



# LEARN. PLAY. GROW.

SUMMER CAMP 2026 GUIDE



**MANKATO FAMILY YMCA**  
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Mankato MN, 56001  
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[mankatoymca.org](http://mankatoymca.org)

The Y.™ For a better us.™

# CAMP LEADERSHIP



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## STAFF COMMITMENT STATEMENT

At the YMCA, we believe camp is a powerful and transformative experience for every child. Our staff are dedicated to creating a safe, welcoming, and inspiring environment for all program participants.

We strive to deliver meaningful experiences where campers build lasting friendships, discover new skills, and explore through engaging adventures. Guided by the YMCA core values, our team works intentionally to help each camper grow in confidence, independence, and their ability to contribute positively to the world.

We commit to show up each day prepared, passionate, and purposeful, ensuring every child feels supported, included, and empowered to make the most of their summer.

## PAYMENT & REGISTRATION

All camp registration is done online. If you do not already have a YMCA online account, we recommend getting one set up before camp registration opens. Camp Registration for YMCA Members opens on February 16. Registration for Non-Members is March 2.

A non-refundable & non-transferable deposit of \$25 is required for each week your camper plans to attend. This deposit will be deducted from the overall weekly fee.

Full camp payment is due on the 15th of the month prior to the month of camp. For example, if your camper is signed up for camp(s) in June, full payment for all June camps is due May 15.

## CAMP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We believe that every family should experience the power of Summer Camp. Financial assistance is available to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in our programs and services. We are committed to making our offerings accessible to all, regardless of financial circumstances. Our financial assistance decisions are made by a team of staff who thoughtfully review each application and collaborate to award support in a fair and consistent way. If you or your family need assistance, it can be requested during the registration process or by contacting our Director of Youth Development.

You can apply for financial assistance before camp registration begins. Families in need of financial assistance can contact Dustin for Financial Assistance Forms. Additional financial aid is available through Connecting Kids.



Contact Connecting Kids for more information on their application process by scanning the QR code.



# LEARN. PLAY. GROW.

## CAMP TIMES

**Preschool Camps:**  
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**School-Age All Day Camp:**  
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Chesley Half Day Camp:**  
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



	WEEK 1 May 26 – 29	WEEK 2 June 1 – 5	WEEK 3 June 8 – 12	WEEK 4 June 15 – 19	WEEK 5 June 22 – 26	WEEK 6 June 29 – July 2	WEEK 7 July 6 – 10	WEEK 8 July 13 – 17	WEEK 9 July 20 – 24	WEEK 10 July 27 – 31	WEEK 11 Aug 3 – 7	WEEK 12 Aug 10 – 14	WEEK 13 Aug 17 – 21
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PRESCHOOL	ADVENTURERS Ages 3-5	Kids Clubhouse Available: Limited Space	Critter Quest	Winter Wonderland	Wilderness Wanderers	Prehistoric Adventure	Super Heros Limited Space	Casper's Spook-tacular	Jingle Bell Junction	Color Me Fun	Backyard Barn	Transportation Station	Ahoy Me Alphabet	Summer Splash Limited Space
SCHOOL-AGE DAY CAMPS	DISCOVERERS Entering Kindergarten	Neon Takeover  *4 DAYS* Limited Space Available	Buggin' Out	Arctic Adventure	Super Duper Sports	Safari Seekers	Red, White, & Boom  *4 DAYS* Limited Space Available	Summer-ween	Holly Jolly Heatwave	COLOR WARS	Barnyard Blast	The Power of Plants	Alphabet Soup	Superhero Smashdown  Limited Space Available
	EXPLORERS Entering Grades 1-3		Endless Sunshine	Sci-Fi Spectacular	A Wish Upon A Star	A Camping We Will Go		Summer-ween	Holly Jolly Heatwave	COLOR WARS	Rainforest Rumble	Splash Splash Bash	The Game Plan	
	VOYAGERS Entering Grades 4-5		Sun's Out Fun's Out	Calling All Champions	Campfire Chronicles	Innovation Vacation		Summer-ween	Holly Jolly Heatwave	COLOR WARS	Just Add Water	Tropical Paradise	Mystery Madness	
SPORTS CAMP Entering Grades 2-5	Multi & Unconv. Sports		Soccer			Flag Football		Dance	COLOR WARS	Basketball		Volleyball		
SPECIALTY DAY CAMPS	STRIDE CAMP Entering Grades 3-5								STRIDE for ALL					
	CHESLEY SKATE: GROMMIES Entering Grades 1-5			Grommies	Grommies Just Girls	Grommies							Grommies	Grommies
	CHESLEY SKATE: HAWKS Entering Grades 6-8										Hawks			
	PATHFINDERS CAMP Entering Grades 6-8		The Hidden Challenge					Project Innovate	Kids in the Kitchen	COLOR WARS	Cultivate Curiosity		Nature's Playground	
OVERNIGHT CAMPS	TRADITIONAL CAMP Entering Grades 3-8			June 7 - 12	June 14 - 19	June 21 - 26						August 2 - 7		
	LEADER IN TRAINING Entering Grades 9-10			June 7 - 12	June 14 - 19	June 21 - 26						August 2 - 7		
	COUNSELOR IN TRAINING Entering Grades 11-12			June 7 - 12	June 14 - 19	June 21 - 26						August 2 - 7		





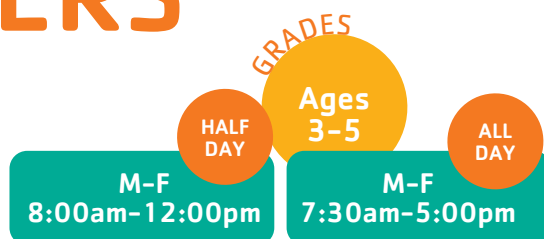
# PRESCHOOL CAMPS

NOTE: Fee includes all camp supplies and a camp t-shirt (one t-shirt per camper per summer).

## ADVENTURERS

For Preschool-Age Campers: 3-5 years old

Come on adventure with our YMCA Preschool and kindergarten readiness program. Camp is a great way to meet new friends, stay focused, off the screen, and stay on a routine. Your child will enjoy theme related games, art, music, and stories. We will go on a field trip each week, spend time exploring, swimming, snacks, & so much more.



### CAMP FEE PER SESSION

#### ADVENTURERS CAMP

\$245 Members

\$275 Non-Members

#### HALF DAY CAMPS

\$125 Members

\$140 Non-Members

June 1-5	Critter Quest	Lots of fun to be had exploring the insect world. Encounters: Close-up experiences with insects. Educational Activities: Games, crafts, storytelling, and learning about animal care, needs, and environment.
June 8-12	Winter Wonderland	Building snowmen or igloos sound like your kind of fun? Experiment with ice or making "fake snow". Create winter-themed art. Learn about Arctic animals and people that live in colder areas around the world. Storytelling and singing winter songs. Enjoy hot/cold chocolate and themed snacks. Engage in dramatic play, like pretending to be arctic animals, ice fishing, tracking animals in the snow.
June 15-19	Wilderness Wanderers	Wilderness Wanderers camp offers nature-based, outdoor early childhood education, focusing on hands-on exploration, play, and fostering a deep connection with the natural world, integrating STEM, creativity, and responsibility through activities like hiking, pond study, and campfire building (not real ones), interact and sing campfire songs with friends.
June 22-26	Prehistoric Adventure	Dinosaurs, fossils, cave painting, early humans, prehistoric plants, and animals. Digging for "fossils," crafting creatures, storytelling, nature walks, and imaginative play. We will be using our classrooms and natural settings for exploration.
June 29 - July 2 *4 Days Only*	Super Hero's	Crafting masks, capes, or shields; obstacle courses (ninja warrior style), themed games. Discovering personal strengths, helping others (everyday heroes like firefighters, doctors, or just being kind), bravery, and teamwork.
July 6-10	Casper's Spooktacular	Join us for a fun Halloween themed program filled with age-appropriate activities, crafts, games, songs, story time, and sensory play focused on friendly Halloween excitement.
July 13-17	Jingle Bell Junction	Catch the train to Santa's village. This camp is for preschoolers to have a fun filled week with a festive hunt for where Santa goes for the summer. Age-appropriate activities like holiday crafts, singing Christmas songs, decorating, cookie decorating, outdoor games, and story time.
July 20-24	Color Me Fun	Color Wars is a team-based event, back by popular demand. Divided into colored teams, compete in fun challenges using colored powder or other means to cover opponents, fostering team spirit through activities like color battles, flag capture, and themed games. This camp participates with some of the Color Wars Camp events.
July 27-31	Backyard Barn	Backyard Barn is a hands-on program where kids learn about agriculture, animal care, and growing food through activities like feeding animals, gardening, fostering healthy life skills, environmental awareness, and a connection to where their food comes from.
Aug 3-7	Transportation Station	Focused on learning about vehicles this is a STEM camp with hands on learning. Learning songs, making crafts, stories, and keeping in mind safety of how people get around, fostering social skills during travel time. Developing cognitive, motor, and social-emotional skills using vehicles.
Aug 10-14	Ahoy Me Alphabet	"Ahoy me alphabet" is a playful, pirate-themed way to ask for the letters of the alphabet, based off the book "Shiver Me Letters". We will be searching for the X on a week-long hunt talking like a pirate, having our own pirate names, making crafts, and singing songs.
Aug 17-21	Summer Splash	Focusing on water activities, games, crafts, and water sports, outdoor adventures, and a field trip to Tourtellotte Park for an end to the Adventures summer camps. This is a limited space camp.





# IMPORTANT SCHOOL-AGE CAMP INFORMATION

## Create Your Own Summer Experience!

Our summer programs are fully customizable, giving families the flexibility to pick and choose the weeks that work best and the type of camp your child wants to attend each week. Mix and match Adventurers, Discoverers, Explorers, Voyagers, Sports, and more to create a summer that's perfect for your child's interests and schedule. With endless combinations, you can design the ultimate summer experience filled with fun, learning, and unforgettable memories!

### SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM:

Campers/families are responsible for packing a cold lunch every day for camp. We encourage well balanced and healthy meals to ensure campers have enough nutrition to get through the day. Campers will not have access to a refrigerator or microwave. The YMCA will provide an afternoon snack to all campers.

### CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT:

The safety of all children is our #1 priority. Each child must be signed in and out every day by a YMCA staff. Only authorized individuals will be allowed to pick up a child. Check In is between 7:30am-8:30am. Check Out occurs from 4:30-5:30pm.

### LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY PICK-UP:

If campers are arriving late to the YMCA (after 8:30am) and the camp in which the camper is registered for has already departed, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to get their camper to the location of the camp. If a camper needs to be picked up prior to end of day (before 4:30pm), it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to meet the camper at the location in which their camp resides.

### WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP:

Backpacks are strongly encouraged to come to camp every day. Bring a refillable water bottle, sunscreen and bug repellent every day. Sunscreen\* should be applied before arriving at Camp; staff are not permitted to apply sunscreen to campers but they will remind campers to apply it often! Bring swimsuit and towel on swim days! Label everything! \*Sunscreen & bug spray are not provided.

### FIELD TRIPS:

A unique field trip is built within your camp experience. **Lunch is not provided on field trip days.** Please note: field trips are subject to change.

### CAMP T-SHIRTS:

Camp t-shirts must be worn on field trip days! The camp fee includes one t-shirt. **Shirts are distributed during shirt pick-up days (Dates TBD).** Additional shirts can be purchased for \$10 through our Director of Youth Development.

### SCHOOL-AGE ALL-DAY CAMP:

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

ALL DAY

### CHESLEY SKATE HALF-DAY CAMP:

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

HALF DAY

### WHAT TO WEAR:

Campers should dress comfortably for the weather and must wear closed-toe shoes. **Flip-flops/sandals/crocs are only permitted on the pool deck.** Label everything, especially your child's camp t-shirt!

### PARENT HANDBOOK:

Extended policies are included in our Summer Camp Handbook, which can be found online or at the Front Desk.

### DEPOSITS AND FEES:

A \$25 non-refundable & non-transferable deposit per session is required to save your spot. Deposit is applied to the final balance.

### PAYMENTS:

Payments must be received by the 15th of the month prior. Example: June camps are due May 15th. If payment is not received, your child will be dropped from the camp program and deposit will be forfeited. Payments will be set up on a draft and can be scheduled online through your account.

### WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED AT CAMP:

Personal electronics (including smart watches, cell phones & tablets), toys or games from home, shoes with wheels and weapons of any kind are not permitted at camp. Large sums of money, jewelry, or anything else of value should not be brought to camp. The Y is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal items.

### REFUNDS & DROP POLICY:

No refunds or credit will be issued for any days not attended. 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. The initial \$25 deposit used to register for a camp session is non-refundable & non-transferable. No refunds will be given after the **two (2) week** policy prior to the start of camp. If you are registered for a program and you cancel your membership, you will be billed for the non-member rate of the program.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Financial assistance is available through Connecting Kids or the Mankato Family YMCA. Families in need of financial assistance can contact Dustin Slaughter. Contact Connecting Kids for more information on their application process.

### KEEP IN TOUCH WITH REMIND:

Session-specific REMIND codes will be released once you're registered for camp. Make sure to download the REMIND app to get messages regarding all things camp!

# IMPORTANT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The Mankato Family YMCA Summer Camp program is committed to providing a safe, positive, and respectful environment for all participants and staff. The following behaviors are expected from all campers:

- **Keep Everyone Safe:** Campers use their bodies and words in ways that keep themselves and others safe. This includes keeping hands, feet, and objects to themselves, using kind and appropriate language, respecting personal space, and making choices that help everyone feel secure and welcome.
- **Care for Our Space and Belongings:** Campers treat YMCA facilities, equipment, and personal belongings with care. This means using materials properly, cleaning up after activities, and respecting the property of others. Families are responsible for any damage caused by their camper.
- **Participate Positively in the Program:** Campers stay with their group, follow staff directions, and make a genuine effort to take part in activities and transitions. This helps ensure that the day runs smoothly and that everyone has a fun and meaningful camp experience.
- **Live the YMCA Core Values:** Campers are expected to model the YMCA Core Values of Caring, Honesty, Responsibility, Respect, and Faith in their words and actions by showing kindness, being truthful, taking ownership of their choices, and treating others with dignity.

The following behaviors are considered inappropriate:

- **Threats to Safety:** Any behavior that directly or indirectly threatens the safety of participants or staff, including but not limited to: hitting, kicking, pushing, biting, choking, throwing objects, verbal threats, disrespectful language, inappropriate gestures, inappropriate touching, or sexualized behavior.
- **Destruction of Property:** Any behavior that intentionally damages YMCA property or the property of participants or staff, including graffiti, malicious destruction, or intentional misuse of equipment. Parents/guardians are financially responsible for any damages caused by their camper.
- **Disruption of Program:** Behavior that consistently disrupts the camp environment, such as leaving the program area or building without permission, refusing to follow directions, or being unable to transition between activities.
- **Failure to Follow Core Values:** Any behavior that does not align with the YMCA Core Values of Caring, Honesty, Responsibility, Respect, and Faith.

Camp staff will address behavioral issues as appropriate. Participants sent home for disruptive behavior will not receive a refund.

## DISCIPLINARY & DISMISSAL PROCESS/INTERVENTION

The YMCA Summer Camp program strives to provide a safe and positive environment for all campers. When a camper does not meet behavior expectation, the following steps may be taken:

1. **Redirection:** Staff will redirect the camper to more appropriate behavior, reminding them of camp rules and behavior guidelines.
2. **Parent Notification:** If the behavior continues, parents/guardians will be notified. Staff will explain the behavior, the strategies used to redirect the camper, and how the behavior is affecting the camp environment.
3. **Behavior Meeting:** If the behavior persists, a meeting will be scheduled with the parent/guardian, camper, staff, and Camp Director to discuss the behavior and establish clear expectations moving forward.
4. **Dismissal:** If the behavior continues despite these interventions, the camper may be dismissed from the YMCA Summer Camp program.

YMCA administrative staff reserve the right to take immediate action if a camper's behavior poses a threat to their own safety or the safety of others. **Important:** No refunds will be issued for campers who are dismissed due to behavioral issues.



# SCHOOL-AGE DAY CAMPS

At YMCA Summer Camp, every day is a new adventure filled with laughter, learning, and lifelong memories! Our campers don't just pass the time- they discover who they are, build lasting friendships, and explore a world of exciting possibilities in a safe, supportive, and fun-filled environment.

From hands-on art and STEM projects to music, literacy, and nature exploration, every activity is designed to spark creativity, boost confidence, and uncover talents. Campers will dive into swimming, play sports, and take part in field trips and unforgettable theme experiences that make each week feel brand new.

No two weeks are the same with endless opportunities to grow, connect, and have a summer like no other! Whether it's your camper's first summer or their favorite tradition, YMCA Camp is the place where kids shine, stories begin, and memories are made to last a lifetime.

## » LIMITED AVAILABILITY CAMPS

These camps are combined day camps for grades K-5 and have limited availability due to staffing. If a camp is full, we encourage you register to get placed on the waitlist. Our Director of Youth Development will reach out to you if/when spots are available. Please note Neon Takeover and Red, White & Boom are only four-day camps with no field trip scheduled.

Register for these camps under '2026 LIMITED AVAILABILITY Day Camps' through your online account.

### CAMP FEE PER SESSION

**4-DAY CAMPS**  
\$196 Members  
\$226 Non-Members

**LIMITED SPACE CAMP**  
\$245 Members  
\$275 Non-Members

**May 26 - 29**  
**\*4 DAYS\***

### Neon Takeover

This high-energy, vibrant camp theme is all about creating your own vivid adventure in a world where neon color and creativity come to life. Whether it's during neon-themed crafts or brilliant games, campers will have the chance to immerse themselves in a world of fluorescent fun. With bright neon outfits, dazzling activities, and the spirit of creativity, this camp will keep campers energized, inspired, and popping with color all week! (NO FIELD TRIP THIS WEEK)

**June 29 - July 2**  
**\*4 DAYS\***

### Red, White & Boom

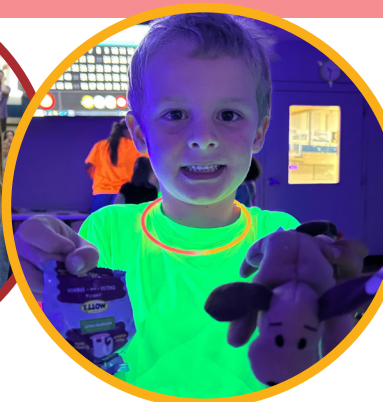
Let's celebrate America! With our short time this week, campers will be busy creating festive crafts, playing themed games, and celebrating the start to July! Grab your red, white, and blue gear and let's party! (NO FIELD TRIP THIS WEEK)

**Aug 17 - 21**

### Superhero Smashdown

Superhero Smashdown is a high-energy week where we jump into a world of imagination, games, and adventure. Campers will create their own identities, play exciting group games, and complete challenges. Along the way, they'll learn that real superheroes use kindness, teamwork, and bravery to save the day. Every camper leaves feeling confident, included, and proud of who they really are!

### Air Insanity





# DISCOVERERS

Designed for children entering Kindergarten Fall 2026.  
(Must be 5 years old by camp session date.)

In Discoverers Camp, every day is an adventure filled with exploration, creativity, and discovery! Campers dive into a variety of engaging, age-appropriate activities designed to spark curiosity and build confidence. With new weekly themes, children are encouraged to try new things, strengthen friendships, and grow in their character while developing the values of Caring, Honesty, Responsibility, Respect, & Faith. Most importantly, they'll discover that learning can be fun and rewarding!



## CAMP FEE PER SESSION

**DISCOVERERS**  
\$245 Members  
\$275 Non-Members

**June 1-5**

**Buggin' Out**

How does a caterpillar turn into a butterfly? Did you know spiders are good for the earth? Why should we save the bees? All these questions and so many more will get answers through a variety of activities that will help the campers know that bugs aren't that scary!

**June 8-12**

**Arctic Adventure**

Brrrrr! We are diving deep into the Arctic where we learn about snow, ice, polar bears, and penguins! Discoverers will get magical powers to melt a snow glacier revealing what was buried under the hard and cold surface! We will also be designing our own igloos and animals to go with it!

**June 15-19**

**Super Duper Sports**

Basketball, Soccer, and T-ball are just a few of the sports that we will be playing this week! Our Discoverers will learn about teamwork and the importance of cheering everyone on! This week is filled with active games and energy filled counselors! Game on!

**June 22-26**

**Safari Seekers**

Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime—where every camper ventures into the heart of the wild! We invite campers to embark on a safari-style expedition, exploring the wonders of nature and discovering safari animals. Each day, campers will learn about a new animal through the lens of their very own home-made binoculars.

**July 6-10**

**Summerween**

Summerween brings Halloween excitement to the middle of summer! Campers will jump into games inspired by friendly ghosts, clever monsters, and classic Halloween traditions. Through creative challenges, themed crafts, and costume fun, campers will use their imagination while building friendships and teamwork. With spooky activities and plenty of camp spirit, Summerween delivers all the thrills of Halloween, summer style, in a fun, safe, and welcoming environment.

**July 13-17**

**Holly Jolly Heatwave**

Join in where the holiday spirit shines bright under the summer sun! This festive, fun-filled theme brings the magic of holidays to the middle of summer, combining the best of both worlds: the joy of traditions and the excitement of sunny summer activities. Campers will experience a wonderland packed with holiday-inspired games, crafts, and celebrations—without the snow, but with all the cheer!

**July 20-24**

**COLOR WARS**

Red, Yellow, Blue, Orange. What color will you be? This week is all about friendly competitions to test our campers physical, mental, and emotional strength! We will kick the week off with a large opening ceremony where the 'Color Spirit' will assign team colors and conclude the week with crowning the 2025 Color Wars Champion! Thursday, we will head down to Sibley Park for our large group competitions that include water, paint, and so much more! Make sure to ask your camper which color they are on!

**July 27-31**

**Barnyard Blast**

Moo! Baa! Cluck! It's farming week! Campers will learn about everything on the farm from crops to animals to machinery! Through interactive crafts and hands-on experiments, our Kindergarteners will be full of fun facts related to everything in the barn!

**August 3-7**

**The Power of Plants**

Did you know that little seed turns into a beautiful plant? Campers will get their very own opportunity to watch a seed turn into a flowering plant. They will also watch a science experiment turn white flowers not white! Through crafts and other activities, campers are sure to learn that plants are vital to our environment!

**August 10-14**

**Alphabet Soup**

Every day is a celebration of our letters, from A to Z. We'll dive deep into the world of letters through creative activities, games, and challenges that inspire curiosity, teamwork, and imagination. Each day will highlight a new letter of the alphabet, and campers will have the chance to explore it through fun hands-on projects, storytelling, and physical activities. We will end the week with an alphabet parade where campers will show off their favorite letter. It's a perfect mix of learning and excitement, all while having a blast with friends!



# EXPLORERS

Explorers Camp is a high-energy, action-packed program where adventure meets learning! Each week's theme immerses campers in exciting hands-on experiences—from STEM experiments and creative crafts to outdoor exploration, team challenges, field trips, and swimming. Every activity is designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and encourage campers to try new things, make friends, and create memories that last long after camp ends.



GRADES

Entering  
1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup>

ALL  
DAY

M–F  
7:30am–5:30pm

CAMP FEE PER SESSION

EXPLORERS

\$245 Members

\$275 Non-Members



June 1–5	Endless Sunshine	What says summer more than bubbles, sunshine, and friendship? Jump start summer as we begin building connections through activities and games! Campers will get the opportunity to create a suncatcher & more throughout the week.	Chutes & Ladders Park
June 8–12	Sci-Fi Spectacular	Science here. Science there. Science is everywhere! A seed is sprouting. A lava lamp is formed. A volcano erupted! Every day, your camper will have experiments to tell you about and even some to try at home!	Children's Museum of Minnesota
June 15–19	A Wish Upon A Star	Join our favorite characters, Mickey, Elsa, Buzz Lightyear, Ariel, and so many more as we celebrate the wonderful world of Disney this week! We will be testing our Explorers knowledge through bingo, jeopardy, and other games! Each camper will get to create and design their very own set of Mickey ears! This week all dreams will come true!	Shoreview Commons Playground
June 22–26	A Camping We Will Go	Let's go explore nature! Our explorers are going on a camping trip and what do we need? A tent! We will be building our own tents and going on a scavenger hunt to find things we need for our campsite! Campers will be working to create their very own lantern to light up the world as well!	Fairmont Aquatic Park
July 6–10	Summerween	Summerween brings Halloween excitement to the middle of summer! Campers will jump into games inspired by friendly ghosts, clever monsters, and classic Halloween traditions. Through creative challenges, themed crafts, and costume fun, campers will use their imagination while building friendships and teamwork. With spooky activities and plenty of camp spirit, Summerween delivers all the thrills of Halloween, summer style, in a fun, safe, and welcoming environment.	Stages Theatre: Shrek
July 13–17	Holly Jolly Heatwave	Join in where the holiday spirit shines bright under the summer sun! This festive, fun-filled theme brings the magic of holidays to the middle of summer, combining the best of both worlds: the joy of traditions and the excitement of sunny summer activities. Campers will experience a wonderland packed with holiday-inspired games, crafts, and celebrations—without the snow, but with all the cheer!	Urban Air
July 20–24	COLOR WARS	Red, Yellow, Blue, Orange. What color will you be? This week is all about friendly competitions to test our campers physical, mental, and emotional strength! We will kick the week off with a large opening ceremony where the 'Color Spirit' will assign team colors and conclude the week with crowning the 2025 Color Wars Champion! Thursday, we will head down to Sibley Park for our large group competitions that include water, paint, and so much more! Make sure to ask your camper which color they are on!	Field Day at Sibley Park
July 27–31	Rainforest Rumble	Let's embark on an unforgettable journey into the vibrant world of the rainforest, exploring its unique animals, plants, and ecosystems through fun and interactive activities. From jungle games to creative crafts, your child will become a rainforest enthusiast, learning all about the wonders of nature!	Como Zoo & Conservatory
August 3–7	Splish Splash Bash	It's water week! With the help of our favorite games; drip, drip, drop, sponge relay, and slip-n-slide we are sure to make a splash! Our week will be filled with all things water and fun! We encourage you to pack a swimsuit, towel, and extra clothes every day!	Cascade Bay
August 10–14	The Game Plan	Whether it be basketball or soccer- we got the sport! Each day, campers will focus on two different sports along with crafts and activities surrounding those sports! We will also be talking about teamwork and the importance of including everyone on the team! It will be a memorable week for all of our sports fans!	Grand Slam

# VOYAGERS

Voyagers Camp is all about adventure, learning, and fun! Campers will dive into exciting activities like team challenges, games, hands-on projects, and outdoor adventures that keep every day full of energy. They'll try new things, build confidence, make lasting friendships, and discover what they're capable of—all while having an amazing time and creating memories that last long after camp ends.

**GRADES**  
**Entering**  
**4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>**

**ALL DAY**

**M–F**  
**7:30am–5:30pm**

**CAMP FEE PER SESSION**  
**VOYAGERS**  
**\$245 Members**  
**\$275 Non-Members**




<b>June 1–5</b>	<b>Sun's Out Fun's Out</b>	How can we think about summer without the sun? Join us for a bright and exciting week as we welcome summer and all it has to offer! Voyagers will be creating their own sense of fun through various activities and games all based around summer!	<b>Conquer Ninja Gym</b>
<b>June 8–12</b>	<b>Calling All Champions</b>	Play Ball! Hut-Hut-Hike! Goal! We've got all the traditional and non-traditional sports for our campers! Get your game face on as we focus on one traditional and one non-traditional sport each day! Campers will learn the strategies and skills of each game in order to be successful! Through our carefully designed activities and sports- campers will understand that sometimes we win and sometimes we lose. Put on your rally hat and let's go!	<b>Grand Slam</b>
<b>June 15–19</b>	<b>Campfire Chronicles</b>	Who's going camping? We are going camping! Will you survive? Voyagers will learn navigation through geocaching, acquire skills in campfire starting & building, and finally master the art of shelter building! Join us on this nature filled week where we tackle the crazy obstacle of the great outdoors!	<b>Central Park, Maple Grove</b>
<b>June 22–26</b>	<b>Innovation Vacation</b>	Through STEM activities and mindful programming- campers will need to conquer their daily task using their imagination and out-of-the-box thinking! Voyagers will test their minds through time racing activities to achieve goals! Let's take a break from our normal everyday thinking and let our minds wander and be free!	<b>Science Museum</b>
<b>July 6–10</b>	<b>Summerween</b>	Summerween brings Halloween excitement to the middle of summer! Campers will jump into games inspired by friendly ghosts, clever monsters, and classic Halloween traditions. Through creative challenges, themed crafts, and costume fun, campers will use their imagination while building friendships and teamwork. With spooky activities and plenty of camp spirit, Summerween delivers all the thrills of Halloween, summer style, in a fun, safe, and welcoming environment.	<b>Arnold's Park</b>
<b>July 13–17</b>	<b>Holly Jolly Heatwave</b>	Join in where the holiday spirit shines bright under the summer sun! This festive, fun-filled theme brings the magic of holidays to the middle of summer, combining the best of both worlds: the joy of traditions and the excitement of sunny summer activities. Campers will experience a wonderland packed with holiday-inspired games, crafts, and celebrations—without the snow, but with all the cheer!	<b>Urban Air</b>
<b>July 20–24</b>	<b>COLOR WARS</b>	Red, Yellow, Blue, Orange. What color will you be? This week is all about friendly competitions to test our campers physical, mental, and emotional strength! We will kick the week off with a large opening ceremony where the 'Color Spirit' will assign team colors and conclude the week with crowning the 2025 Color Wars Champion! Thursday, we will head down to Sibley Park for our large group competitions that include water, paint, and so much more! Make sure to ask your camper which color they are on!	<b>Field Day at Sibley Park</b>
<b>July 27–31</b>	<b>Just Add Water</b>	Be sure to pack your swimsuit or extra clothes each day because it's water week! We will be playing some of the craziest and wettest games campers could think of! Grab a water balloon and join in the fun! It's about to be a week no one could ever forget!	<b>Cascade Bay</b>
<b>August 3–7</b>	<b>Tropical Paradise</b>	Name a better way to beat the August heat than with an escape to the tropics! Campers will experience their own smoothies along with learning about tropical animals! Throughout the week, campers will design, create, and produce their very own boat to conquer the "sea". That's right, we have brought back our beloved homemade boat races! You won't want to miss this epic week!	<b>Minnesota Zoo</b>
<b>August 10–14</b>	<b>Mystery Madness</b>	The thrill of solving puzzles and uncovering secrets awaits! This camp is a perfect blend of adventure, intrigue, and fun for campers. Get ready to put on your detective hats and work as a team to solve exciting mysteries, crack codes, and uncover hidden clues in the wild world of mystery! Whether it's solving a treasure hunt, unmasking a hidden culprit, or unraveling a series of puzzling challenges, campers will use their creativity, problem-solving skills, and teamwork to crack the case.	<b>Edina Aquatic Center</b>





# SPORTS CAMP

Sports Camp is all about taking your game to the next level! Campers follow a progressive curriculum that builds technical skills, game strategies, and sports knowledge while learning important life lessons like teamwork, respect, and responsibility. With drills, scrimmages, and exciting challenges every day, campers of all levels can improve their abilities, compete with confidence, and have a blast doing it.

**GRADES**  
**Entering**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>**

**ALL DAY**

**M–F**  
**7:30am–5:30pm**

## CAMP FEE PER SESSION

**SPORTS & STRIDE**  
**\$245 Members**  
**\$275 Non-Members**



<b>June 1–5</b>	<b>Multi &amp; Unconventional Sports</b>	Unconventional & Multi-Sports Camp gives campers the chance to experience a variety of both traditional and untraditional sports! Throughout the day, campers will build a basic understanding of each sport while developing skills and having the opportunity to play and explore their interests! Sports include pickleball, basketball, soccer, football, gaga-ball, archery, and many other fun and engaging activities designed to keep campers active and excited all week long.	Conquer Ninja Gym
<b>June 8–12</b>	<b>Soccer</b>	Soccer camp is filled with drills to gain technical skills and knowledge in the sport. Campers will learn skills on dribbling, passing, shooting, and ball control. We will wrap up with a scrimmage on Friday to showcase what they've learned, which parents/guardians are invited.	Grand Slam
<b>July 6–10</b>	<b>Flag Football</b>	Flag Football camp is filled with drills to gain technical skills and knowledge in the sport. Campers will learn the fundamentals of football. We will wrap up with a scrimmage on Friday to showcase what they've learned, which parents/guardians are invited.	U.S. Bank Stadium
<b>July 13–17</b>	<b>STRIDE for ALL</b>	STRIDE for ALL camp provides lessons on leadership, character development, healthy choices, goal-setting, and cooperation, all within the framework of a fitness and running plan. Campers will volunteer in our community and finish the week with a fun run which parents/guardians are invited to.	Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children
<b>July 13–17</b>	<b>Dance</b>	Dance camp is filled with music, routines and technical skills within the beauty of dance. We will end the week with a recital to showcase what they've learned, which parents/guardians are invited to.	No Field Trip (Costumes/Props provided for performance)
<b>July 20–24</b>	<b>COLOR WARS</b>	Red, Yellow, Blue, Orange. What color will you be? This week is all about friendly competitions to test our campers physical, mental, and emotional strength! Thursday is our large group competitions that includes water, paint, and so much more! Make sure to ask your camper which color they are on!	Field Day at Sibley Park
<b>July 27–31</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	Basketball Camp is filled with drills to gain technical skills and knowledge in the sport. Campers will learn the fundamentals of basketball and the rules of the game. We will wrap up with a scrimmage on Friday to showcase what they've learned, which parents/guardians are invited.	Cascade Bay
<b>August 10–14</b>	<b>Volleyball</b>	Volleyball Camp is filled with opportunities to learn the fundamentals of volleyball. Campers will be focusing on skill development and working up to playing a game of volleyball. We will wrap up with a scrimmage on Friday to showcase what they've learned, which parents/guardians are invited.	Edina Aquatic Center





# CHELSEY SKATE PARK CAMP

GRADES

Entering

1<sup>st</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>

HALF  
DAY

M–F

8:00am–1:00pm

Campers roll through a progressive skate curriculum that builds balance, confidence, and technical skills while learning skate-culture values like perseverance, respect, and cheering each other on. Each day includes a session full of learning opportunities, plus a skate-themed craft that lets campers get creative and make something uniquely theirs. As they ride, they'll break through and conquer fears, find their flow, and celebrate every mini win. Whether they're mastering how to drop-in or polishing up an ollie, campers stay active, supported, and have an absolutely epic time doing it.

Extended Care will be offered from 1:00pm – 2:00pm for \$3. If you wish to stay at the Park past 2pm, you will need to pay the admission fee.

CAMP FEE PER SESSION

CHESLEY SKATE PARK

\$210 Members

\$240 Non-Members

**Camp Meets @  
Chesley Skate Park**

**Skateboards, helmets,  
and full pad rentals  
included in fee.**

**BMX & Scooters can be  
brought from home.**

**Chesley Skate Park  
161 Jaycee Court  
Mankato, MN 56001**

June 8–12

Grommies

June 15–19

Grommies JUST GIRLS

June 22–26

Grommies

Aug 10–14

Grommies

Aug 17–21

Grommies



## LEARN. PLAY. GROW.



# PATHFINDERS

Pathfinder Camp is designed for teens ready to grow, challenge themselves, and take on new experiences. Our counselors lead intentional, hands-on activities that teach important life skills and encourage personal growth. Campers enjoy a supportive, safe environment where they can be themselves, form meaningful friendships, and learn from both successes and setbacks in group challenges and social experiences. Camp is a place to gain confidence, practice teamwork, and create memories that prepare them for next chapter in their life.

GRADES

Entering  
6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup>

ALL  
DAY

M–F  
7:30am–5:30pm

CAMP FEE PER SESSION

PATHFINDERS  
\$245 Members  
\$275 Non-Members



June 1–5

## The Hidden Challenge

Something big is coming but it won't reveal itself all at once. Throughout the week, campers will collect clues, complete small challenges, and uncover hidden tasks woven into each day. Some clues will be obvious, others will be easy to miss but every detail matters. This camp experience rewards curiosity, teamwork, and sharp observation, all leading to one massive end-of-week reveal. Pay close attention... but don't blink you might miss the most important clue yet.

Kato Escape Room

July 6–10

## Project Innovate

The ultimate camp for curious minds and creative problem-solvers. Campers will dive into hands-on STEM challenges using LEGO® robotics, engineering builds, and everyday objects—reimagined and redesigned to work better, smarter, or faster. Each day brings new opportunities to test ideas, push limits, and learn through trial, error, and teamwork. From building and programming to inventing and improving, this week is all about creativity, innovation, and thinking outside the box. Join us for an incredible week of hands-on learning where imagination meets engineering and ideas come to life.

Arnold's Park

July 13–17

## Kids in the Kitchen

A week full of food! Kids in the Kitchen is designed to give campers the skills necessary to make a well-balanced meal from scratch! The week will begin with simple recipes and concepts surrounding recipe reading, grocery budgeting, and kitchen safety. Mid-Week, we will put our talents to the test by bringing back the beloved restaurant "yHop" (a spin off of iHop). Our week wraps up with our version of 'Chopped' where campers will need to plan, budget, shop, prepare, cook, and serve a recipe of their own!

Volunteering at  
Feed My  
Starving Children

July 20–24

## COLOR WARS

Red, Yellow, Blue, Orange. What color will you be? This week is all about friendly competitions to test our campers physical, mental, and emotional strength! We will kick the week off with a large opening ceremony where the 'Color Spirit' will assign team colors and conclude the week with crowning the 2024 Color Wars Champion! Thursday, we will head down to Sibley Park for our large group competitions that include water, paint, and so much more! Make sure to ask your camper which color they are on!

Field Day at  
Sibley Park

July 27–31

## Cultivate Curiosity

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! Through partnership with the South Central College- Agriculture department & the Minnesota State University, Mankato Engineering Center of Excellence, pathfinders will be journeying through careers and activities in agriculture and STEM. With an up close and hands on approach, this week is sure to expose your camper to the importance of science and exploration!

Daily Trips to  
MSU & SCC

Aug 10–14

## Nature's Playground

The great outdoors is our playground! Nestled in the heart of nature, this camp invites campers to explore, play, and connect with the natural world around them. From archery to fishing, and everything in between, campers will experience the thrill of outdoor activities while learning valuable skills like problem-solving, patience, and environmental stewardship. Whether you're hitting the bullseye with a bow and arrow, casting a line to catch a first fish, or discovering the wonders of our trees, Nature's Playground is the ultimate outdoor experience.

Edina Aquatic  
Center





# YMCA CAMP PATTERSON AND WE WILL COME BACK HOME.

Overnight Camp is more than just a week away from home—it's a place where kids discover who they are and what they can do. Away from screens and routines, campers dive into six days, five nights filled with laughter, friendships, and challenges that build confidence & independence. Here, they learn to paddle their own canoe all while growing in courage, resilience, and belonging. At YMCA Overnight Camp, every moment is an opportunity to explore the outdoors, connect with others, and create memories that last long after the summer sun sets.



WEEK 1 **June 7 - 12**

WEEK 2 **June 14 - 19**

WEEK 3 **June 21 - 26**

WEEK 4 **August 2 - 7**

**91%**

of parents notice growth within confidence, independence, and social skills after camp.

**95%**

of parents would send their camper to YMCA Camp Overnight Camp again.

Overnight camp sessions begin on Sunday between 1- 2pm at Camp Patterson. Dismissal from camp commences on Fridays between 1-2pm.





# OUR TRADITIONS

Tradition runs deep at camp and is part of what makes the experience so special. Every year, returning campers love reliving their favorite traditions, while new campers cannot wait to discover what all the excitement is about. At YMCA Overnight Camp, traditions are moments campers look forward to, talk about, and remember long after the summer ends.

Our traditions include No Utensil and Tie-Dye Tuesday, Color Wars (with a Red Team Captain painted head to toe in red!), themed dress-up nights (Red, White, and Blue, Western Night, Neon or Wacky Night, and Hawaiian Night), camp songs, egg roulette, the bullseye archery bell, cleanest and messiest cabin competitions, capture the flag, dance parties, and more! Each year, these traditions mean more and more to our camp community.





# THE CAMP LIFE

## CAMP'S ENTRANCE

The camp entrance is where all the magic begins. For new campers and staff alike, it marks the start of friendships, opportunities, and memories that will last a lifetime. For returning campers, it's an instant reminder of past experiences at YMCA Camp Patterson, bringing a sense of joy, excitement, and comfort in a place they get to call home. As you enter, you feel a warm sense of belonging, and as you leave, you can look back and see the memories that were made.



## THE CABINS

Our camp features 14 cabins nestled throughout the property, designed to provide a safe, comfortable, and community-focused space for every camper. 10 of these are traditional cabins, each with five sets of bunk beds and the capacity to sleep up to 12 campers. Additional bunks can be added as needed. The other 4 cabins can sleep anywhere from 8 to 24 campers, and these are typically reserved for our Leaders In Training.

Each cabin is thoughtfully designed with storage shelves, a clothesline, and a welcoming porch, surrounded by landscaped grounds that create a cozy, inviting atmosphere. While cabins are not air-conditioned or heated, each has easily accessible windows that provide excellent airflow and a connection to the outdoors.

To add a touch of fun and identity, each cabin is named after an animal, from insects for our youngest campers to the King and Queen of the jungle for our oldest, giving every group a unique sense of pride and belonging.



## THE DINING HALL

At camp, the dining hall is where energy, laughter, and community come together. It's where campers fuel up for adventures, share stories from the day, and form lasting friendships over a plate of delicious food.

Whether enjoying a fan-favorite dish, trying something new, or participating in a themed meal, the dining hall is a hub of connection and fun. Campers gather here for group activities, celebrations, and special surprises that turn every meal into a memorable experience. The dining hall is more than a place to eat; it's the heartbeat of camp, where belonging grows, stories are shared, and every day is celebrated together.



## THE FOOD

Our camp menu is thoughtfully crafted to introduce campers to new foods while keeping familiar favorites on the table. Every meal is designed to fuel adventure, build community, and ensure every camper feels at home.

We're proud to partner with Sadaka's Deli, located in the Madison East Mall in Mankato, MN, where owner and chef Susu Sadaka brings her remarkable talent and heart to our camp kitchen. Susu is more than our cook, she's a cherished part of our camp family. With her passion for fresh, flavorful food and her unwavering commitment to hospitality, she ensures all of us has a positive dining experience.

From accommodating food allergies to offering creative meal options, Susu's attention to detail and care help make camp a place where every child feels valued, included, and loved. Her dedication reminds us daily that a full stomach and a welcoming table are essential to the camp experience.



*Sadaka's Deli*





## THE BOAT HOUSE

The boathouse sits directly on the beach of Lake Washington and serves as the central hub for all waterfront activities. From learning to canoe and improving paddling skills to practicing proper safety procedures with life jackets and instruction, the boathouse is where campers build confidence on the water. It is also home to all waterfront equipment and serves as an additional storm shelter. In the mornings, campers meet in or near the boathouse for canoe instruction before paddling out in our Alumacraft canoes. One morning later in the week is dedicated to learning what to do if a canoe tips and how to safely flip it back over. In the afternoons, campers are free to enjoy the water using canoes, kayaks, or stand-up paddle boards.

## THE ARCHERY RANGE

Our archery range, located just across from the Dining Hall, is a favorite spot for campers looking to try something new or perfect a skill. The range features six targets set at distances of 5, 10, 15, and 20 yards, providing challenges for beginners and seasoned archers alike.

Campers participate in our progression program, earning archery pins as they improve and reach new milestones. Every bullseye is met with the satisfying ring of a cowbell and a round of cheers, making each success feel like a celebration.

Open during morning rotations and afternoon camper choice periods, the range offers opportunities for skill-building, focus, and fun, experiences many campers can only have at camp. Campers are also welcome to bring their own bows if they wish.



## CAMPFIRE

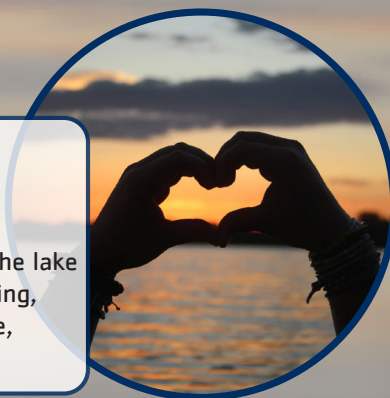
Campfire is one of the most cherished traditions at camp, bringing everyone together at the end of each day. Throughout the week, campers take part in three high-energy, fun-filled campfires packed with songs, skits, and games. Only at camp can a simple song or silly skit spark such a shared sense of connection and community.

In addition, campers participate in two reflective campfires, designed to inspire self-discovery, encourage personal growth, and strengthen bonds within the camp community. Whether playful or thoughtful, every campfire is the perfect way to end the day united, inspired, and full of camp spirit.

## LAKE WASHINGTON

Our camp is beautifully situated on the shores of Lake Washington in Kasota, MN, providing endless opportunities for adventure and connection with nature. Campers enjoy a wide range of lake-based activities, including swimming, canoeing, boating, and fun waterfront games.

A highlight of the week is paddling out to the beloved Grassy Island, a favorite spot in the middle of the lake where campers bond with their canoe partners and create lasting memories. For those who enjoy fishing, campers can try their luck off the camp shoreline, where catches have included crappies, bass, walleye, bluegills, bullheads, and even carp!





# » TRADITIONAL OVERNIGHT CAMP

GRADES  
Entering  
3<sup>rd</sup>–8<sup>th</sup>



Traditional camp is packed with adventure, connection, and discovery. Campers are introduced to classic camp activities like canoeing, arts & crafts, archery, exploring the outdoors, and of course all-camp games that are wild and crazy. Campers share stories around the campfire, grow with their cabin groups, and learn the true meaning of teamwork and friendship. Every moment is designed to build confidence, spark curiosity, and create the kind of memories that last long after camp ends.

## CAMP FEE PER SESSION

### OVERNIGHT CAMP

\$450 Members

\$480 Non-Members

# AND WE WILL COME BACK HOME.





# TEEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

## » LEADER IN TRAINING

GRADES

Entering  
9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup>

The Leadership In Training (LIT) program offers a transformative experience for young campers, focusing on building essential leadership skills, fostering self-awareness, and understanding the power of giving back to the community. Through this program, LITs develop qualities such as empathy, emotional intelligence, resilience, and a strong sense of individuality. Participants gain transferable skills for their future while cultivating a deeper sense of purpose and confidence. The LIT program empowers youth to grow, lead, and make a lasting impact within their camp community and beyond.

### CAMP FEE PER SESSION

#### LEADERS IN TRAINING

\$450 Members

\$480 Non-Members



## » COUNSELOR IN TRAINING

GRADES

Entering  
11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>

The Counselor In Training (CIT) Program offers a unique opportunity for individuals to explore the mission and purpose of our camp while developing valuable leadership skills. CITs will have the chance to shadow experienced staff in specific program areas, guide younger campers through their favorite activities, and plan an exciting afternoon event for younger campers. This hands-on experience is designed for campers who are passionate about working with children and have the aspiration to become a YMCA Summer Camp staff member in the future. It's the perfect way to build confidence, gain practical skills, and deepen your connection to the YMCA community.

### CAMP FEE PER SESSION

#### COUNSELORS IN TRAINING

\$370 Members

\$400 Non-Members



## » JUNIOR COUNSELOR

The Junior Counselor (JC) program offers an exciting opportunity for individuals who have completed the Counselor in Training (CIT) program and are eager to gain hands-on experience before becoming a full-time camp counselor. Designed for those not yet 18, this program allows participants to immerse themselves in the daily life of a cabin counselor. JCs will be actively involved in cabin time, leading both large and small group activities, assisting with mealtime, supporting check-in/check-out processes, and experiencing the full scope of a counselor's responsibilities. Paired with an experienced mentor, JCs will receive guidance, build meaningful connections with fellow staff, and gain the skills needed to succeed in future camp roles. This program is perfect for those who are aspiring to become a camp counselor in the coming years. For more information, please contact our Director of Youth Development.







**STAY CONNECTED!**



@YMCAMankatoYouth



@mankatoymcayouth

