Overview of Youth Recreation Camp Licensing Program

The New Hampshire 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 2019, there were approximately 155 licensed camps. A list of licensed camps is available online at www.des.nh.gov 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 NH Statutes Chapter 485A.

Rules:
The rules pertaining to youth recreation camps are Env-Wq 900 (dated 2019). These rules can be found on the NHDES rules web page.

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
- Medical and Nursing Care
- Physical Examination Prior to Admission
- Buildings and Sleeping Quarters
- Communicable Diseases - Isolation and Reporting
- Food Storage and Preparation
- Drinking Water Supply and Testing
- Fire Safety
- Beaches and Swimming Pool
- Garbage and Waste Disposal
- Toilet Facilities
- Sewage Disposal Facilities

**Youth Camp Contacts at NHDES:**
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  - Concord, NH 03302-0095
  - (603) 271-2542
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- Jacqueline Howarth
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  - Department of Environmental Services
  - PO Box 95
  - Concord, NH 03302-0095
  - (603) 271-0672
  - jacqueline.howarth@des.nh.gov

**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 More Information:**
Please contact the NHDES Youth Camp Licensing Program at (603) 271-2542 or barbara.davis@des.nh.gov, or visit our website at www.des.nh.gov.

**Note:** This fact sheet is accurate as of August 2019. Statutory or regulatory changes, or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.