

What is the summer Playground program?

Playground Group has been a Hopkinton tradition for over 30 years. In fact, the head of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Dan Terry, attended Playground Group when he was growing up in Hopkinton. The focus of Playground Group is to provide a safe place for kids to get outside and be active, to make some new friends and reconnect with old ones, and most importantly, have fun.

Who can participate in the summer recreation program?

Hopkinton residents ages 5-12. Participants are separated into two groups (ages 5-7 and 8-12). Both groups will be located at Elmwood School.

What activities are included in the program?

A variety of field day games such as pillow polo, kickball, tennis racket baseball, soccer, dodgeball, arts and crafts, tie-dye, playground time, weekly entertainers like the flying frisbee dogs and age appropriate field trips.

What are the dates and times of the program?

Session 1: June 24-28

Session 2: July 8-12

Session 3: July 15-19

Session 4: July 22-26

Session 5: July 29-August 2

Session 6: August 5-9

Regular Day: 8:30am-3:30pm

Extended Day: 8:30am-5:30pm

Why don't you go further into August with this program?

Unfortunately, this is out of our control. We utilize the schools and HPS custodial staff need time to prepare the buildings for the upcoming school year.

What are the field trips like for participants?

Participants in the Junior Hillers program will go on weekly field trips to Water Wizz in Wareham, MA. Participants in the Little Hillers program will also have weekly field trips. Throughout the summer, their field trips will be to places such as Davis Farmland, Southwick Zoo, Animal Adventures, the Ecotarium and the HCA. The cost for the field trips is included in your registration payment.

Where does the program take place?

Elmwood School 14 Elm Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748

What are the Pick up and Drop off Procedures?

Participants may not be dropped off prior to 8:30 am. Drop off runs from 8:30-9:00 am. Parents must accompany their children into the gymnasium to sign them in.

Parents running behind schedule must contact the program to inform staff they are running late. After 5 minutes, the staff will contact the parents and/or the emergency number provided. A detailed late pick up policy will be provided.

More detailed instructions will be included in the parent letter sent out the Thursday prior to a new session.

How do I register for the program?

At Hopkintonrec.org. Registration for each session will close on Thursday at 9:00am the week prior.

How can I receive notifications about Playground Group?

In your MyRec [account](#), be sure to check off the box indicating that you want to receive emails for “Registrations / General”

Is financial assistance available for those who need it?

Yes, please read the financial aid policy by clicking [HERE](#).

What should participants bring with them?

We suggest extra sunblock

Please pack a bathing suit and towel

Please pack snacks and a lunch every day. We have a no NUT policy.

Please send water bottle and/or drinks. New this year, every child will receive 1 water bottle for the summer!

Please put the child's name on the containers.

Who are the program staff?

The program is overseen by Maureen Sammon - a full time Parks and Recreation staff member with over 25+ years of experience running youth summer programs. Julia Thissell is the director of the Playground Group programs. She is a 3rd grade teacher during the school year and has been working with Hopkinton Parks and Recreation in the summer for nearly 10 years. The rest of the staff ranges in age from 16 to 26. The majority of our counselors attended Playground

Group themselves and are eager to pass on the fun memories they have of their time at Playground Group.

Do the counselors have background clearances? Are they CPR and First Aid certified?

All of our staff are CORI cleared. Each location has at least 2 staff who are CPR and First Aid Certified.

What is the child to staff ratio?

1:5 for Little Hillers

1:8 for Junior Hillers

What is the medication policy?

Prescription medicines will not be given by staff. You may come to the session and dispense medications to your child. Epi pens are exempt from this rule. On Monday, please bring an epi pen labeled with your child's name on it. Our program director will store the epi pens in a cooler for the week and return the pen to you at the end of the session. The cooler travels with the head counselors on field trips. Our whole staff is CPR certified and trained in the proper use of epi pen administration.

Do you offer inclusion services?

When registering, please answer yes to “Does your child require any inclusion services?” A member of the P&R staff will contact you to determine the best way to accommodate your child.

What safety measures are in place?

Both the Junior and Little Hillers have a site-specific emergency plan including an assembly area program, notification system, locations of fire extinguishers, first aid kits, etc. Staff have been trained and are expected to be well-versed in emergency procedures. Drills will be conducted throughout the summer to practice safety procedures

Can parents/guardians visit during program hours?

Only if they need to administer medication to a participant

What is the cancellation/refund policy?

You can read the cancellation policy [HERE](#)

How can I contact someone if I have additional questions?

Please email [Maureen Sammon](#) or call the office at 508-497-9750