

2009



Parents Guide

WELCOME TO *KIDS RULE* SUMMER DAY CAMP!

(The coolest summer camp around!!)

About Our Camp

Kids Rule began in the summer of 1998 as a 4-week camp with only 35 children and 5 counselors. My, how we've grown since then! Now entering our tenth year, we proudly serve over 210 children per day throughout an eight week summer session headed by 30 counselors and 2 Co-Directors. Having fun and creating long-lasting memories is what we're all about – and we're glad you've chosen to join us for the summer.

Meet our Camp Co-Directors

Ken Reynolds (Mr. Ken) is in his fourth year as Co-Director, and has additional Kids Rule experience as a yellow group counselor. He has been a part of the Rowan community for nine years, seven of them at the Rec Center; graduating from Rowan with a B.A. in Social Economics and an M.B.A. in Business. Ken is also an Assistant Director of the Rec Center and holds a year round position there. His main role as Co-Director include camp enrollment and registration, coordination of all trips and special events, making tough decisions and winning in medic (dodgeball).

Jen Schoepflin (Miss Jen) has a great deal of history with Kids Rule Summer Day Camp. This will be her second year as director after joining the directorial staff last year. Previously she was an age group counselor for a year, as well as a sports instructor for two years. Interestingly enough, Miss Jen was a camper during the early years of camp, and was also a Counselor in Training. Miss Jen is currently a fifth grade teacher. She graduated in May 2008, with a B.A. in Psychology from Drew University. She holds teaching certifications at the elementary school level, preschool level, and is certified to teach students with disabilities. Miss Jen is looking forward to a great summer!

*I tried to teach my child with books, he gave me only puzzled looks.
I tried to teach my child with words; They passed him by often unheard.
Despairingly, I turned aside, "How shall I teach this child?" I cried.
Into my hands he put the key, "Come," he said, "PLAY WITH ME."*

IMPORTANT STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

Contact Information

Rowan Recreation Center (Main Office-emergency contact)	(856) 256 - 4900
Kids Rule Camp (Jen Schoepflin/ Ken Reynolds)	(856) 256- 4908
Email	reynoldsk@rowan.edu
Fax	(856) 256-4428
Website	www.rowan.edu/rec

Rec Center Membership

Summer memberships to the facility are available for parents and children over the age of 5. For those of you who indicated that you were purchasing a membership in order to receive the reduced weekly rates, you must do so prior to your child's first week of camp. Please feel free to stop by and take a tour if you are still undecided – our staff would love to show you around!

Before Care/After Care Payments

Before Care and After Care payments must be received in our office by the dates indicated below. Late payments will incur a \$1/day charge for processing. Listed is a schedule to follow for weekly payment.

Before Care (7:00am – 8:00am) \$20 weekly or \$4 daily

After Care (4:30pm – 6:00pm) \$25 weekly or \$5 daily

*Week 2: Before Care - \$16 week, \$4 daily; After Care - \$20 week, \$5 daily

For services rendered:

Week 1 (June 22 – June 26)

Week 2 (June 29 – July 2)*

Week 3 (July 6 – July 10)

Week 4 (July 13 – July 17)

Week 5 (July 20 – July 24)

Week 6 (July 27 – July 31)

Week 7 (Aug. 3 – Aug. 7)

Week 8 (Aug. 10 – Aug. 14)

Payment due by 6pm

July 24

July 24

July 24

July 24

Aug 28

Aug 28

Aug 28

Aug 28

Note: You may choose to pay ahead of schedule.

Cancellation Policy

The following criteria will be used to determine the amount of money that will be returned to you if a cancellation is requested. This applies to each session in which the child is enrolled.

- Only the non-refundable \$25 deposit is retained for cancellation requests made four weeks prior to the enrolled camp session.
- A \$50 cancellation fee in addition to the non-refundable \$25 deposit will be charged for requests made 15 days but less than four weeks prior to the enrolled camp session.
- No refund will be given to any cancellation request made fourteen or fewer days before the camp session begins.

For example, if you are a Rec Center member with two children and on May 27th you request to cancel week I (June 22-June 26), you will be refunded \$270 [(175-25) + (145-25)]. If you cancel week I on June 4th, you will be refunded \$170 [(175-50-25) + (145-50-25)]. If you cancel week I on June 15th, you will not receive a refund.

Refunds

There are some circumstances in which full or partial refunds will be issued. All refund requests must be submitted in writing.

1. Absences

If your child is absent from camp, please call Jen or Ken(4900/4908) as soon as possible. Refunds are not available for short term illnesses, special events, vacation periods, and other personal commitments.

2. Extended Illnesses

An extended illness of 3 or more consecutive days is eligible for partial refund consideration. A doctor's note and written note from the parent or guardian explaining the situation must be received within 5 working days from the first day of absence. Upon review, applicants may be granted a pro-rated refund or credit for the missed time period.

3. Dismissal from Camp

a. We reserve the right to dismiss a child if we do not have adequate expertise or resources for the child's educational, medical, emotional, or other needs. There are also times when the camp must dismiss a child due to conditions which preclude the child from participating safely and/or effectively in a group setting. This action will take effect only after consultation has occurred with the parents, camper, and the camp director. Dismissal for the aforementioned reasons will result in a complete refund for the unused days.

b. On occasion, dismissal may be necessary for disciplinary reasons. This action will take effect only after consultation has occurred with the parents, camper, and the camp director. We will take advantage of the three strike policy and keep all incidents documented to avoid discretion. If a camper is dismissed for disciplinary measures, there will be NO REFUND for the unused days.

Disciplinary Procedures

All incidences of behavior problems will be documented and reported to the Co-Directors. In most cases, minor incidences (unacceptable language, not following directions, talking back to counselor, refusal to cooperate, pushing or shoving in lines, etc...) will result in a discussion with the camper or time-out in the office. Repeated minor incidences or major incidences (fighting or intentional infliction of pain, continuous use of profane language, endangering the safety of others, extreme temper tantrums, leaving the grounds, etc...) will result in a meeting with the parents/guardians. A third offense may result in dismissal. Children that have been dismissed for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to return for the remainder of the summer.

On rare occasions there may be incidences deemed so serious by the camp administration that immediate suspension may occur, either temporarily or for the remainder of the summer. In these instances, parents will be contacted immediately and a meeting will occur to discuss all the facts surrounding the situation.

Medications

If your child requires medication during the course of the day please make sure that you fill out a "Medication Form." These forms can be picked up from the Camp Office. The Rowan Recreation Center is allowed to dispense prescribed medication in its original package. We are prohibited from dispensing over-the-counter medicine to your child unless we receive a physician's note describing the prescribed dosage.

Lost & Found

Campers will surely lose countless items this summer. If your child loses something, please let us know and we will check in the camp lost and found. To prevent such loss, please mark all items with your child's name and address. Kids Rule Summer Day Camp is not responsible for any items lost during camp. Any items not picked up on the last day of camp will be donated to those less fortunate.

Video/Photo Release

Numerous times throughout the summer we will be taking videos/photos of your child for slide shows and promotional material. Please be sure to return the video/photograph release form to the Camp Office.

Request for Receipts for Income Tax or Other Purposes

Upon request, we will issue a final receipt indicating all deposits and payments made for camp. The Rowan Rec Center tax ID # is 222764819.

Authorization for Pick-Up and Custody Issues

For the safety of your child, we must have on file, a written authorization/permission from the legal parent/guardian, of all persons permitted to pick-up your child. Please complete the form provided; you may add or delete names in writing at any time. If there are any legal issues we should be aware of, please provide us with an updated court document stating such. We will abide by legal documents only when dealing with children and custody issues. Otherwise

either parent has equal rights to their child(ren) and the information regarding them such as invoices, medical records, and camp schedules.

SO, WHAT'S THIS CAMP ALL ABOUT??

Age Groups

The system that we have in place groups similar ages together. Throughout the entire eight weeks, we will use the following color codes to classify each group: Red Group (1st grade), Orange Group (2nd grade), Purple Group (3rd grade), Yellow Group (4th grade), Blue Group (5th grade), Green Group (6th grade), Silver Group (7th grade).

A Sample Day in the Life of Your Camper

Many parents have asked us to describe a typical day at camp. Depending on the group that your child is assigned to, activity times vary accordingly. A sample schedule for Tuesday through Thursday is as follows for the orange group:

8:45 - 9:25	Creative Expression	1:15 - 1:55	Cooperative Games
9:30 -10:10	Sports	2:00 - 2:40	Arts & Crafts
10:15 -10:55	Counselor Directed Activity	2:45 - 3:00	Snack
11:05 -11:50	Swimming	3:00 - 3:40	Large Group Activity
11:55 -12:25	Lunch		
12:30 - 1:10	Fitness/Nutrition		

Themes and Sports

Each week revolves around a theme. On Monday mornings our counselors dress up and put on skits that introduce each theme. Throughout the week, activities relate to the theme and often end on Fantastic Fridays with a fun, creative day that is planned by the co-directors. Your child may be asked to wear a particular color or come dressed a certain way. The camp experience is enhanced when we get active participation from as many campers as possible. We hope you encourage your child to have some fun with our silliness!

Theme

Week 1 Spirit Week
Week 2 Red, White, and Blue Week
Week 3 Splash Week
Week 4 All-Star Week
Week 5 Super Star Week
Week 6 Wacky Week
Week 7 Olympic Week
Week 8 Hollywood Week

Sport

Soccer
Ultimate Frisbee
Baseball/Whiffleball
Flag Football
Hodge Podge
Lacrosse
Basketball
Volleyball

Lunch and Snack

Campers have the option of purchasing lunch from Sodexo, Rowan's food service provider on Monday through Thursday. Please see enclosed menu and order form for the lunch program. Campers may also bring their own non-perishable lunch, as refrigeration is not available for individual lunches. If a camper forgets a lunch, the staff will try to contact a parent or guardian. In the event the parent or guardian cannot be reached, we will attempt to provide a lunch for the camper. As well, the camp will provide a daily snack break, which will include juice and a light snack. Afternoon snack time will vary according to the group to which your child is assigned. We highly suggest you send an additional snack for your child if you feel it is needed, or send money for use in our Juice/Smoothie Bar. We do not have vending machines in our facility.

Juice/Smoothie Bar

We are currently unsure whether the Juice/Smoothie Bar will be open this summer. We will keep you abreast of their status as we approach camp.

Swimming

Each child should bring a swimsuit and towel daily. Shoulder length hair or longer must be worn in a pony tail style; please NO bobby pins, as they clog the pool filters and drains. Masks, snorkels, fins, and swim toys are not allowed. Goggles are not required, but encouraged for children who have sensitive eyes.

Children will have the opportunity to change into their swimsuits prior to swimming. If your child wears their swimsuit to camp, please have them bring their undergarments to change into after swimming. Wet swimsuits are not advisable for children to stay in all day due to health concerns.

Camp swimming times range from 40 to 45 minutes in length and are dependent upon the color group to which your child is assigned. Lessons are not provided during recreational swim time. Lifeguards are on duty at all times when children are in the pool. All campers are required to take a swim test before being allowed into the deep end of the pool.

Sunscreen

Due to outdoor activities and snack time taking place outside, we recommend that you please send your child to camp with waterproof sunscreen (15 SPF or higher), with your child's name clearly marked on the item. The staff does not dispense sunscreen, due to different needs and allergies. Please send your child to camp with what has proven to be successful in the past.

Helpful Suggestion: Try applying all day waterproof sunscreen on your child before they leave for camp. Our counselors will help children that cannot apply sunscreen by themselves.

Field Trips

Campers who are registered for the following weeks will be taking field trips on the following weeks. The additional fee is included in the cost of the session. Lunch will NOT be provided on field trip days unless noted on the week of the trip.

Week 3 Friday, July 10	Capps Picnic Park, Bridgeton
Week 4 Thursday, July 16	Riversharks Baseball, Camden
Week 7 Thursday, August 6	Brunswick Zone, Turnersville

Camp T-Shirts

On the first day of camp, each camper will be given a Kids Rule Camp T-shirt as well as a camp bag in which to carry their items. This shirt may be worn at any time during the week; however, it is not required for camp participation. The bag this year includes a cooler for lunch or snacks built in that may alleviate some lost and found issues.

Camp Dress Code

Campers should wear comfortable clothing such as t-shirts and shorts. For safety reasons, sneakers are required for participation in all camp activities.

Open toe shoes, sandals, and wheelies will not be permitted.

Miscellaneous

- While the majority of the camp occurs indoors, please note that some activities require campers to be outside. All children are expected to participate in the planned activities, as we are unable to provide individual supervision otherwise.
- Children will be allowed to read personal books during before care and after care only. During regular camp hours campers are expected to participate in all planned activities.
- Please do not allow your child(ren) to bring toys, portable electronics, playing cards, or cell phones – there will be plenty for them to do while at camp, and the Rec Center is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- There will be a **NO TOLERANCE POLICY** on cell phones this year due to privacy issues, especially with cameras now on most cell phones and the likelihood that they may be in the locker room at any given time. Cell phones will be confiscated by the camp directors and will not be returned without a parent coming to retrieve it. Cell phones may be used during before and after care only.

IMPORTANT: CAMPER DROP-OFF AND PICK UP INFO

Curbside Shuttle Procedures

This applies only to those campers NOT using before-care and/or after-care.

Drop Off Times: Drop-Off begins at 8:00 am and ends 8:30 am sharp.

Pick Up Times: Pick-Up begins at 4:00 pm and ends promptly at 4:30 pm.

Shuttle Route: Enter campus from Bowe Blvd only. Follow the road past Wilson Music Hall and take a right into the Robinson Circle. Go around the circle, keeping your car to the far right as you come to the end of the circle. Be advised that normal University vehicles must have access around parents' vehicles. You will remain stopped at the end of the circle and wait until the appropriate signal is given by a counselor before moving along side Esby Gym and to the edge of the Rec Center. Please be advised that this roadway is a one-way. Because of safety and liability concerns, cars can only be lined up from the doors of Esby to the edge of the Rec Center. See enclosed map for details.

1. During the designated drop-off and pick-up times, counselors supervise the curb areas, route traffic appropriately, and escort children to and from respective vehicles and camp sites.
2. Considering the safety of your child and the need to cooperate with our Public Safety Office, our department is confident you will support this policy. In order to avoid congestion, it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that you stagger your arrival time.
3. It is very important that you pull up next to the curb and directly behind the car in front of yours. Please do not leave spaces between cars, as we have limited space to work with. Most importantly, wait until you have reached the drop off point before letting your child off or picking your child up. The drop off point will be marked and only one car will be "serviced" at a time. The process flows smoothly when everyone "follows the rules."
4. Be courteous to other drivers. *Do not leave your car unattended, double parked at the curb or parked at the stop sign at the corner of shuttle as it adds to the congestion and may result in getting a citation from Public Safety.* If you need to speak to a counselor, please exit the shuttle line and park in a designated area.
5. Please drive through the area slowly and watch for staff in the street and other cars entering from the opposite direction. We will not allow any car to drop off children from the opposite side of the street.

-Please bear with us June 22, 24, and 29 during morning shuttle when the university is hosting freshman orientation for incoming students for the fall, as it will be a very busy and hectic time.

Important for Pick-Up Only

1. Curbside Pick-Up runs from 4:00 pm until 4:30 pm. If you arrive after 4:30 pm, you must park and come into the Rec Center to pick up your child. Please be sure to bring proper identification with you at this time.
2. Every person picking up must be on the authorization list and sign out the child they are picking up while in the Robinson Circle before they can proceed onto the Rec Center for pick-up.

You will be asked to show proper identification to pick up your child at any time of the day. If you do not have proper ID and/or are not on the authorization list, you will not be allowed to pick up your child. Every effort will be made to call all persons on the child's authorization list for clearance and verification. If we are unable to reach anyone at that time, the child will remain with us.

3. We urge you not to arrive earlier than 4:00 pm, as it may jeopardize our privilege of utilizing the curbside shuttle.
4. An authorized list will be created that will allow certain individuals to pick up your child from camp. Both parents will be on the list unless court documents state that custody is different. Please be sure our office has a completed copy of that form or fill one out prior to camp. If at any time you need to make deletions or additions please contact our camp office.

Carpools

If you anticipate car-pooling, please be sure that all drivers are on your pick-up authorization list.

Tardiness/Early Dismissal

If your child will be arriving late or needs to leave camp early, a written note or phone call is required. Please indicate who will be picking up your child, as the camper will only be released to an authorized person.

Late Pick-Up (After 6:00 pm)

Please contact the camp office or the main office in advance for any unavoidable late pick-up or emergency. You will be charged \$5 per child for each and any portion of 15 minute segments you are late picking up your child. This payment will be due that day. **More than three late pick-ups will result in the participant's dismissal from Kids Rule Camp.**

Walk-In Procedures

This applies to those enrolled in either the Before Care and/or After Care program.

Important: Please refer to curbside shuttle procedures if you are enrolled in only one of these programs.

1. Before Care times begin at 7:00 am through 8:00 am. After Care runs from 4:30 pm until 6:00 pm. We highly recommend pre-registering for these programs so that we have an accurate count for our counselors. While attending Before Care, children will have the option of playing board games, reading, drawing, and participating in some camp games that can be played in the Group Exercise Room.
2. On the first day of camp you will receive a Short Term Loading Permit, which must be placed on the driver's side dashboard of your car. This will allow you to temporarily park for up to 10 minutes. The permit is only valid between 7:00 am and 8:15 am and from 4:20 pm until 6:00 pm to drop off and pick up campers.
3. You may pull into any open parking place that is legal (DO NOT PARK IN HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES, DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF A STOP SIGN, OR DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE FIRE HYDRANT).
4. For drop off, please walk your child into the building.
5. When picking up your child for after care, please bring a photo ID to pick up your child. Due to safety concerns, we will no longer hand out identification cards. We will only accept a photo ID. You will be required to show your ID each day at pick up. If you do not have proper identification and/or are not on the authorization list, you will not be allowed to pick up that child. Every effort will be made to call all persons on the child's authorization list for clearance and verification. If we are unable to reach anyone at that time, the child will remain with us.

So, What Should Your Child Expect?

He/She can expect...

- ...to have fun
- ...to make some of the best friends they ever had - with both campers and staff
- ...to finally figure out what "warm fuzzy" means
- ...to be exhausted at times
- ...to feel good about what they have accomplished
- ...to learn a lot about others and themselves
- ...to find out just how strong their sense of humor really is
- ...to play hard
- ...to laugh hard
- ...to do some things that they never have done or thought of doing- and love it!
- ...to be outdoors a lot
- ...to gain more from the experience than they thought they would...so much more
- ...that 8 weeks will fly by and school will be right around corner
- ...to write lots of warm fuzzies
- ...to learn
- ...to feel included
- ...to cry when it's time to say goodbye
- ...to try something new
- ...to sing, dance, cheer, dress-up and act silly (and not be embarrassed)
- ...to be in safe hands
- ...to be busy all day long
- ...to grow
- ...to learn the universal hand signal for "I love you but please be quiet"
- ...to play with others who may be different
- ...to stand in a straight line and be quiet at the same time!
- ...to feel good giving someone a warm fuzzy
- ...to follow the rules, even though they may not agree with all of them
- ...to look forward to receiving a warm fuzzy
- ...to make memories that will last a lifetime

Parent Notes

Child's Group –

Child's Counselors –

Child's Group –

Child's Counselor –