

UPTON REC Kids @ Play

COVID - 19 Opening Plan 2020



On Monday, June 1, 2020, the Governor's Office released the summer recreation program opening guidelines. After much planning and discussion, the leadership team for Kids @ Play has worked through a plan to still be able to offer the same quality of service to the community. This document outlines the basics of what our program will look like this year. There are a lot of behind-the-scenes processes that will take place to make these things happen, but this is the initial operation overview.

Letter From The Director:

The last few months have certainly been a challenge for everyone. As a Recreation Commission, we had a lot of conversations regarding our ability to safely provide summer activity while still fulfilling the needs of the kids and families who participate in our programming. We have taken the guidance from the state and are making several modifications to our program this year. We feel that the modifications we are making are going to be conducive to keeping the kids safe while providing an experience that, while not totally normal, will still let them have a great time in the Kids @ Play and Next Gen 01568 Leader in Training programs.

Below, I will highlight some of the changes, but one thing that we want to assure parents is that we do not want parents to feel stressed that they have to send their kids or lose their money. We will be doing full refunds for people who are not comfortable sending their kids, or who's kids are sick. The normal refund fee will be waived in these situations. We do ask that whenever possible, you roll the money over as credits to be used at a later date. The fee covers the credit card and administrative costs associated with the processing, so if you are missing a week but want to substitute it for another week, we can apply the credit on the account. The credits do not expire (some parents even paid for part of this summer with credits from last year) but we do understand if you want a refund and so we will honor that for this year.

Here are some of the other quick changes:

- **No field trips this year** - This is based on state guidance, but also based on our inability to control the transportation company or the environment of the locations we go.
- **No Walk in/same day registrations** - In the past, we have been able to admit people with no prior registration as long as space was available. This year we cannot do that as we will have to have all the groups predetermined. As long as you signup by 10 pm the night before (if space is available) then we will be able to admit you child(ren).
- **No toys from home** - Officially the state's requirement is that toys from home cannot be shared among kids. This is basically a policy we have always tried to enforce, but invariably, a child will let someone else play with a toy or they will leave it somewhere and someone else will pick it up.
- **Provide life jackets** - If your child needs a life jacket for swimming (based on the swim test we administer) or if they want to go boating, we request that you provide one whenever possible. We have plenty of life jackets here and we will ALWAYS ensure that a child who needs one will have access to a properly sized jacket, but for the sake of disinfecting and sanitizing, it is significantly easier if they have their own that no one else touches.

There are also procedural changes with check-in/check-out and daily operation which will all be addressed in the remainder of this document. Thank you, and we look forward to another SAFE and FUN summer season!

Andrew St. George

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Before Coming:

Before coming in the morning, please make sure you have packed a snack, lunch, water bottle, change of clothes, swimsuit, towel, and a **face covering**.

Upon arrival, we will be performing a quick health screening. Please duplicate this procedure at home before coming. It is easier for you to catch something at home instead of having to get sent away. There are 3 parts to the screening:

1. Temperature - Anything over 100°F is considered a fever.
2. Questions - Have you or anyone else in your household experienced any of the following symptoms in the last 24 hours: Fever (temperature of 100.0°F or above), felt feverish, or had chills? • Cough? • Sore throat? • Difficulty breathing? • Gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting)? • Abdominal pain? • Unexplained Rash? • Fatigue? • Head-ache? • New loss of smell/taste? • New muscle aches? • Any other signs of illness?
3. In the past 14 days, have you had close contact with a person known to be infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

If they have a fever or answered yes to any of the questions, they will not be able to attend that day. Please notify us so we can appropriately credit your account for the day. Also note, the health screening is straight from the state guidance, so it will be strictly adhered to.

Check-in:

- Please wear face coverings when appropriate as dictated by state guidance.
- Please bring just the kids that are checking in and 1 guardian when possible.
- A guardian **MUST** accompany a child to sign in.
 - Walk up the stairs in front of the Ramsey building and wait at the sign.*
 - If a line is forming, please maintain 6 feet of social distancing.
 - Proceed to a check in table when called by staff.
 - Staff will perform health screening.
 - Kids will be sent to their respective groups.
 - Parents leave down the ramp immediately after check in.

* If an individual needs to use the ramp to come up for accessibility reasons, they are welcome to do so or make arrangements with staff to come down to the parking lot.

Daily Procedures:

Kids will be in groups of 10 with 2 staff. They will be with their group throughout the day. Each group will have a tent as their home base. Additionally, each group will have some field space for games. Some field space will be shared, but there will not be 2 groups in the same area at the same time. At their respective home base, groups will keep their backpacks, eat their lunch, and do many of their crafts. Small things like board games or smaller activities will happen at home base as well. These home bases will be spread over the entirety of the Kiwanis beach facility for the sake of appropriate spacing and distancing. In general, the younger kids will be closer to the building and the older kids will be at some of the further points. Keep this in mind if picking up children early as it will take longer for older kids. Try to come earlier or call in advance so we can have them down at the office for you.

We are planning on each group getting a 30 minute swim time every day and it will rotate time wise so that no group gets stuck with an earlier morning swim time every day. We are also expecting to proceed with boating (kayak, paddleboard, and pedal boats) but it will be likely that each group will get 2-3 boating sessions per week instead of having a chance every day. This is due to the sanitation requirements between users.

As is our policy, each kid will still take a swim test at their first swim session to determine their swimming ability. When life jackets are needed, we are able to provide them, but we are requesting that whenever possible, parents provide their own. This is just to ease sanitation requirements as life jackets will have to be sanitized between different users.

Many crafts will take place at the home base for the groups, but some crafts will still take place in a central area (the pavilion). In these cases, table will be setup for the crafts and will be sanitized between use. Equipment that can't reliably be sanitized will only be used 1 time a week so that anything on it will die before it gets handled again. This would be things like markers, crayons, and other similar items. We will also have sufficient packages of the various supplies so that each child will have their own box of crayons or markers so as not to share.

There will be dedicated staff for cleaning who will jointly enforce social distancing on the beach and also clean bathrooms, supplies, and other facilities on a regular basis. Used equipment will be taken out of circulation until cleaning has been completed.

We are asking parents to provide face coverings for kids. There are some exceptions to the kids having to wear them all day, but if there is bad weather and we have to shelter, it will be important that they are able to wear masks since social distancing will be significantly harder in a sheltering situation.

While we are going to be strict on all of the policies and procedures dictated by the guidelines, it is important to note that we are starting in phase 2 of the state's reopening plan and will likely pass into phase 3 and possibly into phase 4 this summer. As the states requirements change, our policies may change accordingly.

Check-out:

The check-out process will look very similar to the process in years past with some slight modifications for traffic control.

- Please wear face coverings when appropriate as dictated by state guidance.
- Please bring minimal people to pickup, preferably 1 guardian when possible.
- Walk up the stairs in front of the Ramsey building and head to the sign out table. This will be located near the pavilion.
- If a line is forming, please maintain 6 feet of social distancing.
- Notify the check-out staff who you are there to pick up.
- Staff will call for child(ren).
- When they arrive, they will leave down the ramp immediately with their guardian.

We are expecting that this process will take longer than normal based on the fact that the kids will be spread out further. As the pickups progress and the groups get smaller, the groups that are further out will fill in empty space in the fields to get closer to the check out.

Final Thoughts:

We have, to the best of our ability made plans with the intention of providing the same sort of safe and fun experience that your families have come to expect from Upton Recreation. These are unprecedented times for most of us, and we appreciate your patience as we work through exactly how this program can run smoothly. We fully expect to make changes as we progress through the summer. This is something we do on a normal basis as we are constantly trying to create a better program for the kids. I have no doubt that there will be some little speed bumps along the way as we adjust to this new model of operation, but I also have no doubt that the amazing staff who we have working for us this summer will do everything in their power to still make this a summer to remember.

After all that has gone on for the kids in the last part of this school year, we may be in a position to give them the best summer ever, even if it means we have a lot of obstacles to overcome.

We are really looking forward to another great season, and we hope to see lots of smiling faces this summer (even if some of those smiles are hidden behind masks at times!)

Kids @ Play/Leader in Training Group Spacing

Orange square: K - 3rd Grade

Red square: 3rd - 6th Grade

Blue square: Leader in Training

Specific ages at each group will vary based on enrollment, but this map illustrates the general areas we expect the age groups to primarily be in. Group locations may also change as the state continues to offer guidance and move through the various phases of reopening.

