



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
**FOR HEALTHY LIVING**  
**FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**



## **2022 Summer Camp Parent Handbook**

**Greater Peoria Family YMCA**  
**CARING | HONESTY | RESPECT |**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**

## WELCOME TO DAYCAMP

Thank you for choosing YMCA Day Camp for your child's summer camp experience! You've given your child a wonderful gift - the opportunity to experience the natural world, learn new skills, make meaningful new friendships and rediscover themselves outside of the pressures of the modern world. We're looking forward to a safe and fun summer that instills confidence in your child and creates wonderful memories. All programs at the YMCA are designed to promote positive values. The YMCA focuses on four primary character values, each of which is assigned a color that helps the staff in the character education process. YMCA staff are hired based on their commitment to accept and demonstrate these positive values in their own lives. The four values are:

**Caring (red)** Help others

**Respect (yellow)** Value the worth of every person and myself

**Honesty (blue)** Tell the truth

**Responsibility (green)** Do what ought to be done

## YMCA MISSION

To put Christian principles into practice through program that build healthy, spirit, mind, and body for all. We build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

## OVERVIEW

Traditional Day Camp offers campers the most well rounded camping experience. Campers enrolled in traditional camp will be offered swim time weekly, field trips, crafts, science, and Vacation Bible School through a local church. This camp is recommended for all first time campers and children interested in all areas of camp.

## ELIGIBILITY & GROUPING

A camper must be school age in order to participate in Summer Day Camp programs. Campers must be at least the age of 5 by the first day of camp. All grades are for those incoming grades. For example, a recent first grader of the 2021-2022 school year would enroll for the second grade.

Kindergarten-Discoverers | Grades 1 & 2- Explorers | Grades 3 & 4- Pathfinders | Grades 5 - Navigators

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday 6:30am-5:30pm.

Children need to be signed in every day by 9:00am.

Children arriving late may not be accepted.

**Late pick up occurs after 5:30pm and each student is charged one dollar per minute per child until the child is picked up.**

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION & PAYMENT

Camp fees will be automatically bank drafted every Monday before the start of camp. If you are applying for Child Care Connection you will be responsible for full payments, until you're approved. **Non-Refundable registration fees apply to all.**

Financial Assistance is available to all YMCA families who qualify. You must apply through Child Care Connection before you apply for financial assistance, if you are denied from Child Care Connection you may apply for financial assistance.

Any unpaid afterschool, membership, or financial aid must be paid before attending camp.

## CANCELATIONS/CHANGES

With billing being done weekly, refunds will only be given if an illness or injury prevents your child from attending for the full week. If possible, our billing department should be notified prior to the billing cycle. It is the YMCA's right to ask for a doctor's note explaining the illness. If you choose to cancel or change services, we need a change of status form **one week prior**. You can get these forms in advance from the front desk or the billing coordinator. If we do not receive the change of status form by the Friday prior to cancellation you will be responsible for payments. Refund processing normally takes 2-3 weeks. Children suspended from camp will **not** be refunded for the week; parents will be responsible for payment that week.

## CAMP CHECK-IN & PICK-UP

There will be a check in/billing table and a camp questions table. At check in and pick up you are responsible to sign your child in and out of camp. Parent/guardian must be 18 years of age to sign in or out. Please allow yourself enough time for sign in, due to the amount of participants we have in the program. Please have your Driver's License in hand the first few weeks of camp to verify pick up. **Anyone that is not on the pick-up list will not be able to pick up any child.** In the event that you are unable to pick up your child please call ahead to let us know to authorize a new pick up person.

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In the unlikely event that the YMCA decides to evacuate camp, we will attempt to contact the family starting with the parent or guardian that registered the child, then the emergency contact person, in that order. At that time, the person we make contact with will be given further instructions on how the evacuation will proceed. For this reason, it is truly important that we have accurate contact information for parents and emergency contacts during your child's camp experience.

## FIRST AID & ILLNESS

All staff are certified in CPR and First Aid. In the event of an emergency or illness, camp staff will notify parents/guardians. Refunds will only be given if an illness or injury prevents your child from attending for the full week. If possible, our billing department should be notified prior to the billing cycle. It is the YMCA's right to ask for a doctor's note explaining the illness.

Parents will be contacted immediately if their camper shows signs of illness. It is better to be overcautious than to risk exposing the rest of the campers and staff.

### **Campers will be sent home for the following reasons:**

- Fever over 100.1 degrees. Campers may return when they have been fever free for 24 hours
- Strep throat (if they have not been on medication at least 24 hours)
- Stomachache
- Anything contagious (i.e.— chicken pox, hand, foot and mouth disease)
- Diarrhea/vomiting
- Contagious rashes or rashes of unknown origin
- Head lice, including visible nits. Staff will check head upon return.
- Pink Eye (conjunctivitis) if they have not been on medication at least 24 hours
- Significant runny nose (discolored mucous)

## HEAD LICE

Head lice can become an issue anytime you gather children together at camp, daycare, or school. It is not indicative of uncleanliness and anyone can get them. Because lice are easily transmitted and require several steps to eliminate, we cannot keep children at camp who have nits or head lice. In the event that your child gets head lice and needs to miss a week, please contact our billing department to see about a refund.

## MEDICATION

If you will be sending any over-the-counter or prescription medications or vitamins, please follow the instructions below: Regulations require us to dispense medication only from the original container according to the prescribed dosage. Your local pharmacy can provide you with an extra container if needed.

- Complete the provided medication form. Include all medication/and vitamins being sent to camp. Directions on the container label must match your written directions on the medication form.
- Send only the exact dosage (plus two extras) your camper will need during their weekly session.
- Place the completed medication form with medications in their original containers in a plastic bag and bring them with you to camp at check in. Turn them in at the question table.
- One camp counselor will be designated as a person to administer the medication.

## WEATHER

Most activities on rainy days will take place inside different parts of the building and under the pavilion. However, campers should be prepared with proper rain gear for transitions to and from areas. On days we have extremely hot weather, campers have the opportunity to get drinks of water and spend time in the shade. Sunscreen should be applied **before** campers arrive. We are an outdoor camp, so please provide your child with plenty of sunscreen to re-apply throughout the day. **Counselors will apply sunscreen.**



## AT TO BRING TO CAMP

Campers should bring a backpack to and from camp each day. In the backpack should be a lunch and drink (no soda) (The YMCA will **NOT** provide lunch or breakfast), refillable water bottle, towel, bathing suit, sunscreen, bug spray, and extra clothes. **Campers can wear a mask if they like.** Sandals are not allowed for safety reasons. Fair skinned campers are encouraged to wear a hat on sunny days. All items should be marked with the camper's name.

## WHAT TO KEEP AT HOME

Campers may not bring blankets, toys (including stuffed animals/dolls), MP3 players, cell phones, tablets, iPod, video games, trading cards, matches or knives. Any camper bringing any weapons will be suspended immediately.

## CAMPER PHONE USE

The camp experience is a way for children to develop a greater sense of independence. Therefore, no phone is available for campers to routinely make or receive phone calls. However, should your child need to call home, directing staff will arrange a time and, together with the camper, they will make the call home. **Personal cell phones are not allowed.** Cell phones will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

## LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items accumulate very quickly. Please label your child's belongings. Socks and underwear are immediately discarded; everything else will be on a lost and found table and donated after two weeks. **The YMCA is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.**

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE (AT-A-GLANCE)

A monthly schedule that will provide an overview of field trips, special speakers, swim times, and helpful reminders will be given out at the beginning of camp. In the event of inclement weather schedules will be modified.

## WEEKLY/DAILY SCHEDULE

We will inform parents the week before about Field trip times and dates for each group. Please note that the times/events will be subject to change.

## CHILD PICK-UP

Anyone picking up the child must:

- Be listed on the child's authorized release list and be prepared to show staff a picture ID if the staff does not know them. **NO CHILD WILL BE RELEASED TO ANYONE WHO IS NOT ON HIS/HER AUTHORIZED PICK UP LIST.**
- Additional people may be added to the authorized pick up list in-person during drop-off. In the event of an emergency, you may call 309-251-0720 and we can add a name via phone (this is for emergencies ONLY)

*\*\*\*In regard to legal documentation the only document the YMCA will interpret is the child's enrollment form.*

## EARLY PICK UP/DROP OFF

The camp office must be notified 24 hours in advance of any early pick up so schedules can be adjusted in advance. If children have a visit from a case worker they must provide a work badge and driver's license. If children are on a field trip they will not be allowed to pick them up at the destination, unless we receive 24 hour notice.

We enjoy having all of our campers on special events! If you need them to stay back at camp, you will have to find care for your child that day. We cannot allow parents, guardians, case workers or relatives to drop children off at other drop off points.



**Late pick up occurs after 5:30pm and will be charged \$1 per minute per child.**

## TRANSPORTATION FOR FIELD TRIPS

YMCA transports children by bus or vans. **We ask on field trip days that parents arrive at 4:45pm.** If you need to pick your child up earlier, you may have to find other care arrangements those days. The YMCA does not pick children up for camp.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

As a Christian organization, campers are involved in V.B.S at Bethany Baptist Church for one week during the month of June 20-24. Due to limited van space each group will get to experience a one day that week at V.B.S. Age 5-6 will go on Wed June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Age group 7-8 will go Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> and Age group 9-10 will go June 25<sup>th</sup>. **If you do not want your child to be involved in V.B.S., you will need to find other care for your child for that day.**

## STAFF RATIOS

YMCA camp has a counselor to camper ratio that ranges from 1:10. Counselors are 18 years of age and older and have prior camp related experience.

## YMCA CAMP STAFF

We are dedicated to recruiting and developing an outstanding group of directors and counselors who are committed to providing each camper with the best possible day camp experience. We believe that the success of our program lies in the quality of our staff. Staff people are selected on their experience, ability to lead camp related activities and their personal commitment to role modeling positive values. We strive to retain seasonal staff people from summer to summer. Your child may already know many of our staff from camp last year. This seasoned staff brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the YMCA summer camp program. Each staff person receives training and is certified in American Red Cross First Aid and CPR. In addition to background checks, fingerprinting and drug tested.

## DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE

All children are entitled to a safe and harmonious environment. The safety rules and structures of the summer camp program are in place to provide a safe and consistent program.

At the Greater Peoria Family YMCA, we believe that guidance is something that should be positive and approached in a fair and caring manner, consistent with the developmental needs of individual children. Clear behavior limits are set and modeled and reasonable guidelines are explained. We encourage children to develop self-control and to handle conflicts in a peaceful, effective and acceptable way while still protecting the safety of both other children and staff. Positive behavior is reinforced in order to discourage inappropriate behavior as well as use of the character development program values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. Redirection away from problems and towards constructive activity as well as immediate and directly related consequences for a child's unacceptable behavior are used as the situation warrants.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

**Please understand** that some actions warrant immediate suspension. **Note** that if your child is suspended, fees will still be due for the child's spot. **The YMCA reserves the right to warn, suspend, or dismiss children from the program if:**

- They require an inordinate amount of attention from the staff thereby causing inadequate levels of supervision for the remainder of the participants or members.
- The child's behavior poses a danger or threat to themselves, other children, or YMCA staff.
- Their behavior is determined to be inappropriate within the scope and spirit of the YMCA values.
- For any reason within the discretion of YMCA Management.

**\*STRIKE 1:** The staff complete and sign documenting the behavior.

**\*STRIKE 2:** Requires a meeting/phone call to the parent from the child and staff. In certain cases, a 1-2 day suspension may occur.

**\*STRIKE 3:** If the behavior issues continue, the child will be dismissed from the program or depending on the severity, be given a 3-5 day suspension. There must be a meeting between the camp director, involved counselor, parent and child. Complete expulsion may be a consequence as well. A child may be expelled due to violation of Parent/Student Code Conduct.



## Activity Descriptions

**Outdoor Living Skills**-This class focuses on teaching skills that can increase the comfort level in an outdoor setting while having minimal impact on the environment. Teachers will choose two activities from fire building, archery, and shelter building, and have the option to tie the activities to the novel Hatchet.

**Hiking and Map and Compass/Orientation**- Map & Compass Basic orienteering with map and compass is a practical skill that combines math knowledge with practical field use. Activities may include compass instruction, map work, warm-up games, setting a course, or running a course. Working together as a small group helps each student learn group dynamics and team work, as well as confidence in compass abilities.

**Free Play**-. Children benefit greatly from unstructured play as well. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, free play helps children grow and develop toward important intellectual, emotional, and social milestones along their developmental journey toward healthy teen and adult years.

**Outdoor Cooking and Fire building**- Come learn the basics of camp cooking set up and operation as well as learning to cook basic meals over stoves and fire.

**iCare-Outdoor Education**-Most nature activities focus on individual facts. Sure, some may be "fun facts," but we usually leave it to the student to figure out why any of it matters and how any of it links together. The YMCA iCARE program aims to tie each activity to a broader concept. The more activities you do, the better the concepts will be understood. Interrelationships, Cycles, Awareness leads Resources, Energy and Flow.

**Conservation Project**- Students can spend a portion of time during their stay at improving the park environment. After learning about human responsibility for the environment, students can participate in practical activities such as invasive species removal, litter collection, trail improvement, or prairie restoration.

**River Study**-Students will investigate the life in and around through collection and observation. Using macroinvertebrate identification and chemical testing, participants will determine the health, chemistry and turbidity of the river. Then students will discuss ways to make the river a better natural environment. Weather and river conditions permitting. Bring extra clothes and a pair of shoes or boots that can get wet (no sandals).

**Gaga Pit**- The official game rules of The Gaga Center: All players start with one hand touching a wall of the pit. The game begins with a referee throwing the ball into the center of the pit. When the ball enters the pit, the players scream 'GA' for the first two bounces, and 'GO' on the third bounce, after which the ball is in action.

**Introduction to Hiking and Camping** Embrace the outdoors with our camping program. Your child will learn the basics every camper needs to have an extended fun filled time outdoors.

### Introduction to Sling Shot/Archery

Students will learn the parts of the Slingshot/Bow & Arrow, identify the parts of the bow. Identify the parts of the arrow and demonstrate the sign of mastery in shooting at our targets.

**Introduction to Gardening**- Come learn the basics of taking care of a garden, from watering, planting, how much sun is needed and getting your hands dirty to enjoying some of the food.

**Geocaching**- Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a Global Positioning System receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", at specific locations marked by coordinates.

**Animal Encounters**- Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My! Be a part of a program that gives your child the chance to experience firsthand all the animals Illinois has to offer. By combining instructional lessons with field trips, participants will be able to engage with animals beyond their back yard gain a sense of responsibility for animal conservation. From farm animals to fishing, your child will achieve a well-rounded learning experience.

**Introduction to Disc Golf**- come experience our beginner 9-hole par 3 course around our campus.

**Group Games & Teambuilding**- Teams Course Cooperation, communication, inclusion and teamwork are the key concepts in this unit. Our teams' course features elements that are low to the ground and is the place for participants to face challenges together. Participants will learn to help, support and trust one another. Problem-solving activities are also used to involve the participants in working together to accomplish common goals. The sequence of events will be determined based on weather conditions, skill level, and how well the group works together.

**Predator/Prey** – "The best game of tag you will ever play." Nature contains many dramas, and one example is the predator/prey relationship. Questions like, "What do animals eat?", "Who are the hunters?" or "Which animals are the prey?" are of particular interest. What better way to answer those questions than through the active learning of a food chain simulation. This unit explores predator and prey relationships using an activity which involves student and teacher participation.

**Swimming**- The Peoria YMCA's outdoor pool is the largest in the area! There is something for everyone with a 6-lane, 50 meter pool; two 1-meter diving boards; and wading pool. The pool is open through Labor Day.

## Camp Schedule:

Please bring your own lunch, swimsuit, towel, and change of clothes.

**6:30-8:30 am** Drop-off Times Free Play

**9 am- Morning Ceremony**

**9:30-noon** Morning Stations

**Noon-12:30** Lunch and Afternoon Activity Set-up

**3:00pm Closing Ceremony**

**12:30-4 pm** Afternoon Stations

**4-6 Recreation Games, Sports/4 & 9 Square/Gaga**

