



CLEARWATER FIRE & RESCUE
JR. BEACH LIFEGUARD
CAMP



CERTIFIED AGENCY
SOUTHEAST REGION

2026 Parent Packet

Welcome Parents and Campers!

This Parent Information packet has been provided to familiarize you with basic camp procedures and policies. By working together, we can better satisfy all expectations.

The Jr Beach Lifeguard Program is designed with the following objectives in mind:

- To provide a fun and safe atmosphere where all children feel welcome,
- To offer campers a positive recreation experience,
- To create environments that will cultivate friendships,
- To help shape great future citizens; and
- To contribute to the positive growth and development of our campers.

Operational Procedures and General Information

This program focuses on providing water safety education in an environment that is fun while building teamwork, physical conditioning and respect for each other and the environment. All participants will receive First Aid lessons including CPR certification and learn basic lifeguard rescue skills – swimming, paddle board, and jet ski rescues.

Children must be in good physical condition to participate in this program and successfully complete a tryout. Tryouts consist of a 100-yard swim unassisted, treading water for 5 minutes and a 10-yard underwater swim.

Program Dates: June 1-5 (Ages 8-12) & June 8-12 (Ages 13-17)
Program Hours: Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Program Hours: Children may be dropped off at camp at Tower 0 at 10:00 a.m. and picked up no later than 3:00 p.m. To keep all our campers' safe, children must be checked in and signed out each day. Children may **not** be picked up by anyone other than those listed on their registration forms. **(Please be prepared to show a valid photo I.D. every day when picking up a child.)**

Videotape, Photographic, and Sound Release: Camp participants may be photographed and/or videotaped while participating in camp activities. Any videos or photographs will be used for educational, training, and promotional purposes only.

Allergies: Please notify the camp staff if your child is allergic to any common foods, sunscreen, or other substances that they may encounter at camp. Additionally, if the child requires medication to treat a serious allergic reaction, please fill out a Medication Form.

Illness: Please do not bring your child to camp if they are vomiting, running a fever, or showing signs of a contagious disease or condition such as head lice, pink eye, chicken pox, swine flu, or ringworm. If a child becomes sick while at camp, staff will call the parent or emergency contact person. Sick children need to be picked up as soon as possible.

Federal ID: For income tax purposes, the **City of Clearwater F.E.I.D. # is 59-6000-289**. The Fire & Rescue Department does not provide a statement of fees paid, we suggest keeping your receipts and/or cancelled checks.

Refund Policy: All refund requests are subject to Fire Administration approval. All refund requests must be made by filling out a Refund Request Form and submitting it to the supervisor at least 10 business days prior to the session for which the refund is being requested. A \$10 processing fee will be assessed on all refunds. **Refunds will not be considered for requests submitted 9 or fewer business days before the session begins or for children suspended or expelled due to behavior problems.** All refunds will be paid by check, please allow 4 to 6 weeks for refunds to be processed.

Lunch: Have your child bring his or her non-perishable lunch and drink to camp. With childhood obesity on the rise, parents are encouraged to pack a healthy lunch for their child and avoid sending candy and sodas for lunch or snacks. Refrigerators and microwaves are not available.

Visitors: For the safety and protection of all our campers, visitors (relatives, neighbors, and friends) are not allowed to attend camp unless they are registered in camp. Adult volunteers must complete the City of Clearwater volunteer application and background check.

Attire: Appropriate swimsuit attire must be worn as well as flip flops. A water bottle, towel and sunscreen should also be brought each day. Mark all personal gear with a permanent marker.

Camp Shirts: Campers will receive an official camp sun shirt as part of the program; this shirt **MUST** be worn at all times during camp. Shirts are worn over the swimsuit.

Lifeguard Vehicles and Watercraft: Participants will be riding in lifeguard vehicles during daily operations and be given training on the Lifeguard Personal Rescue Watercraft as a crewperson. Participants will not be operating vehicles or watercraft and will be under constant supervision.

Sunscreen: Children will be participating in outdoor activities daily and will be exposed to the Florida sun. To avoid sunburns, it is recommended that parents apply a waterproof sunscreen to children each day before they come to camp and send in a spray bottle of sunscreen (labeled with the child's name) for later applications. Staff is not responsible for applying sunscreen to the children but will assist as needed.

What Not to Bring to Camp: Please do not allow children to bring toys, real or fake weapons or dangerous items, video games, MP3 players, cell phones or other expensive items to camp. Even under close supervision, these items tend to get damaged, lost or stolen. The city assumes no responsibility for the loss or damage of personal items or clothing brought to camp.

Campers with Special Needs: Campers come in all shapes, sizes, and abilities. City of Clearwater camps celebrate individual uniqueness and embrace the diversity of the children in our camp community. Children with special needs who can function in a group setting are included in their age-appropriate group. We have found that this type of inclusion encourages kindness, respect, and acceptance, which positively impacts all children in camp.

Custody Arrangements: The City of Clearwater recognizes that some families may have unique custody arrangements. Specific court orders will be necessary for staff to deny access to any legal parent/adult. We encourage families to find solutions to custody issues without putting children and/or staff in a difficult position.



Keeping Informed

Parents Must Contact Camp Staff When:

- Information on your registration or application has changed.
- Someone other than those listed on your application will be picking up your child (**in writing**).
- A child cannot be picked up on time.
- A change occurs in your child's life that alters his/her attitude or behavior or causes emotional upset (divorce, loss of a pet, death in the family).
- Your child has a contagious condition (i.e., head lice, pink eye, swine flu, chicken pox).
- If your child cannot participate in any of the daily activities.

Parents Will Be Contacted Immediately When:

- Your child has received an injury, which could require immediate medical attention.
- Your child exhibits a medical condition that could be contagious or threatening to others in the program.
- Your child displays a pattern of disruptive behavior that interferes with the program or other children; the counselors observe any unusual patterns of behavior.

Parent conferences can be scheduled by the camp staff or at the request of the parent.

Health/ Medical/ Medication Procedures:

- All campers who bring medication to camp must have a completed Camper Medication Form on file at the site.
- Prescription medication must be in the original container with campers' name, dosage, and physician's name.
- Over-the-Counter medications require written authorization by parent/guardian accompanying the medication stating the time and dosage. Staff will assist by monitoring the taking of medication but will not administer it.
- Communicable Disease - if a camper is believed to have a communicable disease or shows signs and symptoms, such as swine flu, chicken pox, measles, pink eye, whooping cough, ringworm, head lice, diarrhea, unexplained rash or high fever, they will be quietly removed from their group and parents called. Campers can return to camp when their illness and its signs and symptoms are no longer present. A doctor's note may be required.
- If a camper is sent to camp with medicine and the parent/guardian hasn't filled out the Camper Medication Form, we assume no responsibility, and parent/guardian will be contacted.
- Only minor first-aid treatment will be given. In the event of an emergency, 911 will be called, as well as the parents.
- Children must be able to use the bathroom independently and must be toilet-trained to participate in camp. If an "accident" occurs, parents will be contacted to bring a clean change of clothing. Repeated "accidents" may result in dismissal from the program.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, children will be kept safely indoors and out of the water until the storm passes. If the National Weather Service issues a HURRICANE "**WARNING**" for Pinellas County, all recreation programs will be canceled. Please monitor the local radio or TV stations for this information.

Campers Code of Conduct

The following is our "Campers Code of Conduct". Please review the code of conduct with your child.

- Campers must stay with their Counselors in their assigned activity areas and must be able to function in a group setting.
- Campers must show courtesy and good manners to fellow campers and to the Counselors.
- Campers must listen to their Counselors and follow all directions and basic instructions.
- Campers must be respectful of city property and fellow campers' property.
- Campers must use appropriate language - swearing, name-calling, and suggestive language is not allowed.
- Campers must respect fellow campers and staff members – bullying will not be tolerated.
- Campers must keep hands and feet to themselves! **No Fighting, Hitting, Kicking, or Biting!**
- Campers must follow the site rules set forth by the staff.

Failure to obey the above rules may result in the following consequences:

We reserve the right to implement whichever of the steps is necessary based on the severity of the behavior problem. Every effort is made to deal with the situation in a professional and sensitive manner. (Normally, there will be progressive disciplinary action as outlined.) No refunds will be given if child is suspended for any length of time. For more information, see your Camp Staff.

1. Verbal reprimand by the Counselor, which is neither humiliating nor frightening and is age appropriate.
2. Time out from the activity.
3. Verbal reprimand by the camp supervisor with a note or phone call to parent or guardian.
4. Suspension from the camp for a specified length of time. (Full day, 3 days, full week.)
5. Suspension from the camp for the entire program.

Feedback

We want to make sure your child has a positive camp experience. If you have any questions or concerns about this program, do not hesitate to speak to the camp staff, or the supervisor.