

Department of Parks and Recreation

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions on Park Permits

How do I get a park permit?

Complete a park permit application and submit it to the Franklin Township Recreation Department. Applications can take up to 30 business days to process. Park permits reserve Franklin Township park facilities and are enforceable by law. Some park permit requests may require a special event permit, which may be obtained from the Township Clerk's Office.

How much is a park permit?

In most cases park permits are \$10.00 per 4-hour block of time.

When is a special event permit needed?

A Special Event Permit or other Township approval may be needed if you can answer **yes** to any of the following questions? Residents should check with the Township Clerk for details.

Is the event open to the public? Is there an admission fee? Will the event take place on public property or roadways? (Including but not limited to Township property, buildings, and Parks.) Will alcoholic beverages be served? Does the premise possess a liquor license? Are tents or canopies proposed? Will food be served? Will food be prepared on site? Will food be warmed on site?

Are any open flames, fireworks, or pyrotechnics proposed? Will portable lighting, power or sound Amplification devices be used? Are raffles or games of chance proposed? Are restroom facilities available? Permanent or Portable? How many? Are amusements, rides, animals, show mobiles, Etc. proposed? Will signs be utilized for Advertising, Directions, Other?

I am not a resident of Franklin. Can I rent out the park?

Non-Township residents have full use of the park (permits notwithstanding), but only Township residents can hold park permits.

How do I schedule an event in Colonial Park?

Colonial Park is a county-run park. You will need to call the Somerset County Parks Commission in order to schedule events at this location. (908) 722-1200

Questions on Program Registrations

How does program registration and the lottery system work?

Our random lottery selection process ensures that all registration requests received with postmarks of the specified mail-in date have an equal chance of enrollment. Registration forms received with postmarks other than the specified mail-in date will be processed following the lottery process on a first-come, first-serve basis (this includes any registrations received before or after the specified mail-in postmark date).

MAIL-IN REGISTRATIONS ONLY will be accepted and included in our random lottery selection process only when they are received through the mail at Franklin Township Recreation, 505 DeMott Lane, PO Box 6704, Somerset, NJ 08873, with a postmark OF the specified mail-in date. Walk-in registrations will be accepted on a specified date AFTER the lottery, space permitting.

My check was cashed but I haven't received a call. What do I do?

NO confirmations will be made if you get into a program. If you DO NOT get into a class, you will be notified, placed on a waiting list, and your payment will be returned.

How does the waiting list work?

If you do not get into a class, you are placed on a waiting list in order of registration. If an opening becomes available in a closed program, the space will be offered to the first person on the waiting list. If that person declines or is unreachable after three attempts, the staff will then contact the next person on the list. You are simply required to forward a payment to the Recreation office. There is no need

to fill out another registration form. All your information is already on file.

I am currently having financial hardship. How can I/my children still be involved in Township activities?

Fee waivers/reductions are available to low/moderate-income families. Fees may be waived/reduced pending proper documentation. Please call the Recreation office to obtain a form at (732) 873-1991

Questions About Sports Programs

Where can I take the Coach's S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic?

Simply access the Rutgers University Youth Sports Research Council Web site at <http://www.youthsports.rutgers.edu>

On May 12, 1986, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to pass legislation, which protects volunteer athletic coaches, managers, and officials from lawsuits. Commonly referred to as the "Little League Law" (2A:62A-6 et. seq.), this legislation extends partial civil immunity to volunteers who have attended a "safety orientation and training skills program." Please check site frequently for clinic availability updates. Site is updated as classes fill.

Where do I call ?

The following Sports Organizations run independently of the Recreation Department and administer their own program including registration, schedules, fees and organizational structure.

Franklin Township Little League	732-828-1233
Franklin Township Soccer League	732-699-0002
	www.ftsonline.org
Pop Warner Football	732-422-3879

The following Sports Organizations are co-sponsored by the Recreation Department and can be reached as follows:

Franklin Township Wrestling	732-873-1275
Hershey Track & Field	609-409-6327
Franklin Adult Slo-Pitch Softball	609-395-9167

Franklin Township Senior Corner

Frequently Asked Questions

Individuals ages 55 and older are invited to participate in a wide variety of activities at the Franklin Township Community/Senior Center. The center is open from Monday through Friday from 8:30-4:30 PM and offers a Crafts Room, Billiards Room, and Card Room. Visitors are invited to drop in and play cards, read books or magazines, or surf the Internet on the computers.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF A SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB?

Three different seniors citizens clubs currently meet at the Community/Senior Center. You are encouraged to visit all three and then join one or all of them. Nominal dues vary per club. Each club has weekly meetings, trip calendars, social events, and guest speakers. The club's schedules are as follows:

Parkside Senior Citizens Club - Mondays at 10:00 am
Franklin Township Senior Citizens Club - Tuesdays at 10:00 am
Franklin Park Senior Citizens Club - Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

I NO LONGER DRIVE SO HOW CAN I GET TO THE CENTER?

Somerset County offers free transportation to and from the center Mondays -Fridays. You should decide in advance what days and times you would like to visit the center and then call the Division of Transportation at 1-800-246-0527 to register. Initially, you will need to provide Transportation with some information and an emergency name and contact telephone number. Transportation is scheduled on a first come, first serve basis, and they will do their best to accommodate your needs.

I AM NOT INTERESTED IN JOINING A SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, SO WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES CAN I PARTICIPATE IN AT THE CENTER?

Township residents 55 and older may participate in the following activities. You may pick up a monthly Calendar for days and times.

FINE ARTS: Welcomes artists of all levels. We provide supplies or you may bring your own. This course runs in eight-week sessions, and there is a small fee to take this course.

HEALTHY BONES: This course is sponsored by the Somerset County Office on Aging and requires a physician's release and registration prior to starting the class. This class is an exercise program that uses weights to deter osteoporosis. There is a small cost to take this course.

SIT AND KEEP FIT EXERCISE: This free program is offered twice a week and participants remain seated while following an exercise video. No Registration is required.

YOGA: This very popular 13-week course is taught by certified instructor, Tom Allardice. All levels are welcome, and there is a small fee to attend this class.

LOW IMPACT AEROBICS: Another very popular 13-week course that is taught by certified instructor, Mary Ann Carroll. All levels are welcome and there is a small fee to attend this class.

WALKING CLUB: Offered most months throughout the year. Walkers either meet at the local parks, or are transported to malls and other sites. Registration is required on any walking trips. Stop by the center for a monthly schedule. Please note that there is no walking from Mid June until the beginning of September, and then a few weeks in the winter. Annual membership fee.

ARTS & CRAFTS: This weekly activity helps participants make small crafts that may be good for holiday gifts or decorative pieces for your home. Small fee.

SWINGIN SINGIN SENIORS: A group of dedicated seniors who practice weekly and sing at different outside engagements throughout the year. New participants are always welcome, and no prior experience is necessary.

THE FRANKLIN HI-STEPPERS: A group of dedicated volunteers who practice twice a week and perform all over the state of NJ.

LINE DANCING: This group meets every week and there is no registration or fee to join.

BRIDGE GROUP: Meets for informal instruction and then plays using the techniques just learned. No fee or registration required.

BINGO: Organized by the Franklin Township Senior Citizens Club and Franklin Park Senior Citizens Club. Club members may play following the weekly club meeting.

TAI CHI: Under the instruction of Brian Coffey, this program is offered weekly for 8 weeks, and there is a fee due at the time of registration.

IS THERE LUNCH SERVED AT THE CENTER?

We do not serve lunch at the center but feel free to bring your own brown bag lunch if you are spending the day. However, lunch is served daily at the Quail Brook Senior Center at 625 New Brunswick Rd. You may call Margie O'Conner at 732-563-4213 for more information.