



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



An Experience Like No Other.

Mankato Family YMCA

1401 South Riverfront Dr. Mankato MN, 56001

Phone: 507-387-8255

2023 Resident Camp Patterson, Parent Handbook

MEET THE RESIDENT CAMP ADMINISTRATION TEAM:



Karri Olmanson

Director of Youth Development

Phone: 507-345-9808

E: kolmanson@mankatoymca.org

- Contact for Summer Camp Financial Assistance



Dustin Slaughter

Youth Activities Director

Phone: 507-386-2706

E: dslaughter@mankatoymca.org

- Contact for questions on School-Age Camps: Kindergarten Clubhouse, Explorers, Voyagers, Equestrians, Pre-Teens, Resident Camp Patterson



Anna Lieske

Teen Program Director

Phone: 507-386-2707

E: alieske@mankatoymca.org

- Contact for questions on Teen Outdoor Adventure Day Camps and Resident Teen Leadership Camps: aka LIT (Leaders in Training), CIT (Counselors in Training), and JC (Junior Counselors).

Business Office Administrative Assistant

- Contact for questions on Camp Payments.

Susan Lyons

Phone: 507-345-9800

slyons@mankatoymca.org

Dear Patterson Campers & Parents,

Thank you for choosing Camp Patterson! We are very excited about the upcoming summer and for the experiences we will share together. At the Y, we strive to make sure that every person has the most memorable experience. We believe camp can have a dramatic impact on the life of a child through the relationships built with other campers as well as the counselors. Our goal is that your camper will have the opportunity this summer to make lifelong friends, acquire new skills, and have fun in a safe environment.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Karri, Dustin, Anna and the 2023 Summer Camp Staff

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@Mankato Family YMCA Youth

@mankatoymcayouth



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YMCA Mission

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

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 and/or gender, or religious beliefs.

Camp Philosophy

The purpose of the Mankato Family YMCA Summer Camp program is to create a safe, fun, and inclusive environment where every child has the opportunity to develop and feel valued.

Program Goals

1. Promote a sense of self-confidence, self-efficacy, and independence.
2. Build positive relationships with peers and other adults.
3. Provide a variety of activities that develop skills in the fields of arts, STEM, and games.
4. Teach character development using the core values; caring, honesty, responsibility, respect and faith.

Program Standard:

- Staff/ Child ratio:
 - 1/10 for ages 5-12 years-old
 - 1/15 for ages 13-18 years-old

Child Abuse Prevention

YMCA Staff and Volunteers:

- Place great value on creating the most child-safe environment possible.
- Prioritize to be present with the campers.
- Are trained on the Mankato Family YMCA Child Abuse Prevention Policies and Code of Conduct.
- Report all suspected abuse to the authorities as required by law.
- Must pass criminal & child protection background checks, and complete CPR/First Aid training.

Camp Sessions

Patterson 1: Sunday June 11 – Friday June 16, 2023

Patterson 2: Sunday June 18 – Friday June 23, 2023

Patterson 3: Sunday June 25 – Friday June 30, 2023

Patterson 4: Sunday August 6 – Friday August 11, 2023

Payments

All camp balances must be paid in full by the 15th of the month prior to the camp your child(ren) attends.

June camps by May 15th, July camps by June 15th, August camps by July 15th

For questions on camp payments contact Susan Lyons, slyons@mankatoymca.org 507-345-9800.

Financial Assistance

YMCA Financial Assistance is granted by need on a first come, first served basis, and made available based on funds donated to the Mankato Family YMCA by Campaigns, Grants, and the Penguin Plunge. The application window will be open starting in January until all funds have been distributed. You will be notified of your application's status and amount awarded via email. Applications may be found at www.mankatoymca.org or picked up at the front desk. **Greater Mankato Area United Way's Connecting Kids** program offers scholarship assistance at <https://www.connectingkidsmankato.org/>.

Summer Camp Drop Policy

Those who wish to withdraw their registration for a camp must do so no later than two (2) full weeks before the camp is scheduled to start. No refunds will be given after the two (2) week policy prior to the start of camp. The \$25 deposit used to register per session is non-refundable and non-transferable. Membership withdrawal notice: If you are registered for a program and you cancel your membership, you will be billed for the nonmember rate of the program.

Communication Policy

REMIND is the best resource to use to contact them directly. They will have access to REMIND from 7:15am to 5:30pm Sunday-Friday. Communication received out of this time period, may be answered but not guaranteed until the following business day.

Visitors & Communication with your child at Camp

- Parents/Guardians are required to communicate with camp staff via REMIND. This includes absences.
- Mid-day visits are not recommended. If necessary, contact camp staff to arrange a date and time.
 - Cell phones and watches should be left at home. If discovered, they will be confiscated.
 - 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. 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.

Driving Directions:

Directions to Camp Patterson from Mankato: Est. distance: 15 miles

- ☐ Take MN-22 North
- ☐ Turn RIGHT onto CR-2/490th St. Continue to follow 490th St.
- ☐ Turn LEFT onto CR-104/Ridge Top Rd.
- ☐ Turn LEFT onto N. Shore Dr.
- ☐ Stay STRAIGHT to go onto PATTERSON Rd./CR-103.

End at 5050 Patterson Rd. Madison Lake, MN. 56063

Arrival

Check-In begins at 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. on the Sunday of your session.

The camp staff is busy preparing camp for the week therefore, participants will not be admitted in camp before 1:00 p.m. We will have staff monitoring traffic flow so please be patient upon arrival. Safety is our first priority. Contact Camp Administration via REMIND prior to check-in to inform us if your child needs to arrive later than the scheduled check-in time.

Check-In

Parents and campers are required to check-in together. All payments and forms must be turned in and completed to receive a cabin assignment. Cabin assignments will not be given out early.

- Please park in the lot adjacent to the Main Kiwanis Lodge.
- Report to the registration tables located near the bathhouse.
- Check in all medications with Medical Coordinator; do not pack medication in child's luggage.
- Purchase a white Camp Patterson T-shirt for tie-dye (optional) \$10.
- Other Camp items (stickers, stuffed animals, patches) will be for sale as well.
- Drop off any Camp Letters.

After your child has been checked into camp you can follow the signs to his or her cabin.

- Please do not unpack your child's belongings. Allowing your child to unpack their own belongings and make their own bed is an important step in developing confidence in their ability to care for themselves. The counselors will assist your child if needed and use this time to get acquainted.
- We recommend a fairly quick drop off to help ease the separation. Goodbyes are the hardest (especially for parents) the first year. We welcome you to have a lengthier visit on Friday when picking up your child and they can show you around.

Departure

Check-out is between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on the Friday of your session.

- All campers must be signed out by parents/guardians or authorized adults with a Picture I.D.
- If an additional person needs to be added, this must be communicated to the camp staff in writing no later than 48 hours prior to pick up.

Packing for Camp

We've found it's beneficial to have your camper help pack their items so they know what they've brought and where to locate it in their bag. 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, stolen or damaged personal items. Please **LABEL ALL ITEMS** with your child's name.

Suggested gear list: We play and get dirty, don't send new clothing.

CLOTHING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeve shirt<input type="checkbox"/> Jacket with hood or Rain Coat<input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirts (2)<input type="checkbox"/> Pants (3)<input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts (5)<input type="checkbox"/> Shorts (3-4)<input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas/ Sweats (3-4)<input type="checkbox"/> Socks (6 pairs)<input type="checkbox"/> Underwear (6 pairs)<input type="checkbox"/> Swim suit(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Shoes<input type="checkbox"/> Sandals BEDDING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag or Sheets (twin)<input type="checkbox"/> Pillow with pillowcase<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Towels (1-beach & 1-shower)<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Animal <i>(optional)</i>	MISC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Sun Screen & Lip balm<input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent<input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries (toothpaste, soap, toothbrush, shampoo, etc.)<input type="checkbox"/> White T-shirt for tie dying or \$10 for Resident camp shirt<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight<input type="checkbox"/> Book/Reading material<input type="checkbox"/> Refillable Water bottle OPTIONAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Stationary/Envelopes/Stamps<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaiian Shirt<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Gear<input type="checkbox"/> Camera<input type="checkbox"/> Hat<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty clothes bag<input type="checkbox"/> Musical Instrument
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Items not allowed in camp:

Modest attire is expected at Camp Patterson. Camp Director will ask camper to change if attire is inappropriate or depict weapons, tobacco, alcohol or drugs. Campers should not bring: radios, electronic games, phones or devices with internet access, money, toys, or trading cards.

Grounds for Immediate Dismissal:

There will be NO REFUND OF ANY AMOUNT for campers sent home because of having cigarettes, tobacco or vaping tools, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, sexually explicit material, and/or behavior.

Medications

If your camper brings medication to camp, including over the counter medications, it must be in the original container labeled with the camper's name, dosage, and medication administration times. Do not pack it in their luggage; it must be turned into the Medical Coordinator (MC) upon arrival to camp. The MC will dispense meds as per the camper's medication schedule. Parents must sign off that information given is accurate. The MC will document the camper's medication schedule per session attended.

Mail

- To avoid any post office delays, mail items early or bring the mail with you when you drop off your camper. Please write the camper's name, session number, and the day that you would like the mail delivered to your child. Send self-addressed stamped envelopes if you want to hear from your camper and don't be surprised if you do not receive a letter. They are out being kids and having fun."
 - A table will be available at check in to write your child a letter. Receiving positive and encouraging notes from you helps campers feel secure during their stay with us.
 - Care packages are a source of joy when a camper receives one and a source of great disappointment when they do not. We strongly advocate an environment of equality and inclusion with every camper and have found that care packages disrupt the delicate equilibrium at camp. We suggest writing a letter, no care packages please.
 - Do not send candy or food. These items attract bugs and rodents.
 - Packages and letters received after a camper's session has ended will be forwarded to the camper.
- Send letters to:
YMCA Camp Patterson c/o: (child's name)
5050 Patterson Road Madison Lake, MN 56063

Lost and Found

- Items not claimed by camper/parent upon completion of session will be disposed of in the following manner; Items will be held at the YMCA Door A for two weeks.
 - Items/equipment not claimed within the two-week period will be donated to a local charity.

Emergency Procedures

- All staff are trained in the emergency action procedures (EAP) to keep all campers safe.
- Camp staff will contact you if an emergency situation arises via REMIND.

Inclimate Weather & Rainy Days

- Camps will operate outdoors for the majority of the time.
- In the event of incimate weather, activities will be modified and a message will be sent via REMIND.
 - Shelter will be taken in the presence of lightning, thunder, high winds and high heat index.
- Campers must be prepared for rainy days by having the appropriate clothing (sweatshirt/rain jacket).

Injuries, Illness & Diseases

- In the case of a minor injury, first aid will be administered until camper is ready to return to activity.
- In the case of severe injuries, we will contact the Parent/Guardian/emergency contacts if you're unavailable.
 - If necessary, an Emergency Action Plan will be initiated and 911 will be contacted.
- If a child becomes ill at camp, we will notify you immediately to pick them up. Please do not send your camper to camp if they are not feeling well.

Food Allergies

- List your child's food allergies on their camp registration & contact camp admin for accommodations.
- 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.

Meals

The Kiwanis Lodge dining hall has been updated with a new deck, expansion, and the addition of air-conditioning units. Campers will enjoy eating their meals in a family style formation with their cabin.

Set the tone with your camper before Camp

- Talk with your child about the likelihood that they will miss home before he/she goes off to camp.
- Remind them that they may not enjoy every single moment of camp
- Assure them it is ok and normal to miss home, mom/dad, siblings or pets.
- Ask them how they think they might feel while away.
- Encourage your child to have a reasonable / realistic view of camp. Discuss both the ups and downs your child may experience. Your child should not feel pressured to succeed at all areas of camp.
- Convey confidence in them and their coping skills to get through these times.
- Discuss how you plan to keep in touch with letters. They have time to write you during rest times.
 - You can send a letter the week ahead of time so it is waiting for your camper when they arrive. In your letters use words such as "love" instead of "miss." Keep in mind if your child is having a hard time adjusting, to receive a letter that only talks about how much you are missing them and how quiet the house is without them will only make them feel worse.
 - Try to ask questions about camp, keep your words supportive and enthusiastic;
 - "I'm so proud of you and I can't wait for you to tell me all about the awesome things you're doing at camp this week. What has been your favorite part so far?"
- Prepare for the separation, if they perceive you as doubtful or anxious, it will heighten their concerns.
- Refrain from telling your child "If you don't like camp just call me and I'll come pick you up." This may set your child up to fail, as the first time something does not go exactly as planned he or she will want to go home and lose any motivation to try to succeed at camp.
- If you do get a call from your child or the camp staff try to resist the urge to "rescue them."
 - Acknowledge their feelings and support their efforts.
 - Remind them of the commitment they made to camp and that this is a growing experience.
 - Resist suggesting promises to come home. This can increase and worsen feelings of homesickness and cause problems for your child.

Homesickness

Feeling a little anxious and homesick is a normal and healthy part of this camp experience. For most campers, this feeling passes after a day or two. Campers who are healthy and well rested when they come to camp are less likely to be missing home for an extended period of time. Homesickness is most common during "down time" at camp such as BOB (Body on Bunk) time and before bed. Most campers who experience this are fine during the day and are truly enjoying their time at camp.

As a strategy to keep homesickness under control, camp staff are trained to help campers ease their fears, normalize their homesick feelings, and keep them busy/engaged with activities. If a camper is homesick for a consistent 24-hour period, we will call for your input in handling the situation. As a last resort if your child is so miserable and upset that he/she is virtually unable to participate in activities, then it's time to pick him/her up. If you do pick your child up, try focusing on the success of how long they lasted. Let them know how proud you are of them and make it a baseline from which the camper can grow in the future. Campers who leave early due to homesickness will not receive a refund.

The camp phone will be used for business and emergencies only. Campers should not make phone calls without the camp director's permission. In general, calls from mom and dad can actually make "homesickness" worse. Cell phones should be kept 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 here with us. 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.

Bedwetting

We want you and your child to be at ease while at camp. Bedwetting can be very embarrassing even if he/she commonly wets the bed or if it happens only once in a while. We pledge to discreetly and modestly help campers through this process. Notify staff if your child has a history of bedwetting and send protective apparel so we can be proactive with placement and bedtime routine. Assure your child that the staff is there for their needs and will help them through these types of challenges.

Cabin Assignments

Camp is a great place to make new friends and share new adventures. Campers are assigned to their cabins before each session begins. Assignments are based on age, gender, cabin mate request, and space. Cabin mate requests (2 only) must be within 1 year of age of your camper and reciprocated by both camper's choice of cabin mate. Cabin assignments will not be given out early. We do not guarantee placement of multiple cabin mate requests, but will make every effort to honor them.

Traditional campers will reside in the newly refurbished cabins consisting of 5 bunks (10 beds) and 1 counselor cot. The bathhouse is nearby and have private individual shower stalls. Some of the larger cabins which are usually reserved for the Teen Leaders are equipped with window air-conditioning units.

Daily Schedule Sample (Traditional campers)

Morning:

6:45 Rise & Shine with the Fitness Fun Challenge (optional)
7:15 Wake-Up Call
7:35 Flag Raising / Morning Message
7:45 Breakfast
8:15 Cabin Clean-up / Cabin Time
8:45 Skill Rotation 1 (8:45-9:40)
9:45 Skill Rotation 2 (9:45-10:40)
10:50 Color Wars Challenge / Waiter Call
11:10 Lunch/Announcements/Songs
12:00 BOB (Body on Bunk to Rest & Relax)

Afternoon:

1:00 Put Swimsuits & Sunscreen on
1:15 Period 1 for Swim Time1 & Free Choice Activities
2:00 Period 2 for Swim Time2 & Free Choice Activities
2:45 Snack
3:15 Period 3 for Swim Time3 & Free Choice Activities
4:00 Cabin Time
4:40 Waiter Call
5:00 Dinner/Announcements/Songs
5:45 Change for Evening All Camp Activities
6:00 Flag Lowering
6:15 Evening Program begins
7:15 Change and go to Campfire for Snack
8:10 Younger campers dismissed to shower. After, they may watch a short movie in the Lodge while older campers continue their campfire.
9:00 Younger campers return to cabins for a quiet time of reading and relaxing before bed while older campers are dismissed to shower.
9:45 Lights Out

Camp Activities

Rise & Shine with Fitness Fun: Instead of making exercise a chore, we make it fun! Campers are offered the opportunity to participate in Yoga, Road Runners Club, Polar Bear Swim, Fishing, and Book Club.

Morning Skill Rotations: Mon-Thurs, Traditional Camp (designed for grades 3-8) is all about exploration and discovery. Campers rotate with their cabin unit between four specialized program areas of Canoeing, Arts and Crafts, Archery, and Outdoor Education. Each program area will expose campers to try new things and explore personal interests in different activities. Focus is placed on learning through fun and games while promoting opportunities to develop a wide range of memories and experiences.

See Leadership camp page for their morning activities.

Afternoon Free Periods: For many Traditional Campers, this is the first chance at experiencing independence. All campers have the opportunity to pick what they want to do based on their own interest. The activities are announced daily at lunch time from the counselors leading the program areas. Campers will choose where they would like to go for each period. It's their choice: arts and crafts, archery games, field and court sports, GAGA ball, swimming, water craft sports (canoeing, paddle boarding/kayaking), fishing, or games of air hockey, ping pong, billiards or board games in the Rec Room.

Evening Programming: We love our evenings at camp. It's a time when we participate in the all camp wide evening activity and come together as one large group to have fun. Evening Programs include:

- Sunday Night: Welcome to Camp, Swim Test, and Color Wars Challenges in program areas
- Monday Night: Code Names
- Tuesday Night: Capture the Flag or Sand Castle Building
- Wednesday Night: Skit Night
- Thursday Night: Patterson Party
- Friday: Camp Olympics

Theme Days

Each camp session will include our traditional evening programs where campers enjoy dressing up for: Capture the Flag, Skit Night and the Patterson Party.

Capture the Flag color teams include red, blue, yellow and orange. Campers will receive their team color at the time of check in. Don't worry about packing the right color shirt for your child, they will receive a team bandana and many enjoy tie-dying their purchased Patterson camp shirt or a pair of socks to match their team color. The Patterson Party is filled with carnival games and music. We encourage campers to wear bright colors or Hawaiian shirts on Thursday.

At Camp Patterson, we want each child to shine and have his or her moment in the Color War Challenges. There will be points awarded for camp participation, drama, singing, nature, arts and crafts, spelling, geography, and carrying out the core values.

Jobs and Awards given at Camp

- Waiter Call: Cabins are assigned to the task of WAITER CALL. They will assist camp staff with meal set up/clean up, wash/dry/put away dishes, take out the trash, and clean up the floors.
- Clean Cabin Award
- Golden Tray Award

Progressive Archery program

Our archery program utilizes various distances and goals to challenge the youth through their levels of accomplishment. Year after year this is one of our most popular activity areas where children work towards being the next Master Archer.

Archery Levels	# of Arrows	Distance	Score
Junior Bowman	30	5 yards	30
Bowman	30	5 yards	50
Pro Bowman	30	5 yards	100
Junior Archer	30	10 yards	50
Archer	30	10 yards	100
Archer 2	30	10 yards	150
Pro Archer	30	15 yards	175
Master Archer	30	15 yards	200
Elite Archer	30	15 yards	250
Elite Archer 2	30	15 yards	300
Chief Archer	30	20 yards	200
Chief Master Archer	30	20 yards	250
Chief Master Archer 2	30	20 yards	300

Swim Test & Evaluations

Camp Patterson is located on the shores of Lake Washington. Due to the lake's uncertain conditions, camp lifeguards tend to be a little stricter (compared to a pool's standard).

- Campers participating in swimming/boating activities* will take part in a swim test to determine their ability. Campers are not be forced to take the swim test however, it is highly recommended.
- On Sunday, campers will report to the waterfront with their cabin unit to test.
- Campers will be 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.

*All boating activities require the use of life jackets which are provided for us by Camp Patterson.

- **Beginner:**

Test: Refusal to take the swim test and failure to pass the intermediate level. Campers can enjoy swimming and water activities in the zero-depth area while wearing a life jacket. Indicates campers demonstrated a limited ability to swim. Other considerations include:

1. Fear associated with open water, seaweed, or drowning.
2. Inability to float on the back and/or stomach for 10 seconds.

- **Intermediate:**

Test: Enter the water from the end of the dock and swim the entire width of the swimming area with the front crawl, breast stroke, or side stroke. Indicates campers demonstrated a limited ability to swim. Other considerations include:

1. Ability to go underwater without plugging the nose.
2. Having no fears associated with open water, seaweed, or drowning.
3. Ability to tread water and maintain an identifiable swimming stroke for short distance.

- **Advanced:**

Test: Enter the water from the end of the dock and swim one lap around the floating raft using the front crawl, breast stroke, or side stroke. Can touch ground or tread water for 1 minute.

Indicates campers demonstrated the ability to swim efficiently and reliably.

Christian Emphasis

The Mankato Family YMCA is a Christian organization that is non-denominational and welcome campers from all backgrounds. Emphasis is placed on Christian values from the YMCA of the USA Character Development Program that focuses on the core values of caring, honest, responsibility, respect & faith.

- We carry on the long-standing tradition of offering prayers of thanksgiving before meals.
- Campers choosing not to participate in these activities must be respectful to those that are.

Behavior Expectation Policy & Management

- The Mankato Family YMCA staff works proactively to follow the Mission of the YMCA of the USA (see below) as well as apply the five core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and faith.
 - Mission: "To put Christian principles into practice through programs [and services] that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all".
- We expect all participants to treat others with these principles and values in mind.
 - If a child's behavior deems unsuitable for the program, 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 or illegal activity. 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.
- 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.

Disciplinary and Dismissal Process

- In order to participate successfully in YMCA Programs, a camper must be able to function in a group setting, stay with the group at all times, as well as follow directions and other behavior expectations.
 - YMCA school-age child care programs are not designed for one-on-one care. Therefore, it may be necessary to evaluate if the program is appropriate for your child.
 - Conferences may be required to problem solve and share strategies for dealing with spirited behaviors. Contact camp administration to arrange a conference prior to attending camp.
 - There will be NO REFUND OF ANY AMOUNT if a child is sent home because of behavior problems.
- Most disagreement and redirection situations are minor and can be resolved with minimal corrections. YMCA staff use these situations as a learning opportunity for campers and try to integrate problem-solving skills into the discussion. If negative behavior continues the following steps may be instituted:
 1. Discussions between child and staff to set goals and objectives.
 2. Discussion between child, staff and Program Director to clarify goals and objectives previously set by the parties involved. Documentation will be kept of the negative behavior and parents/guardians will be made aware of the situation.
 3. If the conduct continues, the Program Director will contact the parent/guardian to inform them of the situation and discuss possible options to correct the behavior. This will be recorded in the form of a Behavior Contract signed by the child, staff, parent and Program Director.
 4. If the conduct continues, the Program Director will contact the parent/guardian to arrange for the child's discharge from the program.

Although the above steps may be implemented in sequential order, YMCA administrative staff retains the right to take immediate action if the child's behavior poses a threat to their own safety or the safety of other children/staff.

Teen Leadership Programs

A Leader-In-Training (LIT) camper is one who is still a camper, but desires to learn skills pertaining to leadership and collaboration in a supportive, fun, outdoor environment conducive to self-discovery. A LIT is excited to help create an unforgettable camp experience for other campers. He/she is inclined to make new friends and learn new skills to facilitate his/her new adventure. Most importantly, however, LIT's are ready and willing to give back to camp. In return, camp will provide an unforgettable experience that will continue to benefit them for years to come. (Entering grades 9-10)

A Counselor-In-Training (CIT) camper is one who is transitioning from learning about leadership to applying their leadership skills. A CIT will work on developing their individual abilities while discovering the person s/he desires to be. He/she will participate in designing and creatively managing camp activities of interest to them. He/she will often participate in an enthusiastic leadership capacity; however, a CIT will not be responsible for supervising campers alone or sleeping in a cabin unit with them. (Entering grades 11, 12)

A Junior Counselor (JC) is in pursuit to be a YMCA Cabin counselor in the upcoming years. While leading others, a JC wants a unique volunteer internship experience that will allow for self-development that enhances job performance and is willing to work a little to get it. A JC looks forward to embracing new approaches and discovers ideas to create a better participant experience. Where s/he can give a child incredible memories, friendships, and skills that can be carried beyond summer and into the "outside world."

Because of the intimate social and educational nature of our leadership programs; LIT, CIT and JC campers who consistently exhibit behaviors that are disruptive to the learning of the other campers may be removed from the program, even if their behaviors would be tolerated in traditional camp programs. Furthermore, because our teen leadership programs are co-ed, maintaining camp-appropriate social relationships is paramount for success in the program and is taken extremely seriously by camp staff. There is no refund if a camper is expelled from the program due to such issue.

Penquin Plunge Take the Plunge with Camp staff and help raise funds for camp operations and financial assistance.



Camp Store

Check out our camp swag at mybstarkstore.com/ysummercamp

Camp Map

