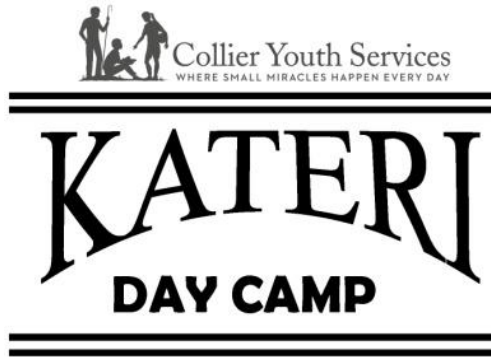




Parent Handbook 2026

160 Conover Road
Wickatunk, NJ 07765
(732)946-9694 fax(732)946-9785
www.kateridaycamp.org

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Collier Youth Services
WHERE SMALL MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

HISTORY OF COLLIER YOUTH SERVICES

In 1927, Mrs. Sara Van Allen Collier bequeathed the Wickatunk property to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd for the establishment of a residential school for neglected and dependent girls. This residential program was in operation until the mid-1970s when the program was changed to Collier High School, an alternative day school for both girls and boys. At this time, Collier also expanded to include a group home for teenage girls and a summer camp for disadvantaged youngsters.

Our programs have developed over the years in response to the changing needs of the young people and families we serve. Today, Collier Youth Services addresses the therapeutic and social issues of our youngsters through educational, residential, and recreational programs of the highest quality. While our services continue to evolve, one thing remains constant: our commitment to nurturing the potential of each person and honoring their individual worth.

KATERI DAY CAMP OVERVIEW

Since 1977, Kateri Day Camp has provided children with a safe and wholesome summer camp environment. Our philosophy is one of respect for ourselves, each other and the world around us. The camp is located on the beautiful 260-acre campus of Collier Youth Services in Marlboro Township.

At the heart of Kateri Day Camp is a belief in the inherent worth of the individual and respect for the environment. This belief is lived through outdoor programs, sports, swimming, and creative arts that encourage all participants to respect themselves and the world around them while celebrating the beauty of nature.

Each summer through our annual campership program, more than 200 campers between the ages of 5-13 join us for seven weeks of hiking, swimming, playing, crafting, reading, and making friends! Busing, breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are all included. Many campers return each year to see familiar faces; eager to reconnect and begin again.

Our exceptional staff is made up of talented, educated, and fun loving individuals who care deeply for our campers. The Kateri Day Camp community, campers, and staff teach one another and learn from one another. We are a very special place that creates everlasting memories.

Important Dates: Kateri Day Camp 2026 begins Monday, June 22, 2026 and ends on Friday, August 7, 2026. Camp will be closed Friday, July 3rd to celebrate Independence Day.

Camp Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (rain or shine). There is no before or after care available.

Staff: Our staff includes certified teachers, certified social workers, certified lifeguards, and behavior specialists.

Meals: The USDA Summer Food Service program and Kateri Day Camp provide a healthy breakfast and lunch for every camper. KDC provides a healthy snack.

Busing: Kateri Day Camp provides free supervised yellow bus transportation to and from camp. Please see the list of bus stop locations on our website.

Paying for Camp: \$400/week and \$40 enrollment fee, Child Care Resource funding accepted. Camperships available.

Please visit our website www.kateridaycamp.org to apply today!

READY?

Enrollment

Campers range in age from 5-13

The Counselors in Training Program (CITs) is a special leadership program for former campers who are currently 14 and 15 years old.

Every camper wishing to enroll must complete and submit:

1. Application – ONLINE preferred www.kateridaycamp.org (paper available)
2. Summer Food Service Form (printed, completed and mailed)
3. Immunization Records (faxed or mailed)
4. \$40 per family registration fee (pay online at our website or mail a check or money order)

Paying for Camp

Kateri Day Camp is \$400 per week/ \$2,800 for the full 7-week summer.

1. Full payment can be made via check or credit card. Please call 732-946-9694 to make your payment, or mail a check to Kateri Day Camp, 160 Conover Road, Wickatunk, NJ 07765.
2. A payment schedule can be arranged by calling our Camp office 732-946-9694.
3. Kateri Day Camp works closely with Child Care Resources (CCR), an agency that provides financial assistance to those unable to pay for child care. If you qualify for Child Care subsidies through NJ Cares for Kids (NJCK), Work First (WFNJ), Monmouth County Targeted Population (MCTP), Respite Child Care and other special programs. Please click here www.ccrnj.org or call 732-918-9901 to contact CCR to determine eligibility. In order for your camper to attend Kateri Day Camp with Child Care Resources funding you must fill out all necessary CCR forms. Co pays are determined by CCR and payable to Kateri Day Camp. Co pays are paid by 7/15 and 8/10.
4. A limited number of Camperships are available. To apply for a full or partial Campership indicate your need on the enrollment Application. Families may receive a campership if they qualify financially as evidenced on the completed Summer Food Service Form, this includes those receiving SNAP/TANF. Request for Campership may require proof of income.

SET

Activities

Kateri Day Camp creates age appropriate activities and programs that provide opportunities for our campers to learn and grow together and individually. In keeping with our mission, our focus is on trying new things, stepping away from the ordinary, and developing a sense of accomplishment.

<u>Creative Arts</u>	<u>Athletics</u>	<u>Literacy</u>	<u>Explorers</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Science</u>
Painting	Swim	Reading	Hiking	Singing	Experiments
Drawing	Basketball	Letter Writing	Frogging	Dancing	Building
Crafting	T-ball	Novels	Nature Walks	Instruments	Mixing
Cooking	Flag Football	Poetry	Fossil Finds	Music Games	Creating
Sewing	Soccer	Word Games	Stream Walks	Talent Show	
Building	Hockey	Journal Writing	Capture the Flag		
Creating	Softball	Singing	Scavenger Hunts		
Coloring	Four Square				
Life skills	Games				

Swim

Swim time is a well-loved activity at Kateri Day Camp. Swim lessons take place in our Olympic size pool and are instructed by American Red Cross certified lifeguards and swim instructors.

It is our goal that all Kateri campers will learn basic swim strokes and personal safety techniques. Campers will be classified at varying levels depending upon their swim ability as determined by a basic swim test. Shallow water swimmers have lessons that focus on very basic techniques. Mid-water swimmers focus on three strokes and must be proficient in front crawl and back stroke before moving on. Deep water swimmers focus on more advanced strokes. All campers are required to participate in swim every day.

Daily Schedule

Summer is a time of freedom and discovery. Keeping this in mind, our schedule may vary due to a special event, an unexpected surprise or even a rain storm. Each group receives their own schedules.

A typical day at Kateri Day Camp:

9:00 Welcome

9:15 Flag Raising Ceremony and Daily News

9:30-10:00 Breakfast

10:00 -11:00 Activity or Swim

11:00 -12:00 Activity or Swim

11:30 -12:00 Snack

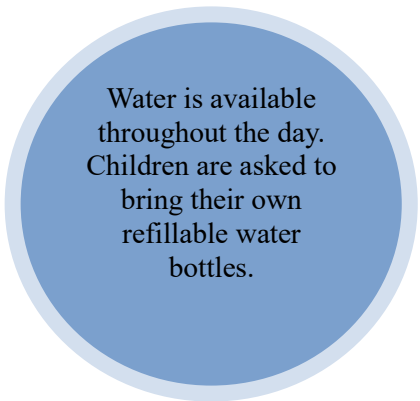
12:00 -1:00 Activity or Swim

1:00 -1:30 Lunch

1:35 - 2:10 Activity or Swim

2:15 - 2:50 Activity or Swim

3:00 Bus Dismissal



Water is available
throughout the day.
Children are asked to
bring their own
refillable water
bottles.

Menu

What are the meals like? Meals are served to every camper and staff member every day. If your child has a food allergy or dietary restrictions, please submit a doctor's note. Please contact us at 732-946-9694 to make arrangements to allow your child to bring his/her own food.

Breakfast may be cold cereal, a muffin or a bagel, etc. Breakfast includes milk and juice.

Lunch follows a two week repeating schedule. Lunch includes a milk, fruit, veggie and protein. Examples of lunches are beef hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken nuggets, pizza, etc.

Snack: A small snack is available each day. This can be a granola bar, fruit, chips or even a special ice cream treat.

Health and Safety

Our Health office is equipped to provide basic medical care and is staffed by one registered nurse or certified first aid specialist. Our Camp Nurse/Health Director provides first aid care, dispenses medication, and assesses injuries and illness to see if outside care is required. The health office also houses emergency equipment such as an AED.

Should a camper require emergency medical attention that our health office cannot provide we will contact emergency medical services.

In case of illness or injury, a camper's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified as soon as reasonably possible depending upon the situation.

Medication

The Camp Nurse/Health Director will work with the families of campers who require medication during camp hours.

Doctor's orders are **required** for all medications administered at camp in order to comply with the Nurse Practice Act. In addition, all medication instructions must be written on the Enrollment Application.

When sending Medication to Kateri Day Camp:

1. All medication must be sent to camp with appropriate doctor's orders and in its original prescription bottle with the camper's name printed on the label.
2. Medication cannot be expired.
3. When sending medication to camp place the original prescription bottle in a zip top plastic bag with the camper's name printed. Bus monitors will collect all medication from you as your camper loads the bus

Cell Phones and Electronics

At Kateri Day Camp CELL PHONES are NOT ALLOWED

~ Please keep them home

~ Cell Phones (or any electronics) will be collected and safely stored during camp hours.

If a camper has or is using a cell phone during camp hours:

- 1. Phone will be taken and held in the office until the end of the day.*
- 2. All phones will be returned to camper at the end of the day.*
- 3. If the problem persists a parent or guardian will be called and the phone will be held in the camp office until the last day of camp or until a parent or guardian comes to Kateri to retrieve it.*

This policy is designed to:

- Encourage your child to spend more time focusing on their natural environment
- Promote socialization between campers
- Give your child a break from the world of technology
- Ensure that photos are not posted inappropriately
- Avoid the risk of emotional injury associated with cell phone use when misused or unsupervised

Summer camp offers a great opportunity to learn about and navigate social situations while not being constantly connected to and immersed within a digital/virtual world.

*PLEASE – NO
CELL PHONES
AT CAMP*

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP!

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD BRING A CELL PHONE TO CAMP.

PLEASE DISCUSS THIS POLICY WITH YOUR CAMPER BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF CAMP AND DURING CAMP.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP OUR CAMPERS UNPLUG!



TRANSPORTATION

We provide free supervised bus transportation:

- Kateri uses concentrated bus stops. Parents are responsible for getting campers to and from the bus stop.
- There must be an authorized person waiting at the bus stop approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled arrival and departure times.
- Scheduled times are estimated, and are therefore subject to change depending on camper enrollment, inclement weather, and/or traffic.
- Families choose a bus and stop that best suits your needs. Morning and afternoon stops must be the same.
- AM Pick-Up: In the morning a bus monitor will greet campers at the stop. Attendance will be taken. If a camper misses the bus, parents are responsible for their child's transportation to camp.
- PM Drop-Off: There must be an authorized person with ID waiting to greet all campers.
- Only campers 11 and older with written permission from the parent/guardian may walk home from the bus stop unsupervised. Families can contact the camp office for more details.
- Drivers and monitors are instructed not to leave a camper unattended. If we cannot reach a parent or guardian, the camper will be brought back to Kateri Day Camp. It will then be the parent/guardian's responsibility to pick the camper up at camp.
- Families are encouraged to get the driver's name and the bus number. Please call the camp office with any transportation questions.
- Please no eating on the bus.
- All children must remain seated with seatbelts on the bus. Any child who misbehaves on the bus may lose his or her bus transportation privileges.
- **Our bus drivers and camp administration reserve the right to determine if your child is a safety risk and deny them transportation.**

Private Transportation

If a camper is driven to or from camp, we ask you to sign him/her in or out in the camp office using a photo ID. Drop-off is no earlier than 9:00 am. Pick-up is at 3:00pm.

Early pick up from camp may be facilitated by calling the camp office at 732-946-9694 with the time of pick up. Parent/guardian must sign the child out at the camp office.

SAFETY TIPS AT BUS STOPS

GOING TO CAMP:

Arrive 15 minutes before bus is due. Remember... campers wait for the bus, the bus doesn't wait for them. (Buses run on a tight schedule – please be on time.)

Wait calmly on the sidewalk and/or off the street for the bus to come. Do not disturb private property or the people living near the bus stop.

Always cross IN FRONT of the bus while boarding. Make sure you can see the driver's eyes and watch for him/her hand signal to cross the street.

After boarding the bus, move quickly to your seat and SIT DOWN. Be sure to stay seated until you get to camp. NO ONE HAS PERMISSION TO STAND WHILE THE BUS IS IN MOTION.

When the bus comes to a complete stop at camp, move quietly and quickly off the bus. Only cross in front of the bus beyond the safety gate.

EVEN WITH ALL THE MIRRORS THE BUSES HAVE, IT IS HARD FOR A DRIVER TO SEE EVERYTHING ALONG THE SIDES OF THE BUS, AND IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE CLOSE TO THE BACK AND FRONT OF THE BUS.

GOING HOME FROM CAMP:

Do not run near buses in the roadway. Get in your bus line and board the bus quickly and quietly.

Remain in your seat while riding the bus. NEVER STAND UP WHILE THE BUS IS MOVING.

Wait for bus to completely stop before moving to the door. Get off at your stop and move quickly away from the bus.

If you must cross the street...

1. Move away from the front of the bus a few feet so you can see the bus driver's eyes.
2. Start crossing when driver signals you and when you reach left side of bus look left, right and left again before crossing remainder of street.
Walk quickly to curb and off the street.

NEVER, NEVER pick up papers or anything you may drop near a school bus. When you lean down, the driver can't see you. It is very important that every camper have a back pack of some sort in which to carry items.

CAMP BEHAVIOR

At Kateri Day Camp, we believe in helping every camper to be their best! We believe that every moment is a moment to create success. Together we will promote kindness, responsibility, honesty and cooperation. Campers and Staff are expected to be kind, respectful, and to follow the rules.

Kateri Day Camp employs a Behavior Specialist. If your child has an IEP or school behavior plan, please let us know so that we can help your child have a great summer!

If a camper is having difficulty following camp rules and behavioral expectations:

1. Group counselors, who have been trained to handle basic behavior issues, will positively redirect the camper's behavior. The incident will be noted.
2. If the behavior continues, the Behavior Specialist will intervene. The camper will have time to discuss the incident and will be given a short break. The camper may then be given the opportunity to return to the activity. The incident will be noted and parent or guardian may receive a phone call.
3. If behavior does not improve the Behavior Specialist will have the camper speak with the Camp Director. The Behavior Specialist and the camper may place a call to the parent or guardian. At this time the camper may receive a day out of camp.
4. The Behavior Specialist and Camp Director will monitor the camper for any further behavior issues. If the camper cannot follow basic rules of safety and respect he/she will be asked not to return to Kateri Day Camp.

Kateri Day Camp is mindful of the safety of all campers. We reserve the right to expel a child from camp if his or her behavior is dangerous to him/herself or others.

Rights of Persons Served	
Camper/Parent/Guardian Rights	Communication
To be treated with dignity and respect.	Kateri Day Camp communicates policies and safe practices in the Parent Handbook.
To be free from discrimination solely based on gender, sexual orientation, race, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, or disability.	Kateri Day Camp is licensed and follows all safe practices outlined in the NJ Youth Camp Safety Standards N.J.A.C. 8:25.
To expect all personal information to be kept confidential.	Kateri Day Camp leadership staff and/or first aid specialist communicates via phone or your preferred communication regarding individual camper medical emergencies, questions about medication, and any behavioral challenge in which we seek your support.
To be free from harrasment and intimidation.	We value your feedback. Kateri Day Camp appreciates your assistance in evaluating your camper's experience. Your feedback will help us improve our services. All campers, staff, parents, and guardians are requested to complete a survey at the end of camp.
To request help from staff as needed.	Concerns should be addressed directly with the Kateri Day Camp Director.
To expect help from staff in resolving conflicts with other campers or staff.	For a copy of Kateri's grievance form, please go to the website: www.collieryouthservices.org and click on "Forms" and then click onto the "Grievance Form" and then "KDC Grievance Form" in the drop downs.
To enjoy a safe, clean and healthy camp environment.	Concerns should be addressed directly with the Kateri Day Camp Director.
To access DCPD service is abuse in any form has occurred.	(Hotline # 1-800-NJ-ABUSE)

Things to Know:

- Who will be supervising my child?
Kateri Day Camp's staff includes teachers, social workers, college students, and a few select high school students. All staff participate in a training program before camp begins. Background checks are done on all staff members.
- Campers will be placed into groups with 15-20 children of similar age. Groups are monitored by at least 1 adult counselor and a Junior Counselor.
- Kateri Day Camp does not provide one to one aides. All campers attending must have had success in a large group environment. Please call before registering if you have any questions or concerns.
- What if my child is sick? If your child is going to be absent, please call the camp office (732-946 -9694) by 9:00 a.m. If your child becomes sick at camp, our camp Health Director will call the Parent/Guardian listed on your application. If we cannot reach a Parent/Guardian we will call the emergency contact numbers listed on the application.
- Attendance: Kateri will call home when your child is absent from camp. If your child is absent 3 unexplained days in a row, and we have made 3 unsuccessful attempts to reach you, your child will be removed from camp.
- Field Trips: Kateri Day Camp offers a variety of whole camp and small group trips. There is no extra charge for trips. Permission is given on the Enrollment Application.
- Rainy Days: Kateri Day Camp is open on rainy days. When it rains the Camp Director will make the decision whether or not to move camp indoors.
 - The pool may or may not be open on rainy days. Determination is made by the Waterfront Specialist based on safety.
 - All outdoor activities will be cancelled in cases of lightning or thunder.
 - All campers are expected to attend camp on rainy days. No refunds will be given.



For Camp EVERY DAY:
A backpack
Swim Suit
Towel
Water Bottle
Sneakers
NO SANDALS AND FLIP FLOPS



Whenever we go on a trip, all campers will wear
a brightly colored Kateri Day Camp T-shirt!



Tips for the First Day of Camp

Have your camper:

- Wear play clothes. Campers will get dirty from mud, paint and more! Please do not send campers in new or special clothes or shoes.
- Wear a swimsuit, every day. No bikinis! We strongly recommend that you have your child wear a swimsuit under their play clothes to camp.
- Wear old sneakers. Open shoes, sandals, slides or flip-flops are not allowed.
- Bring a towel with your camper's name on it.
- Bring a reusable water bottle with water only – no juice, milk or soda. Please put your camper's name on their water bottle in case it gets lost.
- Place all items in a small back pack or string bag (labeled with camper's name).

Please Do Not Send or allow your camper to bring:

- Food of any kind, including: munchkins, candy, chips, takis, snacks, sweets, or gum
- Money or Jewelry
- Cell phones, gaming devices, or electronics (these should be kept home so they are not lost, stolen or broken).
- Games, stuffed animals, dolls or toys
 - ❖ All prohibited items will be placed in the office and returned at the discretion of the Camp Director.

Kateri Day Camp is not responsible for any lost or stolen personal belongings.

Contact Us

Camp Director: Karen Stackhouse

Phone: 732-946-9694

Fax: 732-946-9785

Website: www.katericenter.org

Email: kstackhouse@collieryouthservices.org

DIRECTIONS

From the North via the Garden State Parkway:

Parkway South to exit 117A. At the exit ramp turn right onto Lloyd Road. At the end of Lloyd Road, turn left onto Route 79. Continue South on Route 79 for approximately 2 miles. Turn left onto Conover Road. Turn left at the white Collier Youth Services sign.

From the South via the Garden State Parkway:

Parkway North to exit 109. At the exit ramp turn left onto Route 520. Continue west on Route 520. Cross Route 34 and continue up a hill. At the light at the crest of the hill turn right onto Conover Road. Turn right at the white Collier Youth Services sign.

From Trenton via Route 33:

Follow Route 33 East into Freehold. Then take Route 79 North for approx. 8 miles. Cross Route 520 and continue approximately three miles, then turn right at the next light onto Conover Road. Turn left at the white Collier Youth Services sign.

From the South via Route 34:

Follow Route 34 North to Route 520 (Newman Springs Road) Turn left and travel west on Route 520. Continue approximately 2 miles, at the light at the crest of the hill turn right onto Conover Road. Turn right at the white Collier Youth Services sign.

Once you turn onto the driveway of Collier Youth Services. Follow the road down the hill to the Kateri Offices.

We Respect
The Land
The Plants
The Animals
The People
And Ourselves

We Use Good Language,
Good Behavior and a
Positive Attitude.

