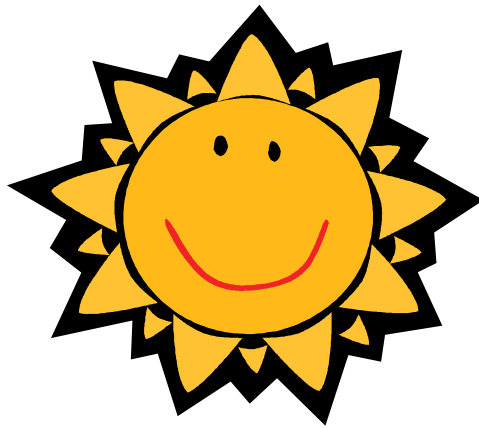


Malta Summer Recreation Program Half-Day Camp



Parent Handbook 2020



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES

1 Bayberry Drive Malta, NY 12020
www.MaltaParksRec.com
Phone: 518-899-4411

Creating Community through People, Parks & Programs

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TOWN OF MALTA SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Welcome

The Malta Summer Recreation Program is a six-week program for children entering Kindergarten - Grade 9 in September 2020. Children who are fifteen years old are encouraged to register and participate as a Counselor in Training (CIT).

The program meets Wednesday, July 8- Friday, August 14 from 9:30am - 12:30pm, The program is held Monday through Friday for grades K-5 and Monday through Thursday for grades 6 – 9. The Teen Program will also meet on July 10, July 24, July 31st for MCP and August 7th for SCP. Optional field trips may extend the camp hours for those participating. Camp is held at the Malta Community Park or the Shenantaha Creek Park (per parent choice).

- Malta Community Park: located on Plains Road, convenient for the Town of Malta's northern and northeast areas.
- Shenantaha Creek Park: located south of Route 67 off of East Line Road, convenient for the Town of Malta's southern and northwest areas and the Village of Round Lake.

Campers are grouped by the grade they will be entering in September and assigned to a counselor to lead age-appropriate activities. Staff is trained in first aid, playground safety, and program development. The program adheres to a strict counselor to camper ratio to provide a safe, fun experience for your child. This program is licensed by the New York State Health Department and providing an opportunity to use summer leisure time constructively.

- It is your responsibility to drop your child off and pick your child up on time. Counseling staff is not available to watch campers before or after camp.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the Summer Recreation Program are to:

1. provide opportunities and relationships to help develop personal awareness, independence, social interaction skills, and a positive use of leisure time;
2. provide opportunities for self expression through arts and crafts, sports, and socialization with peers; provide trips and excursions that enable campers to visit points of interest and cultural significance;
3. conduct sports activities in order to provide motor skill development, the advancement of good sportsmanship, and social relationships as a part of a team and as a competitor; and
4. foster an environment to allow the development of each camper's potential for self growth, social interaction and leadership.

Services Provided

The Summer Recreation Program offers children a variety of appropriate and diverse activities and optional trips. Activities include arts and crafts, sports and games and playground time. There are weekly themes and activities scheduled to coordinate with these themes.

Registration Information

Registration forms for Malta programs record each child's parent, emergency contact and medical information. The form asks for any special accommodations a child may need to participate, any medical or behavioral concerns such as behavioral or anxiety disorders and any personal situations such as a restraining order or struggles with other children that we should be made aware of. Pertinent information is confidentially provided to the counselor.

Registration packets are available at the David R. Meager Malta Community Center and on the Department's web site (www.MaltaParksRec.com).

In order to register you must provide the following:

1. A current immunization record from your child's doctor (we need this form each year as we do not keep it on file);
2. Proof of Malta residency (must be one of the following: a current tax bill, utility bill, lease agreement or drivers license);
3. Custody Agreement (when applicable);
4. Appropriate fees \$115 per child resident fee/ maximum \$230 per family or \$315 per child non-resident fee;
5. Completed registration forms.

Registration will open April 15th and run through June 12th from 8:30am - 7:30pm Monday-Friday and on Saturdays from 9:00am - 11:30am at the Malta Community Center.

Registration fees are non-refundable.

A packet of information regarding optional field trips with the weekly calendar is available with the registration forms. **The first field trip registration due date is July 1st.** Malta Summer Recreation T-shirts are required to be worn on all trips for grades K-5. T-shirts are available for purchase at the Malta Community Center for \$5.

There are five ways to register your camper for a field trip.

1. Mail the trip registration form and your payment to Class Registration, Malta Community Center, One Bayberry Drive Malta, New York 12020.
2. Register in person at the Malta Community Center, Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 7:30 pm and Saturday 9:00am - 11:30am. We accept cash, check, Visa, Discover, and MasterCard.
3. Drop off your registration form and fees in our After Hours Night Drop Box located outside the main entrance of the Center.
4. Register online at www.MaltaParksRec.com (not all trips are available online).
5. Fax the completed, signed, registration form with credit card information to 518-899-4448. We accept MasterCard, Discover or Visa.

Trips that includes a **Waiver Form** must be done in person at the Malta Community Center. Registration for these trips will not be accepted without a completed signed waiver.

Requests for refunds for trips must be made in writing (e-mail is acceptable) or in person a full week prior to the start of the trip. Requests after this time will not be considered. There is a \$10 service charge for each activity refund via check. There is not a service charge if you accept a credit on your account. Only amounts greater than \$10 will be refundable via check. For refund

requests under \$10, money will be credited to your customer account. In the event that an activity is filled or cancelled, a full refund will be made. Please allow up to four weeks for refunds to be issued. There is a \$20 service charge for all returned checks due to insufficient funds.

Drop Off & Pick Up Times

Staff is hired to supervise children from 9:30am until 12:30pm or, if supervising a field trip, until the time listed on the trip information sheet. It is your responsibility to drop your child off at these times. If you need to pick your child up earlier, please provide your child's head counselor with a written note stating what time and who will be picking your child up.

Arrival and Departure Policies

Campers Grades K-5: An authorized person must sign their child in and out with a counselor.

Campers Grades 6-9: These campers are required to sign in and out with their counselor. They can be dropped off and picked up at the entrance gate. If you do not want your child to be waiting at the, inform their counselor. Campers are not allowed to leave the camp grounds during camp hours without a signed note from their parents.

Campers may only leave with an authorized person listed on the registration form. If someone else is to pick up your child, you must send in a written note in advance notifying your child's Head Counselor. Phone calls are not acceptable. Our staff will require identification from anyone picking your child up that they do not recognize. Any time you need to make a change to the registration form, call the Parks & Recreation office at 518-899-4411.

Personal Information

Inform us of any personal information that may affect your child's day in camp. We want your child to have a fun experience every day. Make staff aware of health, physical or other challenges. There is an area on the registration form to confidentially provide this information.

Program Orientation

Orientation is held for campers on the first day. Orientation includes general information, rules, tour of the camp grounds, requirements for field trips, special activities and an explanation of possible site hazards. Campers not present on the first day will receive their orientation on the first day that they attend. Campers are reminded throughout camp of the following information.

- Tour of camp grounds
- Description of camp hazards
- Reporting Illnesses
- Injury and other incidents (first aid)
- Bus rules
- Discipline procedures
- Camp Trips (rules and regulations)
- Snack procedures
- Program procedures
- Buddy system
- Lost camper plan

- Fire drills, evacuations and fire safety
- Lightning plan
- Rabies exposure
- Tick and Lyme disease
- Open discussion (questions and concerns)

Personal Items

In order to help us provide opportunities and relationships and help develop personal awareness, independence, social interaction skills and a positive use of leisure time, children who bring personal items and electronics will not be allowed to play with them during the Camp Malta program. **The Town is not responsible for lost or stolen property.**

Program Attire

The summer program is an outdoor camp. Your child will get dirty and occasionally wet! Don't send your child to camp in new clothes – camp is about having fun! **For your child's protection, gym shoes are required. Sandals or flip-flops are not allowed.**

Sunscreen/Insect Repellant Policy

Just a few serious sunburns can increase a child's risk of skin cancer later in life. It only takes 15 minutes of exposure of the sun's UV rays to damage the skin. Since children in the Summer Recreation Program regularly participate in outdoor and water related recreational activities, we strongly recommend adherence to the following sunscreen policy. Malta Summer Recreation staff is not allowed to apply sunscreen or bug protection to campers.

1. All campers should wear sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 (or greater) on all exposed skin daily.
2. Parent or legal guardian is responsible for applying sunscreen and/or insect repellant prior to drop-off to the program each morning.

Lunch/Snacks

Children are responsible for their own snack and drink every day, except party days. If your child is on a field trip that will extend the day, please make sure that you include their lunch. Send your child with a water bottle labeled with their name on it. Water fountains are available to refill empty drink containers. **Because there are some children enrolled at camp with serious nut allergies, it is extremely important that your child's snacks do not contain any nut products or oils.** Although the Town of Malta endeavors to provide nut free programs, the Town cannot guarantee that the program or the premises in which it is held is totally free of exposure to nuts and nut-products. The Town of Malta encourages you to send whole foods such as fruits, vegetables and grains as a snack to camp to help promote healthy eating habits. If your child has a life threatening allergy, please plan on your child bringing in his/her own snack daily. The Town strives to be a peanut free camp, but cannot guarantee that the products/donations are peanut free.

Please do not allow your child to bring money to camp except on days that Mr. Ding-A-Ling or Kona Ice visits or there is a trip. If your child is purchasing lunch on a trip day, please make sure that they wear pants or shorts with closeable pockets to store money. **Staff members are not allowed to hold children's money.**

Special Needs

The summer program requires physical activity and endurance during various sports and activities that are played. If your child is not able to participate in any activity, please speak to your child's Counselor. Any other special needs or concerns you may have must be brought to the attention of the Head Counselor.

Medical Information

The Town of Malta Summer Recreation Program is a day camp and Malta staff is not allowed to dispense medication. If your child shows up to camp ill or becomes ill during camp hours, you must pick them up immediately or arrange to have them picked up. Please do not send your child to camp if they have such illnesses as:

- conjunctivitis (pink eye);
- a fever within the last 24 hours;
- vomiting or an upset signs of general fatigue or discomfort;
- a rash;
- head lice; *
- a chronic cough or runny nose.

* Teach your children to not share combs, hairbrushes, hats or head scarves with other children.

If head lice are detected during camp, you will be called to pick your child up immediately. A physician's note that the child is clear of head lice is required prior to the child returning to the program. When there has been a case of head lice at camp all children within that age group will be screened the next camp day. Parents will receive written notification within the next two camp days.

Inhalers and EpiPens

Some children enrolled in the summer recreation program have asthma or other serious allergies. **Please do not send in snacks for your child that contain nut products.** Although the Town of Malta endeavors to provide nut free programs, the Town cannot guarantee that the program or the premises in which it is held is totally free of exposure to nuts and nut-products.

In order to protect these children, our staff needs to be aware of all children who have inhalers or EpiPens. It is important to note this information on your registration forms and have your doctor's permission to bring the medication to camp.

The Department of Health regulations prohibit the administration of medicine, including but not limited to Benadryl, Tylenol, aspirin, Advil, or Motrin by an unlicensed individual. The two exceptions are asthma inhalers and EpiPens which camp personnel are permitted to assist in administering. No other medication can be brought to camp.

- The town's health director (a licensed medical doctor) develops and over-sees the use of Epinephrine auto-injectors in camp.
- All counselors are trained by certified personnel on how to administer the EpiPen in case of an emergency.
- All children who require an EpiPen must have an authorization form signed by their doctor and parent.

- Children must visit the office to demonstrate they can self-administer the medication or **to demonstrate that they can tell people around them about their allergy and what happens if they are exposed to an allergen. It is important that your child is educated about the signs and treatment of anaphylaxis as this knowledge will significantly improve the safety of your child.**
- A parent is required to bring the medication in its original container **showing the prescribed information on it to camp every morning and give it to the child's head counselor who will safely store the medicine. Children will not be responsible to carry the medication on them. It will accompany them wherever they go via their head counselor.**
- A parent is required to pick the medication up after camp each day. Medication is not stored at camp.
- If a camper comes to camp without their prescribed EpiPen, their parent will be called to bring the medicine in immediately or the child will be sent home.

These policies are to protect your children. We trust that everyone will help ensure that they will be carried out. The signed authorization form and training demonstration must be completed before your child is allowed to attend camp.

Children at Risk

All childcare agencies are required by law to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment if they have reasonable cause to suspect it. Our staff is trained in recognizing abuse and maltreatment. Maltreatment can include failing to provide proper medical care, excessive punishment, misuse of alcohol, drugs, etc.

Parents who bring or pick their child up under the influence of alcohol or drugs present a risk not only to their child but to others. Our staff is required in these circumstances to:

- call the other parent or someone on the child's emergency contact list;
- call a taxi.

If any of these arrangements cannot be agreed upon, staff is required to notify the proper authorities.

Emergency Procedures

When children are in Camp, they run, yell, play hard and occasionally fall and skin their knees. We do not call you for every bump and bruise unless the child is upset. Otherwise, if a camper is injured, a health problem arises or professional medical help is needed, the following steps are taken:

- 911 is immediately called;
- immediate first aid is administered by our trained staff until professional help arrives;
- you, or if not available, your emergency contact person is notified;
- a staff member accompanies your child to the hospital until a family member or an emergency contact person arrives.

Emergency Drills

Emergency fire drills are held three times during the program.

Trip Information

Campers have the option of attending a weekly off-site trip for an additional fee. This may extend the camp hours. If your child will not participate in a trip, please notify the Head Counselor that they will be attending camp instead prior to the field trip to assist us with proper staffing. The hours for children who remain at the park are 9:30am - 12:30pm. Trips are available on a first come, first serve basis. There are a limited amount of children on each trip.

A packet of information regarding field trips is included in the Trips & Calendar packet. Pick one up with your registration form. **The last day of registration for a trip is listed on the trip information form for each age group. We do not accept late registrations after the due date.** If your child has not signed up or paid for a trip, they will participate in the camp activities held at the park.

Be aware of drop off and pick up times for trips as times may vary from the regular camp hours. Children must be at the park and ready to board the bus by the listed start time. Refunds will not be given for missing the bus. As we cannot control the weather, there are times when a trip day may have to be changed due to rainy weather. We do our best to reschedule that same week. We also do our best to return from a trip at the stated time. There are occasions when the bus might be late. Call the Malta Community Center if you have a question about this when a bus is running late. All attempts are made to keep the trips on schedule.

To assist campers entering Kindergarten through second grade adjust to an off-site trip, a parent of a Kindergartener may accompany their child on the bus and on the trip. A parent of a camper entering first or second grade may meet their child at the trip location but may not ride the bus.

Your child is still a camper and under the supervision of their counselor and all of the rules and directives of the camp. You are not allowed to separate them from the rest of their group. Other siblings and family members are not allowed on the camp trips. **These accommodations are for our Kindergarten through second grade campers only.** Although you are responsible for your own admission, you must notify the office if you will be riding the bus or accompanying camp on the trip when you register your child for the trip.

All children (except those in the teen group) must wear a Malta Summer Recreation T-shirt on all trips. T-shirts are available for purchase at the Community Center for \$5.00 each.

Trips to the Malta Community Center and other Town parks are considered part of the daily camp activities and all children scheduled for a trip to either site on that day will be bussed to that location. There is no camp at the park on those days.

Transportation

The Summer Recreation Program uses professional buses and drivers for field trips. All children are required to wear seat belts on the buses. Emergency bus evacuation drills are held during the Camp period.

Pedestrian Safety

If your child is walking or riding their bike to the park alone, you must give them permission to do so. Please check the box on the registration form that gives your child permission to walk or

ride to the park alone. The Malta Community Park has crossing guards on Plains Road from 9:15am - 9:40am and 12:30pm - 12:45pm. If your child crosses this road, please be sure they do it between these hours. Crossing Guards are also counselors who need to return to their responsibilities in Camp. If your child does bring a bike, make sure it can be locked. The Town of Malta is not responsible for missing or stolen items.

Inclement Weather Policy

On occasion we may cancel camp due to severe weather in the forecast. A decision to cancel will be made by 8:30am the day of. In the event of cancellation an email will be sent out to participants, a notification will be posted on our homepage www.MaltaParksRec.com and you can call 518-899-4411 to listen to our recording or speak with department staff.

There will be camp if weather conditions call for a light drizzle.

If the children are at the Malta Community Park or the Shenantaha Creek Park and the conditions change to extremely heavy rain, wind, or an electrical storm, all parents/guardians must pick up their child immediately. We are not equipped to house your child in an enclosed structure during these conditions.

If it is raining and your child has a field trip scheduled for an indoor activity, the trip will go on as scheduled. If the field trip is an outdoor activity, it may be canceled. Every effort will be made to reschedule the trip at another time.

Address & Telephone Number Changes

Please inform the office staff at the Malta Community Center any changes to your address, phone numbers or other important personal information changes. If your emergency numbers change, it is important that we are notified immediately to ensure proper notification of parents in case of an emergency.

General Information for Parents

Messages and newsletters are frequently sent home with children. Please check daily for notices or messages in your child's papers and projects.

Contacting Your Child

During the program, the counselors are supervising children in various activities and not available to answer the phones and routine questions. For routine matters, counselors are available during the drop off or pick up times. If you need to contact your child at camp for an emergency, please call the Department of Parks, Recreation and Human Services office at 518-899-4411 where a staff member can relay a message. Please limit your calls only to urgent matters. Campers are not allowed to use cell phones at camp.

Appropriate Program Behavior

Please realize that your child is at a day camp and not at school and that:

- everything is open and accessible to all campers - the Town is not responsible for lost or stolen property;
- there are no separate classrooms or lockers in which to safely store a camper's personal items or money.

Discipline Procedures

Please prepare your child for the Malta Summer Recreation Program by explaining all of the rules and regulations to your child and discussing any concerns that he/she may have. Please discuss any problems that your child may be experiencing while at Camp with your child's counselor.

Campers must display acceptable behavior and must be accountable for their actions. Parents must know and understand the rules that their child is expected to follow and be aware of the consequences for any violations. The following procedures are followed regarding disciplining children:

1. If a child does something unacceptable, the counselor will try to redirect the child by getting him interested in another activity and an explanation will be provided as to why he cannot behave in that manner.
2. If the child persists, if the behavior warrants it, a time out will be used as a cooling off period. After the time out period, the behavior and appropriate choices that should be made will be discussed with the child.
3. The counselor will discuss recurring discipline challenges with the parent.
4. All discipline problems will be documented and parents may review the reports if requested.
5. In cases of recurring or severe misbehavior, parents will be contacted for a conference to discuss the behavior to try to work things out.
6. If the misbehavior continues, the Director may place the child on a probationary period.
7. If the situation does not improve, or a plan cannot be implemented for improvement during the probationary period, parents may be requested to withdraw their child from Camp.
8. Parent conferences will be documented and kept in the child's record.
9. Any child who intentionally destroys camp property may be dismissed from the program. Any vandalism charges will go directly to the camper involved and to his or her parent(s) or guardian.
10. Any child who intentionally injures or is a threat to another child may be dismissed from the program.

Party Day Supplies

If you would like to send in something for party day, please check the calendar, weekly newsletter, or white board for party items. Parents can send in fruit juice for the parties. Children can give the items to their counselor. These items are used by the counseling staff throughout the summer for various parties. The children will receive notification from the counseling staff as to when a camp party will be held and what the party food of the week will be. If your child does not like what is being planned for food, they can bring their own snack.

Questions & Additional Information

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Department of Parks, Recreation and Human Services at 518-899-4411.

Alyssa Benway	Acting Director of Parks, Recreation & Human Services	ext.303
Barbara Mazurak	Camp Director	ext. 304