CAMP BELKNAP
2027 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 6/27 **	Saturday 7/10: 9-11am
Session 2	Sunday 7/11 **	Saturday 7/24: 9-11am
Session 3	Sunday 7/25 **	Saturday 8/7: 9-11am
Session 4	Sunday 8/8 **	Saturday 8/21: 9-11am
Session 5	Monday 8/23 **	Saturday 8/28: 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. **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 8/21/27).* 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 take part in important community activities including:

- Meals served *Family style* in the dining hall with ~400 people at a time
- Large group gatherings, where sitting quietly listening for instruction is necessary
- Cabin cleaning and inspection and camp duties (daily work projects for the camp such as sweeping the main lodge).
- Campers are expected to participate respectfully in group settings.
- The Belknap community emphasizes 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, including but not limited to:

- Staying within camp boundaries
- Entering the swimming areas only with the permission of the waterfront supervisor
- Handling program equipment such as a rifle, bow, or hockey stick
- Observing instructions related to allergies and food in the dining hall.
- Wearing a helmet and using commands during climbing tower
- Respect for personal boundaries

DIVISION ORGANIZATION/HOUSING

- Boys live in *Divisions* made up of six cabins, a lodge, and bathrooms and showers.
- Each cabin has 8–10 campers and is supervised by one or two experienced leaders, many of whom were once Belknap campers.
- Divisional placement is based on age, not school grade. Campers in each session are ordered by birthday and divided into five equal divisions.
- Campers may remain in the same division for several years or occasionally skip a division depending on their age.
- Campers staying for more than one session may be moved to an older division if the average age of the new session is younger. This helps campers live with boys of similar maturity.

DIVISION/CABIN REQUESTS

- Cabinmate requests are not accepted, so siblings and friends can be separated fairly, and campers can make new friends.
- Campers can participate in daily activities with friends because of the choice programming.
- Campers may request to be in the same division with one friend.
- The older camper will be placed in the younger camper's division.
- A parent/guardian for each camper must submit division requests in writing by April 15th.
- Requests involving more than a one-year age difference are considered at the director's discretion.

BUNK ASSIGNMENTS/LOTTERY

- Campers receive bunk assignments by lottery from their cabin leaders upon arrival.
- This is designed to be fair to all campers and remove the need to arrive early for a preferred bunk.

SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS & HEALTH HISTORY COMPLETION

- Before arrival, families must accurately complete medical information and share any medical or emotional needs.
- Contact camp before final registration/payment on April 15th if your camper has a restricted diet or food allergy, activity restrictions, routine bedwetting, mental health concerns, or behavior concerns.
- Camp Belknap is not equipped or trained to handle every specific concern.
- Please note because of our emphasis on independence, Belknap is not an appropriate camp for a camper that requires one-on-one behavior support.
- We encourage you to notify camp before registration and before summer begins so staff can discuss whether Belknap is the right fit and how to set the camper up for success.
- For referrals to camps that accommodate a variety of specific needs, contact the American Camp Association.

HEALTH INFORMATION IS MANDATORY

- Every camper must have an annual physical exam dated within 12 months of the end date of the session attended.
- A record of immunizations is required.

HEALTH & ACCIDENT COVERAGE

- Campers personal medical insurance will be billed by the appropriate facility if any office visit, hospitalization, or needs for prescriptions arise while at camp.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for costs associated with outside medical/dental visits.

HEALTH AT CAMP

- Visit the website for current health forms, health record information, camp health policies, medication policies, and health-related updates.

MEALS/FOOD

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served family-style in the dining hall with the entire camp. There are no snacks between meals
- Campers eat with their cabinmates and leader. Meals are served family-style to about 400 people at one time, so campers must be able to manage their own needs.
- Camp attempts not to serve cooked meals containing nuts, but Belknap is not a nut-free facility.
- Families should contact camp before registration if a camper has a restricted diet or allergy that requires special attention.
- Camp will do its best to support campers with food allergies but cannot guarantee accommodations.
- Kitchen protocols are updated each year.
- Returning families must inform Camp Belknap annually if their camper has an allergy or restricted diet.
- Families must attend the required remote allergy orientation before camp begins.

ACTIVITIES AND ELIGIBILITY

- Campers choose from at least five age-appropriate activity options during each of three daily program periods.
- Most activities do not require sign-up (e.g., soccer, arts & crafts, nature).
- Activities (e.g., sailing, archery, air riflery) with limited space or equipment require sign-up. Sign-ups occur after meals. Not call campers will get into these periods.
- Priority is given to campers who have not yet participated in an activity.
- Additional activities may be added during the summer and may not appear on published schedules.
- Campers attend activities independently and do not travel with their cabin as a group.
- Campers must be able to move safely around camp without assistance.
- Campers should be prepared for rugged terrain and outdoor conditions.
- Activities may involve exposure to weather, rain, wind, and overnight outdoor experiences.

SWIMMING

- All campers complete a swim check at the beginning of each session.
- Swim checks determine each camper's swim group. Swim groups determine where campers may swim.
- All swim groups may use non-motorized boats.
- Swim lessons are encouraged but not required.
- Campers may advance to higher swim groups by improving their skills through swim lessons.
- Campers who do not qualify for the highest swim group may take a waterski swim test to participate in waterskiing and tubing.

MOUNTAIN DAY: 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 in Sessions 1-4.

DISMISSAL: Camp Directors reserve the right to dismiss a camper for undesirable behavior or behavior contradictory to the Belknap Spirit. Dismissal may result from:

- Violating safety rules
- Fighting or bullying
- Racist language or behavior
- Possession or use of unapproved technology
- Stealing
- Disrespecting personal boundaries
- Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or drugs
- Possession or use of firearms or weapon

TUITION & FEES

- Camp Belknap is committed to making camp accessible to families of all backgrounds.
- The actual cost of a two-week session is $3,375 (shown below as Tier 1).
- Donor support and Tier 1 tuition selections help offset costs and expand access.
- Families are encouraged to select the tuition level that best reflects their financial circumstances.
- 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Partial and full scholarships are available for families who need additional financial assistance.
- Families requesting assistance should select the scholarship option during registration.
- Financial aid requests are considered separately from camper acceptance.
- Camper acceptance is not based on a family's ability to pay.

All tuition and fees may be paid in full, or with a payment plan.

- Full payment is due by **April 15, 2027**.
- Accounts not paid in full by April 15 are subject to a **$150 late fee**, and camper placement cannot be guaranteed.
- **No refunds** will be issued after April 15, including if a camper leaves camp early for any reason.
- Returned checks are subject to a **$32.50 fee**.

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	$3,025.00	$2,125	$1,350	$950
Camper Store/Spending Deposit	$50.00	$50	$25	$25
Total	**$3,375.00**	**$2,475.00**	**$1,675**	**$1,275**

SPENDING MONEY: Campers will have spending money 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 $9 per item)
- water skiing, tubing, wake boarding ($13 per activity)
- hiking trips ($12 per activity)
- purchases from Camp Store

Please do not send cash or checks in the mail to your camper.

- Overdrawn accounts will be settled during check-out via cash or credit card.
- 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: Camp merchandise and supplies may be purchased online before camp or in the camp store. Purchases are charged to the camper spending account. Available items include:

- Clothing
- Water bottles
- Stationery
- Toiletries
- Disposable cameras

PACKING FOR CAMP/TRUNKS: Please refer to the packing list online at www.campbelknap.org for a full list of equipment needed for camp.

- All campers must bring a footlocker or trunk, recommended size: approximately 32" × 18" × 13".
- Trunks should be sturdy enough to support sitting or standing.
- Trunk locks are not permitted.
- Handles on both ends are recommended.
- Families may arrange shipping through a carrier of their choice.
- Camp can assist families who cannot obtain required equipment.
- Donations of clean Camp Belknap-logo clothing and soccer cleats are welcome.

LAUNDRY SERVICE: There is no laundry service for two-week and one-week sessions.

- Laundry for all campers staying for 4- weeks will be washed and dried between sessions.
- **Laundry is combined with other campers; 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.
- Camp Belknap is not responsible for lost, stolen, or forgotten items.
- Please avoid sending any expensive items to camp.
- 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.
- Electronic devices will be confiscated if found.
- **Not follow this camp policy may be a cause for dismissal.**

ITEMS NOT PERMITTED: For Camper safety, the following are NOT PERMITTED:

- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Tobacco products and vaping devices
- Illegal substances
- Guns, rifles, knives, and hatchets
- Fireworks
- Skateboards and inline skates
- Prohibited items will be confiscated.
- Food, candy, gum, and soda
- Cash and checks
- Phones, smartwatches, and electronic devices
- Vehicles
- Pets or animals
- Trunk locks (except for shipping purposes)

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 Camp Belknap's annual pictorial yearbook featuring summer campers, staff, events, select chapel talks and vespers, and camper/staff addresses. Each camper receives a copy in the winter.

COMMUNICATION WHILE AT CAMP: TELEPHONE AND MAIL: While at camp, letters and postcards are how we keep in touch.

- Campers are brought to the phone only for true emergencies.
- Email and fax messages are not accepted for campers.
- **Care packages are NOT accepted.** Unapproved packages, boxes, or bags will be held for check-out or returned to sender. Camp is not responsible for held or returned items.
- **Forgotten items:** Contact the main office at 603-569-3475 before sending anything. Camp will determine whether the item is needed and can be delivered.

Receiving early letters from your campers:

- Early homesickness is normal. Initial feelings expressing homesickness, difficulty, or desires to come home are normal.
- You may contact the office if you have a concern, our policy is to NOT bring campers to the phone for reassurance as this almost always makes homesickness more difficult.
- Send upbeat, encouraging letters, sharing your confidence and excitement for your camper.
- Avoid "pick-up deals" which erode self-confidence.
- Families may drop letters at check-in for delivery during 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 may not visit camp while camp is in session. Unscheduled visits disrupt activities, community life, homesickness support, and health and safety plans. Month-long campers remain on camp between Sessions 1–2 or 3–4, with programming provided for all campers staying more than two weeks.

CAMP ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

- Families must check campers in and out on the posted dates and times.
- Late arrivals are not accepted.
- Campers leaving for a pre-planned event may not return during that session.
- Early departures are strongly discouraged and require written approval at least one week before check-in.
    - Approved early departures occur only during siesta, 2:00–2:50 p.m.;
    - Friday night and early Saturday pick-ups are not allowed.
- Parents/guardians must sign campers out, and alternate pick-ups require written permission before the session begins.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORTS & BUS STATIONS

- Camp does not provide transportation to or from airports or bus stations. Families should arrange prepaid transportation directly with a car or limousine service.