

## YMCA CAMP BELKNAP 2020 INFORMATION AND CAMP POLICIES

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Camp Belknap is a non-profit traditional overnight summer camp for boys age 8-16 near Wolfeboro, New Hampshire on Lake Winnepesaukee established in 1903.

### SCHEDULE

		<u>CHECK - IN</u>			<u>CHECK - OUT</u>	
Session 1	June 27	Saturday	2PM to 4PM	July 11	Saturday	9AM to 11AM
Session 2	July 11	Saturday	2PM to 4PM	July 25	Saturday	9AM to 11AM
Session 3	July 26	<b>SUNDAY</b>	9AM to 11AM	August 8	Saturday	9AM to 11AM
Session 4	August 8	Saturday	2PM to 4PM	August 22	Saturday	9AM to 11AM
Session 5	August 24	<b>MONDAY</b>	3PM to 4PM	August 29	Saturday	9AM to 10AM

Campers may sign up for more than one session. However, Belknap only offers 4-week stays that combine session 1 and 2 or session 3 and 4. Combining session 2 and 3 are not an option for a 4-week stay. We make no exceptions. Campers interested in staying 6 or 8 weeks must contact the camp office prior to registration and have attended previous summers.

All families must formally check the camper in and out at the Conlon Lodge on the dates and times listed above. All campers must leave the premises between the end of session 2 and start of session 3 (July 25 - July 26); between the end of session 4 and start of session 5 (August 22 - August 24); and, at the end of session 5 (August 29), as the camp is closed.

### TUITION & FEES

Belknap's non-profit mission is to be affordable to any family who wishes to enroll in Camp. In an effort to maintain our mission and to minimize our rate increases, Camp uses a tuition option program. Please select the level that is most appropriate for your family. Your family's choice is strictly confidential and your choice will not influence your camper's experience or placement.

**Tuition Option A** covers a camper's full share of the cost of operating and maintaining Camp. This price helps to ensure that Belknap will continue to thrive for future generations.

**Tuition Option B** does not cover the camper's full share of the operating costs of Camp. However, thanks to generous donations we are able to continue to offer this pricing.

	<b>2-WEEK SESSION (1, 2, 3, &amp; 4)</b>		<b>1-WEEK SESSION (5)</b>	
	Option A	Option B	Option A	Option B
Registration Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Board & Tuition	\$2055.00	\$1725.00	\$1030.00	\$865.00
Camper Store/Spending Deposit	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2255.00</b>	<b>\$1925.00</b>	<b>\$1205.00</b>	<b>\$1040.00</b>

Campers staying for 4, 6, and 8 weeks will be charged the two-week board & tuition, and camper store/spending deposit multiplied by the number of 2-week sessions. Camper store/spending deposit is the money that the camper will have access to use in the store while at Camp. Please see the section in this document that outlines what activities and items may be applied to this camper store/spending account.

**Payment is due in full by May 1, 2020.** If full payment is not received by May 1 you will be responsible for a \$150 late fee and we cannot guarantee a spot. No refunds will be issued after May 1, including if your camper leaves for any reason (voluntary or not) during a session. There is a \$25.00 fee for any checks returned due to insufficient funds. If you choose to pay the tuition balance with a credit card, a processing fee will be added to the tuition balance due. There is no credit card processing fee when using credit card to pay registration deposit.

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**ATTENDANCE & AGE**

Session	Age
1, 2, 3, 4 (2-weeks)	9-16*
Session 5 (1-week)	8-12

\*Eight-year-old campers can apply to sessions 1-4 only if an older brother is a CURRENT camper and attends the same session as the brother. Eight-year-olds must be age 8 before June 1<sup>st</sup> to attend camp. Sixteen-year-olds must be 16 for the entire length of the summer. (*This means the camper must be 16 until August 31<sup>st</sup>*). Sixteen-year-old campers must have attended Belknap the previous year.

**RULES FOR ACCEPTANCE**

Rules for acceptance and participation in the program are the same for everyone without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, social group or national origin/geography.

**INCLUSION**

Camp Belknap is an overnight camp serving boys. For over a century, Belknap has invested in the benefits of a single gender environment to serve our mission of creating good leaders and citizens. As such, we welcome children who identify as boys, and who are emotionally ready for Camp Belknap. Camp Belknap welcomes, supports and celebrates all boys no matter their economic, ethnic, geographic, racial, religious, sexual or social group. We foster inclusivity, compassion, and selflessness and envision a camp where all identities, differences and experiences are valued.

**DIVISION ORGANIZATION/HOUSING**

For all five sessions, boys live in divisions that include a lodge, bathrooms and six cabins. Each cabin of 8-10 campers is supervised by one or two experienced leaders, all of whom were once Belknap campers. Divisional placement is made **by age (not school grade)**, we simply take all the boys registered for a given session, order them by their birthday, and divide them into five equal groups (Divisions). From youngest to oldest, these divisions are called: Cadets, Juniors, Middlers, Besserers, and Seniors. Only two of the divisions are used during Session 5 because of the intentional smaller number of campers during this session.

Please note that campers may remain in the same division for several years or occasionally skip a division depending on the age of the campers. Additionally campers staying for more than one session (monthers) may be moved to an older division if the average age of the campers in the new session is younger. This movement highlights the opportunity to live with boys of similar maturity.

**DIVISION/CABIN REQUESTS**

Our daily schedule permits campers to participate in activities with their friends. **We do NOT accept cabin mate requests**, as we separate siblings and friends among cabins in order to be fair to all campers, to avoid cliques, and to give all campers an opportunity to make new friends. Campers may request to be in the same **DIVISION** with one friend. **The older camper will always be placed in the division of the younger camper.** Requests that involve more than one year in age difference of campers will only be considered at the discretion of the directors. A parent/guardian of each camper must submit a division request **IN WRITING** no later than **MAY 1<sup>st</sup>**, as division requests are not guaranteed after that date.

**BUNK ASSIGNMENTS/LOTTERY**

All campers receive bunk assignments by lottery from their cabin leaders upon arrival. This policy is intended to eliminate the need for early arrivals in order to “get a good bunk” and is meant to be fair to all campers.

**SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS & HEALTH HISTORY COMPLETION**

Before your camper’s arrival, please share any medical or emotional needs that your camper has by accurately filling out the medical information electronically. Having this information allows us to set your camper up for success at Camp. Also contact Camp via phone with any special requests or concerns. For example, if your camper has a **restricted diet**, is **restricted from activities**, routinely **bedwetting**, **mental health concerns** or currently has a **one-on-one-support in school**, we request you contact Camp at the main line before final registration/payment on May 1<sup>st</sup>. **Together** we can discuss whether Camp Belknap is the right place for your camper to be successful at this time. Please be aware that we are not equipped or trained to handle all specific concerns. For referral to accredited camps that accommodate a variety of specific needs, please contact the American Camp Association.

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**HEALTH INFORMATION IS MANDATORY**

Every camper must have an annual physical exam dated within 1 year (12 months) prior to the end date of the session he is registered to attend. Immunization record is also required.

**HEALTH & ACCIDENT COVERAGE**

Campers are covered by Camp Belknep for any accident or sickness that originates at Camp Belknep up to a maximum limit outlined on the application. Parent/Guardian is responsible for all costs above the maximum limits. Please note that Camp Belknep does not provide dental coverage.

**DISMISSAL**

Camp Directors reserve the right to dismiss a camper for undesirable behavior or behavior contradictory to the Belknep Spirit. Behavior such as fighting, bullying, stealing, use of unapproved technology, use or possession of alcohol, tobacco or drugs, and use or possession of firearms or weapons of any sort are not tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from camp.

**VALUES AND COMMUNITY**

Campers engage in a variety of important **community activities** including eating in the dining hall, sitting quietly and/or participating in large group gatherings, and doing his share of the work during camp duties. Belknep community emphasizes the interpersonal **values** of kindness, helpfulness, courage, and leadership by example.

**SAFETY**

The safety of our campers is our top priority. Campers must be able to independently perceive and understand safety and emergency instructions/directions. Some examples of safety instruction that they will encounter includes but are not limited to:

- Staying within camp boundaries
- Handling program equipment such as a rifle, bow, or hockey stick
- Entering the dock only with the permission of the waterfront supervisor
- Wearing a helmet and using commands during climbing

**MEALS/FOOD**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the dining hall with the entire camp together and campers eat at a round table family-style together with their cabin-mates and leader. There are no snacks served between meals. Even though we do not serve any cooked meals containing nuts, we are NOT a nut-free facility. Peanut butter is served in our dining hall. If your camper has a **restricted diet** or an allergy that requires attention, please make sure to contact the camp prior to registration. Please be aware that we are not equipped or trained to handle all specific concerns.

**ACTIVITIES AND ELIGIBILITY**

The daily schedule has three program periods that the camper can choose what he wants to do from a list of at least five age-appropriate program options. Most program periods do not require the camper to sign-up, such as soccer, arts and crafts, and nature. A handful of the activity options require him to sign-up because of limited spots/equipment, such as sailing, archery, and riflery. Sign-ups occur right after mealtime. Priority is given to those campers who have not had the chance to do the activity. For a list of activities/program periods visit the website. Occasionally new games are creatively designed and implemented by the leadership and will not be listed.

Please note, the camper can choose to go to the program he likes and he does NOT travel with his cabin. The camper must be able to safely get from one place in camp to another without being with or requiring another camper/staff person. Additionally, campers maneuver rugged and varied terrain as part of program activities, daily camp life and to travel to and from areas of camp. Because we are living in the outdoors, during many activities the camper will be **exposed to weather and nature** such as but not limited to being in a canoe on a windy lake while it is raining and overnight camping on an island without a shelter.

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**SWIMMING**

All campers are required to participate in a swim check at the beginning of the session. The swim check determines the camper's swim group. The swim group dictates where each camper may swim (Cadet Beach, Main Dock Shallow or Main Dock Deep). All swim group levels may use the non-motorized boats. Campers are NOT required to go to swim lessons. Campers are encouraged to attend swim lessons where they have the opportunity to improve skills and advance to the next swim group. Campers who are not in the highest swimming groups may take a waterski swim test to be permitted to participate in waterski/tubing activities.

**MOUNTAIN DAY**

During sessions 2 & 4, all campers leave camp for the day to hike a mountain in New Hampshire with their divisional age group. Senior campers go to an ocean beach. If weather permits, this activity is mandatory for all campers and has an additional fee for transportation, which is automatically deducted from the camper store/spending account.

**CAMPER STORE/SPENDING MONEY**

Prior to arriving at camp, your camper will have spending money already on his account (\$50 per 2-week session, \$25 per 1-week session). Items that may be charged to the camper spending account include:

- camp store purchases (<\$35 per item)
- craft and woodworking supplies (average \$7 per item)
- water skiing, tubing, field trips, hiking trips, mountain day hike, birthday cake (\$10 per activity)
- golf off-site (\$20 per activity) – activity for campers in oldest division only

Campers are prohibited from having cash or checks while at camp. Please do not mail cash or checks to your camper while at camp. Please note that camper spending accounts are occasionally overdrawn. However, campers are not prohibited from continuing to participate in activities, unless a parent states otherwise in writing. Overdrawn accounts will be settled when you check out. If your camper balance is not paid in full by August 31, 2020, your camper will be unable to register for camp next year. Refunds of camper spending accounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and returned when you check out. **REFUNDS OF CAMPER SPENDING ACCOUNTS NOT CLAIMED AT CHECKOUT ARE FORFEITED.**

**CAMP STORE**

Camp store is open throughout the week and on change days. We sell all sorts of useful items, such as hats, t-shirts, shorts, sweatshirts, stationery, water bottles, rain ponchos, disposable cameras, and travel-size toiletries. A Belknap t-shirt is not mandatory but is nice to have for group pictures and sports teams. Items purchased at the camp store are deducted from the camper's spending money. **WE DO NOT SELL FOOD, CANDY, OR DRINKS IN THE CAMP STORE.**

**BIRTHDAYS**

We provide cake/ice cream to everyone in your camper's cabin on his birthday at an added charge. This is mandatory unless we are notified otherwise. This fee will be deducted from the camper store/spending money.

**PACKING FOR CAMP/TRUNKS**

Please refer to the packing list online at [www.campbelknap.org](http://www.campbelknap.org) for a full list of equipment needed for camp. Footlockers or trunks are required. A footlocker or trunk approximately 32" x 18" x 13" is a great size and should be constructed of materials that will not collapse when someone stands or sits on it. Additionally it is ideal if it has a handle on each end. Footlockers and trunks do not need to fit underneath the bunks. If you wish to ship a footlocker or trunk to camp prior to your camper's arrival, or home at the end of his stay at camp, please make pre-paid arrangements directly with the shipping company of your choice.

**LAUNDRY SERVICE**

Every camper's dirty clothing is washed, once each week at our laundry facility. Label all clothing because laundry is combined with other cabins in the division. Please note that laundry service is NOT provided for Session 5 (1-week camp).

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**LOST & FOUND**

Please label all clothing (including socks and underwear), towels, sleeping bag, pillow, footwear and other gear, from baseball mitt and swimming goggles to toiletries. Remind campers of their responsibility to keep track of their belongings while at camp. We are not responsible for lost, stolen or forgotten items. Please avoid sending any expensive items to camp. All lost and found items are placed in the lost and found bins in each division or Conlon Lodge. **All unclaimed items will be immediately donated to charity at the close of each session.**

**CAMP LIBRARY**

We have a library with a variety of reading materials for all age groups. Donations of age-appropriate books are graciously accepted.

**MASQUA/YEARBOOK**

The Masqua is the camp's annual pictorial yearbook of campers, staff and events held throughout the summer. Also included are select chapel talks and vespers. Addresses for all campers and staff are listed in this publication. Each camper receives a copy in the winter.

**COMMUNICATION WHILE AT CAMP: TELEPHONE AND MAIL**

**You may use letters and postcards to keep in touch.** Mail comes via the mailboat, which is a long standing tradition at Camp Belknop. Please note the following when communicating with your camper:

- Campers are never brought to the telephone except in the event of a real emergency.
- In efforts to keep technology out of camp, we do NOT accept E-mails and Faxes for campers. This type of communication is reserved for camp business only.
- **Care packages are NOT accepted at camp.** Should a package, box or bag arrive for a camper at camp that was not anticipated by the director or the main office we will keep the package for pick-up during check-out at the end of the session or return it to sender upon its arrival. Camp will not be responsible for returned packages or any packages held until the end of session.
- We understand the package policy may be new for you. Camp Belknop chooses not to accept packages for the following reasons: 1. Camp is the gift. 2. Inclusion – We have campers from all socioeconomic backgrounds and not all campers can afford or have the opportunity to receive a package. 3. Conservation- In past summers, over 2,000 packages arrived. By reducing the number of boxes, Belknop continues to be a leader in stewarding the environment. We can make a difference! 4. Impact on your camper receiving a well thought out letter is much more impactful than receiving a box of stuff.
- **Did your camper forget something at home?** Please contact the main office for instructions on how to send the item. 603-569-3475. First let's determine if we (or our camp store) will be able to help provide the camper with the missing essential items such as toothbrush or a loaner sleeping bag.
- Please be aware that initial letters sent home may involve strong homesick feelings, especially from the first-time campers and that such feelings are completely normal. You can help by sending letters from home that are newsy, upbeat and encouraging. Please avoid telling your camper he can come home or call after a few days if he wishes. These "pick-up deals" encourage homesickness and a feeling of "we don't believe you can make it." Belknop hopes to foster resilience and courage.
- You are welcome to drop letters at Conlon Lodge on Check-in day so that your camper may receive a letter in the first days of camp.

Send camper mail to:            Camper Name  
   Division/Cabin #  
   YMCA Camp Belknop  
   P.O Box 1546  
   Wolfeboro, NH 03894

**VISITING**

Parents/Guardians are NOT permitted to visit camp during the 1 or 2 week sessions. Unscheduled visits disrupt activities, camp culture/community and cause additional homesickness. For those campers staying one month, **visiting hours are limited to the two Saturday change days** (end of Session 1/start of Session 2 AND end of Session 3/start of Session 4) from 9 AM to 5 PM. Most campers leave camp with family or friends. **Campers who are invited to leave camp by adults other than their parent(s)/guardian(s) may do so only with written permission from a parent/guardian.** Visitors are not permitted to swim or boat in camp.

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**TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORTS & BUS STATIONS**

Please note that we do not provide transportation to and from airports and bus stations. You should make prepaid arrangements directly with the limousine or car service of your choice.

**CAMP DEPARTURE**

Camper families must sign their camper out at Conlon Lodge on check-out day. If the camper is not picked up by the parent/guardian(s), they must provide written permission before the start of the camper's attending session. It is our policy to avoid any early pick-ups or mid-session departures from camp during a session. Departing early distracts from our mission in building independence and creating a working community and is difficult for both leaders and bunkmates. If for some very important circumstances, your camper must leave/depart his session early please be aware of the following: Pick up will be during siesta time only. We do not allow for late pick-ups on Friday night or early Saturday morning, as our team is closing the session with the campers. We highly discourage ins and outs during a session. Ins and outs for first time campers are forbidden. Departure information must be submitted in writing one week before accepted session check-in day and must receive written approval from Belknap.

**TECHNOLOGY AT BELKNAP**

Campers are **NOT permitted to bring any technology/electronics/music player devices to camp**. This means no hand-held video games, cell phones, music players, e-readers, GoPros, smartwatches or any device, which permits access to telephone, the Internet, or recording. The leaders, staff, and Board of Trustees at Camp Belknap feel strongly that a true camp experience is possible only if it does not include technological devices, which have become so much a part of young people's lives. Our intention at camp is to foster living as a community, thus music is used in a communal way. Music will only be played through the cabin music player or with musical instruments and voices. The only technological device that is permitted is a camera. However, the camera must not do any other functions including video recording. We encourage disposable cameras. Electronic devices will be confiscated if found. **The inability to follow this important camp policy may be a cause for dismissal.**

**ITEMS NOT PERMITTED**

The following items are ABSOLUTELY NOT PERMITTED: Alcohol, drugs, tobacco (including e-cigarettes or juuls), any illegal substances or items, guns, rifles, knives, hatchets, fireworks of any kind, skateboards, in-line skates, fidget spinners, food (including candy, gum, & soda), money and electronic devices (as outlined above). Campers may not keep a car/vehicle or animal/pet on camp property during camp. This policy is strictly enforced for safety and best camper experiences. Items will be confiscated if found.