

SUMMER CAMPS 2010

Ponkapoag Outdoor Center

1 Ponkapoag Trail
Canton, MA 02021
781.575.9905



ymcaboston.org



OUR MISSION

The YMCA of Greater Boston is dedicated to improving the health of mind, body and spirit of individuals and families in our communities. We welcome men and women, boys and girls of all incomes, faiths and cultures.



Our Facility – For Children Ages 6 to 12

The Ponkapoag Outdoor Center, located in the Blue Hills Reservation near Canton, MA, is a beautiful wilderness setting with immediate access to woodlands, open meadows, a quaking bog, ponds and 125 miles of hiking trails. The 35-acre site includes an archery range, low and high ropes courses, an outdoor swimming pool with showers, changing room, and modern flush toilets, activity fields and court, covered pavilions, and buildings for Creative Arts and Environmental Science. The spacious lodge features a large activity room, Health Center, and camp offices.

Our Vision

Friendship and fun are the essence of summer at the Ponkapoag Outdoor Center Summer Camp Program. With campers coming from Boston, Metro West, and the communities around the Blue Hills, we have consciously created opportunities for campers to socialize with children from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Our experienced camp staff provides an emotionally and physically safe environment for campers to learn, grow, and explore. Campers are encouraged to develop new interests and improve skills under the supervision of compassionate adult role models. Outdoor recreational activities promote positive and healthy lifestyle choices for all of our campers.

Our Staff

The staff of the Ponkapoag Outdoor Center is comprised mainly of college-age young adults pursuing their degrees in education or a specialty related to their camp job such as art or environmental science. We are proud to report that over 75% of our staff members each summer are either returning camp counselors or have worked for the YMCA of Greater Boston during the previous school year. All staff members undergo background and reference checks, complete child abuse prevention training, and are certified in CPR and first aid.

All of our camping programs comply with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR430.000).



PROGRAM AREAS



Ropes & Outdoor Challenges for Kids (ROCK)

The cooperative games, trust building initiatives, and ropes course elements utilized in our ROCK program challenge campers to exercise critical thinking skills, respect teammates, and build self-esteem and leadership skills through exciting activities on the ground and high in the trees.

Environmental Science

Our Environmental Science program develops in campers an awareness and appreciation of the great outdoors through hiking, outdoor living skills, and science activities. Campers explore a quaking bog, learn about protected species, maintain a vegetable and flower garden, and participate in orienteering treasure hunts.

Aquatics

Our Aquatics program offers both daily swim lessons and free swim, allowing campers to improve their swimming skills and also enjoy the pool with their friends and counselors. Campers are grouped by ability level and all aquatics activities take place under the supervision of certified lifeguards.

Creative Arts

Our Creative Arts program includes traditional craft activities as well as projects inspired by and using materials from our natural surroundings. Drama, music, and dance activities are also a frequent, fun addition to this program.

Sports & Games

The Sports and Games program introduces campers to a wide range of sports and creative, team-oriented games. With everything from archery and kickball to basketball and soccer, campers develop new skills while having fun!

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Camp Day

The camp day runs from 9:00am to 4:30pm. Campers bring their own lunch and the Ponkapoag Outdoor Center provides an afternoon snack. Younger campers (ages 6 and 7) do not select a focus track, but rather enjoy a balanced program with structured activities in all five main program areas. Older campers (ages 8 to 12) choose a Focus Track where they spend the majority of their time. All campers come together in the morning for our camp opening ceremony, in the afternoon for awards, songs, and camp closing, and on Friday afternoons for an all-camp special event.

Active Track

Active Track campers hone their abilities in the sport-of-the-week in a challenging yet supportive environment. The goal of our sports counselors is not to develop champions, but to use sports as a vehicle for campers to learn values, gain confidence, and develop exercise habits for life. Campers spend at least half of each camp day on skill building and scrimmages, and then explore the ROCK, Creative Arts, and Environmental Science program areas of camp during their remaining periods. Active Track campers are provided with swim lessons and have free swim every day.

Weekly Themes

Session 1: Wide World of Sports	Session 6: Basketball
Session 2: Soccer	Session 7: Baseball and Softball
Session 3: Volleyball	Session 8: Street Hockey
Session 4: Swimming	Session 9: Flag Football
Session 5: ROCK and Archery	Session 10: Wide World of Sports

Creative Arts Track

Creative Arts Track campers explore a different type of art each week using inspiration from the natural environment surrounding them at camp. Our talented art counselors encourage creative expression, while also teaching campers about the history and notable artists of each medium. By spending at least half of each day working on their masterpieces, art track campers can complete more complex, in-depth projects, while still experiencing the ROCK, Environmental Science, and Sports program areas of camp during their remaining periods. Creative Arts Track campers are provided with swim lessons and have free swim every day.

Weekly Themes

Session 1: Sculpture	Session 6: Multi-cultural Art
Session 2: Painting	Session 7: Dance
Session 3: Jewelry and Costume Making	Session 8: Mixed media and Collage
Session 4: Drama	Session 9: Music
Session 5: Drawing and Cartooning	Session 10: Printmaking

Environmental Science Track

Our Environmental Science Track cultivates the curious young minds of campers fascinated by the natural world around them. Campers in the environmental science track have time to embark on longer hikes to explore the local ecosystem and become more engaged in complex nature projects at camp such as setting up a recycling and composting program, preparing the garden, and tracking local animal species. Our creative counselors plan exciting new nature adventures each week with an emphasis on projects that teach campers to respect and positively impact the world around them. Environmental Science Track campers spend their remaining periods enjoying the ROCK, Sports, and Creative Arts programs. Environmental Science Track campers are provided with swim lessons and have free swim every day.

Weekly Themes

Session 1: Outdoor Skills	Session 6: Habitats
Session 2: Orienteering	Session 7: Weather
Session 3: Let's Go Green!	Session 8: Explore the Bog
Session 4: Insects	Session 9: Native Species
Session 5: Plants and Soil	Session 10: Rocks and Minerals

GENERAL INFORMATION

Transportation

Bus transportation is available to the Ponkapoag Outdoor Center from the locations listed below. Buses are monitored by Ponkapoag Outdoor Center staff at all times. We will be offering transportation from the following towns to camp and back:

Braintree	Jamaica Plain	Roxbury	Milton
Canton	Needham	Wellesley	Stoughton
Dorchester	Randolph	Sharon	Easton
Hyde Park	Roslindale	Mattapan	West Roxbury

Time and location of pick up and drop off are to be determined. Locations are subject to change based on need and/or use. Please indicate your preference for transportation location/stop on the Registration form.

Camp Fees (per week - financial assistance is available)

<u>Family Member</u>	<u>Youth Member</u>	<u>Non-member</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
\$225	\$275	\$295	\$50

Early Bird Registration 10% off one week if registered by May 1, 2010

*Purchase a Multiple week discount

Attend 3 or more weeks, receive \$50 off camp fee

Attend 7 or more weeks, receive \$100 off camp fee

*Sibling Discount: Campers from the same household attending camp the same week receive a 10% discount.

Campership For All / Financial Assistance

The Ponkapoag Outdoor Center is committed to providing a summer camp experience for every child regardless of ability to pay. Through the YMCA of Greater Boston's ACCESS program, reduced camp fees are available to families with qualifying household incomes. The YMCA of Greater Boston is also happy to arrange individualized payment plans and to accept child care vouchers and third party payments. Please do not let the cost of camp prevent you from registering - contact us today to discuss financial arrangements.

Session Dates

Week 1:	June 28 – July 2
Week 2:	July 5 – July 9
Week 3:	July 12 – July 16
Week 4:	July 19 – July 23
Week 5:	July 26 – July 30
Week 6:	August 2 – August 6
Week 7:	August 9 – August 13
Week 8:	August 16 – August 20
Week 9:	August 23 – August 27
Week 10:	August 30 – September 3

Camp Hours

9:00am – 4:30pm

Extended Day

Before and after camp care is available at the Hyde Park and Charles River YMCA. Call either YMCA for more details.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Camp Activities Include

Archery	Nature Education
Arts & Crafts	Music
Baseball	Orienteering
Basketball	Outdoor Adventures
Capture the Flag	Scavenger Hunts
Campfire Cooking	Science Experiments
Dance	Skits
Dodgeball	Soccer
Free Swim	Softball
Gardening	Special Events
Group Games	Street Hockey
High & Low Ropes Course	Swim Lessons
Hiking	Teambuilding Activities
Kickball	Volleyball

Open Houses

Pack a picnic lunch and come enjoy the outdoors. Meet camp staff and learn about summer camp at the Ponkapoag Outdoor Center. Transportation will be provided from your local YMCA. Contact either the Charles River or Hyde Park YMCA for more details.

At the Ponkapoag Outdoor Center:

May 15, 2010 10:00am to 1:00pm

June 12, 2010 10:00am to 1:00pm

Contact Information

www.ymcaboston.org/charlesriver/ponkapoag_outdoor_center

Alan Weene, Camp Director
Charles River YMCA
aweene@ymcaboston.org

Allison James, Camp Director
Hyde Park YMCA
ajames@ymcaboston.org

Charles River YMCA (Sept – May)
863 Great Plain Ave
Needham, MA 02492
781-444-6400

Hyde Park YMCA (Sept – May)
1137 River Street
Hyde Park, MA 02136
617-361-2300

Ponkapoag Outdoor Center (June – Aug)
Blue Hills Reservation
781.575.9905

CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

Ponkapoag Outdoor Center Summer 2010

Camper

Name: _____

Gender: F M Date of Birth: ____/____/____

School Grade (Fall 2010): _____

Parent

Name: _____

Gender: F M Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell/Emergency Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Select camp session(s) below by checking the appropriate box(es).

Also indicate whether you will be using bus transportation (additional fees apply).

	6/28- 7/2	7/5- 7/9	7/12- 7/16	7/19- 7/23	7/26- 7/30	8/2- 8/6	8/9- 8/13	8/16- 8/20	8/23- 8/27	8/30- 9/3
Camp										
Bus										

Please indicate your preference (if any) for transportation location/stop:

- Braintree
 Jamaica Plain
 Roxbury
 Milton
 Canton
 Needham
 Wellesley
 Stoughton
 Dorchester
 Randolph
 Sharon
 Easton
 Hyde Park
 West Roxbury
 Mattapan
 Roslindale

Payment

Total payment enclosed (\$25/week deposit): \$ _____

Check: Check #: _____

Credit Card: Card Type/Credit #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

I understand that full payment is required prior to my child's arrival at camp.

I understand that the camper paperwork packet required by the Ponkapoag Outdoor Center must be completed prior to my child's arrival at camp.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Payment Policies

1. A non-refundable, non-transferable deposit of \$25 per week of camp is required at the time of registration.
2. All outstanding balances are due by June 1.
3. Unless prior arrangements have been made, outstanding balances not paid by June 1 will incur a \$25 late fee.
4. After June 1, new registrations require payment in full.
5. All changes in enrollment after initial registration must be in writing and are subject to availability.
6. All cancellations, other than those caused by verifiable medical reasons, require a 30-day written notice stating reasons for withdrawal. With proper notification, a tuition refund minus the \$25 per week deposit will be made.
7. Tuition for campers who leave camp for behavioral reasons will not be refunded.



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