Camp Ma-He-Tu
Fest 2026
Guidelines and Policies for Participants

We're so glad you're joining us for our first FEST in the WOODS!
By popular demand we moved our successful annual Ma-He-Tu FEST Fundraising Event from Long Island to the shores of Lake Kanawauke.

As always, the first rule at camp is to have FUN! To make that happen and for the event to go smoothly, we ask you to observe the following guidelines:

CHILD SUPERVISION:
New York State Department of Health requires that all children 16 years of age and under be supervised by an adult, a person 18 years or older, at all times. The parent or designated adult that is responsible for supervision, is also responsible for reviewing the supervision and safety rules with the child/children in their care.

PARKING:
Upon arrival, you will be assigned a parking spot. **Please only park your car in your assigned parking spot.** You will be given a parking pass. Please keep the parking pass on your dashboard at all times. We may need to locate you if we need to move your car. Please DO NOT park your car(s) on either side of the Dining Hall, even temporarily. These spaces are for official event use only.

EMERGENCY SIGNALS:
Air horns will be used to alert you to any emergency situations. Please respond as follows:

ONE LONG BLAST
Take immediate cover in the nearest building with four full walls and a ceiling, such as the Rec Hall, Cabins, The Nook (Infirmary) or Sports Shack but NOT the Dining Hall or Bathrooms.

THREE QUICK BLASTS
Immediately go to the lawn (large grassy area next to the Dining Hall) and wait for further instructions.

WATERFRONT:
You are welcome to visit the waterfront, but **under no circumstances should you go on the docks or in the water** – even just to get your feet wet!

SWIMMING:
If the weather permits, we will have 1 hour of swim time on Sunday morning from 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM in our beautiful Lake Kanawake. During this time, certified lifeguards will be on duty. **Lifeguards have full authority at the waterfront, and their instructions must be followed at all times. Please note that children 16 and under must be accompanied in the water by a parent or designated adult at ALL times.** Certified lifeguards will be present for general safety, but parents or designated adults are responsible for the direct supervision of their child or children while swimming.

WILDLIFE SAFETY:
As camp and the surrounding area has been unoccupied by humans for some time, critters may have begun to reclaim their territory. **Please stay in camp and leave all wild creatures alone.** If you are being bothered by any wildlife, please let us know immediately. They will be on the lookout for food, so for your own safety and the safety of your fellow campers, **ABSOLUTELY no food or drinks are permitted in the cabins and tents.**

We strongly recommend the use of bug spray in the evening and whenever venturing into wooded areas or areas with high grass. Long pants and/or high socks are also recommended. Check yourself and your children for ticks regularly.

PER PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK COMMISSION:
- There will be no cutting down of trees, or picking or ferns, shrubs, or flowers
- Defacement of property such as whitewashing or painting of trees, stones, rocks, or buildings is prohibited.
- No firearms or weapons of any type are permitted in camp
- **No pets are allowed in camp.**

SERVICE ANIMALS:
Ma-He-Tu Fest welcomes individuals with disabilities who are accompanied by service animals, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. Service animals are permitted in areas where participants are normally allowed. Service animals must remain under the handler's control at all times. If a service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, or if the animal is not housebroken, the animal may be required to leave the premises. In such cases, the individual will still be offered the opportunity to stay at the event without the animal present, where feasible. Emotional support, comfort, therapy, or companion animals are not considered service animals under the federal public accommodations rules.

HEALTH SERVICES:

Adult guardian participants are responsible for administering first aid and managing medications for all child participants in their care. Please bring what you anticipate needing. Camp Ma-He-Tu is not responsible for carrying, storing, monitoring, or reminding participants to carry or administer their medications. There are urgent care and emergency health care services available in the local area. Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, NY is the nearest full-service hospital. In case of a medical emergency, a camp official will call 911.

ALLERGIES AND EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS:

- Participants are responsible for informing Camp Ma-He-Tu of any known severe allergies or other medical conditions that may require emergency treatment.
- Participants who have been prescribed epinephrine for anaphylaxis are responsible for bringing their prescribed epinephrine auto-injector(s) to the event and keeping them readily accessible at all times.
- Participants are responsible for administering their own medication unless they require emergency assistance.
- In the event of a suspected medical emergency, including anaphylaxis, event staff will contact emergency medical services (911) and provide assistance consistent with their training and applicable law.
- Participants should ensure their medication is not expired.
- Participants should bring a backup auto-injector if recommended by their healthcare provider.

PHONE & INTERNET USAGE:

Wi-Fi has extremely limited availability, especially as we will be using it primarily for payment and to run the event. We do have a landline for emergency use. It is a great day to “unplug” and connect while you are here with us deep in the woods.

BATHROOMS:

There will be designated male, female and gender neutral bathrooms available.

LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS:

Camp Ma-He-Tu is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please avoid bringing valuables to camp. Please note that cabins do not lock and there are no storage lockers available at camp.

SMOKING and VAPING:

Smoking and vaping are only permitted on the back porch of the Den (Administration Building). Due to the danger of fires, **this rule is strictly enforced.**

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE:

Illegal drugs are prohibited at Ma-He-Tu Fest. Alcoholic beverages will only be served to participants who are 21 years of age or older. Please remember to bring your ID to the Fest. Wristbands will be distributed at the beginning of the Fest to individuals 21 years and older. Bringing alcohol in from outside of the event is prohibited. **Providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 is strictly prohibited.**

ADDITIONAL GUIIDELINES FOR OUR OVERNIGHT GUESTS

SAFETY AFTER DARK:

Use of flashlights, lanterns and headlamps are strongly encouraged for safety when transitioning throughout camp's terrain after dark.

IF YOU ARE STAYING IN A CABIN:

- Cabins have overhead lighting and electrical outlets.
- Upper Camp cabins house a maximum of 7 beds per cabin.
- Each cabin has an emergency exit. Please make sure everyone in your party knows where they are.
- Do not block emergency exits with beds or luggage.
- Keep floors clear around beds and exits.
- Every cabin has an electronically operated smoke detector. Please check to see that the red light on the unit is lit before occupying a cabin.
- **No food or drinks are permitted in cabins. This is to protect you from wildlife.**
- Brooms, dustpans and garbage bags are provided in every cabin. Please make sure your cabin is swept, the grounds around it are clean, and all trash is brought to the dumpster in the trash bag provided.

IF YOU ARE STAYING ON A TENT PLATFORM:

- **If staying on a tent platform, it's BYOT - Bring Your Own Tent!**
- Tent platforms do not have overhead lighting or electrical outlets.
- Brooms, dustpans and garbage bags are provided for every tent platform. Please make sure your tent platform is swept, the grounds around it are clean, and all trash is brought to the dumpster in the trash bag provided.

- Each of our tent platforms measures 16 feet x 16 feet (256 square feet), so if wanting to share a tent platform with other tenters, please note the general camping tent sizes below:

  <u>Camping Tent Sizes (Floor Space)</u>:
  2-Person Tents: 30–35 sq. ft.
  (tight fit for two sleeping pads; best for one person with gear).

  3-Person Tents: 40–50 sq. ft.
  (comfortable for two adults).

  4-Person Tents: 60–70 sq. ft.
  (good for a small family or two people who want extra gear room).

  6-Person Tents: 80–100+ sq. ft.
  (fits a family, but tight if all six use individual sleeping pads).

IF YOU ARE PITCHING YOUR OWN TENT ON THE GROUND:

- **If pitching your own tent it's BYOT - Bring Your Own Tent!**
- Spots will be available on the existing tent platforms as well as grassy areas around camp. We will work with you to find the best spot to pitch your tent. Please note that you may be camping in an area used for parking during the day on Saturday and may not be able to set up your tent area until the cars have cleared out Saturday evening after 6:30pm.
- **No food or drinks are permitted in tents. This is to protect you from wildlife and is particularly important when you are tenting.**
- You will be given a trash bag. When packing up, make sure the grounds around your area are clean and all trash is brought to the dumpster in the trash bag provided.

FIRES

- **Fires may be built ONLY in the upper camp campfire circle or the fire kettle at the waterfront.**
- Keep fires small.
- Be absolutely certain the fire is out before leaving it. DO NOT add wood one hour prior to the time you wish to put the fire out.
- **Always keep at least two (2) buckets of water at the fire site.** Use these and anymore that you might need to extinguish the fire. Buckets and access to water will be provided in a designated area.
- Spread the dead ashes in the fire circle or grill and **MAKE SURE the fire is totally extinguished. The fire site should be cool to the touch!**

QUIET HOURS:

Quiet hours are from 1 AM - 8 AM on Sunday. Please keep noise at a respectful level for other participants who may be sleeping in shared cabins, tent platforms, or camping areas. Please remember…it is a FEST..so there will be plenty of music, dancing and singing.