

PARKS MAINTENANCE & RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) **Parent Handbook** explains its policies and standards of operation for children and youth programs. While there is a vast range of needs and interests represented by children, ages five through seventeen, this handbook provides parents with basic information to prepare for successful participation in recreation programs.

PROGRAM *Program Goals*

Recreation programs for children are designed and conducted to promote physical, emotional and social well-being and development. The Department's program goals are to provide opportunities for children to participate in physical, cultural, civic, and educational activities so that they may learn skills and knowledge to achieve the lifelong benefits of constructive leisure.

Recreation Child Care Programs

Summer Fun program: Program of recreational activities for children that may include arts and crafts, music and dance, excursions, games or other activities offered during the summer months when school is not in session.

Summer Plus program: Supplement to the summer fun program to provide additional hours of child care before or after the summer fun program day.

Intersession or After School program: Multi-activity content for more than six hours per week, held during the year when school is not in session.

Enrichment Activity/Program: Recreation class or specific activity taught or conducted for brief (one or two hour) periods, once or twice a week. It may be taught or conducted by a DPR employee, contract instructor or volunteer.

Special Events: A special event is a one-time activity that may be seasonal, annual, or singular. Some special events are geared to children, but should not be considered an activity where children can be dropped off. Parents/guardians may be required to accompany children at some events.

Ages of Children Accepted

Summer Fun and Summer Plus programs: Children who will be six years old before August 1st of the current calendar year and not older than thirteen years old by the end of the current program period.

Intersession, before, and after school recreation child care programs:

Fall program: Children who will be five years old before August 1st of the current calendar year.

Spring program: Children who will be six years old before August 1st of the current calendar year.

Teen programs: Ages thirteen through seventeen and will not make 18 years old before the end of program period.

Reasonable Modifications

The Department shall make reasonable program modifications for the inclusion of any child with disabilities in recreation activities and programs. The parent or guardian of the child and the Program Director shall discuss the child's individual needs and what, if any, modifications are needed and can be reasonably met. The parent or guardian shall provide the Department with five working days advance notice when requesting provisions for accommodation of program modifications.

FEES, WAIVERS, REFUNDS

Fees will vary according to program and activity. There is a \$25.00 registration fee for the Summer Fun Program. In addition, there are various activity fees for recreation classes, special events, bus excursions, or admission fees.

Fees

Fees are due and payable upon registration. For in-person registration, payment of fees may be by cash, check or money order. If paying by check or money order, it shall be made payable to the City and County of Honolulu. Cash is accepted, but checks or money orders are preferred. For online registration, only acceptable forms of electronic payments, such as credit and debit cards, is accepted. There is a \$25.00 service charge for all returned checks. Failure to pay fees or charges shall result in cancellation of the child's registration in the recreation child care program.

Waivers

The registration fee for the Summer Fun Program and recreational child care programs offered by the Department in the summer, may be waived at the time of registration, by submitting a letter or written verification from the Department of Human Services, or Department of Education, State of Hawaii, verifying that the child is in foster care or from a family or

household receiving State/Federal assistance to families with dependent children.

Refunds

All fees, including activity fees, are non-refundable after the start of the program or collection deadline (for special activities) as designated at the time of registration.

Refund requests shall be submitted in writing and accompanied by an original receipt, cancelled check, or appropriate registration form indicating payment. Allow six to eight weeks for processing.

If the Department cancels any activity, refunds shall be made on a pro-rata basis.

REGISTRATION & ATTENDANCE

When registering a child for a recreation activity, parents or guardians will pay any applicable fees. They shall complete a DPR program registration form providing information on the child, health and emergency information, authorization and consent for emergency and medical treatment, release of claims, media release, and authorization to participate in off-site field trips.

Registration Priority and Waiting Lists

Registration Priority: Registration is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligibility for waived or discounted fees does not provide an advantage or disadvantage to registration in any program.

Waiting Lists: Waiting lists are established on a first-come, first-served basis but do not guarantee enrollment in the program.

Attendance, Release, Pick-up

Program Attendance: Attendance in recreation programs is voluntary. Any child who does not report at the start of the program day or the scheduled, supervised activity is considered absent with the consent of the parent/guardian.

General Release: Any child enrolled in an enrichment activity or recreation child care program, including Summer Fun, shall be released at the end of the class or program day. The parent/guardian is responsible for arranging for pick-up. The child may not leave the class/program while it is in progress, unless written or verbal authorization from the parent/guardian is received authorizing the release.

Restricted Pick-up: Any child enrolled in a program that specifically requires that the child be released only to parents or authorized persons, shall be released only

to the designated authorized persons. A pick-up and sign-out procedure shall be required before release of any child. Parents/guardians may request in writing, that the child be given a general release whereby the parent/guardian need not pick-up and sign-out the child.

Late Pick-up: If a child is not picked up or the Program Director is not contacted by the parent/guardian within one hour of the end of the program day, then the Program Director shall call the Honolulu Police Department to arrange for proper custody of the child.

Withdrawal, Suspension and Dismissal

Withdrawal: Parents/guardians may withdraw their child from the park's program at any time, upon giving the Program Director verbal or written notice of the date of withdrawal and reason(s).

Suspension: The Program Director is authorized to suspend any child for a period of time as a disciplinary measure. The Program Director will notify the parents/guardians in writing of the suspension.

Dismissal: The Program Director, at his or her discretion, is authorized to dismiss any child from a recreation program based on, but not limited to, the child's behavior that is unsafe and harmful to him or herself or others, repetitive disciplinary problems, unexcused tardiness or absences, repeated late pickups, or health problems or conditions.

CHILDREN'S RECORDS AT PROGRAM SITE

Children's Records

Program Registration forms for each child shall be kept on file at each program site. In the event a child registers for activities at more than one site, each site will maintain a separate file.

Disclosure of Information

Information pertaining to an individual child or parents/guardians of the child is confidential and shall not be disclosed to persons other than to other agencies pursuant to HRS Section 92F-19 or as required by HRS Sections 92F-12 and 92F-13, unless the parents/guardians of the child grant written permission for the disclosure or an emergency arises. Individuals or organizations requesting information about a child or parents/guardians of a child shall provide written approval to release such information signed by the parent or guardian before release of any of the records.

FIELD TRIPS

Parents/guardians will be informed at all times of field trips or excursions that take children off-site. As much as possible, field trip information will be provided at the time of program registration and/or in publicity flyers. The parent/guardian may also be asked to authorize participation by the child in other field trips on a Travel Permission Form.

Supervision on Field Trip Days

There will be no supervision provided at the park/program site for those children not participating in the field trip. Parents/guardians are responsible to make alternative provisions for child care for the child or children not participating in the field trip.

Parents/guardians who send their children to the program site on a field trip day are responsible for any field trip cost. Failure to pay any field trip cost may result in suspension or dismissal of the child from the program.

SNACKS

The Department does not provide any snacks in any of its programs or activities unless specifically noted in program notices and flyers.

SAFETY, HEALTH & EMERGENCIES

Sick/Ill Children

Program sites do not have facilities or adequately trained staff to provide special care for sick or ill children. If a child becomes sick or ill while in the program, or has a communicable health problem, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to pick-up the child.

Sick or ill children with communicable diseases such as chicken pox, influenza, and measles, or with head lice (pediculosis), shall be excluded from participating in the recreation child care program.

Medication Requests

The Department shall make reasonable program modifications for the inclusion of any child with a disability in recreation activities and programs.

Medication may be dispensed provided the parent or guardian of the child signs a request to dispense medication and release of claims and indemnification agreement, if applicable.

Allergy

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the Department that the child has allergies to food and other substances. Upon receiving notice from the parent or guardian of the child's allergies, the Department shall record the child's allergies on the child's registration form. It is the responsibility of a parent or guardian to include the child's allergies and any other medical related information in the child's program

registration form at the time of registration. The Department will work with the parent or guardian to develop a plan of action to address the child's allergy needs, if applicable.

Accidents/Medical Emergencies

In case of an accident causing minor injury, first aid may be rendered by a certified staff member. In case of a major accident, a medical emergency unit shall be called to transport the child to the nearest medical treatment center. Parents, designated adults, the child's own physician, or emergency contact will be notified. **Parents/guardians shall assume all costs for medical service rendered on behalf of the child.**

Emergency Closing of Program

Due to unforeseen circumstances, i.e., unavailable toilet facilities, electrical power failure, broken water main, the Program Director may suspend or temporarily relocate the program at another facility. Parents will be notified by telephone of the suspension or relocation, and signs will be posted at the program site.

In the event of an evacuation, program staff will evacuate the children to the nearest shelter. Signs shall be posted at the program site informing parents/guardians where evacuees have been taken. Children will remain under the supervision and care of department staff until reunited with their parents/guardians or, if that is not possible within twenty-four hours of the all-clear notice, the Honolulu Police Department or appropriate governmental entity will be contacted to arrange for custody of the child.

INFORMED CONSENT & ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Recreation activities have inherent risks of which you should be fully informed. Ask questions to help you make a fully informed decision regarding the participation of your child.

Children may participate in certain sports activities, such as football, basketball, and volleyball that may have physical contact. All contact sports necessarily and unavoidably carry with them the risk of high speed collisions with other persons, balls, and equipment. In addition, irregular playing surfaces may be present. There are, therefore, risks of *orthopedic, dental, cervical, spinal, head injury*. There is also the risk of *lacerations and other injury from falling and/or colliding with people or objects*. In addition, all sports require a level of fitness and health that only your physician can determine your child possesses. ***We strongly urge that you obtain medical advice as to whether contact sport activities are suitable.*** Many undetected or chronic diseases such as cardiac disease or high blood pressure may be worsened by your child's participation in these activities.

Activities such as ceramics, painting, or cooking may involve the use of chemicals which may be toxic when ingested, inhaled or when coming in contact with skin. There may also be ***allergic reactions or individual sensitivity to these chemicals when ingested, inhaled, or when in contact with skin.***

Swimming at the beach or pool is another activity with inherent risks that include, **but are not limited to drowning, death, slip and fall injuries, head and neck injuries, diving board injuries, injuries resulting from defective pool equipment, injuries caused by e. coli and other infections, or injuries caused by unsupervised divers and swimmers colliding.**

While the City and County of Honolulu hopes that every participant enjoys an injury-free activity, by **your signing a RELEASE OF CLAIMS FORM, YOU ASSUME ALL RISKS associated with the activity for which you have registered.**

INSURANCE

The City and County does not provide any primary or secondary medical insurance. Parents/guardians are required to obtain their own personal medical and health insurance to cover all of their child's medical costs and expenses.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. **The rights of parents/guardians of children in the recreation program are:**
1. To expect that their children are safe and well-supervised.
 2. To ask the staff about the behavior and well-being of their children in the program.
 3. To see all pertinent information in the files of their children.
 4. To participate in the program by volunteering to share their talents and interest with the children.
 5. To feel that their children are growing and enjoying a program that is caring, nurturing, and supporting their child's physical development and social-emotional development.
 6. To visit and observe the program in operation.
- B. **The responsibilities of parents/guardians of children in the recreation program are:**
1. To inform the appropriate Program Director of their children's absence or tardiness.
 2. To ensure that their children have clear instructions about when they will be picked up or are expected home.
 3. To provide all information about their child, accurately and truthfully, in order for the Program Director to make the best possible judgment and decisions for the children.



PARENT HANDBOOK

for

Children & Youth Programs



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

KIRK CALDWELL
Mayor of Honolulu

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