



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you so much for considering the YMCA of the Shoals for your childcare provider for the Summer of 2024!

There truly is no place like Summer Camp, especially here at our YMCA! We strive to be a home away from home, where kids can laugh, learn, explore, and grow, while also creating relationships and memories that will last a lifetime.

The YMCA of the Shoals offers children positive developmental experiences. Our purpose is to help children grow spiritually, mentally, and physically. Summer Day Camp gives young campers an experience that can last a lifetime and inspire them to continue an involvement with the Y for years to come.

We have experienced quite a change in normal day-to-day life, but we want to let you know that we are here for you and for your children. Our main goals are to keep them safe, encourage them, guide them, help them grow, and to have a BLAST in the process! We hope you join us in camp and enjoy the “Legendary, Mythical, and Magical” summer we have planned! Let’s make this summer the BEST SUMMER EVER!

Jason Harbison

Youth Development Director

Mission Statement

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

Character Values

We strive to integrate our four core values in everything we do. These values are: **Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility**. We hope to help build these values in your children by serving as an example, providing activities that promote them, and encouraging your child to exhibit these values in their behavior.

Hours of Operation

Summer Day Camp operates 8:30 am-3:30 pm. We also offer pre-camp and post-camp hours at no extra charge. All children must be checked in by a staff member before a parent/guardian may leave them in our care.

Early morning (Pre-Camp) sign in begins at 7:00 am.

All children must be picked up by 6:00 pm. (Late pick up fee is \$15/child per day.)

Age Requirements

Summer Day Camp is for children who are **CURRENTLY** enrolled in Kindergarten up through Sixth Grade. In addition, all campers must be able to care for themselves during bathroom breaks and when changing for/from swimming. For children older than 12 or children who may require special care, registration depends on available spots and must be approved by the Youth Development Director.

Payments

Weekly rates for Members are \$125/child; Non-member rates are \$160/child.

(ALL FEES ARE DUE FRIDAY BEFORE THE WEEK OF SERVICE; late fees may apply.)

Payments can be made by cash, check, or credit card (in-person or over the phone; automatic withdrawal and online payments are also available.)

When registering your child for any week of camp, we reserve a space just for your child. **We make a commitment to staff, space, and materials based on your registration. If your child is absent from camp, NO REFUND will be given.**

Each child will be allowed one vacation week. With a two-week prior written notice of your child's absence, a system credit may be applied to your account and can be used for another week of camp. The YMCA will not deduct individual days missed, for any reason, from your weekly fee. Fees will not be refunded in the event of severe weather.

Caring and Trained Staff

The Youth Development Director and the Summer Day Camp Coordinator are responsible for the management of the YMCA Summer Day Camp Program. Summer Camp Counselors have been carefully selected and put through background and reference checks prior to employment. The counselors have also participated in the YMCA Child Abuse Prevention and Safety courses as well as additional hours of training to prepare for camp. Summer Day Camp Counselors are also CPR, AED, and First Aid certified.

Program Activities

Children will participate in a variety of activities during the week. These activities will include: swimming, arts and crafts, sports, nature and science, math, reading, and gardening. All children are encouraged to participate in all activities. If a child is unable to participate in activities due to illness or injury, they may need to be picked up by the parent/guardian for the day.

Personal Belongings

We encourage children to learn responsibility for their own belongings. Please do **NOT** send **PHONES**, toys, video games, Pokémon cards, fidget spinners, etc. These items can be expensive, and the YMCA is **NOT** responsible for lost, stolen or broken items. If these items are found at camp, they will be taken up by staff and returned to the parent/guardian at pick up. If you are unsure about bringing an item to camp, please err on the side of caution and leave all personal items at home.

Lunch and Snacks

A sack lunch and afternoon snack are provided each day by Feeding Alabama. Lunch typically includes a sandwich or wrap, milk, juice box, and a side item of vegetables or a piece of fruit. Snacks normally include pretzels, yogurt, fruit, or crackers. There is no charge for lunch or snack. You may also send a sack lunch and snack each day. **There is NO MICROWAVE or REFRIGERATOR for camper use.** Please pack lunches/snacks that require no heating or refrigeration.

Small coolers, and/or ice packs are useful if lunches need to remain cold. **CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE THE VENDING MACHINES TO PURCHASE SNACKS AND DRINKS.**

Food Allergies

Food allergies can be life threatening. The YMCA is **NOT** nut/peanut free. If your child has a food allergy, please instruct them never to trade food with other campers, not to eat anything with unknown ingredients and to tell their counselor immediately if a reaction seems to be starting. **Parents, make sure you have identified your child's allergy to camp staff on their application.** It is important that we as camp staff know what your child's allergic reaction is so we can help efficiently in the event of an emergency.

Medication

If your child needs medication, we will need written permission. **Medicines cannot be given by the YMCA Summer Day Camp Staff without a written, signed and dated request from the child's parent or guardian.** Any prescription sent to the YMCA must be in its original container and clearly labeled with the child's name and directions for administering the drug. **No over-the-counter medication will be given.**

Illness

The YMCA cannot provide care for sick children. Due to the concern and well-being of the other campers and staff, you will be required to pick up your child as soon as possible in the event they become ill while in our program. **We ask that children that are ill do not return to the YMCA until they have been symptom free (without medication) for 24 hours.**

Swimming

Swim lessons are a part of camp. Campers may have swim lessons 1-2 times a week. Every child must take a swim test to determine their swimming ability before entering the deeper portions of the pool.

Camp Attire

Please send your children in close-toed shoes every day. **Flip-flops/Sandals are not appropriate for camp.** Children should wear comfortable clothing suitable for indoor and outdoor **PLAY**. At the end of the day, your child will be tired and dirty. Camp is a great place to wear out old clothes. All clothing/towels should be marked with your child's name.

Sunscreen

Protecting skin from the sun is important. Please apply sunscreen before bringing your child to camp. You may send aerosol sunscreen for your child (labeled of course) daily and a stick for their face and ears. **Please do not send lotion or sunscreen that needs to be manually applied unless your child can handle the task themselves.** Children may not share sunscreen and the YMCA does not provide sunscreen. For the safety of all involved, Y staff may not manually apply sunscreen to any child.

Keeping Us Updated

It is the responsibility of the parents to keep proper registration information and phone numbers current in your child's records (which includes our operating system and application). **A child will be released only to people listed on the Authorized Pick-Up section of the registration form.** In emergency situations, changes in authorization may be taken by phone or email at the discretion of the Youth Development Director or Summer Camp Coordinator.

We Live by Three Simple Rules

- 1. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.**
- 2. If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all.**
- 3. Stay with your group.**

Behavior Management

It is the goal of the YMCA to provide a fun, healthy, safe, and secure environment for all our participants. The Y teaches core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Children who attend the program are expected to follow the behavior guidelines and to interact appropriately with others in a group setting.

Behavior Guidelines

1. Children are responsible for their actions.
2. We respect each other and our environment.
3. Honesty will be the basis for all relationships and interactions.
4. We will care for ourselves and those around us.

When a child does not follow the behavior guidelines, we will take the following steps:

1. Counselor will redirect the child to a more appropriate behavior.
2. The child will be reminded of the behavior guidelines and the YMCA expectations. A discussion will take place. The child may also be placed in time out.
 - A. The child will be removed from the activity they are currently participating in and will sit out for a certain period of time.
 - B. When placed in time out, the child will sit out in minutes equivalent to their age (7 years old = 7 minutes in time out).
 - C. The child could possibly be given sentences depending on the age and the behavior.
3. If the behavior persists, a parent/guardian will be notified of the problem. The staff will document the situation. The written document will include what the behavior was, what/if something provoked the problem, and the corrective action taken.
4. Director will schedule a conference with the parents so they can determine the appropriate action to take.
5. Director will schedule a progress check or follow-up conference if needed.
6. If the problem persists, the Director will schedule a conference that includes the parent, child, staff, and Director.
7. If a child's behavior at any time threatens the immediate safety of that child or other children and staff, the parent may be notified and then expected to pick up the child immediately.

8. If a problem persists and the child continues to disrupt the program, the YMCA reserves the right to suspend the child from the program. Expulsion from the program will be considered in certain situations.

Summer Camp is a privilege! In certain situations, the above steps may be bypassed, resulting in the child's immediate removal from the program.

The following behaviors are not acceptable and may result in the immediate suspension of a child for up to three days or removal from the program:

- Endangering the health and safety of children, staff, members, or volunteers
- Stealing or damaging YMCA property, or other's personal property
- Leaving the program without permission
- Continuing to disrupt the program
- Refusing to follow the behavior guidelines or YMCA rules
- Using profanity, vulgarity, or obscene language/gestures
- Public Indecency (or nudity)
- Acting in a lewd manner
- Threatening/Bullying/Fighting

If any of these behaviors persist, your child may be expelled from the Summer Day Camp program. No refunds will be given for time missed due to suspensions or expulsions. Immediate expulsions may occur if a child is in possession of and/or using vapes, tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, explosives, firearms, or weapons of any kind.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

In-House Registration will begin at 10am on Monday, April 1st.

1. Read, complete and sign Program Registration form/packet for each child. Forms/Packets may be obtained at the Front Desk at the YMCA or from the Youth Development Director beginning at Noon on Friday, March 29th.
2. Along with the completed registration form, the application fee and first week's payment must be paid at registration. If you wish to apply for Financial Assistance, please do so at least a week before registration begins.

3. Applications must be dropped off in person to the Youth Development Director. **Applications WILL NOT be accepted at the Front Counter.**
4. **Registrations for currently enrolled AfterSchool participants will only be accepted with no past due balances.**

NOTE: By signing the registration form, emergency medical authorization, swimming/wading authorization and field trip authorization, you and your child agree to abide by the policies set forth by the YMCA.

Dates

The first Day of Summer Camp is Wednesday, May 29th. The last Day of Summer Camp is Wednesday, July 31st.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
1	May 29 th - 31 st	\$75	\$96
2	June 3 rd - 7 th	\$125	\$160
3	June 10 th - 14 th	\$125	\$160
4	June 17 th – 21 st	\$125	\$160
5	June 24 th - 28 th	\$125	\$160
6	July 1 st – 3 rd	\$75	\$96
7	July 8 th – 12 th	\$125	\$160
8	July 15 th – 19 th	\$125	\$160
9	July 22 nd – 26 th	\$125	\$160
10	July 29 th – 31 st	\$75	\$96



A Typical Day at YMCA Summer Day Camp

7:00-8:30am	Pre-Camp (Breakfast not provided)
8:30-8:45am	Opening Ceremonies
8:45-9:00am	Group Time
9:00-10:00am	Activity 1
10:00-11:00am	Activity 2
11:00-11:30am	Lunch 1 and Clean Up
11:30am-12:00pm	Lunch 2 and Clean Up
12:00-1:00pm	Activity 3
1:00-2:00pm	Activity 4
2:00-3:30pm	Snack
3:30-6:00pm	Post Camp

****Swimming will take place from in the early afternoon****

*****Drop-off and Pick-up*****

Each day your child will need to be dropped off/picked up at the Youth Center entrance. Campers will be checked in/out by Camp Staff digitally, the Parent/Guardian will sign at Drop-off and Pick-up time. **Please allow extra time for Drop-off and Pick-up, we will do all we can to make these times as efficient as possible.**