

Camp Ballibay 2019

Important Information & Camp Policies

Payments

Unless you have made other arrangements, we have set up automatic payments so that your balance will be paid in full between May 15 and June 15.

You can see and edit the structure of your scheduled payments in your online account.

You can log into your online account at: <http://account.BallibayCamps.com>

The tuition balance for all sessions is due by June 15.

Transportation is not charged until after your camper travels. We will automatically charge travel costs to your credit card on file after your camper has travelled.

Cabin Requests & Assignments

Cabin requests can be submitted online by logging into your account and navigating to the forms section or going directly to <http://cabinrequest.BallibayCamps.com>.

Cabin requests must be mutual: If one family fills out a request, the *requested* family must fill out the portion of their form that accepts the request.

Cabins are assigned by age, so cabin requests that would move a camper out of his or her age-appropriate cabin often cannot be honored. If a request from two different age groups can be honored, the older camper will always be moved to the lower-aged cabin; younger campers are never placed in older cabins based on requests.

Many factors go in to assigning campers to cabins, and we cannot guarantee that requests will be honored.

While cabin friendships are certainly important, unlike many camps Ballibay does not group any activities by age, and so close friendships form based on affinities rather than age, and thus across larger age differences than you might ordinarily see.

Mobile Phones & Other Devices

At Ballibay we emphasize face-to-face communication, and thus are a largely unplugged environment. There is no Wi-Fi for campers.

We do not allow mobile phones or any type of tablet or device with cellular data capability. Phones are not allowed even if their SIM cards have been removed.

Our young artists need their music, and enjoy having digital cameras, e-books, and audiobooks, so we continue to allow iPods and iPod touch devices, Kindle devices and iPad with no cellular capability, and any mp3 player that does not have cellular capability. Please contact the office with questions about this policy.

How will you communicate with your camper? See **Camper Communication**, below.

Visiting & Evening Performances

You are very welcome to visit your child *after the first week of their stay*. Please call us to make arrangements.

We have a performance of some kind almost every evening at camp, and parents are welcome at all of them *after the first week of their stay*. We will send out a preliminary evening programs calendar soon. If you plan to attend a performance, please call and let us know ahead of time so we know to have someone waiting in the office for you. Many parents attend the Rock Band Night on the last night of each 2-week Rock Farm session; and many parents also attend the musical theater production on the last night of the summer. This summer the Dance Concert will fall on the last night of Dance Intensive II.

Have pets? See **Pet Policy** below.

Please drive slowly on our narrow country roads!

Cancellation & Refunds

Tuition may be refunded at the discretion of the camp up to 60 days prior to the start of camp, excluding the \$1250. non-refundable deposit. Within the 60 days to the start of the season, partial tuition may be refunded on a case-by-case basis, strictly at the discretion of the camp. Tuition will not be refunded after the opening day of camp. Please contact the office with questions about this policy.

Transportation

We offer several ways for your camper to get to Camp. Many parents drop their children off at camp, as detailed in the section on Arrivals and Departures, below.

Flights

For those flying to camp, we offer pickup and drop off from three airports:

- Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport (AVP) - \$75.
- Newark International Airport (EWR) - \$150.
- John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) - \$250.

Campers' flights arrive on a Saturday, one day before the start date of their camp session.

Campers' flights depart on a Saturday, the stated closing day of their camp stay.

Bus to Camp

We offer transportation to camp from New York City. Our camp "bus" may be a full-sized bus, a van, or a car, depending on the number of campers being transported. We leave for camp every Sunday that is an opening day of a camp session at 9:30 AM from the NE corner of 62nd St. & Amsterdam Ave, behind Lincoln Center. There will be room for all luggage. Cost: \$75.

Bus from Camp

We return campers to the same location on Saturday afternoon on the closing day of each camp session; typically at 1:00 PM, but check the transportation email the week of your camper's departure to confirm pick up time. Cost: \$75.

Transportation Form

The Transportation Form can be accessed at <http://transportation.Ballibay.com> and should be filled out by June 1. All parents will receive a weekly update e-mail that will include the transportation information for the upcoming week, not the entire summer. Please be sure to check the e-mail in the week prior to your camper's arrival and departure. If we have no transportation information, we assume that your child is being driven to and picked up from camp.

Arrival by Car

Camper drop-off times are:

- June 30, 2019: **10:00 AM - 12:30 PM**
- July 14, 2019: **2:00 PM - 5:00 PM**
- July 28, 2019: **10:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

If you anticipate being early or late, please call the office to let us know. Staff will be at the road outside of the office to direct you to your child's cabin. If you have a female camper you will be able to drive right out to the cabin and drop off her luggage. If you have a male camper, you can drop his luggage off at the office and we will bring it down – the boys' cabin area is not accessible by car.

After you have dropped off your camper's luggage please come into the office to check in and schedule a "nurse time." If you are a first time family, you can join a group tour leaving periodically from the office, and attend a "meet the Directors & Deans" Q&A session at the office. You are also free to "self tour" the campus; there are staff in each area to greet you and answer your questions.

Departure by Car

Pickup typically begins at **10:00 AM** and ends at **1:00 PM** on the last Saturday of each session, but please check the transportation email the week before your camper's departure for any changes to the schedule. If you anticipate being early or late, please call the office. If your child cannot depart on a Saturday but needs to depart on Sunday or later, there is a charge for additional days. Please make arrangements for extended stays by June 15 if possible.

Campers will be waiting for pickup in the area around the office, so please follow the same procedure as you did for drop-off. Remember to check your child out at the office and pick up any medication from the nurse when leaving camp.

Be sure that your child has all their possessions before departing - items left behind will be shipped home at cost.

Please drive slowly on our narrow country roads!

Sending Packages to Camp

Your camper will inevitably forget something at home, or ask for something they didn't know they needed once they arrive. Packages are welcome, but *please do not send food*. We are in a rural setting, and food in the cabins attracts wild animals!

Mail and packages should be sent to:

Your Camper's Name, Camp Ballibay, 1660 Ballibay Road, Wyalusing, PA 18853

Camper Communication

Email

Campers will be able to send and receive email using a **gmail.com** email address.

Please create a **gmail.com** email address for your camper.

Campers are able to access their email during their free time throughout the day. Not hearing from your camper is probably a good thing - it means they're too busy to peck out an email! If you receive a troubling email (homesickness, etc.) please call or email the office to let us know. Also, if you don't hear from your camper within the first 72 hours at camp, please call and let us know – they will have been encouraged to email home, and maybe need some help logging in.

Phone Calls

We discourage phone calls with your camper. They exacerbate and prolong homesickness; and sometimes even seem to cause it. If a situation arises where we think it would be beneficial for your child to speak to you, we'll gladly arrange a call. Likewise, if you feel strongly that you need to speak with your child, please call us to discuss arranging a call. But please keep in mind that a homesick child will usually not be made to feel better by hearing your voice; it will almost always have the opposite effect!

In the event that you need to convey bad news (family emergency, &c...) please call us and let us know. You know your child best, but our experience has shown that e-mail is not the best medium to transmit this kind of information. We also need to know if your child is going to be struggling with bad news so that we can best help them through their difficult time.

You can always call the camp directors at any time, and as often as you need to, for information regarding your child's activities, adjustment, well-being, and any other aspect of camp life you'd like to discuss! 570-746-3223

Pet Policy

Pets are not allowed on campus under any circumstances, even if only for a few minutes. There are horses, cats, and farm animals at camp that may not react well to a new animal -- even your family dog -- being introduced into the environment. Likewise, there may be campers or adults here who may not react well to your pet or may be allergic. Please leave your pets at home.

We apologize for any inconvenience, but this policy is non-negotiable.

Head Lice

As in any close-knit community, head lice is always a concern. We encourage you to have your child checked for head lice in the week leading up to their arrival at camp. Even if no sign of lice is found, we encourage you to prophylactically treat your child with over-the-counter anti-lice shampoo before their arrival.

Even with the preventive measures in place, we will be checking each child and staff member for lice upon their arrival at camp and throughout their stay as the situation warrants. If a camper is found to have lice upon arrival, we will treat your child immediately.

Medical Policy

The health and welfare of the campers is always our first priority. The camp directors to act *in loco parentis* for the purposes of medical treatment during your child's stay.

We will only seek non-routine medical treatment (anything more than ibuprofen, Benadryl, a band aid, or similar minor treatment) for your child after consultation with you, unless we consider your child's health at serious risk, in which case we will act in the interest of the child's health and safety while attempting to contact you as quickly as possible.