

CAMP GATORS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



MRESC Aquatics & Fitness Center
333 Cheesequake Road, Parlin NJ 08859
www.TheAquaticsCenter.com
(732) 317-0333

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Q - Will my child have fun at Camp GATORS?

A - Yes! Our primary focus is to provide a fun and safe environment for our campers, LITs, and CITs!

Q - What are the age groups of the campers? What is your counselor to camper ratio?

A - Campers are broken up by the grade they will be going into in September. From there, our age groups are PK & K, 1 & 2, 3 & 4, 5&6, LIT (8 & 9), and CIT (10-12). Age groups may vary slightly due to enrollment and daily attendance. Each age group has two counselors (one male and one female) for every 20 campers, making the ratio 1 counselor for every 10 campers.

Q - Do you offer a Counselor in Training (CIT) program?

A - Yes, this is a 7 week (July 6—August 21) volunteer based program. Students in grades 10 thru 12 are welcome to complete an application at the Welcome Center no later than June 1st. Interviews will be held starting June 5th and candidates notified of their acceptance into the program on June 15th. Please know that completion of the program does not guarantee employment in upcoming summer camp seasons at the Aquatics & Fitness Center. Parent paid field trips are available for this program on a biweekly basis.

Q - What is an LIT?

A - Preteens who enroll in this program are referred to as LITs (Leaders in Training). LITs are responsible for organizing and co-implementing activities for our general campers. LITs will also receive training in professionalism, leadership, communication, and collaboration. Parents still need to pay for LITs to attend camp, however the fee is discounted to reflect the service that they will provide to Camp GATORS. Parent paid field trips are available for this program on a biweekly basis.

Q - What are the counselors like at camp?

A - We pride ourselves on our adult camp counselors. All staff members at the ESCNJ Aquatics & Fitness Center go through the same background checks that your child's classroom teacher goes through. All counselors are provided with CPR/AED and First Aid training in addition to 20+ hours of pre-camp training and weekly trainings during camp. In addition to the age group counselors, our camp director and/or coordinator are on site during standard camp hours to assist with all camp related activities.

Q - What are the hours for Camp GATORS?

A - Standard camp hours are 9am-4pm. We do offer Before Care (7am-9am) and After Care (4-6pm) for an additional charge. Campers who are not picked up by 4:05pm will automatically be enrolled in and billed for After Care. Campers who are not picked up by 6:05pm are subject to a \$1 per minute late fee charge which must be paid prior to camper pick up.

Q - What do I need to do to register for Camp GATORS?

A - Registration forms are available at the Aquatics & Fitness Center Welcome Center or on our website: www.TheAquaticsCenter.com/summer-camp. To register, parents should bring completed registration forms and a copy of each child's immunization records to the Welcome Center with payment for the first week of camp and the registration fee, if necessary. Registration for subsequent weeks can be made in person at the Welcome Center or over the phone at (732) 317-0333 Option #1, with a credit card. Registration for upcoming weeks should be done on the Wednesday before the week you wish to register for camp. Campers registered during the week of camp they will be attending or after each Wednesday are subject to a \$5 late registration fee.

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Q – **What forms of payment do you accept?**

A – The ESCNJ Aquatics & Fitness Center accepts cash, check (made payable to “ESCNJ”), and all major credit cards. Checks should be made payable to “ESCNJ”. Credit Card charges will appear on bank statements as “ESCNJ Aquatics & Fitness Center”.

Q – **Do you offer financial assistance?**

A – Unfortunately, due to no fault of our own, we are no longer able to accept Community Child Care Solutions after a dispute as to how we were able to report camper attendance in the 2019 season. We would love to be able to partner with them again if they are able to be a bit more flexible in allowing us to report attendance manually as we have for many years. With that said, if you are interested in a payment plan for camp, please reach out to Kate Dauphinee (KDauphinee@escnj.us).

Q – **Do the children go on field trips? What about the campers that do not go on field trips?**

A – Yes! Camp GATORS has an optional field trip each week. The cost of each trip is \$35 per child; this fee covers the cost of the bus and the admission into the venue. A listing of the field trips for this summer can be found at www.TheAquaticsCenter.com. The counselor to camper ratio on most trips is 1:10 to keep our campers and staff safe. School buses are provided through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey’s Transportation Department. Signed permission slips are required for all campers going on each trip and are available at the Welcome Center at the time of registration. Additional waivers may be required depending on each individual venue. Campers who opt out of the trip will attend camp at the Aquatics & Fitness Center with their normal camp schedule including sports, arts and crafts, lunch, pool, snack, and playground time.

Q – **Do the campers spend time outside?**

A – We believe that our campers spend a great deal of time indoors during the school year and the summer is better spent outdoors. As such, Camp GATORS is primarily an outdoor camp. Children will only come inside in the event of inclement weather and/or when the outdoor temperature for Parlin, NJ (Zip Code 08859) reaches over 90 degrees according to www.weather.com. Campers should dress appropriately, including sunscreen and sneakers. In the event of inclement weather, children will be moved indoors. It may be necessary to reschedule pool time to the morning or cancel pool time all together in accordance with the ESCNJ Aquatics & Fitness Center’s Inclement Weather Policy.

Q – **Can my child bring his/her cell phone?**

A – No. Campers should leave all electronic devices including cell phones, tablets, and handheld games at home. In the event that your child does bring these items to camp, they will be confiscated and kept at the Welcome Center until a parent/guardian arrives. Camp GATORS, the ESCNJ Aquatics & Fitness Center, and the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey are not responsible for lost or stolen items, so please leave electronics at home.

Q – **Does the camp have a lost and found?**

A – Yes! The Camp GATORS lost and found will be emptied at the end of every week with items being donated to a local organization if possible. Please have your children bring their items labeled with their first and last name to avoid being placed in the lost and found. Prior to leaving for the day, please make sure that you have all the items that you sent your child to camp with, including towels, bathing suits, socks, water bottles, and lunch boxes, as these are the items that get left behind the most.

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Q – What does a typical day at camp look like?

A – Upon arrival, campers gather as a whole for morning circle prior to being separated into their age groups. The day is filled with sports, education, playground time, community service, arts and crafts, counselor led activities, and pool time just to name a few.

Q – Do the campers utilize the pool? If so, when and how often?

A – Yes! Camp GATORS uses the pool facilities at the Aquatics & Fitness Center every day! Pool time is schedule for the afternoons, weather permitting. All campers are swim tested on their first day of camp to determine which pool area they are allowed to use. Campers are welcome to re-test at the beginning of each swim session if the lifeguard staff is available to conduct the test. Campers using the pool should be able to dress themselves. It may be necessary to reschedule pool time to the morning hours or cancel for the day due to inclement weather or other pool related emergencies.

Q – Do you offer swim lessons during camp?

A – Yes! Private swim lessons are available during camp for interested swimmers. These lessons will take place on Tuesday, Thursday, and/or Friday mornings. Campers enrolled should bring an extra towel and bathing suit for their schedule lesson day. Pricing information is available in the registration packet. For more information, please contact Kate Dauphinee at KDauphinee@escnj.us.

Q – Who provides lunch for my camper?

A – Parents are responsible for providing campers with a lunch and snack that are peanut and seafood free to avoid conflicts with allergies. Lunches take place between 11am and 2pm depending on the age group of the campers. Snack time takes place either between 10am and 11am or 3pm and 4pm each day, depending on the lunch time of the campers. Campers who accidentally bring lunches and/or snacks containing peanuts and/or seafood will be separated from the rest of the group to have their lunch and wash their hands before returning.

Q – Who will help in the event of a medical emergency?

A – All camp staff hold current American Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer certifications. In addition, we have lifeguards on site during all times camp is going on. These staff members will be the first point of contact for medical emergencies. During the Commission's ESY program, the school nurse is also available if, and only if, immediate care is needed prior to the arrival of EMTs. If you child has an Epi-Pen, nebulizer, or any other treatment that may need to be given during camp hours, this should be noted in the medical section of the registration packet. Please know that state law prevents us from dispensing some types of medications to campers.

Q – Do you accept children with special needs?

A – As a part of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, we strive to offer an inclusive summer camp program for children with special needs. We match potential campers with the age group that they are most able to relate to. Unfortunately, it is not possible for Camp GATORS to accommodate children who require specific services, including children who require feeding, bathroom, and/or walking assistance, as well as children who require 1:1 support or behavioral challenges. For further questions, please contact Mike O'Boyle at SummerCamp@escnj.us.