

Manatee County Sports & Leisure Services

PARENT GUIDE
HOLIDAY BLAST CAMP
2026 – 2027

2 Locations:

GT Bray Park Recreation Center- 941-742-5923

5502 33rd Ave Drive West, Bradenton, FL 34209

John H. Marble Recreation Center- 941-745-6030

3675 53rd Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34203

Thanksgiving Camp: November 23rd – 25th

Winter Camp (Week 1): December 21st – 23rd

Winter Camp (Week 2) December 28th – 31st

Spring Break Week: March 15th – 19th

8:00am – 5:30pm / Grades K – 5

Amy Gray, Youth Camp Coordinator
Office: 941-742-5923 ext. 6054 Cell: 941-334-1077

Amy.Gray@mymantee.org



Creating Lifelong Memories...It Starts in Parks

E-PACT Directions

- After registering your child for camp, you will receive an e-mail from camp about providing important emergency and health information. We use E-Pact with camp to provide for the safety of your child. We ask that all families complete and manage an E-Pact profile for each child enrolled in camp.
- If you have never registered for our E-Pact system, (separate from your Manatee County Government Account) please follow the prompts to set up your account. <https://webapp-us.epactnetwork.com/sign-up>
- If you have already registered, you will still need to access your account to review/update information for your camper.
- In order to save time at check-in/check-out, please put recent photos of the people picking up your child in your camper's account. If there are no photos, please be prepared to show a photo ID daily.

REFUNDS

***We apologize our camp does have certain limitations regarding specialized services. Please consider if your child can stay with their group and is able to operate in large group settings. If your child's needs are specific, please speak with the camp director prior to registering. We cannot guarantee a refund if our camp is not a good fit for your child.**

All refund requests require a written recommendation from a doctor indicating that the participant should withdraw from an activity or program to be entitled to a full or prorated refund. No administrative fee will be assessed. If an activity or program is cancelled by Sports & Leisure Services Department, the individual or group would be entitled to a full or prorated refund or credit. No administrative fee will be assessed. All refund requests must be accompanied by an original receipt or a copy of the cancelled check.

CREDITS/TRANSFERS

Transfers or credits may be requested, however may not be guaranteed. All requests must be e-mailed to amy.gray@mymanatee.org. If the week your child is registered for or the week being requested is full, no transfer nor credits will be approved. Once a week or program has begun, we cannot process credits or transfers. Once a week has been completed, no credits or refunds can be offered without a doctor's note.

FEES

- \$90.00 Thanksgiving Camp (3 Days)
- \$90.00 Winter Camp – Week 1 (3 Days)
- \$120.00 Winter Camp – Week 2 (4 Days)
- \$150.00 Spring Break Camp (5 Days)
- \$20.00 Late Fee - Payments after 5:30pm Friday for the upcoming week
- \$10.00 Late Pick Up Fee (After 5:35 pm)

Note: 3% Credit Card Processing Fee

REGISTRATION LIMITS

Space is limited for each week of camp. These limits include minimal numbers needed to host the camp, along with a limit on the amount of those able to attend. To ensure your child's space in any of our camp programs, please register early as we do expect to fill up.

To guarantee your child's spot, you must register and pay for that week or weeks in advance. Please note space is limited and camp sessions will fill up. Once each week is full, staff will not be able to approve additional campers due to programming space and camp to counselor ratios.

REGISTRATION - LATE FEE POLICY

Register by 6pm the Friday prior to avoid a \$20 late fee. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Holiday Camps are in high demand and tend to fill up each week. Registering early is encouraged.

Please make sure that you have paid for your child to attend camp before you drop them off on Monday mornings. **Children who are not enrolled for the week will not be allowed to participate in activities until payment is received.**

PROGRAM HOURS

- Supervision is provided 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. each included day of camp. We cannot admit children into camp rooms early. See cover for dates included in each session
- Camp Activities are scheduled 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

- Parents must walk their child into the center and check in with staff at the camp desk. If no staff is present, please ask front desk to page our team.
- Please check for important information regarding camp activities at the camp desk.
- For the safety of your child, you are required to sign your child/children out every day and only authorized individuals listed on your E-Pact account will be allowed to sign your child out.
- A PHOTO ID AND SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED AT SIGN-OUT. Your child will not be released without photo identification.
- Parents, please be patient with us and understand the check-out process is for your child's safety.
- You can always drop off and pick up your child at any time within the daily camp hours. We ask that you also understand that sometimes your child may be in the middle of an activity and may require a short amount of time to clean up and gather their belongings. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we look to assist you as quickly as possible.

CHECK-OUT – LATE FEE POLICY

- Your child/children must be picked up by 5:30 p.m.
- If a child has not been picked up by 5:35 p.m., a \$10 late fee will be assessed per child.
- If by 6:30 pm your child has not been picked up, the Manatee County Sheriff's Department will be contacted for the safety and concern of both the child (ren) and you.
- Failure to pay late pick up fees could result in indefinite suspension from camp.

CLOTHING

Please send your child to camp in comfortable clothes, appropriate for the weather. Shorts, t-shirts and sneakers are acceptable. **Open-toed shoes, crocs or flip flops should not be worn. This is for your child's safety and to prevent injuries.** Please label all belongings.

NOTE: For younger children, please send an extra set of clothes in the case of an accident.

SWIMMING

Swimming will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. **Please send camper dressed in swimsuits** underneath clothing and with a towel and underclothes in a plastic bag. Those that do not swim will be placed in one of our activity rooms monitored by camp staff.

A swim test will be required of all campers visiting the pool as part of their camp's activities. This test will be administered by our Aquatics staff and approval is subject to their process. Campers who receive a Red wristband will be required to wear a life jacket. Please understand the Aquatics staff is responsible for the safety of your child in our camp setting. Campers may be permitted to retake the test on the next swim day if desired.

NOTE: Parents, please place sunscreen on your child every morning. Your child will spend equal periods of time each day of the week outside. Staff will not place any sunscreen on children.

LOST AND FOUND

We have a "lost and found" located at check-in/check-out. Please label all belongings with your child's name. We do not hold items for a certain period of time and will dispose/donate them weekly. Please check this area often to see if any of the items belong to your child.

GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

As your child arrives at camp, they will be assigned to an age-appropriate group and introduced to their camp counselors. **All children are required to remain with their assigned group.** Group assignments may change depending on the number of children attending camp. Should you have any special requests or concerns regarding group assignments, please speak with camp staff for assistance. Requests may be considered but not guaranteed. Please allow staff 24-hours to make changes if approved. We must ensure proper ratios in each group. No group assignment will be guaranteed if payment is not received by Friday of the prior week. **Note: Children may not be permitted to move down in groups due to age. Separation by age allows us to provide activities specific to your child's age and interests.**

LUNCH & SNACK

Holiday Camps will not be providing lunches or snack. All campers will need to bring their own lunch, snack and re-fillable water bottle each day. Please place campers name on lunch box/bag. There are no microwaves or refrigerators available for camper use. Vending machines are only permitted during snack time, pending staffing levels.

PERSONNEL

Camp staff are highly qualified; many are teachers or college students with experience working in a camp setting. A Florida Department of Law Enforcement background check (Level 2) is completed on all employees. Staff participates in an orientation each summer as well as training in behavior strategies, CPR/first aid, games, and crafts.

All staff are trained to report all issues to their supervisor, who will then share this information at check-out or check-in the following morning.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak directly with a site supervisor or the camp director. You will find one of these individuals at the camp desk.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips may be scheduled during full weeks. Parents will be reminded of the upcoming field trips and what times each group will be attending at our Check In/Out Desk. Please be sure to review this to ensure your child is present on time and does not miss out. If you do not want your child to attend the included trip, we ask that you please make other arrangements that day. We require all campers and counselors to attend included fields trips to ensure the safety of everyone.

Please understand that by bringing your child to camp on included field trip days that means your child may take part in special events or field trips with Manatee County Sports and Leisure Services Department. We will provide advanced notice of the trips during registration and will provide proper supervision throughout.

THE RULES

We have developed a set of basic guidelines for all campers to follow. These guidelines or rules are reviewed continuously with campers during each program session.

- **HAVE FUN...BE SAFE**
- **STAY WITH YOUR GROUP.**
- **Be respectful and courteous to others.**
- **Follow your counselor's instructions.**
- **Use "inside voices" when indoors.**
- **No cell phones...video games, cameras, toys or stuffed animals.** Camp is NOT responsible for any lost or damaged items brought to camp.
- **Absolutely NO profanity or inappropriate topics of conversation.**
- **Keep your hands to yourself. Fighting and horseplay are not tolerated.**

Please review these guidelines with your child/children before they come to camp.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

For the safety and wellbeing of all campers, children will not be allowed to remain in camp if they have a communicable (contagious) illness or lice. If your child is sick, please make other arrangements for childcare. If your child is dropped off and is contagious, they will be immediately sent home.

We will also send home any child who has diarrhea, vomiting, or a fever and may request a doctor's note for your child to return to camp. If your child is sent home, they should not return to camp until they are symptom free for 24 hours.

MEDICATIONS

Anytime your child needs any medicine(s), even aspirin, we request that you bring the medication to the camp director and complete a form explaining:

- Name of medicine
- Times that the child is to get the medication(s)
- Dosage amount for each time given
- Completed form gives staff permission to administer the medication.

A doctor's prescription is required for our staff to administer any medication (including over the counter medicine).

CONTACT US WHEN:

- A change occurs in your child's life that alters his/her attitude or behavior or causes emotional upset (divorce, loss of a pet, death in family, etc.).
- Your child has a contagious condition (i.e. head lice, pink eye, chicken pox).
- If your child cannot participate in any of the daily activities.
- Registration information has changed.

WE WILL CONTACT YOU WHEN:

- Your child has received an injury which could require immediate medical attention.
- Your child exhibits a medical condition that could be contagious or threatening to others in the program.
- Your child displays a pattern of disruptive behavior that interferes with the program or other children.
- Parents must respond and pick up child promptly when requested since we do not have the ability to accommodate children outside of group ratios.

CAMP MOVIES

As part of your child's camp experience, movies will be shown as part of special events or rainy-day activities. Our staff will only show G and PG rated movies.

INJURIES AND INCIDENTS

- Although safety is our number one concern, injuries and incidents do sometimes occur. Camp staff will handle minor injuries, such as scrapes, bruises, and bumps. Professional medical personnel will handle all other injuries. All injuries are documented and reviewed with the person signing out the child at the end of the day, at drop off the next morning.
- Behavior issues will be addressed with the camper/campers involved and counselor. More disruptive incidents will involve conferencing with the camp supervisor or coordinator. Severe behavior incidents will also be documented and discussed with parents at the end of the day or at drop off the next morning.