



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



2021 School-Age Summer Day Camp, Parent Handbook

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Table of Contents	Page
YMCA Mission, Camp Philosophy.....	3
Program Goals and Standards.....	3
Payments.....	3
Scholarships or Financial Assistance.....	3
Days of Operation.../... Late Pick up.....	4
Extended Care: Before & After Camp.....	4
Food Allergies.....	4
Medications	5
Sunscreen / Bug Repellant.....	5
Inclimate Weather & Rainy/Drizzling Days.....	5
Emergency Procedures.....	5
Injuries.....	6
Illness & Diseases.....	6
Packing for Camp.....	6
Transportation.....	7
Field Trips.....	7
Lost & Found.....	7
Visitors & Communication with your child at camp..	8
Swim Test & Evaluations	8
Non-Discrimination Statement.....	8
Behavior Policy & Management.....	9
Property & Equipment damage.....	9
COVID Preparedness plan.....	9
Summer Camp Schedule: At a Glance.....	10

Welcome to YMCA Camp!

Thank you for choosing the YMCA to be a part of your summer schedule! We are very excited about the upcoming summer and the new experiences we will share together. In this handbook, you will find important pieces of information to prepare yourself and your child(ren) for their day camp experience.

Please bookmark our website (mankatoymca.org), like our Facebook page (YMCAmankatoCamps), and follow us on Instagram ([mankatoymcacamps](https://www.instagram.com/mankatoymcacamps)). We will post any updates about weather and fun daily activities on these sites. We look forward to seeing you soon! -Camp Staff

YMCA Mission

To put Christian principals into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, body, and social well-being for all.

Camp Philosophy

To create a safe, fun and inclusive environment where every child has the opportunity to develop and feel valued.

Program Goals

1. Campers will build confidence, positive self-esteem, and independence.
2. Campers will have opportunities to build positive relationships with their peers and other adults.
3. Camps will develop skills through a variety of activities such as arts & crafts, STEM, and games.
4. Campers will learn about the Mankato Family YMCA core values to assist them in character development.

Program Standards

- Our youth programs are staffed with caring qualified staff that must pass a criminal and child protection background check and complete CPR & First Aid training.
- The staff/child ratio of 1:12 for Pre-teens/Teens as well as 1:10 for 5-12 years old is below the State of Minnesota Department of Welfare and the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning standards.
- Mandated Reporting; Under Minnesota State Law, all professional staff who work with children are required to report all suspected physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect of children to the authorities.

Payments

PAYMENTS: All June camp balances must be paid in full by **May 15th**, July camps by **June 15th** and August camps by **July 15th**. If you have questions concerning your camp payment contact Susan Lyons.

Administrative Assistant: slyons@mankatoymca.org 507-345-9800.

Scholarships or Financial Assistance

Requests need to be made by May 15. Funding is limited; it is to your advantage to apply early. Applications may be found at our camp website at www.mankatoymca.org.

Days of Operation

- Summer Day Camps operate from 7:30a.m. until 4:30p.m. Monday-Friday unless specified.
- All forms must be complete and turned in prior to attending camp.
- Check-In: All day campers must be signed in each day upon drop off to the designated camp location (TBA). Campers must be signed in no later than 8:00am unless specified otherwise.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to provide prior notification to the camp staff administration team through the REMIND app if their camper will not be attending camp.
- Check-Out: Campers must be signed out each day by parent/guardian or authorized adults with a photo I.D. between 3:30p.m.-4:30p.m. Notify Camp staff if an additional person needs to be added as an Emergency Contact.

Late Pick up Policy

Parents are required to pick up child(ren) by 4:30pm. If a parent has not arrived to pick up their child(ren) and cannot be reached by phone within 15 minutes of closing time, we will call the emergency contact(s) listed on their enrollment forms. If none of the emergency contacts are available or able to come for the child(ren), and if the parent has not arrived with 30 minutes of closing, the local authorities will be contacted and will be turned over into their custody.

Parents will be charged a late fee of \$5/child for pickup between 4:45-4:50 and an additional \$10 for arrival between 4:50-4:55pm. Late fee charge must be paid before resume of YMCA services. Habitual late pickups may result in removal from the program.

Extended Care; Before & After Camp

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this service will not be offered for the summer of 2021.

Food Allergies

If your child has a food allergy, please contact the camp administration so we can better prepare to meet your child's needs. Some food allergies are exceptionally difficult to accommodate at camp. In some situations, you may be asked to send your camper with their own allergen-free foods.

Medications

Medical forms must be completed for every camper. We cannot administer any medication without written parental/guardian consent. All medication will be collected by the Camp staff at the beginning of each week of camp and administered as prescribed by a physician or as indicated by the packaging instructions for over-the-counter medications that do not accompany a physician's instructions. Medications must be in the original bottle with the appropriate dosage. Unused medications will be returned to the parent /guardian on the last day of camp. It is required that only one week's worth of medication be sent. Campers who use asthmatic inhalers or medications for allergic reactions (i.e., an Epi-Pen for bee stings) may keep the medication on them but can only administer it to themselves under supervision of a counselor /adult. The Camp staff must know where to find the medication in case of an emergency...please communicate this with your camper and counselor.

Sunscreen / Bug Repellant

Sunscreen and bug repellant may be considered a medication and must be used appropriately. Campers should not spray sunscreen or bug spray unless instructed by camp staff in well ventilated areas. Campers will have the opportunity to re-apply as needed. YMCA Camp staff is not encouraged to apply sunscreen directly on to any camper. However, a counselor is permitted to spray sunscreen onto a camper if assistance is requested.

Inclimate Weather & Rainy/Drizzling Days

School age day camps will operate in a variety of inside and outside locations throughout their time at camp except in the event of severe weather. Activities will be modified due to incimate weather conditions and shelter will be taken in the event of heat index alerts, lightning, thunder, high winds, etc. We will utilize indoor space at the YMCA during severe/incimate weather. Campers must be prepared daily with the appropriate clothing (sweatshirt / rain jacket).

Emergency Procedures

All staff is trained in the procedures of an emergency and to keep all participants safe. In case of an emergency, staff will find the nearest shelter until it is safe to return to the scheduled camp activity. Camp administration will contact you if an emergency situation arises.

Injuries

We hope that no child will be injured in our care, but a few minor injuries can reasonably be expected. If a child has a minor injury they will be treated and cared for until they feel ready to return to the activities. In the case of a more severe injury we will contact you (or your emergency contacts if you're unavailable) and if necessary, professional emergency care providers.

Illness & Diseases

If a child becomes ill at camp, we will notify you immediately to pick them up. In cases of communicable diseases such as COVID-19, chicken pox, lice, impetigo, and strep, we will notify other parents in writing so they may be alert to the incubation period and symptoms. Please notify us if your child has contracted or been exposed to any of the above illnesses or diseases.

Packing for Camp

Parents should understand that the camp staff will do everything they can to help your camper keep track of his or her belongings, but they are NOT responsible for lost or stolen or damaged personal items. **LABEL ALL ITEMS.**

Traditional Packing List

Bring a Backpack or bag that contains the following items with child's name clearly labeled:

- Sweatshirt or Rain Coat
- Swim suit and Towel
- Sun Screen & Lip balm
- Insect Repellent
- Book/Reading material
- Water bottle
- Hat or Visor
- Closed toe shoes
- Rest time blanket or mat.

Items not allowed at camp:

- Weapons
- Electronics
- Money
- Toys / Trading Cards
- Attire that is inappropriate or depict weapons
- Tobacco or Vaping tools
- Alcohol
- Anything of value that you cannot afford to lose.

Do not send new clothing; we play outside and may get dirty.

Specialty Camp Packing List

Horse Camp: Traditional packing list + boots or shoes with heel and long pants.

Skateboarding Camp: Traditional packing list + skateboard, helmet, and pads or you can use ours. Optional money for concessions (Limit \$2 per day). Reminder: Camp meets at Chesley Skate Park. 161 Jaycee Court, Mankato MN and operates on a half day schedule.

Transportation:

When campers ride on a YMCA vehicle or bus, the following safety guidelines must be observed:

- Campers are expected to get on and off the vehicle in an orderly fashion while listening to the driver and camp staff.
- Campers are expected to treat others with YMCA core values in mind.
- Campers should always keep their hands, feet and belongings inside the vehicle and kept to themselves at all times.
- Campers should remain in their seats when the vehicle is moving.
- Campers should talk at normal voice levels while riding the vehicle. Screaming, yelling, and vulgar language will not be tolerated.
- Campers should always wear a seatbelt or safety restraint when available.
- Campers should exit the bus from front to back and vice versa.
- No food or drink is permitted to be eaten on the vehicle.

Disruptive behavior that threatens the safety of others may result in suspension or loss of riding privileges, based on the recommendation of the driver, and/or camp staff. YMCA camp staff is present when campers are transported by bus or another vehicle.

Field Trips:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this service will not be offered for the summer of 2021.

Lost & Found

Articles of clothing or personal equipment not claimed upon completion or return from program will be disposed of in the following manner; Lost and found articles will be held at the YMCA for two weeks. Articles/equipment not claimed within this period will be donated to a local charity. If you believe your camper is missing an item or clothing contact camp staff via REMIND.

Visitors & Communication with your child at Camp

Mid-day visits are *not recommended*. If you feel a visit is necessary, contact the camp administration to arrange a date and time. Campers should not make phone calls without the camp staff's permission. In an emergency or to help with a camper's social adjustment, we will contact you. Please leave cell phones and smart watches at home. If discovered, they will be confiscated. We know it is difficult as a parent to not be in touch directly with your camper while they are away. We also know that the camp experience is enhanced when children can unplug from their devices and truly enjoy every moment of their time at camp.

Swim Test & Evaluations

Campers have the opportunity to swim during their camp session at the YMCA. On the first swim day of each camp session, campers will be asked to take part in a swim evaluation. Campers will enter the pool; swim 1-2 lengths of the lane line and tread water to determine their ability. Campers are separated into beginner/non-swimmer, intermediate, or advanced swim levels and will be restricted to how deep they may swim based on the level received. We will not force anyone to take the swim evaluation however, it is highly recommended. If a camper chooses not to take the swim test they can still enjoy swimming and water activities in the zero-depth area. YMCA certified Lifeguards will be on duty at all times. Each camper needs to bring a swimsuit and towel. The pool does not allow campers to swim with shorts or t-shirts as swim suits.

Non-Discrimination Statement

No person shall be denied the opportunity to participate in the YMCA as a participant, employee, or volunteer based on race, sex, or religious beliefs. In order to participate successfully in YMCA Youth Programs, a child must be able to function in a group setting, stay with their group at all times, and follow directions given by staff.

Our programs are not designed for one-on-one care. If your child is exhibiting these behaviors it may be necessary to evaluate if our programs are the right choice and appropriate setting for your child. Conferences may be required to problem solve and share strategies for dealing with spirited behaviors. Please contact the camp administration to arrange for a conference if needed.

Behavior Policy & Management

The Mankato Family YMCA staff works proactively with your camper to follow the mission of the YMCA of the USA: "To put Christian principles into practice through programs and services that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all" as well as apply the five core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith. We expect all campers to treat others with these principles and values in mind. If a camper makes a poor decision, we will respond with those same principles.

The YMCA does not tolerate physical fighting, inappropriate language and/or touch, disruptive behavior, profanity, blatant disrespect, violation of rules, illegal activity or other behavior deemed unsuitable for camp. If this should occur, parents will be notified and may be asked to pick up their child, dependent on the circumstances. If behaviors continue or escalate, the child may be suspended from the program depending on the severity and/or frequency of behavior. Our goal is to provide positive growth opportunities for all in a safe, healthy, nurturing environment. Refunds will not be given if a child is sent home because of a behavioral problem.

Property & Equipment Damage

Parents are financially responsible for intentional damage to equipment and facilities caused by their camper. This includes graffiti, malicious destruction of property, intentional misuse of equipment, etc.

COVID-19 (2021) Preparedness Plan

In-depth plan will be provided on www.mankatoymca.org/summercamp page.

2021 Summer Camp at a Glance



	SCHOOL AGE DAY CAMPS							RESIDENT CAMP	
	Kindergarten Clubhouse ENT K	Explorers Gr 1-3	Voyagers Gr 4-5	Sports Camp Gr 2-8	Chesley Skateboarding Gr 1-8	Equestrians Camps Gr 2-8	Pre-Teen Gr 6-8	Camp Patterson Gr 3-7	LIT & CIT *Sunday-Friday Gr 8-12
June 7-11	1	1	1	Flag Football Gr 2-5		HC 1 Gr 2-5	1		
June 14-18	2	2	2		1 Gr 1-5			1 June 13-18	1 LIT 1 CIT
June 21-25	3	3	3		2 Gr 6-8			2 June 20-25	2 LIT 2 CIT
June 28 - July 2	4	4	4	Dance Gr 2-5			2		
July 5-9	5	5	5	Soccer Gr 2-5	3 Gr 1-5	HC 2 Gr 2-5	3		
July 12-16	6	6	6	SPLASH Gr 6-8			4		
July 19-23	7	7	7	Basketball Gr 2-5	4 Gr 1-5		5		
July 26-30	8	8	8	Mult-Sports Gr 2-5		HC4 Gr 6-8	6		
Aug 2-6	9	9	9					3 Aug 1-6	3 LIT 3 CIT
Aug 9-13	10	10	10		5 Gr 1-5	HC 5 Gr 2-5	7		
Aug 16-20	11	11	11	STRIDE Gr 3-5		HC 6 Gr 2-5	8		

Visit mankatoymca.org/summercamp for camp session details