

# ATLANTA PARKS & RECREATION



THE CITY OF ATLANTA DEPT. OF PARKS & RECREATION

## CAMP BEST FRIENDS

SUMMER PROGRAM

**2015**

**Registration begins March 2, 2015!**

“THE GREAT OUTDOORS”

## HISTORY OF CAMP BEST FRIENDS

In 1981, the City of Atlanta's Mayor Maynard H. Jackson was faced with a daunting and perilous crisis, which later became internationally publicized as, "Atlanta's Missing and Murdered Children." The purpose of the camp was to provide a safe haven for Atlanta's youth and a place for engagement in wholesome, organized and productive recreational activities.

Throughout Mayor Kasim Reed's administration, one of his top priorities has been youth and community development. He once said, "We must invest in our children's future and prepare them for a better tomorrow." Through the Camp Best Friends (CBF) program, the Department of Parks and Recreation is further realizing Mayor Reed's commitment to build stronger communities and ensure that young people receive academic enrichment, engage in physical fitness activities, learn technology and build character.

## OVERVIEW

Smell the fresh air! Camp Best Friends is heading outdoors to experience nature in its purest form. This year's camp will thematically focus on introducing campers to the wonders, ideas and fun that can be discovered while in "The Great Outdoors." The Department of Parks and Recreation understands the importance of blending education with play to provide an enriching environment and works to maintain that connection throughout the summer break. Now in its 34th year, Camp Best Friends has touched the lives of a quarter of a million Atlanta youth.



## PROGRAM DATES

June 1, 2015 - July 24, 2015

## DAYS & HOURS

Monday - Friday | 7:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Monday - Friday | 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. (Teen Sites)

## REGISTRATION FEES

### Centers of Hope, Cultural & Therapeutic Sites:

Residents of Atlanta | \$35 per week

Non-Residents | \$110 per week

### Grant Park Soccer & Tennis Camp:

Residents of Atlanta | \$65 per week

Non-Residents | \$110 per week

### Morningside All Star Sports Camp:

Residents of Atlanta | \$65 per week

Non-Residents | \$110 per week

### Washington Park Swim & Tennis Camp:

Residents of Atlanta | \$65 per week

Non-Residents | \$110 per week

### Lake Allatoona Overnight Camp:

Residents of Atlanta | \$80 per week

Non-Residents | \$110 per week

### Teen & Senior Camps:

No fee for enrollment

Must be City of Atlanta Resident

## 2015 PAYMENT PLAN – DUE BY

Weeks 1 & 2

May 8, 2015

Weeks 3 & 4

May 29, 2015

Weeks 5 & 6

June 12, 2015

Weeks 7 & 8

June 26, 2015

Please visit [atlantaga.gov/iParcs](http://atlantaga.gov/iParcs) or your local Recreation Center.

\* The City of Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation offers a sliding scale for residents. Proof of income status is required.

\*\* Slots are not guaranteed until payment is made in full.

## WHAT TYPES OF CAMPS?

### CENTERS OF HOPE

From the moment campers arrive each day, service leader interns guide them in activities developed around the five (5) Centers of Hope Pillars: Academic Enrichment, Health & Fitness; Character & Leadership Development, Technology and Community. These experiences are achieved through integrated reading, sports, creative writing, games, drama, music, dance, arts and crafts, physical fitness and outdoor adventure.

#### Sites:

Adams Park (ages 5-14), Adamsville (ages 5-14), Ben Hill (ages 5 - 12), Bessie Branham (ages 5 - 12), Central Park (Recreation and Dance Camp | ages 6 - 14), Dunbar (ages 5 - 12), Grove Park (ages 5 - 12), M.L.. King Jr. (ages 5 - 12), Peachtree Hills (ages 5 - 14), Pittman Park (ages 5 - 14), Rosel Fann (ages 5 - 12) and Thomasville (ages 5 - 14)



### ATHLETIC CAMPS

Choose from a variety of athletic camps at various skill levels. Experienced instructors, coaches and college athletes provide guidance according to individual need.

#### Sites:

Grant Park (Soccer and Tennis Camp | ages 5 - 12), Morningside (All Star Sports Camp | ages 5 - 12) Washington Park (Swim and Tennis Camp | ages 5 - 12)

### SUMMER ARTS CAMP

The Summer Arts Camp provides cultural experiences and academic enrichment opportunities that contribute to individual growth and achievement. Each participant receives performing and visual arts classes led by professional artists or arts organizations. This 8-week camp is filled on a first come, first served basis!

Site: South Bend Center for Arts & Culture (ages 5 - 12)

### OVERNIGHT CAMP

Spend a week at our wildness camp on the shore of Lake Allatoona. Campers can explore the many natural wonders in and around camp including nature trails, animal tracks, birds and trees while engaging in environmental education, competitions, swimming, boating, hiking, and more. From time around the campfire to jumping in the lake, this is an opportunity your child should not miss.

Site: Lake Allatoona - Youth transported weekly from designated centers (ages 8 - 12)

### PRIME TIME SENIOR CAMP

If you think summer camps have an age limit, think again! Atlantans ages 50 and older can join in on the Camp Best Friends fun as well. Join us this summer for arts & crafts, music & dance, technology, table games, fitness & wellness and trips!

Sites: Butler Park, C.A. Scott and Old Adamsville

### TEENS

The City of Atlanta Teen Leaders Summer of Service Learning offers teens ages 14-18 the opportunity to become involved in their community through leadership training all while having fun and creating new memories!

#### Sites\*:

Collier Park (STEM in partnership with Future Seekers | grades 9 - 12), James Orange (grades 9 - 12), Perkerson Park (grades 9 - 12), Zaban (grades 9 - 12)

\*For residents only; Applications must be completed for admittance



### THERAPEUTICS

Coan Park Therapeutics Summer Program provides participants with special needs a variety of adapted recreational activities, visual arts and swimming. Campers enrolled in the program will also have access to occupational therapy, speech therapy and hippotherapy. All campers must participate in an interview

Site: Coan Park (ages 6 - 21)

## DAILY ACTIVITIES AT SITES

- Arts & Crafts
- Computer Instruction
- Creative Writing
- Exercise
- Games
- Integrated Reading
- Organized Sports
- Swim\*\*  
(Recreational and Instructional)
- Golf / Tennis\* \*
- Martial Arts\*\*
- Dance\*\*
- Performing Arts\*\*
- Interactive Science\*\*

\*\*Site specific

# CAMP BEST FRIENDS 2015

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Will my child have a good time at Camp Best Friends?** Yes!
- **What is Camp Best Friends theme this year?** This year the theme is “The Great Outdoors!” Your child will be engaged in mental and physical activities that will introduce them to the many benefits of the “The Great Outdoors.”
- **Did the Department of Parks & Recreation(DPR) change their Camp Best Friends Registration policy?** No. DPR is enforcing the rules and guidelines that have been in place. All payments must be received before services are rendered.
- **Does DPR offer payment plans?** Yes, however all payments must be received before services are rendered.
- **Does DPR offer a sliding scale?** Yes. Please contact a local recreation center for more details.
- **Do I have to sign my child up for all 8 weeks?** No. DPR offers a flexible registration process. Parents are only required to sign their child up for the week(s) they choose to participate.
- **I plan to go on vacation but I am not sure which week. Can I reserve a spot without paying for a particular week?** DPR cannot reserve a spot without payment. We offer a flexible registration process on a first come, first serve basis. To secure a spot, you are encouraged to register your child and pay in advance.
- **Can I request a refund if we do not plan to attend a week I have paid for?** If your plans change, you can provide a refund request in writing (via e-mail or letter) 10 days prior to the specified week to [CampBestFriends@atlantaga.gov](mailto:CampBestFriends@atlantaga.gov) or City of Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation c/o Camp Best Friends: 233 Peachtree Street, Harris Tower Suite 1700, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
- **Can I transfer my child's enrollment?** Yes, simply contact the Recreation Center you wish to attend. Staff can process the transfer to the selected center if a slot is available. Note that specialty camps may have different fees.
- **If my child does not attend a full week, do I pay the full amount?** Yes. DPR does not prorate fees.
- **Will there be a parent orientation?** Yes. Each site will schedule a parent orientation. Topics such as attire, meals and code of conduct will be discussed.

### ABOUT THE CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

#### Mission

The City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to building strong communities and a vibrant economy by providing safe and exceptional parks, facilities and programs through effective leadership, collaboration and innovative thinking.

#### Vision

The City of Atlanta's Department of Parks and Recreation works to make Atlanta the city of choice through exceptional spaces and memorable experiences.



**Kasim Reed, Mayor of Atlanta**