



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# YMCA of Bucks and Hunterdon Counties



# 2024 Summer Camp Family Handbook

Dear Valued Camp Bucks & Camp Hunterdon Families,

Thank you for choosing to attend summer camp at YMCA of Bucks and Hunterdon Counties. We are thrilled and grateful to serve as your summer camp provider of choice. Please know serving your family is not a responsibility we take lightly; we are constantly self-assessing and improving our offerings in order to provide your child with the most positive experience possible.

Many hours are spent during the non-summer months to ensure that all of the themes, games and activities are well thought out and properly developed, so that your child can have the best summer ever! However, beyond the fun and excitement, much time is spent focusing on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The definition of youth development is the social-emotional, cognitive, and physical processes that all youth uniquely experience from birth to career. A successful development process fulfills children and teens' innate need to be loved, spiritually grounded, educated, competent, and healthy.

In order to make this positive impact on your child; friendship, accomplishment, and belonging are constant themes at camp. No matter which camp you are attending at Camp Bucks and Camp Hunterdon, your child will learn a new skill and make a new friend; all while feeling safe and secure with qualified, Y staff.

We look forward to seeing you this summer...at the Y!

Camp Leadership

# **CAMP HUNTERDON**

## **Camp Contact Information**

### **Camp Hunterdon | Camp Carr**

1 Camp Buck Rd, Annandale, NJ 08801

Camp Office Phone #: 908-735-5951

[campcarr@ymcabhc.org](mailto:campcarr@ymcabhc.org)

Camp Director: Andy Cogen - [acogen@ymcabhc.org](mailto:acogen@ymcabhc.org)

Camp Snack Bar Accounts: <https://hcymca.funfangle.camp/>

### **Camp Hunterdon | Deer Path**

*Hosted at the Deer Path YMCA*

144 West Woodschurch Rd, Flemington, NJ 08822

Camp Office Phone #: 908-782-1030

[flemingtoncamp@ymcabhc.org](mailto:flemingtoncamp@ymcabhc.org)

Camp Director: Jacob Gleason - [jgleason@ymcabhc.org](mailto:jgleason@ymcabhc.org)

Camp Snack Bar Accounts: <https://hcymca.funfangle.camp/>

### **Camp Hunterdon | Echo Hill**

42 Lilac Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822

Camp Office Phone #: 908-483-4932

[echohillcamp@ymcabhc.org](mailto:echohillcamp@ymcabhc.org)

Camp Director: Kristin Heimall - [kheimall@ymcabhc.org](mailto:kheimall@ymcabhc.org)

### **Camp Hunterdon | Lambertville**

*Hosted at South Hunterdon High School*

301 Mt Airy-Harbourton Rd, Lambertville, NJ 08530

Camp Office Phone #: 908-948-0275

[lambertvillecamp@ymcabhc.org](mailto:lambertvillecamp@ymcabhc.org)

Camp Director: Dan D'Albis - [ddalbis@ymcabhc.org](mailto:ddalbis@ymcabhc.org)

# **CAMP BUCKS**

## **Camp Contact Information**

### **Camp Bucks | Doylestown**

2500 Lower State Road, Doylestown,  
PA 18901  
Camp Office Phone #: (215) 348-8132  
ext 1160  
doylestowncamp@ymcabhc.org |  
abilitycamp@ymcabhc.org  
Camp Director: Taylor Jermyn -  
tjermyn@ymcabhc.org  
Ability Camp Director: Kaitlyn Stevens  
- kstevens@ymcabhc.org

### **Camp Bucks | Fairless Hills at Cabrini**

325 S Oxford Valley Rd, Fairless Hills,  
PA 19030  
Camp Office Phone #: 267-899-0770  
Y Office: 267-589-1830 x4008  
lowerbuckscamp@ymcabhc.org  
Camp Director: Alex Gatto

### **Camp Bucks | Fairless Hills Esports and Sports Camps**

601 S Oxford Valley Rd, Fairless Hills,  
PA 19030  
Y Office: 267-589-1830 x4008  
lowerbuckscamp@ymcabhc.org  
Camp Director: Alex Gatto

### **Camp Bucks | Holland**

597 Beverly Rd, Holland, PA 18966  
Camp Office Phone (Jun-Aug):  
267-899-0780  
Y Office: 267-589-1830 x4008  
lowerbuckscamp@ymcabhc.org  
Camp Director: Amanda Bunje-  
abunje@ymcabhc.org

### **Camp Bucks | New Hope-Solebury**

2712 N. Sугan Road New Hope, PA  
18938  
Camp Office Phone #: (215) 862-0222  
nhscamp@ymcabhc.org  
Camp Director: Jule McDonald -  
jmcdonald@ymcabhc.org

### **Camp Bucks | Quakertown**

401 Fairview Ave. Quakertown, PA  
18951  
Camp Office Phone: 215-536-8841 x 0  
quakertowncamp@ymcabhc.org  
Camp Director: Carlie Bearn -  
cbearn@ymcabhc.org  
Sports Camp Director: Kyle Creighton  
- kcreighton@ymcabhc.org

### **Camp Bucks | Warminster @ Warminster Community Park**

300 Veterans Way, Warminster, PA  
18974  
Camp Office Phone #: 267-387-9622  
warminstercamp@ymcabhc.org  
Camp Director: Taylor Jermyn

### **Camp Bucks | Warminster Esports**

624 York Road, Warminster, PA 18974  
Camp Office Phone #: 267-387-9622  
warminstercamp@ymcabhc.org  
Camp Director: Taylor Jermyn

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***How do I stay informed as a parent/guardian?***

The #1 way to stay informed is to sign up for text alerts on our website and confirm your email address when registering for camp! Each week of camp, you will receive a weekly hotsheet and text alert (if you sign up) from your Camp Leadership team that includes updates for the next week, information about upcoming events at camp, and locations for drop off and pick up. As we get closer to camp, we also recommend that you subscribe to your campers camp Facebook page! More to come as we get closer to the start of camp!

### ***How do I sign up for text alerts?***

Parents are encouraged to sign up for text alerts to stay informed of spirit days, inclement weather notifications, and other important camp announcements. To sign up for text alerts, please [complete this google form](#) for each cell phone number you would like to receive text alerts on.

## **SUMMER SAFETY QUESTIONS**

### ***My child is not feeling well, who do I notify?***

*This is a partnership between parents and camp.*

The YMCA is here to provide the best summer ever to all our campers. To do that we need to work together. This is where the parental partnership comes into play. You know your child better than anyone. If you suspect your child is not feeling well, please do not bring them to camp.

If your child will be staying home, please email your respective camp to let them know your child will not be attending.

## **REGISTRATION AND BILLING QUESTIONS:**

### ***Why do my fees need to be processed through an electronic billing method?***

We serve thousands of children, through Early Childhood Education, School Age Child Care, Camp, Programs and Volunteerism. As a leading non-profit who strives for the health and sustainability of all programs and the individuals we serve, an electronic billing method promotes the most efficient, safest registration process. An electronic billing method can include a credit card, debit card or checking account number on file.

### ***How do I apply for Financial Assistance?***

We are pleased to offer assistance to those who need a helping hand.

#### New Applicants

- Please submit a completed Financial Assistance Application along with support documentation.
- Applications can be found at [www.ymcabhc.org/fa](http://www.ymcabhc.org/fa).
- Please allow three weeks for processing. All documents must be submitted before processing begins.
- Register early to secure your spot.

Financial Aid Application due: At least one month prior to the day you would like for your child to begin camp.

#### Current Financial Assistance Families

- Please proceed to our online registration software to begin your registration.
- Register early to secure your spot.

For full information and instructions on financial assistance for camp, please visit the Financial Assistance webpage <[HERE](#)>

For additional questions or information, please contact Catherine Refice, Regional Director of Financial Assistance at [crefice@ymcabhc.org](mailto:crefice@ymcabhc.org).

### ***How do I change or cancel a camp?***

All changes and cancellations must be submitted through this [Changes and Cancellations Google Form](#) 7 days before the billing date. **Change requests submitted through this Google Form are not guaranteed and are subject to the availability at your registered camp location.** Please see the below table for specific dates.

If you need to cancel a camp registration, your deposit is non-refundable. If you need to change a camp, there will be a \$10 change fee charged to your billing method on file per request (multiple changes can be made in one request).

No refunds or credits will be given for any change or cancellation made after being billed without a doctor's note provided to your camp email.

For additional details, please see the camp "Financial Terms and Conditions" page in the Camper Registration packet.

| <b>Camp Week</b>                    | <b>Billing Date</b><br>(7 days prior to camp week) | <b>Changes/Cancellation Request Due Date</b><br>(14 days prior to camp week) |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 6/10-6/14                           | 6/3/2024   | 5/27/2024  |
| 6/17-6/21                           | 6/10/2024  | 6/3/2024   |
| 6/24-6/28                           | 6/17/2024  | 6/10/2024  |
| 7/1-7/5<br><b>no camp on 7/4</b>    | 6/24/2024  | 6/17/2024  |
| 7/8-7/12                            | 7/1/2024   | 6/24/2024  |
| 7/15-7/19                           | 7/8/2024   | 7/1/2024   |
| 7/22-7/26                           | 7/15/2024  | 7/8/2024   |
| 7/29-8/2                            | 7/22/2024  | 7/15/2024  |
| 8/5-8/9                             | 7/29/2024  | 7/22/2024  |
| 8/12-8/16                           | 8/5/2024   | 7/29/2024  |
| 8/19-8/23                           | 8/12/2024  | 8/5/2024   |
| 8/26-8/29<br><b>no camp on 8/30</b> | 8/19/2024  | 8/12/2024  |

***Why can't I change my child's registration after a certain day?***

For the safety of your child and our program, we must maintain a specific staff to camper ratio. To ensure that we stay true to these ratios, we must know the amount of children we will have in each camp by a certain date.

***How do I submit my camper's immunization records? When is it due?***

Your camper's completed Child Health Report and record of immunizations is **due the Wednesday before your camper's first day of camp** in order for your registration to be complete. The immunization records can be dropped off at your camper's home branch or submitted to the camp email where your child is attending.

[Please click here to locate your camp location's email address.](#)

***What does the sibling discount include?***

We are proud to offer a sibling discount for families who register more than one child for camp. The oldest camper will pay full price for all camp registrations, and each sibling will receive 10% off their camp registrations that are held between 9am and 4pm (including full day and half day adventure, sports, and specialty programs).

The sibling discount does not apply to morning or afternoon extended care, field trip registrations, or additional fees including late pick ups, water bottles, or lunches.

The sibling discount may also not be combined with any other discounts including ELRC, financial assistance, or other discounts that may be available.



## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

### **What should my child bring to camp?**

All items sent to camp with your camper should be **clearly labeled** with the camper's **first and last name**. Please check your camp location's hotsheet on a weekly basis for any additional items your camper will need for camp each week.

All campers should arrive to camp with:

- Sunscreen **already applied to the camper's body at home prior to arrival to camp**
- A backpack
- Additional sunscreen (spray preferred)
- A reusable, refillable water bottle; filled with ice and water
- Sneakers (or close-toed shoes) and comfortable clothing. **Please, no flip flops.**
- Lunch - If attending camp from 9AM - 4PM; parents are to provide lunch.
  - ◆ Complimentary Pizza Days (offered Thursday or Friday depending on your camp location) are offered for all 9am-4pm campers.
    - No refunds or credits will be administered for absent campers, for those who do not eat pizza, or other reasons not listed.
    - Please send your camper with two snacks and water on complimentary pizza days. If your camper does not eat pizza, please pack them a lunch as well.
- At least two snacks (*see above regarding lunch*)
- A **labeled** bathing suit and towel - If attending a camp that swims from 9AM - 4PM.
- Please, no toys, trading cards, or stuffed animals at camp.
- Please, no electronics or valuable items at camp (examples include cell phones, tablets, jewelry, etc.) *The Y is not responsible for lost or stolen items.*

### **What is Pizza Day?**

Complimentary Pizza Days (offered Thursday or Friday depending on your camp location) are offered for all 9am-4pm campers.

- No refunds or credits will be administered for absent campers, for those who do not eat pizza, or other reasons not listed.
- Please send your camper with two snacks and water on complimentary pizza days. If your camper does not eat pizza, please pack them a lunch as well.

### **Where do I find items that my child may have lost at camp?**

A lost and found is located at each camp site. Please see your Camp Leadership if you are missing any items. *As a reminder, please make sure to label each item that goes with your camper to camp with your camper's first and last name- this will allow our staff to return missing items in the lost and found.*

*Please note: Items remaining at the end of the week will be displayed at pick up on Friday afternoon. Items left on Friday at the end of late care will be donated to a local shelter.*

### **When will my camper receive their camp shirt and does my child need to wear their camp shirt?**

There will be opportunities to pick up your camper's t-shirt before and throughout the summer.

Each camper will receive one camp shirt, regardless of how many weeks the camper is registered for. On a regular day of camp, wearing the camp shirt is not required, however, there may be special events or field trips at the Y that require wearing of the camp shirt. **If your child is registered for any field trip add-ons during the summer, they will be required to wear their 2024 camper t-shirt on the day of the field trip.**

### **What if my 3-Day camper wants to attend a special event, but is not registered for that day?**

If your 3-day camper wants to attend a special event, but is not registered for that day of camp, you will need to receive director approval. Please reach out to your camp director via email for more information.

## ***Do Counselors in Training (CIT's) or Leaders in Training (LIT's) work at the Y?***

No. Participants in our Counselor in Training and Leaders in Training programs are campers themselves. These teenagers are involved with our camp groups on a daily basis and looking to gain leadership skills, learn responsibility, and perhaps one day work at camp. Please know that CITs and LITs are never put in a position where they are the sole caretaker of your child.

## ***What if my child takes medication during the day?***

If at all possible, families should administer medications while the camper is in their care. Medication can be given just before drop off, at the time of pick up, and just before bedtime if the medication is 3 times a day. When this is not possible, staff will administer medication under the following conditions:

- All medications (prescription, non-prescription, and epi-pens) must be signed in on the camper's first day of each week with the Early Camp Supervisor or Camp Coordinator at the main sign-in station.
- All medications must be followed according to the label. All medications must be logged into the Medical Log located at camp sign-in.
- All prescription medications must be current, in the original pharmacy container, and have the child's name, instructions, and physician's name. The instructions must also be placed in the medication log by the parent or guardian.
- Medication must be signed in and out weekly, listing the exact amount of medication required per day. Please send the medication in its original packaging.
- Medications will be kept in a locked medication box/cabinet.
- The YMCA retains the right to refuse to administer medication if the Director or Assistant Director feels that there is a conflict. The parent/guardian will be notified.
- Non-prescription medications will only be administered by YMCA personnel when provided with a doctor's note.

### ***What if my child has an allergy?***

Please be sure to include any allergy information on your child's registration paperwork. If your child has an allergy that requires an EpiPen, the EpiPen must be signed in weekly on your camper's first day of camp, with a member of the Camp Leadership Team, and kept in your child's bag. If your child's allergy requires Benadryl, the Benadryl must be signed in according to our medication policy (above).

### ***First Aid & Emergencies***

Rest assured, all Y staff are trained in First Aid and CPR.

- A First Aid kit will be accessible for use by trained staff.
- In the case of a minor injury that occurs while in care, Y staff will assess all injuries and provide first aid. When the injury is more serious than day-to-day scrapes and bruises, Y staff will call the parent/guardian and alert them to the injury and to the care the child has received.
- Parents may be asked to pick up the child depending on the nature of the injury and the child's reaction to being injured.
- In the case of a major emergency, 100% of our attention will be with the child. Y staff will assess the scene, and if necessary, immediately call 9-1-1. Y staff will next notify the parent/guardian. In times of medical transport, if the parent/guardian is not available, a Y staff member will ride with the child and wait at the hospital for parent/guardian arrival.
- Y staff will provide the hospital with the child's medical information as completed in the emergency contact form.
- First aid kits and the children's emergency forms accompany the group to all off-site locations.
- Incident reports are completed when first aid is provided. Incident reports are internal documents and cannot be released to families as stands. If you would like a copy of an incident report, please email your Camp Director.

***Does my camper need to be fully potty trained?***

Yes. All campers must be potty trained and out of diapers or pull ups prior to attending camp.

***What happens if it rains or we have severe weather (thunderstorm, excessive heat, etc...)?***

**For PA camp locations:** When the National Weather Service issues an excessive heat warning or when thunder is heard on the campsite, we will relocate campers into one of our indoor locations. These locations will be communicated to all camp parents as quickly as possible. If your child's sign-in/out location changes due to the inclement weather, this will be communicated via email, text alert and on your camp group's Facebook page.

**For NJ camp locations:** During severe weather events, Sports and Enrichment camp will utilize the indoor facilities at Deer Path YMCA. At Camp Carr, various water-based activities will be made available to groups and staff regularly.

***How do field trips work?***

Field trips are a separate registration from Adventure Camp. Your child must be registered for a full day (at least 9AM-4PM) of camp on the same day of the desired trip. **Camp trips require a 50% non-refundable deposit at time of registration and the remainder of the balance will be drafted on the Monday prior to the week of the trip.** No changes or cancellations can be made to trip registrations. Campers who do not attend the trips will still participate in the same fun activities as on non-trip days. Registration will close Wednesday of the week prior to the field trip.

**\*Doylestown campers must be registered for a full day of Adventure Camp (K-7th) or Ability Adventure Camp (K-7th) to attend the field trip that week.**

## **DROP OFF & PICK UP QUESTIONS**

All camps participate in a Curbside Drop Off and Pick Up procedure. This allows the campers to enter care safely and efficiently. For our curbside drop off and pick up procedure we ask our families to remain in their vehicle while a staff member assists their child in and out of care.

### ***When should I drop off my camper?***

Early Care runs from 7:00-8:30 AM.

Full Day and AM Only Camp drop off is from 8:40-9:15 AM.

PM Only Camp drop off is from 12:15-12:45 PM.

### ***When should I pick up my camper?***

AM Only Camp pick up is from 12:00-12:15 PM.

Full Day and PM Only Camp pick up is from 3:30-4:15 PM.

Late Care runs from 4:15-6:00 PM.

### ***Where do I drop off and pick up my camper?***

All sign-in locations will be linked in the Camp Hotsheets, which are sent out every Friday prior to the Monday of camp. The Hotsheets are sent via email and text alert.

### ***What if I am running late and cannot pick up my camper by the time their camp is scheduled to end (including late care)?***

If you are running late and will not be able to pick up your child on time, please let your camp office know as soon as possible. Please know that if you are running late, your child may be signed into another camp group, and we can notify your child so that they do not worry. A late fee of \$1 for every minute past 12:15 PM for AM ONLY Camp, 4:30 PM for FULL DAY Camp, and 6:00 PM for LATE CARE will be assessed.

***What if someone has to pick up my child who is not listed as an authorized pick up person?***

If an individual who is not listed on your authorized pickups list will be picking up your child, please call the camp office. If possible, please contact the office at least an hour before pickup so we can ensure we are able to alert camp staff to the change in a timely manner. Please also let us know if you would like to add an individual to your child's authorized pickups list.

***How do I change or add information, such as telephone numbers and authorized pick up names?***

Any changes or additions to this information can be emailed to your child's camp email. Please write your camper's name in the subject line. Please know that when adding an additional pick-up person from an unrecognized e-mail address, you may receive a phone call to confirm, for security purposes.

***Why do I need to show my photo ID when the Counselor already knows who I am?***

**For Pennsylvania Camps:** For the safety of your child, we require every adult to present their ID to the counselor each day. We understand that your counselor may recognize you after a period of time, but we cannot guarantee that the same counselor will be signing your child out each day. With the large number of campers in our camp programs, we find that it compromises safety to ask our counselors to recognize every adult each day. Therefore, to keep every camper safe, we require consistency from our counselors in asking for IDs from every adult. If your camp counselor is not asking for identification, please alert camp leadership immediately.

**For New Jersey Camps:** For the safety of your child, we require every adult to present their pickup card to camp staff at pickup. You should have received your pickup cards containing a unique identifying number in the mail after registration. If you need replacement or additional pickup cards, please speak with your specific camp.

## **YMCA POLICIES**

### ***Babysitting Policy***

YMCA employees are prohibited from being employed by any client (current or former). Parents are prohibited from soliciting any staff member for the purpose of employment. Parents who employ the YMCA's staff will have their services terminated and any deposits will be forfeited. Staff who become employed by current or former clients of the YMCA will have their employment with the YMCA terminated. Employment refers to any relationship outside of the agency's services which involves an employee of the YMCA to interact with a current or former client of the YMCA. Such relationships include but are not limited to, baby-sitting, house-sitting, mother's helper, nanny services, and carpooling regardless of whether or not those services are voluntary or paid.

### ***Custody Orders:***

Parents are never to ask YMCA staff to submit a statement or serve as witness during a custody order. When an enrolled child is the subject of a court order (ex. - Custody Order, Restraining Order or Protection from Abuse Order), the Y must be provided with a Certified Copy of the most recent order and all amendments thereto. The orders of the court will be strictly followed unless the custodial parent(s) requests a more liberal variation of the order in writing. In the case where both parents are afforded shared/joint custody by order of the court, both parents must sign the request for more liberal interpretation of the order.

In the absence of a court order on file with the Y administration, both parents shall be afforded equal access to their child as stipulated by law. The Y cannot, without a court order, limit the access of one parent by request of the other parent, regardless of the reason. If a situation presents itself, where one parent does not want the other parent to have access to their child, the Y suggests that the parent keep the child with them until a court order is issued.

If conflicting court orders are presented, the most recently dated court order will be followed.



Once presented with a Protection from Abuse Order or a Restraining Order, the Y is obligated to follow the order for the entire period it is in effect. Employees of the Y cannot, at the request of anyone, except the issuing judge, allow a Protection from Abuse Order and/or a Restraining Order to be violated. The Y will report any violations of these orders to the court.

***Positive Behavior Modification Policy Suspension or "Pause" of Services Policy:***

If a Y staff member observes inappropriate behavior, inappropriate development level of the camper, or concerns for the welfare of a camper, the staff will report this information to the Director. The Director will conduct observations of the camper's interactions with other campers and the staff. The Director will notify parents and legal guardians of sensitive topic areas.

If aggressive, disruptive, destructive or disrespectful behavior occurs to a staff member or to another child the following disciplinary action will be taken:

**The Y reserves the right to pause and/or suspend care for any family whose child displays the following:**

- **Harm to self**
- **Harm to other children**
- **Inability to thrive within the standard counselor/camp group ratio**

The Y believes that no parent/guardian should ever be surprised by a request to pause and/or suspend care. When a camper demonstrates harm to self, harm to others, or an inability to thrive within the camp setting; communication to parent/guardian is as follows:

1. Incident One: Counselor will verbally share the incident with parent/guardian
2. Incident Two: Counselor will verbally and in writing share the incident with the parent/guardian

3. Incident Three: Director will request a Parent/Guardian/Counselor meeting; the summary of the conference will be emailed to the parent/guardian within 48-hours.  
***\*If harm to self or others is evident, an immediate pause in services may be part of the behavior modification plan***
4. Further Incidents: Director will request a meeting between Parent/Guardian/Counselor and when age appropriate, the camper will also be included in the meeting. A behavior modification plan will be designed and agreed upon between the family and the Y.  
***\*If harm to self or others is evident, an immediate pause in services may be part of the behavior modification plan***

In some occurrences, care will be paused and/or suspended until additional, outside support such as wraparound is available for the child.

### ***Discipline Policy:***

All families deserve a safe, stable and enjoyable environment while at the YMCA and disruptive individuals can quickly dismantle the cooperative atmosphere of a class/site. This policy has been adopted with the safety of all of the families in YMCA childcare in mind.

- Children will display the Y core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.
- We follow the guideline: "Keep yourself, to yourself."
- Children will not use their hands and/or feet to express themselves; kind words are encouraged.
- Parent collaboration and support is required when behavior modification is needed.

The YMCA expects that each child will be or will learn to be responsible for his or her behavior, will be respectful towards others and will act in a caring and honest manner. From time to time, all children need help and direction in learning, developing, and maintaining appropriate behavior.

If a child exhibits frequent disruptive and/or aggressive behavior, a family conference will be scheduled. Continued disruptive and/or aggressive behavior may result in temporary suspension or permanent dismissal from the program.

## ***Guidelines for Positive Discipline:***

Our #1 goal is to provide a positive, safe and nurturing experience for all. Our camp staff will model the Y core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility to support campers in their understanding of camp guidelines and positive behavior. Y Staff will provide structure and routine to the daily schedule and intervene promptly to provide coaching to promote children's development of respect for others. It is our policy to keep misbehavior in perspective, and identify situations that can be used as learning opportunities. It is also our policy to resolve conflict with non-violent means. Similarly, we must insist that children participating in our programs refrain from threatening and violent behavior towards staff or other children.

Our role as Y staff is to support youth in developing to their fullest potential and to recognize the many facets of youth development. It is important that our discipline policy focus on guidance, redirection and praise rather than punishment or negative reinforcement. We strive to help children learn self-control, while at the same time developing positive self-esteem.

Discipline must be age appropriate and stated in language that children understand. It is important to have support from families in order to build good character in children.

- We set realistic expectations for camper's behavior.
- We provide an environment that will increase the probability campers will succeed.
- We give campers choices and alternatives to turn destructive situations into constructive situations.
- We validate what the campers say and feel; if appropriate.
- We use natural and logical consequences and empower campers to be responsible for their own behavior.
- We teach campers to use problem solving skills and strategies to resolve conflicts.
- We work out behavior plans with the family when needed.

## ***Permanent Withdrawals***

The Y reserves the right to permanently withdraw a camper at any time. Reasons for permanent withdrawal may include, but are not limited to:

nonpayment, habitual insufficient funds, continued disciplinary actions, parental and camper abuse of a staff member, actions or behaviors by the camper that could severely harm themselves or other campers or staff, or any other reason deemed fit by Y leadership staff.

We are looking forward to a wonderful & fun summer with your camper! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your camp email.

**[Please click here to locate your camp location's email address.](#)**