2026
JUST FOR KIDS SUMMER CAMP

Town of Houlton Maine

PARENT HANDBOOK

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We look forward to having your child in the "Just for Kids" Summer Camp Program. Included in this booklet are rules, regulations, daily schedules, and general information about this year's program. Please take the time to read this & if you have any questions, please contact the Houlton Rec Department at 532-1310.

START DATE: Wednesday, June 17, 2026
END DATE: Thursday, August 6, 2026

**** There will be *NO* program on Friday, July 10th due to the Houlton Agricultural Fair.**

LOCATION:
Houlton Community Park, Just for Kids Playground

- **Rain Days**
  - All ages will go to the Houlton Rec Center at 128 Main Street.
    - On rainy days, you may want to send your child with some quarters for some of the game room games such as air hockey / bubble hockey / and foosball.

TIMES

- **Monday *through* Friday - 9:00AM – 3:00PM**
- Drop-Off - 8:30-9:00am. **NO EARLIER. WE ARE PREPPING FOR THE DAY.**
- 9:00am-2:45pm – Program activities
- Pick-Up - 2:45-3:00pm. **PLEASE BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD BY 3:00PM.**

SIGN IN/OUT POLICY – If you drop off your child late or pick them up early, you must sign in/out inside the Playground building (or Rec Center on Rain Days). Once you have registered & begin to check out you will be prompted to provide us with a list of ANYONE that has your permission to pick up your child. Anyone who is not on this list and is picking up your child, please send their names in writing or call the program site at 532-1314 or if on a Rain Day call the Rec Center at 532-1310. This is for your child's safety.

*If your child needs to attend another Rec-sponsored activity or needs to leave the playground for any reason, please send a note so we have it in our office.

TRAFFIC FLOW
When dropping off and picking up children, please enter through the River Street entrance of Community Park – this helps ensure the children's safety. This way, children are dropped off/picked up on the same side as the playground. On Rain Days, enter on the right of the Tennis Courts and continue to the ramp on the left of the building for drop-off and pick-up. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

DROP-OFF PROCEDURE
When dropping off your child in the morning, please do not allow them out of the vehicle until you have reached the check-in point and staff have verified you have performed the home health screening (see on next page) and all participants are healthy.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Parents/Guardians: Please review this health screening list before you send your child to our programs.

Is your child experiencing any of the following symptoms?

- Feeling unwell
- Fever-like symptoms such as body aches, chills, and/or sweating
- Cough, runny nose, congested, sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit

*****IF your child is experiencing any of the above listed symptoms, please keep your child home from our program.**

******If your child experiences any of the above symptoms while at program, they will be isolated from the group, and you will need picked up him/her immediately.**

***Parents of children with special needs are asked to speak directly with Crystal Lewis to set up a specific schedule for their child. *If your child has an aide at school, he/she will need to bring one to this program.

LUNCH / SNACK

Staff will ensure that children wash/sanitize hands regularly, including before and after eating.

- If your child is staying all day, they must either bring a lunch or participate in the FREE summer lunch program, which is sponsored by RSU 29 Food Service.
- Children must also bring 2 snacks per day.
- Please send your child with a reusable water bottle. There are fountains to refill during the day.
- **LUNCH MENU: (subject to change as needed)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Chicken Strips-Gluten Free 2oz Roll French Fries (Ovation) Fresh Fruit Milk: chocolate, skim, 1% low-fat	Hamburger w/ Bun veggie stick Fresh Fruit Milk: chocolate, skim, 1% low-fat	Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza Veggie Stick Fresh Fruit Milk: chocolate, skim, 1% low-fat	Chickenburger w/ Bun Veggie Stick Fresh Fruit Milk: chocolate, skim, 1% low-fat

- **There will be NO provided lunch on Fridays. ALL children MUST bring a home lunch on Fridays!**
- Playground staff will take a lunch count each morning at 9am. The count must be sent to Food Service by 9:15am. If your child is going to be late, be sure to send a lunch or give us a call between 8:30-9am at 532-1314 (Playground). On Rain Days, call the Rec Center at 532-1310.
- We have a refrigerator to store all drinks and perishable foods. Please be sure to label all food and drinks with your child's name and age. **Do not send glass bottles.**
- **The week of August 3 – August 6, your child will need to bring a lunch. There is no free lunch during this week.**

WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS – Youth and parents may pick up a weekly newsletter on Thursday afternoons with a listing of upcoming events and activities. It will also be posted in the JFK building for participants.

SPECIAL EVENT MORNINGS – On Fridays, we have Special Event mornings, where children who want to, may dress up in the theme of the day! Weekly themes will be posted in the Newsletter.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS – We ask that your child only bring one backpack for all their personal items due to limited space. Please be sure to pack the following items each day:

- A reusable water bottle, sunscreen, snacks, appropriate swimsuit, and towel (for spray pool).
- Please be sure to check your child's bag each morning as they will not be able to call home for missing items except for emergencies.
- Please be sure to label all your child's clothes and personal belongings so your child will be able to find them if lost. We will have a Lost & Found box in the Playground building for found items.

FOOTWEAR – Sneakers or sandals with a heel strap are a **must** for the playground! Flip flops will be allowed at the pool area but are not ideal for active play, as we often go on walks, play running games, and perform other activities that require safer footwear.

ELECTRONICS –Handheld games are NOT allowed at the JFK playground on good-weather days. Limited use of these games will be allowed on Rain Days at the Rec Center.

- **NO CELL PHONES** unless given permission by staff. Cell phones must stay in backpacks at all times.
- We also advise that children don't bring toys from home, except for Show & Tell.

DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS – Occasionally we encounter disciplinary problems at the Playground program. If your child misbehaves or does not listen to supervisors while at our program, the following procedure will be taken:

- Your child will be given 2 verbal warnings.
- If this does not settle the problem, then they will have to sit in "Time Out" for 5-10 minutes depending on the severity of the issue and age of the child.
    - "Time Out" will be in a quiet spot where the child will be alone but within sight of supervisors.
- If the child continues to disturb the program, then the parents will be notified, and we will meet to see if a solution can be worked out. **If the child is dismissed from the program, there will be no refunds.**

PLAYGROUND RULES- Please go over the following rules with your child, as we will enforce these things for their safety:

- No cell phone use without permission from staff. Phones should be kept in backpacks at all times.
- Absolutely no leaving the playground without permission.
- No sitting or running in the spray pool.
- No putting your face in the spray pool standing water.
- Children must wear sneakers or sandals with heel straps.
- No sitting or standing on the fence.
- No swearing, hitting, or fighting at the program.
- Rocks and sand stay on the ground.
- Be sure to flush toilets after each use and always wash hands after the bathroom.
- No eating lunch or snack on playground equipment.
- Tire swing and tetherball are not allowed during lunch break.
- Please pick up your own trash after snack and lunch.
- **Please encourage your child to listen to playground supervisors**.
- **If you have any questions, problems, or concerns, please speak to a Supervisor.**

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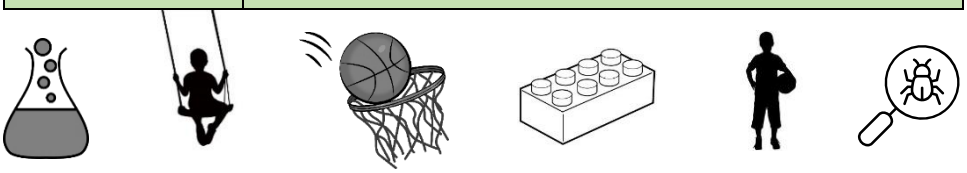
Houlton Recreation Department | "Just for Kids" Program

June 17 – August 6, 2026
Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

We are committed to offering your children a safe, fun summer program. Below is a sample schedule of a typical day at the playground.

Sample Schedule

8:30-9:00am	Drop off
9:00- 9:15am	Attendance, Lunch Count, & Announcements
9:15-9:45am	Rotation Activities
9:45- 10:00am	Snack time
10:00- 10:30am	Rotation activities
10:30- 11:00am	Rotation activities
11:00- 11:15am	Prepare for lunch – bathrooms and washing up
11:15-11:45	Lunch
11:45- 12:15	Attendance, Announcements, & Free Play
12:15-12:45pm	Rotation Activities
12:45- 1:15pm	Rotation Activities
1:15- 1:30pm	Snack Time
1:30-2:00pm	Rotation Activities
2:00-2:30pm	Rotation Activities
2:30-3:00pm	Get ready to go home



Some Rotation Activities at Just for Kids might include:

Crafts, nature time, dodgeball, 4-square, kickball, soccer, Gaga-ball, board games, tetherball, science fun, story time, tennis, wiffleball, disc golf, basketball, capture the flag, lawn games, contests, movies, group time, tournaments, special guests, and more!

Rec Center 532-1310 | Playground 532-1314
Like us on Facebook – Houlton Recreation Department

SUMMER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

HAND CLEANING

In addition to sunscreen and water breaks, we will be taking regular breaks to wash and/or apply hand sanitizer.

HOME HEALTH SCREENINGS

Parents – please be sure to monitor your children for any signs of sickness before sending them to Just for Kids in order to keep the program safe and running smoothly.

DON'T FORGET!

Weekly Newsletter

Be sure to pick up a weekly newsletter so you can be kept up to date on all the happenings at Just for Kids Program!

DISCOUNT SUMMER TICKETS

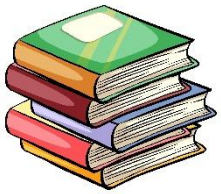
If you are making plans for a summer family vacation and want to save some money, consider purchasing your discounted tickets from the Houlton Parks and Recreation Department. You can save time and money at the gate when you purchase from us! All sales are final. Make checks payable to the Houlton Recreation Department.

As soon as we have tickets on-site and pricing is available, we will post it on our Facebook page – watch for updates!

Tickets that will be available:
Funtown / Splashtown Combo Pass
York's Wild Kingdom
Aquaboggan

Check out the Disc Golf course!

There's a 9-hole disc golf course at Houlton Community Park! Bring your own discs, and it's free to play. You can find the trail map sign at the beginning of the course in the Grove, next to the skate park. The game is easy to learn and fun for all ages.
Bring your family and friends and give this fun sport a try!



CARY LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Summer Reading Program

The Cary Library will once again sponsor their ever-popular summer reading program.
This summer's theme is "Plant a Seed, Read!". Registrations will be taken from June 22nd – 28th. The program will run June 29th August 5th. This is a free program for children of all ages (0-18). Activity days are every Wednesday 3-4pm.
For more info go to cary.lib.me.us.

FOR MORE PROGRAMS & EVENTS HAPPENING HERE IN HOULTON
GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT
HOULTONREC.COM