2013 Handbook for Parents and Caregivers

Summer Enrichment Camp

Youth University

Brock University

Summer Camp 2013

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Youth University!
We are pleased that your family has chosen to spend the summer with us.

Youth University is a not-for-profit organization within Brock University that provides unique hands-on learning experiences for youth. It was launched in 2005 from Community Adventure Training Initiatives (CATI), which has been providing programming for youth for over ten years. Programs feature a blend of hands-on learning & enrichment in a progressive, fun, and safe learning environment. We provide innovative summer camps, day programs, and field trips to elementary and secondary school students.

This handbook contains important information that parents/caregivers and campers need to know for the first (and every) day of camp. Please make sure that you read this material carefully to ensure the enjoyment and well being of your camper(s), and to ensure that the first day of camp is safe, efficient, and terrific!

Our Summer Camp team is dedicated to creating an amazing experience for your camper. If you should have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at any time. I look forward to meeting you this summer!

Sincerely,

Devin Kellaway

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BEFORE YOU COME TO CAMP…

Review your forms

Please ensure that you review the on-line CAMPER HEALTH INFORMATION and COMPUTER ACCESS PERMISSION forms prior to your camper's arrival at Summer Camp. You can access your completed forms by visiting our registration web-page and logging on with your user name and password. If there are any changes, please make the necessary notes on-line or contact the Camp Director.

Also, please review your pick-up and drop-off authorization information and make any necessary changes.

What if my camper would like to be in the same group as a friend?

We will make every attempt to place your camper in the same group as his/her friend if:

- They are registered in the same program
- They are in the same age group
- We are notified in advance (by June 18th or at the time of registration)

Please note that changes to group members cannot be made once the camp session has begun.

Please also note that the person registering their camper for camp should also be on the Authorized Pick Up list. We do not release campers unless the person picking up the camper is on the authorized list.

CAMPER HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health Information
As you know and expect, safeguarding the health and well-being of every camper is at the center of everything we do at camp. All of our Instructors are certified in First Aid and CPR. Again, please ensure that you review the on-line CAMPER HEALTH INFORMATION prior to your camper's camping experience. If there are any changes, please contact the Camp Director.

Special Needs (including physical and / or emotional health and / or behaviour concerns)
We are pleased to be able to make our camp accessible to campers with various needs. Our administrative team, together with our Instructors, will coordinate an excellent experience for all our campers. Please speak with the Camp Director in advance of your camper's visit to camp to discuss his or her needs. This will assist us in understanding your camper's needs, and ultimately create a wonderful experience for them and their camp group.

Epi-pens, Ventolin Inhalers and Other Medication
Should your camper require the use of an epi-pen and/or ventolin inhaler and/or require medication during the camp day please contact the Camp office by June 18, 2013 to discuss logistics with the camp (in addition to indicating this during the online registration). Our Camp Director will be pleased to assist you.

Sun Safety
While our camp has the advantage of having both amazing indoor and outdoor facilities, we are still extremely conscious of protecting campers from possible negative effects of the sun. Please ensure that you send your camper(s) with SUNSCREEN, a REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE and a HAT (labeled with your camper's name). Staff members are trained to be conscientious in ensuring that campers wear their sunhats and apply sunscreen at regular intervals during the camp day. Please ensure that they are wearing sunscreen before they leave home.

Allergies
Youth University is extremely sensitive to the needs of campers with serious nut and other allergies. **All parent/caregivers are asked to refrain from sending nut products to camp**. Our food service provider's kitchen is nut-free; however, the self-service area does sell items that may contain nuts. **We ask that all parent/caregivers DO NOT send their camper with money to purchase items to ensure the safety of campers around them!** For more information about our ability to accommodate your camper's allergies, please contact the Camp Director.

What if my camper misbehaves at camp?
Youth University strives to be inclusive of all campers. Our staff members are trained in behaviour management and prevention strategies. Disrespect of self and others, however, cannot be accepted at camp. If your camper is misbehaving at camp, camp staff will speak with you and your camper in an effort to seek a solution. In the rare occurrence that this is not possible, or if your camper's behaviour represents a threat to others' physical or emotional safety, you will be asked to remove your camper from camp immediately.

What if my camper is unable to attend camp for a day?
If your camper is unable to attend camp for the day (due to illness, etc.), please call the office at 905-688-5550 extension 3120 and inform the camp. Please note that missed days cannot be made up or refunded.

What if I need to remove my camper for a portion of the day?
Youth University uses classrooms and outdoor locations across the entire Brock University campus. For this reason, it is difficult to accompany campers to meet their parent/caregivers at odd times throughout the day. If you need to remove your camper, please make every attempt to do so during their lunch period. If you plan to do this, or if this is not possible and you wish to make other arrangements, please speak with our Camp Director prior to the first day of the camp session.

YOUTH UNIVERSITY SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP PROGRAMMING

Youth University features hands-on learning and enrichment in a progressive, fun and safe learning environment. Our classes, called Discovery Sessions, are designed to encourage curiosity, discussion and a love of learning. Recreation is offered daily and includes a combination of climbing, cheer competition, cooperative games, and group challenges. Recreation Club provides an opportunity for campers to select additional structured recreational activities and meet friends from other programs.

Each week, a theme is selected and whole camp event is structured around that theme. Whether it is mystery theatre or an egg-drop auction, it is sure to be exciting for all!

Sample Schedule

Sample Schedule 2013				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
8:10 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Extended Care				
OPENING CEREMONIES				
Discovery Session	Discovery Session	Discovery Session	Discovery Session	Discovery Session
Recreation	Recreation	Recreation	Recreation	Recreation
Lunch 11:30-12:00	Lunch 11:30-12:00	Lunch 11:30-12:00	Lunch 11:30-12:00	Lunch 11:30-12:00
Discovery Session	Discovery Session	Discovery Session	Discovery Session	Discovery Session
Discovery Session	High Ropes	Discovery Session	Discovery Session	Cheer Competition
Water Activities	Recreation Club	Recreation Club	Whole Camp Event	Water Activities
CLOSING CEREMONIES				
4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. Extended Care				
*** Please note that this is a sample only. Schedule is subject to change without notice.**				

Lunch with Youth University

Meal Plan
We are thrilled with the positive response to our meal plan from previous years! We have implemented many of the suggestions that we received from parent/caregivers and campers to make this year's meal plan better than ever. Sodexo will be our food provider for the meal plans this year.

NOTE: We will be eating in Decew Residence Dining Hall. The Dining Hall is located just beside Captain John's Lounge (Pre/Post Care Room).

The meal plan does not include snacks for the day. Please ensure that you are packing **nut-free** snacks for your camper to keep energy up throughout the day.

Special Dietary Needs
Sodexo, our meal plan provider is able to accommodate a number of special dietary needs. Please contact our office at (905) 688-5550 extension 3120 to inquire about Sodexo's ability to meet your camper's requirements.

Lunch from Home
Campers are welcome to bring their own lunches from home (about 50% of our campers do so). Campers will carry their lunches to their classrooms with them, so please use your discretion as to whether a "cold pack" may be useful to keep the lunch fresh.

Please do NOT send lunches that require heating as heating equipment/facilities will NOT be available.

Nut Products
While not nut-free, Youth University is extremely sensitive to the needs and concerns of campers with serious nut and other allergies. Parent/caregivers are asked to refrain from sending nut products in their camper's lunch.
*** Please note that the meal plan is NOT recommended for campers with nut allergies.

DID YOU KNOW?!
Some sunscreens contain nut-based ingredients such as tree nut oil. Please double-check the label of your sunscreen to ensure that there are no nut ingredients present. We also advice you to not let your campers know not to share sunscreen with others. This will help make camp safer for everyone!

Snacks and Drinks
Please provide your camper with appropriate snacks, beverages, and a water bottle. Staff will instruct campers to refill their water bottles when appropriate.

Due to Youth University's healthy eating preferences and the risk of severe allergic reactions, campers are not permitted to use vending machines on campus.

Camper Needs for Camp

In order for your camper(s) to be safe, prepared, and ready to go to camp, the following is an important list of items/equipment that every camper needs daily.

Items that all campers require daily:

- Closed-toe shoes (sneakers or running shoes preferred)
- Sunscreen **(that contains nut-free ingredients)**
- Refillable water bottle
- Sun hat
- Bathing suit / towel – (Monday and Friday)
- Nutritious lunch (unless registered for the meal plan)
- Snacks
- Clothing for inclement weather (as necessary)
- Bug repellant (optional)

Please *do not* bring:

- Electronic devices (iPods, MP3 players, Nintendo DS, hand held electronic devices)
- Valuables (jewelry, large amounts of money, etc.)
- Medication (please speak with the Camp Director in advance regarding your camper's medication)
- Nut or nut products (including peanut butter)
- Heelies

Lost and Found

Please ensure that all items / equipment are labeled with your camper's name. While the camp will do its best to ensure the safekeeping of all items, it assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged items. A "Lost & Found" will be maintained at a designated spot near the camp office. We would be happy to refer you to a Canadian label company if you wish to purchase personalized labels for your camper.

Please call our friendly staff at 905-688-5550 extension 3120 or email youthuninversity@brocku.ca for additional information if necessary.