
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

WD-DWGB-20-1

2012

Overview of Youth Recreation Camp Licensing Program

The Department of Environmental Services licenses youth recreation camps. The licensing program does not evaluate the camp curriculum, but does address a broad range of health and safety issues. In 2011, there were approximately 165 licensed camps. A list of licensed camps for the previous year is available at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/youthcamps/index.htm> or call (603) 271-2542.

The statutes pertaining to youth recreation camps are RSA 485-A:23, 24, 25 and 25a, which can be found online at <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-L-485-A.htm>. The rules pertaining to youth recreation camps are Env-Wq 900 (dated 2009). These rules can be found on the DES website at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/index.htm#envwq900>.

A “youth recreation camp” is a program that operates for at least 10 days per license year for the purpose of providing recreational opportunities, or a combination of recreation and instruction, to 10 or more youth per day, at a place that is continuously or periodically used for such purposes. The term includes residence camps and seasonal and year-round day camps.

The licensing period is annually from January 1 through December 31. The camp licensing fee is \$50 per camp, per year.

New camps must submit an application and have their facility inspected prior to receiving a license. Once the new camp is in operation, a second inspection is made during the season to evaluate operational compliance. Annual inspections are conducted for all licensed camps.

Titles of Principal Licensing Criteria:

Staffing Requirements

Physical Examination Prior to Admission

Communicable Diseases – Isolation and Reporting

Drinking Water Supply and Testing

Beaches and Swimming Pool

Toilet Facilities

Medical and Nursing Care

Buildings and Sleeping Quarters

Food Storage and Preparation

Fire Safety

Garbage and Waste Disposal

Sewage Disposal Facilities

Youth Camp Contacts at DES:

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Youth Camp Professional Associations:

NH Camp Directors Association
PO Box 324
Barnstead, NH 03218-0324
1-800-549-CAMP
www.nhcamps.org
nhcamps@worldpath.net

American Camp Association – New England
80 Westview Street
Lexington, MA 02421
(781) 541-6080
www.acane-camps.org
Camp@acane-camps.org

For Additional Information

Please contact the DES Youth Camp Licensing Program at (603) 271-2542 or barbara.davis@des.nh.gov, or visit our website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/youthcamps/index.htm>.

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of May 2012. Statutory or regulatory changes, or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.