

EAGER BEAVER PROGRAM WELCOME LETTER



Eager Beaver Day Program 2026

General Information & Contact List

Park & Recreation Office (DPW):

350 Summer St.
Abington, MA 02351
Tax ID # 046-001-061

Office Phone: 781-982-2125

Please call the office for program registration, payment information, general questions, or any program concerns. Absences, late/early pickup notifications, or information passed to your child should go through the camp phone (below).

Camp Phone: 339-236-4459 (text or call)

Office Hours:

Weekdays, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Staff:

Recreation Director	Kelly Johnson	kjohnson@abingtonma.gov
Rec. Administrative Assistant	Bridget Wakelin	bwakelin@abingtonma.gov

Program Location:

Island Grove Park
200 Park Ave
Abington, MA 02351

* Program entrance is the first entrance coming from Centre Ave or second entrance coming from Central St *

Rain Day Location: Frolio School, 1071 Washington St.

Program Hours:

Monday – Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Early Drop Off (additional cost) – 8:00 am
Late Pick Up (additional cost) – 5:00 pm

Please Note:

Staff cannot check campers in before 8 am. Counselors arrive early to set up but please do not leave your child until a staff member checks them in.

The program closes promptly at 5 pm. You are subject to a late charge of \$5 for the first 5 minutes after closing and then \$5 per minute after 5:05 pm. We understand emergencies happen and you will not be charged for the first occurrence, within reason. However, we do ask that you notify the counselors by calling or texting the camp phone as soon as possible if you know you will be late. Habitual pick up past 5 pm may result in removal from the program.

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Eager Beaver Day Program 2026

Welcome to Eager Beaver 2026!

Mission Statement: The Eager Beaver Program seeks to provide a safe, fun, creative, and challenging outdoor experience that fosters individual and family growth in areas of self-worth, responsibility, self-expression, independence, leadership, and environmental awareness. Our program provides an opportunity to bring together people of diverse backgrounds in a natural outdoor environment under the supervision and guidance of role models, and leaders in our community.

A FEW THINGS ABOUT THE EAGER BEAVER PROGRAM

Check - In/Check - Out:

1. On the first day, every child will be assigned to a group and set of counselors. This group will stay the same throughout the week.
2. Groups are typically set by grade (ex. 1st graders together, 2nd graders together, etc.) or will be randomized with grades K-3 and 4-7 (ex. groups A, B, & C are a mix of K-3, groups D, E, & F are a mix of 4-7).
3. If you have specific requests for children to be in the same group, please email kjohnson@abingtonma.gov **prior to the session start** and we will do our best to accommodate requests. Please note that we will not be able to accommodate camper group requests with significant age differences (ex. 1st grader and 7th grader). We have found separating groups by age allows us to plan age-appropriate activities, giving campers a better experience.
4. After the first day, campers will check in with one of three counselors, by group. It is important for your child to remember what color group they are in to ensure a smooth check-in process.
5. We offer early care beginning at 8:00 am and late care running until 5:00 pm for an extra fee. It is important that your child is not dropped off until 9:00 and picked up at 4:00, since our staffing level is determined by the number of campers who have paid for early and late care. If you have registered for late care, please make sure your child is picked up by 5:00 pm. There will be an extra charge if it becomes a regular occurrence that children are picked up after 5:00 pm. In the event of an emergency late pickup, please call the camp phone to let them know.
6. You may drop off any time after 9 am/pick up any time before 4 pm however we ask you call the camp phone to let them know ahead of time for a smooth transition.
7. On the Emergency Contact Form, you will be asked to list people that may pick up your child from camp. Please let a counselor or the office know if someone outside of that list will be picking up your child. Your child will not be permitted to leave with an individual not on the emergency contact list without guardian permission.
8. All parents/guardians will be asked for their ID at pick up until the counselors are familiar with the families. Please have your ID ready. If someone outside of the emergency contact form is picking up your child, they must show an ID each time.
9. Your child will not be permitted to leave with anyone suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If this is suspected, we will require another approved contact to pick up the camper. If no other contact is available, the Abington Police will be notified.

What to bring / What not to bring:

Campers SHOULD bring:

- Snack
- Lunch (refrigerators are available)
- Water or reusable bottle
- Swimsuit (if your child is comfortable, please wear swimsuits under clothes to make changing easier)
- Towel

Eager Beaver Day Program 2026

- Bottle of spray sunscreen

Campers SHOULD NOT bring:

- Electronics (cell phones can be kept in campers' backpacks or our lockbox to be used after camp or for emergencies)
- Breakable or valuable items
- Weapons or items that could be misconstrued as weapons (BB guns, water/nerf guns, pocketknives, etc.)

All items **must** be labeled with your child's name on the first day. Staff will have labels available if needed. Please note we are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Special Attention! Lost & found items will be placed by the checkout table at the end of every day. Please be sure to check for anything that may belong to your child. All remaining items will either be donated or thrown out at the end of the summer if they have not been claimed.

General Info:

1. Counselors cannot help children apply lotion sunscreen. Campers will be encouraged throughout the day, specifically at swim times, to apply their own sunscreen. Counselors will assist with **spray sunscreen** only if the child asks for help. It is important to teach your child how to apply their own sunscreen or to provide a sun/swim shirt and hat to prevent sunburns.
2. Children will have access to the Snack Shack twice a day at each swim time.
3. If your child brings cash for the Snack Shack, the money should remain in their backpack or held in the counselor lock box until swim time. Although counselors will hold snack shack money in the lock box, we cannot consistently police what campers purchase at the snack shack (aside from allergy restrictions). Please note for young children, smaller amounts given daily are preferred to avoid overspending or missing money. Snacks are \$.50 - \$4 each. If there are particular items you do not want your child to purchase, please ensure both your child and counselors are aware.

Snack Shack Items (items may vary):

Pepsi	Crystal Lite Packs	Hot Dog
Diet Pepsi	Capri Sun	Popcorn
Sprite	Chips (Frito Lay Variety)	Popsicle
Root Beer	Rice Crispy Treats	Ice Cream Sandwich
Water	Fruit Snacks	Cookie Ice Cream Sandwich
	Fruit by the Foot/Fruit Roll Up	Fudge Bars

4. Please limit the number of peanut products sent in an effort to ensure the safety of those with peanut allergies.
5. In the event of inclement weather, the Eager Beaver Program will be moved to the Frolio School. Drop off will be at the second entrance (gym entrance). If this decision is made, parents will be alerted in the morning by email and/or text. Please make sure your email is updated on your abingtonrec.com account. Wherever your child is dropped off in the morning is where they will be picked up as well. We will not change locations during the day due to changes in the weather. Please note there is no access to fridges on rain days.
6. Each week will have one day of free lunch. Odd weeks will have pizza and even weeks will have a hotdog cookout. If your child does not like any of these options, please bring lunch that day. A calendar of events can be found on the program info page.
7. It is important to us that campers with allergies/food restrictions are able to fully participate in special events. If your child has any food allergies, please have a discussion with the Program Director or Assistant Director so we can confirm we have safe food options for them on these days.

Eager Beaver Day Program 2026

8. Every camper will receive an Eager Beaver T-shirt. These will be given out at check-out on the first day.
9. Although our staff does their best to supervise all areas of camp, they are not always able to see or hear everything. If your child has any concerns, needs help, or is having any issues with a camper or staff member, please encourage them to speak to a counselor immediately. It is important to us that your child is safe and enjoying their experience.
10. **Abington Recreation staff will be taking photos/videos throughout the summer that may be used for social media or flyers. If you do not want your child's photo/video taken or being used in these places for any reason, please let the office know by calling 781-982-2125 or emailing kjohnson@abingtonma.gov.**

The Pool:

1. Children will swim twice a day, weather permitting.
2. Keep in mind the "pool" is a man-made swimming hole. Although it is chlorinated, we do not recommend expensive / light-colored bathing suits as they may become discolored from the chlorine and iron.
3. There are three levels allowed for swimming:
 - a. The white zone, for inexperienced swimmers, is about 1-2 feet deep.
 - b. The blue zone, for moderate swimmers, is about 3-4 feet deep.
 - c. The red zone, for experienced and strong swimmers, is about 5-14 feet deep.
4. After looking at the diagram provided at check-in on Monday, parents are required to assign their child to a swim level.
5. If you choose to allow your child to swim in the red area, they must complete a swimming test administered by the lifeguards at the pool. If a child does not pass the swim test they will only be allowed to swim in the blue and white areas. If a child fails the swim test, the test can be retaken at the next swim time.
6. We allow all interested campers the chance to take the swim test for the red zone. If you do not want your child to take the swim test, please let a counselor know when you select the swim zone.
7. All campers will accompany their group to the beach during swim times. However, they do not have to swim. Other activities will be available for those who do not wish to swim.
8. Campers will be paired with a buddy at swim and a buddy check will be done every 15 minutes. Campers must stay with their buddy at all times; this includes getting in and out of the water and changing swim zones. Campers can be assigned a new buddy by a counselor if they would like to do something different than their current buddy.
9. The importance of safe swim and staying with your buddy will be discussed throughout camp. However, we ask parents to review this at home, especially for younger children or children attending for the first time. If a camper is not with their buddy and is not quickly located, an EAP (Emergency Action Plan) will be called until the camper is located. For the safety of all participants, it is important that your child is aware of the following:
 - Stay with a buddy at all times or let a counselor know if you need to be switched.
 - If you hear 3 whistles, you should exit the water and go to where your group lines up for swim.
 - In the event of an EAP, do not worry about your belongings. We will come back to collect them.
 - If you know you are somewhere you shouldn't be or moved to a different space without telling anyone, it is very important to tell a staff member or any adult right away, especially if you hear your name being called.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP):

In the event of a water emergency or missing camper, our Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is activated. This includes whistles, evacuation, and headcounts to ensure everyone's safety.

All lifeguards and counselors are trained and ready for a variety of emergency protocols. It is important for campers to listen to the lifeguard's whistles to understand what is being communicated. Three whistles will always indicate a

Eager Beaver Day Program 2026

need for immediate response and exiting the water. In the case of an emergency, you will hear three whistles and then EAP being called. When an EAP is called, patrons and campers will be directed to swiftly exit the water. Campers will then be lined up by group to ensure everyone is accounted for. In the event of a missing child/person, specified counselors will begin searching the surrounding area while lifeguards begin a dive search in the pool. The Abington Police and Fire will also be deployed during this time. During an active EAP, campers back at camp will be directed to line up with their groups until the emergency has been cleared. An EAP will only be called for missing patrons/campers, critical in water injuries, or drills. Three whistles may be blown without calling an EAP in some cases such as lightning/thunder, immediate water safety concerns, or less severe water injuries. Counselors will review EAPs and water safety with the campers in depth throughout the first day. However, it is helpful for parents to discuss or teach their child about EAPs at home as well.

What whistles mean:

- 1 whistle blow is to get an individual's attention or alert to a minor problem. For example, 1 whistle will be used for rough housing or diving.
- 2 whistles are used for group alerts. For example, calling buddy-ups or end of camp swim, pool closing, and impending storms.
- 3 whistles will always indicate an emergency or need for immediate response. If 3 whistles are heard, you should always begin to exit the water.

Daily Schedule (may change slightly based on special activities):

	Younger Groups (K-3)	Older Groups (4-7)
8:00 – 9:30	Drop Off	Drop Off
9:30 – 10:00	Snack	Snack
10:00 – 11:00	Field	Choices w/ arts & crafts
11:00 – 11:45	First Swim	Choices w/ coloring & cards
11:45 – 12:30	Choices w/ coloring & cards	First Swim
12:30 – 1:00	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Choices w/ arts & crafts	Field
2:00 – 2:45	Second Swim	Choices w/ coloring & cards
2:45 – 3:30	Choices w/ coloring & cards	Second Swim
3:30 – 5:00	Pick Up	Pick Up

Medical Policy:

The following policies are for the protection of the participants and the staff at The Eager Beaver Program. Unfortunately, the facilities at Island Grove are not conducive to accommodating children who are not feeling well. The Program Director will contact a parent when a child is too ill to participate in camp activities. Children will be sent home if:

- They are running an elevated temperature (99.6°F or higher).
- They show signs of any type of rash.
- They have a contagious illness/condition.
- They are nauseous, vomiting or complaining of a headache.

Children who are sent home with a contagious illness/condition will not be re-admitted to the program without a doctor's note. Contagious conditions include but are not limited to head lice & conjunctivitis. In cases where children have a temperature, they will not be re-admitted until they have a normal temperature and have been off fever-reducing medication for 24 hours. Failure to respond in a timely manner (within one hour) to a request to pick up your child could result in the removal of your child from the program.

Eager Beaver Day Program 2026

For any emergency medical situation, the Abington Fire Department will be notified first, followed by the parent/guardian.

The staff are unable to administer any medications, including all prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. If your child has a condition requiring any type of medication, he/she needs to have it administered by a parent/guardian before the program day starts. Emergency medications such as inhalers and epi-pens can be held by our staff.

Behavior Policy:

The Eager Beaver staff are held to a high standard and as such, we expect our participants and parents/guardians to follow similar standards. All campers are asked to show respect to their peers, counselors, lifeguards, and pool patrons, and in return, they have the right to be treated with the same respect. This includes appropriate language, actions, and behavior. The Eager Beaver Program does not tolerate bullying, of any kind, lewd or disrespectful behavior, angry or vulgar language, physical contact in a threatening manner, and destruction of property. Because of the number of children that attend the program, behavioral policies are critical to ensure everyone is safe and having fun.

The Eager Beaver staff uses positive reinforcement for good behavior to the extent possible. Our goal is to work cooperatively with parents to encourage positive behavior and resolve any issues as they arise. If you are aware of any behavioral issues or if your child receives behavioral management assistance during the school year, it is important to discuss this with the Program Director or Assistant Program Director to ensure our staff can provide any support needed.

The Eager Beaver Program will follow the following steps:

1st Offence: Verbal Warning

A staff member will make the child aware of unwelcome or inappropriate behavior/action.

2nd Offence: Removal from activity and/or discussion with parents

The child will be removed from the activity for a “cooling off” period. During this time a counselor may discuss ways they could have avoided the incident, strategies to better handle behaviors, or mediate campers if the incident requires. Depending on the nature and/or frequency of an incident, a parent discussion may be required. If a parent discussion is required, you will be asked to sign an incident report indicating that you understand the concern and the expected behavior.

3rd Offence: Sent home from camp for the day

If a child’s behavior becomes dangerous to staff or other campers, impacts the staff’s ability to oversee campers, or becomes consistently disruptive to the program, they may be sent home for the day. If a child needs to be sent home from camp on more than one occasion, it will automatically result in removal from the program for the summer. Some circumstances where a child may be sent home include but are not limited to consistent inappropriate behavior throughout the day after repeated warnings, bullying, running away/refusal to follow group schedule, and significant disrespectful language or actions towards another camper or staff member.

4th Offence: Removal from the program

The child will be removed from the program for the remainder of the summer. If the parent would like to reenroll the following year, a meeting will be required between the Program Director, parent, and child to ensure actions are addressed and a positive tone is set moving forward.

Please note steps may be accelerated depending on the nature of the behavioral concerns. No refunds will be given if your child is removed from the program.

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Eager Beaver Day Program 2026

We ask that parents and guardians also maintain a level of respect for staff and refrain from yelling, swearing, disrespect, and threatening action. Repeated offences will result in your child being removed from the program. As noted, we also expect our staff to exhibit the same level of behavior upheld for participants and parents. If you have any concerns, questions, or issues that cannot be resolved with the Program Director or Assistant Director, please reach out to the Recreation Director at any time!

Our staff: The majority of our staff are returning counselors and lifeguards. The staff is made up of recent college graduates, college students and high school students. The staff members are excited to work with your children and ensure that their time at camp is fun, exciting, and safe.

We are always happy to help, please do not hesitate to contact the office or program director with any questions or concerns!

Recreation Director: Kelly Johnson

Eager Beaver Program Director: Fraser Toomey / Morgan Welch

Eager Beaver Assistant Director: Mike Lyons

Sincerely,

The Staff of Eager Beaver

