



FERNDALE

Recreation &
Kulick Community Center
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www.ferndalemi.gov

Ferndale Summer Camp 2016!!!

Hello returning parents and campers. How've you been? Great? Great. Me? Excellent! I'm totally not exhausted at all!

No, really, I'll be so glad when camp begins this year on June 20. So much planning goes into organizing and implementing this camp. You have to schedule field trips, hire staff, do background checks, organize the promotional effort, renew various licenses, build registration courses, inventory and order supplies, organize training dates, review policies, schedule transportation, etc.... It can get pretty tiresome.

But when we do our jobs right, it's the most gratifying experience you can imagine. See, we staff members spend the summer with campers laughing, running around, diving in pools and playing games, which is great. But the best opportunity this job affords us is to be able to make a positive impact on your lives. When we watch kids, through the course of a summer, learn to amicably resolve a conflict without necessitating our intervention or assist a child who's been shy throughout the summer get up and shine in front of everyone during the talent show or receive praise from parents for validating the trust that you put in us every time you leave your child here with us, that's what we look forward to the most. Making a positive impact is everything to us.

But before we get to enjoy that satisfaction, there are a few items we should go over first.

Camp Relocation Next Year

A few weeks ago, I reached out to everyone who participated in our program to gauge how everyone would feel about a potential move from the Kulick Community Center over to Martin Road Park. The reaction was overwhelmingly positive (you guys are awesome). Some people said it would be a minor inconvenience but recognized that it would be wholly beneficial to the program overall and would not prevent them from signing up.



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We mulled it over for a while and ended up deciding to stay at the Kulick Center for one more year. While I feel heartened by the support you guys have shown us (again, you're awesome), there are a handful of logistical factors that pushed me to make sure I have everything in order before we make that move, and remaining here will give us another summer to gauge how that would work and how much we actually need it. By the time we actually make the move, there will be new playground equipment installed at the site, we'll have a better idea of the volume of kids we'll need to staff for, and we'll have more viable transportation plan in place for the increased number of kids.

Registration Process and Pricing

Registration will open up on April 4 this year. The Early Registration discount that we had in place last year is back and has been extended; parents who register by May 13 will receive \$10 off per child for the week(s) that they register. The deadline to register remains on the Thursday before a given week with a \$15 late fee incurred for any registration completed after the deadline.

If you want to complete the physical registration ahead of time (that registration form that parents must complete once per summer), you can go to <http://ferndalemi.seamlessdocs.com/f/summercamp2016> to fill it out digitally. Once the form is completed, simply click "Submit & Sign" to send the document directly to me. The form can be completed through computer, tablet or mobile device. Alternatively, you can download and save a copy of the form by clicking the link in the "Extra Details" section on each of the summer camp course listings on our registration site.

THE FUN STUFF

But enough ancillary details, let's get to the heart of what we do!

This year sees the return of some of our best weekly themes and activities along with some fresh ones. One of the newcomers will be Olympics Week. Campers will be broken into competing teams and spend the week preparing for a Friday test of athleticism, determination and sportsmanship. At the end of the day everyone will receive a medal for their event, and the winning team will receive certificates commemorating their victory. We'll even tie dye t-shirts for each team!

And that's just a taste of what we have to offer – for a complete listing of our themes and field trips, please see the accompanying summer camp flyer.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything regarding this year's Summer Day Camp program, feel free to call me at 248-544-6767 ext. 505 or shoot me an email at ejohnson@ferndalemi.gov. Come and meet the new staff members at Meet the Staff Night on June 15 at any time from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Emanuel Johnson
Summer Camp Director
Ferndale Recreation