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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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North Penn YMCA

Summer Camp Parent Handbook



NORTH PENN YMCA

www.northpennymca.org

NORTH PENN YMCA SUMMER CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to our North Penn YMCA Day Camp....

The purpose of summer camp is to provide positive experiences and opportunities to children through a variety of wholesome outdoor and recreational activities including, sports, organized games, swimming, environmental education and the arts. At the North Penn YMCA we believe that through these activities we will foster the social, cultural, physical and emotional development of children of all ages.

In a partnership with parents, the North Penn YMCA is committed to the wellbeing of each and every child in our care. Our policies and procedures reflect that commitment. We welcome your questions, concerns and suggestions. If there is anything we can do to make your child's "summer home away from home" even better, please let us know.

It is our hope that this informational handbook will be instrumental in answering questions concerning our program and contains procedures that will ensure the best possible experience for you and your child. Thank you for becoming part of our North Penn YMCA family. We look forward to working with you and your child(ren) and sharing in their growth and development.

In the YMCA Spirit,

The YMCA Camp Directors

MISSION OF THE NORTH PENN YMCA

Our mission is to make the community we serve a better place to live. Through our programs and activities, we strive to enrich and strengthen families; provide wholesome supervised recreation; offer positive learning, leadership and character development opportunities, and promote wellness for all people regardless of ability to pay.

North Penn YMCA CAMP PURPOSE

The purpose of summer camp is to provide positive experiences and opportunities for children through a variety of wholesome outdoor and recreational activities including, sports, organized games, swimming, environmental education and the arts.

North Penn YMCA CAMP OBJECTIVES

The camp experience is grounded in a set of seven objectives that characterize all YMCA programs:

- Grow personally
- Learn values
- Improve personal and family relationships
- Appreciate diversity
- Become better leaders and supporters
- Develop specific skills
- Have fun!

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

The North Penn YMCA embraces the values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility as the basis of all YMCA operations, staff development, and program development. The North Penn YMCA is committed to a positive approach and improves our community through its future leaders, our children. Character Development challenges others to accept and demonstrate positive values. Our camp staff serves as role models as well as teaching and promoting good character.

CAMP ADMISSIONS

THE NORTH PENN YMCA Camp Program admits children without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, or gender. The North Penn YMCA will make reasonable accommodations for children who are protected by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Each camper's parent or guardian is required to complete the camper registration packet. The following forms must be completed and returned to our office for our permanent files:

- Registration Form & Enrollment Agreement (required the day of registration)
- Emergency Contact Information (required the day of registration)
- Authorization for Administration of Medication (if applicable)
- Health Form
- Minor Participant Waiver, Release, Indemnification of All Claims & Covenant Not to Sue

Any change in parent's information must be reported to the Camp Director immediately.

DAY CAMP PAYMENT POLICIES

- A \$25.00 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of registration for each camp session your child is registered.
- Deposits will be credited toward the camp session fee.
- Weekly camp payments are due two (2) weeks prior to the session start date. Make all checks payable to the North Penn YMCA.
- All past due accounts will be assessed a \$30.00 late payment fee after the due date.
- Late fee/extended hours: if your child is dropped off or picked up at any time other than the times that are indicated on your registration form, your account will be charged \$1.00 per minute.

CAMP PAYMENT DATES

WEEK 1:	6/7/2021
WEEK 2:	6/14/2021
WEEK 3:	6/21/2021
WEEK 4:	6/28/2021
WEEK 5:	7/5/2021
WEEK 6:	7/12/2021
WEEK 7:	7/19/2021
WEEK 8:	7/26/2021
WEEK 9:	8/2/2021
WEEK 10:	8/9/2021
WEEK 11:	8/16/2021

CANCELLATION/CREDIT POLICY

Written notice to the Day Camp Director is required to cancel camp.

Withdrawals require two week's written notice to receive a full refund minus \$25. Less than two week's written notice, registrant receives a 50% refund.

WAIT LIST POLICY

If the program is full and you are placed on a waiting list, the day camp registration staff will contact you when a camper space becomes open. We ask that parents update us if they register for another camp program or their plans change. Openings are dependent upon the approved ratios for each grade group in each program area.

ABSENCES

Please call the following:

- Harleysville YMCA | 215.256.0767
- Lansdale Area YMCA | 215.368.1601, x 236
- Indian Valley YMCA | 215-723-3569, x 111

HOURS OF OPERATION

Traditional Camp Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM M – F or T/W/TH

Preschool Camp Hours: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM M – F or T/W/TH

Extended Hours:

Lansdale Branch

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Indian Valley Branch & Harleysville K-2

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

HEALTH AND ILLNESS POLICY

Children who become ill will be kept separate until a parent arrives. Parents will be notified and expected to pick their child up within 1 hour of being contacted. If a parent cannot be reached the Emergency Contact List will be used. The child must remain free of all symptoms for a 24 hour period before they may return to Camp. If a child is suspected of having COVID please see the attached addendum. A signed doctor's note may be required.

UNAUTHORIZED PERSON SEEKING CUSTODY

For safety purposes, children will not be allowed to leave with anyone except the people whose names are listed on your child's emergency information form. Children will not be released to anyone under the age of 18. Our staff will request a photo identification of pick-up person as proof of identity and driver's license. In order to provide the best protection for your child, we cannot release the child to anyone who is not listed on the emergency form unless we receive written permission from you in advance.

It is important a parent/guardian provide the Day Camp Director with certified copies of Court Orders for Custody of children enrolled in our camp programs. We cannot legally deny a parent/guardian access to a child unless we have been notified that the parent or guardian's custodial rights have been limited or revoked. The only legally acceptable notification is the certified copy of the Court Order. If an unauthorized person arrives to pick up a child, the staff will contact the custodial parent/guardian.

LATE PICK-UPS

If 4:00 PM pick-up is a challenge, your child will need to be registered for extended care. Campers remaining past 4:00 PM are only scheduled for full day and will be charged a late fee.

Parents, who in our extended care program, come after our closing time of 6:00 PM will also be charged a late fee. Please be aware that our camp staff has other commitments after 6:00 PM. Please have someone other than yourself ready to pick up your child in case of an emergency.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Complete emergency information including emergency contact persons is required prior to the start of camp. If there are changes to this information, it is the parent's responsibility to update as needed. Please inform the emergency contact person of their responsibility, and notify them of camp procedures and trip information, should you not be able to be reached. This information is kept on-file at the site of the camp.

CAMP OFFICE

In the event a parent needs to be in contact with their child please call the following:

- Harleysville YMCA | 215.256.0767
- Lansdale Area YMCA | 215.368.1601, x 236
- Indian Valley YMCA | 215-723-3569, x 111

A staff person will locate your child and relay the message.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

A weekly camp newsletter will be sent via social media including Remind, Facebook, Instagram and e-mail. A hard copy of the newsletter will also be available to parents/guardians.

LOST AND FOUND

Our staff will place all forgotten possessions every in our Lost and Found. Although we make every effort to recover lost items, the YMCA is not responsible for lost articles of clothing, other personal items, or money. Items not claimed by August 31, 2021 will be donated to charity.

RAINY DAYS

Camp is operational on rainy days. Some activities are modified to be inside the YMCA building. As much as safety allows, we will continue activities outside. Please send rain gear and dress in clothes that can get muddy. NO activities will take place outside, during severe weather or thunderstorms.

SWIMMING AND POOL RULES

Swim days and availability of swim time will vary with the camp program. When using public pools and water parks, all campers must follow additional rules posted by the facility.

YMCA POOL RULES

- Running on deck, pushing, horse play, flips, breath holding and jumping in backwards is not permitted for your safety.
- Glass containers, food, gum, & beverages not permitted in the pool area.
- Bathing suits must be appropriate, no cut-offs or T-shirts.
- Shower before entering the pool.
- Hanging on ladders and recreational flotation devices are not allowed.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

Campers will need to wear clothing, sneakers only and socks suitable for sports, being outdoors, doing crafts and generally getting hot and dirty.

Items a child brings to camp must be labeled with his/her name. On a daily basis, campers must bring a backpack with the following items:

- Bathing suit/large, absorbent towel and a plastic bag for storage of these items
- Refillable water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Sweatshirt/rain gear (weather dependent)
- 2 snacks/day (nut-free)
- Ready-to-eat lunch stored in a container with re-usable frozen ice packs (nut-free)

Campers are not permitted soda, gum, or to use vending machine.

** REMINDER: We are NUT free program.

WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

Campers may only bring the items noted above as requested by the Camp. No electronics of any sort are permitted.

REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

The North Penn YMCA staff is mandated by state law to report all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to the appropriate authorities. Any staff member who fails to report any suspicions may be subject to criminal prosecution. Staff is prohibited from conducting their own investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect and may not always notify you of their suspicions. Staff receives regular training regarding the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. If you have questions regarding the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect, you should contact the Camp Director.

CHILDCARE FOR FAMILIES OUTSIDE THE YMCA

The North Penn YMCA staff policy states staff may not use employment at the YMCA to develop a situation where they will be alone, outside the YMCA, with children they meet in the YMCA programs. This includes babysitting for children in our camp program. Please do not ask our staff to baby-sit for your children as they are strictly prohibited from doing so.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Conditions of employment include, but are not limited to, the following:

- First aid/CPR certification
- Training in safety and emergency procedures
- Program specific certifications
- Training in YMCA of the USA Child Abuse Prevention
- Criminal history clearance from Pa State Police
- Child Abuse History clearance through The Department of Public Welfare
- Fingerprint clearances
- NSOR (National Sex Offender Registry)
- 3 written references
- Proof of Education, Pa Teaching Certification, college classes and/or experience. All staff attends at least 15 hours of training prior to the start of the day camp. In addition they receive on the job training and are required to attend staff meetings on a regular basis.

HEALTH AND ILLNESS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Ill children at the North Penn YMCA will be kept comfortable until the parent arrives. Parents will be contact and expected to pick their child up within an hour. When a parent cannot be reached, the emergency contact person will be called. The child must remain free of symptoms, fever, nausea and vomiting, rashes, diarrhea, severe congestion, infections, etc., for 24 hours before he/she can be readmitted to the program. Children with signs of communicable or contagious disease will be readmitted only with a signed note from a physician stating they are no longer contagious.

ILLNESS POLICY

Is my child too sick to be in camp? Illness guidelines established by the North Penn YMCA will help you decide whether or not to send your child to our program. He/she should not be sent to camp and will be sent home if any of the following conditions are apparent:

1. Temperature of 100.4 degrees or more {excluding immunization reaction}.
2. Conjunctivitis or Pink Eye. The eye is red and itchy with sticky yellow drainage.
3. Contagious diseases including Measles, Chicken Pox, Mumps, Roseola, Hand-Foot-and -Mouth, and Fifth Disease. Parents will notify the Day Camp Director if their child contracts a communicable disease as soon as diagnosed. When a serious communicable disease occurs, the Director will notify the parents of the guidelines by which the child will be re-admitted to the facility.
4. Severe cold symptoms, excessive drainage and/or coughing.
5. Rashes that cannot be identified and have not been diagnosed by a physician.
6. Throat infections: child may return to care after 24 hours on an antibiotic.
7. Excessive vomiting and/or diarrhea.
8. Impetigo or ringworm until treated for 24 hours.
9. Pain reported in the stomach or head.

INJURY AND ACCIDENT PROCEDURES

In the case of minor injury, staff certified in first aid procedures will attend to the child and the parent will be contacted. The staff person on the site will fill out an accident report at the time of the accident/incident.

In the event of an emergency, 911 and the parents will be called. In case the parents or designated person cannot be reached, the Day Camp Director will have the authority to call for emergency transportation to a hospital. A staff person will accompany the child to the hospital and stay until the parent/guardian arrives.

It is necessary you keep the North Penn YMCA up-to-date on telephone numbers, emergency numbers and other pertinent information.

MEDICATION PROCEDURES

Camp staff may not dispense Prescription medication of any type without a physician's current written instructions and written consent from the child's parents/guardians. All medications must be kept in their original child-resistant containers, labeled with the original prescription label, and should be handed to the camp director.

For over-the-counter medications, parents/guardians will provide their medication in a child-resistant container. The medication will be labeled with the child's name, specific instructions for administration and storage, and the name of the health care provider who recommended the medication. Staff will have the parent/guardian complete the daily medicine log giving them permission to administer the medication to your child. Medication will not be used beyond the date of expiration on the container or beyond the expiration of instructions provided by the physician.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

In an effort to keep our campers and counselors safe from dehydration and heat exhaustion, water is readily available for our campers and staff.

PLEASE BRING A WATER BOTTLE WITH THE CAMPER'S NAME ON IT EVERY DAY!

SUNSCREEN POLICY

Application of sunscreen is an important part of protecting your child from the harmful rays of the sun. North Penn YMCA day camp participants spend a great deal of time in the outdoors and are thereby exposed to the sun's harmful rays. Since it is our commitment to promote healthy spirits, minds, and bodies, we have made the following policies in this regard:

- All campers and staff will wear sunscreen with a SPF of at least 15 on all exposed skin, including lips, daily, even on cloudy days.
- Parents or legal guardians will be responsible for providing their children with enough sunscreen {in a sealed container} to take with them for later day applications. One container per child, please.
- Day camp staff will be responsible for ensuring thorough follow-up applications after one hour in the water, after two hours of activity in the sun {due to perspiration}, or any other time as needed. Please note, this will mean some children will have the sunscreen applied for them by the day camp staff. Please explain this to your child before camp.
- For campers who have fair skin, freckles, or numerous moles; have blond, red, or light brown hair; have blue, green, or gray eyes; tend to burn easily and tan little or not at all; and have a family history of skin cancer, we recommend an extra T-Shirt be brought to wear in the water outside swim only for additional protection.

Please note that these decisions were made to protect your child. Furthermore, our staff members have been trained on this subject and understand their responsibilities and the consequences for failure in observing this policy.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

FIRE DRILL

Fire drills are completed monthly. An alarm is heard and the staff and children proceed in an appropriate manner to a designated meeting place. A record of drills is kept on-file noting the date, time, and length of drill.

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Procedures have been developed for emergency evacuation. Staff are trained in procedures for evacuation due to unforeseen emergencies.

LOST CAMPER AND LOST BATHER DRILLS

Drills are completed once a session. Camp staff is trained in appropriate procedures for each site and the procedures are reviewed with the campers prior to the drill.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

The North Penn YMCA camp staff will model expected behavior and help children set clear rules. Staff will provide structure and routine to the daily schedule. Staff will intervene promptly and provide coaching to promote children's development of respect for others.

It is our policy to keep misbehavior in perspective, recognizing every infraction does not warrant attention and identifying those that can be used as a learning opportunity. It is also our policy to resolve conflict with non-violent means. Similarly, we must insist that children participating in our programs refrain from threatening and violent behavior towards staff or children. Behavior that infringes upon the safety of the child or other children such as: attempting to leave a supervised area without permission, bullying, or abusive acts towards others, is considered chronically disruptive behavior. Chronically disruptive behavior will be dealt with in the following manner:

1. A verbal warning will be given to the child along with a reminder of acceptable behavior.
2. If the behavior continues, the child and staff will complete a discipline referral sheet. If warranted, a parent/guardian will be notified.
3. In the event of a second discipline referral, and/or if the child continues to require constant staff attention, a meeting will be scheduled with the Camp Director, appropriate staff, and parent /guardian in order to determine conditions for the child remaining in the program.

Any child who continues to be a discipline problem is subject to suspension and/or expulsion at the Camp Director's discretion. Any child who purposely endangers or injures himself/herself, a staff member or another child is subject to immediate expulsion by the Camp Director. No refunds will be made for the remainder of the camp session if this occurs. We are dedicated to the wellbeing of children and staff, and because of this we will take a firm stand on any types of bullying or aggressive behavior by any camper.