

ST. CLOUD AREA FAMILY YMCA

YMCA Summer Adventure Camp

2022 Parent Packet

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Frequently Asked Questions

CAMP PREPERATION

What should my camper bring to camp?

Campers should pack a backpack or easy to carry bag with the following items:

Mask

Weather-appropriate clothing (hats are encouraged)

Sweater/ sweatshirt

A nutritious peanut/tree nut-free sack lunch. No sharing food. **Campers do NOT have access to facilities to reheat or refrigerate food. Campers do not have access to utensils to eat food.** The YMCA provides morning and afternoon snacks daily. Campers may bring an additional healthy snack with them, but they must eat it at the same time as regular snack times.

Parents/Guardians may email (See Lunch Information on Page 8.)

Spray waterproof sunscreen or sun block and bug spray. YMCA staff will remind campers to apply sunscreen on a scheduled basis.

A water bottle.

Swimsuit and towel (On swim days)

Life Jacket (if needed)

Book

Blanket (optional for reading/rest time – may be used outdoors)

Athletic shoes (no open toed/ open backed/ heeled shoes or boots allowed.)

Crocs can be worn for some but not all activities and are not recommended.

LABEL ALL items with camper's full name.

Should I pack a water bottle for my child?

Yes! All campers are required to have a water bottle while at camp to stay hydrated and be safe. We are outside of the building much of the day and the water fountains are always not accessible to us. Campers who come to camp without their water bottle will be given a disposable water bottle and a \$1.00 charge will be added to the account.

What can't my campers bring to camp?

Cell Phone/ Smart devices	Weapons (real or fake)
Money	Alcohol and Drugs
Toys and card games (Pokémon/Magic Cards, Stuffed Animals, plastic animals, etc.)	Personal sports equipment.
Expensive jewelry/ watches/ smart watches	Animals

What should my camper have for swimming time?

Campers must come with a towel & a swimsuit that has appropriate coverage, speedos and revealing suits will not be allowed, to be able to participate in swim time. They may also bring a swim cap, shower supplies, nose plugs, and earplugs. Please leave swim toys at home. We strongly encourage those who have their own lifejacket to bring it in (& have it labelled with first and last name), but we will have some available for those who cannot.

Should I have a lock for my campers' swim items?

Campers do not need a lock for swimming time but may bring one. Otherwise, if you would like to leave items overnight, you can rent a locker for the year. Please see the front desk for more information.

What should my campers wear to camp?

Children should wear clothing suitable for an active day at camp. Please be aware of the expected weather conditions for each day and have your camper dress appropriately. Appropriate items would include shorts/comfortable pants, t-shirts/long sleeve shirts, and athletic shoes (no sandals). Please label all items sent to camp with the child's first and last name. Our camp uses discovery and play as a major part of our camp program; thus, we encourage you to dress your child in clothing that you do not mind getting dirty or stained with art materials while your child is engaging in a fun activity.

Camp will have dress-up days throughout the summer coordinating with the weekly theme. A list of these days will be provided in the camp newsletter. Attire must still follow camp guidelines and masks covering the eyes and play-weapons are not allowed. Costume-specific shoes can be worn, but campers must bring an appropriate pair of shoes as well.

What shouldn't my child wear?

Baggy pants, short shorts, crop tops, see-through clothing, sandals, heeled shoes, and flipflops are not permitted. If your camper is wearing a skirt, please make sure there are shorts built in or underneath.

COMMUNICATION

What information will I get before camp?

Besides the parent handbook, parents may reach out to the Camp Coordinator for any questions or concerns prior to camp. Parents will also sign up for a parent meeting at the time of registration to get more detailed information on camp.

How can I receive the most up-to-date information about summer camp?

We will provide email updates about the Summer Adventure Camp program and special events through our weekly Parent Newsletter. We will send out the camp newsletter via email once a week during the summer (see more in our communication section on page 7 of our handbook.) The email provided during CampSpace [PlayerSpace] registration will be the email used for our newsletter; please be sure that this account is regularly checked.

Continue to check your email for communication around summer camp and follow us on Facebook as we will post updates as they develop. Please also always feel comfortable reaching out to contact us.

What is the best way to contact my campers' staff?

The best way to get information to your campers' Lead or staff is to email Jenna, our Camp Coordinator, or give a written note to the Camp Desk Staff.

What is the parent meeting?

We will host parent information meetings the week of May 16th – May 20th. You must register for one of these at the same time you register your camper for camp. At this meeting, a variety of important topics will be covered along with the handling of Camp field trip shirts. You will also get the opportunity to meet some of the staff who will take care of your camper!

REGISTRATION & PAYMENTS

Where do I find specific Summer Camp information, including dates and pricing?

Visit our camp page on scymca.org/summer-day-camp/ and scroll to find the second section.

How do I register for YMCA Summer Adventure Camp?

To register for camp, you must initially register at the YMCA's front desk.

What do I need for registration?

You will need parents/guardians contact information, 2 emergency contacts contact information (cannot be the prior listed parents/guardians), down deposit payments for each week & child.

What paperwork do I need to complete by the first day of camp?

Each family will receive an email from PlayerSpace [CampSpace] within 24-48 hours after registering for Summer Adventure Camp. All the necessary paperwork required to be completed by the first day will be on this site.

Are spaces in Summer Adventure Camp at the Y limited? Do you have a waiting list?

In order to best serve our campers, we have a set number of spaces available for Summer Camp. If the specific week of camp you are registering for is full, we will add you to the waiting list. You will be notified if a space becomes available.

How do I reserve a spot in camp?

Reserving a spot requires a deposit per week, per camper. Standard deposit fees are \$30/week for camp. Deposit fees apply toward the total of weekly camp fee.

How do camp deposits work?

A \$30 deposit, per child, can be paid for each week that you would like your child(ren) to attend camp at the time of registration. Paying a deposit is the only way to guarantee that your child(ren) will have a reserved spot for camp.

Please keep in mind, camps do fill up each summer!

If the remainder of the balance is not paid by the due date (the Friday prior to the camp week), it will result in the forfeiture of the deposit and camp spot. For example, payment for the first week of camp beginning June 6th is due the Friday before, June 3rd.

Deposits are non-refundable.

How can I make payments for camp?

All families will be set up in an auto-pay program for the summer. Draws will happen on the Friday before each week of camp that you are registered for. Anyone who prefers to prepay for camp (and thereby opt out of the auto-pay program) will have to pay in full at the time of registration.

Is there a special rate for members?

Yes. All camp programs have a lower registration fee if you have an active family or youth membership. The child being registered must be the member in order to receive the member rate.

Is financial assistance available?

Yes, Financial Assistance is available to those who qualify. Financial assistance applications are available at the Y or at www.scymca.org/scholarships/

When are my payments due?

The remaining balances following deposits made are due by Friday of every week prior to the week of attendance. Payments made after Friday will be adjusted to include a \$10 late payment fee. If you do not make your payment by the start of the camp week, you will be unenrolled and lose your spot for that week. Payments can be made by check, money order, or automatic bank draft. We DO NOT accept cash at the campsite. Automatic payments will be scheduled weekly from credit card or bank accounts for regularly attending families. Automatic payment is the most effective way to never have a late fee again! Cancellations must be 14 days prior to the beginning of camp.

How do you decide what groups the kids will be in?

We group kids together based on age. We have four age groups (5-6, 7-8, 9-10, & 11-13.) If your camper ages up in the summer, they will be in the age group that age up into.

Ex. If my camper is six, but turns 7 on July 20th, then they will be put in the 7-8 age group for the whole summer.

CANCELLATIONS

What happens if I need to cancel my camp registration?

All camp week cancellations and/or refund requests must be done through email or phone call. Please email jenna.kingsley@scymca.org or call 320-253-2664. Refunds/credits will be issued as follows:

- A full refund (less the non-refundable amount) will be issued if a written cancellation is received at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the camp week.
- Cancellations less than two weeks in advance will be charged a 25% processing charge in addition to the non-refundable \$30.
- Cancellations less than one week in advance will be charged a 50% processing charge in addition to the non-refundable \$30.
- Cancellations less than three days in advance will not be refunded.

SAFETY AT CAMP

What is the Y doing to keep my child safe at camp?

At the Y, our priority is always on the health and safety of your child. In addition to the many steps, we take every day to protect the health of our guests, campers, and staff, we will work closely with our YMCA Risk Management team to incorporate recommendations from local, state, and national agencies and follow guidance from the American Camp Association and the CDC for a healthy camp community for all.

Will my child need to wear a cloth face covering at camp?

At this time, all campers and staff are required to wear a properly fitting mask/cloth face covering during camp. If your child cannot wear a mask due to a disability or other special need, please contact Jenna, our Camp Coordinator to discuss accommodations for participating in camp.

What are your staff to child ratios?

Our ratios of children to staff will never exceed 1:15. We will regularly be in smaller ratios.

Are your staff trained and background checked?

Yes! We do several hours of training with both new and returning staff each summer. All our staff are background checked each year.

What if the weather is bad?

We will still go outside on cold, lightly rainy, or hot days. On days with heavy rain or storms that are expected to last all day or extreme heat, camp will be moved into the YMCA building. See our weather policies on page 13 of our handbook.

PROGRAMMING

What does a typical day of camp look like?

Camp schedules will vary per group and day to day. Daily activities will include park time, arts & crafts, gym games, reading time, and STEM projects. Occasionally we will watch movies or educational videos, have visiting speakers, outdoor water activities, and other exciting extra activities. If you would like specific information about your campers' schedule for any certain day please email Jenna, our Camp Coordinator

What day are field trips?

Each week each age group will attend two trips per week. 5-8 will attend trips on Tuesdays, 9-13 will attend trips on Wednesdays, and all camp trips will be on Thursday's. Camp will not be going on field trips on either the first week or the last week of camp. For the week of the 4th of July, there will only be an all-camp trip on Wednesday, July 6th.

Is there an extra charge for trips?

Yes. There is an extra separate charge for field trips, prices vary per trip. This fee will be included in the auto-withdrawal that comes out the Friday prior to the start of the camp week.

Does my child have to attend the field trip?

If you are registered for that day of camp, you camper must attend the field trip. Campers are not allowed to stay back with other age groups.

DROPOFF/PICKUP

Where is Drop-Off and Pick-Up located?

Drop-off and Pick-up will be at the Y's East Doors – closest to Whitney Senior Center (the right end of the building if you are looking at the front door) from 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

What if I am dropping off late or picking up early?

If you are dropping off or picking up outside of Camp Desk hours you will need to go to the front desk and inform them, you are there for Summer Camp drop-off or pick-up. You must wait at the front desk for Camp staff to bring your camper to their group/to you.

Can my camper just walk home?

No. No campers will be allowed to leave the site without being checked out by an authorized parent/guardian who shows their photo ID.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Can my camper use the vending machines?

No. The vending machine is strictly prohibited during camp hours. Please be aware that this will be strictly enforced by camp staff during camp hours for all campers.

What are my options for lunch?

***Whitney Lunch Program has yet to be confirmed for 2022 summer. Finalization (and any changes) of this program will be sent out in our camp newsletter. ***

Campers may choose to either bring their own lunch from home or participate in our FREE lunch program provided by Catholic Charities through the Whitney Senior Center. If your camper forgets their lunch, they will be provided with a lunch from our Lunch Program. For more details, please see page 8 of our Parent Handbook.

What can't my camper bring for lunch?

- Peanut/tree nut items.
- Home baked goods.
- Candy of any kind.
- Soda of any kind.
- Items without an allergen label listed.
 - If you wish you may email the allergen labels for your camper's food to the Camp Coordinator. Please have the food label emailed at least 12 hours in advance to be sure that your camper will be allowed to eat that item.
 - All food labels will last only for the week. Labels will need to be re-sent at the beginning of each week.

Can my camper refrigerate and heat their food at Camp?

No. As we regularly eat away from the building at parks and such, campers will NOT have access to facilities to reheat or refrigerate food; nor will they have access to utensils to eat food.

Can my camper share their items with other campers?

The sharing of food at camp is not allowed at any time, even between siblings. Similarly, we do not allow campers to share other items such as brushes, clothing, and blankets to prevent the spread of germs.

Lost and Found

We know that sometimes things get lost. [Please label all your child's belongings with their first and last name.](#) The best way to prevent the loss of property is to leave it at home! There will be a designated Lost and Found location. Please check for your child's items. **Lost and found items are kept at the Camp Desk for one full week and then donated to charity on Friday.** The YMCA is not responsible for camper possessions that are lost or stolen.

Can you provide contact information of another camper?

We regularly see campers make friends and want to set up play dates or give birthday invitations to other campers. While we do encourage making friends for a lifetime, we are not able to give out another camper's information without their consent. If you would like another camper's parents/guardians to contact you, you may leave your contact information with the Camp desk staff and they can pass it along to the requested family.