

Welcome to Summer '10!

Welcome to the Boys & Girls Club of Assabet Valley's Playground Program. The Club's Team is so excited for another fun, game packed summer of the Playground Program. Our main goal is to provide each and every child with a fun and safe place to play, learn, and build friendships.

The first step is to always hire a caring staff willing to work at achieving the goals The Club has set for the summer. As in past years, the summer's focus will be on "safe fun in the sun." We would like all children to feel comfortable during the time they spend with us here at the Club. To reach this goal, many of last year's staff have returned. The 2010 summer staff is comprised of Pat Bishop, as the Director, Nikki Tyler, Colby Tyler, Monique Arsenaault, Steven Davis & Danielle Fairweather as our counselors. Plus we have added an Enrichment Director to our team. All staff are certified in CPR & First Aid. Each session, kids will participate in different art projects, games and activities each tailored to the session's theme!

If you need to get in touch with your child during the day, please call the game room at 978-897-2474. The entire staff is eager to begin working with your child/children beginning Monday, June 28th. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to do so. We are confident you will like what you see!

Please don't hesitate to call us with any questions!!!

DATES & HOURS:
MONDAY—FRIDAY JULY 5TH—AUGUST 11TH
MORNING SESSION 8:30AM—12:00PM

Game Room Phone Number: 978-897-2474
Club Office Phone Number: 978-461-2871

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB Playground News

S U M M E R 2 0 1 0

Boys & Girls Club Rules

A list of rules has been established for the well-being of all children. We fully expect each child to abide by these rules and each parent or guardian to support the consequences resulting from a child unable to do so.

If an infraction has been committed the child will be given a warning. These warnings will be documented by the counselor of the child and given to the directors of the program as soon as possible. At the director's discretion, continued neglect of the rules may lead to a loss of field trip privileges and the possible suspension or expulsion from the program.

Please ensure your child understands the Club's Rules stated below!

CLUB RULES

CHILDREN MUST REMEMBER:

- 1 Respect counselors and each other. (No putdowns!)
- 2 Stay with the group!
- 3 No fighting, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, throwing rocks, etc. (Keep your hands to yourself!)
- 4 Use appropriate language at all times.
- 5 Children are not allowed to leave the programming areas that include the Boys & Girls Club or outside fields.
- 6 No going into the woods.
- 7 No loitering in the bathrooms.
- 8 Leave personal belongings at home. (i.e. iPod, Cell Phone, Game Systems.)
12. No Gum chewing inside the club.
13. STAFF must walk children across the street.
14. Keep all balls and gym equipment in the gym
15. All food must be kept inside the snack room
16. Members must ask Staff to use the phone.
17. Do not go through anyone else's belongings
18. While in the club there is no running outside the gym
19. No members are allowed outside or in the gym unless accompanied by a staff member.

For Safety's Sake

As mentioned, safety is our main goal, but it has two parts: physical and emotional. Everyone has the right to their own physical space which must not be violated by a counselor or another child (see rule #3) Also, each child should expect no verbal abuse, which is every bit as dangerous as physical abuse. With this in mind, it is stressed that no "put downs" be used while at the Club. This falls under rule #1.

For safety's sake, attendance will be taken on a daily basis. It is important to know who is present at all times. If you drop your child off after 9:00am, please bring him or her directly to the Club's front desk We want to be sure that your child is accounted for at all times! The Club staff will walk your child across the street to the Playground Program.

If you are picking a child up early, please send in a note to the counselor who will record the change on his or her daily attendance sheet. If someone other than a parent or legal guardian is to pick up your child, then please include that information in the note and be sure their name is included on the Parent Pick Up Form which is handed out on the first day. If it is to be a long-term situation, then one note detailing the time frame. This step is considered a necessary precaution.

The program does not begin until 8:30 a.m. **No one is allowed to be dropped off before 8:25 a.m.** Supervision of the children cannot be guaranteed until that time! The morning program ends at 12 noon. **All children must be picked up by 12:15 p.m.** Repeatedly late pick-up may result in the termination of the program for your child. Since we stress safety throughout the program, it is vital that parents adhere to this procedure.

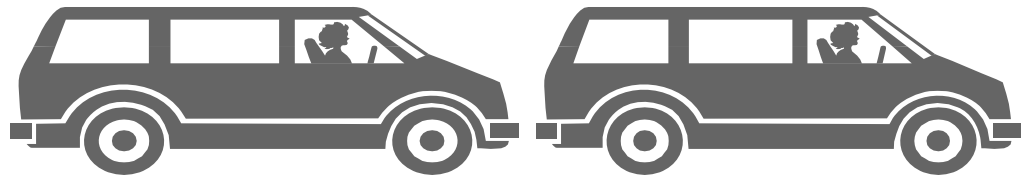
Thank you for your cooperation.

What Is Appropriate Clothing?

Due to the nature of our program, the children are active a good portion of the day.

For reasons of safety, therefore, they should be dressed accordingly. Most importantly, **children should wear sneakers!** Other than that, whatever is comfortable for them and allows freedom of movement is acceptable. Also realize that we often work with paints and other art supplies that can possibly stain clothing, so it is not wise to dress your child in apparel that you do not want to see damaged.

Lastly, if it is going to be a sunny day, you may want to take the precaution of applying sun screen to your child before sending him/her off to the Playground Program for a day of fun in the sun!



Pick-up & Drop-off Procedures

THE PICK-UP & DROP-OFF POLICY:

- 1 You **MUST** fill out a Parent Pick-Up Authorization Form on the first day of the session indicating all adults who will be picking up your child/children.
- 2 **DROP-OFF.** Parents, guardians, or babysitters will drop-off children at the Boys & Girls Club. Cars must come to a complete stop before a child is allowed to exit or enter a vehicle. Staff will then walk participants across the street.
- 3 **PICK-UP.** Pick-Up will take place at The Boys & Girls Club.. Parents or guardians must wait in the car. Please do **not** get out of your car to locate your children as this may cause delays for other parents. When the counselor comes to your window, give him or her the name of the child or children you will be picking up. The children will be called and will meet you in an appropriate and safe point of pick-up determined by the counselors on duty.
- 4 Do **not** pass a car that has stopped to drop-off or pick-up a child.
- 5 The children will be instructed not to leave with anyone who is not listed on their pick-up authorization form. If someone else is to pick them up then the directors must have written instructions directly from the parent or legal guardian.

Transportation Policy

The Boys & Girls Club is not responsible for transportation to or from the program. Employees are prohibited from transporting program participants. Field trip transportation will be provided by bus or van unless there is an illness or behavioral problem. If this should happen, the Boys & Girls Club or the Program Directors will bring the child back to the Club and notify the parent/guardian.



Odds & Ends from the Director

- Once again, field trips will be taken by one or more individual groups rather than the entire program traveling at once with the exception of the trip to *Breezy Water Park & Amesbury Tubing*. Field trip permission slips and a calendar of events will be given on the first day of each session.
- We will walk or be bussed to all field trips with the exception of our trip to Lake Boone for *Beach Day*, which parents need to drop off an pick up at the appropriate locations.
- There will be theme days this summer. They are indicated on our summer calendar of events and are further explained on this newsletter's last page.
- **We do not provide snacks!** Please make sure your child comes with a snack, beverage or lunch. **All food brought to Playground needs to be peanut free.** Three and a half hours is a long time to go without food or drink.
- Children should wear play clothes. They will get dirty.
- If you need to get in touch with us, please call the Club at 978-461-2871.

Dismissal Policy

For the safety of our participants, employees of the Boys & Girls Club will only release your child to the individuals listed on the Parent Pick Up Form. You may list as many people as you want on this form. If your child needs to be released early due to illness/injury and you are unavailable, as stated in the Medical Policy "If we cannot reach the parent/guardian within 20 minutes, we will call the first person listed on your child's authorization form. A message will then be left with parents/guardians to notify them as to who the child is being sent home with".

Specific written notification is required for all changes in your child's pick-up routine. In addition to a day/date specific note, anyone picking up your child must be listed on the authorization form. For your child's safety, verbal notification is not accepted. If unfamiliar to the staff, the person picking up will be required to show picture identification before the staff dismisses your child.

Any changes (including adding or withdrawing names) to the authorization form must be made in writing with the Program Directors.

For the safety of the children, the program does not allow children to be signed in, signed-out, then signed in again later. Once a child is signed-out, he/she cannot be signed-in again that day, unless okayed by the director.

Medical Policy

The following policies are for the protection of the participants and the staff at the Summer Program. Unfortunately, the facilities are not conducive to accommodating children who are not feeling well. Our Staff is CPR and First Aid certified and therefore will have the final decision as to when a child needs to be sent home.

For example, your child would be sent home if:

- They are running an elevated temperature (100.0°F or higher).
- They show signs of any type of rash.
- They have a contagious illness/condition.
- They are nauseous, vomiting or are complaining of a headache.
- They receive an injury that requires further medical attention.

Children who are sent home with a contagious illness/condition will not be re-admitted to the program without a doctor's note. For any emergency medical situation, the Maynard Fire Department will be notified first, followed by the parent/guardian. If a parent/guardian is instructed to pick-up a child, transportation for the child must be arranged within the hour. If we cannot reach the parent/guardian within 20 minutes, we will call the first person listed on your child's emergency contact form. A message will then be left with parents/guardians to notify them as to who the child is being sent home with.

Medications

Staff are not allowed to administer any prescription or over the counter medications. Please administer all medications prior to the start of the program. Please do not send your child to the program with any type of medication. If your child is in need of medication in the event of a bee sting please bring this to our attention upon registering your child.

Discipline Policy

The Boys & Girls Club of Assabet Valley endorses fair and age appropriate program rules, which ensure a safe and orderly environment. Program staff, parents and guardians working together, can teach respect for others, the necessity for group rules and the need for peaceful resolution of differences. Within our program, participants are expected to adhere to the same behaviors that are required within the classroom. Boys & Girls Club Staff have final say over what is considered appropriate or inappropriate behavior.

Examples of Discipline Procedures:

When a child's behavior departs from the program's standards of acceptable behavior, any of the following may take place as deemed necessary by Boys & Girls Club Staff.

- Conference with child and staff members
- Loss of program privileges
- Removal from group
- Parents notified
- Loss of field trip/special event privileges
- Suspension from program. Suspension length can vary from 1 day to permanent suspension and is at the discretion of the Program Director.

Inclement Weather

On any rainy days, the Playground Program will be held at the Boys & Girls Club from 8:30am-12:00pm.



THEME DAYS

This summer, the Playground Program has scheduled six dress-up days in coordination with our Theme Weeks. This summer's dress up days will be: **Army Day, Bandana Day, Harry Potter Day, Backwards Day, Graffiti-Me Day and Pajama Day!**

Our initial theme day will take place on Friday, July 9th as **Army Day**. Get your army fatigues ready!!!

Monday, July 12th will be **Bandana Day**. How many bandanas can you wear and in how many different ways??

Harry Potter Day is taking place on Wednesday, July 21. Come dress as your favorite character, or just as a witch or wizard!

Friday, July 30 is **Backwards Day**. Wear everything that you can backwards today!

Wednesday, August 4th finds us celebrating **Graffiti-Me Day!** Wear a white shirt and bring a permanent marker so your friends can sign your shirt to remember the great summer!

Tuesday, August 10th is **Pajama Day**. No need to get dressed this day for we are wearing our pajamas all day long!!!

It promises to be a fun-filled summer...we're glad you decided to join us!

Any questions, please call The Boys & Girls Club at 978-461-2871.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Field Trip Sign Up Information

The Field Trip Permission Slip is enclosed in this packet. Please sign next to which field trip your child/children will be attending. **Please be aware of all ages for each trip.**



Breezy Water Park

Let's start with a fun new tip we added this year!! We will be going to Breezy Water Park in Douglas, MA two times throughout the summer. The dates are scheduled for Tuesday, July 13 (payment due July 9th) and for Tuesday, August 3rd (payment due July 30th). If rain cancels these trips, they will be rescheduled. The children will depart from the Club at 8:45 a.m. and return at 4:00 p.m. We must inform parents that you cannot block busses when waiting for our return. Please wait in your car until all children are unloaded from the busses. Please remember

THERE WILL BE NO PLAYGROUND PROGRAM FOR THE CHILDREN WHO DO NOT WANT TO GO TO BREEZY WATER PARK.

Only children 6 and up will be allowed to go to the Water Park. We are working to keep the cost affordable for the children of the Boys & Girls Club. The trip is \$40 for anyone that would like to attend. This fee includes transportation, supervision and a full day at the water park with all rides included.

Welcome to Breezy Picnic Grounds Waterslides ... a family owned recreational facility nestled in the heart of the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor in south central Massachusetts. For over 55 years we've been catering to families throughout New England. Children, as well as their parents and grandparents, can have a full day of family fun at Breezy. Just pack a lunch for a picnic ... or visit our snack bar. Everyone will enjoy swimming in crystal-clear Whitins Reservoir, riding our waterslides ... including our Tunnel Twister slide (all with unlimited rides!), or just relaxing in our clean well-groomed grounds. For more information: log onto <http://breezysummer.com>.

Children in grades 1-6 will travel in groups headed by a staff member. Parents may authorize participants 13 and older to travel the park in the "buddy" system.

As with all field trips, a **cash or check** payment is required. The money for these field trips is due July 9th & July 30th. A \$5 late fee will be assessed to any payment made after these dates. There will be no exceptions. A \$5 fee will also be assessed to any no-shows or cancellations.

Since we'll be spending the entire day at the water park, we recommend that you pack two peanut free snacks and a lunch for your child. Another option you may choose is to send them with some money as food is served on the premises. Other items that should be packed include a bathing suit, towel, and extra set of clothing (you'd be surprised at how many children drench the

clothes they wear to the park), water shoes, and sun screen.

It is a wonderful opportunity to have fun in a safe environment. Breezy employees are always on the lookout for potential problems and do not put up with any shenanigans, therefore, the Club feels confident sending them on this adventure.

Beach Day

The Boys & Girls Club will be hosting a "Beach Day" at Lake Boone in Stow. If your child chooses to attend, all children must be dropped off at Lake Boone at 9:00am and pick up is at 11:45. There will be NO programming at The Boys & Girls Club. **Children 5yrs old must wear a life jacket.** Lifeguards will be on staff as all children have a fun morning of swimming.

Daily Field Trips

A cash payment is to be brought with each participant on the day specified on the calendar.

Ice Cream

An Ice Cream truck will be coming to the Club for (\$2.00) per participant at 11:00am. Children who do not go to get ice cream will stay with members of their own group or with one of the other groups for the day/hour. Dates for each of the ice cream outings are posted on the activity calendar.

Kayak Trips

The first 13 members to sign up ages 8-12 will be going kayaking. The Club will be providing transportation to and from the Club to the Kayak locations. The Kayak trips are \$8/per person and are due on the day of the trip. The fee includes, a guide, lifejacket and two hours of kayaking. The kayak trips are scheduled for July 15th, we will be going to the Sudbury River in Lincoln from 9:00am-11:00am. July 28th, we will be going to the Sudbury River, Sherman's Bridge in Lincoln from 9:00am-11:00am. All members participating must be at the Boys & Girls Club promptly at 8:30am.

Other Fun Info:

On Wednesday, July 7th there will be a giant Water Slide and Obstacle Course for all participants. Please make sure your child has a bathing suit, towel & sun block.

On Wednesday, August 11th the local Public Safety officers will be hosting a Youth Public Safety Day for the members of the Playground Program. There will be an Obstacle Course and different demonstrations for the kids.

**The Boys & Girls Club Summer Playground Program
212 Great Road, Maynard, MA 01754
Boys & Girls Club of Assabet Valley: (978) 461-2871**