



# Hideaway Day Camp Camper Handbook 2026 Season

3471 Arcola Road, Collegeville, PA 19426

610.489.2191

[www.hideawaydaycamp.org](http://www.hideawaydaycamp.org)

### **Mission Statement**

We are united in our goal of a safe and healthy environment for all of our campers, to teach and to instruct, to guide and to encourage, providing a fun and happy place for our children.

*"Where the Water and Children Run Free"*

Roland and Mary Jo D'Ortone  
Directors

# Welcome to Hideaway!

We are so excited to have your camper spend their summer with us! Please read the following information so that your camper is prepared. Whether your camper is being transported by bus or by own transportation, all campers will meet at the flagpole area after check-in. Parents will follow a car line upon entering the grounds and campers will be escorted by staff to the check-in table and to our flagpole. To accommodate our families, Hideaway offers a flexible check-in and check-out. Campers who are providing their own transportation may arrive 8:00-9:00AM and picked up 3:30-4:30PM, free-of-charge. Campers being transported via bus will arrive 8:50-9:10AM, depending on traffic. All campers will gather at our flagpole by 9:15AM.

<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>CAMPERS MAY BEGIN ARRIVING AT HIDEAWAY</b> Car line begins. Parents follow the car line and campers are dropped off
<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>CAR LINE ENDS</b> All campers should arrive to camp prior to 9:00AM
<b>9:15AM</b>	<b>MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS at Flagpole</b>
<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>CAMP DAY BEGINS</b>
<b>3:10PM</b>	<b>END OF THE CAMP DAY and AFTERNOON ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>
<b>3:20PM</b>	<b>BUSES ARE DISMISSED</b>
<b>3:30PM</b>	<b>CAR LINE DISMISSAL BEGINS</b> Campers who are "own transportation" may remain at camp until 4:30PM free-of-charge
<b>4:30PM</b>	<b>AFTER-CARE PROGRAM ENDS</b>

# What Should My Camper Bring to Camp Every Day?

**(1) LUNCH** (clearly marked with first and last name) Lunches may be refrigerated if you wish but we suggest a cold lunch pack. Campers must also bring an EXTRA SNACK in their lunches for snack time, even on Pizza Mondays. No microwaveable items permitted. Please remember to pack things such as napkins and utensils for your camper. Campers are welcome to pack foods that are not peanut-free.

**(2) WATER BOTTLE** Campers should bring a water/sport bottle that can be refilled and taken to each activity. Water and Gatorade (Gatorade available beginning at lunch) are provided daily. Campers may also bring their own drinks. Please label with camper's full name.

**(3) BATHING SUIT AND TOWEL** Since all campers have a swimming lesson every morning, we recommend campers wear their bathing suits to camp, under their clothes and pack other items, such as underwear, to change into after the lesson. Please label with camper's full name.

**(4) COMPLETE CHANGE OF CLOTHES** Shorts, shirt, socks and underwear placed in ziploc bag to be kept in their backpack for their camp duration. These will be used only if needed. Please label with camper's full name.

**(5) WATER SOCKS/SHOES** for Creek Walks - NO old sneakers, NO Crocs, please. If your camper does not have creek shoes, they WILL NOT be able to take part in group creek walks, missing the activity.

**(6) WHAT TO WEAR TO CAMP DAILY?** Play clothes that you do not mind getting dirty. Shoes should cover toes. Old sneakers or a hiking sandal, like a Keen, work great. Campers will be participating in mostly outdoor activities. Jewelry is also not recommended. Please have every item CLEARLY MARKED with your camper's full name.

**(7) FLIP FLOPS** To be worn to/from the pool.

**(8) SUNSCREEN** Campers must bring in their own sunscreen in the form of a spray, clearly marked with their name. Please see section titled "sunscreen" for additional information.

Campers should bring all belongings in a bag or backpack.

ALL belongings must be taken home each and every day. Please DO NOT have campers bring anything of value to camp (no collectible cards, no video games, no jewelry, etc.). We are not responsible for stolen or lost items.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

There is no allowance nor refund for any absences, late arrival or early withdrawal of campers after April 1st.

**APPAREL:**

Campers should come to camp wearing comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Every camper will get a camp shirt the first week that they arrive. There may be a few days throughout the summer that campers are asked to wear their shirts, especially if we are taking photos that day, etc. Otherwise, wear them when you want . . . they're yours to keep!

**BARNES:**

Hideaway has two changing barns, one for girls and one for boys. This is where our campers will change for swimming and keep their backpack and belongings. There is a lost and found table in EACH of our changing barns. Campers may look for missing items in their barns. Our changing barns are cleaned daily. Any item left on the floor will be automatically placed on the lost and found table at the end of each camp day. If an item is left in a cubbie, it will remain there until Friday. Anything left in our barns on Friday afternoon, whether in a cubbie or on the floor, will be placed on the lost and found tables. Please contact our office for assistance if your camper is unable to find lost items. We will gladly return any item that has a clearly marked name.

**BEFORE AND AFTER-CARE:**

We do not charge any fees for before- and after-care. Campers may arrive as early as 8:00AM and stay until the end of our after-care program ending at 4:30PM. There is a charge of \$5 for every 10 minutes after 4:30PM.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

We love to celebrate birthdays! Please feel free to send in a treat and one that is peanut-free.

**CAMP ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULE:**

Our camp day is filled with many wonderful activities, including swimming lesson, free swim, arts & crafts, drama, archery, gaga, nature study, high ropes, low ropes, miniature golf, creek walks, field activities and many more. Campers will rotate through six, 40-minute periods daily, participating in each specialty area twice a week.

**CAMP RENTALS AND TEAMBUILDING EVENTS:**

Did you know that Hideaway hosts many private events during the year? Ask us for more information and have Hideaway all to yourself. Your "Rustic Affair" and "Rustic Adventure" awaits!

**CAMPER GROUP REQUESTS**

Campers are grouped by gender, age and grade completed. If your camper would like to attend with a friend, indicate his/her name at the time of registration. You may also call the office to arrange. Do not assume that campers who had previously been in the same group will be in the same group the following season. We make every effort to accommodate every request, but it is not guaranteed. It becomes extremely more difficult once the season has begun.

**CANCELTION/REFUND POLICY:**

- If a registration cancelation occurs in writing before March 1st all monies, including deposit, will be returned.
- If a registration cancelation occurs after March 1st and before April 1st, all monies except the original deposit (\$300) will be returned.
- FULL PAYMENT is due April 1<sup>st</sup> and there are no refunds after that date. Week selection may be changed, even after the start of our season, but is dependent upon availability. We do our very best to accommodate our families.

Families may cancel up to TWO registered weeks from their original registration without penalty when canceled before April 1st, allowing for some flexibility to families who may have a slight change in summer plans. Canceling more than two weeks from the original registration will incur a fee of \$100 for every week that is canceled outright (after two

**weeks).** We understand that plans do change and unforeseen circumstances arise but this change is necessary in order to prevent families from registering for multiple weeks, only to cancel the majority. Doing so prematurely closes our groups, preventing other families from being able to register. We kindly ask that you please check your summer schedules prior to registering your campers as a courtesy to HDC and other camp families who are trying to plan their summers as well.

**As always, there is no penalty for the changing of weeks.** Families are welcome to switch registered weeks to other weeks in the summer without penalty, assuming desired weeks are available.

#### **CIT (COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING) PROGRAM**

The CIT Program is an invitation-only program for former campers who have completed 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. It is a volunteer program and is free-of-charge. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn, working closely with our teachers, all while having fun!

#### **DISMISSAL/PICK UP PROCEDURES:**

If you are picking up your camper at the end of the day, please do not arrive in our car line earlier than 3:30PM. If you need to pick up your camper earlier than our normal dismissal time of 3:30PM, please call our office or send in a note ahead of time so that we can do our best to have your camper ready and waiting. Please call the office when you arrive to pick up your camper and we will bring your child down to you in the parking area. Please see "TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED BY PARENT" section for more information.

#### **ELECTRONICS:**

Cell phones or any electronics are not permitted to be carried during the camp day. If a camper produces a cell phone or other electronic device during the camp day, it will be kept safely in the office and given back at the end of the day. Campers may not make any phone calls using cell phones during the camp day, nor take any photographs. If you need to contact your camper during the camp day, please call our office. If a camper wishes to use an electronic device for their bus or car ride, they may, but once at camp, it must be kept in their backpack. We assume no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged electronics brought to camp.

#### **EMAIL:**

Hideaway should have a current email address for each family. It is used for correspondence and important reminders. We also use email to alert parents to any changes to the camp day, special events and information regarding registration for the next season. Please check with the office to make sure you are on our email list.

#### **FACEBOOK & INSTGRAM:**

"LIKE" our page on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to see daily pictures of your campers, get updates and camp reminders.

#### **HEALTH/WELLNESS POLICY:**

Children who are ill may NOT return to camp until they are symptom-free for at least 24 hours. Campers should be FEVER-FREE and/or VOMIT/DIARRHEA-FREE for 24 HOURS. This is mandatory for the safety and wellness of all campers and staff. \*\*\*Regarding lice, Hideaway has a NO-NIT policy. If your camper was treated for lice or if lice is found and the camper is sent home, the camper will be rechecked for lice/nits upon their return.

#### **HIDEAWAY HEADLINES:**

This is our weekly newsletter that will come home with campers every Friday. It contains valuable information about the week's happenings as well as what is coming up. Who knows, you may even see your camper highlighted!

#### **HIDEAWAY OUTPOST:**

T-shirts, sweatshirts and novelty items are available for purchase. Campers are permitted to shop in our camp store during the day. It is located in the screened-in porch, just across from the office. Cash only. Stop on by!



**INJURIES:**

Scratches, scrapes, bee stings (if the child is not allergic) or other minor boo-boos will be treated by our office staff. For any injuries that require attention other than first aide, parents will be called and the camper will be treated at an off-site medical facility or hospital.

**LOST AND FOUND:**

Please remind campers to check lost and found tables (located in the changing barns) for missing items. The lost and found tables get overrun and grow quickly. We will gladly return any items labeled with camper's name.

**MEDICATION:**

If your camper requires medication throughout the day, has an epi-pen, uses an inhaler, etc., it must be supplied in the original medicine container, pill bottle, etc. on the first day of their camp season. It should include the camper's name, directions for administration, and the physician's name and phone number. Please place it in a ziploc bag, clearly marked with camper's name, and supply us with written directions on how much and the time in which medication should be given. Enough medicine for the week or your camper's camp season should be supplied. No camper, regardless of age, may carry medication or take any medication during the camp day. All medication should be brought to the office or given to a staff person on or before the camper's first camp day and will be returned on the camper's last camp day.

**PET POLICY:**

Please do not bring your family pet to camp. Some of our campers have allergies and others may be fearful. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**PICTURE DAY:**

There are two picture days: Week 1 and Week 5. Photo order forms will be sent home on the Monday prior to the picture day. Campers should wear their HDC shirts for the picture if they have one, otherwise, they will get one on Picture Day.

**PIZZA MONDAYS:**

Every Monday (including the very first day of camp), pizza will be served to those campers who have signed up and paid for it. Campers will NOT be able to "buy" pizza if they have not signed up for it in advance or at the time of registration. Cost is \$7/week.

Campers will receive up to 2 slices and a choice of snack. A snack from home should still be packed for snack time. If you have signed up for pizza and send in a lunch, it may cause confusion for your camper. Please be sure to tell your camper if they are signed up.

**RAINY DAYS:**

Camp is rain or shine! If it is raining, morning check-in and will be in the office, rather than Flagpole. Our camp day may change to a "rainy day schedule," where some of the scheduled activities are altered or brought indoors.

**REGISTRATION:**

Registration opens on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Returning families will be given preferential registration status. Only the registrations of our returning families (those that attended the most recent season and the siblings of those that attended) will be processed the first week. Starting November 8th, all other registrations will be processed in the order that they are/were received.

**RENTALS:**

Hideaway Day Camp's "A Rustic Affair" and "A Rustic Adventure" will design a perfect outing for your school, corporation, sports team, or special event, including weddings. Ask us more!

## **SCHEDULE OF DAILY ACTIVITIES:**

Our schedule of daily activities are provided to registered families once camp begins.

## **SKITS:**

Each camper group has 2 skits during our 8-week season. Skits are performed every Tuesday and Thursday at our amphitheater. Campers gain confidence and work as a team. All campers are encouraged to participate in some way. It's a fun group activity!

## **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Our Special Event Calendar, listing fun activities and assemblies during the week, especially those falling on Wednesdays and Fridays, will be emailed in early June. Our Main Events Calendar that lists our annual events can be found on our website. Here is a short description of Hideaway's Most Famous Days:

### **Carnival Day**

It's a Carnival, created entirely by our campers! Each group will create a carnival booth of their choice. Once Carnival Day begins, each camper is given 30 tickets to use at any booth except the one created by their group. Haunted House, Ring Toss, Pie Toss, Duck Pond, Dunk Tank are just a few booths that have wowed our campers in the past. The booth with the most tickets at the end of the day, WINS!

### **Cook Out**

This is one special event the campers will remember forever! Campers will serve up hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and s'mores! No need to pack a lunch on this day. Definitely one of the best days ever and served up during week 4!

### **Hideaway 500**

Hideaway 500 is one of the oldest traditions at camp. It is a car race at Hill Field, where the "cars" are actually the campers themselves (think Flinstones!). Camp groups "build" their car, generally out of cardboard and whatever else their imagination brings to the table. They are decorated and should reflect the group's personality and name. Each group takes their best guess to how long it will take their entire group to run the course. The group will time one lucky camper's lap around the course and multiply that race time to how many campers will be running. The group that runs the race closest, but not does go over, to their own estimated time, wins!

### **Klondike Day**

Klondike Day is about the Gold Rush in Alaska---the discovery of gold that drew thousands of people searching to get rich quick. There were more people than there was law enforcement, and as a result, chaos ensued. Campers separate themselves into groups to search for gold around camp: partnership (two campers), company (three campers), or corporation (four or more campers). After campers find gold, it must be taken to the Assayer, who determines its worth. If the gold is real, campers get a voucher to take to the bank to cash it in. The money can be used to buy water guns or they can choose to keep the money.

But, don't forget that campers can "rob" each other of their gold, or they can try to rob the bank---this is when the real fun begins! It's a quick-paced activity and a camper favorite. Our two youngest groups participate in a different gold-finding activity that is slower paced, but still a ton of fun.

### **Olympic Day**

Each group picks a country to represent, creates their flag, and then moves through a circuit of various Olympic events---swimming, boating, track and field, javelin throwing, fencing, etc.---done, of course, in true Hideaway style! Points are tallied for Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. Such an exciting day!

### **Camp Hurrah**

Usually held a few times during the summer and always our last Friday activity for the season. All areas of camp are open for a "hurrah." Campers get one more chance to take part in their very favorite activity. . .fishing, arts and crafts, mini golf, or one last chance to tackle the Rock Wall. They decide!



### **SPECIAL NEEDS:**

Hideaway makes every effort to fill the special needs of our campers. If, however, your camper's health (physical or mental) or overall behavior interferes with our daily camp activities and is not in the best interest of the camp or fellow campers, we reserve the right to suspend their enrollment. Arrangements for specialized or individual attention, in the form of a one-on-one or wrap-around, should be arranged with Hideaway prior to the beginning of camp. Once camp has begun, it is extremely difficult to accommodate this type of request. Our goal is to provide the best possible experience for every camper enrolled. Please contact the office for more information.

### **SUNSCREEN:**

We recommend that all campers come to camp in the morning with sunscreen and/or bug/tick repellent/ivy block. We will reapply sunscreen to our younger campers once their morning swim lesson is complete. Our older campers will reapply it themselves, also after their morning swim lesson.

Campers must bring in their own sunscreen, with their name clearly marked. It will be kept at camp for the duration of their camp stay so that it can be reapplied as needed. ALL sunscreen must be in the FORM OF A SPRAY. Please send in enough for their entire camp stay. Siblings must each bring in their own sunscreen.

### **SWIMMING:**

Groups will have a swimming lesson every morning. This is the only specialty area that your camper will go to daily. Campers are tested on Mondays to determine their skill level. This is important since it will determine access to certain areas of the pool during the optional free swim in the afternoon. We welcome campers who would like to be retested as the summer progresses.

Please note that if your camper does not take the mandatory swim lesson in the morning, they will be asked to sit by the pool for the duration of the lesson. They may not take part in the free swim offered in the afternoon. No exceptions. Please understand that the swimming lessons are a very important part of our camp day and program. It is a mandatory specialty area.

We recommend that campers wear their bathing suits to camp every day (under their clothes), since all campers have a swimming lesson every morning.

### **TEEN GROUP:**

Our oldest group at camp, our teen group is a co-ed group comprised of campers who have completed 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The group follows a similar schedule as the younger groups, but have the opportunity to go on off-site trips and work with private guest speakers. The day is structured, but offers more flexibility. It's a great time to be at teen at Hideaway!

### **TERMINATION OF ENROLLMENT:**

As a parent or guardian, you have agreed that your camper(s) is in sound physical, mental or emotional health and is able to participate in camp activities. We reserve the right to deny or cancel enrollment if the camper's health (physical, mental, or emotional) interferes with any camp activity or is not in the best interest of the camp or the other campers. The directors reserve the right to deny, cancel, sever or suspend a child's enrollment if deemed their behavior is not in the best interest of the Camp. Fees not refundable.

### **TOURS:**

Tours are given on selected Saturdays beginning in January (depending on weather). Once our season begins in June, tours are given daily, M-F. No weekend tours are given during the summer months and fall. If you would like to set up a tour, please call our office. All tours are by appointment only and begin from our parking area.

### **TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED BY HIDEAWAY:**

Hideaway contracts the use of school buses and their drivers to pick up our campers at pre-determined bus stops. Your camper will be picked up between 8:00-9:00AM on the first day of your first scheduled week by school bus. The location of your pick up/drop off spot is determined by the transportation address you provide at the time of registration. Your child's driver may change throughout the summer.

Please arrive to your bus stop 10 minutes earlier than your pick up/ drop off scheduled time. The driver cannot wait, as they are on a schedule and must continue to their next stop. If the weather is inclement, please be sure to dress your child accordingly. Camp is rain or shine. Drivers are not permitted to leave their bus to help campers on and off.

Keep in mind that we cannot be held responsible for traffic conditions, or any other uncontrollable circumstance that may delay the pick up of campers on a given day. If your camper will not be attending camp on any given day, please call the office or send us a message using the contact form on our website, [www.hideawaydaycamp.org](http://www.hideawaydaycamp.org).

Bus safety is our number one concern. Campers must follow all rules presented by their drivers. Hideaway reserves the right to deny bus transportation to any camper whose behavior on the bus is deemed inappropriate or unsafe.

### **TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED BY PARENT:**

If you are transporting your camper to and from camp, there will be someone directing traffic in the morning and afternoon and lead you through our car line. Please follow the directions of those directing traffic. They are there to guide you. Staff will assist in getting your camper(s) out of their vehicle. We understand that at times, there may be a small wait. Our goal is to keep you and your camper(s) safe. We thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

**In order to allow for a smooth/safe camper pick-up & drop-off, please adhere to the following schedule:**

1. Drop off your camper(s) anytime between 8:00AM - 9:00AM. Our car line ends at 9:00AM.
2. Please pick up your camper(s) between 3:30PM - 4:30PM. The buses depart our camp grounds at exactly 3:20PM and are given the right-of-way. Please begin forming the car line at 3:30PM for pick up to avoid interfering with the departure of our buses.

For early dismissals and/or changes to transportation, pick up, etc., campers should bring in a signed note from their parent/guardian or parent should call the office/email prior to 2:50PM. No transportation changes will be made otherwise.

### **VISITATION POLICY AND HOURS:**

We are open M-F, 8:00AM - 4:30PM during our 8-week summer season and welcome families with appointments. After 4:30PM, M-F, during our camp season, no one is permitted on camp grounds. The camp is also closed on ALL weekends and holidays. If you'd like to drop off payment, medicine or paperwork to the camp before or after normal business hours during our camp season, please call the office to arrange.

Our office and property have limited hours of operation in the off-season (September-May). While camp is not in session, our office is closed and appointments are necessary. Please call the office to make an appointment. **The camp property serves also as a private residence. Thank you in advance for your understanding.**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Roland and Mary Jo D'Ortone, Owners/Directors

Hideaway Office: 610.489.2191

Hideaway Email: [dortone@aol.com](mailto:dortone@aol.com)

Contact Form on our website: [www.hideawaydaycamp.org](http://www.hideawaydaycamp.org)