



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I sign my child up for camp?

Submit a registration form with complete payment (check or credit card information) to reserve your child's space in camp. Registration forms can be found on our website or at the shelter (87 Oliphant Ln. Middletown, RI). Forms can be mailed to P.O. Box 412, Newport, RI 02840), faxed to 401-367-0122, or emailed to EleanorH@PotterLeague.org. Spaces cannot be reserved over the phone.

How will I know that my registration is complete?

Once the form and payment have been received and processed, you will receive a confirmation email. Attached to the email will be the additional camp forms (pick-up list, medical forms, releases, etc.), which are due at least 7 days prior to the start of your child's camp week.

Is payment refundable?

A \$25 administrative fee is charged for all cancellations. No refund will be issued 7 days or less from the start of the camp week.

I want to register my child for your camp with the YMCA. Do I need to send any payment or info to the YMCA?

No, please send your registration, payment, and additional forms the Potter League. We will send the information over the YMCA before your child starts their camp week.

How does the schedule for the YMCA split camp work?

Your child's schedule will depend on which age group he or she is in. Therefore, if you have two children in different age groups, please be aware that their schedules will be opposite from each other.

Campers going into grades 4-6 start here and therefore must be dropped off here. Camp starts at 9:00 but they can be dropped off as early as 8:30 if needed. The YMCA buses them to the Y at lunchtime (their YMCA counselors meet them here and ride the bus with them), and they eat their lunch there. They are picked up at the Y between 4:00 and 5:30.

Campers going into grades 2 & 3 start at the YMCA, and kids must be dropped off there between 8:30 and 9:00. They can get extra AM care from the YMCA for an additional fee. They must schedule that with the Y. The campers are bused here (with their counselors) by the YMCA at lunchtime, and they eat lunch here before starting Potter League activities. They are picked up at the PL at 4:00, but extended day is offered at \$10 per day until 5:00.

Can a camper go into a session that they are too old or too young for to be with a sibling or friend or for scheduling reasons?

In certain situations, this will be allowed. The camper MUST be within one grade level of the session's range. (For example, an incoming 4th grader may be allowed to join a session for incoming 2nd & 3rd graders to be with a 2nd grade sibling, but the upcoming 2nd grader would not be allowed into the camp for 4th – 6th graders.) Please call Eleanor at 401-846-0592 ext.120 or email at EleanorH@PotterLeague.org for more information and to discuss your situation.

My child will be attending with a friend; can you ensure that they are in the same group?

Each session is limited to just 16 campers, so we do most activities together. However, we will occasionally split the campers into two or more smaller groups for team competitions or other activities. If you write the name of your child's friend on the "Additional Information" section of your child's camp registration form, then we will try to keep their friendship in mind when we split into small groups. Please keep in mind that some groups are created randomly on the fly, so we can't guarantee that they will always be together.

Can I sign my child up for multiple weeks? My child came to camp at the Potter League last year; will the camp be different this year?

Each session has a theme that guides the lessons and activities that we do. Each week will include many new activities, mixed in with a few camp favorites. You are welcome to sign your child up for multiple weeks and come back year after year for many new experiences. See the camp brochure and registration form for a description of each theme.

What should my child bring to camp each day?

The Potter League does not provide food, so they will need lunch, two snacks, and plenty to drink—all packed with an icepack. They should be wearing comfortable clothing, sunblock and close-toed shoes when they arrive for the day. Your child may want to bring a sweatshirt (our air-conditioning can be very cool). If your child is in a YMCA week, they will also need a bathing suit and towel. Please label everything with your child's name. Leave all electronics and pets at home.

What will campers do at Camp Happy Tails?

Campers will get to play games, do crafts, and learn about animals. There is daily (supervised and controlled) time for interacting with some of the shelter animals, although all our time won't be spent directly with animals. We will learn about animal shelters and proper pet care, as well as do some service projects to help the shelter animals, like making toys and treats. Many weeks will also include visits from guest speakers such as veterinarians, animal control officers, and dog trainers. Please see the camp brochure for more information about themes for each week.

How much time will my child spend with animals each day?

We hope to teach children about animal care, safe animal handling, and all aspects of animal welfare. We want our campers to have a safe, fun experience while preventing any undue stress to our shelter animals. We will interact with different animals every day, do activities in the shelter, and help with

animal care and socialization where possible. However, the activities we can do will depend on the current population of adoptable animals during your child's camp week. Some animals simply cannot handle the attention of multiple children at a time, and we endeavor to teach the children to respect the needs of each individual animal.

Do I need to sign my child in and out of camp each day?

For the safety of your children, you must come inside the shelter and upstairs to the Education Center to sign-in your child each morning. Every afternoon at pick-up, a parent/guardian or designated driver must come up to the Education Room and sign-out each camper and show a current photo ID. Campers are not allowed to leave camp without being signed out by someone listed on the authorized pick-up list.

What is Extended Day?

Extended Day is supervised playtime designed to accommodate working parents or guardians who need additional time to pick their child up from camp. Extended Day is available from the end of camp until 5:00 PM, for an additional fee of \$15 per hour (\$15 per day for Potter League weeks, \$10 per day YMCA weeks). Extended Day takes place in the Education Center, where campers may play games, do puzzles, or draw and color.

I'd like to switch my child to a different camp session, can I do this?

Camp registration is first come/first serve. We are able to switch you to a different session if the space is still available in that session. Please notify us of any switch you would like to do as soon as possible.

My child has allergies to cats/dogs/peanuts/hay; can they still attend camp?

We make every attempt to accommodate children with allergies, so please list any allergies on the "Additional Information" section of the camp forms to allow us time to plan activities (making only peanut-butter-free dog treats, for example). However, please keep in mind that we cannot restrict the types of food that campers bring for snack/lunch or that the public brings into the shelter. Campers will also spend a significant amount of time in the Adoption Area and interacting with shelter animals. If your child will not be able to participate in these activities due to severe allergies, Camp Happy Tails may not be the best option for him or her. If you'd like to discuss your child's allergies further, please call Eleanor at 401-846-0592 ext.120 or email EleanorH@PotterLeague.org.

If you have a camp question that was not answered here, please contact the camp director, Eleanor Hanson, by emailing EleanorH@PotterLeague.org or calling 401-846-0592 ext.120.