



**FIND YOUR FUN.
FIND YOUR Y.
YMCA Day Camp**

**Summer Day Camp 2026
Parent Handbook**

**Minimum Age: Must have completed Kindergarten
Max Age: Entering 6th Grade**

Our Mission

To put Christian principles through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all

Objectives

- To provide a safe and fun summer camp experience
- Learn and develop social skills through group activities, sports, arts and crafts, games, swimming, and peer interaction
- To improve health and fitness through physical activities and recreation
- To learn to function in a group with emphasis on team building, leadership, group identity, and involvement
- To develop self-confidence and self-worth, which is accomplished by the treatment of campers as individuals and through positive reinforcement

Parents Expectations

- Timely manner of registering your child and payment of all program fees
- Camper Drop-off is no earlier than 8:45am (unless you paid for early drop-off)
- Camper Pick-up is no later than 4:30pm and 4:00pm on Fridays
- Treat our YMCA staff with respect
 - If a counselor comes to you with a behavioral issue/concern of your child, please show them respect.

A camper may be dismissed from the program if a parent does not meet the above responsibilities on a consistent basis.

Communication is key to keeping the program innovative, safe, and fun. Please feel free to talk to a counselor or the camp director if you have any questions or concerns.

- **Download the "Remind App"** and we will give you a code to use to be added into the Day Camp Classroom closer to camp start.
 - This is the way to make announcements to parents and a way for parents to ask questions
 - This is the form of communication we use to announce any type of changes for camp that day or week. Such as, drop changes, pick up changes, field trips, etc.

Drop-off and Pick-up

No child will be released to anyone other than parent, guardian or those named on the child's release form, unless we have written permission from the parent whose signature appears on the child release form. A photo I.D. will be required of any person who is unfamiliar to the staff. Children will not be released from our care to another child.

A child must be signed in and signed out.

- **Custody:** If there are court ordered paperwork for any parties who are not able to have contact with your child enrolled in our YMCA Day Camp, it is required that the legal custodial parent/guardian provide documentation of any custody and/or guardianship agreement prior to the start of the program.

Proper Camp Attire

- It is important that your camper be dressed appropriately for any weather
- **NO Sandals.** We require that each child wears closed-toed shoes
- Tennis shoes and socks
- Swimsuit and towel (Bring everyday)
- Clothes, swimsuits, towels, bags and all other belongings should have the campers names on them
- **SUNSCREEN** – apply prior to camp, staff members are not allowed to apply

sunscreen on campers

Please monitor your child's clothing to ensure it is appropriate for summer camp.

Note: Y Camp Staff are not responsible for lost or stolen money, clothing and/or equipment. A backpack to carry essentials is recommended.

Lunches and Snacks

Thanks to Armstrong School District and The Summer Food Programs, the Y will provide lunch and snack for the campers at no cost. If anything changes, we will notify all parents.

- **The first week of camp, you must pack your own lunch.** The food program will begin the 2nd week.
- If your child wants to pack their own lunch, they are more than welcome to bring their own food. We always do a count of who needs/wants our lunch each day.
- **Always** pack them with a water bottle

Illnesses/Medications

- Please do not send your child to camp if they are not feeling well or are unable to participate fully.
- If the child has a contagious illness/infection, a fever of 100 degrees or higher, is vomiting, or has diarrhea: parents must make arrangements for their child to be picked up immediately to ensure the safety of all campers.
- The child must be symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours to return to camp.
- If a child is found to have head lice at camp, the child will be isolated with supervision and the parent must pick up immediately. All other parents will be notified that lice was found at camp with campers' discretion.
- If your child becomes ill or sustains any injury in our care, all efforts will be made to contact a parent, guardian, or emergency contact. Please keep your contact information up to date in case of emergency.

If it is necessary for your camper to take medication while at camp, please remember to list that medication on the health form and give the sheet to the Camp staff. All medications must be in the original prescription bottle with the appropriate labels attached.

*****Staff will NOT give medications to a child. The child must be able to give it to themselves. We can remind them but aren't authorized to give medications.*****

Allergies

Allergies to foods, chemicals, or other environmental issues (such as nuts, pollen, bee stings, etc.) must be listed in the "Allergies" section of the child's registration, Please include any reactions and treatments.

Emergency Procedures

All emergency procedures including building and facility emergencies, bomb threats, fire emergency, missing person, life-threatening injury, aquatic emergencies, blood borne pathogen control, and hazardous materials control are available in the Emergency Procedures Flip Book.

Safety Procedures

All staff will be required to wear staff shirts and staff IDs. Only staff and campers are permitted in program areas. A federally issued picture ID (driver's license or military ID) must be provided to sign a child out of the YMCA's care.

Weather

Outdoor play is an important part of our daily camp schedule. Parents are asked to dress their children appropriately for the weather conditions.

During periods of extreme heat: the camp staff will scale down the physical camp activities outdoors. Campers will not be outside for long periods of time. Indoor facilities will be utilized more during the extreme heat. This is to prevent any heat related injuries.

- Please try to provide extra drinks when extreme heat is expected. We do have places to refill water bottles as well.
- Drinking water is encouraged at camp.

Lightning/Thunder: At the first sight of lightning or thunder, children will be brought indoors. The pool will be cleared. Activities may resume 30 minutes after the last observed thunder/lightning.

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

To ensure the wellbeing of all children in our care, our staff has a continuing duty under state law to report incidents of possible neglect or abuse, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, to the Department of Children and Families and to cooperate in any investigation of such possible neglect or abuse. All staff members are mandatory reporters and must follow the Pennsylvania statute for mandatory reporting. We may be subjected to criminal penalties if we fail to report such possible harm. Staff are not allowed to comment to parents about reported child abuse. Parents may not accuse or question staff concerning child abuse allegations. Child abuse investigations are a matter for DCF or local police departments.

Bus Rules

1. Be seated, facing forward while the bus is in motion
2. When seat belts are provided, they must be worn
3. Keep all heads, arms, legs and objects inside the bus
4. Maintain a reasonable noise level

Pool Rules

1. Running, shoving and horseplay is not permitted on the pool deck, in the water, or in the locker rooms.
2. Do not hang on staff or fellow campers. Hands to yourself.
3. Always obey lifeguards and staff.

Swimming

A completed swimming permission slip is required for children to swim during the Y Summer Day Camp Program. Your child will also be required to take a swimming test at the beginning of the week to determine whether your child is restricted to certain swimming areas or permitted in the entire pool. Swim tests are given once a week by a certified lifeguard. Your child may retake the test the following week if he/she did not pass.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. A financial assistance application must be filled out and submitted with all proper documentation to be accepted. **The deadline is 2 weeks prior to your child starting.**

Age Expectations

Youngest Campers: Completed Kindergarten.

Oldest campers: Entering 6th grade.

Payment Information

- All payments are due by Thursday prior to the week attending.
- If you do not make payment by the Thursday before the desired week, you will not have a spot for that week.
- For your initial registration, you must come in to register so you can turn in the filled out/signed paperwork. All the rest of registration can be done in person at the front desk, over the phone, or online.
- Early drop-off fee is due at the time of registering
- To participate in Field Trip Fridays: the child must be registered for a minimum of 3 days that week.
- To participate in any other Fridays: the child must be registered for a minimum of 2 days that week

Cancellation and Refund Policy

- If you cancel by Thursday prior to week you want to cancel: you will get a full refund.
- If you cancel the week of, the day of, or no show: there is no refund issued. When you enroll in camp, you are reserving the time, space, staff and resources for your child whether he/she attends or not.

Early Drop-off Fee

Early Drop-off

- If your child needs dropped off between 7:30 am and 8:45am, that is considered early drop-off
- \$25 fee each week when registering for each week

Camp Closures

In observance of Independence Day, we are closed July 4th.

Director of Youth and Family Contact Information

Email: bwilliams@rgsymca.org

Phone: 724.545.9622

Movies shown at camp are rated G. We utilize Disney+ streaming services. We will also be walking during the day on the Armstrong County Trail.



Sample Weekly Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45am – 8:45am	Early Drop-Off (at old Kittanning High School Football Field unless stated otherwise in Remind App group)				
8:45am – 9:30am	Drop-off/Free-Time (at old Kittanning High School Football Field unless stated otherwise in Remind App group)				
9:30am-10:00am	Morning Assembly/Snack Time				Fun Fridays: Groups/companies come to us or we plan a fun-filled day Or Go on a Field Trip
10:00am – 11:45am	Organized games/activities/sports/arts and crafts 2-4 different planned activities				
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Walk down to the YMCA and Lunch Time				
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Swim Time				
2:00pm – 3:30pm	Gymnasium Activities Or Movie Time in the Studio with snacks				
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Playground and Pick-up				Pick-up by 4:00pm

CAMPER BEHAVIOR POLICY

We strive for your child and for you to have the best experience possible. It is important that the staff maintain good order and discipline in all programs. Top objectives in all YMCA programs are safety and a positive atmosphere for learning and developing social skills. The YMCA makes every effort to help children understand clear definitions of acceptable and unacceptable behavior. Campers are managed through focusing on their positive choices, redirecting their behavior and offering them new strategies.

Behavior Expectations:

1. Respect other children and staff, equipment and facilities, personal belongings of others, and yourself.
2. Cooperate with staff and follow directions.
3. Aggressive behavior is not allowed.
4. Always keep hands to self.
5. Always stay in program areas and in sight of a counselor/staff member.

Unacceptable behavior:

1. Any action that could threaten or pose a direct threat to the physical/emotional safety of the child/other children/staff.
2. Aggressive behavior: Fighting, hitting, kicking, biting, spitting, bullying
3. Possession of a weapon of any kind.
4. Vandalism or destruction of YMCA property or property of others.
5. Sexual misconduct.
6. Running away/leaving the group.
7. Inappropriate language.
8. Stealing
9. Disrespecting the rules and staff
10. Camper that is unwilling to work toward improvement of their behavior.

Discipline Policy

1. Parents will be notified the day of the behavior with an incident report signature. Depending on the behavior, it would be labeled as a warning or a suspension.
2. If a camper's behavior continues to be disruptive, he or she will receive some time off from camp. The parents will again sign a behavior incident report.
3. The YMCA reserves the right to suspend or expel a child from the program. They can do so without giving a warning about the behavior first, if the behavior is severe enough.
4. NO refunds will be given for a camper being removed from the program due to their behavior.

It is our goal to reduce the number of suspensions/expulsions of our children. To reach this goal we will implement the following practices:

1. Families may share 504's or IEPs with staff.
2. Communicate success and challenges between staff and families to help the child's behavior.

Day camp is about having fun and enjoying the summer. We don't want anything to take away from that.