



LEDYARD PARKS, RECREATION, & SENIOR CITIZENS DEPARTMENT



Scott Johnson, Jr.
Director

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Matthew Cicchese
Assistant Director

Dear Ledyard Parks, Recreation, and Senior Citizens Commission,

Ledyard Summer Playground 2024 operated on weekdays from June 24th to August 9th, from the hours of 8:45am to 3:15pm. We had a total of 293 children registered for our playground program, compared to 316 in 2023. We had 29 employees (14 of which were new, one who was let go Week 4, and one who quit Week 5) as well as six volunteers.

As far as registration went for this summer, the parents could register per week through the standard six-week program, as long as they were registered by the Friday before the week wanted. We had a total of 1022 weekly registrations, compared to 1141 in 2023. The Popcorn Kernels Camp (ages 4-6) took place at Gallup Hill School with a combined total of 224 registrations. The Colonels Camp (ages 7-9) took place at Ledyard Middle School with a combined total of 425 registrations. The Super Colonels Camp (ages 10-13) took place at Colonel Ledyard Park with a combined total of 285 registrations. Due to high demand, we decided to add a seventh week of camp this summer and split the campers between two groups, with 28 4-7yos at Gallup Hill Elementary, and 60 8-13yos at Colonel Ledyard Park.

In-House activities this summer included water slides, bounce houses, obstacle courses, dunk tanks, inflatable axe throwing, mechanical bulls, a mechanical shark, a mechanical surfboard, a petting zoo, three Curious Creatures shows, wipeout, Big Daddy's Racing, extreme octagon, foam parties, a velcro wall, cup stacking classes, Mystic Aquarium touch tanks, and a rock wall.

Our two younger camps went on five field trips each, and Super Colonels went on six. This summer, we included the cost of field trips into the cost of registration, so families only needed to register for one activity. Last year, summer camps were \$125/wk + \$15-45 for field trips, and this year there was a flat fee of \$175/wk.

Out of our 293 children, there were a few campers with special needs (i.e., ADD, ADHD, ODD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, PTSD, Learning Disabilities, etc.) that were provided with extra time and attention from our on-site paraprofessional, who was a great help to us this summer. We did our best to give these kids the same experiences as their peers and give them the best summer!

Overall, the summer of 2024 was a huge success. Though we had a decrease in registrations compared to last year, likely due to our price increase, we were still able to create a fun environment for all the campers and were continuously met with great feedback from parents and campers. As always, thank you for your continued support and we invite you to visit the summer playgrounds any time!

Sincerely,

Megan Rosen

Camp Supervisor, Ledyard Summer Playgrounds 2024