

Camp Barnes Introduces Lottery System for Registration

Camp Barnes is excited to announce the opening of camper registration for the 2026 season, our 78th year of operation.

Over the past several years, we have seen extremely high demand, but due to limited weekly capacity, spots have historically filled within minutes of the application opening each year. To ensure every Delaware child has a fair and equal opportunity to attend Camp Barnes, enrollment is now determined by a lottery system.

REGISTERING FOR THE LOTTERY:

- We will hold two separate lotteries – one for Boys Weeks and one for Girls Weeks.
- Families may submit lottery entries from Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., until Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
- Each prospective camper may only enter the lottery once. Duplicate entries will be removed and may result in disqualification from the lottery.
- Families will be asked to rank the three available weeks in order of preference. If a child is not selected for their first choice, they will be considered for their second and third choices based on the availability and lottery number order.
- Families may request that siblings be placed together during lottery registration. Camp Barnes will make every effort to place siblings in the same week. If, for any reason, we are unable to honor that request, we will inform you as soon as possible.
- Families may indicate whether their prospective camper has a friend who is also entering the lottery that they would like to attend Camp Barnes with. This information will assist Camp Barnes staff with placement once the lottery is completed. You must provide the first and last name of the friend, and they must also list you on their entry form.

AFTER THE LOTTERY:

- Please note that entering the lottery does not guarantee your child's enrollment in Camp Barnes.
- Families will be notified of the lottery results on Monday, March 23, 2026, via email from campbarnes@delaware.gov. This email will inform you whether you have been selected or placed on a waitlist.
- If your child receives a spot, you will have until Friday, March 27, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. to accept by logging in to UltraCamp and completing the full application. Additional information about UltraCamp will be provided in the email.

- If your child receives a spot but the application is not submitted by the due date listed above, they will be disqualified from consideration, and a waitlist candidate will be selected.

WAITLIST:

- If your child is not placed, we will let you know if they have received a waitlist position.
- Waitlist spots are also assigned through the lottery, with up to 100 females for Girls Weeks and 100 males for Boys Weeks.
- If your child is placed on the waitlist and selected, placement will be based on availability, and not the preference list.