



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Welcome to Creative Theatre Camp!

We are thrilled you will be joining our camp family! Our team has been hard at work preparing for a summer of great activities, trips, shows, workshops and more. We can't wait for the first day, when our campers come through the doors and dive into all the fun things we have planned. Throughout the summer, your child will be engaged in activities infused with our core values of Caring, Respect, Honesty, and Responsibility. We truly believe that camp enriches a child's life immensely and hope to create a nurturing, engaging atmosphere.

The following information is a basic guide to help you know what to expect this summer at Creative Theatre Camp. For more, detailed information, please view our Camp Parent Handbook, located on the website.

How will my child benefit from attending camp this summer?

You can be confident that your child will be safe and have tons of fun while attending camp this summer. Beyond that, we want to help your child gain positive developmental growth over the summer as well. As a result of our efforts we hope that you will see growth in your child in these 9 areas.

1. Social Skills
2. Independence
3. Teamwork
4. Confidence
5. Curiosity
6. Responsibility
7. Appreciation for Theatre
8. Problem-Solving Confidence
9. Summer Learning Loss Prevention

At Creative Theatre Camp, we give special attention to 3 of those areas. They are: **Confidence**, **Teamwork**, and **Social Skills**. We will be incorporating specific strategies and activities that will focus on gaining positive growth in those areas.

We will have various activities during the camp day that will help accomplish these developmental outcomes. Theatre games and improvisation will help to increase social skills as the groups work together in various ways to set the scene. The teamwork component is evident when they work together as a cast to create the magic of their show. We sincerely believe that your camper will have an amazing experience this summer, gaining the many benefits that Theatre provides.



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Before the First Day

- **Talk with your children about Camp.** Having pleasant, positive conversations about what will happen at camp, as well as going over the daily schedule/theme for the week and talking about friends that they will see while at camp before the week begins will help your child feel more comfortable and will hopefully excite them for camp!
- **Be sure to leave plenty of time** on the first day to get ready and to eat breakfast. Before-care campers may bring breakfast with them, provided it is nut-free.
- **Have a plan.** Your child may become upset when you drop them off. We have found from experience that it is best for you to have a routine with your child for drop off. Tell your child that you will be back to pick them up - or tell them who will be picking them up that day. If you are struggling, please let our staff know and we will gently help your child get involved in an activity and the tears will soon disappear.
- **Having a routine and knowing what to expect** allows your child to have less anxiety about his/her camp day, and starts your day off right too!

NUT-FREE FACILITY

Keep in mind that we are a **100% NUT FREE FACILITY**. Please make sure your child comes to camp without any nuts, nut products or peanut butter items. Staff will check the ingredients and remove any items that may contain nuts. These items will be returned at pick-up, but we appreciate any effort to eliminate these.

LOST AND FOUND

Clearly label with your child's full name any clothing and possessions that your child brings to camp. "Found" items that have campers' names on them are usually returned the same day or the next day. If you are ever in need, our staff will help you look for a lost item.

CAMP T-SHIRT

Campers will be given their camp T-shirt (included in the cost) on the first trip day. Additional shirts can be purchased at the YMCA office for \$6.00. **On trip days, campers are required to wear their YMCA camp T-shirt.**



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CAMP CHECKLIST

BACKPACK The following items should be in your camper's backpack.

Lunch

- ★ Labeled with name (especially on trip days)
- ★ Non-spoilable food and drink (there is **no refrigeration** available for food)
- ★ **No** gum or nuts of any kind
- ★ We are trying to teach responsible environmental behavior to the campers, so reusable Tupperware is always appreciated.

Labeled water bottle (water fountain available at camp site for refills)

Swimsuit

- ★ We require for all campers to wear their bathing suit under their camp clothes in the morning. Due to time constraints, campers who do not arrive with their suit on may not be able to swim that day.

Underwear spare (for after swimming)

Plastic bag for wet bathing suits

Towel

Sunscreen ** This is often a forgotten item, but incredibly important! **

SNEAKERS

- ★ We will be constantly on the move- walking between activities, playing games, dancing and jumping! For their safety, they need to have sneakers to be able to participate in all of these activities. Packing a set of dance shoes is recommended, but not required. **Dressy shoes, open toed shoes, sandals and flip flops will NOT be permitted.**

HATS/SUNGLASSES

- ★ A hat is a great way to keep the sun out of your eyes and help keep you cool while outside. We ask that these items are not worn indoors.

SCRIPT

- ★ Scripts will be given out on the first week of camp. We allow campers to take their personal script home to encourage home study, but it is imperative that they return with them.

AN OPEN MIND

- ★ Creative Theatre is a diverse community with campers from different grades, walks of life, schools and families. Each camper has their own talents and challenges which allows for our community to be an environment where campers learn not only from the staff, but each other as well. Any type of bullying, verbal or physical, will not be tolerated and we celebrate diversity.



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WHERE DO I DROP OFF AND PICK UP?

- ★ **CAMPSITE LOCATION:** The campsite for Creative Theatre Camp is the First & Trinity Presbyterian Church, 111 Irvington Avenue in South Orange. Please have an adult walk your camper in every morning for before care and all campers **must** be signed in and out every day. Morning and aftercare are held at this location as well.
- ★ Camp Program Hours are from 9am – 3:30pm. Our morning care begins at 7am. Our aftercare program is open until 7pm.
- ★ If you are dropping your camper off between 8:30 – 9:00am, we do provide curbside drop off, where you may pull up to the curb and have a staff member assist in bringing your camper inside. If you are picking your camper up between the 3:00 – 3:30pm, we provide curbside pick-up.

COMMUNICATION

- ★ **Electronic:** During the summer we will be communicating with you through regular emails. This will be our main source of communication with you so **please let us know** if there are any changes in your contact information. We will also be sending you a weekly camp newsletter by email every week during the summer.
- ★ **In Person:** Please feel free to approach your child's counselors at any time with questions or concerns. Our staff will be working very hard to make every child happy. Please understand that drop off time may not be a convenient time to have a lengthy discussion about your child, as the counselor has a lot going on during this time. If you feel that you need to have a longer conversation with the counselor- kindly ask them to call you during the afternoon when they have a chance.

GENERAL DAILY SCHEDULE

- ★ Mondays of the new session (June 24th, July 15th and August 5th) will always begin with an all-camp meeting to introduce campers to the fun and excitement of theatre.
- ★ From there, the first thing they will do upon the new session is split into T1, T2, and T3 (Theatre 1, etc) to do some meet-and-greet games and activities. This helps them acclimate to their new group of peers and counselors.
- ★ For the rest of the session, the morning rotations/rotations after swim will be free-choice where campers can choose magic, puppetry, comedy, drama, art, singing, various dance styles or other rotations offered. If there is no swim that day, the morning will also include an additional rotation that includes outdoor play at Grove Park to get them outside. The goal is to maximize time in the morning before settling down for lunch at 12:30.
- ★ The first afternoon rotation may include some rehearsal time on the stage (timing will increase as we get closer to show day), theatrical arts (props, set making, costumes, etc), dance and off-stage rehearsal/blocking.
- ★ The second afternoon rotation may include rehearsal time on the stage, set/prop/costume (theatre arts) design and dance.



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- ★ Tuesday and Thursday will be swim days, so their rotations will begin after we return at around 11:00am. **The third week (show week), T2 & T3 campers will only swim on Tuesday to maximize rehearsal time.**
- ★ Additional special events occur in the afternoon throughout the summer, including: Bounce Parties, Theatre Workshops, Dance Parties, Themed Games and Activities, etc. See our activity calendars on the website for more details about the special events we have planned!
- ★ Trips happen once per session, typically in the first or second week. This schedule will be released once trips are confirmed and will also be noted on the activity calendars.

SWIMMING

- ★ Swimming this year will consist of **30 minutes of instruction** followed by **15 minutes of free swim**.
- ★ We swim Tuesdays and Thursdays at the South Orange Community Pool.
- ★ This is an outdoor swimming facility; therefore, swimming will take place weather permitting.
- ★ Our philosophy is for children to learn to enjoy the water and to work toward swimming proficiency.
- ★ A camper's swimming ability will be tested the first day of camp and they will be placed in the appropriate level, noted by the colors of a stoplight (green, yellow or red). Any disputes with the level campers are placed in may be directed to Gail and campers may be retested.
- ★ Our counselors follow the guidelines in the YMCA Progressive Swim Program and will work with campers upon request to become more confident in the water.
- ★ Upon demonstrating required swimming skills, campers may be retested at the beginning of a new session and advanced to a higher swim level.
- ★ Our camp follows the pool safety regulations mandated by the State of New Jersey requiring the proper number of qualified lifeguards on duty in ratio to the number of swimmers.
- ★ All counselors will be in the water with the campers aside from a supervisor who will be overseeing the deck.

If someone other than yourself will be picking up your child that is **not** listed as an Emergency/Alternate Pick Up on your camp registration form, you must provide us with an alternate pickup form that morning at drop off or email this document to Miss Gail. Your alternate pick up person **will** be asked for photo identification before we will allow your child to get into the car with them. Please remind them to have this available.

We are so ready for the summer and can't wait to meet all our campers! Please don't hesitate to call us with any further questions or comments you may have now or in the future about camp. We are always open to your suggestions and ideas.

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