



the northwest passage

Welcome to Kayak and SUP Camp,

Summer 2021

The Northwest Passage is excited to share our passion for sea kayaking and Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) with your family. Our program is designed to be fun, enhance personal development, promote self-confidence and teach skills through adventure challenge. Our mission to provide these programs has not changed but how we produce them has due to the pandemic of 2020.

We have created a contactless experience for all our campers. Required [forms](#) and emergency contact information are now only [available electronically](#). Parents and guardians must fill out these forms in advance of your camp start date. [CLICK HERE](#).

Aside from the streamlined check-in process, we have revised our logistics, including our gear cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Each piece of gear is thoroughly cleaned after each use and is allocated to one person for the duration of the camp.

Staff have had specific workplace training that is consistent with the CDC recommendations. We have also altered our programming to minimize close contact between campers.

It is important that each of our campers understands that maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet is the goal throughout camp. When this distance is unable to be maintained, campers and staff will be expected to wear face coverings. Please make sure your camper has a suitable face covering.

Campers should arrive with sunscreen already applied and bring only a reusable water bottle. You will not need anything else. Please leave towels, extra clothing and any personal items at home or in your transportation. **The Northwest Passage will not be responsible or able to store any personal items.**

We will meet our campers at our Gillson Park kayak launch. Once everyone has arrived we will start with a safety briefing followed by group games that will energize us for the on-water activities. We will spend time on land learning about the essential gear and safety guidelines of kayaking and SUP. Once everyone is comfortable with the equipment and safety guidelines, we will get on the water. Campers must be able to swim to participate in all portions of the camp.

Take a moment to share with your camper the events of the week and emphasize that they will be participating as an important member of a group. Adventure activities require that each person take responsibility for their own actions to ensure their personal safety and the safety of the group. Our leaders are committed to teaching skills and having fun while caring for the safety and well-being of your child. Campers and their parents or guardians are encouraged to check in with our leaders if they need help, have concerns, questions, comments, or just need an encouraging word.

The Northwest Passage reserves the right to call parents/guardians in the event of inappropriate behavior and remove the individual/s from the activity or camp in consideration of safety.

We look forward to a rewarding experience.

Keith Heger

Program Director

keith@nwpassage.com



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CAMP GEAR LIST:

Each day your camper will need the following:

- _____ Sunscreen already applied
- _____ Water bottle (full)
- _____ Sunglasses with a retaining strap (optional)

CLOTHING:

Wear clothes that can get wet. **Campers should show up to camp wearing their swimwear.** Wear a hat and/or sunglasses and shoes that can get wet. Flip-flop or slide sandals are not allowed as they will come off in open water. Sport sandals (Texas, Chacos etc) are ideal. All participants must wear shoes at all times.

In cool weather, a nylon jacket, pants, and synthetic long underwear can all be helpful. We will be paddling rain or shine! If you wear glasses, be sure to have something to tie them on, such as Croakies.

Camp runs rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather or hazardous lake conditions, alternative on-land activities will be substituted. In the event of severe weather the Wilmette Park District Lakeview center acts as our shelter.

Kayak and SUP Camp

TRANSPORTATION

Children bicycling to camp must remember to bring a lock to secure their bicycles and inform the director if they will be biking regularly to camp.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Staff will be greeting the campers at **the kayak launch area** daily, at the south end of Gillson Park. Please enter the park via the south entrance off of Sheridan Road and continue to the drop-off/pick-up location. Please proceed with caution and drive slowly as this is a park road with many small children and their parents. Alert park attendant that you are dropping off campers.

PERSONAL ITEMS

The only personal item you need is a full water bottle.

SPECIAL PICK-UP

A note must be given to your child's counselor at the start of a camp day if someone other than the usual person or car-pool will be picking your child up or if your child will be picked up earlier than the end of the camp day. Identification may be requested.



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PARENT GUIDELINES

- Please read your manual carefully and call The Northwest Passage at 847-256-4409 if you have any questions.
- **Emergency forms must be properly filled out and submitted online.**
- Prompt drop-off and pick-up are very important. Campers get very nervous when they are left to wait. A \$5 late fee will be assessed for pick up later than 15 minutes.
- Use extreme caution when driving around the pick-up/drop-off area. Campers will enter cars from the passenger side only.
- Please be patient during drop-off and pick-up. Follow the line of cars, and we will load and unload as quickly as possible with **SAFETY** as our #1 priority.
- We cannot be responsible for personal items. Please leave them at home.
- Notify the Camp Director if someone else is picking up your child.
- Medication must be kept by the Camp Director.
- Ask your child how his/her camp day went. Report any problems immediately to the staff or Keith Heger, Program Director

MEDICATION

If your child takes any medication, you will need to complete a Medical Consent Form. This form **must** be submitted as soon as possible. Please notify the Camp Director if a Medical Consent Form is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Medication must be sent to camp in its original container. Please place the original containers in a clear plastic bag and label it with your child's name.

REPORTING ILLNESS

If your child develops a contagious illness (e.g. COVID-19, chicken pox, strep throat, lice, etc.), you **must** report this to the Camp Director.

In order to help keep all children healthy, we must insist that no child with

- Fever of 100° or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

be allowed at camp. Please keep your child home until all symptoms are gone for at least 72 hours. Any child arriving at camp showing signs of illness will be sent home.



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SPECIAL NEEDS

If you need any special accommodations for your child to effectively participate in this program, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call the office at 847-256-4409. We will discuss your child's particular needs and work with the Camp Director to make his/her camp experience an enjoyable one.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Injury to Camper: In the event of an injury to a camper, basic first aid will begin immediately. Depending upon the extent of the injury, the camp counselor or Director will notify the parent (or alternate phone number provided on the Emergency Form) after a call to Emergency 911 (Wilmette Fire Department).

Severe Weather:

Thunderstorms: Campers will be moved into Lakeview Center until an all clear is given by the Camp Director.

Tornados: Campers will be moved to inner corridors of the Lakeview Center until an all clear is given by the Camp Director.

OUR STAFF WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

- If your child has any allergies.
- If your child has any fears or dislikes.
- If your child has any specific needs, please indicate this information on the enclosed participant form.



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Kayak and SUP Camp Schedule for the Week:

The program consists of three days of kayaking and two days of stand up paddle boarding (SUP). We will paddle along the shores of Gillson Park for 4 of the camp days and the Skokie Lagoons for one. **This itinerary is subject to change due to weather and other environmental conditions.**

Monday at Gillson Park, Wilmette

- 9:00am: Drop-off at Gillson Park Kayak Launch
- 9:30am: Introduction/Games/Daily Morning Activity
- 10:00am: Kayak Safety Talk/Outfitting/Paddling
- 12:00pm: Pick-up at Gillson Park

Tuesday at Gillson Park, Wilmette

- 9:00am: Drop-off at Gillson Park Kayak Launch
- 9:05am: Games/Daily Morning Activity
- 9:30am: Kayak Safety Talk/Outfitting/Paddling
- 10:30am: Paddling Games/Kayak Polo
- 12:00pm: Pick-up at Gillson Park

Wednesday at Skokie Lagoons, Winnetka

- 9:00am: Drop-off at Skokie Lagoons Kayak Launch
- 9:05am: Games/Daily Morning Activity
- 9:30am: Kayak Safety Talk/Outfitting/Paddling/Orientation to Lagoons
- 10:00am: Natural and Human history exploration
- 12:00pm: Pick-up at Skokie Lagoons

Thursday at Gillson Park, Wilmette

- 9:00am: Drop-off at Gillson Park Kayak Launch
- 9:05am: Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) introduction, equipment, techniques and safety
- 9:30am: SUP along the shores
- 12:00pm: Pick-up at Gillson Park

Friday at Gillson Park, Wilmette

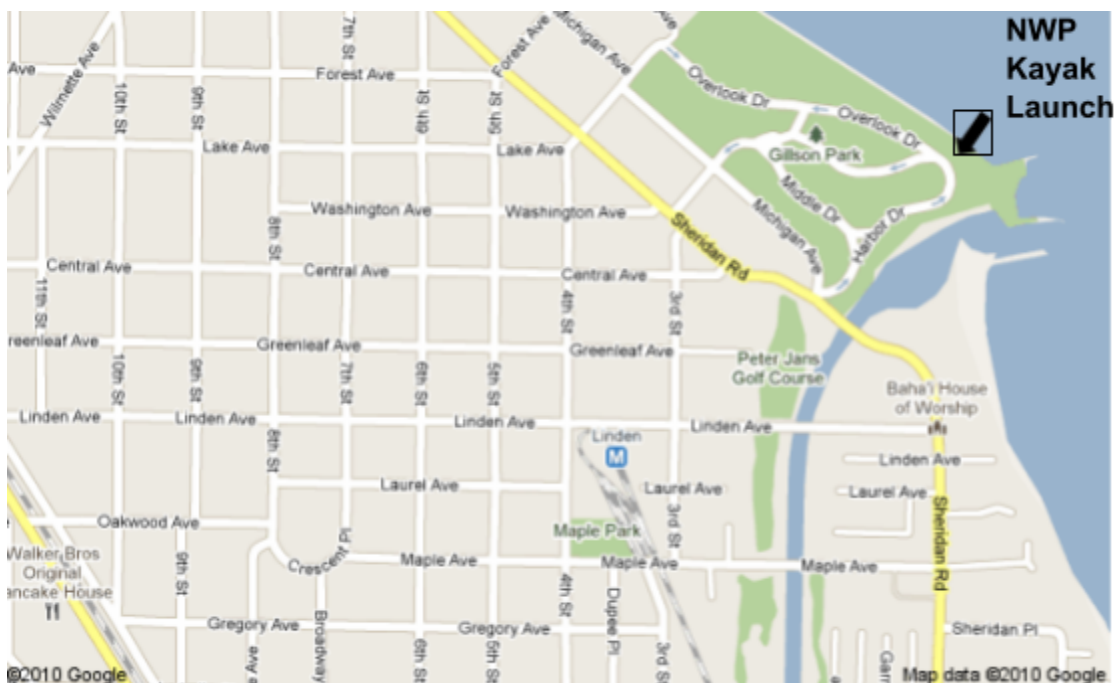
- 9:00am: Drop-off at Gillson Park Kayak Launch
- 9:05am SUP outfitting and games
- 11:30am: Parents arrive early to see your son or daughter in action.
- 12:00pm: PICK-UP at Gillson Park

** Afternoon sessions will mirror this schedule but for the afternoon times, 1:00pm – 4:00pm



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Directions to Gillson Park Kayak Launch, Wilmette



<https://goo.gl/maps/gHuu2bp7YLj4EgNj8>

Parking in Gillson Park: Parking within Gillson Park is for permit parking only. The Wilmette police will ticket any cars parked within Gillson park if they don't have the appropriately displayed permit. Alternate parking is available on Michigan Avenue, and west of Sheridan Road- just be aware of posted signs regarding restrictions. **On nice days, these streets can fill up, so allow extra time for parking**

Meeting location: The camp drop off location is at the southernmost end of Gillson Park. As you walk or drive into the park from Sheridan Road, the launch site is straight ahead of you as the road turns to the left to follow the lake front. Please look for The Northwest Passage staff and signs.

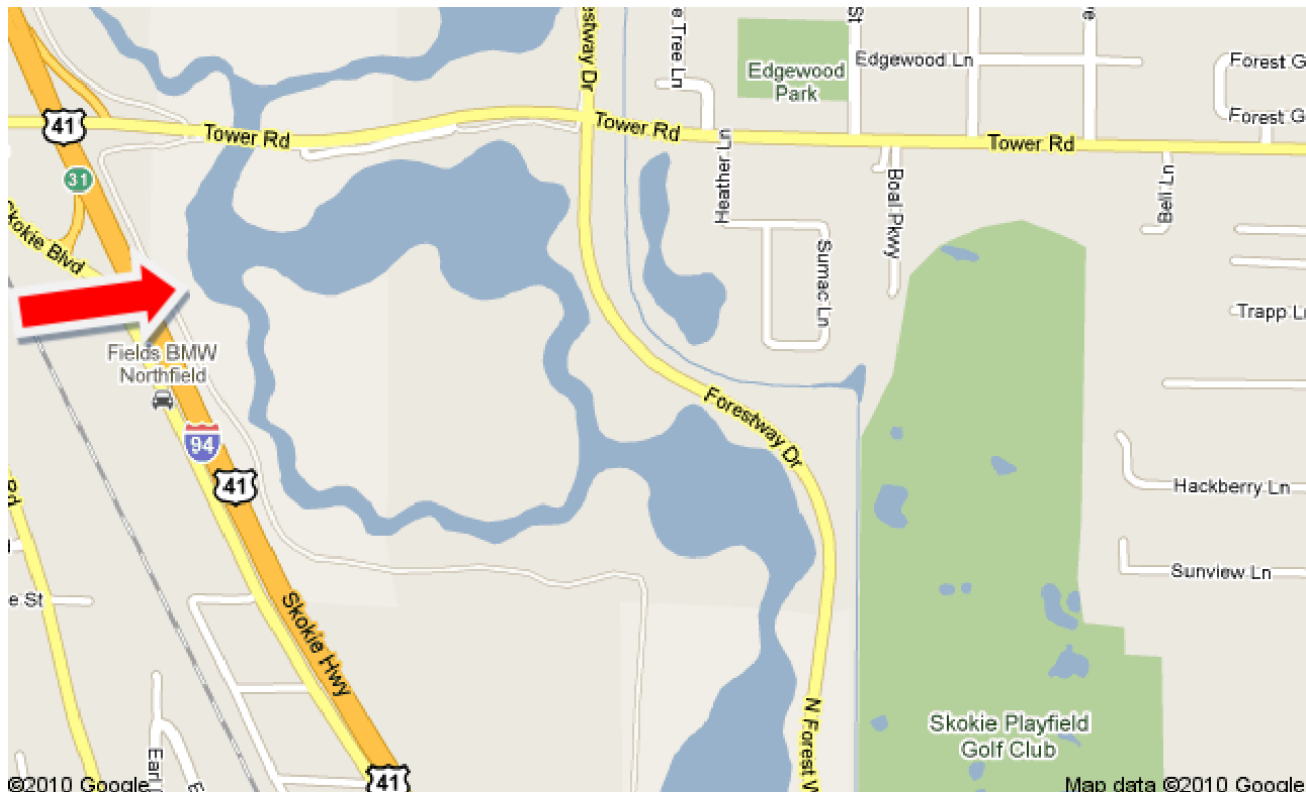
Wilmette Harbor. For those familiar with Gillson Park, we are next to the beach with the dog beach.



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Directions to Tower Road Boat Launch Skokie Lagoons, Winnetka

**Tower
Road
Boat
Launch**



<https://goo.gl/maps/xPVeIE8J89gn4bDo9>

GPS Directions: The Skokie Lagoons Boat Launch is located at approximately 1760 Tower Road, Winnetka, IL 60093.

Parking: Free parking is available in the first lots you come across. The lot right by the boat launch is reserved for trailers!