

DANCE NEW ENGLAND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL AGES

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 20th something year of DNE Summer Camp! We are excited to see returning families/friends and are eager to meet new families and friends too!

With our return to Omni Camp once again, we look forward to providing our families with an exciting and well-organized YPP. We have a bunch of new staff as well as a core of returning teachers this year. There will be the usual mix of arts, free play, organized games, swimming, and community building. Please read this information before camp to ensure that things run smoothly for kids and parents. **We require that all families to complete and submit health forms for each child in person at camp during the times designated on the schedule – the hours are extended this year for your convenience. *No child will be permitted to attend the YPP without the appropriate completed forms***

Posted on website you will find some information to read and some forms to print out, fill out and bring to camp with you to hand in:

- This welcome letter & schedule / General YPP Information
- Information specific to your child's age group from their teachers.
- **Medical Release/Insurance form (Print out/ fill out and bring to camp)**
- **Health form (Print out/ fill out and bring to camp)**

The YPP is a multifaceted, fun, and wonderful element of the DNE community. We strive to provide a safe and interactive learning environment for all our participants (children, teachers, and parents). Please contact me with any pressing questions/concerns that you may have both pre-camp and during the program.

Please read and print out the schedule below so you know when we are open for YPP Hours. Note the day off on August 28th and the early pick up on September 2nd.

YPP 2006 Calendar for Participating Families

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		YPP Closed (for set-up)	YPP Closed (for set-up & staff planning)	YPP Closed 12:00 – 5:30 submission of medical release/ health forms to YPP office 3:30 – 5:30pm Parent/child YPP Open House	Day 1 9:15 – 5:45 First Day!	Day 2 9:15 – 5:45
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Day 3 9:15 – 5:45	YPP Closed 4:00 – 5:00pm Parent Orientation & receipt of medical release/ health forms (for those registered 2 nd 7-days)	Day 4 9:15 – 5:45	Day 5 9:15 – 5:45	Day 6 9:15 – 5:45	Day 7 9:15 – 5:45	Day 8 9:15 – 3:30 Last Day! Early release - Pick-up required at 3:30pm

HEALTH FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED AND APPROVED BEFORE CHILDREN ATTEND YPP

Drop off/Pick up: The YPP runs from 9:15am to 5:45pm. Although camp is hectic (especially for families!) we encourage parents to bring their children to the YPP on time each morning. Getting to YPP on time not only helps teachers with their planned activities, but also fosters a sense of routine for your child and allows for a smooth transition into the program. It can be challenging for children (especially the 0-5 set) to make the transition even if your child regularly attends a day care center at home.

We require each parent to fill out a form every day during drop off outlining their daily schedule. Children cannot be left without contact information for the day. Please come prepared with your daily schedule so that staff may find you if needed.

Except for the 0-2 age group, **program sign-in times are only 9:15am and 1:00pm. If you would like to pick up your child early, you may do so, but you must keep him or her under your supervision for the rest of the day and they will not be permitted to sign back in until the following day.** All children must be signed out at the end of the day promptly at 5:45.

Meals: Lunch is provided in childcare for children ages 0-5. All other age groups eat a supervised lunch in the dining hall together at a designated table. We provide light morning and afternoon snacks (crackers, fruit, veggies, juice, corn chips, etc) for all age groups.

All meals at camp are vegetarian with vegan options. Special kid friendly meals are made by the kitchen (example-if the adult's meal is spicy, curried vegetables with rice, young people will be provided with rice and plain steamed vegetables). We are able to provide cow, soy and rice milk, but if your child has other special dietary needs (ie needs babyfood, formula, etc.) please bring what you need for the duration of your stay. If you have questions regarding food or allergies, please call us.

Health Care: The Wellness Center at camp provides basic emergency supplies. All childcare classrooms have first aid kits. However, we strongly suggest that you bring what you need to treat your child in the event of an illness. In previous years we have seen cases of the flu, colds, poison ivy, sun burn, head lice*, strep throat, and plenty of spider and bug bites.

Children who are ill (fever, chills, flu, sore throat, digestive disruptions, vomiting, etc.) and/or have contagious conditions (head lice, eye infections, thrush, strep throat) will not be allowed into the YPP. Parents are expected to care for their children in these circumstances. On a more positive note, many members of our staff are trained in first aid and CPR and we are absolutely diligent about hygiene.

*PLEASE check your children for head lice daily for a few days prior to camp. Early detection can prevent a community-wide infestation.

What to Bring: Each child needs to bring an extra set of clothes, a bathing suit and towel, sunscreen (and other needed sun protection such as a hat) to YPP each day. All of your child's items must be labeled in permanent marker with your child's name. Although classrooms have cubbies to store your child's belongings it is helpful to have everything for your child contained in a bag or backpack. Transitional objects (a favorite blanket, stuffed animal, doll, etc) are helpful for young children. If you have more than one child, each one should have his/her own bag of things.

If you have a child who is potty training and/or in diapers make sure to leave extra diapers and a change of clothes at the YPP.

Items that are nice to have include: slippers for inside the childcare cabins (the floors are COLD in the morning and shoes must be removed); enough clothes to dress in layers (we have chilly evening and mornings but hot afternoons); fun costumes; instruments; a wash basin, laundry detergent, clothes line, and clothes pins for cleaning/drying clothes; extra towels, blankets, and wash cloths; portable high chairs (especially the ones that "clip" onto the table for the dining hall); sports items (Omni Camp has basketball courts, tennis courts, a waterfront area, and large grassy fields great for soccer and Frisbee); and strollers or carrying packs (strollers should have large wheels as the terrain at Omni Camp is really rough).

What not to bring: DNE is a non-violent community. Children are not allowed to have "war" toys (soldiers, guns, etc) in the YPP. Additionally, electronic toys and hand-held computers are not allowed in the program. It is the opinion of the YPP coordinators that in the past, bicycles have caused many conflicts and accidents. We do not advocate bringing them to camp. If you must bring one for your child, be sure to bring a helmet and be aware of the hazards involved such as hidden roots on the paths, people walking in the evening, tent ropes, and other children begging to use the item.

Parent Chores: All adults at camp are required to do chores. If you are a parent of a young child (age 0-5) you have the option of doing some of your chores in the YPP. Single parents of young children can do all of their chores in the YPP. During registration you can sign up for chore shifts in the YPP. It is important to keep in mind that when doing parent chores in the YPP you will be asked to do tasks such as supervising small groups of children, cleaning up the cabins, cleaning the bathrooms, and running errands for the teachers. We realize that it can be difficult (especially for young children) to share mom or dad with other kids, but in the interest of cooperation and community, we welcome and rely on parent input. In Safety,

Julie Rosenshein, DNE YPP Coordinator & The YPP Staff