

Summer Quests 

Parent Handbook

Summer 2024

summerquests.com



Who is SQDC?

Empowering young people to find their voice and feel confident, even when they are trying new things, is the backbone of the Summer Quests program.

Core Values

Our summer camp is built on these core values. We work to ensure every camper has a chance to express or learn about these values each week:

COURAGE

Display strength in the face of adversity and always try your best.

HONOR

Always do what is right. Respect yourself, others, & the Earth.

VISION

Trust your intuition. Value imagination & play.

Contact Us

Anytime (fastest reply)	joni@summerquests.com
During Camp Hours (8am - 5:30pm) & if it's an emergency	Call or Text Joni: 215-534-6494 Message on the Band app
After Camp Hours	Leave a message: 267-932-9926
If you can't reach anyone with the above	Call or Text Jess: 215-622-6248

Summer Quests (SQDC) is committed to camper safety, open communication, and transparency. Parents/Guardians are welcome to contact us any time they would like to check-in on their child or with questions and concerns of any kind.

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What to Bring Every Day

Campers should bring a backpack each day containing:

- Packed lunch marked with name
Nothing that needs refrigeration or heat ups
Pack an afternoon snack if your camper doesn't want what we provide
- Refillable water bottle marked with name
Not too large as the campers will carry them all day long
- Sunscreen marked with name
- Bug spray marked with name
- Wear closed toed, sturdy shoes
- Dress for the weather - camp goes on rain or shine
If rain is predicted, rain boots or hiking boots are highly encouraged. The area can be very wet/muddy. If rain boots are not available, please pack a change of shoes and socks. Knee socks are ideal so tall rain boots don't rub on the leg.
- And a separate bag for water play containing:
Bathing suit
Towel
Flip flops, water shoes, or other easy slip ons
Campers will walk from changing area on rocky path



Campers will spend the majority of the day outside and should dress accordingly.

Our program is active and action-packed, so we request nothing should be worn or brought to camp that cannot get dirty.

Cell phones must stay in the backpack



Toys

Games

Electronics

Weapons

Costumes

GPS Tracking Devices

Anything that cannot get lost or dirty!

Cell Phone Policy

All campers & CITs are required to keep their cell phones in their backpack while at camp. We reserve the right, after a warning, to hold onto any devices for the remainder of the day if a camper is using it at an inappropriate time.

Camp Address

[Camp Delmont](#), Nelson Training Center (part of the Musser Scout Reservation)
5505 Upper Ridge Rd, Pennsburg, PA 18073

Please see the [property update on our website](#) for more information about the location for summer 2024 & 2025.

Camp Hours & Extended Care

Camp runs from 9am - 4pm, Monday through Friday.

Late Pick Up

Campers must be picked up by 4:10 pm every day. Any camper still on site - who is not enrolled in extended care - will incur a \$1 late fee for each minute past 4:10 pm, automatically charged the following day to the credit card on file. If you are going to be late, please let us know as soon as you can.

Extended Care

Early drop off and late pick up is available every day. Let us know if you need to add this to your session.

Drop off as early as 8am for \$20 per week

Pick up as late as 5:30pm for \$30 per week

Missing Camp

Please let us know if your camper will miss a day of camp.



Please note: Due to our quest-driven program, the activities scheduled each day build on the storyline, culminating on Friday. We don't mind if you miss a day, but our campers sure do!

Drop Off & Pick Up

When you arrive at camp, please follow the signs to drive all the way to the parking lot at the Nelson Training Center.

Please utilize the drive-through lane to drop off and pick up whenever possible.

Drop Off **8:50 - 9am each day**

A counselor will open the door and assist the camper out of the vehicle, ensuring they have all bags and items.

On Monday you will be given a pick up sign with your campers name on it. Show this every afternoon to expedite pick up.

Pick Up 4 - 4:10pm

Pull up to the first counselor, hold your sign up in the window, we will call for your camper, then pull up to the second counselor.

We will open the door and help your camper into their seat. If they need help buckling, please pull forward and to the side so we can keep the line moving.

If you do not have your pick up sign, a photo ID is required.

If you arrive before 4pm, please stay in the pick-up lane until we are ready.

Daily Program & Activities

The week before your campers session, we will send information about the upcoming week via the Band app. Please note, that the schedule of activities can change at any time to ensure safety and enjoyment of all campers.

Preparing for Camp

In an effort to calm first-day-of-camp nerves, please share the information in this hand book, as well as the info that is sent before your session. Based on camper feedback, we will be expanding the information we share before your session over previous years to ensure everyone knows what to expect.

If your camper attended last year, be sure they know that not all activities will be the same!



Discuss with your camper:

- Daily schedule
- Items in their backpack
- Lunch & snack expectations
- Afternoon choice activities
- Items in their water play bag
- Applying sunscreen & bug spray
- How to make new friends
- Assure them that our Staff is here to help them if they need it

Set Expectations for Themed Activities

We love when campers have a passion for the themes we offer - we love them too! Sometimes campers are disappointed to learn that they will not fly on brooms to play Quidditch or won't meet a real, live Pokemon. We LOVE that our campers think this could be possible and HATE to have to break the news that we cannot bend the laws of nature and science.



At camp, we don't have real monsters, dragons or zombies and we can't fly with fairies or winged horses, but we can have loads of fun by imagining all those things!

Afternoon Camper Choice

Every day in the afternoon, campers will have two sessions of camper choice. Activity options will change daily, and could include, but is not limited to:

<i>Creative & craft projects</i>	<i>Water Play (slip & slide, water balloons, etc)</i>
<i>Gaga ball</i>	<i>Archery</i>
<i>Laser tag</i>	<i>Stick forts</i>
<i>Wiffle ball</i>	<i>Board games</i>
<i>Hiking</i>	<i>Spikeball</i>
<i>Chess</i>	<i>Perler beads</i>
<i>Turtle Time (reading, coloring, etc)</i>	<i>Lego</i>
<i>Marble run</i>	<i>and more!</i>

No need to send in items from home for this period, we have plenty of options for campers to choose from each day. Campers are welcome to request activities at drop off each day and we will take their requests into account whenever possible.

Camper Groups & Friend Requests

Campers are split into groups based on age. We strive for the groups to break out as ages 6-7, ages 8-9, and ages 10-12, but this is not always possible based on registrations. Campers will participate in all morning activities, lunch, and Quest in these groups.

Afternoon choice is just that - each camper chooses what they would like to participate in, so who your camper could be with changes daily (they are welcome to choose the same as a friend).

Campers can request to be in a group with a friend or sibling provided:

- they are the same age or within one year
- both campers request each other on their [Camper Info Form by May 15](#)

We are a small camp, with just 60 campers each week and we come together as a group most mornings for announcements, as well as the afternoons for pick up. Siblings and friends will see each other many times throughout the day.

Due to the logistics of staffing, group size, and scheduled activities, we may not be able to honor friend requests that are submitted after May 15. If your camper has a special situation, please reach out to discuss BEFORE the start of your camp session (Monday mornings are always hectic).



Band App - Reminders, Notifications, & Pictures

Parents/guardians, other family, and even campers are invited to download the [Band App and join SQDC](#). This app is free and private. It works on a computer or smartphone (be sure to turn on push notifications)

Public & Camper Health

Camper Info Form

All campers, CITs, and preschool campers must have a completed [Camper Info Form](#) on file by May 15. No child may attend camp without it.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to share any information that would allow staff to better care for your child. This could be something small like a poor nights sleep or fear about attending a new program; or something bigger like a custody issue or the loss of a family member.

Sometimes parents are hesitant to share information that could label their child in a negative way or they don't want to share private family business. We completely understand. Rest assured that this information will be kept in strict confidence, without judgement, and only be used to support your child.

We believe that simply “surviving” or “getting through” camp is not the experience we should accept for our campers or our staff. The better we know your child, the better experience they will have!

Parents/Guardians are required to notify us ASAP of any changes to your child's situation, medical, or mental health.

Illness

Campers and staff are asked not to attend camp if they are not feeling well, including any of the following symptoms:

<i>Fever or chills</i>	<i>Cough</i>	<i>Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</i>
<i>Fatigue</i>	<i>Headache</i>	<i>Muscle or body aches</i>
<i>Loss of taste/smell</i>	<i>Sore throat</i>	<i>Congestion/runny nose</i>
<i>Nausea/vomiting</i>	<i>Diarrhea</i>	

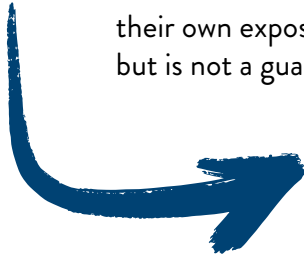
Immunizations

Campers must have the recommended immunizations for their age as per the CDC and PA Department of Education. In the event of a breakout of an infectious disease, any camper who does not have the recommended immunizations will be sent home for the remainder of the week without refund.

Sunscreen, Bug Spray, & Tick Checks

Each day, upon drop off, all campers will be instructed to apply sunscreen and bug spray. They will be asked to do so again after lunch. Please discuss your expectations around this with your camper.

When indicated, campers will be directed to do a self tick brush off and visual check of their own exposed skin & clothes. This method is useful to get rid of a tick before it bites, but is not a guarantee that a tick bite will be prevented.



Parents/Guardians are asked to do a thorough tick check at home each night.

Medications

If your camper needs medication administered at camp, please

- fill out a Camper Med Form with instructions and dosage
- provide the medication in a marked container on the first day of your session

This form will be used to track when they are given and will be returned with the medication bottle at the end of the week.

If your child takes medication daily to attend school, it is likely they will also need this medication to be successful at camp. If you choose to not medicate your child while at camp, please let us know.

Allergies/Asthma

Any camper with known allergies that could lead to severe allergic reaction must bring appropriate treatment to camp. Any camper with asthma must bring medication for treatment, even if the camper has not needed the treatment recently. Camp activities, location, heat, and dust can aggravate symptoms. Food allergies and dietary restrictions must be indicated on the Camper Info Form.

Separation Anxiety and/or Parents On Site

It is normal for campers to have separation anxiety when attending day camp. If you feel your camper may have trouble on the first day of camp, please contact the camp office BEFORE the first day so we can develop a plan for camper independence. We do not allow for non-employee adults to be on-site for extended periods of time, even if they have state and federal clearances. That said, we also prioritize transparency & communication with parents/guardians, so please contact us if you have questions, concerns, or would like to check on your camper.

We are parents too, we know it can be hard to drop them off. We also know how often kids rise to the occasion and feel proud of their independence.



GPS Tracking Devices

Campers and parents/guardians are required to notify camp staff at drop off if a camper is utilizing a GPS tracking device (watch, tile on shoe, etc). We reserve the right to remove any such device from your camper if it is not being used appropriately, including, but not limited to:

- playing games
- texting friends
- repeatedly calling home
- distracting other campers

Additionally, due to privacy considerations when custody agreements or other sensitive situations are in play for other campers & staff, we reserve the right deny the use of these devices or to remove such a device from your camper for the day.

Campers Unable to Participate

If your camper cannot participate in at least 80% of the scheduled group activities, be accommodated with a mutually beneficial solution, or is negatively impacting the success of the group, we will be in contact with the parents to work out a plan. If reasonable accommodations are made and the camper still cannot participate independently, we may have to ask for the camper to be picked up and/or not to return to camp, without a refund.

One on One & Additional Supports

If your child has supports at school it is likely they will need the same at camp. We are not staffed to provide this level of support and encourage you to secure assistance as needed. That said, we have had success with some campers who had support at school, but did well without that support at camp. *Please contact us to discuss your unique situation.*

Gender & Identity

We do not discuss gender and/or identity with the campers and our staff are trained to actively and respectfully redirect the conversation around sensitive topics, just as we would if they were discussing a scary movie, drinking, politics, etc.

Based on best practices and guidelines provided by the American Association of Pediatrics and the American Camping Association, staff will use whatever name and pronouns your child prefers. We do not notify parents/guardians if your child requests to be called a different name than what is on their registration form.

Information around gender and identity will only be discussed privately when initiated by you or your camper, or if your camper shows some outward indication (like wearing a button). Ideally these details would be included on the Camper Info Form so your child can be greeted by their preferred name.

If you and your camper have any disagreements around this issue, please let us know so we can respect your wishes and support your camper.

Sensitive Topics & Offensive Language

Our campers come to camp with varying life experiences, just as students do at school. During the course of normal activities, campers may hear, say, or discuss topics that could be considered sensitive or controversial. Typically, these topics are brought up in a very casual manner, such as an off-hand comment or sarcastic remark and a simple reminder is enough to stop the conversation.

We train our staff to actively and respectfully redirect the conversation away from these topics, including anything not age appropriate (eg. scary movies, drinking). Staff never express their personal opinion or thoughts on the topic, they are trained to:

- tell the camper/group that we are not going to talk about that at camp
- redirect the conversation
- clearly state that we will discuss it later and follow up in private

We strive to always promote personal responsibility and respect for others and our staff will utilize our behavior management policies as needed.

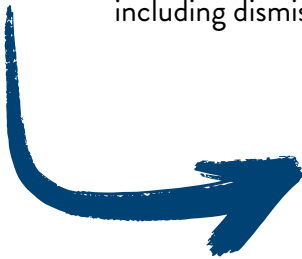
Behavior Expectations & Management

At SQDC we expect all campers & staff to behave in a manner that is respectful, responsible, and safe. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment. Any behavior that is contrary to our inclusion and behavior policies will not be tolerated.

Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- physical violence
- hostile verbal communication
- inappropriate language
- discussion of inappropriate topics
- refusal to follow safety rules

SQDC has a zero tolerance for harassment behaviors, as well as violent acts, and will not tolerate any type of this behavior involving campers or staff. Harassment or bullying behaviors will be handled immediately with disciplinary actions up to and potentially including dismissal from camp without a refund.



If your child has a quick temper when frustrated or angry, please share the strategies you use at home with staff so we can employ the same.

Behavior Management Policy

SQDC advocates a positive guidance and discipline policy with an emphasis on positive reinforcement, redirection, prevention, and the development of self-discipline. We will make every effort to work with the camper and family to support positive behaviors.

Minor Occurrences:

- Verbal warning with clear explanation of the unwanted behavior, the expected behavior, and how to make amends
- For repeated behavior, verbal reminder of the consequences for further repeats
- Staff assessment of the issue, mitigating any possible source of the behavior

Usually these steps are all that are needed!

1st Major Occurrence or Repeated Minor Occurrences:

- Removal from the group for a short time
- Verbal warning with clear explanation of the unwanted behavior, the expected behavior, and how to make amends
- Parent/Guardian will be notified at pick-up
- Staff assessment of the issue, along with the camp directors, mitigating any possible source of the behavior

2nd Major Occurrence:

- Removal from the group for an extended time and/or revocation of privileges
- Verbal warning with clear explanation of the unwanted behavior, the expected behavior, how to make amends, and the consequence of possible expulsion
- Parent/Guardian will be notified at pick up, via email, and/or phone
- Camp director assessment of the issue, with the help of parents, mitigating any possible source of the behavior and the creating consensus around next steps

3rd Major Occurrence:

- Removal from the group until a parent/guardian can arrive to pick up
- At the camp directors discretion, camper may be withdrawn from the program, without refund, and will not be able to return.

Accidents and Emergencies

SQDC staff are encouraged to utilize their training during emergency situations, make educated/common sense decisions, support each other, and contact additional support when needed.

In general, staff are instructed to handle emergencies in this order, using their best judgment as to which steps are required in any particular situation:

1. Ensure the safety of the group
2. Ensure the safety of the individual
3. Contact 911
4. Contact camp directors and other staff

Minor Medical Incident

In the event of a non-serious injury, first aid will be administered and a parent or guardian will be notified at pick up. This includes a scraped knee, paper cut, bee sting, etc. If you would like the incident to be documented with an Incident Report, please don't hesitate to request one.

Major Medical Incident

In the event of a serious medical emergency, staff will call 911 and contact the parent/guardian and/or emergency contacts provided on the Camper Info Form. An Incident Report will be filled out by staff and provided to parents.

Inclement & Severe Weather

Camp continues through light to moderate rain without lightening. Campers are encouraged to wear ponchoes, raincoats, and boots, but we will not force them. Please discuss your expectations with your camper.

Visible lightning necessitates all campers and staff to take shelter in the large pavilion or other large building and make contact with camp directors to advise of status and location. Staff will alter the scheduled program and make accommodations as needed to ensure camper safety.

Parents/guardians will be notified via Band app, email, and/or text message with additional instructions if needed (altered pick up time or procedure, camp evacuation, etc).

Intruder

Staff will determine the threat level of any unknown person before acting.

If the person poses no immediate threat, Staff will approach the person to find out who they are, contacting the camp directors and/or the Ranger if needed.

If the intruder is an immediate threat, staff are instructed to do whatever is necessary to secure the safety of the group, then contact 911, the camp directors, and other staff.

As soon as it is safe to do so, parents/guardians will be notified via Band app, email and/or text message with additional instructions if needed (altered pick up time or procedure, camp evacuation, etc).

Lost Camper

SQDC uses child care best practices at all times to ensure camper safety:

- All campers must use the buddy system when they travel away from the main group (bathroom run, gather supplies, etc) unless staff determine an exception is warranted (typically only for older campers).
- When walking as a group, a CIT or staff member should be at the front of the group and another should be the last person at the back of the group
- Staff will carry a roster of campers in the current session
- Campers will be instructed to stay where they are in the event they are separated from the group - we will find them.
- If a camper is not able to be located for more than 5 min, staff is instructed to contact camp directors and other staff immediately.



The area of camp that we utilize is a smaller footprint than all of Camp Delmont and typically campers are within reasonable earshot of the main building unless they are hiking as a group.

Cancellations & Refunds

SQDC offers no risk registration through May 1.
Cancel for any reason before May 1 and receive a full refund.

Cancel after May 1:

- If we can fill your spot, get a full refund less deposit
- May 2 - June 1, get a 50% refund less deposit
- After June 2, no refunds are given

Changes may be made to these policies without notice. This document can be requested at any time by contacting the camp directors or via our website at summerquests.com.

Summer Quests



for every adventure!

summerquests.com