

Camp Ballibay 2023

Parent Handbook

What's changing due to Covid-19?

Our goal is to have as close as possible to “normal camp” this summer, but there will still need to be a few changes to reduce as much as possible the risk of Covid-19 transmission. As we've discussed with most families, we are not attempting to *eliminate* risk, we are *mitigating* risk to create a presumptively Covid-safe situation while preserving as much as possible the joys of camp and the much-needed social interaction and feeling of freedom that you want for your kids, and that they need, after these last few maddening years.

Our plan is as follows:

1. **Vaccination:** All campers (and every member of our community) must be “fully vaccinated” against Covid: having received both doses of a two-dose Covid vaccine, or a single-dose vaccine, at least one month prior to arrival. Vaccine cards are to be uploaded to your account.
2. **The test before camp:** We ask that before you drive to camp, you administer an at home Covid-19 test for you and your camper. We will also test upon arrival, and if your camper tests positive upon arrival, they will not be able to move into their cabin.
3. **The test at camp:** We will administer a rapid Covid test upon arrival. We ask that after we have performed the test, you wait with your camper in your vehicle until the results are back. If your camper is taking the NYC bus, we will administer a rapid test before boarding. If your camper is flying to camp, we will administer a rapid test as soon as they arrive on-campus.
4. **Opening Day:** We are thrilled to be able to welcome parents to help their campers move into their bunks and take campus tours for the first time since 2019! We are requiring all campus visitors to wear a mask on campus, including camp parents.
5. **Risk Testing:** If our medical staff feel there is the risk of a Covid infection, we will apply a Rapid Test to rule out Covid. We will consult with you at every step.
6. **If a Camper Tests Positive:** If a camper tests positive on the rapid antigen test, we will comfortably quarantine them. We have a large campus – nearly 180 acres – so even in quarantine your camper will be able to go outside. We will ask that you pick them up from camp within **24 hours**. If your camper is traveling internationally, or there is another mitigating circumstance that makes picking them up in 24 hours not possible, we will work with you to establish a plan. Again, we will be in regular contact with you from the moment any symptoms are recognized.

Medications • *Required*

Due to changes in PA state law, *all medications* must arrive at camp in pharmacy-prepared blister packs or pill packs. We have partnered with **Pack My RX** who will work with families and physicians prior to the start of your camper's session to package and ship all of your camper's medications directly to camp.

Pack My RX will fill all medications listed below with the required Physicians Prescription.

- Prescription medication - pill, liquid, spray, drop, or cream.
- Over-the-Counter (OTC) medication if taken daily or on a set schedule - pill, liquid, spray, drop, or cream.
- Prescription and OTC Vitamins, Supplements, Lactaid, Melatonin that are taken daily or on a set schedule.

The only medications that do not need to be filled by Pack My RX are:

- Gender-affirming care medications
- Growth hormones
- Injectable Medications
- Gummy or dissolvable medications (these melt in the blister packs, please reach out to Pack My RX for an alternative)
- Epi-Pens
- OTC PRN meds (medications that are both over-the-counter and taken only as needed)

If your camper takes any of the above-listed meds, please contact us at directors@ballibayCamps.com as we can discuss delivering them to camp.

Please Note: If your camper takes a medication that may be seen as or confused with a gender-affirming care medication, please contact us at directors@ballibayCamps.com as we can discuss delivering it to camp.

At camp we keep a stock of most over-the-counter items taken as needed such as Tylenol, Advil, Benadryl, Tums, etc. so there is no need to have Pack My RX dispense these typical items. If there is an OTC item you would like us to keep on hand for your child, please let us know.

*See the Pack My RX instruction page in this packet for details and be sure to register with Pack My RX at least **30 days before** the start of your camper's session.*

Hearing Protection • Required

If your camper will be participating in the rock program or might wish to sing or play an instrument in a rock band, we ask that you pack high quality hearing protection for your camper. Each rock studio is equipped with a Sound Pressure Level (SPL) meter, and when the volume of a rehearsal passes a certain threshold, all participants must wear hearing protection if they wish to remain at the rehearsal. Please reinforce the importance of hearing protection with your camper.

Something like this is recommended: <https://ballibay.family/EarPeace>

Cabin Naming • Gender Expressions • Camper Photos

Out of respect for our nonbinary campers and staff, we've re-named our cabin areas. What has historically been known as the "girls' area" is now referred to as the "Up the Hill" cabin area, and cabins are numbered U1, U2, U3, etc... instead of G1, G2, G3. Similarly, the "Down the Hill" cabin area is the new name for the living area where most kids and staff use he/him pronouns, and the cabins are now D1, D2, D3, etc...

Ballibay has always been a gender-diverse community, and we've very pleased that our on-line registration partner Ultracamp has implemented a gender expression menu that better accommodates this diversity.

Please log in to your Ultracamp account and check that your campers' gender expression, pronouns, and preferred name reflect your campers' current wishes: <http://login.ballibaycamps.com/>

Also please make sure your campers' photos are current, and clearly show their faces.

Discord Server, Facebook Group

While at camp the kids will be disconnected from the Internet and Social Media, but our campers have created a Discord server, so if your kids are on Discord and they want to meet some new and returning campers, make some friends, and get some questions answered kid-to-kid, they should feel free to join: <https://ballibay.family/join-discord>

Also, for parents (and campers, too, if they are on Facebook) we have a Ballibay Families and Alumni Facebook group that you are all very welcome to join. Here you can meet current camp families, and camper and staff alumni from every generation of camp going back to the 1960s. It's a pretty neat space: <http://facebook.com/groups/ballibay>

Meet the Directors on Zoom

We've already held three successful zoom sessions and are planning at least one more in June. If you are just registering, or were unable to attend a previous session, please look out for an email from Sarah at sarah@ballibaycamps.com for additional information on the date and time for the next meeting.

We are also so looking forward to being able to meet you all in person on opening day this year!

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 typically cannot not 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; we never place younger campers in older cabins based on requests.

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

While cabin friendships are certainly important, Ballibay does not group any activities by age, and so close friendships form based on *affinities*, and thus across larger age differences than one might ordinarily see. Unlike most camps, at Ballibay there are no activities done as a cabin group after the initial “orientation” camp tour, and relatively little time in the day is spent in the cabin. Every camper at Ballibay has a unique schedule based on interests, not age or grade. It’s a good understanding for kids to come to camp with, because we are different from most camps in this regard. Even though cabin placement is much less important than at many other camps, we typically can honor almost all cabin requests, but this is largely because all cabin requests are two-person requests. We treat what is on the forms as the “last word,” so please be sure that both families involved in a request complete the *cabin request form*.

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, and this summer we are emphasizing letter- and postcard-writing as the main means of communication. See **Camper Communication** below.

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. Please see our terms and conditions, below.

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 iPads with no cellular capability, as well as any .mp3 player that does not have cellular capability. Please contact the office with questions about this policy.

Visiting & Evening Performances

We will be welcoming parents to our final performance of each session this summer. All camper performances will be uploaded to Vimeo the week after they go up! Please send an email to directors@ballibaycamps.com if you would like to attend the final performance of either session.

Transportation

We offer several ways for your camper to get to Camp. Many parents drop their children off at camp, see Arrival by Car, 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.

Negative rapid tests must be presented or sent ahead to the camp, and the vaccination card must be uploaded to your account, in order for your camper to be transported to camp.

Bus/Van 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 on Sunday, the stated opening day of your campers’ session, 9:30 AM from the NE corner of 62nd St. & Amsterdam Ave, behind Lincoln Center. There will be room for all luggage. Cost: \$100.

The vaccination card must be uploaded to your account, in order to board transportation to camp.

Bus/Van 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: \$100.

Transportation Form

The Transportation Form can be accessed [here](#) 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, but we much prefer that all families complete the transportation form, even if driving.

Arrival by Car

As in previous summers, we will schedule one-hour arrival windows for each family, and it is essential that everyone be on time for their arrival window. One of your camper's cabin counselors will greet you at your car and will lead your camper to their on-campus rapid test. We ask that families do not leave their vehicles. Once your camper's test comes back negative, your camper will check in with the nurse, and we will give you your camper's bunk number. You can then unload the car and help your camper get settled. We will also be offering campus tours every hour. All parents must be masked throughout their time on campus.

It is essential that you plan to arrive in the area early and wait so that you can hit your arrival window as precisely as possible.

There is a parking area and a wonderful view at the *Marie Antoinette Overlook*, so named because it overlooks the *French Azilum Historic Site*, which was to be the French royal family's escape settlement had they made it out of country in the 1790s. There is also a bathroom here, in the colorful local bar the "M.A." which opens at 11:00 AM: <https://ballibay.family/lookout>

Another beautiful stopping site is the *Wyalusing Rocks*, which also overlooks the Susquehanna river, and is an important site in Native American history, marking the intersection of the North-South Warriors' Path the East-West Wyalusing Path: <https://ballibay.family/rocks>

Scheduling your arrival time

We will send an invitation to a Doodle poll a few weeks before the opening day of camp:

On the poll, please mark *all* the arrival times you could potentially arrive at camp.

Based on the poll results, we will assign every family an arrival window.

Departure by Car

Pick-up will be similarly strict and scheduled. We will greet you on the road and have your camper and their luggage prepared. We again ask that families please wear masks the entire time they are on campus.

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

Snail Mail

These last few years have seen too many screens and too much electronically mediated communication. So, we're *not* going to have our usual email computers set out for the campers this summer. While email will still be available when necessary, we're going to ask everyone to bring stationery, pens, and stamps, and go "old-timey camp" for the bulk of their communication. So, make sure your camper has an address book and gathers friends' addresses before camp, and you might want to create address stickers with your home address to encourage regular communication. We will provide postcards, and campers will be encouraged to make their own postcards in the art barn. Also, the playbills from all performances can be brought to the office and we will mail them as letters at no cost and provide the kids with replacement playbills for their memorabilia if they wish.

We also ask that you also *communicate with your camper primarily by letter or postcard*. Campers shall receive mail each day after lunch. You can call the camp office at any time for an update on your camper: 570-746-3223 or 570-746-3179

Your camper's address is: **Your Camper's Name, Camp Ballibay, 1660 Ballibay Road, Wyalusing, PA 18853**

Email

Email will be available to campers after orientation has ended and when a camper needs to be in touch more quickly than letter or postcard, for instance to ask you to order something and have it shipped to camp.

Similarly, if you need to contact your camper more quickly than letter or postcard, you can send an email to the office and we'll print it and give it to your camper with the postal mail. We ask that you do this only when you feel it is necessary, please. Send emails to Annie at: annie@ballibayCamps.com

Phone Calls

We discourage phone calls with your camper. They tend to 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; we've found over many years that 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. We need to know if your child is going to be struggling with bad news so that we can best help them through a potentially difficult time.

You can call and email 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 or 570-746-3179.

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.

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 within two weeks before 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.

Cancellation & Refunds

Please see the camps **Terms and Conditions**, below; but, in short:

In the past, the deposit was forfeit upon cancellation for any reason, but we've changed those terms, as we felt they were not fair to families under the trying circumstances we've all been dealing with these last few years. While the deposit will not be refunded if you need to cancel, it will remain as a credit in your account that can be used towards any future session or summer, a sibling, or it can be transferred to another family. To transfer to another family, the family must have an account with us on Ultracamp, but they do not need to be already registered. To initiate the transfer, simply email us.

Terms and Conditions

These are the same terms that you agreed to during the registration process; please review them and contact us with any questions:

Ballibay Terms and Conditions 2023

- **REGISTRATION AND TERMS:** Pay the appropriate deposit for each camper enrolled. Due to the seasonal nature of camping there are no refunds for early departure, late arrival, dismissal, or failure to attend. Campers arriving early or staying over session dates will be charged an extra day rate. All fees must be paid by June 15 unless prior arrangements have been made with the office. Tuition includes: Laundry services, room, board, snacks, and all regular activities.

The deposit is a commitment that a child will attend camp. If a) circumstances prevent a child from attending a planned session, or b) if a session becomes unavailable, the deposit can i) be transferred to any other available session, or ii) transferred to a session in a future summer. Deposits can be transferred to siblings and between families. The deposit is refundable if the camper will be 17 years old or older on the opening day of the next available or planned camp session.

A camper who is a) required to leave camp due to infectious disease, or b) is unable to attend because the family cannot provide a negative test result for infectious disease that has been required by the camp, can have their deposit i) transferred to a future session of their choice, ii) transferred to a sibling, or iii) transferred to another

family. The family will also receive a pro-rated refund of the balance of camp tuition not including the deposit. If the camper would be 17 years old or older on the opening day of the next available or planned camp session, the family will receive a pro-rated refund of the entire tuition including deposit.

(Required) I agree; I understand the deposit policy and that all fees must be paid by June 15 regardless of camp session.

- Permission is hereby given to use photos, video and audio recordings, statements, and performances of campers for camp promotional purposes. Permission is also given for the camp to search the camper's possessions, cabin and activity areas for any items that are deemed inappropriate or unacceptable by the camp.

(Required) I agree

- CABIN PLACEMENT is at the discretion of the camp management. We have many years of experience in grouping children in a residential situation, balancing new and returning campers in a cabin, and the many other factors which go into cabin placement. We ask that families support our cabin placement decisions. There is a cabin request form as part of the registration process. One camper may request one other camper through this process. The request is complete when a requested camper confirms the request on his or her own form. Daisy-chain requests are permissible: Camper A requests camper B; Camper B confirms A's request and requests Camper C, &c...

(Required) I agree to allow the camp to determine my child's cabin placement; and I understand that cabin requests will be honored when possible but are not guaranteed. I understand that cabin requests that are not completed by both campers may not be honored.

- The Ballibay Camps will not permit campers to smoke or indulge in liquor or have in their possession any controlled substance which violates the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Any such camper will be dismissed from camp without refund of any part of the fee. Campers whose behavior is unacceptable or is detrimental to camp program may be dismissed after consultation with parents, without refund.

(Required) I agree

- I appoint Camp Ballibay and its directors to act in loco parentis (in place of a parent) on behalf of my child, in any way that I/we would act if I/we were personally present, with respect to any injury, illness, or medical emergency that occurs while my child is attending Camp Ballibay.

This status of in loco parentis pertaining to medical matters, includes but is not limited to: (i) providing any and all consents and authorizations to any physicians, dentist, hospital, health care providers or other persons or institutions pertaining to any emergency medications, medical or dental treatments, diagnostic or surgical procedures, or any other emergency actions as deemed necessary or appropriate in the best interests of my child; (ii) transporting my child via automobile, ambulance, or other emergency transport vehicle to the medical facility deemed to be in the best interest of my child. (iii) signing any documentation or authorizations so that Private Health Information (PHI) pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) can be released and exchanged in the best interest of my child.

I understand that, while every effort will be made to contact me as the parent/guardian, care must not be withheld in the event that I am unavailable in person or by phone. Care shall be rendered as necessary for the health and safety of my child.

I understand that I remain responsible for the financial costs incurred with emergency transport, treatment at any health care facility, and any treatments required during my child's stay at camp or after my child leaves camp.

In loco parentis status will permit a counselor or agent appointed by the camp director accompanying my child to any health care facility to be present (in the examination room) throughout the treatment of my child even after phone contact has been established with me.

The camp screens all campers for head lice upon arrival to camp, will make a reasonable attempt to detect any subsequent cases of head lice, and will treat on campus any cases of head lice that arise during camp. Despite best efforts, it is not impossible for campers go home with head lice. The camp is not responsible for the cost of head lice treatment after camp, as inexpensive home treatments are completely effective.

(Required) I have read the above carefully and I agree to appoint Camp Ballibay and its directors to act in loco parentis. I agree to give the camp office my complete itinerary if I will be traveling during the camp session.

- Unless otherwise notified, Camp Ballibay considers the parent(s) named in this registration process be the only person(s) outside of the camp with the authority to take the above named camper(s) off campus, or to give permission for others to take them off campus. All permissions to go off campus with anyone other than signer(s) of this form must be entered into your online account, or received in the camp office, in writing, more than 24 hours before a camper's departure.

(Required) I agree

- Contact with the camp office and your campers is encouraged, but only permitted through the camp's approved methods, which may change from summer to summer and will be announced by the camp in May before the camp session begins. US Mail will always be available to campers.

Campers do not have access to phones. Should parents and the camp administration agree that phone contact is necessary between parent and child, phone calls will be arranged on a case-by-case basis. Parents are encouraged to contact the camp office at any time, via any medium, and as often as necessary for updates on their children.

(Required) I understand that my child will have access only to the camp's approved methods of communication; I understand that US Mail will always be available; I agree to coordinate with the camp office in case there is a need for phone communication.

- Mobile phones are strictly disallowed at Ballibay. This includes the use of iPhones, Android or Blackberry or other cellular devices, even those whose SIM cards have been removed, or are otherwise not functional.

We explicitly do not allow the use of disabled phones as music players.

Campers are allowed to arrive at camp with phones, but are required to leave them in the camp office for the duration of their stay at camp. The camp reserves the right to dismiss campers without refund in the case of mobile phone use or possession.

Other electronic devices are acceptable as long as they do not have cellular/mobile capability.

(Required) I understand that my child must turn in their mobile phone upon arrival at camp; I understand that non-functional phones and phones with SIM cards removed are not allowed; I understand that using disabled phones as music players is specifically disallowed; I agree to inform my child and other family members of this policy so that there is no confusion on this issue.

- In registering, the family a) recognizes that there is risk of infectious disease in any large residential gathering, b) accepts the camp's precautions and policies to prevent the spread of infectious disease are reasonable and practical, and c) agrees to be a partner in prevention of the spread of infectious disease at the camp, including i) strictly adhering to arrival, departure, and visitation guidelines (including the possibility of a no-visitation policy); ii) participating in all testing and prophylaxis required by the camp, iii) providing documentation and test results as required by the camp; and iv) meeting deadlines and timelines set by the camp. The family agrees to not hold the camp, its staff, owners, or directors responsible or liable in the case of the spread of infectious disease during or following a camp session.

(Required) I understand and agree

Campers who engage in physically, emotionally, or psychologically violent behavior, or act towards other campers or employees of the camp in a way that is physically, emotionally, or psychologically threatening, will be dismissed from camp. Further, campers who are unable to readily comply with instructions given by counselors or camp leadership may also be dismissed. Families must pick up campers, or arrange to have campers picked up, within 36 hours of being informed of an incident that the camp deems unacceptable. Campers may be placed into our 'second unit' while they await pickup, where they will be cared for and supervised but will not have access to the full range of camp activities.

(Required) I understand and agree