

Dear Parents:



We are delighted that you and your children are coming to Camp. Cubs are the future of the Bears and we want to nurture their love of dance, music, and community. Although this Camp is geared for adults and is not specifically a family Camp, we work to find ways to make sure it is kid-friendly. **To make this a safe and enjoyable experience, we have set up some ground rules for child supervision.** Experience has shown us that well-supervised and entertained children are less likely to find inappropriate activities.

The Dancing Bears do not provide childcare for Bear Cubs. **Parents will need to make sure that their children have appropriate supervision at all times.** Cubs should be with their parents, participating in a workshop or activity, or under other appropriate supervision. Some parents bring full-time babysitters for young children. Non-dancing babysitters may attend Camp for the cost of meals rather than the full fee. Another option: you might want to connect with some of the other Camper parents to discuss partnering in childcare activities.

"Beach Patrol": Our Lifeguard cannot provide babysitting services. His job is to keep your child safe when he/she is close to the water. Due to a variety of past issues we have found it necessary to ask all parents whose child(ren) will spend any time by the Lake to consider spending some time "at the Beach" to help oversee the young people who gather there. There will be no formal sign-up or "job description", but we hope that parents will notice when it might be helpful to increase the number of supervisory-type adults on the scene and will spend a bit of time helping out. Ideally, this will help us promote and maintain a safe and pleasant environment for all Campers. Your participation and help are greatly appreciated.



Please bring a PFD  for any child who will play on or near the lake.

We want to avoid the many opportunities for Cubs to get into trouble in the woods, lake or under dancing feet. We request that parents monitor their children's wanderings around Camp, "after hours" excursions into the dining room for snacks, and their adventures on the dance floor.



We hope that some parents will bring special talents to share with the children. It is best when families plan for activities in advance. Some suggestions: *outdoor games--bring equipment, *waterfront activities--bring shovels, pails, etc., *indoor table games, *giant bubbles, *storytelling and singing, *painting, *play dough, *craft projects. The Dancing Bears Camp maintains only a very limited stash of craft supplies and a few toys that we make available to Cubs, so we suggest that you bring things that you know your young ones enjoy.



FAMILY-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES/WORKSHOPS Assuming we have a reasonable number of Cub Campers, we will have our ever-popular Family Dance workshop, which is great for the younger set and a parent (or two!). We plan to have the first two dances of each evening dance be kid-friendly; after that, callers will move on to dances designed for experienced dancers. **We STRONGLY suggest that only kids over 12 years old continue to dance after that time.** Younger ones tend to get tired and this, combined with their short statures, can make dancing challenging for them and for other dancers.

There will be some workshops that kids and families will enjoy. The workshop schedule will be posted on the website (thedancingbears.org) prior to Camp and you can check it out and see what you might like to bring along to enhance your workshop experiences! (E.g., instruments for musical workshops.)



An Overview of Camp Guidelines for Cubs and Parent Bears:

1. Childcare is not provided. Parents are responsible for making sure that their children are with them or under other appropriate supervision at all times.

2. Children who disrupt Camp activities or do not comply with Dance Camp guidelines may be asked to leave the Camp.


3. Lake activities are at the discretion of the parents; children may not venture near or in the water unless one of their parents or an appropriate adult is physically present. For safety reasons, we require that you bring a PFD (personal flotation device) for any child that will be playing on the dock or on or in the lake.



4. Parents are responsible for directing their children to clean up their crafts/toys when they leave a community play area.

5. Teen Bears may **not** invite outside guests to any part of the Camp or Campgrounds at any time.

6. We love to have kids at dances...but not underfoot and **not** in rigid-frame backpacks. These backpacks, as well as non-dancing kids on the dance floor, can create safety hazards for dancers and many have expressed concerns about them. Front packs or "snugglies" are soft and welcome on the dance floor. We do not allow rigid backpacks on the dance floor and we ask that you keep your non-dancing Cubs from venturing on the dance floor.

7. We suggest that you write  your child's name on clothing, toys, etc., AND be sure to check the LOST AND FOUND before leaving Camp. Many things are often left at Camp and we want to be able to get them back to their owners!



Thanks for your help in making this a safe and fun Camp!



****PLANNING TO BE A GUARDIAN FOR A FRIEND'S CHILD AT CAMP??? PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEED FOR A PARENTAL PERMISSION DOCUMENT!!**

Hello,

You have indicated that you will be bringing a minor who is not your child to Dance Camp. In order to ensure that you and the Dancing Bears are covered legally, we require that the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of this child execute a notarized document granting legal responsibility for the minor to you. (Please note: this is in addition to the Waiver of Liability form that is required of **all** Campers.) It can be a Child Care Authorization or a Limited Power of Attorney...the exact form of the document is up to the parent(s) and you. Specifically, we need to have it on record the person(s) who will be responsible for the child in case of a medical emergency. It is helpful to include the following information:

1. Name(s), address(es) and phone number(s) of the parent(s) who will be granting temporary authority under this document
2. Name(s) and address(es) of the Caretaker(s), the person to whom authority is being granted
3. Name and address of the minor child over whom authority is being granted
4. Specific permission regarding who has authority in case of a medical emergency and any restrictions or procedures to be followed
5. Dates for which the document grants authority to you

It would also be helpful for you to have the following information in case of emergency:

- Child's date of birth
- any medical conditions/allergies
- medications
- health insurance information

Sample:

I/We _____ residing at _____,
Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) Name(s) *Address/Phone*
 of _____ residing at _____,
Child's name *Address/Phone*
 do hereby appoint _____ residing at _____,
Caretaker(s)' name(s) *Address/Phone*
 limited power of attorney to make decisions for and arrange for and authorize medical treatment for
 _____ while in his/her/their care in the case of illness, medical emergency or accident.
Child's name

This document is valid from _____ through _____.
Date *Date*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I/we have hereunto signed my/our name(s) on _____
 at _____.
City, State, Zip *Date*

Signature of Parent/Guardian *Signature of Parent/Guardian*

Subscribed and sworn to me on this _____ at _____
Date *City, State*

 NOTARY IN AND FOR ALASKA
 My commission expires: _____

Caretakers should have the original document in their possession at Camp. Please send a copy of the document before Dance Camp weekend to:
 Dancing Bears c/o Linda Hearn
 880 "N" Street Suite 202
 Anchorage, AK 99501 (Please call if you have questions...Linda – 907-258-1937 in Anchorage)