

Summer - 2026



Dear Hillcroft Families,

The enclosed information has been compiled to provide you with details about the upcoming summer. Please take a moment to read this information and refer to it during the summer.

CAMP DATES:

- **First 2 Weeks - June 29th to July 10th**
- **Second 2 Weeks – July 13th to July 24th**
- **Third 2 Weeks - July 27th to August 7th**
- **Fourth 2 Weeks - August 10th to August 21st**

New Family Orientation: SUNDAY, JUNE 28th 1-2pm – you will receive an email about this special meet and greet time

We will be closed on Friday July 3rd

CAMP HOURS: 8:45am - 4:20pm

CAMP TELEPHONE: (845) 223-5826

CAMP FAX # : (845) 397-7515

During the summer, the following people can help you with specific information and answer questions about:

Overall Camp: Greg and Sally Buttinger

Campers and Staff: Sally Buttinger, Nancy Edwards, McKinley Buttinger, Jeannie Porter, Kim Constable, and Heather Bush

Registration: Greg and Sally

Program: Lori Landolfa-Landry

Camp Safety Procedures, Food Service and Maintenance: Greg Buttinger

Medical: Laura Pullem, Jackie Baeza, Chrissy McCracken, Meghan Phillips, Flanna Kimmick

Early/After-Care: Greg and Sally

CIT Coordinators: McKinley Buttinger, Stephanie Sweeney

Transportation, Attendance, Absentee: Greg Buttinger, Maria de la Peña, Emily Lamoree, Diana Judge

Please feel free to call us with your questions or special concerns. During the summer, we will be delighted to meet with you. We are always available in the morning at Drop-Off or at the 4:20 Pick-Up time. Appointments can also be scheduled during the day. We welcome and encourage the opportunity to discuss your child's involvement in our Hillcroft community.

ATTENDANCE: Daily attendance will be taken. Should your child NOT be coming to camp on a given day, PLEASE CALL our camp office at 223-5826 between 7:00 am and 8:00 am. Greg and Sally live in the Camp Office, so please no late-night or early-morning phone calls!

CAMPER ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Whether you drive your child or use camp transportation, staff will always be available inside the camp gate to assist you and the children with the drop-off and pick-up process. For everyone's safety, please follow their directions.

BY CAR:

ARRIVAL TIME: If possible, if your last name begins with A-M please arrive 8:35 am-8:45 am. And again, if possible, last name N-Z arrive between 8:45 am and 9 am

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES: Please drive in the main Hillcroft gate and immediately turn **RIGHT** and follow the road as it loops around. *(If heading West on RT 55 do NOT make a Left into camp – please go down to the Plaza at the intersection of 82 and 55 and turn around.*

-PLEASE DO NOT MAKE A U-TURN IN ANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS' DRIVEWAYS OR NEIGHBORING ROADS.) You will then be directed to the unloading location. Staff will open the car doors, help the children out of the car with their belongings, and accompany them to the gathering areas. Drivers will then be directed to Hillcroft's back gate and onto Rt 55. **PLEASE** do not get out of the car. If you do need to stop and speak with us, unload your child first, then proceed to and park at the parent parking area in the lower lot on the left. **REMEMBER-** No left-hand turns **OUT** of camp, please.

LATE ARRIVAL OR EARLY DISMISSAL: If you bring your child to camp late, after 9:00 am, you must stop at the Office to sign your child in. Early Pick Up must be before 3:30 pm. Please call us by 11:00 am if you need to pick your child up before the regular dismissal time. Your child will be waiting at the Office for you to sign him/her out.

BEFORE CARE is a camp service available only on a pre-scheduled basis. Drive in the main gate, park on the left and walk your child up to the Early Care area by the office. Please exit campgrounds using our back gate. Before Care starts at 7:45 am.

DEPARTURE TIME: 4:20 pm

DEPARTURE PROCEDURES: *(If heading West on RT 55 do NOT make a Left into camp.)* We will be ready to receive parents picking up campers after our buses have departed. Three pick-up areas are designated: #1, Singles Pick Up. #2, Sibling Pick Up. #3, Car Pool Pick Up. Parents wishing to talk with Sally, Nancy, McKinley, Jeannie, Kim and Heather or other staff should park in the parent parking area located further down, opposite the Car Pool area. **PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 4:20.** The gates will be closed because we are moving children to their pick-up places. Cars may not park outside of the gate on Rt 55. We need your help to make this a happy and safe ending to your child's day. In early June, we will be mailing you car cards to keep in your car for the duration of the summer. *Keep your windshield name card in plain view on the passenger's side of the vehicle and follow the signs to the designated area indicated on the name card.* Please follow our counselor's instructions and the directions of the parking lot attendants. **SAFETY** is of utmost concern; your cooperation and patience are appreciated.



BACK GATE EXIT: Please do not block others from turning. This gate is only for exiting camp. We ask everyone **TO TURN RIGHT** during the busy times to prevent backups. **PLEASE DO NOT MAKE A U-TURN IN ANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS' DRIVEWAYS OR NEIGHBORING ROADS.**

LATE AND AFTER CARE PICK UP: Available only on a pre-scheduled basis. Please park in the visitor parking lot (located to the left as you enter the front gate) and walk to the camp office to sign out your child. After-care counselors will dismiss your child to you. After Care ends between 5- 5:30 pm
Please be advised that No Camper will be released to an adult other than their parent, or the driving pool adult/authorized grown-up. Parents wishing to change the person making the pick up must either call Hillcroft at 223-5826 or send a note detailing the change in arrangements.



CAMP TRANSPORTATION AND BUSING

First Student Transportation (yellow school buses) handles the majority of Hillcroft's transportation, and will be responsible for routes in the Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Hopewell Junction, Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie and New Paltz areas. Their vehicles are outfitted with seat belts and radios, undergo scheduled maintenance, and their drivers must maintain clean driving records. In addition, a Hillcroft staff member with a cell phone will be assigned to each bus to be responsible for attendance and the campers. Note: We also rent new 12-passenger vehicles to transport our campers to Intercamp Games/trips. All vehicles transporting children have fixed seats with seat belts and are equipped with cell phones, first aid kits, fire extinguishers and flares. Our Van Drivers are road tested by Greg.

BUS PICK UP TIME: You will be notified via email as to the pick-up place and time. IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT OR NOT TAKING THE CAMP BUS Call Hillcroft: (845) 223-5826 before 7:15 am.

ARRIVAL AT CAMP: When the buses and vans arrive at camp, they are unloaded by staff members. Campers walk to gathering places to meet with their groups.

DEPARTURE: Groups are organized at 4:10 by the bus monitors. Attendance is taken while boarding. Transportation Director, Greg Buttinger, oversees and releases the vehicles for a 4:15 pm departure

PLEASE NOTIFY - Maria de la Peña, Emily Lamoree, Diana Judge, or Greg of any changes in your transportation plans.

In the event of an impending Local, State or National emergency, we will email all families to notify of any dismissal changes. We also use the REMIND app - more info coming about this.



NEW CAMPER ORIENTATION: This event will take place on Sunday June 28th. It starts at 1 pm and ends at 2 pm.

NAME TAG: On the first day of camp, please have your child wear the name tag that will arrive in the mail mid-June. The tags are color-coded and will greatly help our counselors initially identify and match children to their groups. Group assembly areas will be designated by color. Entering P, K & 1st Grade GREEN. Entering 2nd & 3rd BLUE. 4th, 5th & 6th RED. 7th - 9th GOLD. Please do NOT use this name tag for New Camper Orientation/Meet and Greet.

EQUIPMENT: Please label all items. Campers should bring a filled water bottle daily and it should be labeled. Children should not bring personal items of great value, such as jewelry, Apple Watches, electronic game boards, earbuds, cell phones, etc. Please notify the camp if your child wishes to bring personal archery equipment. We are CELL PHONE FREE!!! (Yippee!)

CLOTHING: Please dress your child appropriately and according to the weather. Remember to label all clothing and equipment with your child's first and last name. Each summer, our pile of lost-and-found items is enormous. Campers should bring and take home 2 towels and 2 bathing suits daily. A filled water bottle is ESSENTIAL. Also, they may want to bring the following items to camp and keep in their cubby:

*1 sweatshirt *baseball or sun hat *bug spray *sunscreen
*Flip flops for pool *book or game for rest time

To facilitate bunk cleaning, we will periodically ask campers to remove all items from their cubbies for a thorough bunk cleaning.

REST TIME: A 45-minute rest period is scheduled each day following lunch. During this "sit down time" counselors and campers play quiet games, read, and sign up for the next day's program. Rest also becomes an ideal occasion for chats about their day, and the re-application of sunscreen!

FOOD POLICY: Camp Hillcroft adheres to a "no outside food" policy. Please do not send candy, gum, soda, or any foods into camp. (The exception is if a child has a birthday or a specific dietary need for lunch, which is then stored in the cooler. If your child celebrates a birthday, you may bring a snack for his/her group. Contact us first for food allergies within your child's group, and please remember we are PEANUT FREE.)



Gum is not permitted. It creates a real mess in camp! There is a PowerAid machine available, and your child may bring in \$1.50 if they are interested in buying a drink.

ILLNESS: Please do not send your child to camp if he/she has, or you suspect he/she is coming down with a cold or illness. Should your child become ill while at camp you will be notified and may be asked to come and pick up your child. If your child has a fever, vomiting or diarrhea please be sure that your child's temperature and bowel movements have been normal for at least 24 hours (without any medication) prior to returning to camp.

EMERGENCY: In the event of a medical emergency, you will be called with the details and involved in decision making. If you cannot be reached, the camp will contact the person you have provided as your emergency contact.

CAMP SAFETY: During staff orientation, and with your children, we address the following health and safety procedures: Accident Prevention, Medical Care including information about ticks, rabies, and poison ivy, Waterfront Fun and Safety, Fire Prevention-Procedures and Drills, Off-Camp Trips, Camper Arrival, and Departure Procedures.

TICK CHECKS: Campers will be checked periodically by staff at the pool and following any Nature or Outdoor Adventure programs. Should we find an embedded tick, the camper will be taken to the Infirmary for removal by the Nurse. The parent will be contacted before removal. We recommend that you also check your children each afternoon when they arrive home.

SPECIAL DAYS: The International Children's Festival will be described and announced beforehand. The Arts Festival is a surprise for campers! Hillcroft Friendship Games take place near the end of the camp season and are fun for all.



Special Evening Activities:

Children in the 2nd grade and up may sign up for a special evening of fun on camp grounds. You will receive information and a permission slip in advance via email regarding the specifics of when, where, and how. All of these dates are on our camp calendar on our website. Click “OPEN FULL MENU” and check out the info on the left panel.



SWIM INSTRUCTION: Like you, we want your children to be safe and strong swimmers. Therefore, swim instruction is mandatory for our campers through the 7th grade. Our caring staff provides an excellent atmosphere for learning and have developed appropriate expectations for the beginner and fun challenges for the advanced. Sometimes a child may try and pressure a parent about not wanting to take instruction. If we both agree that this is an important activity for your child then your children will learn more ably in our pools. PLEASE call us so that we can help you handle this with your child. We need to work together. It is Hillcroft’s policy that if a child misses Instructional Swim then they cannot then participate in Free Swim.

CAMP PHOTOS: Your child's group and individual picture will be taken by Hudson Valley Photo on Monday July 6th and Thursday, July 30th. The photos will be available for prepay purchase. Families with more than one child in camp can choose sibling portraits, single campers will receive individual portraits. Information will be sent home via email before camp starts and again with your camper the week before.

CAMP NEWSLETTER: A newsletter will be available to read every Friday in your Camp InTouch account. Included will be goings on in camp, upcoming events and special activities, an introduction to our staff and group news. It will have lots of important information...please remember to check your Camp InTouch Page for this newsletter!!

PHOTOS OF THE DAY: will be on your Camp InTouch Page and on [SmugMug](#).

VISITORS: It is camp policy that on arrival and departure all visitors must check in at the office. Visitors will receive a name tag. Staff are instructed to approach any "non-camp person" to inquire about their presence on camp grounds.

DAMAGE: Damage assessments will be made for any damage to camp property by camper(s).

CAMPER BEHAVIOR: Camp Hillcroft will not accept behaviors such as teasing, bullying, hitting and or kicking, repeated profanity, disrespect, or any other unsafe behaviors that are potentially harmful to the camper or others. "I understand that if my child engages in any of the above behaviors, I will be contacted by Hillcroft's Head Counselor who will share the specifics and observations and enlist my support. A further continuation of these behaviors may require that the camper miss a portion or the balance of his/her summer."

When your child's time at camp comes to an end some parents give a small gift or a gift card at the end of the session). We also hope that you will think about our Service Staff who work hard to please your children with food preparation, cleaning, and maintenance.... (suggested \$ 15-20 per session). Please place it in an envelope and label for Service Staff.



FORMS: The following forms MUST be completed before your child may begin camp.

- Heath History Form for ALL campers: completed online by parent.
- Individualized Order form: signed by a doctor and uploaded to your account.
- Immunization Record from Doctor's Office.
- Sunscreen and Bug repellent Form completed online by parent.
- Parent Confidential: completed online by parent.
- Camper Interest: completed online by camper.
- Grown Up Authorization Form: completed online by parent.

These forms can be found in your Camp InTouch Account and can be filled out online. Immunization and Individualized orders form will need to be completed and uploaded. Forms inked in BLACK are incomplete
Forms inked in GREEN are complete

MEDICAL FORM: The Health Department requires all children to have their medical form paperwork up to date when camp begins. This includes a health history, record of immunizations and Individualized Order Form.

A CAMPER MAY NOT BEGIN CAMP UNLESS THE ABOVE ARE ON FILE.

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BEFORE YOUR CHILD CAN BEGIN CAMP.

Mail correspondence to: Camp Hillcroft, Box 5, Billings, NY 12510

You can reach us at 223-5826, or e-mail: fun@camphillcroft.com with any questions or concerns.

We look forward to sharing an exciting and fun filled summer with your child.

Regards, Greg and Sally