
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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

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2017

Overview of Youth Recreation Camp Licensing Program

The N.H. 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 2016, there were approximately 160 licensed camps. A list of licensed camps for the previous year is available online at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/youthcamps/index.htm> or by calling (603) 271-2542.

Statutes:

The statutes pertaining to youth recreation camps are RSA 485-A:23, 24, 25 and 25a. These statutes can be found online at <http://www.nh.gov/government/laws.html>.

Rules:

The rules pertaining to youth recreation camps are Env-Wq 900 (dated 2009). These rules can be found on the NHDES website at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/index.htm#envwq900>.

Definition of a Youth Recreation Camp:

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 which is continuously or periodically used for such purposes. The term includes residence camps and seasonal and year-round day camps.

Duration and Cost of the License:

The licensing period is annually from January 1 through December 31. The camp licensing fee is \$200 per camp, per year.

The Camp Licensing Program:

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 NHDES:

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Youth Camp Professional Associations:

N.H. Camp Directors Association
PO Box 324
Barnstead, NH 03218
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 NHDES 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 2017. Statutory or regulatory changes, or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.