



Parent's Guide 2010 Everything you need to know!

Camp St. Vincent's Summer Day Camp Program

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Camp Location: Patterson Park
242 S Patterson Park Ave.
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A Collaborative Venture

Camp St. Vincent is a program of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore that is supported in part by the Baltimore City Public Schools and the YMCA of Central Maryland through a collaborative venture known as the New Horizons Initiative.

Hours of Operation: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday thru Friday

2010 Dates: June 22nd thru August 14th (not
July 3rd)

Getting ready!

Appropriate Camp Clothing:

Clothing: Camp T-shirt, knee length shorts, athletic tie shoes and socks.

Swimming: Modest swim suits. Towel

All campers will wear the camp T-shirt, which will be distributed on the first day of camp. Each camper will receive 2 t-shirts.

Optional: hat or baseball cap, rain gear

Please put your camper's first initial and last name on all clothing, swim suits, towels etc... Use a good permanent marking pen or some other method that will not wash out or fall off.

Do not wear:

Flip-flops, sandals or Texas, cannot be worn for any activity around camp.

Girls: No dresses, jumpers or thigh high shorts.

Boys: Shorts must properly fit.

Items Not to Bring:

Cash, chewing gum, electronic games, pocket knives, cellular phones, expensive cameras, and jewelry.

Lost and Found:

We will provide a place for lost items to be found. If their owner does not find them before the end of camp, items will be thrown or given away.

IMPORTANT:

Camp St. Vincent cannot be responsible for the loss, or damage, of personal items. Do not send cameras, electronic or similar equipment.

Transportation

Transportation to and from Camp St. Vincent is provided by a yellow school bus.

Parent/Guardians are to provide supervision of their camper in the morning before the Bus Counselor arrives. The buses are all driven by professional bus drivers, and Camp St. Vincent Counselors are on the bus at all times.

Arrive 15 minutes before your pick up and drop off time. If you think you have missed the bus; do not leave the bus stop. Wait at least 15 minutes after the designated time.

Campers must be picked up in the afternoon before 5:00 p.m. If a camper is not picked up by 5:15 p.m. appropriate authorities will be contacted for an abandoned child.

Medical Information

Health of Campers

Your child should be in perfect health before leaving for camp. If he or she is in any way feeling sick, then he/she should not come to camp that day. Please call camp and notify us.

The Camp Director must be notified in writing of any pertinent medications or diagnoses. Any emotional problems must also be called to our attention. At the time of your child's check-up, your family physician/clinic should provide us with accurate, up-to-date information about your child's health, and list the purpose, frequency, dosage and instructions for any prescribed medications or over-the-counter medications on a regular or "as necessary" basis.

Campers will not be admitted with fevers, rashes, lice, including nits [see Pediculosis below], and respiratory infections. Campers who are not well upon arriving at camp or become ill during the day, while at camp will be sent home. You and/or your emergency contact will be called to come and pick up the camper immediately.

Medications must be in the original prescription bottle or over-the-counter container. You must provide written instructions and your child must be able to recognize the medication, know the time of day and dosage he/she is to take.

ALL MEDICATION IS SELF-ADMINISTERED [We do not dispense medication to the child]

Pediculosis: [head lice]

Please plan on having your camper thoroughly checked regularly starting at least three weeks before their scheduled camp session for head lice or nits. If any lice or nits are found, please consult with your physician and use a medicated louse killing shampoo or rinse.

Campers arriving with lice or nits will not be allowed on the bus and will not be able to attend camp. It is more than likely their session at camp will not be able to be rescheduled as proper and successful treatment cannot be completed in one treatment. Please be aware of this process/policy is being shared to assure the health of all campers and staff as well as to assure an enjoyable camp experience.

Let us know...

As you make those final arrangements for the coming summer, please be sure that you have taken the time to make certain you have shared all there is to share with us about your camper. Imagine the discomfort your camper could find himself or herself in if you chose not to let us know about medications taken on a regular basis, or if we didn't know that your child was experiencing a difficult moment at home or within the family.

If you chose not to use a medication during the summer (sometimes referred to as a "medication vacation"), the impact of such a decision could influence not only your child, but also the other children in the activities. Some family physicians and therapists aren't quite aware of the summer day camp environment and the structure and demands upon a camper during a 10 day session. If you have questions, please call the camp office to discuss them with the Camp Director.

Camp St. Vincent reserves the right to send a camper home early should non-disclosed pre-existing emotional or physical problems create problems or interfere with the camp experience for your camper or other campers.

In addition to the above information...

We realize that, in some cases, campers are coming from family situations that involve divorce or separation. Please be certain that Camp is aware of legal custodial parent arrangements prior to camp. This will go a long way towards facilitating our communications with families. All matters of communication will be maintained as confidentially as possible with custodial parents. Non-custodial parent communications are at the discretion of the custodial parent.

If your camper has asthma... To help us care for your camper, please send an immediate acting inhaler along with a physician's signed order with explicit directions for each and every medication your child will need.

Sunscreen

At camp we always do our best to make certain that we remind campers to avoid exposure to excessive sunlight. We do recommend that sunscreen be applied to your camper in the morning before coming to camp. If your child sunburns easily, you may want to provide sunscreen for them to bring to camp.

If we have your permission we'll do our best to have sunscreen available for your camper to apply. However, we recognize that some campers have sensitivities/allergies to sunscreen. Accordingly, we cannot apply sunscreen, yours or ours, without your permission.

Behavioral Expectations

Camp St. Vincent makes every effort to help children understand clear definitions of acceptable and unacceptable behavior. The objectives of this Behavior Expectation Policy are to ensure a safe and positive atmosphere for learning and developing character development

and social skills. It is important that camp staff and volunteers maintain good order and discipline in all program areas.

Camp St. Vincent with New Horizons does not condone and will not permit:

- Corporal punishment.
- Ridiculing, threatening, and using an inappropriate loud voice.
- Leaving children unsupervised.
- Use of profanity

A camper's behavior is expected to be consisted with the following:

- Use appropriate language at all times,
- Cooperate with staff and follow directions,
- Respect other children and staff, equipment and facilities and their self,
- Stay in program areas at all times,
- Participate in all activities.

The Incentive Procedure

The purpose of this incentive program is to encourage and support the campers in choosing appropriate behaviors.

Campers will earn checks. Checks will be recorded on the Lead Counselor's clipboard.

The Consequence Procedure

1. The camper will receive a verbal warning;
2. Camper will be given an appropriate time-out.
3. Camper will be sent to the camp office.

Second tier: Camp Office

A written notification will be sent to parent and/or guardian for each occurrence.

1. **In camp suspension.** Camper will not be allowed to participate in the activities. A conference will be held with the camper and a behavior contract will be established.
2. **Suspension from camp.** Camper will not be permitted to attend camp for 1 day.
3. **Expulsion.** Behaviors which may result in

immediate dismissal include but are not limited to:

- A. Any action that could threaten or pose a direct threat to the physical/emotional safety of children or staff;
- B. Fighting; which injures and is intentional;
- C. Possession of a weapon of any kind;
- D. Vandalism or destruction of facility and camp property or property of others;
- E. Sexual misconduct;
- F. Possession of or use of alcohol or controlled substances unless under the prescription of a doctor.
- G. Elopement running off and/or leaving the camp grounds.

Bus Behavior Expectations

The following behavior expectations are to be followed at all times to ensure the camper's safety. Please go over these expectations before the first day of camp.

- Stay 5 steps back from the curb until the bus stops.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before you approach it.
- When crossing the street to board your bus, or after leaving your bus, wait until the driver or counselor checks the traffic for you and then allows you to cross with the counselor.
- Always stop, look, and listen before crossing any street when going to the bus.
- Wait for the bus counselor each and every time.
- Never run after bus.

- Once seated in the bus, do not change seats.
- Do not leave your seat while the bus is moving.
- Keep your arms and head in the bus at all times.
- Talk with your friends; do not yell or scream in the bus. The bus driver needs to be alert at all times, and loud voices may cause confusion.
- Stay in your seat until the bus has come to a full stop.
- Never throw anything out of the window.
- Follow all directions from the driver and the bus counselor.
- If something should fall, do not leave your seat to get it. Ask the bus counselor for help.
- Remain in the bus during a road emergency until the bus counselor has given directions.
- Be sure to take all belongings with you when you get off the bus. The bus company and bus counselors are not responsible for your belongings!
- When outside the bus, do not reach under the bus to retrieve a fallen item. Ask a counselor for help.

HAPPY CAMPING!