

PARENT HANDBOOK

2025



Dear SSDC Family,

Welcome to Southampton Summer Day Camp! We are so excited to be celebrating our 52nd season in the sun! Soon, our campers will be enjoying an unparalleled array of experiences at SSDC; their Home Away from Home. Here, each and every day, your children will be provided a world of infinite opportunities to explore, learn, create, grow, and blossom into confident and happy individuals.

As parents, you may have questions. Our website provides the answers. Check out www.southamptondaycamp.com or hampyowl.com. In addition, we have put together this handbook to help. Please take some time to go over everything.

Should you have any additional inquiries or concerns, please feel free to contact us. The camp office phone number is: 215-355-4567 and you can email Lindsay@southamptondaycamp.com with any personal questions/needs. Please communicate with us! We are always happy to hear from you.

It is our sincere desire to make each summer season for your family a pleasant experience. We want to know during the camp season if you have a concern or issue so that we can work towards addressing and solving it during the summer. We are all working towards the same goal, which is to provide a safe, happy, positive environment for everyone summer after summer.

We look forward to a glorious summer...sharing timeless traditions, forging forever friendships, and making precious memories together! We welcome YOUR family as a part of our SSDC family! Get ready to experience the magic of a lifetime!

Warmly,
Rick, Jacque and Lindsay Blum
Owners/Executive Directors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Key Info</u>	4
<u>Parents Need to Know List A-Z</u>	5
<u>Transportation</u>	10
<u>Security</u>	13
<u>Policies</u>	14
<u>Swim</u>	16
<u>Food Service</u>	16
<u>Health Care</u>	17
<u>Activities</u>	17
<u>Activity Areas at Camp</u>	18
<u>Preparing Your Child For Camp!</u>	20

SOUTHAMPTON SUMMER DAY CAMP

KEY CONTACT INFO

Camp office hours 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Please call us with any timely needs, as email is not checked during the camp day.

Phone: 215-355-4567

Website: www.hampyowl.com (or www.southamptondaycamp.com)

Parent Portal: Access southamptondaycamp.campbrainregistration.com for enrollment status, registration, paperwork, health forms, payments, and account statements. (Tax ID Number: 23-1907-692)

Social Media: [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)

Daily Camp Photos: Bunk1.com Click "New Here? Get Started" Enter Invitation Code: **SSDC2025**

Office Email: office@southamptondaycamp.com

Transportation Email: Transportation@southamptondaycamp.com

Executive Director Email: Lindsay@southamptondaycamp.com.

SOUTHAMPTON SUMMER DAY CAMP 2025

Monday, JUNE 23– Friday, AUGUST 15, 2025

CAMP CLOSED ON Friday, JULY 4th

Our full camp day runs from 9:00 AM to 3:45 PM. Scheduled activities start at 9:20 AM and conclude at 3:15 PM. Parking Lot Dismissal is at 3:45 PM. Mini Day is from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

	Parent Pickup	Buses	Extended Care
Arrival	Drop off between 8:30 AM and 9:05 AM	Pick up campers between 7:50 AM and 8:50 AM.	Drop off starts at 7:00 AM
Dismissal	Pick up between 4:05 and 4:20 PM. Parent vehicles will not be allowed to enter the parking lot until 4:05 PM, after all buses and staff vehicles depart. For safety, NO LEFT TURNS can be made into our parking lot during camp hours.	Begins at 3:45 PM. Campers typically arrive home between 4:00 and 5:00 PM.	Pick up between 4:05 PM and 5:30 PM

The SSDC Parking Lot will be closed to car traffic every day from 3-4 PM. This allows our buses to pull into the parking lot and be ready for campers to load safely. If you need to pick your child up early, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE BEFORE 12PM THE DAY OF THE REQUEST. THANK YOU!

PARENT NEED TO KNOW LIST

A TO Z

ACA ACCREDITATION

SSDC is a proud member of the American Camping Association, holding camp to the highest standards in safety, programming, staffing, facilities, and security in camping.

ALLERGIES

Our Health Team is always available to answer questions. If you would like to speak with our Nurse or Head of Camper Care/Dining Room Supervisor, please call the office. We are certainly sensitive to those with allergies and we pledge to do our utmost best in keeping everyone safe and educated about our campers' issues. **Please be sure to clearly state any allergies on your medical forms and your Camper Profile Forms.** Southampton is **NOT** a peanut free or any other food free environment. We are unable to guarantee avoidance of cross-contact with regard to nuts. You and your camper should always ask questions about unfamiliar food.

Allergies in Hampy's Kitchen: Parents of campers who have **food allergies** who wish to participate in Hampy's Kitchen (cooking) may be required to sign a permission slip to participate. If a parent feels that it is in the best interest of their camper to not participate, an alternate activity will be arranged by our Program Supervisor. Parents can opt in to receive the ingredient list each week via email, prior to the activity, in order to determine if a camper can/cannot participate or if you would like to send in an alternative ingredient for your child to use.

BUNKS

We call our groups "Bunks!" Every camper will be assigned to a bunk for the summer. Typically, our bunks are assigned by current grade going into the summer. Campers will stay with their bunks throughout the day (with the exception of club period). Each bunk will have an assigned Bunkhouse to store camp bags and change during the day.

BUNK COUNSELORS

Each bunk will be supervised by one of our skilled Senior Counselors. These are teachers, coaches, parents, former campers, and college student with training and/or experience with children. Your Senior Counselor will oversee your camper's SSDC day-to-day experience. The Senior Counselor of each bunk will work closely with a team of co-counselors ranging in experience and age.

Senior Counselors will contact parents prior to the start of camp to introduce themselves. Please discuss any concerns about your camper with the Senior Counselor at this time. **During the summer, if you wish to speak with your child's Senior Counselor, please call the office with your request.** Senior Counselors will NOT be able to communicate with you during the camp day via their personal cell phone. We need our Counselors to be focused on the campers during the day. We will ask the counselor to call you in the evening. We ask that when you do talk with the counselor that you respect their family time after camp as well.

COMMUNICATION WITH CAMP

If you need anything at all, your first call should be to camp! During the season the camp office is open from 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Monday through Friday. If you call after hours, please leave a message. A call will be returned the next morning.

All changes in transportation should be communicated via a note to the office and/or a phone call to the office. The office will call to confirm these changes. Transportation communication from camp will be sent via emails, papers, and timely SMS communications if needed.

CLOTHING

All clothing and personal equipment must be clearly labeled with the camper's full name. Campers should wear comfortable clothing. Sneakers must be worn for all camp activities. **If your camper cannot tie their own shoelaces, it would be helpful for them to wear Velcro sneakers to camp.** Sandals/flip flops are **not** to be worn for any activity except to and from the pool for safety. We have a better chance of returning lost items if they are properly marked. **We ask that all campers wear their bathing suit to camp under their clothes.**

Clothing and items for DAILY camp bag

- 1 bathing suit (camper will use two each day. One will be worn to camp and one will be packed in bag)
- 1 pair underwear
- Water Bottle

NEW FOR 2025... SSDC will provide fresh towels at the pool for all campers and staff! No need to pack towels for your camper. If they wish to bring a special towel, of course, they may!

Extra clothing and items for KEEP AT CAMP bag

- underwear
- socks
- shirt
- shorts
- pants
- jacket or sweatshirt
- rain jacket or poncho
- pool shoes
- Sunscreen (no sprays)
- goggles (optional)
- towel (optional)

No aerosol sprays of any kind at camp! This includes deodorants, perfume, bug spray, and sunscreen. Please remember, camp is for fun! Your child will be running, jumping, sliding, hiking, eating, riding, working with various art media and changing clothes! Please do not send expensive clothing to camp, and label everything.

CLUBS

Clubs are a period where campers get to choose a favorite activity and participate in something they enjoy while interacting with other campers that share their interest. When club forms are available, please complete them ASAP. Club choices will vary according to the age of campers.

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES

Please be sure to discuss any concerns with your child's Senior Counselor when the counselor calls your family before camp. Please discuss extraordinary medical, social, emotional or behavioral issues directly with Lindsay Blum before camp begins. Camp may share confidential information with your camper's adult staff if deemed important in the care of your child.

COLOR GAMES

Color Games (or Color Wars as it's called at other camps) is a time-honored camp tradition. Spirit, camaraderie and tradition are at the forefront, as the gold and brown teams compete in fun activities throughout the week. To the parents of our little campers: We try not to make it too scary, but like all great stories, there is usually a "villain" (played by our silly, dramatic camp staff) that the camp must rally together to defeat. We do have a wide range of imaginations and we try our best to make sure all campers understand this is just make believe! At the end of the week, there will be a winner and a loser, but we always remember "It Just Doesn't Matter" and we're all friends!

DIVISIONS

The camp is divided into three divisions based on age/grade.

Junior Camp: Coming out of their Pre-K through 1st Grade years at school

Senior Camp: Coming out of their 2nd-3rd Grade years at school

Varsity Camp: Coming out of their 4th – 6th Grade years at school.

CIT/LITs: Coming out of their 7-8th Grade years at school.

Each Division is led by a seasoned supervisor and shares line up, clubs, and league periods.

FOOD & SPECIAL TREATS

If you wish to send in a special treat, please call the camp office to let us know. It can be stored in our camp kitchen. Please label it with a name and bunk number, along with ALL ingredients. There is no gum allowed at camp.

HAMPY, HONEY & LITTLE HOOT

Our beloved mascots! Hampy, Honey, & Little Hoot are the most adorable, "real," life sized owl family you will ever meet. We celebrate Hampy's birthday every summer and they are the heart and soul of our camp spirit!!

MEDICAL FORMS

Every camper must have an up-to-date signed physician form with immunization record prior to the start of camp. Your camper's physician must complete this form within 12 months of the camp start date. If your child has had an examination within the past year, your doctor may fill it out for you without a visit. Your child needs his or her medical information to be on file in the nurse's office.

Every camper also needs a completed Camper Health History Form, which can be filled out by a parent/guardian online via parent portal. This form is required to administer medicine and treat your camper.

In case of an emergency, we always try to contact the parent first. Please keep all of your contact phone numbers current. Please complete all forms by May 1st to give our Nurse time to review the forms. The Camp Nurse will call to clarify health issues if necessary. Any camper who goes out of camp for any trips, **MUST** have a completed medical form in the camp office prior to the trip to participate.

MEDICATIONS

The only person at camp who is permitted to dispense any medication whatsoever, prescription or non-prescription, is the camp nurse or a qualified person designated by the camp! This system assures that the exact time and dosage will be given. If your child needs medication dispensed anytime during their camp day, all medications must be kept in camp until the medication is no longer required. *No medication will be sent back and forth from camp to home.* If you need medication at home, discuss with your pharmacist about "halving" the medication. Any medication sent to camp must be in the original pharmacy container, be labeled, and have complete directions and a full name. Medications or any correspondence should be sent directly to the office via your child's bus supervisor or handed to a staff member at parent drop off to ensure proper and timely delivery of medicines and notes! ***Please do not place any such items in your camper's bag.***

All medications must be included in the Camper Health History Form. If a camper needs to be given medication or if you want your child to be given acetaminophen as needed or any other medicine as needed, you must include this in the Health History Form online.

MEDICATIONS FOR THE FIRST DAY

If your camper needs to be given personal medication on the first day of camp, please arrange to bring the medication to the camp office before the first day of camp. Call us at the camp office to let us know when you plan to drop off medicines.

If you need to speak to a Camp Nurse about your child's medication or medical procedures for the first day of camp, please contact camp at least one week prior to the first day of camp. This will allow time for our Camp Nurse to discuss your concern prior to the start of camp.

JEWELRY

Please do not allow your child to wear jewelry to camp. This includes rings, watches, earrings and necklaces. *Campers wearing hoop earrings or necklaces especially for gymnastics, will be asked to remove them for the activity; earrings will be taped.* The potential for lost items is great.

JUNIOR CAMP MEET & GREET

Our littlest owls in JUNIOR CAMP ONLY will be invited to meet their Senior Counselor on a specific day and time. If you would like to stop in at camp before the first day, your counselor will not be here, but please call the camp office to let us know when you would like to visit and walk around on a self-guided tour.

NEW/RETURNING CAMPER TOURS

We generally assume that new campers who are in Senior or Varsity Camp have visited camp on a personal tour prior to registration. If a camp family wishes to visit camp before the first day, just call us at the camp office to arrange a convenient time to check out camp on a self-guided tour and say hello. We do usually offer group tours for new families at least once prior to the summer!

OFFICIAL CAMP TEE SHIRT

The custom designed camp tee shirt is a gift to all campers. Shirts will be distributed on the first day of camp.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please do not allow your camper to bring expensive or sentimental belongings or equipment to camp. This includes expensive tennis racquets, baseball bats, gloves, hockey sticks, iPads, cell phones*, card collections, etc. Children lose things, items can break or become damaged. Let's keep camp stress free. If you choose to still bring these items to camp, make sure a name is clearly written on the item and be aware of the great potential for damage or loss. *Camp cannot be responsible for items like these brought to camp.*

***REGARDING CELL PHONES**

Cell phones and other mobile devices are not permitted for use during the camp day. It is camp's STRONG preference that cell phones not be brought to camp. If you, as the parent, feel that your camper must have a cell phone for emergency use only, please discuss with your camper the storing of such items at camp. Parents, by law, are responsible for their children's cell phone use if they use a cell phone to take unwanted, questionable or inappropriate pictures of other people. It is a problem when uninvited pictures are taken and such pictures are distributed to other phones or Internet sites. Parents are ultimately responsible for their child's conduct. Camp cannot be responsible for cell phones or their use, or other electronic devices brought to camp. If a camper is seen using a cell phone during the camp day for any reason including but not limited to calling, texting, taking photos, watching videos etc. the device will be confiscated and stored at the office until dismissal.

SSDC SPIRIT DAY EVERY WEDNESDAY

Every Wednesday is a day to wear any Southampton Day Camp shirt to show your spirit! It is for fun and pride. Of course, camp shirts can be worn any other day as well! (It would make Hampy's famous smile even bigger!) Camp also has spirit days when we do silly things such as Backwards Day, Crazy Sock Day, Wear your Pajamas to camp for "Breakfast For Lunch Day", etc. We hope everyone will join in being silly for a day! These days will be listed on the camp calendar and menu.

SPIRIT STORE

You can order SSDC camp gear anytime by visiting our online Camp Spirit Store (link on website)! All printing and shipping is managed by our partners at Destination Athlete. We do have Brown & Gold Spirit shirts for sale in the office throughout the summer as well. Just call the office if you'd like to purchase!

PICTURE DAY & PHOTOS

Camp has an official camp photographer, and photos are loaded onto the Bunk1 platform so parents, campers & counselors can enjoy them. There is an invitation code required to view the photos on the platform: **SSDC2025..** Parents/Guardians must provide photo consent for their campers to appear in these photos.

Every summer, we have Camp Picture Days! Our goal is to include each Camper in the bunk photo – and we do our best to find opportunities to make up photos for campers who are not present during Picture Day; however, it is not always possible. Families can order Camp Photos, Bunk Pictures and Sibling Pictures through our partner, JC Campoli. Directions are provided in early summer.

SECURITY

SSDC takes every precaution to keep our camp community safe and secure. Our front gate is closed outside of pick up/drop off times. We work with local authorities on emergency protocols and policies to ensure we are up-to-date with the latest recommendations for safety. All staff must wear ID badges at all times. Our senior staff uses 2-way radio systems, allowing us to communicate across the entire camp within seconds. In 2025, we will continue to have an armed security guard on the grounds during the camp day.

SOCIAL MEDIA (CAMP'S CHANNELS)

SSDC has a dedicated Social Director who captures and creates amazing content for our community. We mostly utilize Instagram and Facebook to share daily photos, videos and fun updates/reminders. We urge everyone to join our social community; however, all important communication will come through email, papers sent home, phone calls, and/or SMS text. Our Camp social media channels are public. We do post a lot during the summer, especially on "stories." In order for campers to be featured on our social media channels, parents must provide photo consent.

VISITING WEEK

During the camp season we have a designated Parent Visitation Week for parents/caregivers/grandparents/siblings to come see your child in action at SSDC! Due to our limited parking and jam-packed schedule, each family will be assigned a day and time to visit. If you cannot attend during your assigned day/time, just call the office and we will happily switch you to another day that week! We ask that each family only bring one car, you will receive a parking pass during the summer for a particular day. During visiting week, visitors are invited to observe activities in the morning, up until lunch time! Our catering team prepares a special boxed lunch to-go for all visitors on your way out!

Visiting Week is always exciting for kids, but it can also be overwhelming. We ask that you try your best to observe your child and do not pull them away from their bunk activities. Counselors will say hello to all Visitors, but they will not be able to have lengthy conversations as their focus must stay on the campers. Thank you for understanding!

Outside of Visiting Week, any special visitors on the camp property are required to sign in / out of the office and wear visitor badges while on the campgrounds.

TRANSPORTATION AT SSDC

Any transportation questions should be directed to transportation@southamptondaycamp.com or by calling the office at 215-355-4567.

We ask that all families select transportation carefully, based on what works best for you on a consistent basis. All of our transportation options are offered as AM/PM trans. As a Day Camp, we take on the responsibility of ensuring campers get to/from camp each day safely. In order to make this happen in a safe and efficient manner each morning and afternoon, we need strong partnership and communication from our parental community. We have provided several options for parents/guardians in order to accommodate various needs and schedules. We ask that for the 8, 6 or 4 weeks your camper(s) are at SSDC that you remain as consistent as possible with your transportation selection in both the AM and PM. Of course, we understand there will always be exceptions and emergencies and we will always do whatever we can to accommodate our families; we just ask that you kindly follow our Transportation protocol as often as possible.

OPTION 1: CAMP PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION

Our Policy

SSDC proudly offers daily door-to-door transportation to and from camp that is included as part of tuition. Some areas may not be serviceable due to multiple factors such as distance, traffic patterns, available vehicles etc. In these cases, camp will notify you at the earliest possible time. We may ask that you meet the bus at a convenient location.

All campers are picked up and returned to the same address each day in the same scheduled vehicle. Any request for deviation from this policy may result in additional costs and is not guaranteed. Please understand we cannot accommodate every request for dual transportation situations. Moving to a new address during the summer resulting in a transportation change may or may not be possible. Please alert camp if this will occur as soon as possible.

Vehicles

Choice of transportation vehicles for all campers is made by the Directors based on the best interests of all campers. In 2025, all of our Camp Transportation vehicles will be air-conditioned school buses and school bus vans. Buses and Transit Vans are driven by Commercial Drivers Licensed (CDL) drivers. Routes are designed with detailed scrutiny to provide the best possible experience for all campers.

Star seats (5 point harness seat belts) are available by request. All vehicles are fully licensed and insured. Based on PA State regulations, some younger children may be required to wear a star seat.

No food or drink (besides water) is allowed on camp vehicles.

Bus Counselors

In addition, SSDC provides a Bus Counselor on all buses. The role of the Bus Counselor is to take attendance and provide leadership and assistance to ensure the comfort and safety of all campers.

In the event of a delay or vehicle issues, the Bus Counselor will communicate immediately with the camp office and parents will be notified of the situation and delay.

Before camp begins, in early June, you will be contacted by your Bus Counselor to inform you of your child's ESTIMATED pick-up and drop-off times.

We ask that parents educate their campers on the importance of vehicle etiquette: courteous and safe behavior at all times. Bus Counselors may assign seats as needed to ensure the safety of all campers. No food or drink on camp vehicles, besides water.

Emergency Plan

Parents of campers who choose Camp-Provided Transportation are required to complete an EMERGENCY PLAN FORM. This form is given to parents by the Bus Supervisor on the first day of camp. It is to be completed and returned directly to the Bus Supervisor.

Drivers will not drop off any camper without being sure that a parent or caregiver is present and the camper is safe. If a parent is delayed, the Emergency Plan will provide the Bus Supervisor and Driver with an alternative/emergency drop-off location. In this event, camp will communicate with the parent. The Emergency Drop-Off Location must be close to the camper's home. As a last resort, a camper will ride to the end of the route and then be brought back home again. If no one is at home, the camper will be brought back to camp for pick-up by the parent.

For more detailed information regarding our approach to Camp Transportation, please see our full 2025 Transportation Policies here: [2025 TRANSPORTATION POLICIES](#)

OPTION 2: PARENT TRANSPORTATION

This provides you, the parent/caregiver, with the option of dropping off and picking up your child at camp every day. If you choose this option, you will receive a transportation rebate.

Our morning and afternoon parking lot routine is like finely-tuned choreography. We appreciate everyone's cooperation to ensure that this safe system runs like clockwork. DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS will be provided prior to the first day of camp. Some key points:

- Campers must be dropped off at camp between 8:30 AM and 9:05 AM.
- Campers must be picked up between 4:05 PM and 4:20 PM.
- Parents must remain in their vehicles while trained SSDC staff members assist campers from/to their cars with their belongings.
- For safety: Campers will exit from the right side of the vehicle in the morning and enter through the left side of the vehicle in the afternoon.
- Campers' bags are to be IN the vehicle with the camper and not in a trunk area.
- Cars will not be permitted into the lot before 4:05 PM
- For everyone's safety, NO LEFT TURNS are permitted to be made into our parking lot during the camp day.

OPTION 3: EXTENDED CARE

- Before Care: Before Care begins at 7:00 AM to accommodate early drop-offs.
- After Care: After Care concludes at 5:30 PM to provide extended supervision for campers.

Before and after camp care is provided at an additional charge to accommodate families' scheduling needs. Extended Care is a supervised program designed with the hours in mind and led by a mature and qualified Extended Care staff. Campers have the choice of various activities in intimate group settings and are given multiple options based on weather and personal preferences (ie. indoor/outdoor, quiet/active, sporty/creative, etc.).

- Snack is provided
- Space is limited
- Pre-Registration is required
- Pricing is dependent upon hours selected
- We try to make Extended Care as special as the camp day... which is why so many Afternoon Extended Care campers beg their parents to stay "just a little bit longer!"

IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION POLICIES REGARDING LAST MINUTE CHANGE REQUESTS:

Please understand that last minute requests to switch Campers from Camp Transportation (Bus) to Parent Transportation in the PM can slow down our dismissal process for all campers. In order to accommodate all requests, keep all of our campers safe, and have an efficient/on -time dismissal every day, we ask that you please follow our protocol. Below are the options we can provide in order to give parents flexibility without compromising our daily transportation safety or efficiency.

Please see the following 2025 Transportation Policy updates:

- Please call the office by 12:00 PM on the day of the change request, and/or hand a note to your Bus Supervisor or Camp Staff at drop off requesting any changes. A camper will go home on their normal camp transportation if a note is not received or a phone conversation has not been had with our Transportation Supervisor.
- If your child is assigned to Camp Transportation and you need to pick up from camp, it is the parent's responsibility to pick the camper up BEFORE 3:00 PM or from 4:05-4:20 PM. You will be asked to park and sign your child out. You may also utilize Extended Care until 5:30pm if needed (with a drop in fee of \$10/day).
- All families are welcome to drop their campers off on any given day between 8:30 AM - 9:05 AM in the morning car line. If you are assigned to CAMP TRANSPORTATION and decide to drive your camper on any given day, please call your Bus Counselor and the Camp Office as early as possible to let us know if you do not need Camp Transportation on a particular morning.
- If you would like your child to go home with another camper, please do not assume that CAMP TRANSPORTATION is available, please call the camp office BEFORE arranging your plans. We MUST have a signed and dated permission note from BOTH families involved. We will confirm if requests are possible with a phone call. This is for everyone's safety.
- Please understand the campers who are not assigned to CAMP TRANSPORTATION are not permitted to take CAMP TRANSPORTATION to/from camp. No exceptions will be made.
- Please understand that campers who are assigned to CAMP TRANSPORTATION must be signed out by a parent/guardian/authorized adult if they are not taking CAMP TRANSPORTATION in the PM, this is for the safety of all campers.

SECURITY

- Our #1 priority at SSDC is to keep our campers and staff safe.
- As an Accredited member of the American Camping Association (ACA), SSDC maintains over 300 standards and established guidelines for policies, procedures, and practices with a focus on health, safety, staff training, and risk management.
- Emergency preparedness at camp is foundational to ensuring the safety and well-being of campers and staff during unexpected events. Over our 50 years, we have always collaborated closely with local authorities, our risk management consultants, and other experts to identify and implement health & safety protocols as well as emergency plans.
- We employ numerous safety protocols, some of which include nationwide background checks for all employees, annual hands-on staff training & certification sessions, structured check-in/check-out procedures for campers, ID badges for all employees, a closed-gate policy during the day, a 2-way radio communication system, and designated visiting times for each family.
- Starting in 2024, we added an additional security measure; a licensed and armed professional security guard who will be present at camp each day throughout the summer. This decision, made with careful consideration, aims to enhance our ability to monitor the camp's premises and response capabilities, offering an additional layer of protection and peace of mind for our families. We believe it is our responsibility to take this preventative measure in the times we are living in.
- We will also be conducting an emergency drill during the first two weeks of camp to enhance our collective preparedness in the event of an emergency (fire, severe weather, intruder, etc.). Our staff has been trained on this exercise and will be ready to guide campers in a calm, composed manner. This opportunity to practice safety will be in line with what our campers and teacher staff members practice during the school year. Prior to the drill, we will communicate with all campers and families to ensure everyone is informed and prepared.

The Gate

- Around 9:25 AM, after morning camp traffic, the gate is closed, and visitors are greeted by Dave, a valued member of the SSDC family.
- Visitors must identify themselves and their purpose, and Dave communicates this information to the office.
- Cleared visitors must park, report to the camp office, sign in, and wear a camp visitor badge if going onto campgrounds.
- The gate remains closed until dismissal, ensuring privacy, safety, and well-being for all at camp.

Late Arrival

- If your child arrives late (after 9:15AM), Dave will assist you upon entry to park and sign your children in.
- A staff member will escort the child to their bunk house and scheduled activity.

Early Dismissal

- All early dismissals must be before 3:00PM or after 4:05 PM.
- All early dismissals must be arranged through the camp office without exceptions (please do not contact the bunk counselor during the camp day).
- If you would like your child to be ready at a specific time, please call the office in the morning and/or send in a signed/dated note including the camper's name, bunk number, pickup time, date, and pick-up person's name.
- If a note is not possible, a phone call is acceptable - please call before 12:00 PM if possible!
- If we do not have prior notice to your child being picked up early, please understand that we will communicate with the Counselor at the time of your arrival and you may have to wait for 10-15 minutes for your child to be escorted to pack their belongings and meet you at the office.
- Parents must sign out their child, and if the office staff is unsure of their identity, they will be asked to show ID. If someone other than the parent is picking up, they must bring and show ID.
- We understand that emergencies do pop up – we will always do our best to accommodate your needs in these situations.

IMPORTANT CAMP POLICIES

Please review these and discuss with your camper prior to the camp season.

Non-Bullying Policy

SSDC is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment where all campers, staff, and visitors are treated with respect and dignity. Bullying of any form will not be tolerated within our camp community.

Bullying is defined as any deliberate, repetitive, and aggressive behavior intended to harm, intimidate, or coerce another individual or group. This behavior may involve a power imbalance and can take various forms, including:

- Verbal Bullying: Includes name-calling, teasing, insults, and verbal threats.
- Physical Bullying: Involves physical aggression such as hitting, kicking, pushing, or damaging personal property.
- Social Bullying: Refers to spreading rumors, exclusion, gossiping, or manipulating social relationships to harm others.
- Cyberbullying: Occurs through electronic devices or online platforms, including sending hurtful messages, sharing embarrassing photos or videos, or spreading rumors through social media.

Expectations and Responsibilities

- All campers, staff, and visitors are expected to treat others with kindness, empathy, and respect.
- It is everyone's responsibility to report any instances of bullying they witness or experience to a camp counselor, supervisor, or camp director.
- Campers are encouraged to speak up if they are being bullied or if they witness someone else being bullied.
- Staff members are trained to address bullying incidents promptly and effectively, following camp policies and procedures.

Consequences of Bullying

- Any confirmed instances of bullying will be taken seriously, investigated, and addressed immediately.
- Consequences for bullying behavior may include verbal warnings, parental notification, disciplinary actions, or removal from camp activities, depending on the severity and frequency of the behavior.
- Counseling and support services will be offered to all involved to address the underlying issues and prevent future incidents.

Prevention and Education

- SSDC is committed to promoting positive social interactions and teaching campers conflict-resolution skills, empathy, and tolerance.
- Educational activities and discussions about bullying prevention will be integrated into the camp curriculum.
- Campers will be encouraged to embrace diversity, celebrate differences, and foster a culture of inclusion and acceptance.

Confidentiality and Support

- All reports of bullying will be handled confidentially and with sensitivity to the privacy of those involved.
- Campers and staff members who report bullying will be supported and protected from retaliation.
- Counseling services and additional support will be available to those affected by bullying, ensuring their emotional well-being and safety.

By adhering to this non-bullying policy, we aim to create a positive and nurturing environment where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered to thrive. Together, we can build a community free from bullying and filled with kindness, compassion, and friendship.

Technology Policy:

At Southampton Summer Day Camp, we believe in fostering an environment where campers can fully engage in the camp experience without distractions from electronic devices. Our technology policy reflects this commitment to creating a positive and immersive camp environment. Please review the following guidelines:

- **Mobile Phones:** Campers are not permitted to use mobile phones during the camp day. We strongly suggest that campers keep mobile devices and any valuable items at home. If a camper must bring a device to camp, it must remain in their bag during the day. Under no circumstance may phones or cameras be used in the bunkhouse.
- **Smartwatches:** Campers are permitted to wear smartwatches, but they may only be used for keeping time. If a camper is seen using a smartwatch for texting, calling, or any other purpose beyond timekeeping, it may be confiscated for the day. If the device becomes a distraction, we may require the camper to keep it at home.
- **Confiscation Policy:** If a camper is observed using a mobile device during the camp day, it will be brought to the office for safekeeping and returned to the camper before dismissal.
- **Staff Use of Technology:** Staff members may use mobile devices and smart watches during the day for timekeeping and emergency communication purposes only. Under no circumstance should staff members be texting, calling, scrolling, or posting to social media during the camp day without prior approval from the Camp Director. Staff will not respond to parent texts or calls during the camp day.
- **Video Devices:** No drones, video cameras, or other video devices are permitted at camp without approval from the Camp Director.

By adhering to these guidelines, we aim to create a camp environment that promotes meaningful connections, outdoor exploration, and personal growth for all campers.

Behavioral Policy

At SSDC, we believe in fostering a positive and respectful environment where everyone can learn, grow, and have fun. Our behavioral policy outlines our expectations for campers and staff to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Expectations:

- **Respect:** Treat others with kindness, consideration, and respect at all times. This includes fellow campers, staff members, and property.
- **Safety:** Follow all camp rules and guidelines to ensure the safety of yourself and others. Listen to and cooperate with staff instructions, especially during activities and emergencies.
- **Cooperation:** Participate actively in camp activities and follow instructions from counselors and supervisors. Work together with others in a spirit of teamwork and cooperation.
- **Responsibility:** Take responsibility for your actions and their consequences. Respect the environment and equipment provided by the camp.

Consequences:

- **Verbal Warning:** Campers will receive a verbal warning from a Senior Counselor or Supervisor for repeated and/or deliberate behaviors that are in conflict with our expectations.
- **Reflection:** Continued misbehavior may result in a reflection period of time, where the camper is temporarily separated from the group to reflect on their actions.
- **Parental Notification:** Parents will be notified of repeated or serious behavioral issues. Collaboration between parents and camp staff may be necessary to address ongoing concerns.
- **Suspension or Dismissal:** In rare cases of severe or persistent misbehavior, the camper may be suspended or dismissed from camp. This decision will be made in consultation with camp leadership and may involve a review of the camper's behavior history.
- **Appeals:** Campers and parents have the right to appeal disciplinary actions. Appeals should be made in writing to the camp director and will be reviewed promptly.

By adhering to our behavioral policy, campers contribute to a positive camp community where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued. We encourage open communication and cooperation between campers, parents, and staff to ensure a fulfilling camp experience for all.

SWIM AT SSDC

All swim related questions can be directed to Dave, the Supervisor of Swim Instruction, or Rob, the Supervisor of Aquatic Safety by calling the office at 215-355-4567.

We have 2 Olympic size pools and a wading pool all heated to 79 degrees, enabling us to provide age-appropriate swim instruction in a comfortable environment. The program is overseen by our Director of Swim Instruction and uses the most current American Red Cross guidelines. Progress updates will be provided halfway through the summer and at the end of summer. Campers do not need to know how to swim before camp begins. All campers are evaluated the first week of camp and placed in an appropriate swim group. Instructional swim is lead by certified water safety instructors and lifeguards ensuring safety and personalized instruction for every camper. Passing the **Deep-Water Test** is the golden ticket into the deep end, the slides and diving boards. Swim instructors will determine if campers are ready to take the test. It may take a few good efforts to pass. A camper or parent may also request that the test be given. Call the camp office to let us know. **Please be aware that our testing standards may be much more stringent than other venues.**

DEEP WATER TEST The Deep-Water Test is jumping into the deep end of the pool (6 feet – the pool with the slides), coming to the surface and treading for 30 seconds, then without hesitation front crawl (comfortably – without struggling) to the 2nd rope at the shallow end of the pool (just to the right of the lifeguard stand).

FOOD SERVICE OVERVIEW

All food and allergy related questions can be directed to Lauren Mandel by contacting the office at 215-355-4567.

- The lunch at camp is always a hit! Think: Walking Tacos, Sushi, BBQ Brisket and Chicken! Of course, we have plenty of kid-friendly food like chicken fingers and nuggets, pizza, macaroni & cheese; this isn't the camp food you remember!
- All of our food is prepared on site by our Head Chef, Brian Bowman, of B&T's Catering. Brian and his team are responsible for food ordering, cooking, serving, and food safety.
- In addition to the menu item of the day, we offer a full salad bar with a variety of fresh fruit options, peanut butter and jelly sandwich combinations, bagels, as well as vegetarian and gluten free options.
- Our Dining Hall is air conditioned with music wafting through the air. At Southampton, we see the dining hall as an extension of home. Campers sit with their bunks at the same table every day. Food is brought to the table by staff, and campers may help themselves to as much as they want. All counselors make sure plates are looking full, fresh and colorful.
- A morning or afternoon snack with a drink is provided daily. Snack consists of a daily pre-packaged option (cookies, crackers, pretzels, cheese sticks, carrots, etc.) and fruit is always available.
- A daily dessert option is offered at the end of lunch. If your camper has an allergy or restriction that prohibits them from enjoying the dessert of the day, an ice pop is always an option!

HEALTH CARE AT CAMP

As members of the ACA (American Camp Association), we meet and exceed the highest safety standards in our industry. The Southampton Summer Day Camp Health Office is staffed by two full-time Registered Nurses who take care of our campers and staff with extra TLC. Our nurses maintain and ensure a safe and healthy summer for all of our campers. Our caring and skilled medical personnel are at camp at all times to meet each child's needs.

Permission to treat and administer medications must be granted by a parent/guardian by completing the Camper Health History form on the parent portal.

Our nurses will call home during the day to relay important information regarding a camper's medical status if he or she is not fit to remain at camp, a specific injury, or recurring complaint.

In the event of any medical emergency, we will call 911. Our second call will be to the parent/guardian.

Our nurses are available to speak with you before and throughout the summer regarding your child's health needs. Please call camp if you would like to speak with a nurse!

In addition to our Registered Nurses, we have a Camper Care Team focused on providing specialized care and supervision to our campers with specific needs during the camp day. This team is led by Supervisor, Lauren Mandel. If you have any questions or would like to speak with Lauren regarding Food Service, Behavioral Needs, Outside Therapists/Intervention requests or anything else, please contact the office!

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Each summer at SSDC is a special combination of our traditional camp spirit, formed over the last 51 summers, along with a unique energy created by all of the contributions of our incredible campers and staff each day. We believe a true camp experience is embracing a combination of tried and true elements coupled with new challenges and adventures, big and small. Above all, the value of a real camp experience and an SSDC summer, is one that you cannot always see. It's the immeasurable impact of building relationships and confidence, overcoming obstacles and the growth we see as a collective camp community and individuals over an action packed 8 weeks.

To see a sample of activities for your camper, please see a sample bunk schedules on the Parent Resources Page on our website: <http://hampyowl.com/parent-resources/>

In addition to the daily bunk schedule, we have special events, themed days and weeks that bring the entire camp together to build community, camaraderie and camp culture.

Parent/Guardian gives permission to have campers participate in all activities of Southampton Summer Day Camp and to be taken on all out-of-camp trips authorized by the camp. This approval can be found in our 2024 Waiver/Permission Form.

ACTIVITY AREAS AT CAMP

AQUATICS

Three sparkling, newly refurbished, heated swimming pools with instructional swim programs taught by our certified Water Safety Instructors and Lifeguards using the American Red Cross Program await your camper. Campers enjoy the diving boards and fun water slides during recreational swim under the watchful eyes of our Aquatics Staff. Themed fun days (Hampy's Splash Bash, Rubber Ducky Contests, etc.) at the pool always make swimming a special treat.

ATHLETICS

Spacious ball fields and courts as well as numerous hardtop areas enhance skill development in soccer, softball, pickleball/tennis, basketball, hockey, gymnastics/yoga/cheer, volleyball, archery, handball, touch football, newcomb, boxball, gaga, 9-Square in the Air, and many other sports activities. This allows for well-organized league play in soccer, softball, newcomb, flag football, basketball and hockey. A modern, indoor, state of the art collegiate style Fieldhouse with electronic scoreboards can accommodate all sports from futsal, hockey, basketball, and 9-Square in the Air rain or shine.

ARTS & CRAFTS

A traditional camp area that offers take-home projects for all ages. Arts & Crafts, Woodworking, Ceramics, Tie Dying and Jewelry highlight this popular area at camp! Every age visits our Arts & Crafts barn multiple times a week, and specialty club options are available for those who love the visual arts.

PERFORMING ARTS

A complete indoor area for the creative arts, including a fully mirrored, air-conditioned professional dance studio with a shock absorbing wood flooring system, staffed by experienced dancers, singers, actors and artists. Performing Arts @ SSDC consists of Music, Theatre and Dance. For campers who really enjoy The Arts, camp offers a Dance Club and a Musical Theatre club, which culminates in a much-anticipated end of the season show for families and campers!

GAME ZONE.... NEW UPDATES FOR 2025!

Our Gamze Zone offers Old School Arcade Games alongside popular table games like foosball, air hockey, and bubble hockey. Our "build & stack" corner features legos, magna tiles, racing tracks and play-doh for our little ones. This summer, check out our new State of the Art Pop A Shot machines, Four Person Air Hockey, and Racing Games!

PONY CORRAL & PETTING ZOO

Our younger campers will enjoy a Pny program that includes Pony rides and learning to love and care for our four legged friends. We have two ponies that stay with us for the summer. While we try to do as many pony rides as possible, the first week we always focus on Pony safety to learn how to be safe around horses and pony care! When the heat index and humidity reaches levels that are unsafe for our Ponies to give rides, the campers will have fun giving our ponies a bubble bath, brushing their hair, and beyond! Every pony loves a good spa day where they get treated to getting their "hooves done", a cool bubble bath, and combing.

In the back of our Pony Corral is a special section for our baby goats, baby sheep, rabbits and other animals to relax in the summer. Campers will have the opportunity to hold, pet, and feed our little animals during Ponies & Nature!

PLAYGROUND & LITTLE HOOTS PLAYHOUSE

A child's play paradise! Run, play, slide, swing, crawl, climb, PLAY! Our outdoor playground features a Pirate Ship and structures for imaginative play. Little Hoot's Playhouse is a vertical playpen that allows campers to explore different paths through interconnected tubes.

NATURE & LAKE...new updates for 2025!

Nature allows campers to explore and learn about the animals, plants, and the world around us! Our campgrounds are the perfect backdrop to discover nature everyday! Our Nature program includes fun lessons and projects to spark inspiration and wonder in all ages. Our Nature Den is stocked with fossils, skeletons, owl pellets, cool bugs, little critters, snakes, baby chicks and ducks hatching, rabbits, frogs, turtles, birds, and more! Visit our Greenhouse & garden beds to see what's sprouting this summer!

Our private, spring-fed lake (LAKE DANIEL) provides a safe and thriving waterfront for our small kayaks and peddle boats. Campers can fish, boat, explore and enjoy have fun as they catch & release fish, turtles and frogs. While campers do not swim in the lake, we have an experienced Lifeguard on duty at all times.

This summer, we will invite campers to become official members of THE SOUTHAMPTON MINING COMPANY. Our brand new MINING TOWER will allow campers to get their hands dirty, sift through mining rough to uncover gemstones, fossils, arrowheads and other treasures!

OUTDOOR CHALLENGE COURSE / CLIMBING WALL / AIR BUNGEE

All levels of ability find excitement and challenges in our Outdoor Challenge Program. Experienced and well-trained staff ensures consistent and total safety. Whether you are scaling one of our rock walls, zipping one of our ziplines, or taking on our Ninja Style or Continuous Belay Ropes Courses, NINJA STYLE your camper can test their limits, build self-reliance and broaden their horizons. A few elements include:

3 SIDED CLIMBING TOWER! This newly constructed 3-sided, 28 foot high tower consists of 3-levels of difficulty for all levels of experience. It provides the experienced climber with the highest level of difficulty, along with plenty of paths for beginner climbers to progress towards a more advanced climb to the top. The 3-sided walls consist of over 300 colorful holds of varying sizes and locations.

AMERICAN STYLE NINJA LOW COURSE. Take a swinging rope into a cargo net to begin your adventure. Cross the Swing Log, Tire Traverse, Monkey Bars and Indiana Jones Bridge just like a real "Ninja Warrior".

CONTINUOUS-BELAY HIGH ROPES CHALLENGE COURSE WITH MULTIPLE PODS. Put on your harness and helmet to challenge yourself on our new course. Take a vertical climb to a central platform to start your challenge. New elements include an Indiana Jones Bridge, Catwalk, Pirates Crossing and Swinging Chairs, all ending in a "Leap of Faith".

ZIPLINE across Lake Daniel allows camper to soar through the air, over the lake, and into the woods for a smooth landing on our newly renovated auto capture platform.

GIANT CLIMBING TOWER with an option to rappel down or Zip through the trees!

AIR BUNGEE TRAMPOLINES to jump high, flip, and float in the air!

STEAM LAB & HAMPY'S KITCHEN

Our STEAM Lab offers campers the opportunity to work together and participate in hands on experiments and challenges across Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. This little hub of innovation allows imaginations to soar!

Hampy's Kitchen is a fan favorite! A make and take cooking class for camper's to participate in creating a camp treat that they get to enjoy!

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR CAMP!

At Southampton Summer Day Camp, we believe in partnering with parents to ensure a smooth transition and positive experience for every camper. Here are some suggestions to help prepare your child for the summer camp adventure:

- **Discuss Expectations:** Sit down with your child and talk about what they are most looking forward to or concerned about regarding camp. Addressing any fears or uncertainties can help ease their transition.
- **Role-Play Social Situations:** Practice with your child how to introduce themselves to new friends and engage in conversations. This can help build their confidence in social interactions at camp.
- **Review Concerns with Counselors:** Encourage your child to communicate any concerns or questions they have with their counselor. Remind them that counselors are there to support and assist them throughout their camp experience.
- **Embrace New Experiences:** Encourage your child to try new activities and reassure them that it's okay to take risks and make mistakes. Emphasize that participation and having fun are more important than winning or being the best.
- **Involve Them in Packing:** Let your child help pack their backpack for camp each day. This not only familiarizes them with what they're bringing but also gives them a sense of ownership and responsibility.
- **Sun Safety:** Teach your child how to apply sunscreen properly and practice tying their shoes if needed. These skills will empower them to take care of themselves while at camp.
- **Engage in Post-Camp Conversations:** Be prepared to listen to your child's stories and experiences from camp each day. Engaging in conversations about their day helps reinforce their learning and excitement for returning to camp.

By following these tips and actively involving your child in the preparation process, you can help ensure they have a successful and enjoyable experience at SSDC!

“THE PERFECT PLACE TO GROW UP”

SINCE 1973

There's always something exciting happening at Southampton Summer Day Camp! Be a part of a friendly camp community that's always abuzz with activity as campers enjoy old time favorites as well as experiencing new ways to have fun.

Since 1973, Rick and Jacque Blum, creators, owners and Executive Directors of Southampton Summer Day Camp, located in Upper Southampton in beautiful Bucks County, have provided recreational and cultural activities for our campers ages 3 to 15. Both Rick and Jacque are experienced educators and have taught in the Elementary through High School levels. Rick's lifelong love of athletics as a player and coach continues to provide SSDC with innovative ideas to motivate campers to build on their own achievements.

In 2022, Rick & Jacque's daughter, Lindsay, joined the leadership team as Camp Wide Director. Lindsay grew up at SSDC as a camper and staff member, holding many positions and responsibilities. Lindsay worked as a professional in entertainment, marketing, and media for 15 years.. but never truly left the nest. She was always tied back to SSDC during the summer, and assisted her parents over the winter with various camp tasks.

Lindsay brings her excellent leadership, communication, and organizational skills to help SSDC move into its next 50 years. Lindsay is guided by her parents and Senior SSDC Staff, a collective of experienced educators with decades of camping experience. Lindsay has an innovative perspective with great regard for tradition. We are so very lucky to have Lindsay as our Camp Wide Director!