

PEAK Summer Camp

Parent Handbook

2024



Recreation and Wellness Services
MISSION STATEMENT

To provide equitable recreational experiences through a culture of learning, growth, and well-being in a supportive, welcoming environment.

A Message from the Camp Director:

We are so happy to be back for another great summer of PEAK! This will be the 22nd year of operation for PEAK, and we're excited for all that's to come! This summer, your camper can expect many fun activities, games, and crafts that will challenge and engage them in a fun way. We hope that every camper will find something that they enjoy, and learn something along the way. We hope you will join us in 2024 to see these improvements first-hand, as we look to offer one of our most engaging years to date!

– Eli Mallahan

Coordinator for Youth Programs and PEAK Camp Director

CONTACT US

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PEAK Camp Role- Camp Director

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Beverly J. Warren Student Recreation and Wellness Center

Front Desk Phone: (330) 672-4732

Address: 1550 Ted Boyd Dr, Kent, OH, 44242

How to contact us during Camp hours:

If you need to contact the camp for any reason during camp hours (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM), you should call the main line for the Beverly J. Warren Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC) which is listed above, and their staff will relay the message to us. Please contact us if your camper will be arriving more than 15 minutes late, or if they will need to be picked up during the day (this should be communicated at drop off, please only call if an adjustment needs to be made for the camper's pickup). Please do not directly call the Camp Director's office phone during camp hours, as they will most likely be with the camp, and not answer.

We understand that many campers may possess a cell phone, or another method which you are able to contact them; for the sake of consistency, we ask that you contact us through the SRWC, and not by contacting your child to have them relay the message.

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Camp Overview and General Policies

CAMP STRUCTURE

PEAK Summer Camp is comprised of eight individual week-long sessions. While each session has its own theme, the summer camp follows a similar structure each week in order to provide a consistent experience for each camper regardless of the week they attend. Some activities will occur in multiple sessions but may have a unique adaptation to fit the theme of a particular week. Camp activities include games, sports, arts, crafts, themed programs, and daily swimming. Each week will have a mix of activities to provide a variety of exciting experiences for the campers. PEAK Summer Camp is based out of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC) but the camp utilizes outdoor areas surrounding the SRWC and around the Kent State University campus.

CAMP OVERVIEW AND PHILOSOPHY

PEAK stands for Playful Education & Adventures for Kids. The PEAK Summer Camp philosophy is to serve the needs of children between the ages of 6 and 12 by opening doors to the wonders of art, entertainment, culture, nature, socialization, and recreation within a university setting. Camp activities are designed to help each camper develop in many ways, including but not limited to: self-confidence, independence, self-awareness, and overall well-being in both physical, and mental aspects in a safe, and exciting environment.

CAMP GOALS AND OUTCOMES

- ❖ Emphasize the teaching and learning of skills and activities
 - Introduce new campers to camp rules on their first day of camp
 - Clearly define game rules or activity instructions prior to each activity
- ❖ Teach and instill the concept of teamwork through planned activities
 - Plan or implement at least one team activity each day of camp
 - Diversify teams each day/week so campers experience various team dynamics
- ❖ Create mutual respect for other people and their ideas, thoughts, and actions
 - Provide a platform for every camper to share or be heard
 - Moderate campers' interactions when necessary to promote civility and respect
- ❖ Introduce campers to new activities
 - Plan and execute one new activity or game each week of camp
 - Provide opportunities for parents and campers to make activity suggestions via assessments
- ❖ Teach campers the proper way to act during activities, i.e., good sportsmanship
 - Counselors will model positive sportsmanship during activities
 - Hold campers accountable for their actions during play in a respectful and positive way
- ❖ Maintain a safe and respectful learning environment
 - Model safe and respectful interactions between counselors at all times
 - Encourage questions and provide thorough, respectful answers whenever possible
- ❖ De-emphasize competition and emphasize fun in activities
 - Establish rules or goals before each activity or game
 - Counselors will model positive attitudes and good sportsmanship regardless of game results
- ❖ Provide positive role models for the children
 - Recruit and train a diverse, dynamic staff and provide continual support and training
 - Ensure all counselors are trained on all camp values, policies, and procedures before camp

CAMPER ELIGIBILITY

The PEAK Summer Camp is available to, and designed for, children between the ages of 6 and 12 years old. Campers may attend or continue to attend if they will be within this age range at any point during the 2024 camp season (June – August). In addition to the age requirement, campers must also be able to care for themselves independently in regards to using the restroom, changing clothes, eating lunch, and notifying the staff when needed. Within reason, each camper must be able to understand and communicate with our counselors in order follow major directions and guidelines. If accommodations are needed, please communicate in advance with the Camp Director.

CAMP GROUPS

In order to maximize the enjoyment of each activity, the campers will be split up into 3 groups which they will remain with throughout the day. These groups help us to specifically tailor our rotations, activities, and weeks towards each specific age group, and the interests of the ages within each group. There will still be some overlapping schedules and large activities which the whole camp will be together, but for the most part, the groups will remain in separate rotations or locations on campus. The groups will be split as follows:

- GROUP 1: All campers ages 7 and under
- GROUP 2: All campers that will be 8 or 9 years old at some point during the camp season
- GROUP 3: All campers who will be 10 or older at some point during the camp season

These groups are designed to allow campers to remain with other campers that are similar in age, maturity, and have some of the same interests. If a camper is on the border of an age group, and has a preference of which group they would like to be with, then their parent/guardian should address that to the Camp Director. Not all requests to switch groups will be granted, but this is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

With our new registration process, you can register your camper for their designated age group! If your camper will be switching age groups mid-summer (i.e. 7 turning 8), **we encourage you to enroll them in the age group that aligns with their grade in school, maturity level, and the age they will be for most of the summer.**

CAMPER HEALTH HISTORY FORM

All campers must have the Camper Health History form completed prior to their first day attending PEAK. This form is accessible using the link in your confirmation email/receipt from your camp registration. The purpose of this form is to share any and all important information regarding your camper's health, well-being, medications, allergies, and to properly prepare our staff for any emergency situation which may arise. This form must be completed by all campers, only once per summer, and a camper will NOT be permitted to attend until the form is properly completed.

Camp Times, Schedules, Drop Off, and Pickup

CAMP TIMES

Programming for the PEAK Summer Camp will take place starting at 9:00 AM, and ending at 4:00 PM daily. If a camper is running late, or needs to be picked up early, they should contact the camp by calling the main line for the Beverly J. Warren Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC), and the staff will relay that information to us (more information on page 1).

DROP OFF

Campers may be dropped off at the SRWC any time between 8:30 and 8:55 AM. During drop off, campers should be checked in with the PEAK staff prior to entering camp. This is to ensure all proper paperwork and fees have been completed and collected, and also to communicate what time the camper will be picked up. Parents/guardians may also pay off any existing balances during this time at the Guest Service station at the welcome desk inside the SRWC.

PICK UP

Campers may be picked up in one of four time slots, which should be communicated with the PEAK staff when the camper is dropped off in the morning. Pick up will be located outside the main entrance of the SRWC, and authorized pickups may either park and walk up to the pick up area, or remain in their car and drive up to the circular drive. **Authorized pickups must show a valid, and current government issued ID which matches the name of one of the people on the authorized pickup list for that camper.** Failure to present an ID will require approval from the parent/guardian before the camper will be released. The same policy will exist if someone who is not on the authorized pickup list attempts to pickup a camper. If you are running a few minutes late for your designated pickup time, please try to arrive no later than 5 minutes after the designated pickup window time. During the listed pickup time, campers will be brought outside to simplify, and make the process more efficient for picking up campers.

Pick up times:

- 1) Early pick up: 3:45 – 4:00 PM
- 2) Mid pick up: 4:00 – 4:15 PM
- 3) Late pick up 4:15 – 4:30 PM
- 4) After Care pick up 4:30 – 6:00 PM

EXTENDED CARE TIMES

We understand that many of our parents and guardians may not be able to drop off or pick up their camper within our regular time frames. To accommodate, we will allow for extended care opportunities both before and after the normal camp hours. Before Care and After Care are an additional cost on top of the base cap rate, and are charged on a weekly basis. We do not offer single day extended care opportunities! If a camper needs to attend a Before or After Care session during the week, the parent/guardians will need to purchase the appropriate product for that session.

Before Care

Campers may be dropped off between 7:15 – 8:30 AM for Before Care. This program will consist of supervised light activities for the campers who are present. Crafts, and small activities may be available upon request by the campers in attendance.

After Care

For campers who are unable to be picked up prior to 4:30, the After Care programming will provide additional activities and crafts for the campers in attendance. **Campers may be picked up any time after 4:30, but no later than 6:00 PM.** The After Care programming will begin at 3:45 PM after campers have completed the closing ceremony and eaten their snack at the end of the day. Campers enrolled in After Care will receive additional programming such as: using the climbing wall, playing games, making crafts, or free play.

Camp Pricing and Deadlines**CAMP PRICING AND FEES**

The PEAK Summer Camp has a base weekly cost per camper which can be paid in one of two methods: All at once; or Placing an initial down payment of \$50, and pay off the remaining balance at a later date. These pricing methods are in place to accommodate the needs of our patrons, and giving them options to pay off camp fees at their own pace that fits their budget!

Please refer below for camp pricing:

Non-Member Base Camp Fee: \$200

- This rate is applied to any patron that does not have an active SRWC membership
- This rate covers the cost for your child to attend PEAK for all 5 days during the week.
- Daily costs included in this rate: 2 snacks, 1 lunch meal, 8 hours of supervised programming and fun.
- Why \$200? When you consider the cost of everything listed above, and the fact that you are getting that 5 days out of the week, it makes more sense to realize that you're only paying \$40 per day for everything that's included at PEAK!

SRWC Member Discount Rate: \$180

- This rate is applicable for all patrons with an active membership to the SRWC (Student Recreation and Wellness Center).
- The rate is automatically applied if the camper, or head of household (typically a parent/guardian of the camper) has an active SRWC membership
- Perks of membership:
 - Access to the SRWC outside of camp hours
 - Discounted rates for RecWell programs and offerings
 - Please refer to our Membership website for more details regarding membership pricing and options

Down Payment Option: \$50 + \$150 (\$130 for members)

- The Down Payment option is for parents/guardians who do not wish to pay the full registration cost up front.
- This serves as a placeholder for your camper's spot in camp until you can pay off the remaining balance later.
- The remaining balance **MUST** be paid by the Thursday prior to that camp week.. (i.e. The full payment for week 3 is due on Thursday of week 2.)
- You can pay your remaining balance online, or in-person:
 - In-person – at the Member Service station located at the SRWC Welcome Desk or by calling 330-672-4732
 - Online:
 1. go to <https://recwell.kent.edu/> and click the “Sign In” button in the top right corner to login to your account
 2. click that same corner, which should now show your Kent State username, and select “profile” from the menu
 3. Click “Invoices” on the left side of your screen, and then click “Pay” next to your unpaid Invoices

Extended Care Rates:

- Before Care: \$30
- After Care: \$40
- Before and After Care Bundle: \$55

PAYMENT DEADLINES AND REFUNDS

Camp fees are due in full by 5:00 PM on the Thursday prior to that camp week. (i.e. The full payment for week 3 is due on Thursday of week 2.) An additional \$10 late fee may be added to the remaining balance if payment is not made by this deadline.

Camp fees are fully refundable up until 12 p.m. (noon) on the Wednesday prior to the camp week. If a refund is requested after this time, but before 5:00 PM on Thursday, \$50 out of your registration cost will not be refunded, but the remaining balance will be. (i.e. If you paid the full \$200, you would receive \$150 back; If you paid the \$50 down payment, you would get no money back.)

Camp Disciplinary Action and Policies

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Campers will be given multiple chances and opportunities to exude appropriate behavior, but if instructions are not followed on repeated offenses, or a camper displays blatant disrespect towards the counselors or another camp member, they will be excluded from camp activities. We reserve the right to withhold campers from activities in order communicate an understanding of respect, and portray proper behavior at our camp. Parents/Guardians will be made aware of any disciplinary action which is required at the conclusion of the camp day.

For more severe behavior, additional warning may be given to the parents/guardians that the portrayed behavior must be resolved in order for the camper to continue their attendance at PEAK.

We reserve the right to withhold a camper from any and all activities, and/or exclude or remove them from camp for portraying behaviors which are, but are not limited to: disrespectful, crude, explicit, harmful, dangerous, inappropriate, or vulgar in nature.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

If a camper will be unable to attend camp due to sickness, or any other sudden reason, the parents/guardians should contact the camp director as soon as they are aware that the camper will miss time at camp. If proper notice is made, the camp director reserves the right to make pricing accommodations if necessary to accommodate a camper who will miss part of or an entire camp week.

In the event that a camper will miss one or two days of camp, notice does not need to be made to the camp director, but it is preferred if possible.

If a camper fails to attend PEAK for 3 consecutive days without notice, they may be removed from the camp, and lose their spot in any future camp weeks at the discretion of the camp director.