**Explorer’s Day Camp Parent Handbook 2019**

**PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING:** Below you will find a list of acknowledgements. Prior to signing this document, please spend time reviewing this Parent Information Packet cover to cover. This packet contains critical information pertaining to your child’s after school experience.

**By signing this page, you acknowledge the listed policies, procedures and permissions, along with**

**full understanding of the Explorer’s Day Camp program and operations.**

**On behalf of my child (Child’s Full Name): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I (Parent/ Guardian Full Name):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**have read and fully understand the Explorer’s Day Camp Parent Handbook 2019. In addition I agree/ consent to the following (please check each circle):**

o **I have completed** all sections on the Explorer’s Day Camp General Form.

o **I will follow** the rules and procedures listed within the Parent Handbook and have discussed expectations of the program with my child.

o (Sign In/Out Procedures)**I understand** that a form of identification is required every time myself, or an authorized person, will pick up my child. In the event myself, or the authorized persons to pick up my child, forget to provide a form of ID, we understand we can answer one of the security questions filled out. I also understand that my child will not be released to any person who cannot provide a form of ID (even if they are on the pick-up authorized list), or answer the security questions. The parent/guardian who registered the child up for the Explorer’s Day Camp will be notified and Camp Staff will then follow the parent/guardian’s instructions.

o (Permission to Treat) **I consent** that in the event of an emergency during which a parent/ guardian cannot be reached we hereby give permission to the bearer of this form to allow any doctor, medical facility, volunteer or employee of the Town of Canton to administer first aid or CPR until emergency medical treatment can be obtained. We also give permission to the bearer of this form to allow any doctor or medical facility to administer an anesthetic and perform emergency procedures as may be necessary for our child listed above. I will not hold the officials or agents thereof, financially responsible for whatever emergency care may be provided.

o (Sunscreen Policy) **I allow** my child (listed above) to carry sunscreen/sunblock in a spray/pump container labeled for his/her own individual use and have instructed my child(ren) on how to use it properly. Canton Parks and Recreation is not responsible if it is lost or stolen.

o **I understand** that Canton Parks and Recreation employees are not responsible for my child(ren)’s belongings, or money. Camp staff will not hold money or items belonging to campers.

o (Liability Release) **I am aware** of the nature of this activity and I hereby assume responsibility for myself and/or my child (above),and/or his or her representatives to participate. I will not hold the Town of Canton and/or its employees or agents responsible in case, of any accident or injury as a result of this participation. I hereby further agree to indemnify and save harmless the Town of Canton, a municipal corporation of the State of Connecticut, from and against any and all loss, damage, claim, demand, liability or expense by reason of any damage or injury to property or person which may be claimed to have arisen as a result of or in connection with participation in this Town of Canton activity.

Failure to comply with the policies listed in the handbook may result in expulsion from Camp.

**By signing below, you agree/ consent to comply with the outlined acknowledgements:**

**Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_**

**Dear Parent/ Guardian,**

Welcome to Explorer’s Day Camp 2019! On behalf of our camp staff and the Town of Canton, we would like to extend a warm welcome and thank you for choosing Explorer’s Day Camp for your child’s summer experience. We are very excited that your child is joining us for a fun filled season.

Explorer’s Day Camp has been designed to provide children ages 6-12 the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities while developing social skills with peers. We have highly trained staffs that are passionate about their jobs while ensuring a safe yet exciting atmosphere for children. Our camp runs for 9 weeks, and now includes pre-camp (June 19-21). We provide two entertainers a week along with a field trip! Each week has its own theme and activities. You may view our calendar on our website: CantonRec.org.

The Parent Handbook has been created to provide you with more detailed information about our Explorer’s Day Camp and have the rules and guidelines understood by our staff and parents/guardians. Included in this packet, you will find information on:

* Acknowledgment Page (Front Page)
* Explorer’s Day Camp Operations
* Rules of Conduct and Policies/Procedures
* Pick-Up and Attendance in other programs

Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact office staff at the Parks & Recreation Office (860) 693-5808, or e-mail Lexi Polasek our Recreation Coordinator at: lpolasek@townofcantonct.org.

**Thank you in advance,** Canton Parks and Recreation 40 Dyer Ave Canton, CT 06019

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**Explorer’s Day Camp Operations**

**Communication**

The best way to stay in contact with our staff and updates on the program is through the Remind Education Application! You can download this on your smartphone, or access it on a computer. Once you have created an account, you will need Explorer Day Camp’s class code which is**: @expdaycamp.**

This form of communication will have you in touch with all our staff, any updates such as last minute room location changes (that are not in our normal schedule), if we are running later from a field trip, access to plans for the week, photos we have taken, and more!

You may also contact the Recreation Coordinator, Lexi Polasek, with any questions or comments by calling the Parks and Recreation Office at 860-693-5808, or e-mail at: lpolasek@townofcantonct.org.

**Enrollment**

Enrollment is open to any child age 6-12 and the child can interact appropriately in a group setting. Enrollment shall be granted without discrimination with regard to gender, race, ethnicity, and religion. There is no probationary enrollment. Please view Canton Parks and Recreation’s refund policy for more information: www.CantonRec.org.

All payments will be done by Canton Parks and Recreation Office staff in person at our office (40 Dyer Ave, Canton CT 06019), over the phone (860-693-5808), or online (CantonRec.org).

**Pro-Rates/Late Fees**

We do not accommodate discounted or pro-rate fees.

If you are 15 minutes late or more (starting at 5:45pm) to pick your child up to Explorer’s Day Camp more than one time you will be charged an additional $15 fee for every 15 minutes you are late.

**Schedule**

Explorer’s Day Camp is held Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm at Mills Pond Park under the pavilions (14 East Hill Road, Canton CT 06019). The rain location is at the Canton Community Center (40 Dyer Ave, Canton CT 06019). Explorer’s Day Camp also offers Extended Care options:

* Before Care: 7:00am-9:00am
* After Care: 3:00pm-5:30pm

Explorer’s Day Camp’s daily schedule varies day to day, but plans and activities are based on the themed week.

**Snack/Lunch**

Please send your child in a bagged lunch, ice pack and snack. On field trip days we do not purchase lunches, so please pack a bagged lunch on field trip days too.

We offer a program at Explorer’s Day Camp for an additional cost called “Summer Camp Snack Pack” and your child won’t need to bring money to camp for snacks. You will need to by calling our Parks and Recreation Office to sign up (860-693-5808), or visit our website: CantonRec.org. This amount will be credited to your account, and your child can visit the Front Desk at Mills Pond Pool to purchase snacks/beverages from our concessions. Your child just has to tell the front desk their last name to purchase.

**Weather Related Polices and Sunscreen**

If there is a heat advisory, thunderstorm, or it is raining- camp will be held inside at the Canton Community Center. Notifications will go out via e-mail blasts (you will not receive these e-mails if you are not checked off to receive cancellations with us), be posted on our website: CantonRec.org (it will be at the very top in the red header), on our social media and you will be alerts via the Remind Education Application.

Please provide your child with sunscreen (in a spray form, we will not apply lotion sunscreen on your child) with his/her name on it.

Pack a refillable water bottle or lots of water with your child every day!

**Publicity**

By registering for our program you give us permission to take and publish photos of your child participating. If you do not wish to have him/her photographed you must put this in writing (located on the General Form).

**Lost and Found**

Our staff will have camper’s belongings on the sign in/out table every day to be claimed. On the Friday of every week if the belongings are not claimed by campers, they will be moved to the lost and found bin located inside the pool house.

**Rules and Policies**

**Rules of Conduct** Guidelines are set and followed to ensure the safety of each child and the safety of the group; to protect the rights of both the individual and the group; and to provide a positive atmosphere for growth in personal control and responsibility; therefore:

1. Children’s and staff’s safety is maintained at all times.

2. Only appropriate and respectful language is used.

3. Mills Pond Park/Pool property, Canton Community Center Property and camp

equipment is treated with respect.

4. All persons shall follow safety rules and/or directions from the staff.

5. A peaceful atmosphere will be maintained.

The rules that children follow in the school systems will be established at Explorer’s Day Camp, “Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible”, along with respect in terms of one another’s space, belongings, each other and staff.

At 9:30am every morning, Explorer’s Day Camp has morning meetings to go over rules, and the activities for the day with campers (it is important to have your child arrive on time to camp for morning meeting and the activities that come after).

Rules will be discussed with the children, allowing them to have a voice in the implementation of the rules that will then be posted. Children will be consulted for daily planning in order to afford them opportunities to be creatively involved in areas of interest. Individual children will receive guidance to redirect behavior. The handling of each situation depends on the developmental level of the child and the specifics of the incident.

**Camp Group Assortment**

Explorer’s Day Camp is split into 4 groups for the entire week, and is based on the camper’s ages along with their staff leader for the group.

**Field Trip and Parent(s) at Camp Policy**

Parents are not allowed to attend Explorer’s Day Camp field trips or stay at camp locations for an extended period of time, this is due to the safety hazards it may present and distractions to campers and staff. All town employees and volunteers are required to pass a background check and are trained to supervise all field trips.

**Discipline Policy**Staff shall not use abusive, neglectful, corporal, humiliating or frightening punishment under any circumstances. No child shall be physically restrained unless it is necessary to protect the safety and health of the child, or others.

1. Individuals will be asked to change inappropriate, disruptive or unsafe behavior.
2. Staff will make every effort to redirect the child’s behavior. In order to achieve this Explorer’s Day Camp has a three point system will be in place. At point one; the child will be spoken with about how his/her behavior and ways they can correct it. At point two, the child will be pulled aside again and asked what they think they did wrong and how to correct it. At point three, the child will be asked to sit out for five minutes from the activity they are doing. Then child will have an opportunity to regain control and discuss the problem with a staff member.
3. Removal of a child from the group for disciplinary or health reasons shall be to a location where visual staff supervision will be maintained.
4. Parents will be asked for their support in changing their child’s behavior. Continued inappropriate, unchanged behavior may result in suspension or dismissal from the program. (Refer back to Rules of Conduct).
5. Parents will receive a written notice and spoken with in person about the immediate removal of their child from camp due to unchanged/inappropriate behavior with no refund.
6. Parents should feel free to consult with the Explorer’s Day Camp Supervisor or the Recreation Coordinator regarding their child’s conduct. If necessary, they may also bring the matter to the attention of Director of Parks and Recreation for consultation.
7. All violations will be properly documented in the form of a written behavior report. The written behavior report will be reviewed with the parent/guardian and documented in Canton Parks and Recreation files and confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

In order to protect the well-being of the children in the program, the Recreation Coordinator and Director of Canton Parks and Recreation are authorized to suspend anyone who fails to follow the Rules of Conduct or endangers any of the children in any way.

Explorer’s Day Camp will follow a three point system to correct any inappropriate behavior/not following rules; the third point will result in the child sitting out from the activity for five minutes.

**Any continued behavior after the third correctional point will result in a behavior form being filled out, which needs to be signed by the staff and parent/guardian.**

When continued behavior forms are being filled out for the same behavior, the child may result in a one day suspension from Explorer’s Day Camp. If any child or family member is unable to function cooperatively within the framework of the program, Explorer’s Day Camp reserves the right to terminate the child’s registration.

**Stickers Program for Positive Reinforcement**

We offer a sticker program to enforce positive actions for children who continue have inappropriate behaviors. Our staff will talk with the parent/guardian as well as the Recreation Coordinator to see if this is an option for your child. Then the parent/guardian along with the Recreation Coordinator will come up with positive achievements and goals for the child to accomplish while at Explorer’s Day Camp. Once the child has earned 5 stickers for positive behavior, they can pick out a prize at the end of the day.

**Child Custody Policy**

In the event of a divorce or parental separation, Explorer’s Day Camp will abide by the Authorized Pick Up List provided by the parent who registered for the program. Parents unable to abide by this regulation will be requested, in writing, to withdraw their child immediately.

**Arrival, Pick-Up and Other Program Information**

**Arrival**

We have a binder where our sign in and sign out sheets are located, and two staff will be sitting at the binder starting at 8:15am and ending at 9:15am. Please head towards the two staff with any paperwork (wavier and general forms), questions and to sign your child in, as the rest of the staff will be monitoring the campers. Please have your ID ready so a staff member can check it, and then have your child place his/her belongings in the designated area.

**Pick-Up**

You may pick up your child any time before camp ends. Please bring your ID at pick up. If you do not have your ID or cannot answer your security question, we cannot release the child to you unless we can prove you are on the authorized pick up list, located on the general form.

If someone else is picking up your child that is not on the authorized list, you must provide the person’s full name in writing, along with the date of pick up to Lexi Polasek: lpolasek@townofcantonct.org.

**Attendance for Other Programs**

If your child is enrolled in another program such as swim lessons, or a specialty camp, you are responsible to notify the Canton Parks and Recreation Office as well as the Explorer’s Day Camp Staff. We do not provide transportation if the program is not located where camp is held for that day. If camp is at the Mills Pond Park and your program is also taking place up there, our staff will drop off/pick up your child.