

# AGASSIZ VILLAGE PARENT HANDBOOK SUMMER 2024



## Summer Office

71 Agassiz Lane, Poland, Maine 04274,

T: 207-998-4340

Email: [register@agassizvillage.org](mailto:register@agassizvillage.org)



## Year-Round Office

185 Dean Street, Suite 206 Norwood, MA 02062

T: 781-860-0200



# Welcome, from our Program Director!

## Prepare kids for life's journey

Welcome to Agassiz Village! We are so excited to have you and your child join our AV Family for the summer!

It can be very exciting getting ready for camp and at the same time, a little scary, when jumping out of our comfort zone. Don't worry, you are not alone! I started at AV when I was nine years old. I was excited to attend my very first summer camp but I was also a little scared too. I remember the anticipation as it got closer and closer to the first day of the session. When my family pulled up to camp, all of the staff were smiling and cheering, and singing the AV Welcoming Song. It made me feel safe and welcomed. I felt like I was coming home and now every time I drive onto camp property I have that same feeling of coming home.

So now I want to create that same feeling for your child. Our goal at Agassiz Village is to make sure that we are creating a safe and welcoming environment for all campers while giving them the necessary skills needed in life through our strong social emotional learning curriculum.

We spend all year at Agassiz Village hiring the best staff to take care of our campers and developing the strongest programming that reflects our four values: to have fun, to collaborate, to explore, and to thrive.

It is an honor to have your camper at Agassiz Village and we can't wait to share our mission, staff, and programming with you!

Looking forward to meeting you all soon!!

Best,  
Camille Naldini, Youth Development and Experience Director



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## Our mission is to prepare kids for life's journey

We offer children the opportunity, in a summer camp environment, to develop and practice leadership and life skills that will impact their future in education, family, career, and in their communities. Our programs are an investment in the future, to inspire and enable all children, especially those who need our support the most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible leaders.

OUR VISION: Children from Maine to Massachusetts, regardless of economic opportunity, experience Agassiz Village's joyful, welcoming, and diverse community that inspires and enables them to explore new experiences and create the futures they envision.

**OUR VALUES: Have Fun, Collaborate, Explore and Thrive!**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Camille Naldini**

**Youth Experience and Development Director**

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Phone Number: 781-860-0200 ext.1005

**Dan Hanlon**

**Camp Director**

Email: [dhanlon@agassizvillage.org](mailto:dhanlon@agassizvillage.org)

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**Judy Emmert**

**Engagement Coordinator**

Email: [jemmert@agassizvillage.org](mailto:jemmert@agassizvillage.org)

Phone Number: 781-860-0200 ext.1001

**\*\*Please note:** During the camp day, camp leadership staff are not always on call as they might be out with the campers. However there is always a member of Agassiz Staff available from 9am to 5pm, who can refer your call to the appropriate staff member. All calls will be answered in a timely manner.

## Tuition/Refund Policy

- All camper tuition payments must be paid by May 1st, 2024. No refunds will be given after this date. If payments are not received by May 1st, unfortunately we may not be able to hold your child's spot.
- Transfers amongst sessions are possible, space permitting.
- If a cancellation is made prior to May 1st, you will receive a partial refund. There will be a \$75 cancellation fee.
- All refunds may take up to 4-6 weeks to process.
- For questions or to withdraw or change your child's registration, please contact Marlena Maglieri at [register@agassizvillage.org](mailto:register@agassizvillage.org) or 781-860-0200 ext.1001

# Social Emotional Learning at AV

Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) continues to be at the core of Agassiz Village. SEL is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set, and achieve positive goals, feel, and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. We survey all campers at the beginning and end of each session to track their SEL development over the course of the session. The program initiative focuses on the following competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social-awareness, and responsible decision-making.

Many studies that show that SEL leads to higher graduation rates, less risky behavior, and greater job prospects. In 2024, we will be measuring Social Emotional Learning gains at Agassiz Village using the SAYO survey. We survey campers their first day of camp and the last day of camp.



## Traditional Overnight Camp (Ages 8-13)



The goals of our Traditional Overnight Camp (8 – 13) program are to create an intentional experience through age specific, life-skills oriented, programming focused on SEL curriculum. Our campers learn important life skills (cooperation, tolerance, respect, leadership, etc.) while having fun. Agassiz Village traditional daily activities include but are not limited to instructional & recreational swimming, arts & crafts, nature & outdoor living skills, sports & fitness, drama, dance, high & low ropes courses, canoeing, archery, and more. All programs are led by qualified and experienced instructors. Each camper group will go through three scheduled activities a day with each day ending with an evening activity that will range from small group (cabin) activities to all-camp events and celebrations. Through these everyday programs as well as special/theme days and events we strive to provide a well-rounded experience for each of our campers that is fun and meaningful.



**HAVE FUN**



**COLLABORATE**



**EXPLORE**



**THRIVE**



# Teen Advancement Program (Ages 14-15)

The Teen Advancement Program (TAP) offers more advanced programming opportunities for our older campers (14-15). It is an intentional two-week program focused on SEL and leadership skills development. The program will include leadership topics and skills like group building, goal setting, teamwork, tolerance and cooperation, integrity, role modeling, community service, etc. Participants will also spend time discussing SEL competencies. TAP campers will take on more responsibility and choice in the traditional A.V. camp experiences like swimming, canoeing, dance, sports, archery, evening, and other activities as part of the overall Agassiz Village community. The goal of this program is to raise our camper self-identity and awareness and develop specific leadership skills and values through purposeful experiential education.



# Leaders in Training (LIT) (Ages 16-17)



The LIT program starts at camp with a 4-week program for a select group of 16–17-year-old teens seeking hands-on leadership skills development and potential future employment with Agassiz. Each candidate is required to apply for the position and is interviewed prior to their selection.

At camp, LITs engage in a set of hands-on SEL-informed workshops on topics including teamwork, group forming and dynamics, conflict management skills, leadership styles, and career and college readiness/preparation. Additionally, LITs will participate and lead various activities at camp. We will also have several external partners visit camp to talk more in depth about future opportunities. This will range from college admissions officers, representatives from Citizens Bank, Loomis Sayles, Microsoft, and more. These interactive workshops provide an opportunity for the 16–17-year-old participants to look at the realities of the next step in their lives, whether it be college, or entering a career.

Once the LIT's have completed their 4-week program at our summer camp, they will then participate in monthly meetings and workshops throughout the academic year. Topics will range from career and college readiness, financial literacy, and conversations with established working professionals to leadership and SEL focused work.



# 2024 AV CAMP CALENDER

## Session 1

Sunday, June 30th - Session Pick-Up  
Thursday, July 11th - Session Drop-Off

## Session 2

Sunday, July 14th - Session Pick-Up  
Thursday, July 25th - Session Drop-Off

## Session 3

Sunday, July 28th - Session Pick-Up  
Thursday, August 8th - Session Drop-Off

### ATTENTION PARENTS

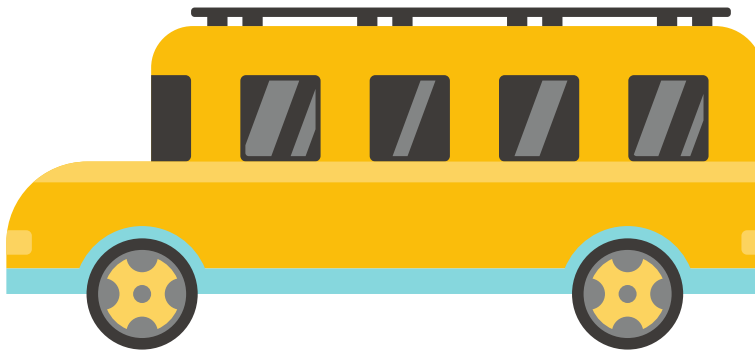
ALL persons **INCLUDING PARENTS** picking up campers must have a **PICTURE ID** and be listed as authorized pick up person during registration. This is necessary to maintain the highest of safety standards.

### Driving to Camp

Location -- 71 Agassiz Lane, Poland ME 04274

For Drop off (June 30th, July 14th, July 28th): Arrive for 3-5pm

For Pick Up (July 11th, July 25th, August 8th): Arrive between 9am-9:30am.



### Malden Bus Pick Up

Location -- Linden STEAM  
Academy : 29 Wescott Street,  
Malden MA 02148

For Pick Up (July 2nd, July 14th,  
July 28th): Arrive at 12pm

**\*Please plan for extra time for check-in and be courteous of others as we will depart promptly.**

### Malden Bus Drop Off

Location -- Linden STEAM  
Academy : 29 Wescott Street,  
Malden MA 02148

For Drop Off (July 11th, July 25th,  
August 8th): Arrive at 12pm

**\*If you have not picked up your child by 12:20 we will begin calling emergency contacts.**

**For Lewiston/Portland pick-ups, please contact us at [campoffice@agassizvillage.org](mailto:campoffice@agassizvillage.org), so we can coordinate our drivers on site to pick up at Auburn Exit 75 Bus Station or Deering High School. Thank you!**

# Pick up & Drop off Information

This first day registration/check-in process is critical for staff to meet parents, review all information and make sure your child's camp experience is off to a good start. This process typically takes 30-60 minutes, so please be prepared to support your child until registration is complete and your child is on the bus.

Campers and Parents/Guardians will complete the registration/check-in process, which includes:

- Final check of paperwork and tuition
- Review of medications and medical information
- Initial health screening process.
- Luggage check-in
- Opportunities to address questions and concerns



At the end of the check-in process, you will be asked to sign a form that releases your child to the Agassiz Village program, at which time you are encouraged to give your child a positive and cheerful "See you soon!"

## **Please Note:**

- Campers are encouraged to bring along a water bottle for the ride up to camp.
- Campers must be escorted to the pick-up location by a parent or guardian who will sign them out to camp.
- At the end of the session, campers must be picked up by a parent/guardian who will sign for their release.
- Parents are responsible for the safety of their children until they are safely boarded on the bus.
- Parents will check in any medication in the original bottle and packaging to the nurse or designated camp staff.
- Campers will be given instructions for bus safety when they board the bus that will include always staying seated and always keeping arms inside the bus.
- We are unable to release a camper to another adult or Uber driver without a guardians' written consent.

# DAILY SCHEDULE



7:00-Wake-Up

8:00 – Breakfast

8:45 – Cabin Pride & Morning Circle

- Camper set their goals for the upcoming day/week, share how they are feeling, and how they can best work as a team. Campers complete their morning cabin pride task (sweeping, tidying their sleeping area, etc.) to compete for the Cleanest Cabin of the Day)

9:30 – Activity Period 1

10:45—Activity Period 2

12:00 – Lunch

1:00 – Siesta

- Down time for the campers to rest and get ready for the second part of the day.

1:45 – Activity Period 3

3:00 – Activity Period 4

4:00 – Snack

4:30—AV Clubs/Free Swim

6:00 – Dinner

7:30 – Evening Activity

- All Camp run games such as "AV Best Dance Crew", "Lip-Sync Battle", Talent Show, Opening/Closing Campfire, Treasure Hunt, Campouts, Free Swim, Dance, Movie Night etc.

9:00 – Evening Circle & Reflection time

- Campers reflect on how their days went, what were their highs and lows, how they are feeling, what worked as a cabin/what can we adapt ?

9:30 – Lights out

## DAILY ACTIVITIES OFFERED AT AV

- Swim Instruction
- Boating
- Sports & Fitness
- Nature & Outdoor Living Skills
- Arts & Crafts
- Performing Arts
- High Ropes
- Archery
- Yoga
- Fishing
- Leadership Workshops
- Team Building



HAVE FUN



COLLABORATE



EXPLORE



THRIVE



# PACKING LIST

\_\_\_ Duffle bag that child can carry himself/herself, with at least ONE WEEK'S WORTH OF CLOTHES!!

\_\_\_ Backpack (or string bag), to carry on bus and around camp, for water bottle, towel, sunblock, campout, etc.

\_\_\_ Sleeping bag (recommended) or sheets & blankets.

\_\_\_ Pillow

\_\_\_ Water bottle (labeled with camper's name)

\_\_\_ Jacket/raincoat/poncho for rainy days

\_\_\_ Hat(s) for sun protection

\_\_\_ 2 pairs of long pants/sweatpants

\_\_\_ 1 sweatshirt/warm sweater (it gets cold at night in Maine)

\_\_\_ 2 long sleeve shirts

\_\_\_ 7 t-shirts

\_\_\_ 4 pairs of shorts

\_\_\_ 1 or 2 bathing suits (whatever your camper feels comfortable in, no string bikinis/speedo bathing suits)

\_\_\_ 2 sets of pajamas

\_\_\_ 7 pairs of underwear, other undergarments

\_\_\_ 7 pairs of socks

\_\_\_ 2 towels (one for waterfront, one for shower)

\_\_\_ Laundry bag or marked bag to carry laundry.

PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON HIS/HER LAUNDRY BAG

\_\_\_ Sunblock (30 SPF or higher)

\_\_\_ Bug repellent (less than 10 DEET, no aerosols)

\_\_\_ Toiletries – (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, comb, brush, etc.)

\_\_\_ 2 pairs of sneakers and a pair that can get wet for after swimming (pool shoes or crocs with a back work great too) Sandals/ Open toed shoes are allowed during specific times (showers, walking to/from waterfront/special events). Crocs are great camp shoes!

## Optional Items

\_\_\_ Stamped envelopes/postcards/pens/pencils

\_\_\_ Flashlight with batteries

\_\_\_ Disposable camera with camper's name

\_\_\_ Books/summer reading/magazines



# DO NOT PACK

\_\_\_ Money (you will not need it on camp)

\_\_\_ Technology (Phones, iPads, Laptops, Nintendo Switch, PlayStations etc.)

\_\_\_ Candy or other food items (It attracts animals into our cabins)

\_\_\_ **Fireworks, Knives (any types), guns, or other weapons/equipment that can be considered dangerous**

\_\_\_ **Tobacco, Alcohol, Vapes, Marijuana, drugs (any medication brought to camp must be given to our nurse at Registration)**

**Please Note: If a camper brings any of these items, they might be subject to immediate dismissal.**

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## PHYSICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS:

Up to date physical and immunization reports must be on file BEFORE the camper attends his/her first day of camp! Children will be unable to attend camp if these reports are not on file.

**HEALTH FORMS:** All required health forms must be completed in the registration packet.

## MEDICAL CONCERNS/Emergency Plan:

If a camper feels ill, the responsible counselor will take him/her to the nurse's station. After discussion and examination the camp nurse will determine if the camper should be separated and lie down for a while, or if the parent should be called to pick up the camper. The camper who is not sent home will remain in the nurse's station until recovered to a point where he/she/they can rejoin regular camp activities.

If a camper requires immediate emergency care, the camp nurse or program director will begin our Emergency Care Plan by calling 9-1-1.

Campers will be brought to Central Maine Hospital (in Emergency situations) at 300 Main St, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone : (207) 795-0111

Campers will be brought to Stephens Memorial Hospital (In Non-Emergency Situations) at 181 Main St, Norway, ME 04268. Phone: (207) 743-5933

Parents will receive a phone call from either the Program Director or the Camp Nurse, to notify them on the situations and the action steps being taken.

## RAINY DAYS AND EXTREME HEAT

Rain Days: We ask parents to plan ahead as indoor space is limited. When inclement weather hits, our campers will be asked to move indoors and stay in one specific area of the building if necessary.

In the case of extreme heat, we utilize all shaded areas and implement extra swim/water activities. We do request that you prepare your camper with clothes/gear for all weather. Camp leadership staff will make decisions during inclement weather to ensure safety for all campers.



# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## SUNSCREEN

We ask that you provide your camper with sunscreen that they can keep in their backpack. Sunscreen should also be labeled with your camper's name. Counselors will have campers reapply sunscreen multiple times throughout the day.

## BUGSPRAY/HAND SANITIZER

We ask that you provide your child with bug spray/hand sanitizer to be kept in their backpack. Items should be labeled with your camper's name. Counselors will have campers reapply multiple times throughout the day and depending on the activities they are participating in.

## SPECIAL DIETS/NUT FREE CAMP

If your camper has special dietary restrictions such as dairy free, gluten free, vegetarian, vegan, etc. please indicate on their Health Form on Camp Brain (Our online application)

We have several campers and staff who are severely allergic to nuts, so we are a Nut-Free Camp. If Campers arrive to camp with nut products or receive nut products in the mail or items, they will be thrown away in safety of our campers with nut allergies.

## HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is normal for campers in the first few days of being away from home. We provide campers with personal attention from the first day, we aim to always have someone available to help campers see the potential in camp and bring them out of their shell. We help campers battle homesickness in a nurturing way that builds confidence and independence. If a camper is severely homesick, we will work with the parent right away to ensure the correct support is placed with child.

## CONTACTING YOUR CAMPER AT CAMP

**Mail**--Campers are encouraged to write home often. Children are assisted by their counselors, when necessary. Mail goes out after lunch, and incoming mail is distributed in the afternoon. Parents are encouraged to write to their children.

Please note we ask parents not to send any food packages as campers are not allowed to keep any food in their cabins.

### Address all mail to:

Your Child's Name  
Agassiz Village  
71 Agassiz Village Ln.  
Poland, Maine 04274



**Email**--You may send emails to your child at camp using this email address:  
[campoffice@agassizvillage.org](mailto:campoffice@agassizvillage.org)

Please be sure to include your **child's FULL NAME in the subject line**. Emails will be delivered with regular daily mail. Your child will not be able to email you due to our limited number of computers.



# AGASSIZ VILLAGE'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Agassiz Village is looking forward to providing your child with a fun, memorable, and safe summer camp experience. Each camper has a responsibility to act in a way that assures a positive experience for all. All campers are required to follow these guidelines.

We expect campers to always act respectfully when they are on our property or participating in our programs. Campers are to behave in a mature, responsible way and respect the rights and dignity of others.

Actions will reflect the Agassiz Village Four Core Values: Have Fun, Explore, Collaborate and Thrive

- Campers take Responsibility for their words and actions.
- Campers Respect themselves, each other, camp equipment and the environment.
- Honesty will be the basis for all relationships and interactions.
- Campers shall follow directions from staff members.
- Campers will Collaborate and be Caring in their relationships with others.
- Campers shall leave all electronic devices at home such as iPods, handheld computer games, MP3 players, and cell phones.

Campers should talk to a counselor or any camp staff member if they are uncomfortable with any experiences or need assistance while at camp.

## Prohibited Behaviors

- Endangering the health and safety of themselves, other campers, and/or staff or volunteers.
- Possession or use of illegal substances, tobacco, or alcohol.
- Possession of weapons - any object that may cause harm to another or place another person in fear of his/her safety, may be considered a weapon.
- Teasing, making fun or bullying of other campers or staff.
- Fighting of any kind.
- Stealing, damaging, or failing to care for Agassiz Village or personal property.
- Continual disruption of the program.
- Refusal to follow the behavior guidelines.
- Inappropriate physical contact.
- Using profanity or inappropriate language or displaying clothing or other personal items with offensive content.
- Refusal to participate in activities or cooperate with staff.
- Disrupting a program.
- Leaving a program without permission.

A Camp Counselor will take the camper aside and speak with them about their behavior and why it is inappropriate or not safe. These conversations will happen privately so as not to embarrass the camper. Staff will redirect the camper to more appropriate behavior. The counselor will document the conversation and notify the AVL or VL within 12 hours and provide the documentation for camp records.

If inappropriate behavior happens a second time, the counselor will ask the AVL or VL to have a conversation with the camper about why the behavior is continuing to happen. The counselor/AVL/VL will remind the camper of the behavior guidelines and camp rules, and the camper will be asked to decide on action steps to correct his/her behavior.

If a camper's behavior at any time threatens the immediate safety of him/her, other campers, or staff, the parent/guardian will be notified and expected to pick-up the child within 12 hours.

**Camper fees are non-refundable if a camper is sent home for disciplinary reasons. Physical violence or bullying toward another camper or staff member will result in immediate dismissal from the camp program. Campers dismissed must be picked up within 12 hours of dismissal.**

**If you can't pick up your child or arrange for your child to be picked up in Poland, Maine, Agassiz Village will assess a fee of \$2.00 per mile for any drop offs.**

# ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

We hope to work in partnership with you to help ensure that your child has a positive camp experience. There are several things you can do to help in this process:

**Talk to your child about the camp experience.** Ask them to describe the activities. Ask who their friends are and what their counselor is like. While children often respond to the question, “What did you do at camp today?” with “Nothing,” we assure you that a lot of things happen at camp. If your child is not having fun at camp, it may be difficult for the child to tell you or to give you reasons why. Specific questions may be helpful. Some things you might wish to ask include: “Are you worried that something bad will happen at camp? What comes to mind when you say you don’t like camp? Is there anyone at camp you can talk to?”

**Reassure your child.** Children get anxious just like adults. They may worry about disappointing you. They may wish they could stay at home during the summer. They may have fears about swimming or bugs or not living up to your expectations.

**Being a parent is hard.** There are many difficult decisions to make. You don’t want to overreact to situations because you know that many concerning behaviors are normal, but you don’t want to fail to get your child help if it is needed. If your child indicates they are having a bad experience or they refuse to talk about camp and you have concerns, please contact us. **Do not diminish your child’s concerns.** Your child may be exposed to behaviors that the child has not seen or experienced before. Our camps are very diverse. We have children from all walks of life. We have children attend camp who may have serious behavioral problems or who have experienced traumatic life events. For the most part, this exposure is part of growing up and can be a positive experience as children learn how to deal with all types of people. But it is not good if your child is scared or doesn’t feel safe. Again, we encourage you to contact us and come in to speak with us about the situation that may be troubling your child.

## ANTI-BULLYING PLEDGE

We are all friends at the AV.

We will not bully others.

We will help others who are being bullied by speaking out and by getting adult help.

We will use extra effort to include all others in activities.

We will display the core values of Explore, Collaborate, Thrive and Have Fun.

## AV’S RESPONSE TO BEHAVIOR ISSUES

Our goal is to work together with our staff and with parents to do all we can to help your child and all children have a positive camp experience. That being said, there are some behaviors that are very serious. Hitting, bullying, cursing, and running away are all behaviors we will want to address with parents. In general, we do all that we can to avoid dismissing a child from camp. However, when we do have serious issues, it is critical that parents work with us to address the behavior. Campers that acquire three written documentations are not succeeding in our camp environment and care will be terminated.

# PARENT & CAMPER FAQ

## **How will I know when my child is ready for sleep away camp?**

Agassiz village accepts campers from 8-17 years old, most families consider sleep away summer camps for children 8 years and older. However, age is not the only factor in determining when a child is ready for sleep away camp. Consider your child's level of interest and desire to explore a summer camp setting. Consider your child's experiences away from home without you. Has your child slept over a friend's house or spent a weekend away from home? Always be positive and talk with your child about the benefits of going to a sleep away camp.

## **In a typical year, how many children are there at camp each session?**

Each session will have an average of 144 campers—about half boys and half girls

## **Are you accredited?**

Agassiz is licensed by the state of Maine and accredited by the American Camp Association, meaning that we have undergone a thorough review (over 300 standards) of our operation – from staff qualifications to emergency management.

## **What is the staff to camper ratio like?**

Agassiz village is ACA accredited and therefore aligns the camper to staff ratio with the requirements set out by the American Camping Association (ACA). There are 2 cabin counselors per cabin, with cabins average 12 kids, this allows a 1:6 ratio of direct care. We also have program staff, leadership staff, and operational staff on site to make sure every child's voice is heard.

## **What are the cabins like?**

Our cabins are rustic, but all have indoor bathrooms and electricity. Each cabin has separate counselor quarters plus two sides that hold up to 7 bunk beds in total. All cabins have porches to relax in the fresh Maine air and some are handicap accessible.

## **Will my child be safe and secure?**

Absolutely! Agassiz village has over an 85-year history of success. Once a camper checks in on the registration day, they are always supervised by our highly dedicated staff – during activities, meal and transitional times, cabin times, and nighttime. We aim to provide consistent supervision for campers, whilst also giving them the independence required to grow and learn. There are also counselor quarters in each cabin with at least two counselors for every cabin group. We implement a rule of 3 at camp meaning there always is always more the one camper with any staff. Besides counselors, there is a dedicated team of program and leadership staff providing constant support and direction.

We always strive for excellence, and this is reflected in our constant efforts to evaluate our security measures to address all potential safety concerns. All staff and volunteers are background & reference checked as we do not allow any firearms on site. All visitors are accompanied when on site by a staff member and no people are allowed on site without prior approval from the camp director.



### **Who are Agassiz Village staff?**

Applicants are selected for summer positions based on their experience, maturity, personality, attitude, and certifications. All staff are interviewed by the camp director and reference checked alongside the criminal background checks which are conducted on all applicants (even volunteers). The staff team is encouraged to seek CPR and First Aid certifications and all aquatic activities are supervised by certified lifeguards. The staff are mature, enthusiastic, and diverse. They come from all walks of life with the majority being college students studying education, psychology, and social work. They are carefully selected for those qualities of leadership, personal values and caring that enable them to relate to and motivate young people. Staff come from all over the country and all over the world. Many former campers who graduated from our own Leaders in Training program are powerful, positive role models. All staff attend a comprehensive seven-to-ten-day staff orientation prior to the start of the summer season.

### **What if my child does not get along with the other campers?**

Our programs provide experiences in strength in diversity, a safe environment to interact with peers, staff who prioritize youth, investigation, exploration, and adventure, defining and managing goals and expanding their horizons. We provide positive reinforcement to encourage campers to see the good in everyone and everything they do. The counselors continually work to promote healthy interactions, and teach skills that support cooperation, tolerance, and friendship. Staff also set consistent limits, uphold standards of behavior, and translate these standards into concrete expectations for each camper. Destructive or violent behavior is not tolerated and may result in expulsion.

### **How do you help my child adjust to camp?**

Homesickness is normal for campers in the first few days of being away from home. We provide campers with personal attention from the first day, we aim to always have someone available to help campers see the potential in camp and bring them out of their shell. We help campers battle homesickness in a nurturing way that builds confidence and independence. If a camper is severely homesick, we will work with the parent right away to ensure the correct support is placed with child.

### **How do you support gender-expansive youth?**

Agassiz Village is a gender-expansive, inclusive, and welcoming space to create an environment that is considerate of all campers. We meet the needs of gender-expansive campers on a case-by-case basis. We will take steps to work with the family and have open and honest conversations about their needs and how we can meet them. During our extensive training prior to camp, the staff work with Equality Maine to provide LGBTQIA+ workshops to further understand how to create a safe and comfortable environment for all. We will pursue the best options for meeting the camper's needs, while being honest and realistic about any facility or programmatic limitations. We will also want to discuss the camper's expectations/boundaries and thoughts on confidentiality.

### **What about medication?**

We have a full-time nurse living on site all summer with two assistant nurses. The health center team takes meticulous care of every medical situation, especially when dispensing medicine. A health history form and physical exam form are required to be completed for every child that comes to camp. If your child takes regular medication, exact guidelines and requirements are detailed on the online health history & physical exam form. Please make sure when you arrive on registration day that all medications are in original packaging. Please do not separate in plastic bags or pill holders.

### **What are the meals like?**

Mealtime is an important part of our program. A hungry child cannot learn and grow, which is why we work with the Maine Department of Education, Child Nutrition, which provides federal funding to support programs for the health and well-being of children. Campers receive 3 nutritious meals that encourage the children to taste a little of each item we serve. However, there is enough of a variety that every child can find something they enjoy. Please note parents are discouraged from packing or mailing food or candy as it will be removed and stored until the child returns home. Please be assured that we are taking excellent care of your child.

### **What about food allergies & dietary restrictions?**

Agassiz provides vegetarian, gluten-free, dairy-free, and vegan options to its campers and staff. We are unable to accommodate special requests or additional food supplements from home.

For the safety of all our campers, Agassiz maintains a nut-free environment.

### **What about laundry?**

All campers should bring enough clothing for at least 7/8 days. Camp laundry is done by our designated housekeeping and laundry staff member midway through the session. We recommend that all clothing articles are labelled clearly with your camper's name. Please do not bring any clothing that requires special care or is delicate/expensive. During the camper registration online, you will be asked if you want to opt in for your camper to have their clothes washed. Parents can also opt for their camper not to have their laundry done whilst at camp, if this is the case, please be sure to pack accordingly.

### **How can I stay in touch with my camper?**

Writing letters to your camper is important, we have seen first-hand how receiving letters from home can help a camper with feelings of homesickness. We encourage our campers to write home to reflect on camp experiences. Although we like the old school handwritten letters, you can also send one-way emails to your camper. Keep an eye out on our website and social media platforms for photos and videos of the kids at camp.

### **Can campers call home? Can parents call campers?**

We enjoy the unplugged nature of camp; we encourage our campers to leave technology behind and enjoy all that the camp has to offer. We also recognize that calling home can always increase feelings of homesickness. You are always welcome to call the camp office during the session to hear updates on your child from our leadership team. In rare cases we have allowed campers to speak with parents for a short period of time, this determination is made in the best interest of the child.

### **Can parents visit camp?**

As visitors to camp always create feelings of homesickness—and have negative and disruptive impact on other campers around them. Agassiz does not permit visitors except in emergencies.





*We are so excited to see you soon!  
Thank you so much for choosing Agassiz  
Village.*

*If you have any questions, please reach  
at [register@agassizvillage.org](mailto:register@agassizvillage.org).*