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Camp Ponkapoag 2021

What is Camp Ponkapoag?

Camp Ponkapoag is an outdoor camp located in the Blue Hills of Canton. Our camp accepts children ages 7-13. The children are outdoors for the ENTIRE day. Campers look for animals, hike, play sports, and move quickly from one activity to the next. There is little to no down time during the day. If your child enjoys a very active, energetic day outdoors and does not mind getting a little dirty, Ponkapoag is the camp for them! We are an outdoor camp—our programs run RAIN or SHINE. We will alter our programs as necessary to accommodate the weather, such as additional breaks, swim time, and shade on very hot days. On rainy days, our programs will still be outside as much as possible, although in severe weather, we will take shelter and appropriate safety precautions. If there is significant rain, all campers go to our indoor main lodge or under our large outdoor covered pavilions. Group games are played, talent contests are done, and movies are watched to keep all campers engaged. All swimming activities are cancelled when there is thunder and lightning.

What is a typical day like at Camp Ponkapoag?

The children arrive at our camp site at about 9am. Campers are transported to our camp site via school bus. Camp counselors ride the bus with the campers. We meet around the flag pole for announcements until 9:30am. The day is broken up into 45-minute activity blocks. We end each day at flagpole to discuss the day, select campers of the day and take part in engaging camp songs. After the closing flagpole, staff lead the children to the buses and head back to the YMCA branch beginning around 4pm.

How often do the children swim?

Everyday! Campers swim in an outdoor pool not a lake. On the first day of each session, campers are given a swim test to determine their swimming ability. During recreational swim, campers are required to wear bracelets corresponding to their swimming ability. All campers participate in 45 minutes of lessons 3 days a week. Swim lessons are taught by trained and certified life guards. Groups are broken up by age and ability. Campers participate in 45 minutes of free time 2 days per week. In addition to the lifeguards, camp counselors are required to be in the pool with our campers during swim time.

What should my child bring to camp each day?

Your child should come to camp with sunscreen already applied. Campers will need a water bottle, a bathing suit, a towel, comfortable shoes (NO OPEN toe shoes are allowed). All of the campers' personal items should be labeled with their first and last name. Campers are expected to carry their own backpacks, towels and lunch during the day. We ask that you send your child in clothing appropriate for outdoor camp/activities. No toys or electronics are allowed at camp.

Sample Schedule

Time	Activity
9:15-9:30am	Opening Circle
9:45-10:30am	Physical Activity
10:45-11:30am	Swimming
11:45-12:15pm	Lunch
12:20-12:40pm	Cool down/Midday reflection
12:45-1:30pm	Enrichment (Art, STEM, Gardening, Ropes, Archery, Literacy, Nutrition, etc)
1:45pm-2:30pm	Hike
2:45-3:15pm	Snack
3:20-3:50	Closing Circle
4:00-4:15	Dismissal to buses

Registration available for the following weeks

Week 1: June 21 st – June 25 th
Week 2: June 29 th – July 2 nd
Week 8: August 9 th – August 13 th
Week 9: August 16 th – August 20 th
Week 10: August 23 rd – August 27 th
Week 11: August 30 th – September 3 rd

Contact us for more information

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This camp must comply with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and be licensed by the local Board of Health. We continue to stay committed to the safety of your children and families by updating and adapting our safety policies per recommendations from the CDC, EEC, ACA and the State of Massachusetts guidelines. Safety is our top priority so thank you for your continued cooperation and patience.