

A group of children are gathered in a grassy field, holding onto a large, multi-colored parachute that is being lifted into the air. The children are looking up at the parachute with excitement. The background shows a line of trees under a bright sky.

SUMMER CAMP HANDBOOK

2026



Welcome to County of Brant Camps! Thank you for choosing one of the County of Brant camps for your camper to enjoy this summer. We pride ourselves on offering a quality camp experience for all campers involved. We are looking forward to seeing your camper this summer.

This handbook provides you with everything, you need to know about summer camp including; staff, activities, policies etc. Please read through this handbook carefully so that you and your child are well prepared for a safe and fun camp experience.

The County of Brant is committed to providing a positive, recreation experience for all participants in a safe and inclusive environment. To achieve this goal we expect participants to;

- 1. Show respect and consideration for staff and fellow campers**
- 2. Be cooperative and participate in camp activities**
- 3. Respect camp rules, the facility and program equipment**
- 4. Our leadership staff will work with children on the first day of camp to encourage their input into writing and reinforcing camp rules.**

Camp Mission

To enhance the quality of life of those who live, work and/or play in the County of Brant by providing efficient and effective delivery of local services including safe, fun and quality programming. We are an Accredited Member of the [Ontario Camps Association \(OCA\)](#). This means that we adhere to over **400** standards that have been developed by camp professionals and in many cases exceed existing government regulations.

Leader - Children Ratio

Safety is extremely important and as a member of the Ontario Camps Association (OCA) the County of Brant camps follows the **ratio safety guidelines** to ensure safest delivery of our summer programming. Please find ratios below;

Summer Sizzler - Children ages 4 - 6 years - 1 staff per 8 campers 1:8
Summer Fun Camp - Children ages 7 - 9 years - 1 staff per 8 campers 1:8

8

UCA - Children ages 10 - 12 years - 1 staff per 10 campers 1:10
Specialty Camp - Children ages 5 - 12 years - 1 staff per 10 campers 1:10

10



Staff

County of Brant camp leaders are chosen for their **enthusiasm, creativity, leadership skills, past work experience and their ability to work and connect with children.**

Our camp staff participate in a thorough pre-camp training program to provide all campers with a safe and enjoyable camp experience. All staff are provided training in First Aid and CPR, and Inclusion & Accessibility training.

The day to day responsibilities of our camp leaders include **engaging campers in fun and inclusive games, building a community at camp, and ensuring the safety of each individual child.** Our camp leaders promote creativity, curiosity, and put forth a great deal of effort in ensuring your child's camp experience is the best it can be.



Staff Uniform

All camp leaders, leaders in training (LIT) and volunteers are required to wear a **County of Brant staff t-shirt, staff sweater or name tag.** This ensures staff can be recognized. On the visits to the Paris Pool or splashpads staff will be wearing a **County of Brant swim tank.** All articles of staff uniform will have the County of Brant logo, as well as camp staff written on the back. This ensures that staff are visible and can be recognized at all times to campers.



Swimming at Paris Community Pool

Red Band - Children 5 years of age and under are given a red band and must swim in the shallow end with a camp leader who is within arms reach at all times. Any children 5 yrs of age and under will wear a life jacket (puddle jumpers are also acceptable) at all times while at the pool regardless of swimming ability/experience to ensure we meet pool supervision requirements.

Green Band - Campers 6 years and up who successfully complete the swim test, will have to wear a green band. They will have access to the shallow and deep ends of the pool and will not have to remain in arms reach of a leader at all times. Leaders must directly supervise campers within their care at all times. Lifeguards who have concern over a campers swimming ability even after receiving a green band can ask the camper to complete the test again. If campers do not wish to complete the swim test, they will receive a red band, and fall under the red band policy.



Sign in/Sign Out

Caregivers are required to sign their child(ren) in and out each day. Please make sure your authorized pick up list is kept up to date on your COB Connect account.

Photo I.D may be requested at pick up.



Photo Release

Photos may be taken at camp of your camper or general camp scene. It is important to read the **photo release** section online when you register. Photos are used for many purposes such as our Community Services Guide or other marketing materials. If you do not want any photos taken of your camper, please remember to state this when you register.



Lunch Days

Every Friday there will be an opportunity to purchase pizza lunch. Order forms will be available at each camp, and will be due back by **Wednesday** of that week. This ensures all food is ordered with enough time.

No orders will be placed after Wednesday. Please send your camper with snacks on lunch days as we still have snack times in the morning and the afternoon.

What to bring

- ☒ Lunch
- ☒ Snacks
- ☒ Water/ Refillable Water Bottle
- ☒ Sunscreen
- ☒ Bathing Suit
- ☒ Towel
- ☒ Extra Clothes

What Not to bring

- ☒ Toys
- ☒ Electronics
- ☒ Money
- ☒ Anything containing Nuts





Camper Readiness

All campers must be County of Brant camp ready. To be camp ready, a camper must be able to:

- **Take direction and instruction from a County of Brant camp leader**
- **Interact and participate within the camp environment (based on the camper's abilities)**
- **Interact and participate in a way that is safe for themselves and others**
- **Be able to use the washroom independently**
- **Attend school successfully (if school-aged)**



Camps at a glance

Summer Sizzler (4-6 yrs)

Summer Sizzler Camp is offered all summer long for 8 weeks. Campers can expect weekly themes and lots of exciting games, crafts and activities

Summer Fun Camp (7-9 yrs)

Summer Fun Camp is offered all summer long for 8 weeks. Campers can expect weekly themes, swimming lessons at the Paris Pool, and lots of exciting games, crafts & activities. Campers will walk to the Paris Pool every Friday for private swim.

Ultimate Camp Adventures (10-12 yrs)

Ultimate Camp Adventures is offered for five weeks. Campers can expect lots of exciting games, crafts & activities.

Specialty Camps (5-12 yrs)

The County of Brant offers multiple Specialty Camps throughout the summer. These camps include; Camp Canvas, DIY, Express Yourself, Tons of Fun Camp, Outdoor Adventure Camp, Sports Camp, Stemetics Camp, Hockey Camp, Gymnastics Camp, Discovery Camp, Basketball Camp, Soccer Camp & Jr. Zookeeper Camp.

Please note that not all specialty camps will go swimming, this depends on the location. Some specialty camps will attend local splash pads. With all specialty camps having a theme, each week will consist of specialty programming for part day, and good old fashion camp games/activities for the remainder of the time spent at camp.



Contacting Camps

Courtney Tobey

Recreation Coordinator
courtney.tobey@brant.ca
519.442.7268 Ext 3262

Emma Goetz

Recreation Programmer - Camp
emma.goetz@brant.ca
226.387.9839

Claire Livingston

Syl Apps Summer Fun &
Specialty Camp Sr. Leader
claire.livingston@brant.ca
519.754.7642

Aimee Balega

Scotland Summer Sizzler & Buford
Specialty Camp Sr. Leader
aimee.balega@brant.ca
226.387.0883

Adam Kozbor

Gaukel Memorial C.C + Greenlane
Specialty Camp Sr. Leader
adam.kozbor@brant.ca
548.328.0624

Megan Calvesbert

Northward, Gymnastics & Hockey
Camp Sr. Leader
megan.calvesbert@brant.ca
519.770.9073

Michelle Thulmann

Paris Summer Sizzler
Camp Sr. Leader
michelle.thulmann@brant.ca
548.328.5019

Scotland Summer Sizzler

226.387.1204

Paris Central Summer Sizzler

519.754.6235

Hockey/ Gymnastics/ Soccer Specialty Camp

519.761.7945

Holy Family

519.754.5792

Gaukel Memorial C.C Specialty Camp

519.732.4826

Buford Specialty Camps

519.754.5746

Northward Specialty Camp

519.757.9243

Syl Apps Specialty Camps

519.757.9776

Summer Fun Camp

226.387.4577

Green Lane Camps

519.750.3842

Gaukel Memorial C.C/ Jr. Firefighter Camp

549.328.5018

Community & Protective Services Department
Behaviour Policy

The County of Brant strives to foster an inclusive environment based on the mutual respect of both child and staff. It is critical that we enforce and consistently follow through with rules and disciplinary procedures to allow for the ultimate safety of everyone involved. Unfortunately, if a child is unable to follow the rules, they will receive a disciplinary form, which will be sent home and returned to staff, before the child can come back to the program. At the County of Brant, we want to create a positive and inclusive atmosphere for our participants, in order for them to have a safe, fun and memorable time with us.

The County of Brant recognizes that some children with disabilities may have a more difficult time understanding and following the rules. We will work together with parents/guardians, to establish realistic expectations for the child, which do not affect the safety or security of the other participants. If your child requires this type of support, please contact the Accessibility and Inclusion Coordinator at FAIRBrant@brant.ca.

Please note: Depending on the severity of the situation, progressive discipline warnings may be skipped over to the next warning. Additionally, disciplinary forms will be kept on file and are transferrable to all County of Brant registered programs. Finally, all discipline forms will be sent out at the discretion of the Recreation Coordinators.

Disciplinary forms will consist of a Progressive Discipline process as listed below:

***For each warning, behaviour forms will be sent home to be signed and returned to staff, by both the parent/guardian and the child.**

Warning One: Yellow

If a participant is consistently not listening, not following the rules and/or misbehaving; the participant will receive three verbal warnings before parents are notified of the situation by senior staff or the coordinator. Within Warning One: Yellow Offences, behaviour is from mild to moderate

Warning Two: Orange

If a participant is exhibiting degrading, unsafe, or unwelcoming behaviour; or if the first level of discipline has been issued, parents will be notified by senior staff or the coordinator. Within Warning Two: Orange Offences, behaviour is from moderate to severe.

Warning Three: Red

In the case of strong disciplinary action, for instance if the participant has bullied or injured another participant or a County of Brant staff, they will skip the yellow and orange warnings and receive a Warning Three: Red Form. Or if the first and second warnings of discipline have been issued, he or she will receive a red form. Contact with the parent/guardian will be made immediately and the child will be sent home.

Removal From Programs

A participant who has received the three written warnings, will be removed from all registered programs for a period of time, based on the number of offences they have acquired. In order to be considered for re-instatement, the parents/guardians must arrange a return to program meeting with the Recreation Coordinator and Senior Leaders of the specific program, to outline the rules of the program and the Behaviour Policy. The child would then be re-instated on a probationary basis, beginning at Warning Two: Orange. A behaviour plan will be completed prior to the child returning to program.

First Offence: Child will be removed from all registered programs for a period of one month.

Second Offence: Child will be removed from all registered programs for a period of three months.

Third Offence: Child will be removed from all registered programs for a period of one year.

Final Offence: No further permission to return to any County of Brant programs.

Completed forms are active from September-August and transferable from one program to another. Discretion is with the Recreation Coordinator's on participation in programs



☐ Yellow

☐ Orange

☐ Red

**Community & Protective Service Department
Behaviour Policy**

Progressive Discipline Process: Behaviour Incident Form

This form has been completed by the County of Brant staff that witnessed and/or dealt with the behaviour incident. Attached to this document are a Parent and a Child’s Behaviour Form. All forms must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian, child, staff and the coordinator of the program. These forms will be kept on file and used for future reference.

Child’s Full Name: _____

Date of Incident:

Program Name:

Location of Behavioural Incident: (Be specific)

Detailed Description of Behavioural Incident: (Be specific)

Included:

☐ Staff Behaviour Tracking Form

☐ Behaviour Plan

Child’s Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Full Name (print):_____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

County of Brant Program Staff Initials: _____

Recreation Coordinator Signature: _____