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# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet

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2009

## Overview of Youth Recreation Camp Licensing Program

The N.H. Department of Environmental Services licenses youth recreation camps. The licensing program does not evaluate the camp curriculum but does address a broad range of health and safety issues. In 2008, there were approximately 175 licensed camps. A list of licensed camps for the previous year is available online at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/youthcamps/index.htm> or by calling (603) 271-2542.

### Statutes:

The statutes pertaining to youth recreation camps are RSA 485-A:23, 24, 25 and 25a. These statutes can be found online at [www.nh.gov/government/laws.html](http://www.nh.gov/government/laws.html).

### Rules:

The rules pertaining to youth recreation camps are Env-Wq 900 (dated 2009). These rules can be found on the DES website at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/index.htm#envwq900>.

### Definition of a Youth Recreation Camp:

A youth recreation camp is a program that operates for at least 10 days per license year for the purpose of providing recreational opportunities, or a combination of recreation and instruction, to 10 or more youth per day, at a place which is continuously or periodically used for such purposes. The term includes residence camps and seasonal and year-round day camps.

### Duration and Cost of the License:

The licensing period is annually from January 1 through December 31. The camp licensing fee is \$50 per camp, per year.

### The Camp Licensing Program:

New camps must submit an application and have their facility inspected prior to receiving a license. Once the new camp is in operation, a second inspection is made during the season to evaluate operational compliance. Annual inspections are conducted for all licensed camps.

**Titles of Principal Licensing Criteria:**

Staffing Requirements  
Buildings and Sleeping Quarters  
Water Supply  
Bathing Beaches and Swimming Pool  
Toilet Facilities  
Sewage Disposal Facilities  
Garbage and Waste Disposal  
Food and Food Preparation

Dishwashing  
Fire Safety  
Milk and Cream  
Temporary Overnight Camps  
Medical and Nursing Care  
Communicable Diseases - Isolation and Reporting  
Reporting of Other Illnesses  
Physical Examination Prior to Admission

**Youth Camp Contacts At DES:**

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Department of Environmental Services  
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**Youth Camp Professional Associations:**

NH Camp Directors Association  
PO Box 324  
Barnstead, NH 03218  
1-800-549-CAMP  
[www.nhcamps.org](http://www.nhcamps.org)  
[nhcamps@worldpath.net](mailto:nhcamps@worldpath.net)

American Camp Association - New England  
80 Westview Street  
Lexington, MA 02421  
1-781-541-6080  
[www.acane-camps.org](http://www.acane-camps.org)  
[Camp@acane-camps.org](mailto:Camp@acane-camps.org)

**For Additional Information:**

Please contact the DES Youth Camp Licensing Program at (603) 271-2542, email [barbara.davis@des.nh.gov](mailto:barbara.davis@des.nh.gov) or visit our website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/youthcamps/index.htm>.

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of July 2009. Statutory or regulatory changes, or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.