

RECREATIONAL CAMPS

What are recreational camps?

Recreational camps, or summer camps, are day or residential (overnight) sports, travel, or wilderness programs that offer recreational activities and instruction to campers. Such camps have five or more children and typically operate between June 1 and September 30 and/or during school vacations. There are over 165 permitted recreational camps in Delaware.

How are recreational camps in Delaware regulated?

Recreational camps are regulated by the provisions set forth in Title 16 Delaware Code Section 122, 4467 – Sanitation of Recreational Camps. The regulations provide a system of inspections, procedures, and enforcement for publicly and privately owned recreational camps in Delaware.

Which State office supervises recreational camp regulations?

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) supervises recreational camp regulations through its Health Systems Protection Section. The Recreation Camp Program protects the public health of campers, staff, and visitors by minimizing illness and injury. The program requires camps to have qualified staffing, safe food and water, proper sanitary facilities, and safe grounds and equipment. This is accomplished through the application, plan review, permitting, and inspection process.

Is a permit required to operate a recreational camp in Delaware?

A permit is required to operate a recreational camp in Delaware. Camps must submit an annual application at least 30 days prior to operating and receive approval to open after an inspection. Applications are available at the Recreational Camp Program website (www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/reccamps.html) and the county Environmental Health Field Services offices. There are no fees for camp permits or inspections. New or extensively altered recreational camps are required to submit plans for approval 60 days before opening.

Environmental Health Field Services Offices

New Castle County

Chopin Building
Suite 105
258 Chapman Road
Newark, DE 19702
Phone: 302-283-7100
Fax: 302-283-7111

Kent County

Thomas Collins Building,
Suite 5
540 S. DuPont Hwy.
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-744-1220
Fax: 302-739-1957

Sussex County

Thurman Adams State Service
Center
544 S. Bedford Street
Georgetown, DE 19947
Phone: 302-856-5496
Fax: 302-856-5065

24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

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*DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES*
Division of Public Health

Frequently Asked Questions

Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health, Recreation Camp Program,
www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/reccamps.html

Infectious Diseases in Childcare Settings – Second Edition, January 2006,
<http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/chca/files/childcaremanual.pdf>

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