

# Black Bear Lake Day Camp

## Parent Handbook

 **Ian Feibelman, Owner/Director**

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Millstone Township, NJ 08510

 609.259.1777

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 [fun@blackbearlake.com](mailto:fun@blackbearlake.com)



2026

# Table of Contents

|                                          |       |
|------------------------------------------|-------|
| Owner's Welcome .....                    | 3     |
| Meet Our Leadership Team .....           | 4     |
| Policies & Procedures .....              | 5     |
| Bullying / Code of Conduct .....         | 6     |
| Health & Safety .....                    | 7     |
| Camp Hours & Dates .....                 | 8     |
| General Information .....                | 9-11  |
| Parent Drive / Before & After Care ..... | 12    |
| Bus Transportation .....                 | 13    |
| The Choice Program .....                 | 14    |
| Special Event Calendar .....             | 15    |
| Aquatic Program .....                    | 16-19 |





# WELCOME CAMP FAMILIES

Dear Black Bear Lake Parents,

Welcome to Black Bear Lake Day Camp!

We are truly excited that you've chosen for your camper(s) to spend their summer with us. Whether you are returning to camp or joining us for the very first time, we are honored to be part of your family's summer story.

For those who grew up going to camp, you already understand how meaningful the experience can be, the friendships, the confidence, the independence, and the memories that last a lifetime. And if this is your first introduction to camp, you're in for something really special. There is nothing quite like watching your child grow over the course of a summer, trying new things, building relationships, and discovering strengths they didn't even know they had.

We don't take the trust you've placed in us lightly. At Black Bear Lake, we believe camp should be more than just a place to spend the day, it should be a place where children feel safe, supported, and inspired. We are, at our core, in the business of building people. Every decision we make is centered around your child's experience and growth, socially, emotionally, athletically, artistically, and intellectually.

Our goal is to help each camper develop confidence, independence, resilience, and kindness. We want campers to leave each day feeling proud of themselves, whether they've mastered a new skill, made a new friend, or simply stepped outside of their comfort zone.

This Parent Handbook is designed to give you a helpful overview of the summer ahead, including policies, procedures, and important information to keep everything running smoothly. While it can't fully capture the energy and spirit of camp, it will serve as a useful guide throughout the season.

We also believe strongly that the little things matter. Thoughtful communication, attention to detail, and strong partnerships with our families are at the heart of everything we do. We want you to feel informed, comfortable, and confident every step of the way. If you ever have a question, concern, or just want to check in, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are always here and happy to help.

Our team is made up of passionate, dedicated professionals who care deeply about creating a positive and memorable experience for every camper. From our counselors to our specialists to our leadership team, we are committed to making this a summer your child will never forget.

As the summer unfolds, there will be moments of laughter, growth, challenge, and celebration, and we are grateful that your family will be part of it all.

We are looking forward to an incredible summer and are so happy to welcome you into the Black Bear Lake family.

Yours in camping,

Ian  
Owner/ Director



# MEET OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are excited to introduce you to the members of our team! Our mission is to partner with you to make certain your camper(s) has the best camp experience!

Each camper is placed in a group led by a college - aged Group Leader and one or two high school - aged Counselors. Division Leaders are responsible for the staff and campers in their division and are typically the direct contact with parents.

If you need to speak with Ian, a Division Leader, or Office Staff, please call 609.259.1777 or email the camp at [fun@blackbearlake.com](mailto:fun@blackbearlake.com).

|                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Director/Owner .....          | Ian Feibelman                   |
| Assistant Director .....      | Rob Young                       |
| Assistant Director .....      | Mario Del Cueto                 |
| Office Manager .....          | Jennifer Graf                   |
| Programming Supervisor .....  | Alycia Bolden                   |
| Transportation Director ..... | Nancy Spezzacatena              |
| Camp Nurses .....             | Genna Banafato<br>Laurie Karmel |

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Aquatic Supervisor ..... | Kevin Ott |
|--------------------------|-----------|

## DIVISION LEADERS

|                                                               |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Cubs</b> .....                                             | Elyse Brum      |
| (3 year old Junior Cubs and<br>Entering Pre-K & Kindergarten) | Ayesha Hamilton |

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Lower Camp</b> .....    | Jaclyn Leibowitz |
| (Entering 1st & 2nd Grade) | Tyler Rosenstack |

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Junior Camp</b> .....   | Drew Panson |
| (Entering 3rd & 4th Grade) | Amy Coven   |

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Senior Camp</b> .....   | Marc Strumwasser |
| (Entering 5th & 6th Grade) | Donald Estrada   |

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Upper Camp</b> .....    | Josh Gonzalez |
| (Entering 7th & 8th Grade) | Jillian Ashed |

|                                                           |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>STEP (Staff Training and Enrichment Program)</b> ..... | Matt "Fun Mayo" |
| (Entering 9th & 10th Grade)                               |                 |





# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

At BBL, we consider the safety and security of our campers and staff our most important priority. Please let your camper know that there is nothing we, and the BBL staff, wouldn't do to keep our campers safe. We review all of our security and safety procedures each year and have updated them to reflect the needs of our campers.

- BBL has many security procedures in place, including a Greeter located at our Welcome Center during the camp day where all visitors are required to sign in and show proper identification. No unauthorized vehicles enter our campus during the camp day. All staff wear BBL T-Shirts. All visitors are always escorted by a staff member. Over 50 of our key staff carry walkie talkies to communicate with each other. BBL also has immediate access to the staff at the Millstone Firehouse, located adjacent to the camp. Please do not hesitate to call the main office to voice any concerns or suggestions.
- Every camper has a right to the best possible experience at Black Bear Lake. Incidents of fighting, verbal intimidation, and other negative offenses which reference sex, age, color, religion, national origin, or disability will not be permitted at any time.
- All staff and campers must be able to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassment. Bullying and harassment is a behavior that is not welcome, which is personally offensive, or debilitates the morale of the campers. A safe and friendly atmosphere is the responsibility of all campers and staff at Black Bear Lake.
- While participating at camp, the staff is in charge. Any rules and/or instructions that are made by a staff member are to be respected.
- All disciplinary issues will be brought to the attention of the Division Leader who will inform the camper's parents of what occurred and what action was taken. In the unlikely event that there is a disciplinary problem that cannot be resolved by the Division Leader, or if a camper has recurring issues, the Director will call the parents to discuss the matter. If it is deemed by the Director that the safety of campers may be at risk, a camper may be asked to leave the camp. There are no refunds for campers who are dismissed or suspended from camp for violating the code of conduct or for any other reason at the camp's discretion.

| Camper Age          | Number of Group Staff | Campers |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 5-years and younger | 1                     | 6       |
| 6-8 years           | 1                     | 8       |
| 9-15 years          | 1                     | 10      |

- When including specialists, lifeguards, and all support staff, Black Bear Lake maintains an overall 4:1 camper-to-staff ratio.
- Black Bear Lake adjust ratios based on specific activities or needs.
- Black Bear Lake regularly reviews and updates ratios to comply with local regulations and best practices.
- Camper-to-staff ratios have a major impact on supervision and emotional safety.

## REFUNDS

Unforeseen changes to your family's work situation, vacation plans, and health may arise at any time, so we have the following policy - from the moment you register until June 1st, you may receive a FULL REFUND for any reason. There are no service charges, processing fees, and we do not keep any part of your deposit. After June 1st, \$250 Registration Fee per camper applies if enrollment is canceled. There is no camp on Friday, July 3rd, and week 1 is not pro-rated. Any changes to a camper's sessions after June, Friday 5th, refunds will be processed at the close of the camp season in accordance with our Refund Policy.

Payments are refundable after camp begins if a camper does not attend for a full week of camp (beginning on a Monday ending on a Friday) and the camp is notified prior to 5:00 pm the Friday before the week the camper does not attend. All refunds are based on the difference between the tuition that was paid and the tuition that would have been paid had the camper enrolled for the lesser number of weeks. For example, if you child was initially enrolled for 8 weeks and you decide to cancel 1 week (with proper notice), you will be charged the 7-week tuition rate. There are no refunds or credits for missed days for any reason, for example - such as illness, vacations, transportation delays, bad weather, and other reasons. There are no refunds for campers who are dismissed or suspended from camp for violating the code of conduct or for any other reason at the camp's discretion.

# BULLYING / CODE OF CONDUCT

## BULLYING

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick or put down another person with the intent of hurting. Bullying happens when a person or group of people use their power to control or harm others. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace, emails, text messages, instant messaging, and other less direct methods. This type of bullying can also lead to people being hurt during or between the camp seasons and be especially hurtful when people are targeted with meanness and exclusion. Unfortunately, people who are bullied may not have the same potential to get the most out of their camp experience. Every person has the right to the best possible camp experience, and by working together as a team, we can help ensure that all campers and staff have a safe and successful summer at Black Bear Lake Day Camp.

It is our commitment to provide a rich and wonderful camping experience for all campers. Our actions and words provide either a good or bad example. Each young person participating in Black Bear Lake activities of any sort is expected to abide the following Code of Conduct. This includes campers, staff members and visitors. By participating in group activities, you represent Black Bear Lake, your parents and yourself. What you say and do has impact on others; it is our desire that your impact will be a positive one.

Any camper that breaks any of the following in-house rules MAY be sent home based on the seriousness of the offense.

- Keep a positive attitude
- Show respect for everyone with whom you come in contact, by your actions and your words. This includes campers in your group as well as those outside of it
- Respect the facility
- No obscene language or drugs. This includes tobacco, e-cigarettes (vaping and juuling) Cannabis and narcotics. Campers caught in possessions with or using, any of above mentioned, will be asked to leave camp
- Inappropriate behavior, such as bullying, teasing, harassment, swearing, acts of aggression, pranks, practical jokes to disrespect other campers, staff or the environment are not tolerated at Black Bear Lake. What may seem harmless to you, may have lasting emotional or physical consequences for others
- Stealing, borrowing or touching other camper's possessions without their consent will NOT be tolerated
- Vandalizing or damage to camp property and/or equipment is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. This includes any damage to bunks, windows, doors, bathrooms, dining hall, signs, activity buildings, program equipment and including the natural environment. You will be held responsible for the cost of repair or replacements
- Defacing camp property in any way is also considered a serious offense. Any graffiti including writing, drawing, carving or paintings names/picture etc. Any of these examples will not be tolerated. You will be held responsible for cleanup, repair or replacements





# HEALTH AND SAFETY

At Black Bear Lake Day Camp, we take the health of our campers and staff very seriously. Our Wellness Center Staff includes three full time nurses. In addition, we have a Food Allergy Liaison to help care for your camper(s). We ask that you partner with us in keeping every camper healthy. Please do not send your camper(s) to camp if they are not well enough to participate in camp activities. All camper(s) must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication before they can return to camp.

We will contact you when:

- A camper becomes ill with a fever of 100.4 and/or vomiting.
  - A camper has a significant bump, bruise, or cut.
  - A camper has any head related injury.
  - A camper visits the Wellness Center multiple times in one day.
- If we cannot reach you, we will call the emergency contact.

## **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**

All medications to be taken or held at camp must be accompanied by a Medication Release Form and/or prescription from the doctor. The form must include your camper's name, name of the medication, dosage, time to be given, permission to administer, parent contact information, parent's signature, and the physician signature. You may give the medication to our Nurses at Meet & Greet before camp starts, to your camper's bus counselor on the first day of camp, or to a staff person at the Parent Drive drop off line if you drive your camper to camp.

## **NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**

Over the counter medication can only be administered if you and a doctor both signed our Medication Release Form. State Law mandates that any medication, over the counter or prescribed, epi-pens, inhalers, etc., will be administered by our camp Nurses ONLY if the proper documentation is on file.

## **ALLERGIES**

If your camper has an allergy that may require the use of an Epi-pen, it is imperative that you provide the camp with two Epi-pens. You can send them with your camper either at the Meet & Greet or on their first day of camp. Please note, an Epi-pen may only be administered to a camper if it is prescribed to them.

## **CAMP FORMS**

Monmouth County Health Department and the American Camp Association require that all campers submit their medical forms prior to the beginning of camp. These forms can be found in your Camp Minder Account. We MUST have all medical forms on file before the first day of camp in order for campers to attend camp. This form DOES NOT have to be completed by your physician, you can fill out the information yourself.

## **WELLNESS CENTER**

If you need to pick your camper up early from the Wellness Center, please drive to 457 Stagecoach Road (CAMPS MAIN ENTRANCE) and pull forward to the Welcome Center (Gazebo). You must check in with the GREETER to inform them you are picking up your camper(s) from the Wellness Center. The Greeter will radio the Nurse and instruct you to pull forward to the Wellness Center (White House). If you would like your camper(s) to be picked up at the camp by someone other than their parents, please inform the Main Office who it will be, and remind the person to bring an ID with them to sign out. Authorized pick-ups must be submitted through your camp minder account under the AUTHORIZED GROWN-UPS. All forms can be accessed by visiting our website [www.blackbearlake.com](http://www.blackbearlake.com), please click LOGIN in the upper right-hand corner. From your dashboard click on Forms & Documents.

## **BLACK BEAR LAKE LICE POLICY:**

Should our staff identify a camper who exhibits symptoms, he or she will be brought to the nurse with care and checked immediately. If lice is present, we will contact you right away and ask you to pick up your camper as quickly as possible so that you may begin proper treatment. At the same time, we will check fellow campers with whom they have had contact. To return to camp, campers who have had lice must be lice and nit free and be given clearance by their physician or a lice professional. It is our policy to have our nurse re-check your camper upon returning to camp. If a positive case of lice is found in your child's division, we will send a note home so that you are aware that your child may have been exposed.

## **TICKS**

Although the camp property is treated multiple times each year, ticks are part of our natural world. At Black Bear Lake, we take great care to maintain our grounds and we also spray to reduce the possibility of tick occurrence. As educated outdoors people we know that children and adults can be exposed to ticks anywhere in nature, whether it is a backyard or a remote hiking trail. It is our intention to raise awareness about how to prevent tick-related illnesses in general. The best way to prevent any illness caused by a tick is to perform a quick and easy body check during an evening bath or bedtime. Pay close attention to waistlines, groin, under arms, behind knees, ears and around the hair line. A tick bite in itself does not cause infection. In order to transmit a disease, a tick would need to be attached for at least 24 hours, which is why daily tick checks are so effective.

# CAMP HOURS, DATES, AND GRATUITIES

**2026 CAMP DATES ARE JUNE 29TH - AUGUST 21ST**

Contact us at 609.259.1777 or fun@blackbearlake.com. Ian answers emails 24/7!

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

- Monday through Friday 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

## CAMP HOURS

- Regular Camp Day: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Before Care Hours as early as 7:00 AM
- Camper drop-off and pick up (8:45 AM - 4:00PM)
- Buses Leave Campus promptly at 4:00 PM
- After Care Hours as late as 6:00 PM
- After Care on the last day of camp will end at 5:00 PM**



## IMPORTANT DATES

|                                                        |                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| All Camper Medical Forms .....                         | Due NOW                                  |
| Bus & Group Information .....                          | Mailed home in June                      |
| Optional Camper/Parent Meet 'n Greet .....             | Tuesday, June 23rd                       |
| (Anytime between 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM)                    |                                          |
| First Day of Camp .....                                | Monday, June 29th                        |
| Friday, July 3rd .....                                 | Camp Closed                              |
| Picture Day (Wear Your Camp T-Shirt) .....             | Thursday, July 16th                      |
| STEP Overnight .....                                   | Monday, July 27th - Wednesday, July 29th |
| JC/SC Late Night (Optional) .....                      | Friday, July 31st                        |
| BBL Camp Show - "Frozen, Jr." .....                    | Thursday, August 13th                    |
| Upper Camp/STEP Pool Party Late Night (Optional) ..... | Friday, August 14th                      |
| Last Day of Camp .....                                 | Friday, August 21st                      |

## GRATUITIES

Our staff appreciates every thank you that they receive. When families choose to give a gratuity, we suggest the following amounts as a guide for a full season at camp:

To make the tipping process easier, Black Bear Lake is working with Grazees this summer to allow for contactless tipping. Grazees is similar to Venmo. You will receive an email during the last week your camper(s) is enrolled in with an updated list of the Staff Grazees Accounts. Gratuities are strictly optional.

|                 |                  |                      |                                                  |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Group Leaders:  | \$50 - \$75 each | Swim Instructor:     | \$15 - \$20 each                                 |
| Counselors:     | \$40 - \$50 each | Before / After Care: | \$10 - \$15 each                                 |
| Bus Counselors: | \$10 - \$15 each | Specialists:         | \$15 - \$20 each                                 |
| Bus Drivers:    | \$10 - \$20 each | Division Leaders:    | While not expected, they are always appreciated. |

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## DAILY ITEMS TO BRING TO CAMP:

- Camper Backpack (provided by camp)
- Extra Bathing suit
- Pool shoes or flip flops
- Water Bottle
- Additional bottle of sunscreen
- Plastic bag for wet clothing
- **PLEASE LABEL ANY ITEMS YOUR CAMPER BRINGS TO CAMP!**



## PLEASE DO NOT BRING TO CAMP:

- Technological Devices
- Cell Phones
- Food/Candy
- Valuable Jewelry
- Any special trinkets
- Pokemon or Trading Cards



## ATTIRE

Please label everything with your camper's name! Campers should wear a bathing suit to camp to facilitate getting to and from the pool quickly. Pack an extra bathing suit to change into for free swim. Sneakers are recommended and pool shoes are not necessary. We recommend Velcro sneakers for the younger campers. All campers receive a Black Bear Lake Camp Bag.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communication is the core of our outstanding relationship with Black Bear Lake families.

When should I call? Call anytime you like; key personnel are here on summer weekdays from 7:00am-6:00pm. After hours and on weekends during the summer there is an Administrator on call or checking voicemail messages and emails.

Each Monday afternoon, you will receive an email with upcoming Special Event information and camp updates. Every Friday, our camp newsletter highlighting next week's events will be emailed to you. In the event of an emergency, we will post instructions on [www.blackbearlake.com](http://www.blackbearlake.com), as well as send a broadcast email.

## DIVISION LEADER COMMUNICATION

Your child's Division Leader will telephone you at least twice over the course of the summer, and many call more frequently. You can always request your Division Leader to call you anytime there is something you would like to discuss.

## LOST & FOUND

Anything brought to camp should have your camper's name clearly marked. Please do not send campers with any valuable "treasures", as precious possessions may get lost. We cannot be responsible for phones, trading cards, etc. We recommend that your camper check in any valuable items in the Lodge Office when they get off the bus. If your camper does lose something, we will make every effort to get it back to them. We will discard whatever remains in the lost and found every **Friday** after dismissal.

## SUNSCREEN

Parents should apply sunscreen to their children in the morning. Black Bear Lake staff will assist campers who need help reapplying sunscreen for the second half of the day. Please send a supply of the product you prefer, labeled with your child's name and group, along with your application instructions.

## LUNCH

Campers will be given lunch every day. During morning lineup, campers will choose their meal from the main entree, or from our daily alternatives of sandwiches, pasta and salad bar, and bagels with cream cheese or butter. Campers will also receive an ice pop treat in the afternoon. Bagels (offered until 9:30 AM), fresh fruit, and veggies are also available at the Snack Shack all day. Please note that we are a peanut butter aware camp and offer soy butter as a substitute.

## BIRTHDAYS

If a camper has their birthday while they are in camp, their group is given a special treat after lunch, and campers will sing "Happy Birthday". Because of potential camper food allergies, we do not allow any outside food at camp.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## RAINY DAYS

It never rains at Black Bear Lake...it's only liquid sunshine!

Rain or shine, B-B-L is spelled F-U-N

During inclement weather, our indoor activities go on as usual – nothing is canceled or postponed. Black Bear Lake is equipped to supply comfortable shelter and exciting indoor activities better than any camp out there!

We also have space to watch movies on our high-definition screens, play over 50 different board games with friends, and participate in wild and wacky division-wide competitions for awesome prizes – like Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?, Blurt, Indoor Scavenger Hunt, the Newlywed Game, or the BBL Annual Spelling Bee!

Rain? No problem – you can't rain on our parade! At Black Bear Lake, we got you covered!

\*Rain all day is hard to predict. Even if it seems to be a rainy day, always pack a bathing suit and towel in case the weather improves.

## HOT DAYS

On very hot days we have over 6,000 square feet of pool space where we extend our swim time! Staff will also ensure all campers are staying hydrated.





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## BBL CAMP SHOW

For campers who have signed up to be in the BBL Camp Show, you will rehearse during weeks 2-7. The show will be after camp during Week 7. Performers will stay after camp to do final rehearsals, and their families are invited to join us at camp for a 6:00 PM show time.

A promotional poster for the musical 'Frozen Jr.' at Black Bear Lake Day Camp. The background is a snowy, icy forest. In the center, the characters from Frozen are posed: Prince Hans on the left, Anna in a blue and red dress, Olaf the snowman on top of Sven the reindeer in the center, Kristoff on the right, and Elsa on the far right. The text 'BLACK BEAR LAKE DAY CAMP' is at the top in white, followed by 'PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR 2026 SUMMER MUSICAL'. A black paw print logo with 'BLACK BEAR LAKE' is on the right. At the bottom, 'FROZEN JR.' is written in large, icy letters, with 'Auditions Begin Week 2!' and 'Show Date: Thursday, August 13th' below it.

**BLACK BEAR LAKE DAY CAMP**  
PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR 2026 SUMMER MUSICAL

**FROZEN JR.**

**Auditions Begin Week 2!**  
**Show Date: Thursday, August 13<sup>TH</sup>**

# PARENT DRIVE / BEFORE AND AFTER CARE

## • PARENT DROP OFF

The Parent Drive address is 465 Stagecoach Road (The Clarksburg Hall). The hours for Parent Drive are **between 8:45 AM and 9:00 AM and between 3:45 PM and 4:00 PM**. At 9:00 AM sharp, we must close the gates for Parent Drive as our staff needs to be elsewhere to get ready for the start of camp.

- There is no need to get out of your car at Parent Drive. Staff will be present to assist campers getting out of the car and escort them to their morning meeting area.
- If you are dropping your camper off any time after 9:00 AM, drive to the Main Entrance of camp (457 Stagecoach Road). Pull alongside the Welcome Center (Gazebo). Our Greeter will sign in your camper(s) and a staff member will escort them on property.

## Running Late for Pick Up:

We completely understand things that happen from time to time. Traffic build ups, meetings that run late, or a car key gets lost! Your camper(s) will be signed into After Care until you arrive. Please call the Camp Office to let us know.

## RELEASE OF A CHILD FROM OUR WELCOME CENTER

Since the safety of your child is our utmost concern, Black Bear Lake Day Camp maintains a strict policy regarding the individuals to whom we release a child. We know there are occasions where someone other than you, the parent or guardian, may be picking up your child from camp. For these occasions, please complete the AUTHORIZED GROWN-UPS FORM found on the Forms & Documents section of your Camp Minder Account. Please make sure to complete this if, at any time, a grandparent, friend, babysitter; neighbor; etc. will be picking up your child from camp. Only people whose names appear on your AUTHORIZED GROWN-UPS FORM will be authorized to sign out a camper. Once this individual arrives at the camp, a staff member will need to verify the individual's identity by reviewing two forms of identification. The authorized individual must then sign and note the time of the child's release. If a non-custodial parent is not included among those persons authorized by the custodial parent to pick up the child, please inform the Camp Director or Office Staff. Should an unauthorized individual arrive to pick up a child, a parent or emergency contact person will be immediately notified via a phone call. If we are unable to reach a parent or emergency contact person, the child will not be released.

***\*\*If you are picking up another camp family's camper(s): BOTH families MUST contact the Camp Office before 2PM the same day\*\****

## EARLY PICK UP

If you wish to pick up your camper(s) from camp, please contact the Camp Office in the morning or NO later than 2:00 PM the same day.

## BEFORE & AFTER CARE

### Before Care

Before Care drop off in the morning is at the Clarksburg Building, located at 465 Stagecoach Road. You may drop off your camper(s) between 7:00 AM and 8:30 AM.

### After Care

After Care After Care pick up is behind the Clarksburg Building (465 Stagecoach Road), between 4:15 PM and 6:00 PM. Please follow the signs on Stagecoach Road. A Black Bear Lake Staff Member will walk your camper(s) to your car. There is no need to get out of your vehicle. Please post your AFTERCARE POSTCARD in your windshield to make the afternoon dismissal process run safely and efficiently. Please do not pick camper(s) up before 4:15 PM for Aftercare. As a reminder that all campers **MUST** be picked up no later than 6:00 PM daily. **After Care hours on the last day of camp will end at 5:00 PM.**



# BUS TRANSPORTATION

Our goal is to provide a safe, enjoyable, and efficient trip to and from camp for all our campers. All our latest model buses are provided by a professional bus company and are AIR-CONDITIONED for everyone's comfort. Each bus is equipped with seat belts, cell phones, tracking technology and are driven by professional CDL-certified school bus drivers. Our drivers are mature professionals who drive children to school & camp all year and do not work at camp all day long. Each bus is also staffed with highly trained bus counselors who ensure that all safety guidelines are followed.

Before camp, you will receive the Group/Bus Label. This Label is very important as it has the approximate time the bus will arrive and drop-off your camper(s) at the Hub Stop or at your house if you've chosen that option. Cubs, Lower and Junior Campers MUST wear the label on the first day of camp. Please have your camper ready and at the stop 10 minutes before the time on the label since times may vary on many factors.

Please review these rules with your camper(s):

- Always sit in their assigned seat and face forward with your seat belt fastened.
- Do not distract the driver.
- Do not stand when the bus is moving.
- Do not put anything out the window.
- There is no eating food on the bus.
- When the bus approaches your stop, stand a few feet away from the curb.
- If you must cross the street for the bus, make sure the driver can see you.
- Never walk behind the bus.



## HUB STOPS

For camper(s) dropped off at a Hub Stop, camper(s) will never be left alone if you are not waiting for them. Our office will try to contact you, and if you can't get to the stop, we will bring your camper(s) back to the camp. If you are going to be late to the bus, you can call or email permission to release your camper(s) to another adult at your bus stop.

## DOOR TO DOOR TRANSPORTATION

Please have your camper(s) ready in the morning when the bus arrives. In the afternoon, if your camper is dropped off at your house, we must observe the camper entering the home. If the camper(s) cannot get in the house and we cannot contact you, we will bring the camper back to camp.

## CAMPER ABSENCES

There is no need to contact the camp if your camper(s) will be absent unless it is for an extended period, or they utilize door to door services. Please note, there are no refunds for daily or partial week absences.

Black Bear Lake's program uniquely focuses on choice! Each week BBL camper(s) choose the activities they want to explore through in-depth participation alongside camper(s) with similar interests.

In a traditional camp setting, campers often participate in activities with just the kids in their group. By choosing activities based on their interests, campers quickly meet many other campers with whom they have something in common. When campers are in activities they are highly interested in, they make more friends and the activity is more fun and engaging for all. Staff are equally happy with the BBL choice program. They know each camper in their activity chose to be there! Therefore, with motivated and engaged campers they can achieve their teaching goals much more easily and quickly!

## SO HOW DOES IT WORK?

- 

# Black Bear Lake Day Camp

## Week 1 Electives

| Lower Camp                                                                                                                                                           | Junior Camp                                                                                                                                                          | Senior Camp                                                                                                                                                          | Upper /STEP Camp                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ADJECTIVE</b><br>Aim for a metaphor or a simile like this one and write it down.                                                                                  | <b>ADJECTIVE</b><br>Aim for a metaphor or a simile like this one and write it down.                                                                                  | <b>ADJECTIVE</b><br>Aim for a metaphor or a simile like this one and write it down.                                                                                  | <b>ADJECTIVE</b><br>Aim for a metaphor or a simile like this one and write it down.                                                                                  |
| <b>BACKGROUND SCENES</b><br>Each day you will experience an afternoon of nature. Write down what you see, hear, feel, smell, and taste. You can even draw a picture. | <b>BACKGROUND SCENES</b><br>Each day you will experience an afternoon of nature. Write down what you see, hear, feel, smell, and taste. You can even draw a picture. | <b>BACKGROUND SCENES</b><br>Each day you will experience an afternoon of nature. Write down what you see, hear, feel, smell, and taste. You can even draw a picture. | <b>BACKGROUND SCENES</b><br>Each day you will experience an afternoon of nature. Write down what you see, hear, feel, smell, and taste. You can even draw a picture. |
| <b>BASEBALL</b><br>Swing the bat for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     | <b>BASEBALL</b><br>Swing the bat for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     | <b>BASEBALL</b><br>Swing the bat for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     | <b>BASEBALL</b><br>Swing the bat for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     |
| <b>BOATBUILDING</b><br>Draw off your boat and watch it sail away. You can even draw a picture.                                                                       | <b>BOATBUILDING</b><br>Draw off your boat and watch it sail away. You can even draw a picture.                                                                       | <b>BOATBUILDING</b><br>Draw off your boat and watch it sail away. You can even draw a picture.                                                                       | <b>BOATBUILDING</b><br>Draw off your boat and watch it sail away. You can even draw a picture.                                                                       |
| <b>BOLD</b><br>Write down your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                   | <b>BOLD</b><br>Write down your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                   | <b>BOLD</b><br>Write down your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                   | <b>BOLD</b><br>Write down your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                   |
| <b>BOWLING</b><br>Swing the ball for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     | <b>BOWLING</b><br>Swing the ball for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     | <b>BOWLING</b><br>Swing the ball for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     | <b>BOWLING</b><br>Swing the ball for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     |
| <b>CREATIVE CHARTS</b><br>Turn your thoughts and feelings into a chart. You can even draw a picture.                                                                 | <b>CREATIVE CHARTS</b><br>Turn your thoughts and feelings into a chart. You can even draw a picture.                                                                 | <b>CREATIVE CHARTS</b><br>Turn your thoughts and feelings into a chart. You can even draw a picture.                                                                 | <b>CREATIVE CHARTS</b><br>Turn your thoughts and feelings into a chart. You can even draw a picture.                                                                 |
| <b>CULINARY ARTS</b><br>Play with your food.                                                                                                                         | <b>CULINARY ARTS</b><br>Play with your food.                                                                                                                         | <b>CULINARY ARTS</b><br>Play with your food.                                                                                                                         | <b>CULINARY ARTS</b><br>Play with your food.                                                                                                                         |
| <b>DANCE</b><br>Learn a new dance move from the Black Bear Lake and perform it for your friends.                                                                     | <b>DANCE</b><br>Learn a new dance move from the Black Bear Lake and perform it for your friends.                                                                     | <b>DANCE</b><br>Learn a new dance move from the Black Bear Lake and perform it for your friends.                                                                     | <b>DANCE</b><br>Learn a new dance move from the Black Bear Lake and perform it for your friends.                                                                     |
| <b>FORMING</b><br>Learn about the importance of forming your thoughts and feelings into a shape. You can even draw a picture.                                        | <b>FORMING</b><br>Learn about the importance of forming your thoughts and feelings into a shape. You can even draw a picture.                                        | <b>FORMING</b><br>Learn about the importance of forming your thoughts and feelings into a shape. You can even draw a picture.                                        | <b>FORMING</b><br>Learn about the importance of forming your thoughts and feelings into a shape. You can even draw a picture.                                        |
| <b>GRAPHICS &amp; TEMPLATES</b><br>Create a graphic or a template for your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                       | <b>GRAPHICS &amp; TEMPLATES</b><br>Create a graphic or a template for your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                       | <b>GRAPHICS &amp; TEMPLATES</b><br>Create a graphic or a template for your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                       | <b>GRAPHICS &amp; TEMPLATES</b><br>Create a graphic or a template for your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                       |
| <b>HERITAGE RESEARCH</b><br>Learn about the heritage of your family. You can even draw a picture.                                                                    | <b>HERITAGE RESEARCH</b><br>Learn about the heritage of your family. You can even draw a picture.                                                                    | <b>HERITAGE RESEARCH</b><br>Learn about the heritage of your family. You can even draw a picture.                                                                    | <b>HERITAGE RESEARCH</b><br>Learn about the heritage of your family. You can even draw a picture.                                                                    |
| <b>LAKE WATERFOWL</b><br>Learn about the lake waterfowl. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                | <b>LAKE WATERFOWL</b><br>Learn about the lake waterfowl. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                | <b>LAKE WATERFOWL</b><br>Learn about the lake waterfowl. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                | <b>LAKE WATERFOWL</b><br>Learn about the lake waterfowl. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                |
| <b>MISSION TUBING</b><br>Go on a mission tubing trip. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                   | <b>MISSION TUBING</b><br>Go on a mission tubing trip. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                   | <b>MISSION TUBING</b><br>Go on a mission tubing trip. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                   | <b>MISSION TUBING</b><br>Go on a mission tubing trip. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                   |
| <b>NOTES</b><br>Record your thoughts and feelings.                                                                                                                   | <b>NOTES</b><br>Record your thoughts and feelings.                                                                                                                   | <b>NOTES</b><br>Record your thoughts and feelings.                                                                                                                   | <b>NOTES</b><br>Record your thoughts and feelings.                                                                                                                   |
| <b>PERSONAL &amp; DANCE</b><br>Write a personal and a dance. You can even draw a picture.                                                                            | <b>PERSONAL &amp; DANCE</b><br>Write a personal and a dance. You can even draw a picture.                                                                            | <b>PERSONAL &amp; DANCE</b><br>Write a personal and a dance. You can even draw a picture.                                                                            | <b>PERSONAL &amp; DANCE</b><br>Write a personal and a dance. You can even draw a picture.                                                                            |
| <b>SCIENCE</b><br>Write down your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                | <b>SCIENCE</b><br>Write down your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                | <b>SCIENCE</b><br>Write down your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                | <b>SCIENCE</b><br>Write down your thoughts and feelings. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                |
| <b>SOFTBALL</b><br>Swing the bat for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     | <b>SOFTBALL</b><br>Swing the bat for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     | <b>SOFTBALL</b><br>Swing the bat for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     | <b>SOFTBALL</b><br>Swing the bat for the home run, and watch it go professional!                                                                                     |
| <b>WIFFLE BALL</b><br>Design a wiffle ball. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                             | <b>WIFFLE BALL</b><br>Design a wiffle ball. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                             | <b>WIFFLE BALL</b><br>Design a wiffle ball. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                             | <b>WIFFLE BALL</b><br>Design a wiffle ball. You can even draw a picture.                                                                                             |
| <b>WRESTLING</b><br>Learn about the importance of wrestling. You can even draw a picture.                                                                            | <b>WRESTLING</b><br>Learn about the importance of wrestling. You can even draw a picture.                                                                            | <b>WRESTLING</b><br>Learn about the importance of wrestling. You can even draw a picture.                                                                            | <b>WRESTLING</b><br>Learn about the importance of wrestling. You can even draw a picture.                                                                            |

Choose your top 10 at [Blackbearlake.com](http://Blackbearlake.com)

## AT BLACK BEAR LAKE...IT'S ALL ABOUT CHOICE!



# Black Bear Lake Day Camp

## Special Event Calendar 2026



| WEEK                          | MONDAY                                | TUESDAY                         | WEDNESDAY                                          | THURSDAY                            | FRIDAY                                         |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>JUNE 29 - JULY 3  | <br><b>THE GREAT BEAR HUNT</b>        | <br><b>HUMAN SCAVENGER HUNT</b> | <br><b>GIANT SLIP AND SLIDE</b>                    | <br><b>KONA ICE &amp; JORTS DAY</b> | <br><b>CAMP CLOSED</b>                         |
| <b>2</b><br>JULY 6 - JULY 10  | <br><b>GOLD RUSH</b>                  | <br><b>FOAM PARTY</b>           | <br><b>SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW YOUR GROUP LEADER</b> | <br><b>SOGGY BOTTOMS</b>            | <br><b>COLLEGE DAYS</b>                        |
| <b>3</b><br>JULY 13 - JULY 17 | <br><b>BBL OLYMPICS</b>               | <br><b>BBL OLYMPICS</b>         | <br><b>BBL OLYMPICS</b>                            | <br><b>PICTURE DAY</b>              | <br><b>COLLEGE DAYS</b>                        |
| <b>4</b><br>JULY 20 - JULY 24 | <br><b>GUESS THAT CAMPER!</b>         | <br><b>POOL TRASH DAY</b>       | <br><b>CIRCUS</b>                                  | <br><b>HARLEM WIZARDS</b>           | <br><b>COLLEGE DAYS</b>                        |
| <b>5</b><br>JULY 27 - JULY 31 | <br><b>DJ DANCE PARTY</b>             | <br><b>TRIVIA TUESDAY</b>       | <br><b>SILENT DISCO GLOW PARTY</b>                 | <br><b>YACHT OR NOT</b>             | <br><b>COLLEGE DAYS<br/>JC / SC LATE NIGHT</b> |
| <b>6</b><br>AUG 3 - AUG 7     | <br><b>CAMP ROCKS!</b>                | <br><b>QUIDDITCH</b>            | <br><b>MISMATCH DAY</b>                            | <br><b>SPORTS JERSEY DAY</b>        | <br><b>COLLEGE DAYS</b>                        |
| <b>7</b><br>AUG 10 - AUG 14   | <br><b>PROJECT MORREY'S COLOR RUN</b> | <br><b>KONA ICE, TWICE!?</b>    | <br><b>MYSTERY DAY</b>                             | <br><b>BBL PLAY</b>                 | <br><b>COLLEGE DAYS<br/>STEP LATE NIGHT</b>    |
| <b>8</b><br>AUG 17 - AUG 21   | <br><b>MEMORY MONDAY</b>              | <br><b>PETTING ZOO</b>          | <br><b>DO YOU KNOW YOUR DIVISION LEADERS?</b>      | <br><b>TWIN DAY</b>                 | <br><b>COLLEGE DAYS</b>                        |

COLOR WAR CAN BREAK OUT ANY TIME DURING THE SUMMER!



# SWIM PROGRAM

Black Bear Lake Day Camp takes great pride in its outstanding swim program. Within a supportive environment, campers of all abilities are challenged to improve. Campers are split into small teaching groups with campers their age who are working on the same skills. Instructors stay with the same group every day, and ratios are typically 1:4 or better for our early learners and slightly larger for campers as they advance. Every summer 90%+ of Black Bear Lake campers pass the deep-water test.

Swimming is more than just an activity - it's a lifelong skill that builds confidence, independence, and safety awareness. The deep-water test is a proud milestone, giving campers access to deeper waters and reinforcing their sense of accomplishment.

A certified swim instructor OR our Pool Supervisor will conduct the swimming proficiency test in accordance with the Black Bear Lake Day Camp standards.

## **The Deep-Water Test is as follows:**

Part 1: Swimmers must jump into the pool and comfortably swim two widths of the pool (25 yards each way) in deep water, continuously, using the front crawl or breaststroke.

Part 2: Tread water for 30 seconds prior to touching the wall. This will be done without any assistance.

## **Reasons for not passing:**

- Underwater swimming
- "Dog paddling"
- Resting in the middle of the test
- Not maintaining forward motion
- Not being able to tread water at the end of the test
- Being too physically exhausted at the completion of the test
- Unable to follow direction

**RETESTING POLICY:** Each camper can re-test on Fridays and/or on a separate day following their initial swim test.

## **SAFETY FIRST**

### **We Prioritize Safety & Supervision at All Times**

- Certified Pool Operator (CPO) On-Site – Ensuring top safety and maintenance standards.
- Lifeguard Supervision – Trained, certified lifeguards monitoring all swim activities.
- AED Machine on Premises – Emergency preparedness for peace of mind.
- Frequent Water Quality Checks – Our team performs regular water testing and maintenance to ensure clean, safe swimming conditions.
- Strict Safety Protocols – Our aquatics staff follows up-to-date industry standards to provide the best possible care and supervision.

# SWIM PROGRAM



## SHRIMP

### Preschool Level A: Part 1-With support

- Properly enters & exits water
- Submerge mouth, nose and eyes
- Blow bubbles
- Open eyes underwater and retrieve submerged object
- Front glide and recover to a vertical position
- Staying safe around water
- Recognizing the lifeguards



## SAILFISH

### Level 1: Beginner Part 1

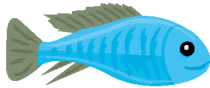
- Enter water independently
- Blow Bubbles
- Bobbing
- Open eyes under water and retrieve submerged object
- Front glide and float
- Back glide and float
- Staying safe around water
- Recognizing the lifeguards



## GUPPY

### Preschool Level B: Part 2- With support

- Back float, back glide and recover to vertical position
- Rotary Breathing
- Roll from front to back, & back to front
- Tread with arms and hand actions
- Alternating and simultaneous leg and arm actions on back
- Combined arm & leg actions on front
- Combined arm & leg actions on back
- Recognizing an emergency
- How to call for help



## MARLIN

### Level 1: Beginner Part 2

- Roll from front to back and back to front
- Tread water, using arm and hand actions
- Alternating and simultaneous leg and arm actions on front
- Alternating and simultaneous leg and arm actions on back
- Combined arm and leg actions on front
- Combined arm and leg actions on back
- Recognizing an emergency



## TROUT

### Preschool Level C: With assistance

- Enter water by stepping in shoulder-deep water
- Bobbing
- Front float and recover to a vertical position
- Tread water with arm and leg actions
- Finning arm action on back
- Too Much Sun is no Fun
- Look before you leap



## SHARK

### Level 2: Beginner Part 1

- Jumping into chest deep water
- Fully submerge and hold breath
- Bobbing
- Open eyes under water and retrieve submerged objects
- Front, jellyfish and tuck floats
- Front glide and float
- Too Much Sun Is No Fun
- Look before you leap



## SWORDFISH

### Preschool Level D: Independently

- Enter water by jumping in shoulder-deep water
- Fully submerge and hold breath
- Front float
- Jellyfish float
- Tuck float
- Think so you don't sink
- Reach or throw - Don't go



## DOLPHIN

### Level 2: Beginner Part 2

- Back glide and float
- Roll from front to back and back to front
- Tread water, using arms and legs
- Change direction of travel while swim-ming on front
- Combined arm and leg actions on front
- Combined arm and leg actions on back
- Finning arm action on back
- Think so you don't sink



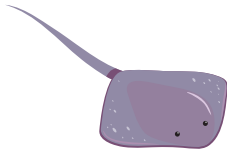
# SWIM PROGRAM



## STINGRAY

### Level 3: Intermediate Part 1

- Jumping into deep water
- Head first entry from seated and kneeling positions
- Bobbing while moving to safety
- Rotary breathing
- Survival float\*Back float
- Reach or throw, Don't Go
- Think Twice Before Going Near Ice



## BARRACUDA

### Level 3: Intermediate Part 2

- Tread water for 30 seconds
- Front Crawl - 15 yards
- Elementary Back Stroke - 15 yards
- Flutter kick
- Scissor kick
- Dolphin kick
- Push off in streamlined position on front, then kick
- Look before you leap



## KINGFISH

### Level 4: Intermediate Part 1

- Head first entry in compact and stride positions
- Feet first surface dive
- Front crawl - 25 yards
- Elementary backstroke - 25 yards
- Breaststroke - 15 yards
- Back crawl - 15 yards
- Reaching assist



## NEPTUNE

### Level 4: Intermediate Part 2

- Butterfly - 15 yards
- Sidestroke - 15 yards
- Open turns on front and back
- Flutter kick on back
- Dolphin kick on back
- Push off in streamlined position on back
- Think so you don't sink
- Look before you leap



## STROKE REFINEMENT 1

### Level 5: Advanced Part 1

- Shallow angle dive into deep water
- Tuck surface dive
- Pike surface dive
- Front crawl - 50 yards
- Elementary backstroke - 50 yards
- Breaststroke - 50 yards
- How to call for help
- Reach or Throw, Don't Go
- Look before you leap

## STROKE REFINEMENT 2

### Level 5: Advanced Part 2

- Tread water for 5 minutes
- Sculling
- Back crawl for 25 yards
- Butterfly - 25 yards
- Sidestroke - 25 yards
- Front flip turn
- Back flip turn
- Think so you don't sink
- Think twice before going near ice

## ADVANCED OPTIONS

### Level 6: Advanced Part 1

- Surface dive and retrieve object from 7-10' deep
- Front crawl - 100 yards
- Elementary backstroke - 100 yards
- Breaststroke - 50 yards
- Back crawl - 50 yards
- Help position
- Huddle position
- Survival float
- Survival swimming

## ADVANCED OPTIONS 2

### Level 6: Advanced Part 2

- Tread water, kicking only
- Butterfly - 50 yards
- Sidestroke - 50 yards
- Open turns
- Front and back flip turns when swimming
- Think so you don't sink
- Swim with a buddy in a supervised area



# SWIM PROGRAM

## BLACK BEAR SEA SQUAD

### Swimming Skills

- Swim 100–200 yards continuously (freestyle & breaststroke)
- Tread water for at least 2 minutes
- Surface dive to 7–10 feet and retrieve an object
- Swim underwater for at least 10 feet (practice breath control)
- Practice sidestroke for controlled swimming while towing

### Rescue Techniques

- Practice “reach” and “throw” rescues (using poles, rings, ropes)
- Practice swimming with a rescue tube
- Practice towing a partner safely to the poolside/shallow end
- Learn and practice safe water entry methods:
  - Compact jump
  - Stride jump
  - Slide-in entry

### First Aid & CPR

- Review basic first aid for:
  - Cuts, scrapes, burns
  - Nosebleeds
  - Heat exhaustion/heat stroke
  - Stings and bites
- Practice CPR compressions on a manikin if available
- Know how to call for help and what to say to emergency responders

### Observation & Safety

- Practice scanning a pool or waterfront area
- Identify potential hazards in your environment
- Learn to recognize signs of a distressed swimmer
- Review and memorize basic water safety rules

### Physical Fitness

- Run/walk briskly for 10–15 minutes
- Do a short swim/run circuit to simulate rescues
- Practice push-ups, sit-ups, and squats to build strength

### Teamwork & Communication

- Practice clear, loud voice commands (“Are you okay? Grab the tube!”)
- Role play rescues with a partner and practice giving directions
- Practice helping others stay calm in a simulated emergency



# IT PAYS TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT BLACK BEAR LAKE!!!

## 2025-2026 REFERRAL PROGRAM



**\$500 TO THE NEW FAMILY**



**\$500 TO THE REFERRING FAMILY**



- A “new camper” is a child of a family not currently enrolled at Black Bear Lake Day Camp. New registered siblings of current camp families do not apply.
- A qualifying enrollment is any enrollment of a new camper for 4 weeks (or more) and 5 days a week (not eligible for a shorter enrollment)
- The \$500 Referral Discount will be paid at the end of the camp season.





# Get your photos here!

**Black Bear Lake Day Camp** is excited to announce we're offering Waldo's facial recognition powered mobile app this season! You'll be able to sit back and relax while Waldo delivers YOUR CAMPER'S photos to you and your family members!

## How to view your camper's photos

Text this code to 735-343:  
**BLACKBEARLAKE26**

or

Scan the QR with your  
phone camera



## Not interested in photo delivery?

You can visit our web gallery and find your photos at [waldophotos.com/galleries](http://waldophotos.com/galleries) or by downloading the Waldo app and entering our Join Code: **BLACKBEARLAKE26**



