PARENT HANDBOOK
2027

Camp Billings



LAKE FAIRLEE, VERMONT

campbillings.org



Updated November 11, 2026

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WELCOME & OVERVIEW

WELCOME

We are thrilled that your camper will be joining us for our 121st summer!

Every summer, Camp Billings welcomes campers ages 8 to 15 for two-week overnight sessions on Lake Fairlee in Vermont.

Our goal is simple: to give your camper an amazing summer and to support your family every step of the way.

This Parent Handbook is your guide to life at Camp Billings, including what to expect and the policies and procedures that keep camp running smoothly.

The policies in the Parent Handbook may be updated prior to or during the camp season to ensure safety, compliance, or operational needs.

If you have questions after reading the handbook, please contact us at registrar@campbillings.org.

OUR MISSION

Camp Billings is dedicated to providing a safe and affordable sleepaway camp where children can disconnect from technology, engage with the outdoors, and build lifelong friendships.

Through shared laughter, adventures, and camp duties, our community fosters creativity, nurtures independence, and promotes collective responsibility, ensuring every camper leaves with cherished memories of a fun and magical summer.

HISTORY

Founded in 1906, Camp Billings is one of New England's oldest summer camps. Billings began when the Windsor County YMCA brought a small group of local campers to Lake Fairlee, with support from Julia Billings of Woodstock, whose daughter Elizabeth later donated the land in her parents' memory. Today, Camp Billings is an independent nonprofit, overseen by a board of directors and supported by its campers, families, staff, and alumni.

In 2006, our centennial year, Camp Billings was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing its historic buildings and its place in the history of youth camping in Vermont.

Billings has been shaped by remarkably steady and devoted leadership: just seven generations of leadership since its founding in 1906, several lasting decades. Generations of campers have grown up under the same directors, and many have returned to work alongside them. In Fall 2026, former camper, staff member, and board member Yutaka Tamura became our full-time Executive Director, carrying that tradition forward.

Much about Billings remains the same: simple cabins, days on the lake, and a safe, welcoming, and joyful community.

We're grateful that your family, whether new or returning, is part of the Billings legacy!

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

The following Community Expectations describe what makes Camp Billings a safe, welcoming community. Families will be asked to review and agree to them in CampInTouch before the summer.

Camp Billings is committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and joyful community where campers experience fun, friendship, adventure, and independence in a technology-free outdoor setting. Our staff work hard to cultivate this environment, and we rely on campers—and the support of their families—to help build and sustain it.

The Four Elements of the Camp Billings Experience

At Camp Billings, we strive to bring our four core elements to life in how we participate in camp and how we treat one another.

- ***Fun:*** We participate with enthusiasm, encourage others, and take part in the traditions and activities that make camp special.
- ***Friendship:*** We treat others with kindness and respect, include those around us, and help create a community where everyone feels they belong. We value the different backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences of each camper.
- ***Adventure:*** We approach new activities with curiosity, try new things, and support others who are stepping outside their comfort zones.
- ***Independence:*** We take responsibility for our choices, our belongings, and our role in the camp community. Whether completing a cabin chore or learning a new skill, we live by the Billings motto: *"Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well."*

Outdoors & Technology

The Camp Billings experience centers on the outdoors and Lake Fairlee. To ensure that campers can be fully present with one another, engage deeply in activities, and connect with the outdoors, Camp Billings is intentionally a technology-free environment.

- Prohibited Devices: Cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, gaming systems, or any device with a camera or internet/cellular capability.
- Music Exception: Simple music-only players (such as screenless MP3 players) are permitted for use inside the cabin only.
- Cameras: Simple digital cameras and traditional film/disposable cameras are allowed and encouraged for capturing memories.

If a camper brings a personal electronic device to camp, it will be collected and held by camp staff until the end of the session.

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS (CONT'D)

Community Standards

To maintain a safe and supportive environment, certain behaviors are not permitted at camp. It is not possible to list all possible conduct or behavior that is unacceptable, but the following non-comprehensive list provides some examples:

- Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or verbal or physical aggression
- Repeated or serious disrespect toward campers, staff, or our neighbors on Lake Fairlee
- Possession or use of tobacco, vaping devices, alcohol, drugs, or illegal substances
- Inappropriate physical contact or sexual or discriminatory comments or behavior
- Theft, vandalism, or destruction of property
- Possession of weapons, fireworks, or dangerous materials
- Leaving supervised areas without permission
- Use of personal electronic devices such as phones, smartwatches, tablets, or gaming systems, or similar internet-enabled devices
- Any behavior that threatens the safety, wellbeing, or sense of community at camp

Camp leadership reserves the right to respond to behavior not listed here that, in their sole discretion, may threaten the safety, wellbeing, or positive community environment of Camp Billings.

Growth and Accountability

Camp Billings is a place for learning and growth. When challenges arise due to unacceptable conduct or behavior, staff work with campers to help them reflect, take responsibility, and make better choices. Responses may include conversations with staff, restorative actions, temporary loss of privileges, and communication with parents. There is no particular order in which responses will be taken; camp leadership, in their sole discretion, will decide on the best course of action given the circumstances in each individual situation.

In some cases where camp leadership believes behavior threatens the safety or wellbeing of others or significantly disrupts the camp community, more severe responses may be necessary. Camp leadership reserves the right, in their sole discretion, to determine that a camper must leave camp early.

Shared Commitment

By attending Camp Billings, campers and their families agree to support these shared expectations and help make sure that camp remains a positive and supportive community.

OUR STAFF

OVERVIEW

Each summer, we assemble a dedicated team of counselors, counselors-in-training (CITs), support staff, and senior administrators to give our campers a fun-filled, unforgettable summer. Typically, about two-thirds of our staff are former campers, which helps keep Billings' unique culture, rituals, and traditions alive.

Our Senior Counselors are college students and recent graduates, including teachers. Many grew up at camp and came through our CIT Program. To bring new energy to camp, we also intentionally hire a group of international staff each summer.

As part of our American Camp Association accreditation, our counselors hold certifications relevant to their programs:

- CPR certification
- Red Cross lifeguard certification for waterfront staff
- USA Archery certification for archery counselors
- High Five ropes course qualifications for ropes counselors

Our Senior Counselors are supported by our CITs, who typically spend half the summer at camp. The vast majority of our CITs are former campers who have shown strong leadership potential and a desire to work with children.

Our Senior Staff include our Executive Director, Program Director, CIT Director, Waterfront Director, Nurses, Head Cook, Maintenance Director, and Office Manager.

We conduct thorough background checks on all staff. All staff complete comprehensive pre-camp training focused on safety and responsibility. Training continues throughout the summer, helping staff to build strong cabin communities, support homesick campers, and prevent bullying.

When you send your child to Billings, you can rest assured they will be cared for by a dedicated, well-trained staff.



GENERAL INFORMATION

SUMMER ADDRESS

1452 VT RT-244
Fairlee, VT 05045
+1 802-333-4317
Email addresses:

- office@campbillings.org (office email is actively monitored each summer in June, July, and August while camp is in session)
- registrar@campbillings.org (during the school year)

ACA ACCREDITATION

Camp Billings is fully accredited by the American Camp Association.

2027 DATES & TUITION

Session 1: June 27 – July 10
Session 2: July 11 – July 24
Session 3: July 25 – August 7
Session 4: August 8 – August 21

2027 Tuition Rates

Session 1: $2,400
Sessions 2, 3, and 4: $2,700

Our 2027 tuition remains below that of more than 75% of peer overnight camps in the Northeast. To further support accessibility, we are offering reduced tuition for Session 1.

PAYMENTS AND REFUND POLICY

All tuition is due by April 30, 2027. Campers who register after April 30th are expected to pay for the full tuition online within two weeks of registration. The Board of Directors reserves the right to change the rates if economic conditions warrant. Parents will be given at least thirty days' advance notice of any change. Should a child be withdrawn for this reason, a refund of all tuition payments will be made.

Deposit. There is a $500 non-refundable deposit per camper, per session.

Grace Period. All families are given a two-week grace period after receiving confirmation of their registration. If you notify our Registrar in writing within two weeks of your confirmed registration that you need to cancel your registration(s) or change your session selection (e.g., dropping from two sessions to one or switching sessions), you will receive a full refund of the deposit(s). Cancellations or session changes made after the conclusion of the two-week grace period forfeit the entire deposit.

Cancellations. If cancellation is due to a serious illness or injury that prevents participation in camp activities, Camp Billings will refund tuition payments made, minus the deposit, provided that a doctor's note certifying the illness or injury is submitted in writing. Any cancellations for other reasons (e.g., homesickness) are not subject to refunds.

Program Changes and Cancellations. Camp Billings may cancel, shorten, or modify a session or its activities due to weather, natural disasters, facility damage, utility failures, public health conditions, government directives, or other circumstances beyond its control. In such cases, Camp Billings, in its sole discretion, will determine if any refunds or credits will be given; they are not guaranteed. Program modifications do not entitle families to a refund or credit.

REGISTRATION CHECKLIST



COMPLETE FORMS IN CAMPINTOUCH

- [ ] Complete and Submit Camper Registration Form
  **required prior to submitting Registration.*

- [ ] Complete and Submit Waivers & Agreements
  **required prior to submitting Registration.*

- [ ] Pay $500 deposit per camper per session. Deposit is required to submit registration.

- [ ] Pay remaining balance of tuition. Full tuition is due by April 30, 2027.

- [ ] Complete and submit Medical Form, due by June 1, 2027.
  **not required at time of Registration.*
  Parents are asked to return to CampInTouch to complete Medical Forms per camper so that they reflect all updated information.

PACKING FOR CAMP

Packing for Special Events

Certain events are always the same at camp, but one can never really know what silly antics might ensue! Campers have been known to bring these types of items to camp. Nothing in this section is required!

- Dressy clothes like dresses and suit jackets and ties
- Silly costumes, wigs, tutus, funky leggings
- Plaid shirts or overalls for the Square Dance
- A t-shirt in each color of the rainbow plus black and white (for team games)

Session 1 is when we celebrate the 4th of July with a ton of red, white, and blue! We have epic fireworks at night. Some campers like to have ear plugs for that.

Session 2 is when we have International Night, a festive evening for which campers love to dress up! We also have a talent show-style competition for the campers to show off their skills!

Session 3 is when we put on the Musical! What will it be this summer?! We also have an optional 10K Around-the-Lake Race so pack your running sneakers!

Session 4 is when we have Country Fair. You will want to bring a t-shirt of every color (if you can), and good sneakers, and be prepared to play in the rain (as long as there is no thunder and lightning).

Make sure to label EVERYTHING! We are unable to store lost-and-found items beyond the end of each session. Any unclaimed items remaining after pick-up on Saturday will be donated to local charities before the next group of campers arrives on Sunday. Please be thoughtful about what your camper brings to camp, as Camp Billings cannot be responsible for lost or damaged belongings.

Luggage & Trunks

Most campers pack everything in a trunk/footlocker. Standard trunk size is 30×15.75×12.25 and can be purchased on Amazon or at Target/Walmart or other one-stop shops. Some campers bring additional storage in the form of a stack of 2-3 plastic drawers. Please keep in mind our extremely limited space. Trunks are not required, but they are the best option.

Shipping Trunk and Luggage by Mail:
United Parcel Service handles the delivery of trunks and luggage. Please bring return shipping labels with you at drop off and arrange to have UPS pick up the trunk on the Saturday of departure. Our UPS address is:

Camp Billings
1452 VT RT-244
Fairlee, VT 05045

What not to bring to camp:

Knives, firearms and other weapons, fireworks, bicycles, and skateboards are not allowed at camp. Additionally, tobacco, vaping devices, drugs, and alcohol are strictly prohibited. Please review our Community Expectations for more details.

Food: The camp menu is varied and ample enough to serve all our needs, so we do not allow food to be stored in the camper's cabins. We must strictly enforce this rule because food stored in the cabin can attract animals such as mice, chipmunks, and raccoons. Please do not send food packages. All food packages will be discarded.

No phones, tablets, smartwatches, computers, portable games or other internet-enabled devices are allowed at camp. Camp Billings is technology-free! (See Community Expectations for more details). Any prohibited items brought to camp will be collected and kept in the camp office for the duration of the camper's stay. Camp Billings is not responsible for lost or stolen valuables, so please leave them at home.

Laundry
Laundry service is available for campers who stay 4 weeks or more. A laundry service occurs between sessions. There is a charge that will be applied to the camper's account. Consider that campers often get wet or dirty while playing at camp and they will need lots of extras. Please share your laundry plans with your changeover campers if that applies to your plan. PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING. Camp Billings is not responsible for any lost clothing.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

We suggest that you tape one copy of your packing list to the lid of your camper's trunk or suitcase and keep one copy at home. We maintain and organize a lost and found. We strongly encourage campers to check periodically, as well as encourage families to check for missing items on pick-up day. Following the final breakfast, the lost and found items will be held up in an effort to return them to their owners.

Clothing for 14 days/13 nights

PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS SENT TO CAMP WITH CAMPER'S FIRST AND LAST NAMES.

- 14 t-shirts
- 14 shorts
- 2-4 long sleeve shirts/sweatshirts/sweaters
- 2-4 pants, jeans, sweatpants, or leggings
- 2-3 sets of pajamas (for warm and cool nights)
- 2-4 bathing suits
- 2-4 towels
- 14-16 pairs of underwear
- 14-16 pairs of socks
- Rain coat or poncho
- Crocs, flip flops, or other water shoes
- Running shoes
- Rain boots (optional)
- Hiking boots (optional for trips)

Essential items

- Bedding – a warm sleeping bag, fitted twin sheet for a cot (36"X76"X7"), extra blankets, pillow. **If bedwetting is a possibility, please pack an extra set of bedding. Our nursing staff will wash all soiled linens on the same day. Please indicate this on your health forms.
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Hairbrush/comb/hair ties or barrettes
- Toiletries caddy/pail for carrying
- Laundry bag (with name written clearly!)
- Pads/tampons
- Sunscreen SPF 30 or above
- Refillable water bottle labeled with name
- Flashlight
- Bug spray
- Chap stick
- Tissues
- Stationery, stamps, pens, envelopes. (Stamps can also be purchased in the camp office and will be charged to the camper's account.)

Optional item ideas:

- Fishing pole
- Tennis racket
- Baseball glove
- Lacrosse stick
- Guitar
- Day pack
- Swimming goggles (STRONGLY encouraged)



Fun @BILLINGS

CAMP PROCEDURES

ARRIVAL DAY (SUNDAYS)

Campers may check in anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on the arrival Sunday of their session. **If you arrive early, please do not wait outside the Camp Billings gate or park on Route 244. We appreciate your returning once check-in opens at 10:00 a.m.** The road has steady traffic and blind curves and is not a safe place for cars to stop or line up. Once you arrive, please follow staff directions for parking. Parking is limited and can be crowded, so we appreciate your patience. After parking, proceed to the large tent on the middle tennis court.

Leashed pets are welcome at drop-off but are not permitted inside buildings. Please clean up after your pet.

The check-in process is as follows:

- Report to the tent on the middle tennis court.
- Check in with:
  - Office staff to get oriented, deposit any valuables that camp will hold, and share any pick-up details.
  - Nurses for health screening and a lice check, and to hand in medications or review medical information as needed.
    - Campers found to have lice at check-in may not remain at camp. Parents/guardians will need to take the camper for treatment. The camper may return with documentation from a healthcare provider or lice-removal service confirming they are free of lice and/or nits.
  - Mental Health Counselor for a brief introduction.
  - Waterfront Director to discuss your camper's swimming level and skills.
  - Receive your camper's cabin assignment.

Once all check-in steps are complete, you may go to your camper's cabin, unload, and meet the cabin staff and cabin mates. Please do not go to the cabin before completing check-in.

Cabin Assignments

All cabin assignments are made by age and grade level. We encourage campers to attend without concern for hometown friends. We find that being in a cabin with friends from home can sometimes strain relationships, prevent other cabin friendships from forming easily, and undermine a camper's ability to learn to live and get along well with new people. One of the greatest benefits of overnight camp is making new friends from different places. Please encourage this openness and flexibility to ensure your camper's healthy adjustment and great camp experience.

Cabin requests are not routinely accepted at Camp Billings. Only first-time campers may request a cabin mate, and the request must be mutual. Cabin mate requests for returning campers are not considered. Requests are not guaranteed, but we will do everything we can to honor your requests. Cabin placements are carefully and thoughtfully made to create cabins that consider the welfare of both the individual as well as the entire cabin group. Parents' support of their child's cabin placement is directly related to their camper's positive adjustment to camp. Cabin assignments will not be changed on arrival day.



CAMP PROCEDURES

Settling Into Your Cabin

Camp Billings staff will be available to help you unload your car and move your trunk and other items into your cabin. Beds are not assigned; campers can choose from the open top or bottom bunks when they arrive. Cabin space is limited; campers keep clothing in their trunk or suitcase during the session. Parents can help their campers make their beds and ensure that they know where various belongings are within the cabin.

New and returning families are invited to walk around our campus or ask a staff member for a quick tour. Parents are asked to depart by 3:30 p.m. so that cabin staff and campers can get to know each other with a cabin meeting.

After cabin meetings, cabin groups will tour around the full camp, meeting program area counselors and learning about all of our program areas and basic rules at each activity. This walk-about gives both new and returning campers a chance to see the whole campus and get familiar with staff and each other.

The camp session gets going in earnest with our First Sunday Night Dinner and the first chance to sing some of our most favorite camp songs in the dining hall. There is always great energy and excitement for the first singing of "Country Roads, Take Me Home to the Place I Belong!" Weather permitting, we start each session with a full camp game of Capture the Flag as our opening Evening Program.

Don't blink, the next 13 days will fly by!

PICK-UP DAY (SATURDAYS)

Each two-week session ends on a Saturday with a final lunch and one last B-I-L-L-I-N-G-S cheer. Pick-up begins at 1:00 p.m.; please wait outside the dining hall until campers come out. Once you greet your camper, please head to the cabin to collect your camper's belongings. Campers pack Saturday morning, but please help check items against the packing list, and don't forget the drying line outside each cabin for towels and swimsuits.

Tips for cabin staff are not required but are always appreciated for our hardworking CITs and Counselors.

All families must check out at the camp office and settle your camper's account. For your camper's safety, we release campers only to a parent or guardian or another adult authorized in CampInTouch. If someone else will be picking up your camper, please let us know in writing before the end of the session.

If you left any medication with the nurses at drop-off, please stop by the infirmary to pick it up.

All families are asked to be checked out and depart by 3:00 p.m. Our staff have a busy night of cleaning, prepping, and planning so they can welcome a new group of campers the next morning.

CHANGEOVER CAMPERS

If your camper is staying for consecutive sessions, you have the option of visiting on camp, taking your camper off camp for a few hours or overnight, or your camper may stay on that Saturday night with other campers who are remaining on camp. There will be a more laid-back set of program options for campers that stay on camp during changeover. Full meals will be served. Campers will consolidate into fewer cabins that night so may need to pack up sleeping bags and move a few cabins over just for one night. **If you are taking your camper off camp for a few hours or overnight, please check in at the office when you leave and provide your expected arrival time back at camp so that staff can be prepared.**

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:30 AM	Reveille
7:55 AM	Colors: Cabin roll call, raising the flag and Pledge of Allegiance
8:00 AM	Breakfast, singing in the dining hall, and announcements
9:00 AM	Camp duties
9:30 AM	First period of morning program
10:00 AM	Second period of morning program
10:30 AM	Third period of morning program
11:00 AM	Fourth period of morning program
11:30 AM	Cabin time-all campers and staff meet in the cabin
12:00 PM	Lunch and announcements
1:00 PM	Junior camper rest hour
2:00 PM	First period of afternoon program
3:00 PM	Second period of afternoon program, plus snack offered in the dining hall
4:00 PM	Free swim
5:00 PM	Cabin clean-up
5:50 PM	Colors: Cabin roll call, lowering the flag
6:00 PM	Dinner, singing in the dining hall, and announcements
7:30 PM	Evening program
9:15 PM	Taps and lights out

DAILY SCHEDULE EXPLAINED

7:30 AM – Wake up to the sound of our live bugle
A typical day at Billings begins with the rousing sound of our camp bugler playing reveille. Then, you will make your way to the clock tower lawn to stand together with the whole camp and watch the raising of the flag.

8:00 AM – Time for breakfast
Meals are served family-style with your cabin group. Three times a day, you will catch up with your cabin group over a balanced and delicious meal. After breakfast (and dinner), we sing songs from our Official Song Book. This is when we often lose our voices from singing, cheering and banging on tables! Then, it's time for announcements: Counselors from each program area will tell us what's going on. (We will also post the activities on a board outside the dining hall).

9:00 AM – Camp Duties
Camp duties are an integral part of Camp Billings. The sign in our dining hall bears our camp motto, *"Whatever Is Worth Doing At All Is Worth Doing Well."* We learn about personal responsibility and respecting our beloved environment by being the very ones to take care of it. After breakfast, with our cabin mates and counselors, we all perform a camp duty together. This varies from watering the flowers, cleaning the showers, putting away the dry dishes, or setting the tables. This responsibility and self-reliance feels good.

9:30 AM – Morning Programs
One of the best things about Billings is that campers can choose the programs they want to participate in every day. And there is so much choice! The counselors encourage campers to try them all. We have a balance of both instructional and recreational, competitive, or non-competitive options. The only mandatory program is swim lessons for thirty minutes every morning. Programs run until 11:30 AM.

11:30 AM – Cabin Time / Lunch / Rest Hour
The middle of the day is a great time to change, read and respond to mail that is received, read books, and listen to music. Lunch is at noon, and is served family style. We get an amazing salad bar on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. After lunch, junior campers go back to their cabins for rest, and senior campers have a chance to hang out with friends. This is also the time we open the Camp Store. Each day, it is open for a specific group. Campers get to go to the Camp Store twice per session.

2:00 PM – Afternoon Programs and Free Swim
This is another opportunity to try new things! Then, at 4 PM, the waterfront is open for Free Swim. If we are not already at the waterfront, we grab a buddy and head to the waterfront to go down the slide, jump off the high dive, practice our strokes, or just float on some foam noodles in our perfect lake.

5:00 PM – Cabin Clean-Up and Dinner
At 5 PM everyone goes back to the cabin to clean up their own area, and the cabin as a whole. Everyone pitches in to ensure the shared living space is clean and safe. Each camper will get a different cabin duty every day. Those include taking out the trash, sweeping the floor, and checking the clotheslines for dry clothes. Dinner is at 6 PM for another delicious meal family style.

7:30 PM – Evening Program and Taps
Following dinner, all campers take part in our evening program, such as a camp-wide game of Capture the Flag, water games, dances, or campfires. On the way back to their cabins, campers are covered with the blanket of the wondrous Vermont star-filled sky. Campers then prepare for bed and lights to go out as the bugler blows Taps around 9:15 PM. There are always staff members outside on duty for anything campers need, and cabins get a little "flashlight time" to enjoy card games, play Mad-Libs or just chat about the day.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

MEDICATIONS

Please list ALL medications (over-the-counter and prescription) that the camper will be bringing to camp (including vitamins). Per American Camp Association standards, ALL medications MUST be stored in the infirmary. Our nurses have standing orders to administer certain medications. Please note that it is NOT permitted to send any medication to camp to leave in the cabins, including acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), Benadryl, cold medications, Neosporin, Bacitracin, Solarcaine, or Orajel. Do NOT leave these medications with your camper.

If you are sending medications to camp:

- ALL medications (over-the-counter and prescription) must be in the ORIGINAL container. Do not send medications in weekly pill dispensers or in plastic bags.
- Label all medications including nasal sprays and inhalers (not just the boxes) with the camper's full name.
- Send enough medication for the entire camp stay. Arrange to send refills, if necessary, in advance of running out of medication.
- Check expiration dates on medications especially inhalers.

TICK PREVENTION

To reduce the risk of tick bites, our property is treated for ticks twice each summer. Counselors encourage daily tick checks, and our nurses are available to help check for ticks.

BED-WETTING

If your camper wets the bed, please make a note in CampInTouch so we can handle any accidents discreetly.

SPECIAL NEEDS/CIRCUMSTANCES

Camp Billings and its staff are not trained or equipped to support children with extensive physical, emotional, or educational needs. To provide the best possible experience for your child and for all members of our camp family, please contact our Executive Director, Yutaka Tamura (yutaka@campbillings.org), to discuss any special considerations with our team before registering.

The nurses' email is actively checked in June, July, and August each summer: nurses@campbillings.org

IMMUNIZATIONS

The health and safety of our camp community is of utmost importance. Because of the communal living at Camp Billings and in an effort to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, campers must be up to date on routine childhood vaccines, following the school immunization requirements of the Vermont Department of Health (see healthvermont.gov). The Camp, in its discretion, may modify its immunization requirements based on a variety of factors, including, but no limited to, public health concerns, governmental requirements, or operational needs. You will be asked to upload immunization records with your camper's health forms in CampInTouch. Medical exemptions will be considered on an individualized basis, but generally, they are limited to contraindications recognized by the CDC or its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). All medical exemptions must be approved by our nursing team. Please contact our nursing team before registering if you plan to request one. A medical exemption request must be documented by a licensed healthcare provider who is authorized to prescribe vaccines and is able to certify in writing that a specific immunization is or may be detrimental to the camper's health. The nursing team may request additional information to properly evaluate the request. Except as otherwise required by applicable law, Camp Billings does not accept religious, philosophical, moral, or personal-belief exemptions.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

If your camper is ill (e.g., has a cold or fever or has been exposed to any infectious diseases), please contact the camp before Arrival Day. We will ask you to wait to bring your camper to camp until they are healthy.

You will be notified if your camper becomes ill at camp and requires an overnight stay in the infirmary and/or a visit to the camp pediatrician, sustains an injury requiring medical attention, or experiences severe homesickness.

In our experience, most campers do best when they continue their regular medication at camp. If your camper takes medication for ADHD during the school year, please consult with your child's doctor regarding any potential changes during camp, and please let our nurses know your plan.

MEALS



Campers love the food at Camp Billings!
We offer a wide range of foods throughout the session, so there is always something for everyone. Campers eat with their cabin mates and counselors, and all meals are served family-style in our historic dining hall.

Breakfast always includes a hot item like pancakes or eggs, as well as cereal, fruit, and juice.
Lunch is a great time to connect with friends over grilled cheese sandwiches, broccoli chicken Alfredo, or tacos. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday we also offer a massive all-you-can-eat salad bar!

Dinners are the best at Billings. Everything is homemade, from chicken parm and meatloaf, to stuffed peppers and a full Thanksgiving turkey dinner!

We partner with our good friends Tim, Janet, and Phil at Crossroad Farm just down the street. As soon as they have produce available we put it on our menu: lettuce, peas, carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, and sweet corn, to name a few! We also buy all our beef from Robie Family Farms in Piermont, NH.

And camp wouldn't be camp without a few special treats: corn dogs, cinnamon buns, bug juice, and pizza cookies are some of the things we sprinkle in throughout the session.

Our kitchen follows the highest standard of safety and sanitation and meets all nationally recognized safety standards indicated by the American Camp Association. Our facilities are also inspected annually by the State of Vermont.

Dietary Restrictions
Vegetarian and gluten-free meals are available. When you register, please list all dietary needs and food allergies in CampInTouch so the kitchen can plan accordingly. Our kitchen is small and can't always accommodate significant dietary needs or allergies. If you have questions, please contact us before registering.

Fun in the Dining Hall
Campers and their counselors spend time together in the dining hall and get to know each other as they share highlights from the day. After breakfast and dinner, a few of our staff lead the camp in singing songs from our Official Camp Billings Songbook.

Of course, each session of each year is unique, and our group of campers as a whole is especially skilled at coming up with spontaneous cheers and "unofficial" songs. For example, one time the whole camp used their forks, cups, and plates to make an awesome beat. A few campers started a catchy rhythm by banging on the tables, and then other campers joined in with their spoons and cups for the accompaniments. It was a spontaneous moment that took hold of the entire dining hall. Even the director's table joined in. And it could only have happened because of our philosophy that campers' spirits need to be celebrated.



An ode to the WATERFRONT

By Lucky 13, Session 4, Summer 2023

One of Cabin 13's favorite places at Camp Billings is the silver sands and lapping waves of the waterfront. In addition to our funning (i.e. swimming) lessons, you'll find Cabin 13 (among many others) diving for rings in the lanes, doing tricks off the high dive, or going for a relaxing cruise on a paddle board. There's something unique about Lake Fairlee that keeps us coming back year after year. Especially for those without regular access to a large body of water, the lake is a cherished location that we've strived to get the most out of despite any inclement weather.

SWIMMING LESSONS AND TESTS

Swimming lessons are a required part of our daily program. All campers will be placed in a swimming lesson based on Camp's previous records of swimming ability and/or conversations with parents at drop off. Campers with advanced swimming and water safety knowledge may be asked to be an aide during swimming lessons.

Early in each session our waterfront staff will hold two swimming tests. Our Float Test is a lifeguard accompanied swim from our deep dock, around both of our deep floats and returning back to our dock. Passing the Float Test allows campers to participate in swimming lessons, snorkeling, and free swim in our deep end and to swim to the floats. The Boat Test is a lifeguard accompanied swim from the middle of the lake to our docks while wearing clothing. Campers who pass the Boat Test are permitted to go to all program areas on our waterfront. Life jackets are always required during any boating activity.



MAIL AND PACKAGE POLICY

In an effort to return to a more simplistic era and support unity amongst our campers while allowing them to remain removed from the outside world, Camp Billings is now package-free. Many other camps these days are package-free as well, so our approach is in line with existing camp industry trends. We have found that going package-free has been a positive move for camp, campers, and parents.

What is allowable:

- **Letters!** All the letters and standard mailing envelopes you want - provided they can fit through a standard envelope slot at the post office.

- **Forgotten Items!** If you need to send some essential items that were forgotten at home such as glasses, retainers, or a spare inhaler, please send them labeled Attn: Office Staff and we will be sure to get them to your camper. Please also email the office ahead of time (office@campbillings.org) to let us know to expect the package.

- **Birthday packages!** If your child has a birthday during camp then they may receive a food/candy-free package for their birthday. Please clearly mark these packages with the word "Birthday" on them and call or email the office ahead of time to let them know to expect it: office@campbillings.org.



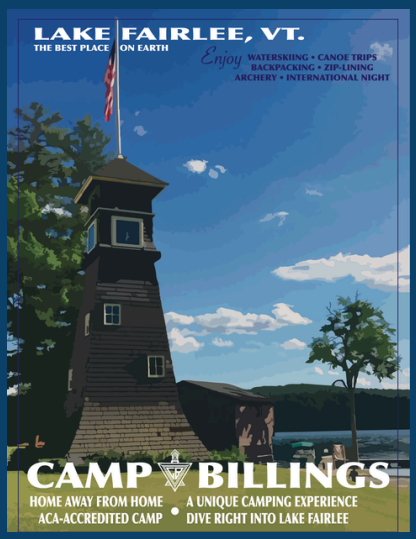
Any other packages sent to campers will be returned to the sender unopened. Packages are defined as any items received in the mail other than a regular flat envelope (up to the size of a flat "9 X 12" envelope). This policy also applies to packages brought on check-in day.

CONTACT WITH YOUR CAMPER

All mail can be addressed to:

Camp Billings
c/o Camper Name (Cabin #)
1452 VT RT-244
Fairlee VT 05045-9620

**Please note that this address is for the summer only*



PHONE CALLS While at camp, your camper will be reachable by mail only. Phone calls are reserved for campers who are at camp on their birthday. If a camper stays longer than 2 weeks, and parents or guardians are unable to visit during changeover weekend, the office can schedule a phone call. To do so, please contact the office.

HOMESICKNESS Missing home is normal, especially in the first few days, and most campers settle in quickly once they're busy and making friends. Counselors watch for campers who are struggling and help them through it, and we will contact you if homesickness becomes severe. You can help by speaking positively about camp before arrival and by not promising an early pick-up. In your letters, ask about activities and friends rather than how much you miss them. Limiting contact with home helps campers settle in, which is why we keep phone calls to a minimum.

CELL PHONES No phones, smartwatches, tablets, or other internet-enabled devices are allowed at camp. Please refer to our Community Expectations for more detail.

CAMERAS We encourage campers to bring film or digital cameras to camp. Digital cameras should be cameras only, not a smart device with access to wifi, cellular service, internet, or video games of any type. Just old-school cameras to take photos!





CAMPER ACCOUNTS

Items from Camp Store, optional trips (e.g., canoe, backpacking), medications, stamps and stationary, and certain special events are charged to camper accounts. Parents will pay for their camper's account by cash or card when checking out in the office on pick-up day. For planning purposes, camper accounts average about $20-40 per camper for a two-week session.

CAMP STORE

Our Camp Store is open for 30 minutes after lunch several days a week. Announcements will be made at lunch about which cabins have access to the camp store that day. Each cabin will get to go to Camp Store once in the first week and once in the second week of each session.

Cash is NOT needed at Camp Store and should not be brought to camp. Campers will charge their purchases to their camper account. Items for purchase include soft drinks, lemonade, and candy. At each visit to Camp Store, a camper is allowed to purchase a maximum of one candy and two drinks, or two candies and one drink.

The camp store does not carry pharmaceuticals or toiletries. If a camper has needs for things like shampoo or a new toothbrush, they can visit the nurse and procure it there at no charge.

In addition, Camp Store has souvenirs like t-shirts, sweatshirts, blankets, pennants, sweatpants, hats, pajama pants, water bottles, bumper stickers, lanyards, and our songbook.

You can find Camp Billings gear year-round on our site at: https://campbillings.org/store.

