PARENTS' GUIDE TO WILLOWAY 2026

GREETINGS FROM WILLOWAY!
We are excited for Willoway to begin with the strong partnership of our families to make this the *Best Summer Ever*. To do this, we have put together guidelines and procedures to keep our campers safe and healthy and have a wonderful FUN SUMMER at WILLOWAY!

This guide incorporates important information specific to Willoway 2026, as well as important information to get ready for camp.

Together with our amazing staff we are looking forward to offering swimming, archery, science, nature, arts and crafts/ceramics, music, magic, golf, sports, fishing, boating, go-karts, dance, gaga, lake program, ninja course, yoga, special events and so much more.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **This is a living document. We will continue to update this guide and our policies, as needed, as the summer goes on.**
- Watch for the date at the top of this document to see that you're reading the most up to date version.

2026 SCHEDULE

Session 1a	June 15–July 10 (no camp July 3, 2026)	4 weeks
Session 1b	June 15–June 26	2 weeks
Session 1c	June 29–July 10 (no camp July 3, 2026)	2 weeks
Session 2a	July 13–August 7	4 weeks
Session 2b	July 13–July 24	2 weeks
Session 2c	July 27–August 7	2 weeks

COMMUNICATION: A member of Willoway's senior team is always available. Please contact us anytime at **248-932-2123 or** camp@willowaydaycamp.com All special instructions **must** be **both** in writing and called in to the camp office or emailed. However, please **do not** give verbal messages to the staff on your child's camp vehicle—they are busy working with campers.

EMAIL & WEB COMMUNICATION: We often use email to send notes and information. Our website is **www.willowaydaycamp.com**. We attempt to respond promptly to all emails, however, if your matter is of a time-sensitive nature, it is best to call us at **248-932-2123**.

CHECKLIST

Please complete and return the following before your camp session begins:

____ **DUE May 1:** PAY TUITION & FEES: willowaydaycamp.com/payments (note: you likely signed up for an automatic payment to your credit card when you enrolled. If you have questions, email: camp@willowaydaycamp.com)

___ **DUE JUNE 1:** RETURN COMPLETED DOCTOR'S EXAM FORM AND VACCINATION HISTORY (willowaydaycamp.com/medical).

CAMPER GROUPS AND GROUP REQUESTS

Campers will be grouped by gender and grade level with approximately 10-12 campers and two counselors. Giving your child an opportunity to make new friends is a guiding Willoway philosophy. Many campers come to camp not knowing anyone and make friends for life.

- Each group will be created with care. Friend/group requests will be honored as best we can, recognizing size limits, grade level, and gender. **However, requests are not guaranteed, due to the complexity of assembling groups.**
- On your enrollment application, there was an opportunity to make group requests (limited to a MAXIMUM of two).
- **Note: group requests received after April 1** or that differ from what you put on your enrollment application will be **very difficult to fulfill**.
- Group request information **is not carried forward from summer to summer**.
- To accommodate group requests, with the start of new sessions, your camper might have to change groups.
- Campers will find out their groups on the first day of the camp session.

CAMP TOURS

We invite you and your campers to join us on camp tours on Saturdays beginning in mid-May. This is a great way for your campers to see and ask questions about camp. To learn more or schedule a tour, please visit willowaydaycamp.com/summer2026. For security reasons, we do not allow tours during the camp day.

CAMP PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- We are looking forward to a great summer together. In addition to a wide array of activities, special days and events will be offered throughout the summer including our ever-popular Olympic Day and Willoway Carnival.
- **Explorer Trips:** We are looking forward to offering Explorer trips for campers entering 5th-9th grades.
- **Thursday Overnights:** We are excited to bring back our popular Thursday Overnights this summer. Please see the overnight section for more information.
- **Lake Program**:
  - Pontooning: all campers will have the opportunity to go for pontoon boat rides at our lake site.
  - Campers who earn a Black Tag can look forward to the watersports activities (i.e. tubing, water skiing, wakeboarding and knee boarding). See swim tag information at willowaydaycamp.com/summer2026.

SWIMMING

- Campers will swim twice daily, weather permitting.
- Morning swim is developmental and we are committed to making this a very positive, non-threatening experience.
    - All children are encouraged to participate in morning swim.
    - We ask them to change into their swimsuits and come into the pool area and if they wish only to watch during their swim period, they may do so.
- Afternoon swim is a time to practice new skills, to play games and to enjoy the water.
- **NOTE:** We encourage campers to wear a bathing suit under their clothes in the morning to make changing time quicker!

RAINY DAYS

- We have significant indoor space to accommodate all campers on rainy days
- The occasional rainy day is filled with games, crafts, singalongs and other special programs to ensure just as much fun as sunny days. Willoway legend has it though, that "it never rains at Willoway!"

WHAT TO BRING?

CAMP CLOTHING AND PERSONAL ITEMS: Simple and practical clothes are best at camp. Shorts and T-shirts are in order for warm days. Long pants, sweatshirts and jackets should be worn on cool days, with shorts and bathing suits sent in case of weather changes. Each camper should bring a bathing suit (2 if desired), extra t-shirt & sweatshirt, EVERYDAY in a canvas bag/backpack. Younger campers should also bring a complete change of clothing. All clothing will be brought home daily. Hint: Practice changing at home makes changing at camp easier.

SHOES: Only closed toed shoes may be worn at camp. Crocs (or other similar shoes) **MUST NOT** be worn at camp.

PLEASE NAME LABEL EVERYTHING, including shoes.

TOWELS: **Please send a towel to camp each day, clearly name tagged.** Towels dry in the sun in between swim periods, but if you prefer to send 2 towels, you may.

SUNSCREEN **Campers should come to camp having already applied sunscreen at home. They should also bring sunscreen from home (name labeled please). Spray sunscreen and sunscreen sticks (for face) are recommended**, so that it doesn't have to be rubbed in. As always, we will continue to have campers re-apply numerous times during the day. Our staff will also help campers as needed in applying. Applying sunscreen is another technique you could practice at home with your campers.

WHAT NOT TO BRING Please **DO NOT send Pokemon cards (or similar cards), toys, games, cell phones, air tags and/or smart watches.** We are unable to look for them and will not be responsible if they are lost.

LOST AND FOUND
We will *attempt* to reunite **name labeled** lost items with campers. If items have names, our staff will attempt to return them the next day. Lost and found is available for campers to look through at camp each day.

We are unable to respond to requests to look for lost items. Our team is focused on caring for campers. Any unclaimed lost and found items will be available for parents to review on Saturday mornings at camp. At the conclusion of each two-week session, lost and found items will be donated to a local charity.

LUNCHES AND SNACKS

LUNCHES FROM HOME: Lunches that are sent to camp are to be put in **paper bags, with names on them (please do not send reusable bags or lunch boxes)**. After the first day, also put the group name on the bag. Lunches will be refrigerated at camp and a drink and snack will be provided. **We ask your cooperation in NOT sending any food containing nuts to camp or on the bus. Also, we are unable to warm lunches for campers.**

FRIDAY COOKOUT: A Friday hot dog cook-out lunch will be provided for all campers.

CATERED LUNCHES: Catered lunches are available by the week or the session (they are **not** available by the day. Please see willowaydaycamp.com/lunches for a menu and to order online. You may also call (248) 932-2123 or camp@willowaydaycamp.com to order. **PLEASE NOTE:** your order must be received by the end of the day on Thursday preceding when you wish lunches to begin.

MILK AND COOKIES: We serve a milk and cookie snack each afternoon. For children with milk allergies, apple juice is available.

DRINKING WATER
- Water stations will be set up throughout camp.
- We will take frequent water breaks
- You may **send refillable water bottles** and we will help campers refill throughout the day (please make sure they are name labeled).

Peanuts/tree nuts and other allergies?
Willoway is nut aware. Nothing served by Willoway (including milk and cookies & cookouts) will contain peanuts or tree nuts. Please DO NOT send food containing nuts to camp. However, our catered lunches are prepared by an outside contractor and while nothing contains nuts, we cannot guarantee against cross contamination.

TRANSPORTATION

Willoway provides transportation from Express Shuttle Locations OR drop off & pick up directly from camp.

Express Shuttle

- Transportation will be provided from a number of EXPRESS SHUTTLE locations near your home.
- More information about specific locations and times will be emailed during the week prior to session and may also be found at willowaydaycamp.com/transportation.
- Express shuttles limit total time on the vehicle.
- The fun of the camp day always starts on the bus ride.
- Campers must ride their own bus to and from camp. We are not able to switch campers between vehicles.
- **DO NOT BRING PETS TO THE BUS**. Please remember that there are campers who are fearful of pets.
- Please obey all entrance and exit signs when dropping off and picking up.
- **IMPORTANT: Please be patient and remember there are small children in the parking lot when moving your car.**
- **Note:** Please **do not** give verbal messages to the staff on your child's camp vehicle—they are busy working with campers.

Morning Procedures

- Please arrive 15 minutes early to help make the drop off and pick up move quickly and ensure on time departure.
- Please pull up near the bus and drop off your camper.
- Give any notes or medication to bus counselor.

Afternoon Procedures

- Please arrive promptly at the pickup location
- **Please park and walk to the door of your camper's bus to pick up your camper**

DROP OFF & PICK UP DIRECTLY AT CAMP

Morning Drop Off

- Specific drop off times (based on last name) will be announced the week before the session
- Please arrive during scheduled time and promptly depart (to not get in the way of arriving buses)
- **Parents should remain in their vehicle**
- Campers will be escorted to the playground after morning arrival

Afternoon Pick Up

- Specific pick-up times (based on last name) will be announced the week before the session
- Please DO NOT arrive early so that you don't get in the way of departing buses
- Please remain in your vehicle and a staff member will escort your camper to your vehicle

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ATTENDANCE: If your child will not be attending camp on any day, please contact us at **(248) 932-2123 or camp@willowaydaycamp.com by 7:45 a.m. to report the absence.**

EARLY PICK UP/LATE DROP OFF:

- We discourage early pickups or late drop-offs from camp as it disrupts the camp day for our campers.
- If you must pick up, please do so before 3:00 p.m. and drop-offs after 10:00 a.m. Please make arrangements, in advance, by emailing camp@willowaydaycamp.com or calling camp at (248) 932-2123.
- When you arrive at camp…
    - Park in front of the Ranch House (small building on right next to parking lot)
    - **Remain in your car**
    - Call 248-932-2123 to announce your arrival
    - We will get your camper from you or bring your camper to you.

Overnights

Willoway's optional Thursday overnights are a fun-filled experience for campers. Each overnight includes special activities including all-camp evening activity, cookout dinner, campfire with s'mores, and breakfast. Willoway overnights are very popular and spaces will fill very quickly. Overnight registration will open on Monday of each week and reservations will be accepted up to our space capacity. Overnight registration will likely close by Tuesday morning and potentially sooner. **We will not be able to accept reservations after we reach our capacity.** Visit willowaydaycamp.com/overnights for more information.

Important Notes

- While overnights are an exciting event for our campers, they are not for everyone. Discretion should be exercised when considering the overnight option for younger campers or those who may not yet have experienced sleeping out.
- Campers sleep in our Arena and Gym - separated by gender.
- If sending overnight medication, please send with clear instructions and give to the bus counselor in a sealed, labeled plastic bag on THURSDAY MORNING.
- Note: for the week of June 30, the overnight will be held on Wednesday, July 2.

Overnight Packing & Supply List

OVERNIGHT SUPPLIES **MUST** BE PACKED IN A **SEPARATE LABELED BAG** FROM THE REGULAR CAMP DAY BAG.

Supplies needed for the overnight are:

- Long pants & sweatshirt or jacket
- Change of clothes & underwear (we recommend 2 changes of clothes for campers 3rd grade and under)
- 2 pair of socks
- Pillow & sleeping bag
- Pajamas
- Toiletries
- Towels for swimming, pack as follows:
    - 2 towels in camper day bag
    - 1 towel in overnight bag (will be used for Friday).

All clothes, including shoes, **towels**, sleeping bags & luggage must be labeled.

Overnight Schedule

4:00-5:00 p.m.	Meet in the Arena to get a schedule of special events and to find out what activities are available.
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Free swim
6:00-6:45 p.m.	Dinner (*Arnie* Burgers, veggies, baked potatoes & dessert, jelly sandwiches always available)
7:00-8:00 p.m.	Special activity/program for entire camp (i.e. The Goldrush, James Bond, Search for Independence, The Willoway Grand Prix, etc.)
8:00-9:00 p.m.	Campfire and Friendship Circle
9:00-9:30 p.m.	Evening Swim & wash-up
9:45 p.m.	Bedtime (campers sleep in Arena and Gym)
8:00 a.m.	Rise and Shine!! Wash-up and cleanup sleeping areas (in Arena and Gym)
8:15-9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (cereal, bagels or waffles, juice and milk)
9:00-9:30 a.m.	Load sleeping gear on arriving vehicles
9:45-10:00 a.m.	Flag raising (another Willoway day officially begins)

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Our Health Care staff will still be able to assist in managing medications, food allergies and other special medical requests.

- **If your camper does not feel well in any way, please do not send them to camp. This is the single most important thing you can do as a parent to insure the health and safety of your child and the rest of our camp community.**
- Lorraine Fisher and Jonathon Koenigsberg, 248-932-2123, are key contact persons during camp to talk with about any health-related concerns.
- **Healthy camp starts at home.** What happens outside of camp is as important as what happens in it. We need to trust one another to make this work. Children must be well, hydrated, free of any symptoms and ready to go.
- **We know that most illnesses will NOT be COVID related,** we will have our share of sore throats, rashes and other typical summer symptoms.
- **However, if your camper tests positive for COVID, please contact us for further guidelines.**
- If your camper is sick at camp and needs to be sent home, you will need to be **able to pick up within one hour of our call home.**

SENDING MEDICATION TO CAMP: If essential medication is sent to camp, please place medication and directions in a sealed plastic bag with the camper's name and group name on both the container and the bag and give it to the bus counselor. All instructions regarding your child **must be both in writing and called into the camp office at (248) 932-2123.**

MEDICATION RETURNING FROM CAMP: Any medication that needs to be returned home will be in a **white paper lunch bag in your camper's backpack. Please look carefully for this paper bag.**

EPI PENS
If your child will be coming to camp with an epi-pen, please let us know by sending an email to camp@willowaydaycamp.com or calling us at (248) 932-2123 at least 2 weeks in advance of the start of the camp session.

Please send ONE PAIR of epi-pens (or one Auvi-Q) to camp—give to bus counselor each day. During the camp day, they will remain at camp in the first aid station and return home each afternoon. Please be sure to have your child's name on the container.

NOTE: The epi pen will be **return home each day in a white paper lunch bag in your camper's backpack. Please look carefully for this paper bag.**

CAMPER CELL PHONE & ELECTRONICS POLICY:

- Increasingly, cell phones seem important beginning at a young age.
- However, camp is a place for connecting with nature, building new friendships and generally being "unplugged".
- **Cell phones and devices – including tablets and smartwatches are NOT to be used at camp. They are best left at home.**
- **Cell phones, tablets, and/or smartwatches ARE NOT to be used on overnights. They will be taken away.**
- Campers seen using their phones will be asked to put them back in their bags and if it becomes a bigger problem, we will take them away to be returned at the end of the day.
- Willoway is not responsible for any lost or damaged electronics, including Air Tags or similar trackers.

CANCELLATIONS:

If you find that you must cancel, our **Willoway 2026 Cancellation Policy** is as follows:

Cancel enrollment before December 15, 2025 (no fee to change sessions, based on space availability)	No charge. Full refund.
Cancel enrollment between December 15, 2025 and February 15, 2026 (no fee to change sessions, based on space availability)	$100 per camper fee
Session cancellations (i.e., reduction in weeks) between February 16 and March 31, 2026	$200 per camper fee
Session cancellations (i.e., reduction in weeks) between April 1 and April 30, 2026	$300 per camper fee
Session cancellations (i.e., reduction in weeks) between May 1 and May 31, 2026*	$500 per camper fee
Session cancellations (i.e., reduction in weeks) on or after June 1, 2026*	$750 per camper fee
Cancellations after session has begun. *Note: Session cancellations (i.e., reduction in enrolled weeks) made on or after May 1, 2026 will void any previously applied enrollment discount.	No refund.

All cancellations must be in writing by email to camp@willowaydaycamp.com. Partial credit for ILLNESS exceeding five CONSECUTIVE days will be applied to the following year's camp enrollment. We are unable to offer refunds, credits or make-up days for early withdrawal, COVID related quarantines/isolations, vacations and/or other missed days.

LOOKING FORWARD TO GIVING YOUR CHILDREN THE *BEST SUMMER EVER!*

As always, if you have questions or concerns or would like to discuss anything, please know that you can contact us anytime at 248-932-2123 or camp@willowaydaycamp.com. We are always here.

Lorraine, Jason, Jonathon and the Willoway Team