

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2025 "Summer Days in the Park" program. This year's summer program will run from **June 30th – August 8th (no camp on July 4th)**. This six (6) week summer program is for youth ages 5 (as of October 1, 2024) through age 13 (as of October 1, 2024). Children completing 9th grade or who are 15 years of age or older should apply for the Future Leaders Program. The program will consist of 2 – three (3) week sessions: Session 1: June 30 – July 18 & Session 2: July 21 – August 8.

The program is run by the Clifton Recreation Department and is held at 2 sites throughout the City. The program runs Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. When there is a scheduled trip/event, during the session your child is registered, you have the choice to attend the trip/event or keep your child home that day (more information is found under trips & transportation). We know that your child will have a memorable and rewarding summer.

SCHOOL LOCATIONS

- ▶ School # 3 – 365 Washington Avenue
- ▶ School # 16 – 755 Grove Street



ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken daily. All participants are required to stay at the program for the entire day unless a parent comes in and signs them out early. **The program begins at 9:00 a.m. Please do not bring your child to the program site early. There is no before care. Please make sure you are there by dismissal time, which is 3:30 p.m. There is no aftercare program.** A late fee of \$10.00, per 15 minutes, will be charged for persistent lateness in picking up children at the end of the day. Children are not permitted to wait outside without parental supervision. **You must sign out your child at the end of each day prior to leaving to ensure your child's safety.** Please notify your program director if your child will be going home with someone other than yourself.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Park staff are trained in First Aid and CPR procedures. A complete first aid kit is kept on site at all times. In the event of a serious accident or injury, parents will be notified immediately, and the EMS will be contacted as needed. Accident reports will be completed for all accidents or injuries, and a copy will be kept on file at the Recreation Office. The City of Clifton staff is not permitted to administer medication to any child in the program.

To ensure the safety of your child and all children attending, important rules and regulations will be put into effect at the summer program. Participants are required to follow all established rules. If misconduct persists and rules are not followed, appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken.

Discipline Code:

- 1st offense: Warning & call to parent
- 2nd offense: Call to parent & discipline notice completed
- 3rd offense: Suspension from the summer program
- 4th offense: Expulsion from the summer program

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

All participants must be the appropriate age for the summer program. Participants will be divided into four age groups, once all registrations have been received, based on birth date and enrollment. **Participants may be placed by the Recreation Department in different groups from one session to another, based on that week's enrollment.** No changes in groups permitted. A copy of the participant's Birth Certificate, Immunization Record, and Proof of Residency must be submitted. Participants failing to provide these documents will not be able to attend the summer program. Once submitted, we will keep the records on file for subsequent years.

Request for an Aide: If you feel your child needs an aide to assist/shadow them at the summer programs, you must make a request through the Recreation Department. The request should be submitted no later than June 2nd. At the time of request, you must submit a copy of your child's I.E.P. Report (if you also have a 504 Plan, please submit it with your I.E.P.). **Assignments will be made based on a review of your child's documents and results of an interview.** This will help determine the best strategy to assist your child in having a memorable and safe summer. After June 2nd, we will contact you to set up an interview. **Once the summer program begins, aides cannot be hired.**



DAILY SCHEDULE/ RAIN DAYS

A calendar of events will be available at the program site on a weekly basis. You may also obtain the schedule from our website at www.cliftonrec.com. once the program begins. Scheduled activities are subject to change. Please note that the schools do not have air conditioning, and the majority of the day is spent outdoors, depending on the activity being conducted. Please make sure to sign up for mobile notifications under your account. In the event of inclement weather, program activities will be conducted but altered for indoor activities.



LUNCH

There are no lunch services provided by the City. Children are instructed to bring a bag lunch. Names should be written on their lunch, and please do not send glass bottles or containers.



APPAREL

Children should dress in comfortable clothing that will not restrict them from participating in activities. Sneakers are recommended (avoid sandals & Crocs). It is strongly recommended that all participants come equipped with a water bottle and sunscreen each day. **Please leave your child's toys and valuables at home. The staff is not responsible for personal belongings.** Clifton Recreation T-shirts are required for all field trips and can be purchased at the Recreation Department for \$8.00 each (T-shirts cannot be purchased online). If your child has a royal blue Clifton Recreation T-shirt from past summers, they do not need to purchase a new shirt. In an effort to provide a quality, respectable program, we have instituted a dress code for both staff and program participants. Please review the information online.

CELL PHONE/ELECTRONICS POLICY

Participants may bring cell phones to the summer program; however, all phones **MUST** be turned off and kept out of sight during the day and on trips. If a phone is seen or turned on during the day, it will be collected and turned over to the supervisor until a parent picks it up at the end of the day. If you allow your child to bring a cell phone, iPod, electronic game, or any other valuable item to the summer program, the Clifton Recreation Department is not responsible for lost or stolen property.



SESSION 1 (June 30 – July 18)

Week 1

Theme: Eco Warriors

Trip: Funplex

Week 2

Theme: Literary Legends

Trip: Castle Fun Center

Special Event: Summer Park Dance

Special Event: Laugh Factory Show

Week 3

Theme: Time Travel

Trip: Camelbeach Waterpark

Special Event: Summer Park Olympics

SESSION 2 (July 21 – August 8)

Week 1

Theme: Superhero Academy

Trip: Urban Air

Trip: Camp Hope – School # 3 **ONLY**

Week 2

Theme: Ocean Odyssey

Trip: Splashplex

Trip: Camp Hope – School # 16 **ONLY**

Special Event: Melody Mom Show

Week 3

Theme: Defying Gravity

Trip: High Exposure

Special Event: End of Summer Picnic

TRANSPORTATION, TRIPS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Pre-registration is required for all trips and events. Participants may only attend trips that take place during the sessions they are registered for. **If your child is not attending a trip do not send them to the program site. All counselors attend the trips. All trips leave from Anzaldi Park – 38 Samra Way. Please arrive at the park by 8:45 a.m.**

Trips and events can be paid online, with a credit or debit card, up until **midnight by the deadlines listed below**. Payments can also be made with cash or a check at the Recreation Office. Once you pay for the trip, you are registered. If you miss the pre-registration deadline or the trip is full, please put your child on the waiting list online. Participants will be notified if a spot becomes available, based on the order on the waitlist. The cost of each trip includes admission and transportation. **Personal spending money on food and souvenirs is optional. Participants are responsible for their belongings and money.** It is recommended that participants bring a bag lunch (names should be marked on bags and no glass containers). Please note that High Exposure and Urban Air requires a waiver found online under Summer Days in the Park to be completed and returned to the camp supervisor by the registration deadline for this trip.

Transportation for trips will be provided by the City of Clifton. There is no transportation provided to and from the summer program or for special events such as the Summer Luau, Summer Olympics, or End of Summer Picnic. Parents are to drop off and pick up their child at the listed location of the event. The City of Clifton staff members are not permitted to transport any child in their vehicle. **A Clifton Recreation T-shirt is required for all trips** (not required for special events) and may be purchased at the Recreation Office for \$8.00 each.

Camp Hope – Activities may include crafts, swimming, athletics, nature, and hiking. There is no camp available for individuals not attending the Camp Hope trip on the day your park site is scheduled to go. Participants must bring long pants, sneakers or hiking shoes (no sandals), a bathing suit & towel.

Date	Trip Location	Reg. Deadline	Price
Session 1:			
7/2	Funplex	6/23	\$57.00
7/9	Castle Fun Center	6/30	\$63.00
7/10	Summer Luau	6/30	\$10.00
7/11	Laugh Factory Show	6/30	Free
7/16	Camelbeach Waterpark	7/7	\$73.00
7/17	Summer Olympics	7/7	\$10.00
Session 2:			
7/22	Camp Hope (School # 3)	7/14	\$10.00
7/23	Urban Air	7/14	\$68.00
7/29	Camp Hope (School # 16)	7/21	\$10.00
7/30	Splashplex	7/21	\$49.00
8/1	Melody Mom Show	7/21	Free
8/6	High Exposure	7/28	\$64.00
8/8	End of Summer Picnic	7/28	\$10.00



SPECIAL EVENTS

Newspaper & Literary Magazine

During the summer, participants can submit articles for the “Park Scoop,” which features 2 editions. In addition, individuals may submit poetry, short stories, or comic strips anytime throughout the summer for “The Optimist Outlook”, Summer Literary Magazine.



Summer Luau

Hang ten with your friends at the annual Summer Luau on **Thursday, July 10th**, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at School #3 (365 Washington Avenue). The event includes music, games, a dance contest, dinner, and fun. The luau is open to all participants who are registered for the summer program in 2025. The cost is **\$10.00** per participant (**includes pizza, chips, dessert, and beverage**). Participants are to be picked up and dropped off at School #3 by their parents. The registration deadline for this event is June 30th.



Summer Olympics

The challenge is on at the Annual Summer Program Olympics, where participants battle it out in the 50-yard dash, wheelbarrow race, team challenges, and more throughout the day. This year’s Summer Program Olympics will be on **Thursday, July 17th** at **Anzaldi Park (38 John Samara Way)** from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The cost is **\$10.00** per participant (**includes lunch**). Participants should be dropped off and picked up by their parents at Anzaldi Park. **Open only to participants enrolled in Session 1 of the summer program.** The registration deadline for this event is July 7th.



End of Summer Picnic

On **Friday, August 8th** from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., all participants are invited to the End of Summer Picnic at Main Memorial Park for special events, face painting, rides, a talent show, and lunch. The picnic is open to all participants who are registered for the summer program in 2025. The cost is **\$10.00** per participant (**includes lunch**). Participants are to be dropped off at Main Memorial Park (enter from Park Slope) at 9:00 a.m. and picked up at 2:30 p.m. by parents. The registration deadline for this event is July 28th. **Please note: If it’s raining on the morning of the picnic**, the event will be relocated. Parents will receive a text message informing them of the new location and schedule.

Summer Shows/Entertainers:

This summer, we have two entertainers lined up. Both shows will take place at **School # 3** (365 Washington Avenue) at 10:00 a.m. **Pre-registration is required.** There is **NO FEE** for these shows. Participants may only register for the shows during the sessions they are registered for. School # 16 campers are to be **dropped off at School # 3 at 9:00 a.m.** on show days and will be transported by bus back to their school for the remainder of the day after the show is completed. Pick up your children at the end of the day at their regular daily school site location.

Session 1: Laugh Factory - Friday, July 11th

The registration deadline for this event is June 30th.

Session 2: Melody Mom Show - Friday, August 1st

The registration deadline for this event is July 21st.

SUMMER DAYS IN THE PARKS

PARENT HANDBOOK 2025



CLIFTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT

900 CLIFTON AVENUE
CLIFTON, NJ 07013

PHONE (973) 470-5956

FAX (973) 815-0599

WEBSITE: www.cliftonrec.com

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/CliftonRec