



2022 Camp Morty

Camper Handbook

Camp Morty
201 Hawley Road
North Salem, NY 10560
Camp Office: 914-231-4080

Camp Director: Mary Ehring, 914-562-2990, mary@campmorty.com

Assistant Camp Director: Shreya Kontham, shreya@campmorty.com

Assistant Camp Director: Dave Burnette, dave@campmorty.com

Recruitment Director: Stephanie Benvenuto, info@campmorty.com



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CAMP MORTY MISSION

Camp Morty offers a quality outdoor residential camp experience for children residing in underserved communities in Westchester County. Our philosophy is to provide each camper with a unique opportunity for personal development, working with others and building confidence to succeed. Our number one goal is to create an exciting, fun-filled environment where children can feel safe, and where they can learn to educate the mind, body and spirit. We teach skills in a gentle, supportive way, and emphasize values such as concern for others, cooperation, sportsmanship and environmental awareness.

Since 2006, Westchester Parks Foundation has operated the Camp Morty sleep-away camp, first at the Trail Lodge in Blue Mountain Reservation in Peekskill and at its permanent home, Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park in North Salem. The camp is solely dedicated to taking kids that come from homeless shelters, the foster care system, and/or on public assistance, and giving them a traditional summer camp experience.

Camp Morty has been operating for more than a decade and the staff now includes former campers and CITs who know from personal experience the great value of this wonderful program.

CAMP RULES

1. Listen and follow directions given by all staff.
2. Respect the personal space of others by keeping hands and feet to yourself.
3. Ask permission to leave your group. Never go anywhere alone.
4. Closed toe shoes must be worn at all times around camp.
5. We respect everyone's personal identity and how they choose to express their identities.
Any disrespectful comments, teasing, or slurs against someone or parts of their identity is not tolerated.
6. Swearing, teasing and racial comments is not tolerated.
7. Always be on time.
8. Nothing flies through the air!
9. All campers are permitted to participate in all activities at camp. We encourage you to try something new!

FOOD POLICY

Camp Morty provides three nutritious meals and a snack each day for all campers and staff. Participants with any dietary restrictions or food allergies will be accommodated with an alternative menu.

Please read below for additional information regarding our food service

1. Many campers and staff have various food allergies. **Do not pack food or snacks for your child at camp.**
2. **Camp Morty is a nut-free and shellfish-free zone.** We do not offer any nut or seafood products at camp.
3. All menu items at camp are health-conscious and approved by the USDA.

ELECTRONICS AT CAMP

Camp Morty is an electronic-free environment. Please do not send your camper to camp with electronics such as ipods, cell phones, handheld video games, bluetooth headphones, or other electronic devices.

Camp staff will hold camper electronics in the office during their stay if they come to camp with them. Campers will get their electronics back upon drop-off.

PERSONAL PROPERTY AT CAMP

Camp is a shared space, which means there is little privacy for campers belongings. Please do not send your camper to camp with valuables or items that are hard to replace or expensive.

Camp Morty is not responsible for lost or stolen items at camp.

- Please do not send your camper to camp with their own sports equipment or toys.
Books are permitted.
- Campers are not permitted to bring animals to camp unless it is a legal service animal (ie: seeing eye dog)

Please also keep in mind that camp is a very active environment. Please do not send your camper to camp with clothing that is expensive and hard to replace. Be aware that campers may get dirty at camp.

Additionally, if your camper needs items of clothing at camp, we can provide them with clothing as necessary. Families requiring clothing donations for this summer, please contact our office and we can coordinate with you: (914) 231-4080.

CAMP RESTRICTIONS

Camp Morty has a zero tolerance policy for anyone at camp possessing the following:

- Alcohol or drugs (prescription medication must be handed over to staff and held in the nurse's office)
- Weapons (including pocket knives, Swiss Army knives)
- Tobacco products including vapes

In the event a camper is found with the above items, Camp Morty has the right to seize these items. The camper's guardian will be contacted immediately. In the event a camper brings an illegal substance or weapon to camp, Westchester County Police will be notified.

Campers may be dismissed from camp as determined by the Camp Director.

SAFETY AT CAMP

Camp Morty's #1 priority every summer is to make sure every camp has a **safe** and **fun** experience. To help your camper prepare for camp this summer, please help them understand safety measures Camp Morty enforces. Each camper must abide by our safety rules below.

- Campers must be accompanied by staff at all times.
- Campers will never be alone 1:1 with a staff member.
- Campers can report any complaints they have to their counselors or Head Counselor.
- If campers see a stranger on the property, they should tell a staff member immediately.
- Campers should never enter bodies of water unless given permission by professionals.
- Campers will be made aware of hazardous areas and will be instructed to stay away from them. Hazardous areas or situations can include:
 - Tall grass
 - Sitting on railings
 - The lake
 - Hiking off trails
 - Climbing trees
- Campers will be made aware of rules at camp around respect and fighting. Camp Morty does not tolerate fighting at camp in any form.

PACKING LIST

For sleepaway camp, we suggest that your camper is prepared for multiple weather situations including cold and rainy weather.

Please send your camper to camp daily with:

- A sweater and/or a rain jacket/umbrella
- Sunscreen
- Sneakers
- Water bottle (labeled with camper's name)
- Face mask
- Extra pair of socks (in case of rain)
- Beach towel
- Bathing suit
- Prescription medication (must be given to staff on-site during drop-off)

Please do not bring:

- Valuable jewelry
- Weapons (including pocket knives)
- Matches or lighters
- Money
- Camera or other electronic equipment that acts as a camera. The privacy of your child and other children in our care is important to us.
- Cell phones or video games
- Toys

Remember: children are active at camp, share space with others, and move between locations. Our staff will work to ensure their belongings stay with them, but this is not always possible.

Please do not send expensive clothes or shoes to camp.

MEDICATION POLICIES

Camper medications will be kept in the Health Center, with the exception of inhalers and epipens, which may be held by Camp Morty staff to ensure the camper has quick access to their inhaler.

Campers may not hold any of their medications themselves while at camp. Guardians must turn over any medications (including over-the-counter medications, inhalers, epi-pens and all other prescriptions) their camper takes during camp hours to the on-site staff every morning. Camp staff will return medications every evening at dismissal.

Declared medications **must match** the Rx medication order form that Camp Morty has received from your camper's doctor.

CAMP MORTY VAN AND BUS SAFETY RULES

1. Campers will be accompanied in any vehicle by Camp Morty staff.
2. An orientation to the safety rules will be given each time campers are transported.
3. Electronic devices such as phones, handheld video games (like Switch) cameras, etc. etc. are prohibited at camp. These items could be damaged or stolen and become a distraction to the bus driver. These are expensive items and should be left home.
4. No use or possession of tobacco or controlled substances (including prescription or over-the-counter medications).
5. Obey all safety rules.
 - a. Passengers must remain seated and facing forward until discharged from the bus.
 - b. Campers and staff must wear seat belts at all times and are not permitted to move around in the vehicle while the vehicle is in motion.
 - c. Mask worn at all times.
 - d. Obey instructions of the driver at all times.
 - e. Polite manners are expected at all times. Children should remain quiet and just speak to the person seated next to them.
6. In the event of an emergency, staff will immediately call emergency services and the Camp Director. Campers are encouraged to remain calm and wait for instructions by staff and the driver.
7. Campers are to notify staff when they are feeling unwell, and staff will respond accordingly.

PARENT FAQ

Q: Will I be notified if my child is hurt or falls ill while at camp?

A: The Camp Nurse will contact guardians for the following cases:

- A camper hits their head
- A camper has a fever
- A camper needs to be isolated due to illness
- A camper requires additional medical attention
- A camper is showing concerning symptoms that should be followed up with
- A camper begins their menstrual cycle
- A camper is sent to the emergency room

The Camp Nurse may not contact guardians if a camper receives minor injuries such as cuts, scrapes or bruises while at camp. The Camp Nurse may not contact guardians if a camper has a headache, is feeling tired, or needs extra rest during the day. If the Nurse believes the camper to require follow-up with their personal physician, the Nurse will contact their guardian.

Q: Who is allowed to pick up my camper from camp (or the bus site)?

A: The following people are allowed to pick up your camper from camp directly and from the bus site

- Parents listed in the camper profile
- Emergency contacts
- DSS Caseworker assigned to camper

If you wish to have someone new pick up your camper, you must contact the office at 914-231-4080 and add them to your emergency contacts.

Q: What happens if my camper leaves something at camp?

A: Please contact the camp site at 914-231-4080 to notify staff. They will do their best to track down the missing item(s). Please keep in mind that most of the camp is a shared space and campers are often moving between locations. So please do not send any valuables or expensive clothes with your campers.