

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
Recreation Department

100 Linden Street Holliston, MA 01746
(508) 429-2149 Fax (508) 429- 0696

June 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Holliston Outdoors Summer Programs! We are planning a full schedule of fun and games, arts and crafts, and special surprises. Whether you are returning, or coming for the first time, we are delighted you will be spending part of your summer with us! This letter will give you some information about **Junior Patoma** and answer questions about our policies and procedures. Please be sure to read all the information carefully.

Drop Off/Pick Up- Junior Patoma

DROP-OFF: Drop-off for the Patoma Programs is at Stoddard Park. Please do not drop your child off before 8:45 am, as supervision will not be available. Please be sure to arrive on time each day! We know that it's summer and schedules are more relaxed but our activities begin promptly at 9:00am. It is difficult for your child and for the staff to have frequent late arrivals to the program each day.

PICK-UP: We gather and dismiss from the loop at in the parking area at Stoddard Park beginning at 2:45 until the close of the program at 3:00pm. Please stay in you car—a staff member will bring your child to you. Please be patient on the first days of the program during dismissal, as it takes a day or so to get the system in place. It is very important to be on time for pick-up! **Parents who are consistently late picking up their child will be required to pay late fees in cash to cover the cost of keeping staff past 3:00pm.** Included in this packet you will find an authorization form for people to pick-up your child. Please send your completed form in with your child on the first day. We will only release your child to those listed on the form!

- **THE ATTACHED PICK UP AUTHORIZATION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED IN TO YOUR CHILD'S COUNSELOR ON THE FIRST DAY. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL THESE FORMS INTO THE OFFICE.**

Weather Days

We make every effort to run the program everyday, and would only cancel in the case of an extreme weather situation. Rainy days are always very challenging, as it is difficult to second-guess the weather. If it is predicted that the day is to be overcast and drizzly, the staff may opt to stay at the park and try to run the program as scheduled. If the forecast calls for heavier rains, the staff may opt to move the program over to the Flagg Building. Generally determinations as to how the rain day will be spent are made by the staff, and not until 8:30 in the morning. Once a plan has been put into place, a staff member will greet cars at the entrance to the park and advise participants of the "rain day schedule". It is very possible that, if you have children attending both Senior and Junior Patoma,

they may be doing different things or going to different places to get out of the rain. Please check with the staff member at the gate to find out what EACH program is doing that day. *It is highly recommended that you send your child everyday with light rain gear and an extra pair of socks and sneakers.* Everyone needs to exercise a little patience on weather days. It's never easy on anyone, especially the staff. Thanks in advance for your understanding.

Early Release

In the event of an unexpected heavy rainstorm that occurs later in the day, due to space and shelter limitations at Patoma, it will be necessary to release early. If you see or hear of a significant storm heading our way, it's probably a good idea for you to head over to the park to pick up your child, if at all possible. In the event of severe rain at dismissal time, pick up of Junior Patoma from the cabin in the woods at Patoma Park. Senior Patoma will be under the pavilion at Stoddard.

Medical Information

Holliston Recreation Department staff are not permitted to administer medications of any kind to program participants. Parents who want their minor children to *self-administer* a prescription must sign a Release of Liability Waiver. If your child is taking antibiotics for any reason, please adjust their medication schedule accordingly so that it is administered at home before and after the program. The Recreation Department reserves the right to request that a parent come to the program to administer prescription drugs to their child. Parents of children with special medical needs should contact the Recreation Office prior to the beginning of the program. Children who may require the use of Epi-Pens or inhalers must have a signed permission form on file.

- **BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT EVERY PARTICIPANT HAVE A CURRENT HEALTH/IMMUNIZATION FORM ON FILE WITH THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT. PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE NOT TURNED IN FORMS BY Jun 30, 2010 WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE PROGRAM**

Attire

We recommend your child dress appropriately for outdoor activities. Please do not allow your child to wear expensive clothing or jewelry. **We will not be responsible for lost articles!** All personal articles, especially beach towels, program t-shirts, water bottles and lunchboxes should be clearly labeled. Comfortable footwear is a must! We suggest sending your child in sneakers, and packing a pair of flip-flops, or sandals for the beach.

Bathing Suits

For Outdoors at Patoma participants, bathing suits are a necessity, as we swim everyday. We recommend sending your child in their suit under their clothes, and putting a change of clothes in their backpacks.

Sun Screen

We recommend lathering your child up with sunscreen before the beginning of the program each day. Remember...we are outside all day, everyday. If your child is particularly sensitive to the sun, please notify your child's counselor, so that sunscreen can be reapplied later in the day. Please send in sunscreen, clearly labeled with your child's name.

Lunch, Snack and Water

We **do not** have refrigeration available for lunches. We recommend packing your child's lunch in a small cooler. Pack a hearty snack, and don't forget plenty of water in labeled bottles!

Program T-shirts

Your child will be given a program T-shirt. Please make sure the shirt is clearly labeled with your child's name. If the shirt is lost, an additional shirt may be purchased for \$5.00.

Tennis

If you own a tennis racquet, please label it and send it in daily. If you do not own one, we will be happy to share one of ours!

Archery-Patoma Programs

Back again this year—by popular demand!

Swimming Lessons and Free Swim

Swimming is a big part of our daily routine. Junior Patoma participants are required to participate in our daily swim lessons in order to enjoy the afternoon "free swim". There are no exceptions to this policy.

Cell Phones, Electronic Devices and Program Participation

Please be advised (and make sure your child is well aware) that cell phones, iPods, gaming equipment, etc. are absolutely not permitted to be brought to the program by participants. They are distracting and take the child's focus away from being outdoors and participating in the planned activities. The staff reserves the right to take this equipment away from participants (should that become necessary, they will be returned to parents at the end of the day). We have phones available on-site for use if needed. Over the years we have seen an alarming change in our program participants who seem less and less willing and/or able to "unplug" for the time they are our program each day.

Hopefully we were able to answer some of the questions you may have. It is our goal to insure a fun-filled, safe experience for your child this summer! We look forward to having you join us. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Holliston Recreation Department at 429-2149.

Thank you,

Holliston Outdoors Program Staff