorded on disciplinary forms noting the infraction, consequences for the action, staff signature, and child’s signature. Copy of the disciplinary form is given to the parent/guardian.

If a child cannot adjust to the Camp setting and behave appropriately, then the child may be suspended from Camp. All reasonable efforts will be made to help children adjust to Camp and have an enjoyable experience.

The suspension of a child from camp is a severe disciplinary measure. It is reserved for instances of repeated offenses or obvious disregard for Camp rules and policies. Therefore, when reasonable efforts to provide positive remedies are ineffective, suspension remains the right of Camp Welch and will be instituted in accordance with appropriate due process. If a suspension is in order, tuition obligations will not be forgiven. There are no refunds for campers that are suspended or terminated for inappropriate behavior.

Termination will take place when the Program Director feels the program does not meet the child’s needs, when the safety and health of the child at the program cannot be assured or when any of the following situations should arise:
- The child repeatedly threatens the health, safety, or well-being of any person or animal, or the smooth operation of the camp.
- Failure of family to meet its financial obligations to camp.
- When late pick-ups become excessive.
- When failing to maintain any of the policies set forth at Camp Welch.
- When a parent or authorized person verbally or physically threatens to cause harm to a staff member, a child, or other parents/visitors of the program.
- When a parent or authorized person uses verbally abusive language at Camp Welch.

MANDATED REPORTERS
All staff are mandated by Massachusetts State law to report all incidents of suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Child and Family Services. They are trained in the appropriate actions to take when abuse/neglect is suspected. The Department of Child and Family Services will be notified immediately.

Abuse- is the non-accidental commission of any act by caretaker which causes or creates a substantial risk of harm or threat of harm to a child’s well being.

Neglect- is a failure by a caretaker, either deliberately, or through negligence, to take those actions necessary to provide a child with minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision, or other essential care.

Reasonable Cause- is a basis for judgment that rests on specific facts, either directly observed or obtained from reliable sources, and that supports a belief that a particular event probably took place or a particular condition probably exists.

Reasonable Condition- is a serious physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse or neglect, or the commission of any act by a caretaker with a child which constitutes a sexual offense under the criminal laws of the Commonwealth; or the physical dependence of a child upon addictive drug at birth.

HEALTH POLICY (ILLNESS/INJURY/MEDICATION/ALLERGIES)
Camp Welch is equipped to care for children who need First Aid and are in good health. Children should not attend Camp if they exhibit any of the