

# 2026 PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE



**CLIFTON**  
**RECREATION**  
*Follow Us To Fun!*





Welcome Participants and Parents,

We are excited about the summer we have planned for you at our Summer Days in the Park program! The Clifton Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programs that will keep your child active all summer long! We are excited to provide a safe, inclusive, affordable and engaging environment where participants can learn, grow, build friendships, and every child is valued. This guide outlines important policies, procedures and expectations to help ensure a successful summer experience for participants, families, and staff.

We believe that summer programs should foster fun, friendship, and personal growth while promoting kindness, respect, responsibility and positive behavior. We are committed to creating a bully free environment. Through structured activities and supportive supervision, our staff serve as role models who encourage confidence, teamwork, and a sense of belonging for all participants. Our goal is to support social, emotional and physical development while creating lasting summer memories.

**Future Leaders:**

We offer a youth leadership program called “Future Leaders”. The philosophy behind this program is rooted in positive youth development. We provide experience that builds life skills such as cooperation, leadership, problem-solving, and resilience as they learn to be future leaders of our community.

**Specialty Camps:**

In addition to our regular summer program, we offer a wide variety of specialty camps throughout the summer from baseball to farming camp to cheer dance, and all the fun things in between. Please visit our website at [www.cliftonrec.com](http://www.cliftonrec.com) for a full list of these programs and to register.

**Contact Information:**

Clifton Recreation Department  
Phone: 973 470-5956  
Email: [cliftonrec@cliftonnj.org](mailto:cliftonrec@cliftonnj.org)  
Website: [www.cliftonrec.com](http://www.cliftonrec.com)

### **Summer Days in Park Overview:**

The Clifton Recreation Department 2026 "Summer Days in the Park" summer program will run **Monday – Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm.** This six (6) week summer program is for youth ages 5 (as of October 1, 2025) through age 13 (as of October 1, 2025). Children completing 9<sup>th</sup> 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: July 6<sup>th</sup> – July 24<sup>th</sup> & Session 2: July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup> and will be conducted at the two site locations listed below. We know that your child will have a memorable and rewarding summer.

### **School Locations:**

- ▶ School # 3 – 365 Washington Avenue
- ▶ School # 13 – 782 Van Houten Avenue

### **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 at time of registration. 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.



### **Scholarships:**

The Clifton Recreation Department Summer Scholarship Program (CRDSSP) was established to assist the Clifton youth residents, who without financial assistance, would not be able to attend summer programs and to assure that no child is turned away. CRDSSP – **is only available to Clifton Residents and cannot be used for extended family whose primary residence is elsewhere.** The children, for which the scholarship is requested, must be claimed as dependents. The scholarships are only for the department sponsored summer program (Summer Days in the Park) and not eligible for specialty camps, summer classes, special events, trips or T-shirts. Requests are approved by the Board of Recreation Scholarship Committee. **Requests must be made by May 29, 2026. Scholarships are for one session and one year only and for a portion of the program costs.** Once approved the balance must be paid to secure a place in the program. **Parents interested in applying for financial assistance must email the Clifton Recreation Department at [doliver@cliftonnj.org](mailto:doliver@cliftonnj.org) to request an application.**

### **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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, we will contact you to set up an interview. **Once the summer program begins, aides cannot be hired.**

### **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.

### **Behavior Expectations:**

To ensure the safety of your child and all children attending, important rules and regulations will be put into effect at the summer program. Aggressive behavior, inappropriate language or other behavior that is detrimental to the functions of the program will not be tolerated. 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:	Temporary suspension from the summer program
4th offense:	Expulsion from the summer program

### **Health and Safety:**

Children will be actively supervised by qualified staff at a staff to camper ratio of 1:12 in addition to Future Leader program participant assistance. Park staff are trained in First Aid and CPR procedures. A complete first aid kit is always kept on site. 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 are not permitted to administer medication to any child in the program. If a child needs assistance taking their medication a parent must come in to administer. Medication brought in by participants must be in its original container with the child's name and prescription on it.



### **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 at:

[https://cliftonnj.myrec.com/forms/5985\\_clifton\\_recreation\\_summer\\_program\\_dress\\_code.pdf](https://cliftonnj.myrec.com/forms/5985_clifton_recreation_summer_program_dress_code.pdf).

### **Cell phone/ Electronics Policy:**

Cell phones are left to the parent's discretion and should be kept secure in the campers' backpacks, and campers should be reminded that their use is strongly discouraged at camp. Campers may be told that they must keep them in their bags or put them away during activities. Camp is one of the few places where kids can truly unplug, have fun and enjoy the outdoors. We believe that when children disconnect from their devices, they are able to fully immerse themselves in the camp experience and develop a sense of camaraderie without any distractions. 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.

### **Photos/Social Media:**

By participating in the Clifton Recreation Departments programs, events and facilities, you give your consent for your child to be photographed and used for promotional marketing purposes by the Recreation Department **only**. Staff and participants are not permitted to take photos for personal use/social media. Participants are not allowed to take selfies on staff phones.

### **Parent Notification:**

To keep yourself informed please be sure to:

1. Sign-up in your account for email and text notifications. Communications will be sent via email and text throughout the summer about information such as cancellations, emergencies, celebrations, special activities etc.
2. Follow us on facebook at [facebook.com/Cliftonrec](https://www.facebook.com/Cliftonrec)
3. Feel free to contact us via phone or email if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Lunch/Snacks:**

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.

### **Schedule / Rain Days:**

A calendar of events will be available at the program site on a weekly basis. You may also obtain the schedule, once the program begins, from our website at [www.cliftonrec.com](http://www.cliftonrec.com) under the Summer Camp Program. Scheduled activities are subject to change. Please note a 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.



### **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.

## **SESSION 1 (July 6 – July 24)**

### **Week 1**

Theme: America 250 – Celebrate America’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday this week. Wear your best red, white and blue. Enjoy the rides at Legoland, NY this week.

### **Week 2**

Theme: World Cup – Compete in lots of fun competitive games and mini tournaments this week especially SOCCER! Represent your favorite country’s soccer team by wearing their jersey or team colors. Camp Hope trip for School #3 this week. Dress-up in your Hawaiian best for the Luau.

### **Week 3**

Theme: Leaping Lizards - Enjoy reptile crafts, leapfrog and other classic games, the summer program Olympics where one team will leap to victory on Thursday, and a live reptile show featuring the NJ Snakeman. Camp Hope trip for School #13 this week.

## **SESSION 2 (July 27 – August 14)**

### **Week 1**

Theme: Dino-Mite- Join us on an adventure back in time to when dinosaurs roamed the Earth! Enjoy a trip to Funplex/Splashplex this week. Participate in the ultimate water tag battle which is sure to be Dino-Mite.

### **Week 2**

Theme: Rock-N-Roll-This week will be totally tubular! From crazy hair day to funky craft projects, to a roller-skating party that will be out of this world, participants will be rock in’ and a roll in’ all week long. The Hoop Wizard show will be an interactive ball of fun. Camp Hope trip for School #3 this week.

### **Week 3**

Theme: Squishy Stuff- Things might get a little messy and squishy this week! Participate in a high-energy, hands-on experience designed to let kids explore creativity and sensory play. Camp Hope trip for School #13 this week. Enjoy our last hurrah at the summer picnic featuring rides, games, talent show and so much more as we say good-bye to summer!



**Transportation/ Trips:**

Pre-registration is required for all trips. 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 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).

Transportation for trips will be provided by the City of Clifton. There is no transportation provided to and from the summer program. 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** and may be purchased at the Recreation Office for \$8.00 each.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Trip Location</b>	<b>Reg. Deadline</b>	<b>Price</b>
<b><u>Session 1:</u></b>			
7/6	Legoland, NY	6/29	\$68.00
7/14	Camp Hope (School #3)	7/6	\$10.00
<i>Lunch: Chicken &amp; cheese empanadas served with chips &amp; salsa, fruit &amp; vegetables</i>			
7/21	Camp Hope (School #13)	7/13	\$10.00
<i>Lunch: Cheeseburger served with fries, fruit &amp; vegetables</i>			
<b><u>Session 2:</u></b>			
7/29	Funplex/Splashplex	7/20	\$56.00
8/4	Camp Hope (School #3)	7/27	\$10.00
<i>Lunch: Cheese pizza served with tater tots, fruit &amp; vegetables</i>			
8/11	Camp Hope (School #13)	8/3	\$10.00
<i>Lunch: Chicken nuggets served with mac and cheese, fruit &amp; vegetables</i>			

**Camp Hope** – Activities may include crafts, swimming, athletics, nature, and hiking. Lunch is provided. 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.

**Special Events:**

**Summer Luau: Thursday, July 16th at School #3 - 365 Washington Ave.** The luau will be part of the regular program day but will be conducted at School #3 for all participants and includes lunch (pizza, chips, and beverage) music, games, dance contest and more. Hang ten with your friends and come dressed Hawaiian style. **All participants are to be dropped off and picked up at School #3 by parents for regular program hours 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.**

**Summer Olympics: Thursday, July 23rd at Anzaldi Park-38 John Samra Way.** The Olympics will be part of the regular program day, but will be conducted at Anzaldi Park for all participants and includes lunch (choice of hamburger, cheeseburger, hotdog or grilled cheese, chips, and a beverage) and field day events where participants battle it out in relays, the 50-yard dash, wheelbarrow race, team challenges, and more throughout the day. **All participants are to be dropped off and picked up at Anzaldi Park by parents for regular program hours 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.**



**NEW EVENT -Summer Water Tag Battle: Friday, July 31st at School #3 -365 Washington Ave.** The water tag battle will be part of the regular program day but will be conducted at School #3 for all participants. Participants will cycle through games of Stay Alive, Capture the Flag, and Battle Royale brought to us by Water Tag Extreme. Participants should bring a towel to dry off and a brown-bagged lunch. **All participants are to be dropped off and picked up at School #3 by parents for regular camp hours 9:00 am-3:30 pm.**

**NEW EVENT -Summer Roller Skating Party: Thursday, August 6th at Anzaldi Park -38 John Samra Way.** The event includes lunch (pizza, chips, and beverage), music, roller skating (skates and safety gear will be provided for use) and fun and safe activities on wheels such as slalom races, roller limbo and more. Get ready to rock and roll! **All participants are to be dropped off and picked up at Anzaldi Park by parents for regular program hours 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.**

**End of Summer Picnic: Friday, August 14th at Main Memorial Park - 1395 Main Ave.** (enter from Park Slope) from **9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** Registration is included for all session #2 participants. The event includes lunch (choice of hamburger, cheeseburger, hotdog or grilled cheese, chips, and a beverage), carnival game style activities, face painting, talent show and rides. Individuals from session #1 interested in attending the picnic can register at the event on the morning of and pay \$10.00 cash at the park (please bring exact change). **Participants are to be dropped off and picked up at Main Memorial Park by parents. Please note: If it is raining on the morning of the picnic, prior to the event beginning the event will be modified and relocated to Clifton High School. If it rains and the picnic is already underway, participants will walk over to Christopher Columbus Middle School for immediate pick-up. Parents will receive a text message informing them of the move.**

**Summer Shows/Entertainers:** This summer we have two special shows. One per session. **Session 1: NJ Snakeman - Friday, July 24th. Session 2: Hoop Wizard - Friday, August 7th.** The shows will be part of the regular program day but will be conducted at **School #3 - 365 Washington Ave.** **All participants are to be dropped off at School #3 however, School #13 participants will be transported by bus back to School #13 at the shows conclusion to be picked up by parents at the end of the day.**