

SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

ADVENTURE - STRATEGY - CREATIVITY - DISCOVERY

Two Thousand Twenty Six

Dwight Merkel Sports Complex • 5701 N. Assembly Rd. • Spokane, WA 99205

 *City of Spokane*
PARKS & RECREATION

SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

Where kids go to play, explore, and have lots of fun!

Some favorite themes return this summer with new challenges and next-level experiences! This summer, adventure, creativity, and discovery come to life at Summer Day Camp @ Merkel! With three dynamic themes – Adventure & Exploration, STEM & Strategy, and Art & Science – campers will have endless fun as they embark on thrilling quests, experiment with exciting science and engineering challenges, and express themselves through sports, art, and movement. Each week offers fresh opportunities for hands-on learning and unforgettable experiences in a vibrant, engaging environment designed to spark curiosity and inspire growth. Ages 7-11.

ADVENTURE & EXPLORATION



From 6/29 to 7/2



From 7/20 to 7/24

STEM & STRATEGY



From 7/13 to 7/17



From 8/3 to 8/7

ART & SCIENCE



From 7/6 to 7/10



From 7/27 to 7/31

SUPERHEROES ASSEMBLE!

From 6/22 to 6/26

FINAL SUMMER BASH!

From 8/10 to 8/14

All camps only **\$289** per week! Register Today!
SPOKANEPARKS.ORG or call 509-755-2489



City of Spokane
**PARKS
& RECREATION**



SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled to welcome you and your child to an exciting summer of adventure, creativity, and discovery at **Summer Day Camp @ Merkel!** This year, we will see our most popular camps return with expanded challenges and new experiences. Each week stands on its own, but returning campers will notice exciting growth and continuity

From embarking on epic quests in **Adventure & Exploration** to unleashing their inner scientist in **STEM & Strategy** or showcasing their talents in **Art & Science**, your camper is in for a summer packed with endless fun and learning opportunities.

Our dedicated team of counselors is committed to ensuring that your child feels safe, supported, and engaged every step of the way. At the **Summer Day Camp @ Merkel**, we believe in fostering an environment that encourages exploration, self-expression, and personal growth.

Whether they're solving challenges during **Zombie Apocalypse**, building brainpower during **Brain Builders**, or celebrating the season at our **Final Summer Bash**, your camper will be exploring their passions and making memories that will last a lifetime.

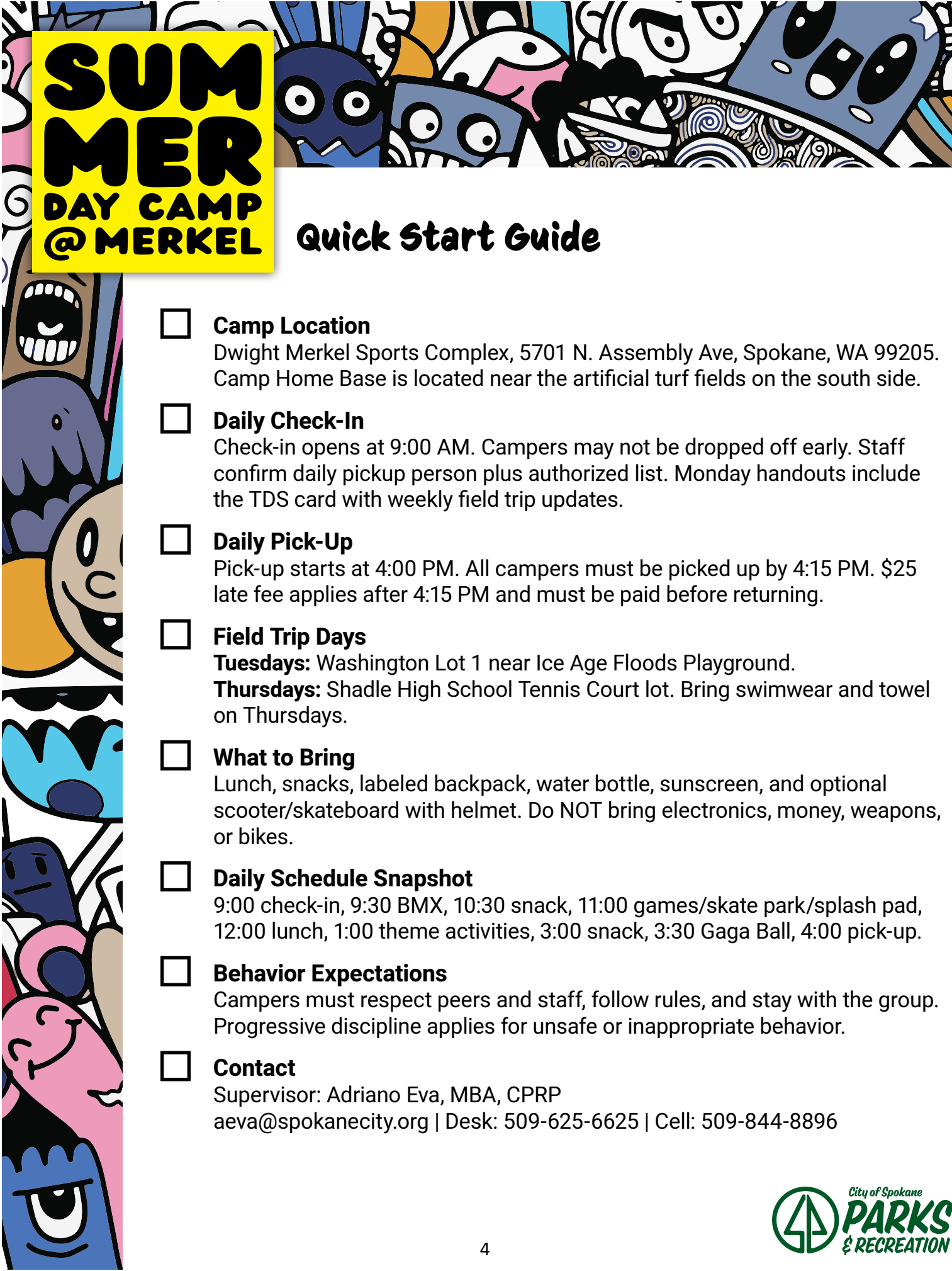
Thank you for entrusting us with your child's summer experience. We can't wait to share in their laughter, discoveries, and triumphs over the weeks ahead. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at aeva@spokanecity.org.

Here's to an incredible summer together!

Warm regards,

Adriano Eva

Adriano Eva, MBA, CPRP | Supervisor – Wellness & Enrichment, Youth Sports
aeva@spokanecity.org | Desk: 509.625.6625 | Cell: 509.844.8896 | SpokaneParks.org



SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

Quick Start Guide

- ☐ **Camp Location**
Dwight Merkel Sports Complex, 5701 N. Assembly Ave, Spokane, WA 99205.
Camp Home Base is located near the artificial turf fields on the south side.
- ☐ **Daily Check-In**
Check-in opens at 9:00 AM. Campers may not be dropped off early. Staff confirm daily pickup person plus authorized list. Monday handouts include the TDS card with weekly field trip updates.
- ☐ **Daily Pick-Up**
Pick-up starts at 4:00 PM. All campers must be picked up by 4:15 PM. \$25 late fee applies after 4:15 PM and must be paid before returning.
- ☐ **Field Trip Days**
Tuesdays: Washington Lot 1 near Ice Age Floods Playground.
Thursdays: Shadle High School Tennis Court lot. Bring swimwear and towel on Thursdays.
- ☐ **What to Bring**
Lunch, snacks, labeled backpack, water bottle, sunscreen, and optional scooter/skateboard with helmet. Do NOT bring electronics, money, weapons, or bikes.
- ☐ **Daily Schedule Snapshot**
9:00 check-in, 9:30 BMX, 10:30 snack, 11:00 games/skate park/splash pad, 12:00 lunch, 1:00 theme activities, 3:00 snack, 3:30 Gaga Ball, 4:00 pick-up.
- ☐ **Behavior Expectations**
Campers must respect peers and staff, follow rules, and stay with the group. Progressive discipline applies for unsafe or inappropriate behavior.
- ☐ **Contact**
Supervisor: Adriano Eva, MBA, CPRP
aeva@spokanecity.org | Desk: 509-625-6625 | Cell: 509-844-8896

SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

Arriving To Camp

- Check-in begins at 9:00 AM. Campers may NOT be dropped off early or left unattended.
- Each morning staff will ask who is picking up your camper that day as part of our daily safety check.
- Weekly TDS (Trip Day Summary) Cards handed out Mondays with field trip + pickup updates.



Pick-up Procedures

Pick-up begins at 4:00 PM. Campers can only be released to adults listed on the Authorized Pickup List.

Late Pick-Up After 4:15 PM

\$25 late fee

Must be paid before returning.

Location

- Dwight Merkel Sports Complex
5701 N. Assembly Ave
Spokane, WA 99205.
- Camp Home Base is located on the south side near the artificial turf fields.
- **Field Trip Days:** Stay in your vehicle – staff will approach you for check-in.



SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

Camp Schedule

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (no-field trip days) we will follow the schedule below. The schedule may vary based on programming opportunities, camper interests, facilities availability, and/or inclement weather.

9:00 AM – Check In

Ice Breakers, Expectations/Safety Reminders.

9:30 AM – BMX Track

Instruction with Spokane BMX

10:30 AM – Snack Time

11:00 AM – Skate Park/Various Games/Splash Pad

12:00 PM – Lunch Time

1:00 PM – Theme of the Week!

Campers participate in activities connected to the week's theme, including adventure challenges, strategy games, creative design, and collaborative problem-solving.

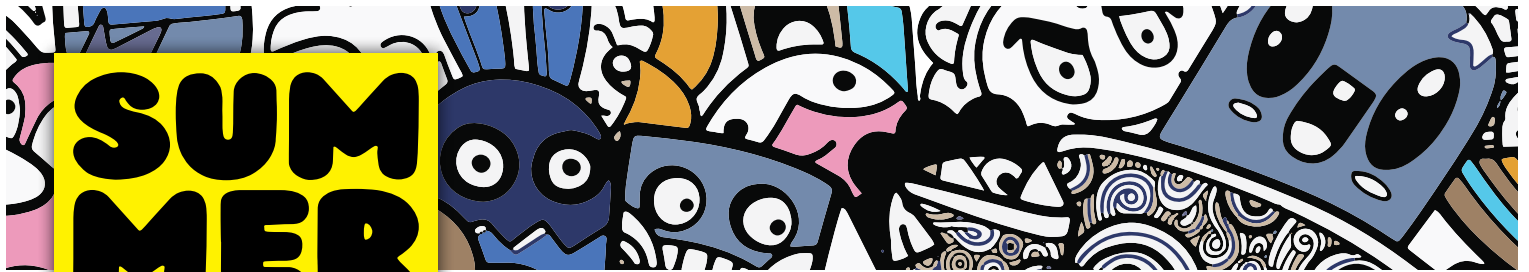
3:00 PM – Afternoon Snack Time!

3:30 PM – Gaga Ball Frenzy!

4:00 PM – Check Out!

Daily schedules may vary slightly based on theme, weather, and field trips.





SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

Tuesday Field Trip to Riverfront Park and The Podium

REMEMBER:
*Tuesdays are
Different!*

Activities

On Tuesdays, campers will play at the Ice Age Floods playground, splash pad, and tour the park. In the afternoons, camp activities may be moved indoors into The Podium, where camp games and activities will continue until pick-up time.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

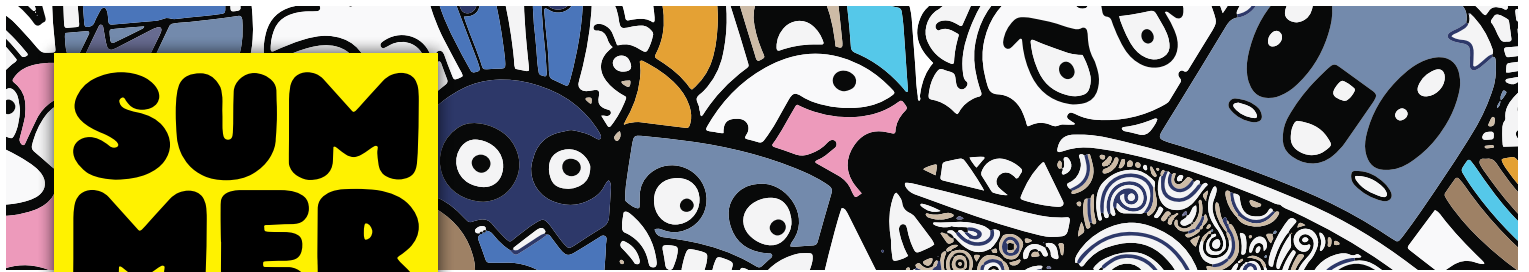
Drop-off and Pick-up takes place at the Washington Street, parking lot 1 (which gives access to the Ice Age Floods Playground). Staff are positioned throughout the loading zone to ensure a safe and smooth process.



Drop-off starts at 9 AM.

- At the parking lot, follow the signs to the loading zone. Please stay in the vehicle.
- Staff will approach the vehicle with the check-in form.

Pick-up at 4 PM.



SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

Thursday Field Trip to Shadle Park Aquatic Park

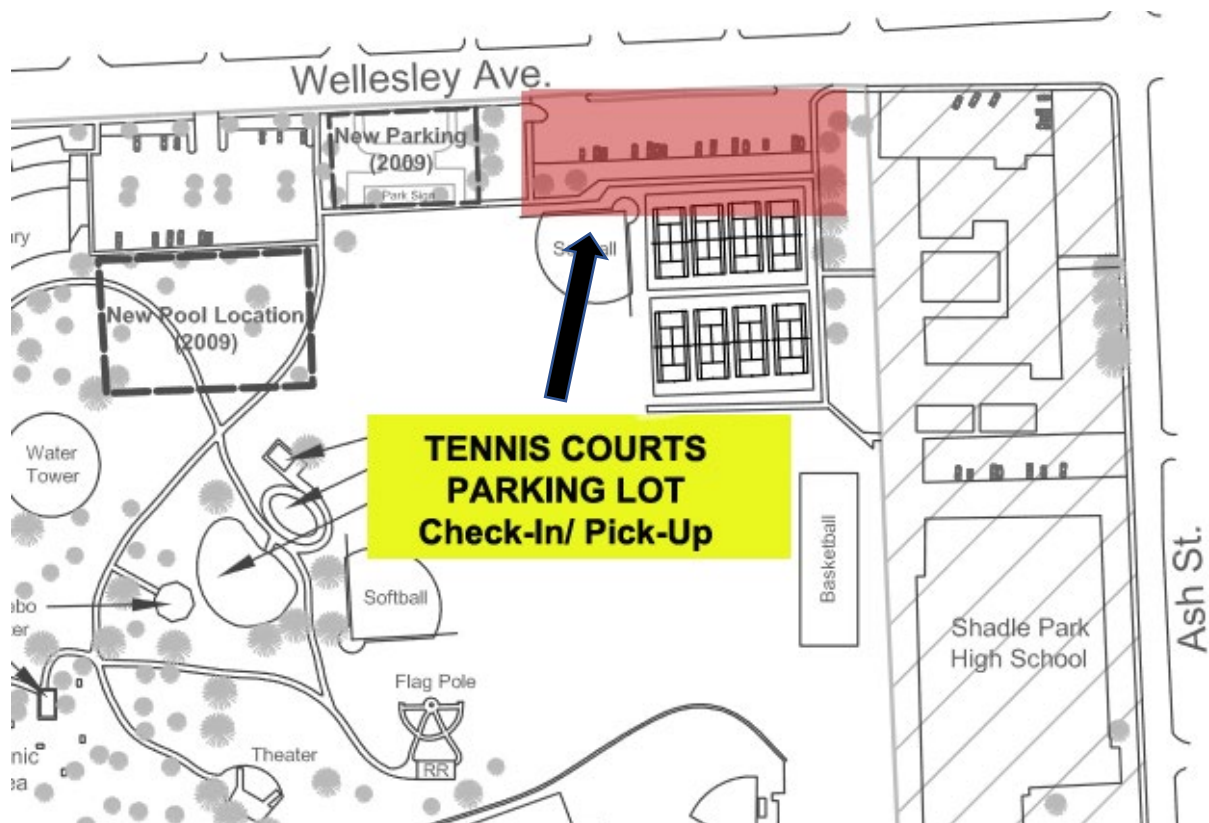
REMEMBER:
*Thursdays are
Different!*

Activities

On Thursdays, at Shadle Park, we will play in the park, visit the beautiful Shadle Park Library, and finish the day enjoying the aquatic park. Pick-up time at 4 PM at the parking lot by the Shadle High School Tennis Courts.

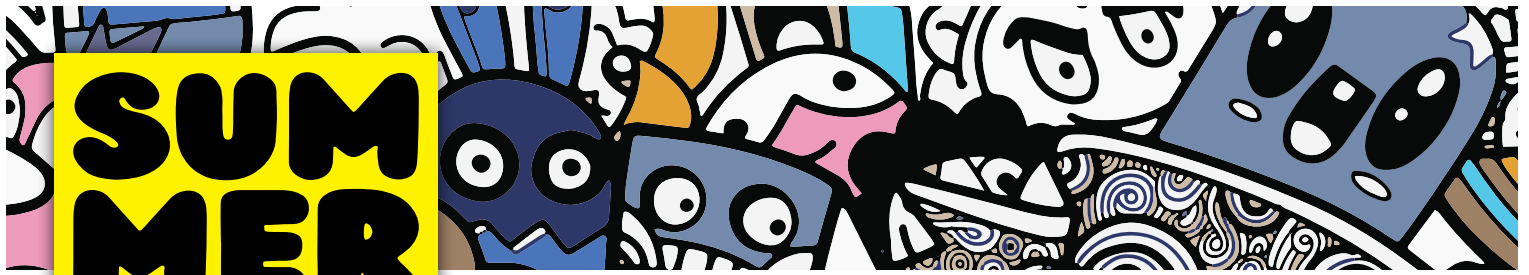
Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Drop-off and pick-up takes place at the parking lot next to the Shadle Park High School's Tennis Courts on Wellesley Ave. (see below):



Drop-off starts at 9 AM. When you arrive at the parking lot, look for the Summer Day Camp @ Merkel Sign, where our camp counselors will be ready to check-in campers. **Pick-Up as usual at 4 PM.**

Bring swimwear, towel, and sunscreen on Thursdays



SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

Getting Ready for Camp!

*No bike needed –
Equipment &
helmets provided!*

What To Bring To Camp

- Lunch and plenty of snacks
- Backpack (with child's name written in it)
- Water bottle (with child's name written on it)
- Sunscreen (with child's name written on it)
- Scooter / skateboard

Things To Keep At Home

- Any items considered dangerous (knives, guns, weapons, fireworks, matches, lighters, etc.)
- Money, jewelry, and/or expensive articles
- Any electronic gaming devices.
- **CELL PHONES:** While at camp, all cell phones will stay in backpacks. They may be used to communicate with parents with staff's permission.

Personal Belongings

The staff will work with campers to ensure they learn to take responsibility for their personal items. Please make sure that lunch boxes, jackets, backpacks, etc. are labeled in permanent marker with the child's first and last name. Alternatively, we will have painters tape at hand for labeling some personal belongings.

*Label
Everything*

Dress Code

Campers should come appropriately dressed for the weather to ensure participation in all activities without restriction.

- Wear socks and closed-toe shoes for comfort and safety. Campers may bring flip flops for swimming pool days.
- Clothing may not display inappropriate language, violence, or lewdness.

BMX

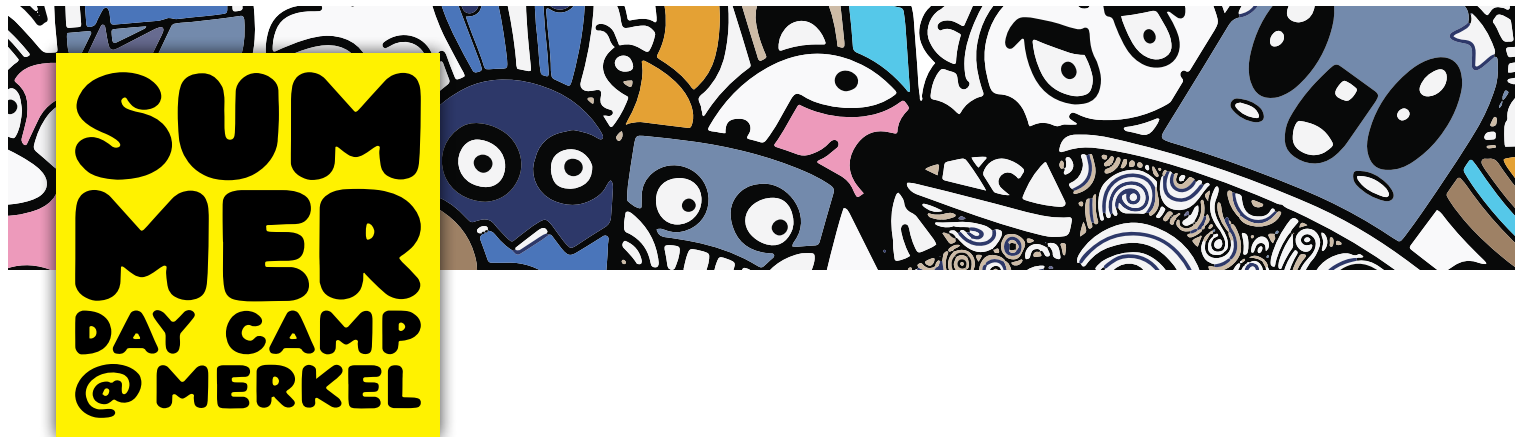
The Summer Day Camp @ Merkel is partnering with Spokane BMX this year to provide expert BMX instruction, training, safety, and supervision for all campers at the BMX track. Spokane BMX will also provide and fit BMX bikes and helmets for each camper.

CAMPERS NO LONGER NEED TO BRING THEIR OWN BIKES TO CAMP!

SKATEBOARDING

Campers may bring their own skateboards or scooters so they can enjoy the Dwight Merkel Skate Park. Helmets are required. Knee and elbow pads are highly recommended.





Lunches and Snacks

The Summer Day Camp @ Merkel does not provide lunches or snacks. We ask that campers come to camp each day with a healthy and nutritious morning and afternoon snack. Good nutrition is essential for effective learning each day and better behavior. We have snack breaks scheduled so that kids can rest and re-fuel. Lunch is scheduled for 12PM.

Snack Ideas

If you're looking for healthy snack ideas for kids attending summer day camp, there are several great resources online that offer a variety of options. Websites like Mommy Poppins provide a list of 24 snack ideas specifically tailored for summer camps, ranging from high-protein snacks to no-refrigeration options, ensuring your child stays energized throughout the day. www.mommypoppins.com/kids/camps/healthy-snacks-kids-summer-camp-food



Other Sugestions

Campers will drink a lot of water at day camp. Please label all water bottles. We plan for plenty of opportunities to refill their bottles throughout the day

Quick Wins:

Protein + fruit

Refillable water bottle

Ice pack recommended



How the Camp Themes Work

Summer Day Camp @ Merkel is designed so that each week stands on its own, while still offering variety and growth throughout the summer.

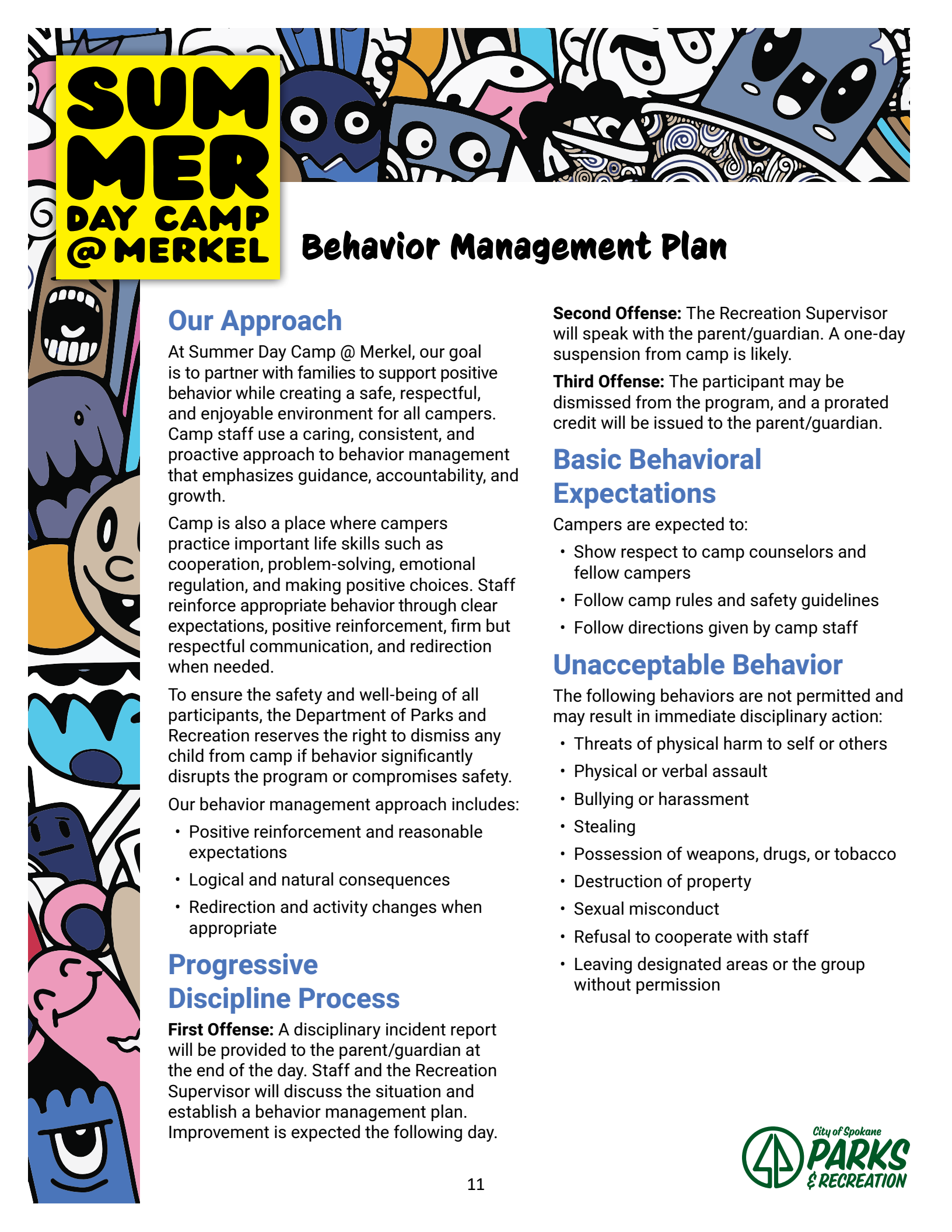
Our camps are organized into three program tracks:

- **Adventure & Exploration weeks** focus on movement, teamwork, imaginative play, and outdoor challenges.
- **STEM & Strategy weeks** emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and games that build brainpower.
- **Art & Science (ArtSci) weeks** blend creativity and experimentation through hands-on art, design, and simple science activities inspired by the scientific method.

Some popular camps return as sequels or advanced levels. These weeks build on familiar themes while introducing new challenges and experiences. Campers do not need to attend earlier sessions to participate—each week is designed to be welcoming and complete on its own.

You may notice that some weeks feel different, and that's intentional. Week 1 serves as a fun kickoff to the summer, while Week 8 is a special capstone week featuring favorite activities from across the season.

This structure allows families to choose any week based on interest, schedule, or energy level, while keeping camp fresh, engaging, and age-appropriate for all campers.



SUMMER DAY CAMP @ MERKEL

Behavior Management Plan

Our Approach

At Summer Day Camp @ Merkel, our goal is to partner with families to support positive behavior while creating a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all campers. Camp staff use a caring, consistent, and proactive approach to behavior management that emphasizes guidance, accountability, and growth.

Camp is also a place where campers practice important life skills such as cooperation, problem-solving, emotional regulation, and making positive choices. Staff reinforce appropriate behavior through clear expectations, positive reinforcement, firm but respectful communication, and redirection when needed.

To ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, the Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to dismiss any child from camp if behavior significantly disrupts the program or compromises safety.

Our behavior management approach includes:

- Positive reinforcement and reasonable expectations
- Logical and natural consequences
- Redirection and activity changes when appropriate

Progressive Discipline Process

First Offense: A disciplinary incident report will be provided to the parent/guardian at the end of the day. Staff and the Recreation Supervisor will discuss the situation and establish a behavior management plan. Improvement is expected the following day.

Second Offense: The Recreation Supervisor will speak with the parent/guardian. A one-day suspension from camp is likely.

Third Offense: The participant may be dismissed from the program, and a prorated credit will be issued to the parent/guardian.

Basic Behavioral Expectations

Campers are expected to:

- Show respect to camp counselors and fellow campers
- Follow camp rules and safety guidelines
- Follow directions given by camp staff

Unacceptable Behavior

The following behaviors are not permitted and may result in immediate disciplinary action:

- Threats of physical harm to self or others
- Physical or verbal assault
- Bullying or harassment
- Stealing
- Possession of weapons, drugs, or tobacco
- Destruction of property
- Sexual misconduct
- Refusal to cooperate with staff
- Leaving designated areas or the group without permission



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