

Neal Center YMCA Summer Camp Handbook 2022



Where you meet
as strangers,
become friends,
and leave as
family!



Welcome to the Neal Center YMCA Summer Camp!

The YMCA staff is excited to launch another great summer of camp, and we're glad that your child will be a part of the weekly experience. We recognize that when you register your child for camp, that you are entrusting the care of your child to our dedicated staff team. We have a mutual investment in making sure that your child's physical, social, and mental well-being is enriched through his or her YMCA camp experience.

Based on decades of camp administration, we know one thing that ensures a safe and memorable summer for all: communication between guardians and staff. Please know that your insights and feedback are welcome and encouraged to make sure the YMCA camp meets you and your child's expectations. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

We have a superb group of camp counselors preparing to work with your child this summer. Our staff is trained in child abuse prevention, CPR, emergency procedures, and basic water safety, all in order to prepare staff for consistent, quality and engaging instruction.

This program is not licensed or regulated by DCFS. We are a licensed exempt program. Firearms are prohibited from program premises.

Our Goals

- To provide children with progressive opportunities and activities that are physically and mentally challenging.
- To encourage children to develop skills that will allow them to build positive relationships with others.
- To give children a positive relationship with adult role models.
- To provide opportunities to accept responsibility, develop leadership skills, cultivate positive self-image, and give service to others.
- To help youth appreciate and respect the earth and understand their responsibility for the stewardship of our global community.

On the following pages, you will find information on key topics that you and your child should review together and acknowledge in order to prepare for a fantastic summer!

- Understanding of policies and procedures found in this Handbook
- Code of Character Conduct reviewed with child (Page 7)

We will continue to follow the IDPH guidelines for summer camp this year for COVID-19.

We hope your child has a great summer experience!

Sincerely,

Kiyla DeVoss

Camp Director

kdevoss@mattoonymca.org

217-234-9494

CAMP OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES

Themed Weeks

Each week of camp brings a new and exciting theme that the activities and opportunities will focus around! Please see the attached schedule for a summary of the themes. Updated copies will be provided at camp.

Camp T-Shirts

Each camper will receive a camp shirt (sizes not guaranteed). The only days they are required to wear the camp shirt is on field trip days. Shirt sizes are given on a first come, first serve basis.

Water Activities

Swim times will be scheduled almost daily at the YMCA. If your child wishes to partake, they need to bring swimwear and a towel. The Y provides floatation devices. Children cannot use floatation devices from home.

Parks

Weekly, each group will take a trip to the park! That day, they will spend the morning in the sunshine!

Fitness Classes

The Y is an excellent facility for physical fitness, and we want to encourage that in our campers to promote health! So, classes are offered specifically for our campers and geared towards their age and developmental level.

Field Trips and Special Events

Special activities will be planned throughout camp. It is not necessary to sign an individual slip for every outing. Registration in our camp programs automatically grants permission for attendance on field trips. Make sure your camper wears their camp shirt on the field trips!

Rec at the Res

Camp partners with Rec at the Res so our campers have the opportunity to join them for activities during the weeks this program is offered!

Community Partners and Guest Speakers

Our camp has many community partners that come for special activities and classes! We are grateful for our partners and the opportunities they provide for our youth!

Awards and Recognition

Character awards will be given to campers who display caring, honesty, respect, or responsibility. One camper from each group will be chosen to receive this award as the "Camper of the Day".

CAMP HOURS AND LOCATION

Camp Hours: 6:30 AM – 5:30 PM

***There will be a \$1.00 per minute per child charge beginning at 5:30 if your child is picked up late.**

Camp Location

Camp begins and ends the day at the Neal Center YMCA.

Age Divisions *Camp is for children between the ages of 5 (must have completed a full day childcare program) and 12*

We divide campers into groups based on the age/the grade they are going into next school year.

Campers will be assigned to one of the following groups on their first day of camp!

- Yellow
- Blue

Check In Procedures

Guardians are required to walk their children in and sign their child in and out each day. Children can be dropped off starting at 6:30 AM to our Multi-Purpose Room at the front of the building.

Guardians must escort children arriving after 9:00 AM to the site they are located.

If your child is attending a field trip, they must be at camp prior to the departure time listed on the handout. Children CANNOT be dropped off at field trip sites. They also cannot be picked up at a field trip site.

Check Out Procedures

Check Out will be completed by a Camp Counselor. If the child is not in our facility, the guardian must pick him/her up from the activity site or wait for the camper's return. There is a late pickup fee of \$1/minute per child picked up after 5:30 PM.

****Staff will be checking photo IDs every day for pick up, so please come with that ready ****

Only persons authorized during registration may pick up. This is for the child's protection. Anyone without proper authorization will not be allowed to take a child from the site. Guardians will be called immediately if this occurs. Guardians are responsible for keeping the Trusted Contacts (who is authorized for pickup) on CampDoc updated throughout camp.

Parking

During pick up and drop off, we ask that guardians please park in a parking spot for the safety of all and use caution driving through our parking area.

WHAT TO BRING AND WHAT NOT TO BRING

What to Bring on your Child's First Day:

We ask that each family donate one container of the following:

- Bug Repellant (Aerosol)
- Sunscreen (Spray of at least SPF 50)
- Baby Wipes (Used for cleaning surfaces and hands off site)

*These are stored for the summer and used daily for camp activities. If your child has special requirements for any of these, please notify the camp director.

What to Bring Daily:

-Lunch: Should be labeled with child's name. No microwave or refrigerator provided for lunches.

* We provide a morning and afternoon snack.

-Swimwear/Towel in a Bag (Optional Swim Time)

-Water Bottle

*All items need to be clearly labeled with child's name.

What NOT to Bring:

- Things from home: Games, toys, balls, electronics, cell phones, money.

-Medications that have not been authorized and submitted to Camp Staff.

What to Wear:

-Comfortable Gym Shoes. No sandals, crocs, or flip flops.

-Comfortable and non-restrictive clothing (covers camper's chest and midriff) that can get messy.

Lost and Found

The YMCA is not responsible for lost or broken items. Do not permit your child to bring valuables or treasured items to camp. A Lost & Found area will be maintained. Items in this area will be kept for up to 2 weeks only. Please place your child's first and last name on all personal items.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline Policy

This program has been developed to provide activities that are safe, creative, and fun for the campers. No child's behavior will be allowed to interfere with others right to enjoy being at camp. Any child who, after attempts have been made to meet the child's individual needs, demonstrates inability to benefit from our camp program, or whose presence is detrimental to the group, shall be discharged from the program.

Guardians may be asked to remove their child from camp for the day or for a period of time depending on the circumstances of the incident. Refunds and credits are not given for days suspended or picked up early. The Camp Director has the authority at any time to permanently suspend a camper for the rest of the summer based on behavioral issues

HEALTH AND SAFETY



Covid-19 Safety

We have made adjustments to our camp plans and will follow the IDPH guidelines for summer camp this year as we continue to navigate youth development programming following the spread of Covid-19.

Medicine Policy

All medications must be given directly to camp staff in the ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTION CONTAINER. Staff will only store one week's worth of medication.

If your child will receive medication at camp, that section of the profile in CampDoc must be completed. If medication changes during camp, contact the Director to update it.

Illness

Children should NOT be sent to camp if they have any of the following symptoms 24 hours prior to arrival. Children must be symptom free without medication for 24 hours before returning to camp.

***The following are general camp guidelines. We will follow the IDPH guidelines for Covid-19.*

- **Fever:** If over 100 degrees or accompanied by other symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, etc.
- **Respiratory Problems:** Severe congestion or unexplained wheezing.
- **Vomiting and/or Diarrhea:** Which occurs more than once or is accompanied by other flu-like symptoms.
- **Rash:** If the cause of the rash is unknown, if the rash is not being treated, or is known to be contagious.
- **Chicken Pox or Measles:** Or other communicable diseases.

Injuries

If your child is injured during camp, the staff will take all steps necessary to administer emergency medical care. These steps may include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Attempts to contact the guardian.**
- **Attempts to contact emergency contacts.**
- **Contact of ambulance or paramedics.**
- **If a child is needing to be transported by an ambulance and parent is not on site, the child will have two Y staff members who will go with them to the hospital.**

Personal Emergencies

If you have an emergency and need to reach the Camp Director or your child during the day at camp, please call our Welcome Desk at the YMCA (217-235-2500) and request Kiyla DeVoss or Heather Kistner (Camp Supervisor). If neither is available, inform the staff member on the phone of the circumstance and they will get in contact with the needed staff/children.

CAMP REGISTRATION AND TERMINATION

Registration: <https://mattoonymca.org/summer-day-camp/>

You will need to log in or create a log in

**** If you have ever used the YMCA for child care, sports, membership, or any programs, you probably have an account so start with the "Find Account" option. If no account is found, "Sign Up" now.**

A camper must be registered by a legal guardian for each week planned to attend. Late registration and same-day registration are permitted as space is available. These registrations are not prorated.

***Child cannot be registered or attend camp until all outstanding fees from other programs are paid.**

Failure to communicate non-attendance for more than one week will result in canceled reservations for the rest of the summer. The camp director will reach out in an effort to make contact on the status of attendance.

CampDoc

You will receive an email from CampDoc to complete a profile for your child. This must be completed before your child starts camp. The Health Profile/Trusted Contacts must be 100% complete.

Waitlist

There is a registration cap for camp. If you register after that cap has been reached, your child will be put on the waitlist. Guardians will be contacted if we have space for their camper.

Termination

If you wish to terminate your camp registration, you must contact the Camp Director.

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

When you register, payment or a payment method is required at the end. You may pay it right then or leave it as \$0 for it to schedule future payments. Payments will schedule for the first day of each camp week when the amount is left as \$0. All camp fees are due by the first day of each week the camper is registered. Failure to pay camp fees indicates that your child will not be attending camp.

****Those who use CCR&R/YMCA assistance will leave the payment as \$0. You will need to enter a payment method and contact Kiyla so she can adjust your payment amounts or schedule co-pays.**

If you need to make special payment arrangements, you must contact the camp director by the Thursday prior to that week of camp.

Fees:

Member: \$125 per week.

Non-Member: \$150 per week.

*Membership based on the child's status of membership.

Late Pickup Fee:

A \$1 per minute (per child) fee will be added for each minute after 5:30 PM (based on cell phone time). An invoice for this fee will be emailed and it will be processed with the next scheduled payment.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available through Child Care Resource and Referral or by YMCA scholarship to those who qualify. For information, contact the Camp Director: Kiyla DeVoss (217-234-9494)

YMCA Summer Day Camp Character Code of Conduct Contract

The YMCA Summer Day Camp strives to provide an environment in which children can develop meaningful relationships, acquire new skills and be engaged in activities that improve their spiritual, physical and mental well-being. The four pillars of YMCA Character Development are Respect, Responsibility, Caring, and Honesty.

As staff demonstrates these characteristics, we ask that your child honor these important character traits as well by agreeing to the following Character Contract.

Please read through the Character Contract with your child and acknowledge your mutual agreement to the contents of the Character Contract during registration.

Day Camp Character Code of Conduct Contract

My child(ren) and I agree to honor and support the attributes of good character while participating in YMCA Summer Day Camp:

Speak with Respect

I will choose to speak respectfully to and about other campers and staff. I will not have harmful conversations about others, discuss inappropriate topics, or use inappropriate language or gestures.

Listen to Staff

I will honor staff's directions the first time I am asked or told to do something.

Play Fairly

I will play in all activities that I have been given permission to do so and will play fair, following instructions, and respecting other's rights to play. I will not physically hurt or act aggressively towards others. If I need help expressing my feelings with words, I will ask a camp counselor for help and will keep my hands and feet to myself.

Be Accountable

I will remain with my assigned group of fellow campers and counselors at all times to ensure my safety while at the YMCA or during off-site trips.

Be Caring

I will ask permission to use toys, games, and equipment. I will care for these items while I am enjoying them so that my fellow campers can have the same experience. I will help care for the YMCA property by cleaning up after myself and returning toys, games, and equipment to their proper place when I am done enjoying them.

CAMP SCHEDULE

Subject to Change

Week	Theme	<u>Thursday</u> Dress Up Theme	Field Trip
<p><u>Week 1</u> May 20</p> <p><u>Week 2</u> May 23-27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friendship</p> <p>We are super excited to meet all of you!! This week we will take the time to get to know all of our campers. We want all our campers to feel like a family! Campers will play games and crafts as a team. Campers will work together to create a piñata as a team!</p>	Crazy Hair/Clothes	Week 2: Water Park
<p><u>Week 3</u> May31-June 3 **No Camp Memorial Day**</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pirate</p> <p>Ahoy matey's! Find your sea legs and join the crew for a week of adventure on the high seas of summer camp! This week will be filled with pirates, ships and treasure maps! We will adventure across the sea in search of buried treasure. Lets just hope we don't have to walk the plank before we find it.....</p>	Pirate	
<p><u>Week 4</u> June 6-10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Into the Wild</p> <p>Bring your imagination and a favorite stuffed Animal to camp this week! We will be surviving in the wilderness and exploring what nature has to offer! It will be a wildly good time! But do not forget your water!</p>	Favorite Animal	Fox Ridge
<p><u>Week 5</u> June 13-17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Around the World</p> <p>Calling all travelers! We will be circling the globe and visiting five different counties in just five days! Each day will be a new adventure filled with traditional games and crafts from the country we landed in. You won't want to miss this!</p>	Favorite Vacation Spot	
<p><u>Week 6</u> June 20-24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Under the sea</p> <p>Water games and some splashing sea crafts are in store for this week. It will be a splish splashingly good time.</p>	Hawaiian Theme	Grocery Store

<p><u>Week 7</u> June 27-July 1</p>	<p>Party in the USA Red, white, and blue, we want YOU! Come join us for a week full of festive crafts, games and adventures while we celebrate our independence. Happy birthday America.</p>	<p>4th of July</p>	
<p><u>Week 8</u> July 5-8 ** No camp 4th of July</p>	<p>Careers What do you want to be when you grow up? This week we are going to be exploring some amazing careers.</p>	<p>Favorite Career</p>	<p>Fishing</p>
<p><u>Week 9</u> July 11-15</p>	<p>Mission Impossible In just one week, become a world-class spy that can crack codes, write secret messages, create a disguise in an instant, and decode fingerprints! Can you crack the code, and uncover who took the pinata?</p>	<p>Spy</p>	
<p><u>Week 10</u> July 18-22</p>	<p>Y's Got Talent! Let your inner performer shine at the YMCA's very own Talent Week. Find your moment in the spotlight with activities like a lipsync challenge, dance-off, improv skits, and a talent show.</p>	<p>Favorite Super Star</p>	<p>Zoo</p>
<p><u>Week 11</u> July 25-29</p>	<p>Holi-Daze Christmas, 4th of July, Halloween!! Which is your favorite?? Come celebrate some of our favorite holidays all in one fun filled week!!</p>	<p>Favorite Holiday</p>	
<p><u>Week 12</u> August 1-5</p>	<p>BLAST OFF 3....2...1... BLASTOFF! Rockets, planets, aliens and more await your child during a week in outer space! Journey with us into undiscovered realms at camp this week. We will be making spaceships, meeting friendly aliens and playing out-of- this world games.</p>	<p>Space</p>	<p>Large things in Casey, IL</p>

<p><u>Week 13</u> August 8-12</p>	<p>School spirit As camp comes to an end, we will spend this week looking back at all the memories we made together. We be playing games and crafts See you next year, Campers</p>	<p>School Colors</p>	
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