



Oak Park Education Foundation

B·A·S·E Camp

BASE CAMP 2023 Family Handbook

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Camp Locations

Where is my camp located?

- **Sailing Camp for 5th-8th graders** departs from Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland Ave.
- **Camps in grades 1-6** will be located at Beye Elementary, 230 N Cuyler Ave.
- **All camps for 7th/8th grade – EXCEPT Frisbee Physics–** will be held at Julian Middle School.
- The **Frisbee Physics for 7th/8th Grade** during weeks 1 and 2 will take place at Beye Elementary.

Arrival and Dismissal Logistics

Dropoff/pickup: You will drop off and pick up your child daily at the same spot.

- At Beye, drop off and pick up will be on the blacktop outside on the SOUTH side of the building (Ridgeland Avenue side).
- At Julian, drop off and pick up will be at the front of the building, off of Ridgeland

Teachers and youth counselors will be outdoors to meet your camper 10 minutes before the camp's start time. Look for the color-sided sign with the name of your child's camp and be sure to check in with your child's teacher or counselor at drop off. If, when registering, you selected the option to allow your child to travel to and from camp alone, please remind your child to check in with their teacher immediately upon arrival.

At the camp's start time, camp staff and children will walk together into the building. The school doors remain locked all day, and camp staff will only remain near the entrance for a few extra minutes, so please be on time. *If you are more than 10 minutes late to camp, please go to the school's main entrance and follow the posted instructions to reach BASE Camp staff.*

In the case of inclement weather, camps will gather inside the buildings. Please enter through the door nearest the outdoor meeting spots noted above.

Late arrivals and visitors to camp:

The school doors will be locked all day; staff may not be available at each entrance. If you need access, there will be a message posted on the main entrance door of each camp building with a phone number to call or text. If possible, please let your camp teacher know ahead of time by email so a staff member can meet you at the door when needed (cell phone connections are generally not reliable in school buildings).

Please remember that when a field trip is scheduled, the bus (or walking group) will not wait for late campers.

Dismissal:

All campers will be escorted outside to meet the adults picking them up. Please allow the camp to reach their designated pick up site before checking out your child. Teachers will not ask for identification of adults picking up your child unless you specifically request that in person on the first day of camp; teachers will have your list of approved adults provided at registration and will use it only if there is a question. Release of campers to anyone appearing to be under age 18 must be worked out between the parent and camp teacher on the first day of each camp session.

Campers **without** permission to leave unaccompanied must be checked out by a parent, guardian or caregiver. Please be sure that you make contact with the teacher or youth counselor before taking your child.

Campers **with** permission noted on the registration form to leave at dismissal unaccompanied (walking or biking alone) will be dismissed by the teacher once outside.

Tardy pick up:

You can depend on the timely dismissal of campers daily by the staff. And the staff will depend on the timely pickup of your child. If you know you will be late, please be sure to call your building manager so they may alert your child's teacher (your child will be asked to wait in the office until you arrive).

Campers not picked up at dismissal will be escorted to the front office where they will wait with BASE Camp staff until a parent/caregiver arrives. Please note that continued tardiness at pick up may result in your child being placed in our Extended Camp where charges will apply.

COVID-19 Policies

BASE Camp will be following the latest guidance from CDC and state health officials on operating day camps. These practices may evolve with new guidance, and any changes will be communicated to camp families in advance.

Extended Camp

Extended Camp at Beye (grades 1-6 only):

Campers participating in Extended Camp will be engaged with STEAM activities, games, books, and crafts in both structured and unstructured play time, outside and inside. We recommend

that you pack your child a nut-free snack for Extended Camp. Campers staying for extended camp may wish to pack additional sunscreen. Camp staff can not apply sunscreen for campers.

Dismissal for Extended Camp will take place outside or possibly in the multipurpose room (cafeteria) near the playground blacktop. Parents may pick up their children any time before 6 pm. Please go to the main door, ring the doorbell and the Extended Camp Staff will answer and assist with check out. Please do not leave with your child until they have been checked out with staff.

Late Pickup: Our staff depends on your timely pickup of your child by 6:00pm. If you are late picking up your child more than once, a \$20 fee will be charged.

Attendance Policy

Attendance: Your child's consistent attendance is crucial to allow them to fully engage in their camp's planned projects, which often involve working as a team and building upon their work over the course of a week or longer. Please ensure your child attends camp every day. Of course we understand that illnesses and other unforeseen incidents may prevent their attendance, but we ask that you notify us if this is the case. Communicating with us ahead of time if you know your child must miss some camp will help to resolve many situations.

Absences:

Please let BASE Camp know about any absences by contacting the building manager for your child's camp location, with that information to be passed along to the teacher. No refunds are given for missed days (see our cancellation policy).

Unexpected Absences:

If your child unexpectedly does not show up for camp, a staff member may call you (or your emergency contact person if necessary) after camp has begun. The safety of our campers is a high priority! Be sure to inform us of known or coming absences to avoid such calls.

Lunch & Food

*****BASE CAMP is NUT-FREE!*****

How does Supervised Lunch work?

Campers who are registered for both a morning and an afternoon camp will spend about half of their lunch break eating, and half playing or unwinding outside. Campers are supervised by a mix of BASE Camp staff and youth counselors at all times. Weather permitting, campers will eat lunch outside. If the weather is bad, campers will eat lunch in classrooms and take playtime in the gym.

1st-6th Grade Lunch Details:

At Beye, the campers are divided into two groups, with half eating first while the others play outside, and then switch. At the end of the lunch break, staff members help campers sort into their afternoon camp groups and escort them to check in with their PM camp teachers.

Water bottles:

Please send a reusable water bottle with your child to carry all day during camp. Please label with his or her name and remind your child to keep it at hand as they move through their day.

Lunch Food:

If your child is staying for lunch, please include a beverage and send **only nut-free foods** (that do not need refrigeration) for the safety of our kids at camp with severe nut allergies.

If you've purchased lunch, a lunch menu will be sent out the week before camp starts.

Sample lunch menu:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Roasted Turkey & Cheese on Whole Grain Bread* -Carrot Sticks ** -Apple Slices -Water Bottle	Seasoned Chicken & Cheddar Cheese on Whole Wheat Wrap -Celery Sticks -Gala Apple -Water Bottle	American Cold Cut Turkey Trio & Cheese on Whole Grain Sub Bun -Roasted Garbanzo Beans -Banana -Water Bottle	Turkey & Cheese Cracker Kit -Grape Tomatoes -Purple Grapes -Water Bottle	Pizza Kit with Whole Grain Crust, Pizza Sauce, Mozzarella Cheese, and Turkey Pepperoni -Broccoli Florets -Quartered Orange -Water Bottle

Snacks:

Children are encouraged to bring a snack. **Please send only nut-free foods** for the safety of our kids at camp with severe nut allergies. Campers will generally eat snacks outside during camp breaks.

All elementary camps will include a short break and (optional) snack time. The middle school and biking camps will take breaks at the teachers' discretion.

Teachers will not provide any food to campers unless food is already a stated part of the camp program or unless you receive advance notice by email. You may of course send a substitute food if your child is not able to eat the food to be provided.

Allergy Info: If you need to add any information to your child's camp registration about his/her special dietary needs due to medication, allergies, illness, or special circumstances, please email those details to Tara Oetting- toetting@opef.org, at least one week prior to the start of camp. All information submitted is shared with your child's camp teachers to keep them informed.

Field Trips:

Families will be notified in advance if any walking or bus field trips are planned for your children's camps. Please note all the same rules apply for field trips as for camp. Please be on time; buses will not wait for campers arriving late.

In biking camps, if a biker cannot complete a ride and needs to be picked up from an off-site location, a parent or emergency contact will be contacted about safe, convenient pickup options.

Recess

Camps generally take a 15-20 minute daily recess break outside on the playground (Beye) or patio/field (Julian) weather permitting.

Photography Policy

As a reminder, when you registered for camp you signed a waiver allowing the Oak Park Education Foundation to take photos and videos of your child to document the camp experience. They may be used in OPEF materials, websites and social media. To exclude your child from appearing in photos and videos, you must request this via email to our [general BASE Camp email](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to see great photos of camp.

What to bring to camp?

What else should my child bring to BASE Camp?

Nothing! Please don't send your camper with money or valuables (monetary or sentimental). OPEF will not be responsible for any lost, stolen, or broken items.

Students staying for extended camp may wish to bring additional sunscreen. Staff cannot apply sunscreen for students.

No weapons of any kind--real, look-alike or toy--are allowed at BASE Camp. BASE camp is on Oak Park School District 97 property, where having weapons on school property violates [District 97 Board policy](#).

A weapon means: Any kind of gun or knife (real or toy), camping tools (real or toy), axes, light sabers, grenades (real or toy), and even squirt guns. This list is not all-inclusive. OPEF reserves

the right to decide what is and isn't a weapon. Other items that are prohibited from camp include lighters and matches, fireworks, tobacco products and controlled substances, including alcohol. Exceptions may be made for prescription medicines. This list is not all inclusive. If you are in doubt about an object, please ask the camp teacher or leave it at home.

Can my child bring and use a cell phone?

Cell phone use is not permitted during camp hours. To ensure campers are fully involved with planned activities, we do not allow use of personal cell phones during BASE Camp. In addition, we will NOT be responsible for lost/stolen devices. If phones are being used during camp, campers will receive one warning from teachers or staff to put their phone away and then it will be collected until camp is done for the day.

Should my child bring their D97 issued chromebook or ipad?

Maybe! Each teacher will reach out before camp starts and let you know what technology a camper should bring which may include a district-provided chromebook or ipad. Please ensure these are charged at the start of every camp day.

What should my child wear to camp?

Please dress your child in comfortable, appropriate clothes and sneakers or sandals (no flip flops). Please note that most of our school rooms used for camp are air conditioned. Please send a raincoat or jacket if needed for weather, and put sunscreen on your child before camp (our staff is not allowed to apply lotion or sunscreen).

For some very messy camps, clothes may be damaged by art materials. We will notify you in a camp information email if this is the case, and please be sure to send your child in clothes that can get messy.

Each camper is given one BASE Camp t-shirt each summer on the first day of their first camp session. We love seeing campers in BASE Camp t-shirts at any time, and strongly recommend they are worn on field trip days for easy identification with our group.

Do you have a Lost and Found?

Yes. Please have your child start by checking with the camp teacher for a lost item. After a few days or so, the item will be moved to a central Lost and Found location. If the item is labeled, you will be contacted. If it is not labeled, please send a description by email to [Tara Oetting-toetting@opef.org](mailto:Tara.Oetting-toetting@opef.org), to see if it has been turned in. Items not collected by their owners by the end of BASE Camp are donated to charity.

Adjustment to Camp, Behavior Expectations and Accommodations at Camp

What should I do if my child has issues adjusting at camp?

We want our campers to feel safe, have fun and enjoy new learning opportunities! Before the first day, consider showing your child the [Teacher Bios](#) from the website and [photos](#) from previous summers. An encouraging conversation using these resources might help your child feel more comfortable coming to camp.

If your child is having a problem adjusting at camp for whatever reason, please contact your child's teacher in person or via email first. Our teachers are professionals, skilled in supporting each child's situation. If the issue is still not resolved, please contact Tara Oetting, toetting@opef.org.

What are the behavior expectations for my child at camp?

In an effort to provide the most meaningful and positive experience at BASE Camp, we expect all children participating in camp to be able to do the following:

- Follow directions and be able to communicate their interests and needs.
- Treat staff and campers with respect.
- Use safe hands and kind words
- Be willing to participate in activities with other children.
- Participate safely in camp activities without needing significant behavioral support.
- Treat D97/OPEF property and supplies with respect and care

What will happen if my child is not meeting BASE Camp's behavior expectations?

We will work with each child and family to ensure a successful BASE camp experience for every child. Additionally, our staff strives to be as proactive as possible through positive behavioral management strategies such as guidance, redirection to more acceptable behavior and encouragement of appropriate behavior rather than comparison, competition or criticism. Staff members will establish consistent and clear rules and will encourage children to respect each other, cooperate and communicate to solve problems.

Should a behavior issue arise, BASE Camp teachers and staff will address the situation considering the child's developmental stage and the circumstances. If the behavior persists, parent/guardian will be contacted for a conference (by phone or in person) to discuss the issue and establish a mutually agreeable solution for continued participation in the program. If your child's behavior threatens the well-being of other children, staff or themselves, your child may be removed from the situation to maintain a safe environment and staff will immediately contact a parent/guardian.

Some situations requiring parent involvement include:

- Persistent disruptive behavior in the camp
- Overt disrespect or defiance of teachers or staff
- Any physical altercation

BASE camp reserves the right to require a child to be picked up from camp immediately, stay home for a period of time and/or to dismiss the child from the program completely. This will occur without a refund (full or partial) or credit toward a future program.

What should I do if my child needs special accommodations or support?

BASE Camp provides an inclusive environment for children with and without disabilities, and we strive to have campers with special needs participate fully with their peers. We believe that the inclusive environment at BASE Camp enhances the experience for all children.

However, it is important to note that while the Oak Park Education Foundation strives to work collaboratively with Oak Park School District 97, we are a separate entity and independent from the school district. If your child receives special services or accommodations through District 97 or any other school district (i.e., an IEP, behavior plan, etc.), we do not have access to those records or documents.

If there are specific strategies or accommodations that have helped your child succeed in a school or recreational setting, please feel free to share those specific requests with us. During the BASE Camp registration process, there was a space to request any accommodation your child may need. If you did not do so during registration, please contact Tara Oetting, Programs Director toetting@opef.org to make an accommodation request. We ask that you make any request prior to the beginning of BASE Camp so that we have sufficient time to review the request and follow up with you if necessary.

All special accommodation requests will be evaluated and determined on a case-by-case basis. If it is determined that we are unable to accommodate your child based on the information you provide, we will refund your registration fee in full.

Health and Safety

What should I do if my child is ill?

Please keep your child home if they are ill or have a fever, even if the symptoms are not COVID related. Please text or call your building manager (details below) if your child will be absent from camp. In general, no refunds are given for missed days (see our cancellation policy).

What will you do if my child is sick or injured at camp?

BASE Camp does not have professional healthcare providers on staff at any camp location.

For minor bumps, scrapes, splinters, or cuts, BASE Camp staff will provide basic first aid with supplies on hand. The camp teacher will speak to the parent at the end of camp where possible, or may call, with information about the incident.

If your child becomes ill during camp, BASE Camp staff will contact you to come pick up your child from camp.

For emergencies, BASE Camp staff will call 9-1-1 and seek emergency medical treatment as well as notify the parent or guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, camp staff will notify the emergency contact named in the camp registration form. Staff will fill out an accident/injury report form, and will provide the parent/guardian a copy of the report.

So that we may be prepared, please be sure we have up-to-date emergency phone numbers for all parents, guardians and emergency contacts.

If you have an emergency and need to contact your child(ren) or camp staff members, please text or call the building manager for your child's camp location.

Will your staff administer medication?

No. We do not have medical personnel on staff to administer or store medication. We do keep ice packs, bandages, etc. on hand for small issues. Your child's teacher will be aware of all health information you include on your camp registration form.

What about EpiPens and inhalers?

EpiPens and inhalers should be carried by each child on their person (fanny pack or backpack) throughout the camp day and will not be stored by staff. Our teaching staff is trained to administer EpiPens brought to camp daily by children with allergies and can assist where needed.

Camp Cancellations

What's your cancellation policy?

Refunds, less \$25 per camper per session, must be requested at least 14 days before the start of the camp session. No refunds will be issued after that date. When the full registration amount is forfeited, those funds will be converted to a tax-deductible donation to OPEF (provided no services were actually received).

BASE Camp Staff Contact Info

Before BASE Camp begins:

General questions, registration, information changes, scholarship questions:

Tara Oetting, Programs Director toetting@opef.org

During BASE Camp Hours (Mon-Fri 8:00am-3:00pm):

Please contact each location's building manager/coordinator regarding attendance, questions/comments about your camper's experience or needs, and any changes to your contact information.

Beye (grades 1-6)

Renee Drew, Camp Coordinator

847-436-1429

rdrew@opef.org

Alice Atkins, Building and Extended Camp Manager

708-638-2296

Alice642@comcast.net

Julian (grades 7-8)

Ebony Welch, Building Manager

708-973-1733

Ebonywelch@rocketmail.com

Tara Oetting, OPEF Program Director

773-827-7975

toetting@opef.org

After Hours/Weekend

For any issues after regular camp hours or on the weekend, please email BASE Camp at basecamp@opef.org or via phone at 708-524-3027.