CAMP BELKNAP
2026 INFORMATION AND CAMP POLICIES

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

SCHEDULE

Session	Check-In	Check-Out
Session 1	Sunday 6/28 **	Saturday 7/11: 9-11am
Session 2	Sunday 7/12 **	Saturday 7/25: 9-11am
Session 3	Sunday 7/26 **	Saturday 8/8: 9-11am
Session 4	Sunday 8/9 **	Saturday 8/22: 9-11am
Session 5	Monday 8/24 **	Saturday 8/29: 9-10am

** Check-In Times by Age Group
Early arrivals and departures will not be accepted.

Age Group	Session	Time Slot
Ages 8-11	Session 1, 2, 3 & 4	12:30-1:30 pm
Ages 12-13	Session 1, 2, 3 & 4	1:30-2:15 pm
Ages 14-16	Session 1, 2, 3 & 4	2:15-3:00 pm
LC's	Session 1 & 3	9:00 am

Campers interested in staying for 4 weeks may do so during sessions 1 & 2, OR 3 & 4 ONLY. Unfortunately, we cannot offer any alternate combinations. 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 on the dates listed above. Arrival and departure times will be determined and communicated ahead of time. **All campers staying for more than one session must stay on the premises during the change days**.

ATTENDANCE & AGE

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

*Eight-year-olds must be age 8 before June 1st to attend camp. 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. Sixteen-year-olds must be 16 through the end of 4th session (*This means the camper must be 16 until August 22nd*). 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, economic status, sexual orientation, social group, or country of origin.

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, regardless of economic status, country of origin, ethnicity, race, religion, social group, or sexual orientation. We foster inclusivity, compassion, and selflessness and envision a camp where all identities, differences, and experiences are valued.

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 their share of the work during inspection and camp duties. The Belknap 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 instructions that they will encounter include 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
- Respect for personal boundaries
- Wearing a helmet and using commands during climbing tower
- Observing instructions related to allergies and food in the dining hall.

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 and not by school grade.** We take all the boys registered for a given session, order them by their birthday, and divide them into five equal groups (Divisions).

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. 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 to be fair to all campers, 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 director. A parent/guardian of each camper must submit a division request IN WRITING no later than April 15th, as division requests are not guaranteed after that date.

BUNK ASSIGNMENTS/LOTTERY

All campers receive bunk assignments by lottery (picking out of a hat) from their cabin leaders upon arrival. This policy is intended to eliminate the need for early arrivals 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. Please contact camp via phone with any special requests or concerns. For example, if your camper has a **restricted diet/food allergy**, is **restricted from activities**, routinely **bedwetting**, **mental health concerns** or currently has a **one-on-one-support in school**, please contact camp at the main line before final registration/payment on April 15th. **For all health and behavior related topics, notify us prior to registration and before summer starts, 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 camps that accommodate a variety of specific needs, please contact the American Camp Association.

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. A record of immunizations is also required.

HEALTH & ACCIDENT COVERAGE

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

HEALTH AT CAMP

Please visit the website for all current forms/health record information, policies related to health at camp, medications at camp, and any updates related to any health concerns.

MEALS/FOOD

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in the dining hall with the entire camp together, and campers eat at a table family-style together with their cabin-mates and leader. There are no snacks served between meals. Even though we attempt to not serve any cooked meals containing nuts, we are NOT a nut-free facility. Sun butter is served in our dining hall; Peanut butter is not served. 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.

We will do our best to help campers with food allergies, but we can't guarantee anything as we serve a single meal family style to 400 persons at one time and your child needs to be able to manage it for himself. Each year our kitchen protocols are updated, and we ask that even if you are a returning camper family, you check in if your camper has an allergy or restricted diet, and you must attend the required allergy orientation remotely before camp starts.

ACTIVITIES AND ELIGIBILITY

The daily schedule has three program periods from which a camper chooses 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 a sign-up because of limited spots/equipment, such as sailing, archery, and air 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 and creative activities are designed and implemented by the leadership and will not be listed.

Please note, the campers 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 daily camp life, and program activities. Because we are living and playing 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 shelter.

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 encouraged (but NOT required) 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

Mountain Day occurs in sessions 1-4. All campers leave 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.

DISMISSAL

Camp Directors reserve the right to dismiss a camper for undesirable behavior or behavior contradictory to the Belknap Spirit. Behavior such as non-compliance with safety rules, fighting, bullying, stealing, lack of respect for personal boundaries/space, racist language or behavior, 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.

TUITION & FEES

Camp Belknap is committed to making the overnight camp experience accessible for as many young boys and families as possible. The true cost for a camper to attend Belknap for a two-week session is $3275. There are real costs associated with operating a non-profit camp, and we rely on the generosity of our annual donors to help moderate the cost of tuition each year. The families with the ability to pay and select the Tier 1 tuition, allow Belknap to stay true to our mission and provide camp to boys of all socio-economic backgrounds. Thank you for choosing the tuition level that best reflects what your family is able to pay.

In addition to the tiered tuition outlined below, Belknap offers both partial and full scholarships to camper families in need. Please check the scholarship box in the application at the time of registering if additional assistance is needed beyond what is offered through the Tier 2 discounted fees. Camper acceptance will not be based on financial assistance.

All tuition and fees may be paid in full, or with a payment plan. All questions should be directed to admincb@campbelknap.org.

	2-WEEK SESSION (1, 2, 3, & 4)		1-WEEK SESSION (5)	
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 2
Registration Fee (Non-Refundable)	$300.00	$300.00	$300.00	$300.00
Board & Tuition	$2,925.00	$2,050	$1,300	$925
Camper Store/Spending Deposit	$50.00	$50	$25	$25
Total	**$3,275.00**	**$2,400.00**	**$1,625**	**$1,250**

Campers staying for longer than one session will be charged the two-week board & tuition, and camper store/spending deposit for each session they attend. The camper store/spending deposit is the money that can be used at the store, or for supplies, required 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. The non-refundable Registration Fee is due at the time the camper is accepted to camp.

Payment is due in full by April 15, 2026, If full tuition payment is not received by April 15, you will be responsible for a $150 late fee, and we cannot guarantee a spot. No refunds will be issued after April 15, including if your camper leaves for any reason (voluntary or not) during a session. There is a $32.50 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 a credit card to pay the registration deposit fee.**

Scholarships are available for those unable to afford the full cost of camp. Scholarship applications may be requested by emailing adminCB@campbelknap.org.

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:

- crafts and woodworking supplies (average $8 per item)
- water skiing, tubing, wake boarding ($12 per activity)
- hiking trips ($10 per activity)
- necessary items such as a water bottle, batteries, or toothbrush/deodorant.

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** via cash or credit card. If your camper balance is not paid in full by August 31, 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 on departure day. **Refunds of camper spending accounts not claimed at checkout are forfeited.**

CAMP STORE

Items may be pre-purchased prior to camp through our online store (dates to be determined), or in the store at camp, we sell all sorts of useful items, such as hats, t-shirts, shorts, sweatshirts, stationery, water bottles, disposable cameras, and travel size toiletries. Items purchased at the camp store are deducted from the camper's spending account.

PACKING FOR CAMP/TRUNKS

Please refer to the packing list online at 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 an ideal size and should be constructed of materials that will not collapse when someone stands or sits on it. **(no trunk locks allowed)** Additionally, it is preferred to have 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 a shipping company of your choice. If you are unable to afford or access an item on the required equipment list, please contact camp to provide it for use during your camp stay. Or if you have items to donate for others to use – please bring your lightly-used, clean Camp Belknap-logo ONLY clothing and soccer cleats to drop for donation at check-in.

LAUNDRY SERVICE

There is no laundry service for two-week and one-week sessions. There is laundry for all campers staying for 4- weeks. Clothes for monthers will be washed and dried between sessions. Laundry is combined with other cabins; therefore, labeling is essential.

LOST & FOUND

Please label all clothing (including socks and underwear), towels, sleeping bag, pillow, footwear, and other gear, from baseball mitt 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.**

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, drones, 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, which are also sold at the camp store. 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 vape pens), any illegal substances or items, guns, rifles, knives, hatchets, fireworks of any kind, skateboards, in-line skates, food (including candy, gum, and soda), money, and electronic devices including phones and smart watches. Campers may not keep a car/vehicle or animal/pet on camp property during camp. **Footlocker/trunk locks are not allowed and used only for shipping.** Belknap strictly enforces this policy to enhance campers' safety and the quality of their experiences. Items will be confiscated if found.

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 Belknap. 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 or faxes for campers. This type of communication is reserved for camp business only.
- **Care packages are NOT accepted at camp**. Camp Belknap chose to discontinue packages, for many reasons. We have found that a thoughtful letter is much more impactful than receiving a box of stuff. 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 the session.
- **Did your camper forget something at home?** Please contact the main office (603-569-3475) for instructions on how to send the item. We will determine if we are able to provide the camper with the missing item (such as a toothbrush or a sleeping bag).
- Please be aware that initial letters sent home may reveal expressions of homesickness. Homesickness is 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." Belknap hopes to foster resilience and courage, however, please contact the Director if you have any concerns about something that your child expresses in a letter.

- You are welcome to drop letters at a designated location 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 Belknap
P.O Box 1546
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

NO VISITING

Parents/Guardians are NOT permitted to visit camp while camp is in session. Please understand that unscheduled visits, from land or by boat, disrupt activities, camp culture/community, cause additional homesickness, and disrupt our health and safety plan. For those campers staying more than a month, Belknap does require that the camper staying 6 or 8 weeks to be picked up at check out at session 2 and returned for check in for session 3. However, they must stay on camp along with all campers staying for a month between session 1 & 2 and session 3 & 4. **All those staying more than two weeks will have specific programming in the middle weekend.**

CAMP ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

All families must formally check the camper in and out on the listed dates and times posted for arrival and departure. Arriving late and departing early distracts from our mission in building independence and creating a working community and is difficult for both leaders and bunkmates. Late arrivals are NOT accepted. Any unforeseen exceptions to this will be reviewed by the directors and health team. As far as departure is concerned, it is our policy to avoid any early pick-ups or mid-session departures from camp during a session. 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 (2-2:50pm). 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. Also please note if the camper needs to depart for a pre-planned event, they will be unable to return back to camp no matter what day it is within the session. Please plan your camp session when there are no other commitments. Departure information must be submitted in writing one week before accepted session check-in day and must receive written approval from Belknap. Camper families must sign their camper out at the designated location on check-out day. If the camper is not picked up by the parent/guardian(s) and an alternate person is picking up the camper, the guardian must provide written permission before the start of the camper's attending session.

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 a limousine or car service of your choice.