



# Frequently Asked Questions

## RECREATIONAL CAMPS

### What are RECREATIONAL CAMPS?

Recreational camps, or summer camps, are day or residential (overnight) sports, travel or wilderness programs that offer recreational activities and instruction to campers. Such camps have five or more children and typically operate between June 1 and September 30 and/or during school vacations. There are over 165 permitted recreational camps in Delaware.

### How are recreational camps in Delaware regulated?

Recreational camps are regulated by the provisions set forth in Title 16 Delaware Code Section 122, 4467 – Sanitation of Recreational Camps. The regulations provide a system of inspections, procedures and enforcement for publicly and privately owned recreational camps in Delaware.

### Which State office supervises recreational camp regulations?

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) supervises recreational camp regulations through its Health Systems Protection Section. The Recreation Camp Program protects the public health of campers, staff and visitors by minimizing illness and injury. The program requires camps to have qualified staffing, safe food and water, proper sanitary facilities and safe grounds and equipment. This is accomplished through the application, plan review, permitting and inspection process.

### Is a permit required to operate a recreational camp in Delaware?

A permit is required to operate a recreational camp in Delaware. Camps must submit an annual application at least 30 days prior to operating, and receive approval to open after an inspection. Applications are available at the Recreational Camp Program website ([www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/reccamps.html](http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/reccamps.html)) and the county Environmental Health Field Services offices. There are no fees for camp permits or inspections. New or extensively altered Recreational Camps are required to submit plans for approval 60 days before opening.

### DPH Recreation Camp Program contact information:

[www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/reccamps.html](http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/reccamps.html)

#### For permits

Environmental Health Field Services offices:

New Castle County  
Chopin Building  
258 Chapman Rd.  
Newark, DE 19702  
302-283-7100

Kent County  
Thomas Collins Building, Ste.5  
540 S. DuPont Hwy.  
Dover, DE 19901  
Phone: 302-744-1220  
Fax: 302-739-1957

Sussex County  
Georgetown State Service Ctr.  
544 S. Bedford St.  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
Phone: 302-856-5496  
Fax: 302-856-5065

### For more information:

- Delaware Division of Public Health, [www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph](http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph)
- *Infectious Diseases in Childcare Settings – Second Edition, January 2006*, <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/chca/files/childcaremanual.pdf>

**24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156**

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Page 1 of 1