



## Manice Education Center

# Summer Programs F.A.Q.

**Q Will my camper be safe?**

**A** Your campers physical and emotional safety is our number one priority! Manice provides constant supervision of all campers by qualified, trained staff. Staff are certified in First Aid, CPR, and Lifeguarding. A thorough background check is conducted on all staff before being hired. Boys/Girls are housed separately both at camp and off-site.

This camp must comply with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and be licensed by the local board of health. Parent/Guardians may request copies of background check, health care, and/or discipline policies as well as procedures for filing grievances. Schedules of activities will be made available to all parent/guardians.

Christodora is an active member of the Massachusetts Camping Association, which educates camps on state regulations and camping industry best practices.

You are always welcome to contact us with any concerns, and we will be happy to discuss our emphasis on providing safe and rewarding experiences for all of our campers.

**Q What type of luggage should I use to pack for camp?**

**A** We suggest that you pack the items on our gear list into 2 small bags, instead of 1 large bag. This makes our luggage transport easier and will offer more options to keep your camper's belongings organized while at camp. However, there is no need to buy new luggage. We also suggest that you use luggage that you won't mind getting a little dirty.

**Q Will my camper be able to be in a tent with his/her friend?**

**A** We are happy to discuss with you what would be the best option for your camper to help him/her adjust to being away from home. We strive to provide safe and enjoyable experiences for all campers and will make every effort to do so. Sometimes, situations arise where being in a tent with a friend from home may not be the best option. Remember, we will be providing a fun and supportive atmosphere and campers will make many new friends.

**Q Are there wild animals living around MEC?**

**A** Yes, maybe you'll be lucky enough to see some (squirrels, deer, frogs, or maybe even a harmless black bear, etc.!) but they are often afraid of larger animals (like our campers) and will likely stay out of sight. There are no instances of a camper being hurt in any way from a wild animal at camp. It is the responsibility of everyone at camp to comply with our regulations for animal safety.

**Q Can I keep any food (candy, gum, soda, etc.) in my tent?**

**A** No, because bugs and other small animals might come inside looking for it!

**Q Should I bring sheets or a sleeping bag?**

**A** Yes, either will be fine. Please closely follow the suggested packing list. We will provide blankets, pillows and beds. (P.S. Don't forget your pillowcase, second pair of shoes and rain gear!) We can provide rain ponchos if you don't have rain gear. Please don't bring both sheets and a sleeping bag, one or the other will be fine. Help us save room on the bus!

**Q Do I have to buy items on the clothing list if my camper doesn't have them?**

**A** No, this is a suggested list. Please send only what your camper has and only what is on the list. What your camper wears on departure should be included on the list. For example, don't pack 2 pairs of shoes. Instead, wear one pair and pack the second. Remember, we need to save room on that bus!

**Q Can I take a shower while at Manice?**

**A** Yes, but not every day. All campers do have the opportunity to take a shower before and after each overnight hike. We offer water activities (swimming, creek hikes, etc.) which give everyone a chance to rinse off, daily. We never restrict showers for any hygiene issues that may arise.

**Q Can I use sunscreen and bug spray?**

**A** Yes! We encourage you to use sunscreen and bug spray. But don't worry, if you don't have it, we can provide it.

**Q What can I do to help my camper when he/she feels homesick?**

**A** It is normal and healthy for a camper to experience homesickness for the first few days at camp. Our staff are trained to be sensitive and support your camper's emotional adjustment to life away from home. Staff will make every effort to help your camper to talk about and understand what they are feeling, and encourage their involvement at the camp. Our experience in offering camp activities for NYC youth for over a century tells us that your camper will have fun and feel secure with staff and new friends within a few days.

Sometimes your camper may write a letter home that states they are homesick. We understand that, as a parent, this is often hard to read or find out. It is important not to panic and realize that by the time you opened that letter, your camper is probably already feeling better and having fun at camp. We suggest that you write back to your camper with encouragement. We highly recommend not telling your camper you miss them, as this often encourages feelings of homesickness again.

If you keep receiving letters that concern you, please call Matthew Scholl, Manice Education Center Director, at 413-663-8463 and he will be sure to talk to your camper and his staff and call you back. We are always here to help you and your camper have a healthy and rewarding experience.

**Q How can I contact my camper?**

**A** You may write a letter to your camper and mail it to:  
Camper Name  
Manice Education Center  
68 Savoy Road  
Florida, MA 01247

Please do not expect your camper to call home. The phones at the Center are reserved for business and emergency calls only. For their safety, your camper's cell phone will also be locked in storage upon their arrival.

Please do not send food or items of value to your camper. We have an excellent food service program, and your camper should not store food in the tent so he/she is not encouraging unwanted wild animals to enter their tent. We do not have a camp store, and your camper does not need money to enjoy their experience. Please expect delays for USPS packages. We receive mail every day, but if you send a package, we must pick it up 30 minutes from the camp.

If there is a family emergency, please call the Manice Education Center Director at (413) 663-8463 or (917) 558-1912. Every effort will be made to support the needs of you and your family during this emergency. Please understand that your camper may be camping off-site and there may be reasonable delays in reaching them.

**Q How will I know when my camper arrived safely to Manice?**

**A** We encourage you to sign our email list at departure so we can email you an arrival notice and a reminder when your camper will return to NYC. We will do our best to post pictures of your campers on the Christodora Facebook page. (Please keep in mind that we will be focusing on ensuring a safe and fun program for your camper, and pictures will be posted as time allows.) The answering service at the Manice Education Center (413) 663-8463 will also state when your camper has arrived safely to Manice.



## Manice Education Center

# Camper Rules & Responsibilities

**THIS MUST BE SIGNED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN BEFORE A CAMPER CAN ATTEND OUR SUMMER PROGRAM!**

**Parents and Campers:** We are happy to offer this enriching experience to your camper. In order to provide an environment that is safe and enjoyable for everyone attending, it is very important that you read and understand the rules and camper responsibilities listed below. We expect all campers to be respectful of each other, the staff, and the environment just as they are at home and school. Remember that you represent yourself, your family, your school and your community when you are at the Christodora-Manice Education Center (MEC).

In order to maintain a positive environment for staff and campers, Christodora reserves the right to restrict a camper's participation in activities at MEC or dismiss a camper for participation in any of the unacceptable behaviors listed below or for other conduct which Christodora, in its discretion, determines is detrimental to the best interests of your camper or other campers.

Both the parent and camper must sign at the bottom of the page indicating that they understand these rules and responsibilities and that the camper understands it is his/her responsibility to follow these rules while at MEC.

- Campers are expected to follow all instructions given for the purpose of insuring their safety.
- Campers are responsible for their own actions and behavior at all times.
- Campers who have violated Christodora's rules and expectations are subject to restrictions from participation and/or dismissal from camp.
- Below is a list of unacceptable behaviors at MEC:
  - Use of profane language
  - Use or possession of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons of any sort (including knives)
  - Physically or verbally abusing others, defacing or destroying property, or disregarding expectations and/or safety policies.
  - Boys visiting girls' tents or girls visiting boys' tents: each bed is that person's personal space and each tent is that tent group's private area, no visiting tent to tent.
  - Fighting, stealing, foul or rude language: these all 'pollute' our environment!
  - Walking into the forest or onto the dam without adult supervision
  - Rock/stick/stone/food throwing: think about it
  - Keeping food, medications, radios, walkman, MP3 players, cell phones, or video games, etc. in tents. Why? Food will invite bugs and animals into your tent, other items may get lost or broken. There is no cell phone coverage at MEC.
  - Vandalism, graffiti & littering: it is our shared home
  - Leaving MEC or assigned areas without supervising adult accompaniment

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**Print Parent/Guardian Name / Parent/Guardian's Signature** **Date**

### Youth Declaration

I have read the Camper Rules and Responsibilities and understand that I am to follow these rules and responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Camper Name / Camper's Signature** **Date**