



Collier Youth Services  
WHERE SMALL MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

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# KATERI

**DAY CAMP**

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# Parent Handbook

## 2021

160 Conover Road  
Wickatunk, NJ 07765  
(732)946-9694 fax(732)946-9785  
campoffice@collieryouthservices.org  
www.katericenter.org

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**Collier Youth Services**  
WHERE SMALL MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

## HISTORY OF COLLIER YOUTH SERVICES

In 1927, Mrs. Sara Van Allen Collier bequeathed the Wickatunk property to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd for the establishment of a residential school for neglected and dependent girls. This residential program was in operation until the mid-1970s when the program was changed to Collier High School, an alternative day school for both girls and boys. At this time, Collier also expanded to include a group home for teenage girls and a summer camp for disadvantaged youngsters.

Our programs have developed over the years in response to the changing needs of the young people and families we serve. Today, Collier Youth Services addresses the therapeutic and social issues of our youngsters through educational, residential, and recreational programs of the highest quality. While our services continue to evolve, one thing remains constant: our commitment to nurturing the potential of each person and honoring their individual worth.

## KATERI DAY CAMP OVERVIEW

Since 1977, Kateri Day Camp has provided children with a safe and wholesome summer camp environment. Our philosophy is one of respect for ourselves, each other and the world around us. The camp is located on the beautiful 260-acre campus of Collier Youth Services in Marlboro Township.

At the heart of Kateri Day Camp is a belief in the inherent worth of the individual and respect for the environment. This belief is lived through outdoor programs, sports, swimming, and creative arts that encourage all participants to respect themselves and the world around them while celebrating the beauty of nature.

Each summer through our annual campership program, more than 200 campers from low income families between the ages of 5-13 join us for seven weeks of hiking, swimming, playing, crafting, reading, and making friends! Transportation, breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are all included. Many campers return each year to see familiar faces eager to reconnect and begin again.

Our exceptional staff is made up of talented, educated, and fun loving individuals who care deeply for our campers. The Kateri Day Camp community, campers, and staff teach one another and learn from one another. We are a very special place that creates everlasting memories.

**Important Dates:** Kateri Day Camp's 2021 summer season begins Monday, June 28 and ends on Friday, August 13. Camp will be closed Monday July 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Independence Day.

**Camp Hours:** 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (rain or shine).

**Staff:** Our staff includes certified teachers, certified social workers, certified lifeguards, and behavior specialists.

**Meals:** Kateri Day Camp provides a healthy breakfast and lunch every day to every camper with funding from the USDA. A healthy snack is provided each afternoon.

**Busing:** Kateri Day Camp provides free supervised yellow bus transportation to camp from these areas: Asbury Park, Belmar, Freehold Borough, Howell, Keansburg, Keyport, Long Branch, Neptune City, Ocean Twp., Red Bank and Union Beach. Please see the list of bus stop locations on our website.

**Paying for Camp:** \$350/week, Child Care Resource funding accepted, or Campership.

Please visit our website [www.katericenter.org](http://www.katericenter.org)  
to view MORE!

# READY?

## Enrollment

Campers range in age from 5-13; to be eligible for our Counselor in Training Program, an applicant must have completed eighth grade, attended Kateri Day Camp for at least one summer, and be invited by the director.

Every camper wishing to enroll must complete and submit:

1. Application – ONLINE preferred, paper available
2. Summer Food Service Form (printed, completed and mailed)
3. Immunization Records (faxed or mailed)
4. \$40 per family registration fee

## Paying for Camp

Kateri Day Camp is \$350 per week/ \$2,450 for the full 7-week summer.

1. Full payment can be made via check or paid online by credit card. Please contact us at 732-946-9694 to make your payment, or mail a check to Kateri Day Camp, 160 Conover Road, Wickatunk, NJ 07765.
2. A payment schedule can be arranged by calling the camp office 732-946-9694.
3. Kateri Day Camp works closely with Child Care Resources, an agency that provides financial assistance to those unable to pay for child care. If you qualify for Child Care subsidies through NJ Cares for Kids (NJCK), Work First (WFNJ), Monmouth County Targeted Population (MCTP), Respite Child Care and other special programs. Please click here [www.ccrnj.org](http://www.ccrnj.org) or call 732-918-9901 to contact CCR to determine eligibility. In order to attend Kateri Day Camp with Child Care Resources funding you must fill out all necessary CCR forms. Kateri Day Camp must receive a completed agreement from CCR. All co pays are determined by CCR and payable to Kateri Day Camp. Please call Irene at 732-946-4771 x 436 to pay by credit card. Co pays are to be paid by 7/15 and 8/14.
4. A limited number of Camperships are available. Full or partial Camperships may be awarded to those campers whose families qualify financially as evidenced by the completed Summer Food Service Form. For returning campers, campership eligibility will take into consideration the camper's behavior and attendance record.

# SET

## Activities

Kateri Day Camp creates age appropriate activities and programs that provide opportunities for our campers to learn and grow together and individually. In keeping with our mission, our focus is on trying new things, stepping away from the ordinary, and developing a sense of accomplishment.

<u>Creative Arts</u>	<u>Athletics</u>	<u>Literacy</u>	<u>Nature</u>
Painting	Swim Lessons	Shared Reading	Hiking
Drawing	Basketball	Letter Writing	Frogging
Crafting	T-ball	Novels	Nature Walks
Cooking	Flag Football	Poetry	Fossil Finds
Sewing	Soccer	Word Games	Stream Walks
Building	Hockey	Journal Writing	Capture the Flag
Creating	Softball	Singing	Scavenger Hunts
Coloring	Four Square		
Life skills	Games		

## Swim

Swim Lessons and Free swim are well loved activities at Kateri Day Camp. Every child has a swim lesson every day. Swim lessons take place in our Olympic size pool and are instructed by our American Red Cross certified lifeguards and swim instructors.

It is our goal that all Kateri campers will learn basic swim strokes and personal safety techniques. Campers will be classified at varying levels depending upon their swim ability as determined by a basic swim test. Shallow water swimmers have lessons that focus on very basic techniques. Mid-water swimmers focus on three strokes and must be proficient in front crawl and back stroke before moving on. Deep water swimmers focus on more advanced strokes. All campers are required to participate in swim lessons every day.

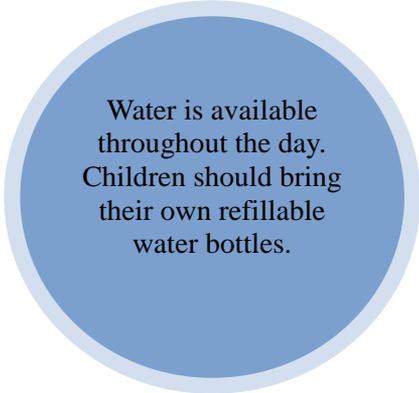
Free swim is available every afternoon to every camper who has taken his/her swim lesson in the morning. Free swim is a time to cool off, have fun and practice newly learned swim skills.

## Daily Schedule

Summer is a time of joy and freedom. Keeping this in mind, our *schedule may vary* due to a special event, an unexpected surprise or even a rain storm. Each group receives their own schedules.

### A typical day at Kateri Day Camp:

8:30 Welcome  
8:45 Flag Raising Ceremony and Daily News  
9:00-9:30 Breakfast  
9:40-10:20 Activity or Swim Lessons  
10:30-11:10 Activity or Swim Lessons  
11:20-12:00 Activity or Swim Lessons  
12:00-12:45 Lunch  
12:50-1:20 Activity or Swim  
1:20-1:50 Activity or Swim  
1:50-2:20 Activity or Swim  
2:30-2:45 Snack  
3:00 Bus Dismissal



Water is available throughout the day. Children should bring their own refillable water bottles.

## Menu

**What are the meals like?** Meals are served to every camper and staff member every day. If your child has a food allergy or dietary restrictions, please submit a doctor's note. Please contact us at 732-946-9694 to make arrangements to allow your child to bring his/her own food.

**Breakfast** may be cold cereal, a muffin or a bagel. Breakfast includes milk and juice.

**Lunch** follows a two week repeating schedule. Lunch includes a milk, fruit, veggie and protein.

**Snack:** Each child gets a small snack before boarding the bus. This can be a granola bar, fruit, chips or even a special ice cream treat.

## Health and Safety

Our Health office is equipped to provide basic medical care and is staffed by one registered nurse or certified first aid specialist. Our nurse/first aid specialist provides first aid care, dispenses medication, and assesses injuries and illness to see if outside care is required. The health office also houses emergency equipment such as an AED.

Should a camper require emergency medical attention that our health office cannot provide we will contact emergency medical services.

In case of illness or injury, a camper's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified as soon as reasonably possible depending upon the situation.

### Medication

Our nurse/first aid specialist will work with the families of campers who require medication during camp hours. Please write all medication instructions on the enrollment application.

When sending Medication to Kateri Day Camp:

1. All medication must be sent to camp in its original prescription bottle with the camper's name printed on the label.
2. Medication cannot be expired.
3. When sending medication to camp please place the original prescription bottle in a zip top plastic bag with the camper's name printed. Bus monitors will collect all medication from you as your camper loads the bus

## Cell Phones and Electronics

It is our policy that:

**ALL Cell Phones ARE TO BE OFF AND AWAY during camp.**  
**ELECTRONICS (iPad, gaming systems etc.) ARE NOT ALLOWED**

*If a cell phone is out and not away:*

- 1. First offense – verbal reminder to turn it off and put it away.*
- 2. Second offense- phone will be taken and held in the office until the end of the day.*
- 3. Third offense – parent or guardian will be called and the phone will be held in the camp office until the last day of camp or until a parent or guardian comes to Kateri to retrieve it.*

This policy is designed to:

- Encourage your children to spend more time focusing on their natural environment
- Promote Socialization between campers
- Give your children a break from the world of technology
- Ensure that photos are not posted inappropriately
- Avoid the risk of emotional injury associated with cell phone use when misused or unsupervised

Summer camp offers a great opportunity to learn about and navigate social situations while not being constantly connected to and immersed within a digital/virtual world.



*Cell Phones are  
OFF AND AWAY!*

### **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP!**

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO BREAK THE RULES AND USE A CELL PHONE AT CAMP.

PLEASE DISCUSS THIS POLICY WITH YOUR CAMPER BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF CAMP AND DURING CAMP. TOGETHER WE CAN HELP OUR CAMPERS UNPLUG!



## TRANSPORTATION

We provide free supervised bus transportation:

- Kateri uses concentrated bus stops. Parents are responsible for getting campers to and from the bus stop.
- There must be an authorized person waiting at the bus stop approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled arrival and departure times.
- Scheduled times are estimated, and are therefore subject to change depending on camper enrollment, inclement weather, and/or traffic.
- Please choose a bus and stop that best suits your needs. Morning and afternoon stops must be the same.
- AM Pick-Up: In the morning the monitor will greet you and your camper at the stop. Attendance will be taken. If a camper misses the bus, parents are responsible for their child's transportation to camp.
- PM Drop-Off: There must be an authorized person with ID waiting to greet all campers.
- Only campers 11 and older with written permission from the parent/guardian may walk home from the bus stop unsupervised. Please contact the camp office for more details.
- Drivers and monitors are instructed not to leave a camper unattended. If necessary, the camper will be brought back to Kateri Day Camp. It will then be the parent/guardian's responsibility to pick the camper up at camp.
- On the first day please get the driver's name and the bus number. Please call the camp office with any transportation questions.
- **All children must remain seated with seatbelts on the bus. Any child who misbehaves on the bus will lose his or her bus transportation privileges. Our bus drivers and camp administration reserve the right to determine if your child is a safety risk and deny them transportation.**

### Private Transportation

If you drive your child to or from camp, you must sign him/her in or out in the camp office using a photo ID. Please keep in mind that drop-off is no earlier than 8:30am. Pick-up is at 3:00pm.

If you find you need to pick your child up early from camp please call the camp office at 732-946-9694 with the time of pick up. Staff will bring your child to the camp office for pick up.

## CAMP BEHAVIOR

At Kateri Day Camp, we believe in helping every camper to be their best! We believe that every moment is a moment to create success. Together we will promote kindness, responsibility, honesty and cooperation. Campers and Staff are expected to be kind, respectful, and follow the rules.

*Kateri Day Camp employs a Behavior Specialist. If your child has an IEP or school behavior plan, please let us know so that we can help your child have a great summer!*

If a camper is having difficulty following camp rules and behavioral expectations:

1. Group counselors, who have been trained to handle basic behavior issues, will positively redirect the camper's behavior. The incident will be noted.
2. If the behavior continues, a Unit Leader will intervene. The camper will be given a time out and the opportunity to return to the activity. The incident will be noted and parent or guardian will receive a phone call.
3. If behavior does not improve the Behavior Specialist will intervene. The Behavior Specialist and the camper may place a call to the parent or guardian. At this time the camper may receive a day out of camp.
4. The Behavior Specialist and Camp Director will monitor the camper for any further behavior issues. If the camper cannot follow basic rules of safety and respect he/she will be asked not to return to Kateri Day Camp.

**Kateri Day Camp is mindful of the safety of all campers. We reserve the right to expel a child from camp if his or her behavior is dangerous to him/herself or others.**

## Things to Know:

- Who will be supervising my child? Kateri Day Camp's staff includes teachers, social workers, college students, and a few select high school students. All staff participates in a training program before camp begins. Background checks are done on all staff members.
- What if my child is sick? If your child is going to be absent, please call the camp office (732-946 -9694) by 9:00 a.m. If your child becomes sick at camp, our camp nurse will call the Parent/Guardian listed on your application. If we cannot reach a Parent/Guardian we will call the emergency contact numbers listed on the application.
- Attendance: Kateri will call home when your child is absent from camp. If your child is absent 3 days in a row, and we have made 3 unsuccessful attempts to reach you, your child will be removed from camp.
- Field Trips: Kateri Day Camp offers a variety of whole camp and small group trips. There is no extra charge for trips.
- Incentive Trips: We have a few special trips for campers who demonstrate excellent behavior. Campers will be invited.
- What is Beach Day? Each summer the entire camp has the opportunity to go to the beach for the whole day. Buses go directly to the beach where the entire Kateri Day Camp staff will be waiting. At the Beach campers will receive breakfast, lunch and snack. We will spend the day in the ocean and on the sand. Camper should wear swimsuits and sandals and bring a towel and a full water bottle. Please do not send money, toys or food. Bus times may change on beach day. Beach Day may be cancelled due to weather.
- Rainy Days: Kateri Day Camp is open on rainy days. When it rains the Camp Director will make the decision whether or not to move camp indoors.
  - The pool may or may not be open on rainy days. Determination is made by the Waterfront Specialist.
  - All outdoor activities will be cancelled in cases of lightning or thunder.
  - All campers are expected to attend camp on rainy days. No refunds will be given.
- Photos: At Kateri Day Camp we take pictures of children to use on camp brochures and other media. If you do **not** want your child's picture taken please let us know.

Whenever we go on a trip, all campers will wear  
a brightly colored Kateri Day Camp T-shirt!

## Tips for the First Day of Camp

- Wear play clothes. Campers will get dirty from mud, paint and more! Please do not send campers in new or special clothes or shoes.
- Wear a swimsuit, everyday. No bikinis! We strongly recommend that you have your child wear a swimsuit under their play clothes to camp. Changing facilities are limited.
- Wear old sneakers. Open shoes, sandals or flip-flops are not allowed.
- Bring a towel with your camper's name on it.
- Bring a reusable water bottle with water only – no juice or soda. Please put your camper's name on their water bottle in case it gets lost.
- Place all items in a small back pack or string bag. Please put your camper's name on their bag.



### Please Do Not Bring:

- Food, candy, or gum
- Money
- Jewelry
- Cell phones, video games or any other electronics
- Toys
- ❖ All prohibited items will be placed in the office and returned at the discretion of the Camp Director.

Kateri Day Camp is not responsible for any lost or stolen personal belongings.

## Contact Us

Camp Director: Karen Stackhouse

Phone: 732-946-9694

Fax: 732-946-9785

Website: [www.katericenter.org](http://www.katericenter.org)

Email: [campoffice@collieryouthservices.org](mailto:campoffice@collieryouthservices.org) or  
[kstackhouse@collieryouthservices.org](mailto:kstackhouse@collieryouthservices.org)

## DIRECTIONS

### **From the North via the Garden State Parkway:**

Parkway South to exit 117A. At the exit ramp turn right onto Lloyd Road. At the end of Lloyd Road, turn left onto Route 79. Continue South on Route 79 for approximately 2 miles. Turn left onto Conover Road. Turn left at the white Collier Youth Services sign.

### **From the South via the Garden State Parkway:**

Parkway North to exit 109. At the exit ramp turn left onto Route 520. Continue west on Route 520. Cross Route 34 and continue up a hill. At the light at the crest of the hill turn right onto Conover Road. Turn right at the white Collier Youth Services sign.

### **From Trenton via Route 33:**

Follow Route 33 East into Freehold. Then take Route 79 North for approx. 8 miles. Cross Route 520 and continue approximately three miles, then turn right at the next light onto Conover Road. Turn left at the white Collier Youth Services sign.

### **From the South via Route 34:**

Follow Route 34 North to Route 520 (Newman Springs Road) Turn left and travel west on Route 520. Continue approximately 2 miles, at the light at the crest of the hill turn right onto Conover Road. Turn right at the white Collier Youth Services sign.

Once you turn onto the driveway of Collier Youth Services. Follow the road down the hill to the Kateri Offices.

We Respect  
The Land  
The Plants  
The Animals  
The People  
And Ourselves

We Use Good Language,  
Good Behavior and a  
Positive Attitude.

