



Parent / Guardian Handbook

Summer 2026

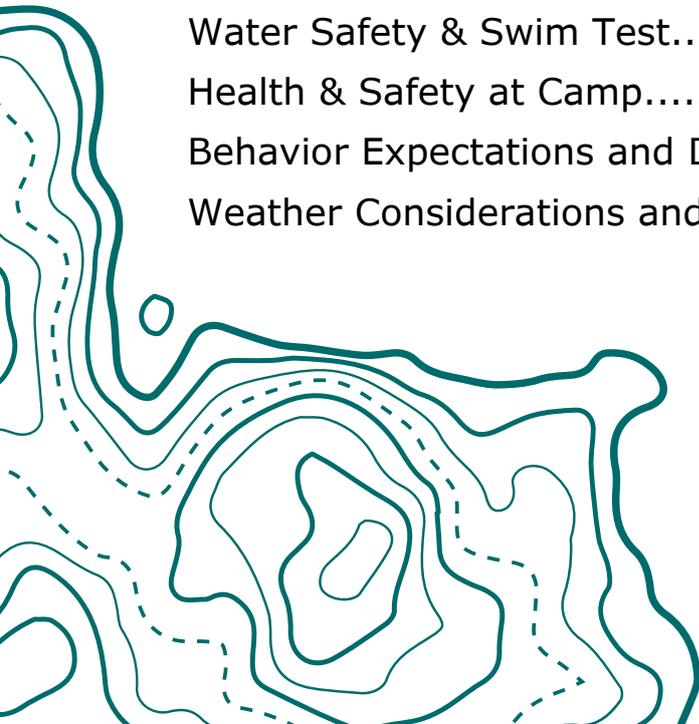


Parent / Guardian Handbook

Information, Policies & Procedures
Camp Silver Creek
2026

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Welcome to Camp Silver Creek!

Thank you for choosing us for your summer camp experience! Since 1938, YMCA Camp Silver Creek has been providing traditional camping experiences to youth. We are proud to offer wonderful camp activities such as canoeing, campfire, all-camp games, archery, hiking, creek-walking, and arts & crafts. Most importantly, we offer a safe environment where campers are supervised by staff who are hired because of their skills and desire to work with youth. Staff are trained to help campers integrate into camp life, make new friends, and have fun!

Our Camp Goals:

- **Live the Y's Mission** – Ensure campers experience and model the YMCA's values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility in their daily camp life.
- **Learn Health & Safety Skills** – Teach campers essential skills to navigate and thrive safely in the camp environment.
- **Build Confidence & Responsibility** – Help campers develop self-worth, independence, and a sense of personal accountability.
- **Develop Social Skills** – Foster friendships, teamwork, and effective communication in a supportive setting.
- **Explore Camp Traditions** – Engage campers in classic outdoor skills and hands-on learning experiences.
- **Have Fun & Make Memories** – Create a unique and welcoming space where every camper can enjoy adventure, growth, and lasting friendships.

This handbook is designed to answer commonly asked questions about the program, review policies and procedures, and outline expectations and guidelines for participation. All parents and guardians are expected to read and adhere to these policies to help us create a safe, fun, and enriching camp environment.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Your feedback is always welcome, and we encourage you to complete our end-of-summer evaluation survey to let us know how we're doing.

Registration Questions & Concerns

youth@theyonline.org
503-399-2788

Email: campsilvercreek@theyonline.org

Camp Silver Creek Phone: 971-209-3224
Only used during camp season/hours

Camp Silver Creek
19984 Silver Falls Hwy SW
Sublimity, OR 97385



Find Us on Social Media

 CampSilverCreek
 YMCA Camp Silver Creek

Camp Silver Creek Leadership Team

Every summer, an experienced and dedicated team of youth-focused professionals is hired to lead our summer camps. Our Leadership Team is comprised of our year round Camping Services Director, our seasonal Camp Director, and two Assistant Directors who collectively oversee our Program and Camp Staff to ensure high-quality programming, safety, and fun for all campers. They are committed to creating a positive, enriching, and memorable camp experience while promoting the Y's core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility.

Our Staff

Our Camp Counselors are carefully selected for their enthusiasm, leadership, and ability to work with youth. They include young adults, high school students, and adults from the community who have experience in the youth development field. All staff members undergo a rigorous screening process, including background checks. Any staff authorized to drive YMCA vehicles must also pass a driving record check.

They complete over 40 hours of training in safety protocols, program procedures, CPR, First Aid, AED, and mental health awareness.

Camp Counselors are actively involved in all camp activities, modeling positive behavior and helping campers develop a love for learning, exploration, and recreation. We follow a 1:10 staff to camper ratio (or better) during activities, and a 2:6 staff to camper ratio while sleeping.



Registration Information

Returning Families

- Sign into your account and update any information that has changed since last year (email, address, phone number, etc.)
- Ensure all children have their profiles created on your account.
- Ensure ALL adults authorized to make registration changes are also on your account.
- Have all registration information ready to go to aid in ease of registration (health information, emergency contacts, authorized pick ups, etc.)

New Families

- Ensure your account is created prior to attempting to register.
- Ensure every child is on your account prior to attempting to register.
- See “Returning Families” for additional information.

Registration Opens
Monday, January 5, 2026

Online Registration

- All registrations must be done online.
- Conveniently available 24 hours a day.
- Your camp selections are immediately confirmed.

For Registration Assistance

- Phone registrations are not accepted.
- In person registration assistance may be available at the Family YMCA - call/email ahead to schedule a time.

Camper Health Information

We use ePACT to manage health and emergency information. Watch for an email with instructions to complete the required forms.

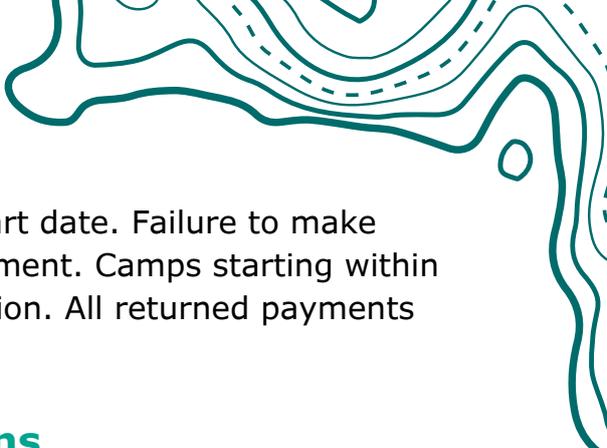
Forms are due two weeks before your camp.

If health information changes after submission, please update ePACT and email us.

Registration Form

All registrants must complete the registration agreements, waivers, and health information online before your child will be allowed to participate.





Payment

Full payment is due one month prior to the camp start date. Failure to make payment by the deadline may result in loss of enrollment. Camps starting within 30 days require full payment at the time of registration. All returned payments will be charged a \$30 NSF fee.

Registration Changes and Cancellations

- All requests for changes or cancellations must be submitted in writing to **youth@theyonline.org** one month (30 days) prior to the camp start date to qualify.
- All camp fees include a **\$100 non-refundable deposit per camp**. This charge is withheld from any refunds when canceled by the deadline. Cancellations after the deadline forfeit the entire fee.
- All request for changes or cancellations will be charged a **\$15 processing fee**.
- Refunds are not available for absences due to vacation, special events, short-term illnesses/common colds, or other personal commitments that prevent attendance.
- Refunds or credits for medical circumstances or unforeseen needs will be considered on a case-by-case basis & require supporting documentation.
- Any camp not meeting minimum enrollment by the Monday before it starts will be canceled and you will be contacted. Some camps have earlier deadlines. We do our best to give you as much notice as possible.
- If we must cancel a camp due to **insufficient enrollment** or any other circumstance beyond our control, we will offer a full refund or issue credit towards another camp.

Credit Card Fees

A 3% credit card fee will be applied to all credit card transactions. This charge helps offset a portion of the processing fees charged to our organization. If you would like to avoid this fee, debit cards are not subject to the 3% charge. You can update your billing method through your member portal.

Registration for Additional Weeks / Waitlists

Camps may still be available or become available during the summer due to transfers or cancellations. Additional registrations are taken until **two weeks prior to the camp start date**, unless otherwise noted.

If a camp is full, there is a Waitlist Option. We encourage all interested participants to get on the wait list. It is free and allows us a means to contact you if an opening occurs; it also lets us know the level of interest for the possibility of adding more camps and future planning.

Campership & Financial Assistance

Thanks in part to generous donors, we are able to offer financial assistance in the form of camperships. We are committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to enjoy a week of fun, exploration, and growth at camp.

To apply, complete the Financial Assistance Application and submit it to our Youth Programs and Services Admin, Felicia Fisher at ffisher@theyonline.org, or drop it off at our Salem branch.

Qualifying families may receive discounts on camp fees. We encourage families facing financial hardship to apply and make camp accessible for their children. A new application is required each year.

Communications

You will receive an automatic confirmation when registering for camp online. Watch for your "Welcome to Camp Silver Creek!" email approximately two weeks before your campers' session.

In the event of an emergency at Camp, we will use the following means to communicate information and updates:

- Camp Silver Creek's Email
- Camp Silver Creek's Instagram
- Camp Silver Creek's Facebook
- Salem YMCA's Instagram
- Salem YMCA's Facebook
- If needed and possible, phone calls from the Withnell Family YMCA and/or Camp Silver Creek

During any camp emergency, our top priority is camper safety. Our staff receive training in our emergency procedures and practice periodic drills.

Financial Assistance Application

Click Above





Directions to Camp

YMCA Camp Silver Creek is located within Silver Falls State Park outside of Sublimity, OR. We are in the private Youth Camp section of the park. Our address is: 19984 Silver Falls Highway, SE, Sublimity, OR 97385. If you are lost in the park, please ask for directions from the State Park Booths.

From Portland:

I-5 South, take exit #253/STAYTON/DETROIT LAKE
Turn left on N SANTIAM HWY (OR 22)
Continue to follow OR 22; take ramp toward STAYTON/SUBLIMITY
Turn left on CASCADE HWY SE
Turn right on SILVER FALLS HWY SE (OR 214)
Turn right into the area for camp grounds / private camps
Turn left after the Park Service booth
Turn left at the first road and follow it about 2 miles into camp

From Salem:

Take HWY 22 toward STAYTON/DETROIT LAKE
Take ramp toward STAYTON/SUBLIMITY
Turn left on CASCADE HWY SE
Turn right on SILVER FALLS HWY SE (OR 214)
Turn right into the area for camp grounds / private camps
Turn left after the Park Service Booth booth
Turn left at the first road and follow it about 2 miles into camp

If you're using Google Maps, Waze, Apple Maps, or another navigation app, enter "YMCA Camp Silver Creek" as your destination.

Using the camp's mailing address may direct you to a location on Silver Falls Highway, approximately 10 minutes away from camp.

Park Map



Check-In

Check-in is from 2:30–3:30 PM on Sunday (except for Family Camp). Please do not arrive early, as staff will be preparing for camp.

Upon arrival, remain in your vehicle and our welcome staff will greet you, provide your camper's unit assignment, and guide you through the check-in process.

- **Adult Check-In Requirement:** Campers must be checked in by an adult listed on their ePACT form unless prior arrangements have been made with the Camp Director.
- **Medication Drop-Off:** All prescription and over-the-counter medications must be turned in to the camp nurse in their original packaging. Ensure health information is updated in ePACT before arrival.
- **Lice Check:** Campers will be screened for lice. Any campers with signs of lice will be asked to leave and return once cleared by a doctor.

After check-in, you'll drive to your camper's unit to unload luggage and meet their counselor and unit leader. This is a great time to ask questions and share any important details to support your camper's experience.

Before leaving, you may visit the admin building to deposit money in the camp store or drop off mail for your camper.



Check-Out

Check-out is from 9:30–10:00 AM on Saturday (except for Family Camp and short session). Please arrive promptly to greet your camper and allow staff time to clean and prepare for the next group.

Upon arrival, proceed directly to your camper's unit for pick-up.

- **ID Required:** A valid photo ID must be shown to the unit leader. Only individuals listed on the camper's health form may pick them up.
- **Medication Pick-Up:** Retrieve any medications from our health staff and ask any necessary questions.

Once you've picked up your camper, you may depart immediately or stop by the admin building to check lost and found or visit the camp store.

Early Pick-Up: If you need to pick up your camper before Saturday, please coordinate in advance with the Camp Director.



Note: Our facility was built in 1938 and has very narrow roads with limited passing ability and parking. We appreciate your patience and care during the Check In /Out process!

Health Forms & Authorized Pick-Up Information

Please note that completion of our health form (via ePACT) and photo ID is required for drop off and pick up. To protect the safety of our campers, campers will only be released to adults that are on their approved pick-up list. If you have a specific circumstance that requires another adult to pick up your child, please email us to make arrangements.

Late Arrivals & Early Pick-Ups

We understand that families occasionally need to drop off or pick up their child outside of our usual drop off and pick up hours. If you are planning on dropping off your camper late or picking them up early, please notify us via email at at least one week before the start of camp.



Visitation Policy

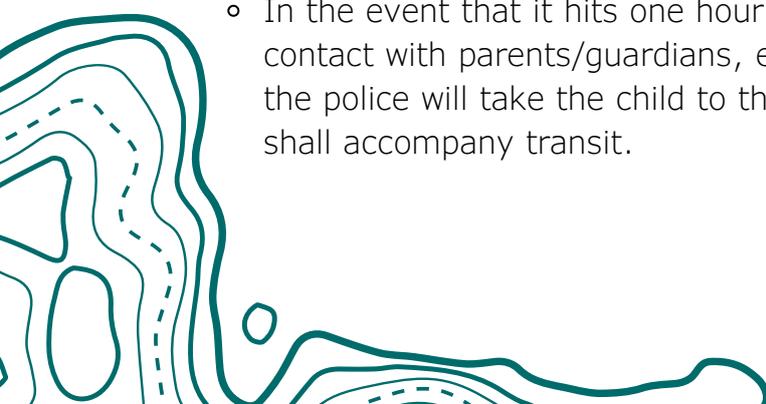
We do not permit visitors at camp. Family visits tend to disrupt camp activities and detract from the magic of being away from the rest of the world. If there is cause for concern about your camper, we will contact you. If you have a family emergency, please call the Camp Director.



Late Pick Up

In the event a child is left in our care more than 30 minutes past check out time with no contact from a parent/guardian, the following procedure will be followed:

- The Y Staff will call parents/guardians, emergency contacts and other authorized pick-ups provided on the registration form.
- Two leadership staff members will stay with the child, and Y staff will call the appropriate local Police Department to have someone go to the child's home.
- In the event that it hits one hour past check out time and there is not contact with parents/guardians, emergency contacts, or authorized pick-ups, the police will take the child to the appropriate police station. The Director(s) shall accompany transit.



Packing List

Label all items and involve your camper in packing so they can easily recognize their belongings. While we strive to minimize lost and found, please help your child take responsibility for their personal items. If something is lost, contact us after camp.

Pack comfortable, play-friendly clothing that can get wet or dirty. The suggested packing list below can be adjusted to fit your child's needs.

Bedding

- Sleeping Bag
- Pillow
- Sheets & Blanket (optional)

Personal Hygiene Items

- Small shower bag (optional)
- Towels (2)
- Soap, Shampoo, Comb/Brush
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Waterproof Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Chapstick/Lip Balm
- Feminine Products (if applicable)

Shoes

- Tennis shoes
- Sandals with back strap or extra shoes that can get wet for creek walking
- Hiking Boots (optional)

Clothing

- Shirts (one per day)
- Long Sleeve Shirts (2-3)
- Shorts (2-3)
- Long Pants (2-3)
- Sweatshirts (2-3)
- Underwear (one per day minimum)
- Socks (one per day)
- Pajamas (2-3)
- Rain jacket/Poncho
- Hat for cool evenings/sun
- Swimsuit
- Goggles (optional)

Other

- Daypack or Backpack (for overnight hike)
- Flashlight
- Water Bottle
- Disposable Camera (optional)
- Books, magazines (optional)
- Stationary, stamps, pen (optional)

Family Camp and Short Sessions

- Adjust list to accommodate needs for 3 days.

Do Not Bring:

- Electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, hand held games, Apple Watches, DVD players, etc. (Anything with a screen)
- Money or valuables.
- Toys or personal sports equipment (bats, lacrosse sticks, etc.)
- Flip flops or shoes without a back strap
- Food/Candy/gum (We will store food items for campers with special dietary needs.)
- Weapons or explosives such as knives, fireworks, lighters, etc.
- Tobacco/Drugs/Vapes/Alcohol
- Animals or pets

If a child is found to have any of these items, they will be confiscated by staff and returned to an authorized adult at Check-Out.

Weapons or look-alike weapons of any kind will not be tolerated, will be confiscated, and may result in suspension or expulsion from camp.



Daily Schedule

Polar Bears

3...2...1...Jump!

Wake up early to take a dip in the lake.

This activity is optional, but so much fun!

Skill Groups

Each day campers select two staff-led activities to participate in. Typical skill group selections are swimming, archery, music, wilderness skills, volleyball, campfire cooking, and hiking.

Sample Schedule*

7:30	Wake Up & Polar Bears
8:15	Morning Announcements
8:30	Breakfast
9:30	Values
10:00	Skill Group 1
11:15	Skill Group 2
12:30	Lunch
1:30	Rest Period (FOB or HOBC)
2:30	Cabin Group Time
4:00	Free Choice Time
5:00	Return to Units
6:15	Evening Announcements
6:30	Dinner
7:15	Twilight Games
8:30	Campfire
9:45	Lights Out

Values

We teach the YMCA's core values:

Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility and how to use those values in everyday life.

Choice Time

All of camp comes together for free choice time! This is a common time for siblings and friends in other units to come together, relax on the grassy hill, and make friendship bracelets. Some program areas are also open at this time, along with the Camp Store.

Twilight Game

Capture the Flag! Alien Hunt! Flight from Mordor! Get ready for costumes, face paint and throwing your counselor in the lake. Twilight games bring the whole camp together for loads of fun.

Campfire

Lights! Camera! Action! Sign up to sing a song, lead a skit, or tell us an imaginative story of daring adventure!

Lights Out

Time for bed! Counselors use various techniques such as singing, reading a story, or daily reflections where campers share their favorite thing about the day, something that challenged them, and what they are looking forward to.

**Individual schedules vary by week and are subject to change.*

Camp Store

We have merchandise and treats available for purchase at our camp store. Campers are able to visit the store once a day and the store is open during check-in and check-out. For families who want to access the store during Check-In, drop off your campers in their cabins first. You may then do the following:

1. Add funds to a child's store account for the child to spend during the week. Any leftover credit is donated to camp scholarships. Money deposited into the store and not used is nonrefundable. All proceeds from our store go toward our camp scholarship fund ("Camperships").
2. Purchase items for your camper to receive during the week as mail. Securely label items (we have masking tape and Sharpies you can use) then put them in the camp mailboxes.

Note that during the week, the campers are not able to use cash or cards to make purchases from the camp store.



Buddy Requests (Cabin Mate Requests)

Many campers attending camp feel more comfortable attending with a friend. If two campers are within one year of each other's age, please submit a request in writing at registration. Typically, the older camper will be placed with the younger camper. We can only honor one cabin mate request per camper, and campers must request each other. While we cannot guarantee each request, we make our best effort to make sure cabin mate requests are met. Note that cabins sleep a maximum of six campers.

Mail

Receiving mail at camp is a fun way to stay connected during the week. Each day, we have a scheduled mail call where campers receive letters and packages. You are welcome to bring any packages during Check-In and leave them at the Administration Building in the indicated bins. Please label which day you'd like your camper to receive their mail. Note that there is no mail on Thursdays as campers will be on overnights. If you choose to mail packages or letters directly to camp, it often tends to take 4-5 days to reach us, so please plan accordingly. Do not send any food items including candy and gum. If these are sent, they will be held for your camper until Check Out.

CAMP ADDRESS:

Camper's Name
YMCA Camp Silver Creek
19984 Silver Falls Highway SE
Sublimity, OR 97385

Communicating with Camp

Please be assured that “no news is good news” while your child is at camp. We will contact you if we have concerns or questions about health issues, behavior issues, or homesickness. If you do need to reach us, please contact the Camp Office at 971-209-3224 and a message will be relayed to the Camp Director. We will return your call or email as promptly as possible.



Electronics at Camp

At camp, we prioritize our campers being exposed to the outdoor environment and having an opportunity to disconnect from electronics. Campers are not permitted to have their electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, smart watches, etc.) at camp. If your child brings any electronics, they will be confiscated and kept safe by the camper's Unit Leader, and returned to their parent or guardian at Check-Out.

This policy does not apply to campers that require electronic devices for medical purposes. If your camper requires a device for these reasons, please email us prior to your camp session.

Daily Life at Camp

Your camper will be with a counselor and a cabin group of 6-7 campers of similar age. We have four units in camp with 6 camper cabins in each unit.

Campers are under the supervision of their cabin counselor or another counselor running an activity. Our staff to camper ratios is always at least 1:10.

When campers need to use the restroom or travel away from the group, they go in groups of 2 for safety.

Bear Creek
Ages 7-9

Hillside
Ages 9-10

Trickle Falls
Ages 10-12

Hemlock
Teen Camp

Meals at Camp

Campers eat in our dining hall with their counselor and cabin group. Meals are served buffet style with a main dish and several side dishes.

We strive to offer balanced, healthy choices with kid-friendly favorites. Campers are encouraged to try new foods but are not required to do so.

If your child is vegetarian, vegan or has other dietary needs, please indicate this at registration and on the health form. Once a selection of standard or vegetarian meal plan has been made, it will be their diet for the entire week. This helps us manage our meal portions.



We are a **nut-free** camp. Please refrain from sending care packages, snacks or meal supplements that may contain nuts.

If your child has extensive dietary needs, please contact the Camp Director prior to camp so accommodations can be made for a separate meal plan.

Lost & Found

At the end of each session, our staff hosts a Lost and Found time with all campers. During this time, we show campers all items that were found throughout the week. At Check-Out, we have the Lost and Found bin available for families to look through. Due to the volume of items, nothing is guaranteed to be kept for more than two weeks. Contact will only be made for found and labeled items if time permits. The YMCA and Camp Silver Creek are not responsible for your child's lost items. To prevent lost items, be sure to label each of your camper's items.

Homesickness

It is not uncommon for campers, even experienced campers, to experience some degree of homesickness while at camp. Many families find it helpful to discuss prior to arriving at camp what homesickness feels like and why it happens so campers can be prepared. Our staff are trained to identify and support campers who are feeling homesick. With mild homesickness that crops up from time to time and doesn't impair a child's ability to enjoy camp activities, staff encourage campers to look forward to the next activity, talk about positive things, and shift their focus.

When homesickness becomes more severe and impacts a child's ability to enjoy camp, parents are contacted for consultation and a plan is set in place to help the child succeed at camp. We do not offer campers the choice to call home as this is not typically effective in helping with homesickness. In the unlikely case that a child isn't able to stay at camp due to homesickness, the parent and the Camp Director will make that decision before communicating that to the child. In our experience, most children can and do move through a bout of homesickness and successfully finish the week of camp.

If you are particularly concerned that homesickness may be an issue for your child, please let the Camp Director know prior to arrival so we can plan to support your child in the best way possible.



Preparing your Child for Success at Camp

Nurture self-confidence and autonomy in your camper by allowing them to experience a new adventure and be themselves.

- Discuss the setting, schedule, and activities they'll get to participate in.
- Assist your child but don't pack for them. Campers need to manage their own belongings.
- Help them practice self-care, including brushing their teeth and hair, putting dirty clothes into their laundry bag, and washing their hands frequently.
- Practice applying bug spray, antiperspirant (unscented), and sunscreen at home.
- Practice putting long hair in a braid or ponytail to help prevent lice.
- Teen girls may start their period unexpectedly. Pack accordingly and encourage them to talk to their counselor or camp nurse.
- Normalize feelings. Some homesickness and anxiety are part of any new adventure.
- Encourage your child to bring a comfort item such as a stuffed animal, book, or photo.
- Provide your child with materials to send letters home. Let them know that you are excited to hear about their experiences.
- Don't tell your child they can call home or that you will pick them up early.
- If homesickness becomes severe enough to impact a camper's ability to enjoy camp, we will contact parents/guardians and make a plan to help the camper succeed at camp. We do not offer campers the choice to call home. If a child is not able to stay at camp due to homesickness, the parent/guardian and the Camp Director will make the decision together before communicating with the camper.



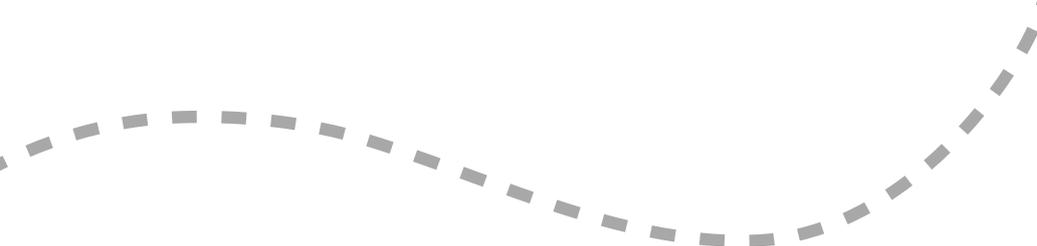
Water Safety & Swim Test

Our lake is staffed by certified lifeguards on deck and dock during all sessions. Our staff are in the water and swimming with campers or spotting on the deck.

Each week, campers must demonstrate adequate swimming skills in order to swim in the lake. Campers that do not pass the swim test will be required to wear a life jacket, and may not be permitted in all areas of the lake. Please keep in mind that “adequate swimming skills” include being able to sustain good swimming strength for up to an hour of activity.

If you have questions regarding the swim test, please contact us.





Health & Safety at Camp

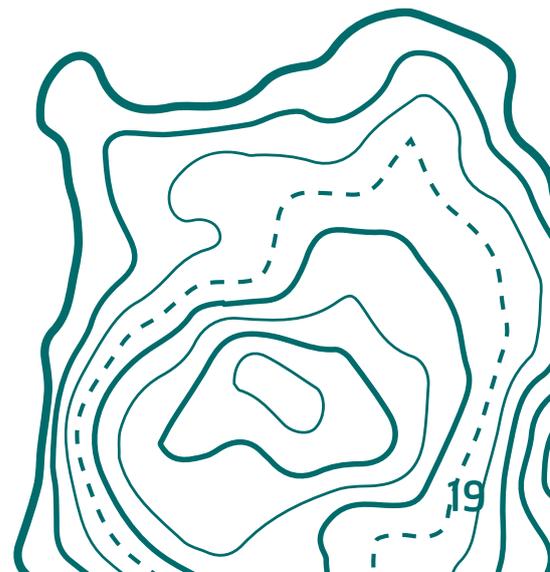
Health Forms

Please be as detailed as possible while completing the form. The information provided does not prevent your child from attending camp, it simply allows our health staff to make informed decisions regarding your child's care.

Medications

Upon arrival at camp, our staff will review your child's health form and ask if you have any additional information to provide. Medications your child needs will be turned over to our staff at this point and dispensed as directed. This includes all prescription and non-prescription medications such as vitamins and creams. **Please note, all medications are required to be in their original container with directions on the label.** We recommend you send only enough medication needed for the duration of your child's stay, plus one dosage. Children who carry an epi-pen or an inhaler should bring 2, one for the health staff and one to carry themselves. ***Campers may not have any medications except for Epi-Pens or Inhalers outside of the health center. This includes over the counter medications, such as melatonin or pain killers, which must be turned into the nurse at Check-In.***

Some families consider taking a “medication vacation” while at camp. We strongly encourage campers to remain on their regularly scheduled medications while at camp. While at camp, a child's routine is different than at home and continuing on medications allows children to have the most successful experience.



Health & Safety at Camp

Minor injuries while at camp will be treated as needed including but not limited to: washing, applying band aids or ice packs.

You will be notified if your child:

- Has temperature of 100 degrees or above
- Has 2 instances of vomiting or diarrhea
- Has irregular discharge from nose and/or eyes or any type of eye infection
- Has chicken pox, scabies, or other contagious disease
- Has what appears to be head lice
- Has an allergic reaction
- Receives an injury more than a minor scrape, bug bite, or cut

If any of these occur, we will make a determination about your child returning home or remaining in camp. In the event of a major injury or illness, the Camp Director and health staff will assess the situation. If necessary, staff will seek appropriate medical attention and contact parents. This could include calling an ambulance to transport the child to Stayton Hospital or taking the child to Stayton Urgent care or our off-site camp physician.



Please Note: The Family YMCA of Marion & Polk Counties does not provide medical or hospital insurance for medical costs incurred by the individual or immediate family as a participant of the YMCA and any of its activities. All cost incurred for such treatment will be the responsibility of the individual family.

We are committed to the safety protocols and standards set by the Oregon Health Authority, the Early Learning Division, the American Camp Association, and the CDC. The YMCA trains all staff to meet these requirements and best practices.

Special Needs and Assistance

We can accommodate most children at our programs with adequate notice and information. If your child receives any individual assistance at school, has a behavior chart or plan, is on an IEP, or has any mental or physical limitations, and can function with a 1:10 staff to camper ratio, it is very important to know about and plan ahead for this. In order for us to provide a good experience for your child, we ask that you consult with us about any special needs in advance.

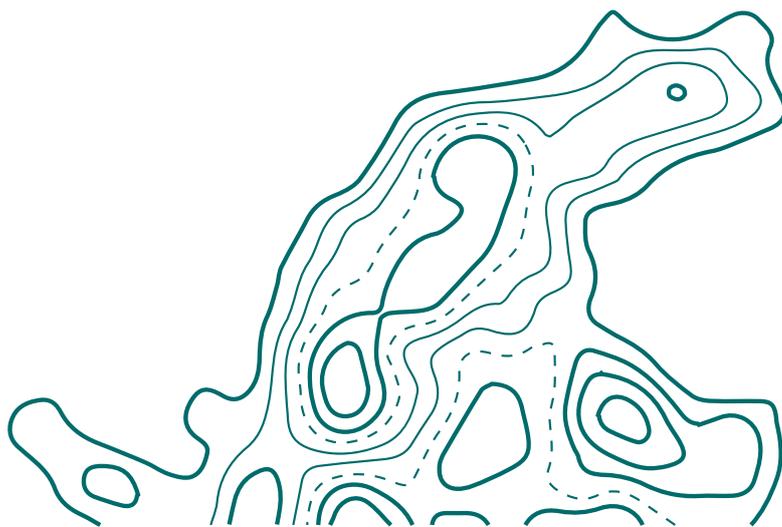
The information will only be shared as necessary with staff who are working directly with your child. Please provide details in writing in advance regarding the specific needs of your child, including examples of successful techniques that have worked in similar settings in the past (i.e. at school, child care, etc.). Parents/guardians may be requested to participate in a collaborative planning meeting to prepare for or follow up on plans or potential concerns. We understand each child is unique, and we trust in your expertise as parents/guardians to guide us in preparing your child for a rewarding experience.

Please review the Camp Structure, as well as the Rules and Discipline policy with your child prior to attending program. While all of these will be covered at program, it is helpful for many children to be aware of them ahead of time.

Concussion Awareness

A concussion is a brain injury caused by a bump or blow to the head. Sports and other physical activities that youth commonly participate in can result in falls, bumps and other accidents. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks afterward.

Y Staff are trained in concussion prevention and the symptoms to watch for. Parents also need to be aware and informed about the seriousness of concussions. Further information is available on the [CDC website](#) or contact our office for a print out of this information.



Camper Code of Conduct

At YMCA Camp Silver Creek we are committed to serving all campers, and creating a safe environment where campers have positive experiences. In order to ensure this, all campers are expected to follow our Camper Code of Conduct.



As a camper, I will:

- Respect all other campers and treat them as I would like to be treated.
- Show respect to camp staff and cooperate with their instructions.
- Communicate in an appropriate manner, not using foul language, hate speech, or gestures, harsh words or tone of voice.
- Responsibly conduct my behavior and refrain from unwelcome teasing, bullying or other unkind behaviors.
- Follow the C.H.o.R.R. values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility.
- Refrain from causing bodily harm to others. This includes pushing, kicking, hitting or fighting as this will not be tolerated at camp.
- Be respectful of camp property and the property of others.
- Leave my cellphone and other electronic communication devices at home.
- Not bring any tobacco products, alcohol, non-prescribed drugs or weapons to camp.
- Take full responsibility for my actions and understand that irresponsible behavior will result in disciplinary action.



The staff will work with individual campers to modify inappropriate behaviors and will notify parents as necessary. The Camp Director may choose to dismiss a camper if inappropriate behavior does not improve.

All campers must agree to follow the Camper Code of Conduct. Failure to abide by the code of conduct may result in disciplinary action, up to or including suspension or dismissal from camping programs. Campers dismissed due to conduct are not eligible for refunds.

Bullying:

We have a zero-tolerance policy for bullying. We define bullying as physical (hitting, tripping), verbal (name-calling, belittling, humiliating), and social (exclusion, coercion). We recognize that conflict between children can occur, and we work to provide children opportunities where they can be socially successful. We train our staff to recognize bullying behavior which is not necessarily a single event but can escalate into multiple events. Camp will not tolerate these behaviors. Campers who bully will be dismissed from camp and camp fees will not be refunded.



Parent / Guardian Behavior

We reserve the right to dismiss any family from our program if they at any point threaten the safety of our campers and/or staff. This also applies if the parent/guardian shows inappropriate, aggressive, or offensive behavior toward campers and/or staff, or refuses to follow our policies and procedures. We take the safety and well-being of our campers and staff very seriously. Any reports of misconduct or concerns raised by parents, staff, or campers will be thoroughly investigated. However, we also want to emphasize the importance of accuracy and truthfulness in these reports. Knowingly making false allegation can have serious consequences, including potential legal action and termination of services. We encourage all parents/guardians to communicate openly, honestly, and proactively with us; and we ask that you do so responsibly. We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment and appreciate your cooperation in this endeavor.

Program Rules & Discipline Policy

These are the program rules expected for all staff and participants at all program locations. Staff will review rules regularly with campers. Parents/guardians can assist by familiarizing children with the rules in advance of attendance.



Safety First

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Campers and staff show care by prioritizing safety and honesty by reporting concerns right away.

- Stay with the group. Children are never left unattended. Adults supervise all trips away from the group.
- Buddy system. Kids are assigned buddies or groups of three to promote responsibility and accountability.
- Dress appropriately. Proper shoes and clothing are required at all times.
- Use equipment safely. Always handle supplies and equipment with care and as intended.



Listen

Listening carefully and following instructions shows caring, respect, and responsibility for a positive camp experience.

- Listen to adults. They share important information and instructions.
- No interruptions. Respect others by waiting your turn to speak.
- Stay focused. Look at the speaker or use strategies to stay attentive.
- Take turns. Practice cooperation by listening and speaking in turn.



Respect

By showing consideration for other's physical and emotional well-being, participants and staff uphold their responsibility for creating a caring, positive and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

- Keep hands and feet to self.
- Treat others kindly; say nice things or say nothing.
- Help others stay safe.
- Use indoor voices inside buildings and vehicles.
- Take care of the facility and our Earth.

Discipline Policy

We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all. Disruptive behavior—verbal or physical—includes actions requiring excessive staff attention or ignoring rules. To address behavior, staff use preventative measures, redirection, stop-and-think times, verbal intervention, and logical consequences. Staff are trained in neurodiversity-affirming and group management practices and apply rules consistently.

Families will be notified of concerns, and a three-strike approach will be followed.

Warning

- Camper is briefly taken aside and told what the inappropriate or disruptive behavior is.
- The camper is reminded of what the expected behavior is.

Take a Break

- If the behavior continues or another issue arises, the camper will be removed from the activity.
- The camper will be informed what the inappropriate/disruptive behavior is.
- We will have the camper take a break nearby and remind them of the expectations to rejoin.

You're Out

- If attempts to remedy the situation are unsuccessful, the child will be removed from the activity to discuss their behavior.
- Depending on the amount of time left in the activity and the nature of the behavior, the camper may return to the activity, rejoin the group later, or be sent home.

For serious incidents (e.g., physical harm or intent to harm), the child will be immediately removed from the activity to meet with an Assistant Director or Camp Director. In some cases, a parent/guardian may be called to pick up the child immediately.

Campers with repeated behaviors posing a safety risk may be sent home for the remainder of the session, or entire season.

Dismissal

Our camp staff have been trained on how to provide clear expectations for campers, guide campers to make positive choices, and be consistent while working with campers. If a child is unable to follow camp rules or participates in escalating bullying behavior, they will work with their counselor, unit director, and then, the Camp Director in order to solve the situation that is occurring. We will make every effort to meet the needs of the campers and seek a solution for a positive camp experience. Parents will be notified if a camper is not successfully following rules at camp. If a child's behavior materially or substantially violates the rights of others, is substantially disruptive, endangers self, other children or staff, or damages property, that may result in dismissal from camp.

We have a responsibility to ensure the safety of all campers and staff. The program reserves the right to terminate participation immediately should there be a severe act of aggression towards participants, staff or property and/or repeated offenses.

If Leadership Staff determine that a camper's behavior poses a substantial threat to the emotional, physical, or mental well-being of others at camp, the camper's parent or guardian will be called to immediately retrieve their child. In the case of a camper's dismissal for behavioral reasons, camp fees will not be refunded.

Removal From Program

The YMCA reserves the right to remove any child from program if Leadership Staff conclude that it is not a good fit. We want every child to be successful in our programs, and also recognize that we are not the best fit for every child.



Weather Considerations

Camp continues rain or shine. When possible and if lightening is not present, some outdoor activities may continue during rain or mist. Send appropriate clothing!

As necessary, activities will move indoors and at times, alternate activities will be conducted. It is typically not possible to reschedule or make up activities missed due to bad weather and refunds or credits are not given. This could include rain, extreme cold temperatures, or an increased AQI during burn season.

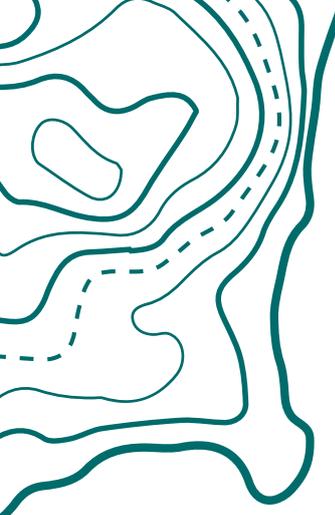
In the event of significant heat, our staff will use heat-reducing measures such as increased water activities, fans, increased cooling foods and drinks, and longer rest periods.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

In the event of an emergency, the Program will evacuate all participants and staff to a safe location. As soon as all participants are evacuated and it is safe to do so, parents/guardians will be contacted with more information.

If a determination is made that due to emergent conditions, camp needs to be closed, parents will all be contacted by phone and email, and given a window during which period to pick up their campers.





**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TRUSTING US
WITH YOUR CHILD THIS SUMMER.**

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO GIVE THEM AN AMAZING
EXPERIENCE!**



