



2024 Parent Handbook

**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING BREC TO MEET
YOUR CHILD'S SUMMER ADVENTURE NEEDS!**

There are amazing camp opportunities at many BREC Community Recreation and Special Interest facilities across the parish. We are excited to present another fantastic summer lineup of activities designed to engage your children, ignite their imaginations, and connect them to BREC parks, programs, and beyond. We hope your CAMP BREC experience will be as rewarding for you and your family as it is for all of us who are dedicated to bringing you exceptional service. Please remember to provide us with your feedback so we can continue improving our offerings. All of us at CAMP BREC wish you a wonderful summer!





No environment is risk-free. To provide a fun and safe summer environment, we are sharing with you our CAMP BREC policies and procedures. Please review camp rules with your child and emphasize the importance of following rules while attending our summer camp sessions. This is key for everyone to have a clear idea of what to expect from the CAMP BREC experience.

We hope you will find this information helpful and as always, we are open to any questions or suggestions that you may have concerning any of BREC's policies and/or procedures. It is BREC's belief that our success is not possible without you.

CAMP BREC OBJECTIVES ARE TO PROVIDE:

- High-quality, reasonably affordable camps.
- Summer Camp experiences that are rich and stimulating with an assortment of unique learning and recreational activities that foster the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical well-being of every camper.
- Regular, open communications to parents about camp/camper challenges, concerns, or changes.
- A safe space for any child to grow, learn, and be themselves. BREC is for everyone.





INCLUSIVE STATEMENT

It is the mission of BREC to provide programs to all individuals in East Baton Rouge Parish. In order to best serve our community members with disabilities, assessments are requested of all potential and recurring BREC participants, with a disclosed disability, to determine appropriate accommodations or modifications for the programs.

Assessments are done to make sure that all participants have the tools needed to successfully participate as well as to make sure the activity of interest is the correct setting for the participant.

- **New Program Members:** New participants that would like to have an assessment should contact Molly Phillips, Program Coordinator of Adaptive and Adult Leisure. Assessment will be conducted by either Molly or Casey Cantrelle, Adaptive Recreation Manager and will be assisted by members of the Adaptive Recreation staff. Assessments consist of completing necessary paperwork and an interactive experience with our staff.
- **Ongoing Program Members:** Assessment paperwork will be updated annually and should include any goals the Parent/Guardian or participant wishes to achieve throughout the program.



- **Participant Requirements:** Requirements are dependent on each program. They include, but are not limited to: independent toileting, independent feeding, staying with a group, and adequately functioning within the staff to participant ratio of the group. If the participant is unable to fulfill the program requirements a 1:1 aid will be required and must be arranged by the Parent/Guardian.
 - Does your child have a disability? Do they need accommodations or inclusion services to participate in summer camp? Sign up for summer camp assessments.
 - NAIRN DRIVE PARK
 - Monday + Wednesday
 - March 4 - May 10 / 3:30-5:30 p.m.
 - recadaptive@brec.org / 225-272-9200 EXT 1561
 - All campers with a diagnosed disability must undergo an assessment with a BREC Adaptive staff member. The assessment must be completed prior to starting camp. Assessments are required prior to registration for all Sunshine Camps.

CAMP BREC REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian must make sure that all information provided during registration is still accurate, including contact information, allergies, emergency contacts and who can pick up their camper.

In case of emergency, BREC will not be responsible for notifying appropriate guardian due to insufficient or inaccurate information on registration information. BREC staff will contact YOU through this information provided in the event of an accident, injury, unwanted behavior, or any other type of communication that needs to occur.



Parent/Guardian are required to inform BREC of any changes during summer camp immediately and in writing. If you need to make BREC aware of changes that have taken place to your household, or if you would like to verify the information we have on file, the best point of contact is the recreation center or facility that hosts your camp.

REFUND POLICY: All refunds must be requested on a 2024 Summer Camp Refund form by email to summercamps@brec.org or by fax: 225-273-6407. A refund request must be submitted a minimum of 10 business days prior to the start of the session. In most cases, the full session fee will be refunded minus a \$15 transaction fee. A refund will not be approved for a session in progress. The transmittal date on the refund request (email or faxed) determines if a refund is granted. All checks must clear the bank before any refunds are processed. Please allow 3 - 4 weeks for a refund to be issued.

- ... Sessions beginning May 28 ** Refund request due by May 13
- ... Sessions beginning June 3 ** Refund request due by May 20
- ... Sessions beginning June 10 ** Refund request due by May 27
- ... Sessions beginning June 17 ** Refund request due by June 3
- ... Sessions beginning June 24 ** Refund request due by June 10
- ... Sessions beginning July 1 ** Refund request due by June 17
- ... Sessions beginning July 8 ** Refund request due by June 24
- ... Sessions beginning July 15 ** Refund request due by July 1
- ... Sessions beginning July 22 ** Refund request due by July 8
- ... Sessions beginning July 29 ** Refund request due by July 15

MEDICATIONS

If your camper is taking medication at camp, a medication log must be filled out before their session starts and provided to Camp Director.





Every effort should be made by the Parent/Guardian to administer medication prior to/after camp hours. If this is not possible then BREC Staff will assist in the medication according to the information provided by the Parent/Guardian on this form. Staff may not accept medication that is not in its original container or that is past the expiration date on the container. The information provided by the Parent/Guardian should match the directions on the original container as well. The original container should have the following information on it: **camper's name, type of medication, time dosage to be given, and other specific instructions.** Registered campers are not allowed dispensing their own medication. BREC staff will only accept the exact dosage needed during the registered program hours. The staff will not be responsible for administering injections.

WHO IS WORKING WITH YOUR CAMPER

BREC Summer Camp Counselors and Directors are recruited primarily from local school systems, universities, and other fields of work & study that involve youth and recreation. All our staff are background checked and undergo a thorough 40+ hour training course at the start of each summer. Our camp staff are well equipped not only to run a successful camp, but to also ensure that the emotional, mental, and physical well-being of every child is at the forefront of what we do.

CAMPER ACTIVITY APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

Parent/Guardian, please send your child to camp dressed activity-appropriate for indoor and outdoor activities. It is recommended that your camper bring their own sunscreen and insect repellent to camp at the beginning of each day (packed in their lunch bag) or be sprayed before being dropped off each morning.



***Our camp staff will remind campers regularly to apply sunscreen, however STAFF WILL NOT APPLY SUNSCREEN DIRECTLY TO CAMPERS.

CAMPER DRESS CODE

- Camp staff will ensure that all campers are dressed appropriately for safe play and participation in planned camp activities. The Camp Director will inform Parent/Guardian if camper attire is inappropriate for that specific camp location.
- Clothing which contains logos or inferences about alcohol, drugs or messages of a violent or sexual nature are not allowed.
- Current year camper shirts are required to be worn on field trip days.
- Clothing should be activity appropriate. Shorts should be of a length to be comfortable while not exposing any private areas when kneeling, squatting, bending over, or sitting cross-legged. No cut off shorts are acceptable. No excessively baggy or tight pants should be worn. Form fitting shorts or pants should be worn with a longer t-shirt to cover the buttocks.
- Swimsuits should be sturdy and able to withstand active play. Suits must have a liner and not be see through when wet. (no string bikinis or loose board shorts). If you are not sure if your child's swimsuit is appropriate check with the Camp Director.
- Shirts must be worn when not actively involved in water activities.
- Campers are required to wear activity appropriate closed toe shoes. Water shoes are allowed only at water activities.
- Jewelry must be kept to a minimum. It is unsafe to wear large dangle or hoop earrings. Jewelry could also be misplaced or lost during field trips and active play.
- Staff will document and report any inappropriate attire to their next level supervisor.



BATHROOM ACCIDENTS

- If a camper has a wetting or potty accident, the Parent/Guardian will be called to pick them up or bring a change of clothing immediately.
- If dry clothes are available, the camper will be able to change him/herself with limited staff assistance. The Parent/Guardian will be notified right away of clothes change.
- Staff will document and report recurring accidents to their next level supervisor.

SWIM/WATER DAY

For swim/water days, please send your camper already dressed in their swimsuit, with their camp clothes on top. On these days, they should bring a bag with necessities for changing after swimming, along with a towel. Camper should be able to change in/out of wet clothes without assistance.

TYPICAL SUMMER CAMP DAY

Structured activities are provided for campers throughout the day. All activities, equipment, field trips, arts/crafts are already paid for through the summer camp registration fee, no additional money should be sent with the camper each day! They are not permitted to purchase items, including concessions/souvenirs.

WHAT TO BRING DAILY TO CAMP?

BREC is not responsible for personal possessions of any kind for BREC Staff and/or campers. Be sure that your camper's name is written on his/her belongings (lunch boxes, water bottles, beach towels, backpacks, baseball caps, etc.).

Please keep all electronics (**including phones, tablets, or other gaming devices**) and any item that could be considered a weapon at home.





Parents/Guardians are encouraged to check the contents of their camper's bags before dropping off at camp. If the camper is found to have such items as above, BREC staff will store the item until the camper is picked up from camp that day by the Parent/Guardian.

SNACKS/LUNCH

Campers will need to bring two snacks each day, one for the morning and afternoon. Some camps provide additional, thematic snacks that your child may or may not like.

- BREC recommends that you send healthy snacks for your camper each day.
- Your camper's lunch must be a non-microwavable meal.
- You should send enough drinks for your camper to last all day. Please limit number of carbonated drinks (water and juices are preferred). We recommend sending a water bottle that can be refilled throughout the day.

DROPPING OFF YOUR CAMPER

- Community Recreation Summer Camps drop-off and pick-up times are no earlier than 7 a.m. and no later than 5:30 p.m.
**Campers are not allowed to be dropped off early or left unattended to wait for camp to open.
- Camp Sunshine drop-off and pick-up times are no earlier than 7 a.m. and no later than 3:30 p.m.
- If you are attending a Special Interest Camp (Equestrian, Art, Conservation, etc.), you should receive a welcome email with drop-off and pick-up times specific to each camp.
- As a convenience, you will not be required to "walk your camper into the facility each day. You will receive a CAMP BREC dashboard sign with their name on it, as well as the facility phone number.





- When you arrive, if staff is not outside to receive your camper, please contact the cell/facility number listed on your dashboard sign. BREC staff will be required to sign every camper in and out.

***Parents/Guardians are requested not to visit campers during summer camp activities, except in the event of an emergency. It is camp policy to notify Parents/Guardians in the event of an accident, injury, or discipline problem. However, if you have questions or concerns regarding your camper or Summer Camp, you should speak to the Camp Director at the facility. The Camp Director is in-charge of the daily operation, counselors, and other campers.*

WHO CAN PICK UP MY CAMPER?

- Campers are not permitted to be signed in or to leave camp with anyone other than his/her Parent/Guardian or those listed as an approved person for pickup during registration (who drops a camper off is not as important as who picks them up).
- When anyone from this approved list comes to pick up your camper and they do not have your dashboard sign, they must call the facility number and have their current picture ID present. Please have photo ID available whether camp staff knows you or not.
- Only the Parent/Guardian who enrolled a camper in Summer Camp is approved to make changes to the list of individuals authorized to pick up a camper. These changes cannot be phoned in, but must be done in-person, in writing.

CAMP BREC Specialty Camp BUS STOPS

- This summer, CAMP BREC is offering a transportation service for all Community Recreation camps to assist parents and guardians in getting their campers to the main camp location.



- Parents/Guardians are required to provide adequate supervision until the camper is signed in with a BREC staff member.
- Failure to provide adequate supervision for your camper before they are signed in with the BREC staff member will result in being dismissed from camp and a report being filed with the appropriate authorities.
- Community Recreation Specialty Camp bus stops:
 - **Anna T. Jordan Community Park**- Mills Avenue Park
 - **Baker Recreation Center**- TD Bickham Park + Alsen Park
 - **Church Street Park**- Plank Road Park
 - **Forest Community Park**- Antioch Boulevard Park + Cedar Ridge Park
 - **Highland Road Community Park**- Ben Burge Park + Mayfair Park
 - **Howell Community Park**- Gus Young + Longfellow Park
 - **Independence Community Park**- Saia Park + North Street Park
 - **Lovett Road Park**- Hooper Road Park + Jackson Community Park
 - **North Sherwood Forest Community Park**- Hamilton Park + Maplewood Park

FIELD TRIPS

Please ensure you have the weekly schedule beforehand and are aware of bus departing times. If you are late on a field trip day, please note that it is the bus driver's policy not to stop the bus once it has left BREC premises.

- To provide quality experiences for our campers, our field trips can sometimes take place outside of EBR Parish.
- Parent/Guardian shall never, under any circumstance, attempt to stop a CAMP BREC bus once it has left a camp site.



- For campers arriving late to camp/field trip, it is the responsibility of the Parent/Guardian to bring their camper to the field trip location on that day and sign your camper in with the Camp Director.

CAMPER MISBEHAVIOR POLICY

CAMP BREC is created with consideration for content, pace, transitioning, and activity diversity to minimize causes for camper misbehavior.

- Parents/Guardians are responsible for working with summer camp staff to resolve any unwanted behaviors.
- Upon the severity of the unwanted behaviors a camper may:
 - Be redirected.
 - Be given friendly verbal reminders.
 - Be given a timeout.
 - Have an activity taken away.
 - Be sent home for the remainder of the day.
 - Be excluded from an upcoming field trip.
 - Be dismissed from the remainder of camp session(s).

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as an intentional, repeated act meant to harm another person physically, emotionally, or through exclusion via in-person interaction, digital communication, or virtual mediums that staff and campers interact on during BREC programming.

****Bullying will not be tolerated by any means from anyone.**

BREC reserves the right to dismiss any camper, whose conduct or influence is unsatisfactory or detrimental to the best interests of the camp, as determined entirely at the discretion of BREC. If needed, Parent/Guardian will be required to pick up the camper immediately upon being notified of being sent home or expelled from camp.





ABSENCE/ILLNESS

- If a camper is absent on the first day of camp a BREC staff person will call to verify that the camper will be attending camp. A phone call home will also be placed if a camper misses 2 consecutive days.
- Please do not send your campers to camp if they have fever, diarrhea, or vomiting. They will be sent home.
- Please notify us if a camper is ill or if they test positive for any contagious illness.
 - *For any contagious illness, your camper must be symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication before returning to camp.*
- For campers that test positive for COVID:
 - A camper who tests positive for COVID but has no symptoms must stay out of camp for a minimum of 3 consecutive days. On their return they must wear a mask for an additional 5 consecutive days when indoors or near others.
 - If the camper tests positive and exhibits symptoms, they must stay out of camp for a minimum of 5 consecutive days. Once they no longer exhibit symptoms for 24 hours without the use of meds, they may return to camp and wear a mask for 5 consecutive days when indoors or near others.
 - At those sites where a camper tested positive, we sanitize the camp area and continue hand washing and sanitizing camp areas throughout the day. We will also social distance as much as possible especially on the bus.





COMMUNITY RECREATION SPECIALTY CAMPS: AGES 5-10 YEARS

Buckle your seatbelts for an exciting summer with our Specialty camps! We have developed eight weeks that will concentrate on adding fun and variety (and some learning) to the summer! We will have expert guests/instructors, field trips, crafts and activities that support that week's specialty!

Locations: Anna T. Jordan Community Park, Baker Recreation Center, Church Street Park, Forest Community Park, Highland Road Community Park, Howell Community Park, Independence Community Park, Lovett Road Park, North Sherwood Forest Community Park

- **Adventure Island** = Campers will be given an opportunity to uncover the wonders of the natural world through play, exploration, games and crafts. Your camper can expect walking, climbing, exploring, open-ended art, nature games, fishing, magical stories and lots of structured nature play during this week.
- **Animal Adventures** = Let us crawl, growl and prowl down to BREC where we will have a ball during the animal-themed week of activities, crafts and games. During this adventurous week, there will be in person encounters with creepy creatures and adorable animals.
- **Discovery Camp** = This BREC STEAM camp is an exciting and immersive summer program that focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. This camp provides children and young learners with the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities, explore new modes of thinking, and develop essential skills. STEAM camps also provide a platform for children to develop important 21st-century skills such as communication, collaboration, and creativity.





• **Fan Fest** = Join us for an exciting week of camp dedicated to the love of sports! Campers, wear your favorite jerseys and let us know which team you're the ultimate fan of. We'll explore how sports have shaped the world and impacted each camper personally. Get ready to get fired up and showcase your passion for your favorite sports and teams. It's a week of fun, fandom, and discovering the impact of sports on us all!

• **Fit + Fresh** = Are you ready to explore your level of fitness by taking it to the next level! Join us for a fun filled week of various fitness activities, field trips and guests. Campers will create a workout plan and a healthy meal. Fit week will help campers learn what it takes to be healthy both physically and mentally while having fun!

• **Olympic Odyssey** = In celebration of the upcoming 2024 Summer Olympics, campers will embark on an exciting journey of athleticism, teamwork, and friendly competition. Inspired by the Olympic spirit, our camp combines traditional summer camp fun with a series of challenging events like relay races, team sports and field games, while fostering a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship.

• **Splash-In** = Are you ready to make a splash? Join us for an unforgettable week of swim lessons and water safety activities! Pack your towel, goggles, and sunscreen, and get ready to dive into an exciting aquatic adventure. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned swimmer, our programs are designed to help you develop your skills and stay safe in the water. Don't miss out on this opportunity to have fun and learn something new. Lessons in partnership with Crawfish Aquatics.



• **Wonka Week** = Get your **GOLDEN TICKET** and join us for Wonka Week! Campers will enjoy **EVERLASTING** fun making sweet treats and participating in **GOBSTOPPING** activities! It will be a week of pure imagination.

BREC BEGINNINGS – SUMMER SESSION

BREC offers this part-time program as an opportunity for children ages 3-4 years to experience and observe their natural world through observation and play. The curriculum focuses on inspiring curiosity, creativity, and socialization through arts and crafts, songs, physical activity and more. This year we are offering a special summer session with slightly extended hours so we can offer more recreational opportunities for this age group. Monday-Friday. 8am-12pm.

• Locations: Church Street Park, Forest Community Park, Highland Community Park, Jackson Community Park

CAMP RED STICK

Calling all 11-14 year-olds who thrive on all things adventure, fun, and friendship! Camp Red Stick is the ultimate teen enrichment camp where summer is not just a break but a journey of discovery. Come enjoy vibrant mix of art and technology activities, weekly field trips, swimming, life skills workshops, and lots of other exciting recreational activities. It's a summer to unplug, connect with friends, and explore new horizons with BREC!

- Locations: Antioch Boulevard Park, Gus Young Avenue Park, North Sherwood Forest Community Park, Plank Road Park





LIT (LEADERS IN TRAINING)

NEW! Our leadership In Training program is designed for aspiring leaders that are interested in becoming Camp Counselors. LITs will participate in a blend of team-building activities, hands-on experiences and field trips that foster leadership skills including effective communication, problem-solving and decision-making. Participants will gain insight on leadership styles and techniques and empower them to become confident, inclusive leaders, ready to make a positive impact in the community and as a summer Camp Counselor. Space is limited to 10 camps.

- Milton J. Womack Park
- 7am-5:30pm / Ages 15-17

CAMP SUNSHINE

Camp Sunshine is an exclusive camp for campers with intellectual and developmental disabilities who can function within a staff ration of 1:5. During each themed week, campers will enjoy recreational games and activities, arts and crafts, field trips, water activities, and inclusive activities with other BREC summer camps to socialize and interact with their peers. Monday-Friday. 7am-3:30pm

- Locations:
 - 8–11-year-olds - Jefferson Hwy Park
 - 12–17-year-olds - Nairn Drive Park
 - 18+ - Womack Park





SPECIAL INTEREST CAMPS

In addition to Community Recreation Specialty Camps, CAMP BREC sessions are also offered at most of BREC's Special Interest facilities (like Highland Road Observatory, Magnolia Mound Historic House, Independence Park Theatre, Extreme Sports, to name a few). These camps can help further your child's passion for the arts, history, science, conservation, outdoor adventure, sports, and more. There are many camp opportunities for children ages 5 years and up, even a few Counselor-in-Training sessions for our eldest campers, to nurture our next generation of CAMP BREC team members. With the multitude of CAMP BREC opportunities in the parish, the possibilities for summer fun are endless!

REPORTING OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT

All BREC staff are mandated reporters. We are required by Louisiana law to report any witnessed or suspected abuse to either the Department of Children and Family Services or to local law enforcement. All reports will be made in good faith with the well-being of the camper first and foremost.

Abuse and neglect are defined by the Department of Family Services as follows:

- "Abuse" means any one of the following acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of the child:
 - The infliction, attempted infliction, or, as a result of inadequate supervision, the allowance of the infliction or attempted infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child by a parent or any other person.
 - The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person, including but not limited to commercial sexual exploitation of the child.





• The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person, or the aiding or toleration by the parent, caretaker, or any other person of the child's involvement in any of the following:

- Any sexual act with any other person.
- Pornographic displays.
- Any sexual activity constituting a crime under the laws of this state.
- A coerced abortion conducted upon a child.
- Female genital mutilation as defined by R.S. 14:43.4.

"Neglect" means the refusal or unreasonable failure of a parent or caretaker to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, care, treatment, or counseling for any injury, illness, or condition of the child, as a result of which the child's physical, mental, or emotional health and safety is substantially threatened or impaired. Neglect includes prenatal neglect. Consistent with Article 606(B), the inability of a parent or caretaker to provide for a child due to inadequate financial resources shall not, for that reason alone, be considered neglect. Whenever, in lieu of medical care, a child is being provided treatment in accordance with the tenets of a well-recognized religious method of healing which has a reasonable, proven record of success, the child shall not, for that reason alone, be considered to be neglected or maltreated. However, nothing herein shall prohibit a court from ordering medical services for the child when there is substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare. This also includes instances of camper-on-camper abuse.