



Summer Camp Report

2015



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General Information

Glencoe Park District summer camps provide experiences for participants ages 2 years old to entering 9th grade. The Counselor-In-Training program is for entering grades 7-10. A variety of activities take place in a typical camp week including swimming, crafts, nature awareness, games, sports, special events, field trips, cookouts, and theme weeks. Camps are structured to provide opportunities for children to make new friends, grow, learn, discover, and most importantly to have fun within their surroundings. A productive rewarding summer away from home is the goal.

Camp was scheduled to begin one week later this year in order to align with private camps and also to account for any potential school closing days from winter. The Summer Beginnings was offered on a daily basis from Monday, June 8 - Friday, June 12. A session of Safety Town also ran during that week.

Preschool age and school age camps ran June 15-August 7. The Summer's End Camp extended the camp experience from August 10-August 14. An Extended Day option was also available for school age campers starting at 7:45am and ending at 5:30pm. An option to register for 8 weeks, 4 weeks, or 2 weeks of camp was offered.

Camp Goals

We Strive To:

- Provide a safe and fun camp experience for participants ages 2 through grade 10
- Exceed camper and parent expectations with the highest levels of customer service and quality programming
- Provide activities that engage the camper and offers a variety of experiences
- Be flexible as the weather or other issues of the day dictate
- Continue to develop our marketing/PR strategies to increase enrollment and minimize cancellations
- Seek opportunities to continue to build authentic relationships with our campers, families, and staff as we increase our use of electronic communications
- Identify barriers and roadblocks that may prevent us from achieving our goals by seeking input from parents, campers, and staff

Early Childhood Camps

Lisa Panizo, Director of Early Childhood programs, managed preschool and kindergarten camps. These camps mean big fun for campers ages two through five and reflect the commitment to quality programming that characterizes our school-year programs. Our experienced Camp Directors, many of whom are Park District Preschool and Kindergarten Enrichment teachers, planned a mix of outdoor play, creative expression, games, and more to promote friendships, learning, and good times. Camp "home" is the Takiff Center, where children can enjoy our engaging playgrounds, with plenty of space for sprinkler play and exploration. We even rocked and rolled with musical guests in the Community Hall!

Youth Camps

Breanne Schnoor, Arts, Enrichments, and Camp Youth Program Manager, supervised the youth camps consisting of Sun Fun, Camp Adventure, NEW Summer's Beginning & End and also the Extended Day program. Sun Fun and Camp Adventure Camps met at Takiff Center using various rooms throughout the facility and extensive use of the outside grounds. Sun Fun Camp utilized the Recreation Center in Highland Park for swim lessons once a week for K-2. Campers enjoyed "camper's choice," a portion of the day during which they can participate in activities of their choice. Sun Fun's weekly fieldtrips rounded out the schedule with trips to Glencoe Beach, water parks, bowling, Lincoln Park Zoo, and more. Camp Adventure offered weekly excursions that included a Cubs game, Action Territory in Kenosha, Rainbow Falls Waterpark, and more. A camp favorite was the Overnight at Takiff Center, which took place after the regular camp day and included evening entertainment, dinner, movie, and special activities.

Teen Camps

Kraig Owens, Athletics, Fitness, and Camps Program Manager, managed Action Quest and CIT Camps. Action Quest met at the Watts Center and utilized the facility and surrounding grounds. The camp was designed as a traveling camp with off-site excursions four out of five days a week. A campout at Glencoe Beach once each four-week session and a Great America trip was also included. The Counselor in Training (CIT) program was designed for youth entering grades seven through ten who wanted to learn to work with children and develop leadership skills. CITs were assigned to a camp and helped implement activities and projects under the supervision of the CIT Director and individual Camp Directors. They attended CIT fieldtrips throughout the session and accompanied their assigned groups on camp outings.

Sport Camps

Kraig Owens supervised specialty sports camps including Beach Volleyball and Tennis Camps.

Camp Open House

Our Camp Open House was held from 5:30-7:00pm on Wednesday, June 10 in the Takiff Center Gymnasium. Parents and campers got to meet the camp staff and pick up camp T-shirts and group lists. Staff were also available to discuss camp schedules answer questions and accept camper information forms. The Open House was moved closer to the camp starting date this year and also held earlier in the evening, which increased our attendance this year.

Registration

Summer Camp registration was included in the Winter Brochure mailed out in December 2014 and was also included in the Spring/Summer Brochure. Registration began on Wednesday, December 17.

Marketing

Resident Camp families could register by February 28 to receive a 10% discount.

Camp Lunch Service

Lunch is not provided as part of the camp program. Campers must bring their own lunch unless included in a field trip. Camp families were able to order an optional camp lunch delivered by Marla's Brown Bag Lunch.

Inclusion Services

Glencoe Park District is committed to provide individuals with disabilities the best camp experience possible. Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association (NSSRA) is coordinated with to provide training, support staff, and provide inclusion companions. NSSRA provided companions to 6 campers in 2015. Additionally, NSSRA staff led a camp training session on inclusion services, behavior management, and disability awareness.

Inclement Weather

The summer began with many rainy and windy days which caused camps to move indoors and, whenever possible, substitute field trips were coordinated in lieu of water parks. The remainder of the summer was mild and activities ran as planned.

Scholarship Program

Glencoe Park District has a policy to work with residents that have financial hardships. The District’s scholarship program is utilized as well as the services of New Trier Township. Scholarships are processed through the Family Services of Glencoe.

Camp Training

Staff conducted a comprehensive orientation for our new and returning Camp Counselors and Directors. Components of the training included District policies and procedures, proper supervision techniques, field trip procedures, general first aid, managing children's behaviors, bus safety, activity planning, customer service, crisis management, severe weather, food allergies, core job responsibilities, and performance expectations. Glencoe Beach staff also conducted a tour of the beach and reviewed facility policies and lakefront safety. The training agenda was as follows:

Thursday, June 11

Introduction of Full-Time Staff	On-Site Camper Supervision
Orientation Goals	Field Trip Procedures
Introduce Camp Directors	Interactions with Campers
Parking	Respectful Workplace-Harassment
Transitions, Adjustments, Role Plays	Statement of Admission
Parent Communication	Social Media/Internet Use
Pick up and Drop Off	Inclement Weather
Safety	Playground/Field Safety
Bus Rules	Aquatic Supervision
Good Customer Service/SPIRIT	Camper Behavior Management
Intruder and Lockdown Procedures	Activity Planning

Friday, June 12

Guest Speaker	First Aid & Allergy Procedures
NSSRA	Epi-Pen Demonstration/Answer Questions
CIT overview	Incident/Accident Reports

Camp Weekly Themes, Special Events and Field Trips

Week 1	Theme	Special Events, Field Trips
Teddy Bears	We Love You, Daddy!	
Panda Bears	Dandy Daddy	
Koala Bears	Fun in the Sun	
Kinder Korner	We are Family	
Sun Fun	Sportsmanship	Carnival Day, Bowling, MAC Pool
Camp Adventure	Sportsmanship	Carnival Day, Bowling, Beach
Week 2		
Teddy Bears	All About Water	
Panda Bears	Let's Picnic	
Koala Bears	On the Beach	Glencoe Beach, Wagner Farm (Cancelled due to Rain)
Kinder Korner	Surfing Into Summer	Glencoe Beach (Cancelled due to Rain)
Sun Fun	Teamwork	Color Wars, Hidden Creek Water Park, Nickel City, Beach
Camp Adventure	Teamwork	Color Wars, Hidden Creek Water Park, Nickel City, Beach
Week 3		
Teddy Bears	Learning About Colors	
Panda Bears	Bugmania	
Koala Bears	Under the Sea	Tots and Tunes, Library Trip
Kinder Korner	Party in the USA	Glencoe Beach, Tots and Tunes, Kohn Children's Museum
Sun Fun	Appreciation	Wheeling Water Park, Party Fantasy, NEW Gold Rush Special Event, Hidden Creek Water Park
Camp Adventure	Appreciation	Wheeling Water Park, Party Fantasy, NEW Gold Rush Special Event, Hidden Creek Water Park
Week 4		
Teddy Bears	Let's Celebrate America	Frog Lady Show
Panda Bears	Happy B-Day USA	Frog Lady Show
Koala Bears	Star-Spangled Week	Frog Lady Show, Beach Trip (Cancelled due to cold)
Kinder Korner	Around the World	Frog Lady Show, Glencoe Beach (Cancelled due to rain)
Sun Fun	Respect	Glencoe Beach, Libertyville Sports Complex, Olympic Day Special Event, Rainbow Falls Water Park
Camp Adventure	Respect	Vernon Hills Water Park, NEW Lincoln Park Zoo, Olympic Day Special Event, Glencoe Beach, Camp Adventure Overnight- Laser Tag and Cookout

Week 5		
Teddy Bears	Air All Around Us	
Panda Bears	Flower Power	
Koala Bears	Summer Fest	Tots and Tunes
Kinder Korner	Princesses and Pirates	Glencoe Beach, Tots and Tunes
Sun Fun	Friendship	Hidden Creek, Orbit Skate, Tots and Tunes, Superhero Day Special Event, Barefoot Bay Water Park, Sun Fun's Pajama Jam overnight-DJ and pizza party!
Camp Adventure	Friendship	Wheeling Water Park, NEW ParKing Mini Golf, Superhero Day Special Event, Glencoe Beach
Week 6		
Teddy Bears	Ice Cream	
Panda Bears	Wonderful Worms	
Koala Bears	Dino Daze	Glencoe Beach, Pirate's Cove
Kinder Korner	Wild West	Glencoe Beach
Sun Fun	I Believe In Myself	Wheeling Water Park, NEW Lincoln Park Zoo, NEW Park Ridge Park District's Carnival, Glencoe Beach
Camp Adventure	I Believe In Myself	Vernon Hills Water Park, Rinkside Sports, NEW Park Ridge Park District's Carnival, Rainbow Falls Water Park
Week 7		
Teddy Bears	Camping	
Panda Bears	Beach Bonanza	
Koala Bears	Wish Upon a Star	Tots and Tunes, Walking Trip to Old Elm Park
Kinder Korner	Nature	Glencoe Beach, Tots and Tunes, The Grove
Sun Fun	Sensitivity	MAC Pool, Rinkside Sports, Color Wars II Special Event, Glencoe Beach
Camp Adventure	Sensitivity	Wheeling Water Park, Chicago Cubs Game, Color Wars II Event, Barefoot Bay Water Park
Week 8		
Teddy Bears	Land Activities	Joel Frankel Musical Performance
Panda Bears	We Had a Ball	Joel Frankel Musical Performance
Koala Bears	Circus Parade	Joel Frankel Musical Performance, Walking Trip to Friends Park
Sun Fun	Health and Fitness	Hidden Creek/Vernon Hills Water Park, Pirates Cove, Action Territory, NEW Sports & More Event, Parent Night, Glencoe Beach-DJ party!
Camp Adventure	Health and Fitness	NEW Mystic Waters, Action Territory, NEW Sports and More Special Event, Glencoe Beach-DJ party!

Updates for 2015

Staff incorporated many new themes and variations on older themes this summer in order to keep the activities fresh and exciting.

There were many new field trips that were added for 2015. The Koalas and the Kinder Korner groups experienced three walking field trips to Kalk Park for Tots and Tunes. Jamming with various entertainers was a great way to add a varied experience to the camp schedule.

Additionally, the Koalas took a field trip to Pirate's Cove, which was a huge hit with both campers and parents! 100% of survey respondents were satisfied with this trip! New field trips this summer included Lincoln Park Zoo, Orbit Skate, Park Ridge Park District's Carnival, and Action Territory. New special events included Gold Rush Day and Sports and More Day.

Based on parent feedback, we shortened the camp day for the Panda camp in order to align the schedule with preschool times. The Panda camp ending time was changed from 12:00pm to 11:30am. However, in order to accommodate those parents that wanted a longer day, we added a Stay-N-Play option for Panda campers on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:30am-1:00pm. This class filled to maximum capacity and provided a great alternative for those that wanted a longer day for their child. We plan to offer this extended day option for Panda camp next summer as well.

In the summer of 2015, we added a Floating Director position to our Early Childhood Camps. This was a great way to have an experienced educator with any of our camp programs in the event that a teacher was absent. Amanda Walsh, an educator for Chicago Public Schools, served as the Floating Director and helped out in various camp programs depending on classroom needs. Additionally, we increased the price for Panda camp in order to budget for a counselor with each group. This lowered the camper to staff member ratio and helped to provide the safest environment possible.

The camp calendar was altered in 2015 to start a week later. This helped to make sure staff was available for orientation and training due to their school calendars. We offered Safety Town a week before camp began and a week after camp ended, rather than offering the program for 2 weeks at the end of the summer. This was a great way for parents to fill schedules between camp and school and we received positive feedback about this change.

Based on feedback from parents, we eliminated juice in all of the preschool camps during snack time. Parents did not feel comfortable with their children having the added sugar, so only water was served with snacks.

Due to Green Bay Road construction, drop off and pick up for Sun Fun and Camp Adventure was moved from Takiff Center to Park 6N on Old Green Bay Road and Walden Drive. This received a positive survey response and staff found it to be a better alternative.

We included Kindergarten age children as a part of Sun Fun to provide a longer day for parents that wanted the care for their child. Nine children were enrolled in this program.

Lemonade and water only were provided with field trip lunch packages.

The Park District of Highland Park provided parents with a short swim evaluation for each child that was sent home after completing swim lessons at camp.

Camp Participation Comparison

Early Childhood Camps	2015	2014	2013
Teddy Bears	24	15	18
Panda Bears	30	32	30
Koala Bears	28	38	28
Kinder Korner	38	41	41
Total	120	126	117

School Age Camps	2015	2014	2013
Sun Fun	202	166	159
Camp Adventure	94	112	110
NEW! Summer's Beginning	55	-	-
NEW! Playhouse Theater Camp	19	-	-
Summer's End Camp	49	57	52
Action Quest	78	53	107
Counselor In Training	35	35	25
Total	532	423	453

AM/PM Camp Care	2015	2014	2013
SF/CA -AM Care	18	10	15
SF/CA-PM Care	25	25	19
Extended Camp AM Care	13	7	7
Extended Camp PM Care	24	17	14
Total	80	59	55

2015 Camp Revenue/Expenses (Accurate as of September 2, 2015)

	Revenue		Expenses	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Early Childhood Camps	\$120,768	\$125,928	\$58,657	\$71,730
School Age Camps	\$473,883	\$444,309	\$236,464	\$272,208
Total	\$594,651	\$570,237	\$295,121	\$343,938
Variance	+4%		-14%	

Net Income/Loss Comparison

	2015	2014
Actual	\$299,530	\$244,128
Net/Income/Loss Budget	\$226,299	\$196,947
Variance	+25%	+19%

Camp Parent Survey Results

How would you rate the Glencoe Park District staff?

	Very helpful	Helpful	Slightly helpful	Not at all helpful
Camp Staff	70.53%	25.26%	4.21%	0.00%
Program Management	68.42%	27.37%	4.21%	0.00%
Customer Service Staff	72.34%	22.34%	4.26%	1.06%

Please rate your satisfaction with Glencoe Park District camps.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Camp Registration Process	72.63%	26.32%	1.05%	0.00%
Camp activities	57.89%	35.79%	4.21%	2.11%
Camp staff courtesy	77.89%	20.00%	2.11%	0.00%
Camp staff competency	65.63%	27.08%	5.21%	1.04%
Camp staff knowledge	65.63%	30.21%	2.08%	1.04%
Camp staff accessibility	70.83%	25.00%	4.17%	0.00%
Camp operating hours	69.79%	23.96%	3.13%	3.13%
Camp facility	64.58%	28.13%	5.21%	2.08%
Cost of the program	53.68%	41.05%	4.21%	1.05%

Please rate your experience with the camp drop-off/pick-up location at Park 6N.

Excellent	47.50%
Good	42.50%
Fair	10.00%
Poor	0.00%

Would you register your child for camp again?

Yes	85.00%
No	15.00%

Would you recommend the Glencoe Park District camp program to a friend?

Yes	95.00%
No	5.00%

Overall, how would you rate Glencoe Park District's camp program?

Very good	66.25%
Good	21.25%
Mildly good	10.00%
Not good at all	2.50%

Recommendations for 2016

- Toddler size T-shirts for Teddy Bears camp; youth XS was very large for our youngest campers
- Book new entertainers to vary the schedule
- Reduce Koala beach trips to two visits instead of three
- Change end time on beach days to 12:30pm instead of 1:00pm; the children were very hot and this was an exhausting day for the Koala campers
- Move Kinder Korner Camp program to the main entrance for car line, which will help to eliminate some of the congestion in the front parking lot in the morning and at 1:00pm
- Offer an extension opportunity for Kinder Korner from 1:00-3:00pm, which will help to align the schedule with full-day Kindergarten for those looking to extend their day and establish the same routine as the school year
- Offer catered hot lunch to the Kinder Korner campers in the Beluga classroom for consistency
- Keep Park 6N as a drop off and pick up location for Sun Fun and Camp Adventure. This item received a positive response in the survey and staff found it to be a better alternative than the Takiff Center.
- Extend AM care from 7:00-8:45am
- Extend PM care from 3:00-6:30pm
- Add back photo share or sharing more pictures with parents
- Eliminate the following Sun Fun field trips: Pirates Cove for Grades 2-3, Rainbow Falls
- Optional swim lessons for campers; additional fee to include swim lessons at camp
- Adding a swim lesson option for Camp Adventure
- Researching other swim lesson location/options
- Adding specialty activities/programs to Camper's Choice and renaming this option
- Add a new skill of the week
- Add two new field trips for Sun Fun and Camp Adventure to the calendar
- Add two new special events for Sun Fun and Camp Adventure to the calendar
- Add the overnight as an added fee for campers that are not attending that week, but want to attend the overnight (or under-night)