



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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YMCA STORER CAMPS

Summer Day Camp Parents' Guide

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your child's life this summer. Your camper's time at Storer Camps will help them grow in the four core values of the YMCA: Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. Our staff works diligently to ensure that this camp experience will also help develop your child's self-confidence, leadership, initiative and their ability to work with others. They will enjoy sharing stories of their challenges and successes here at camp this summer. We are excited that your family will be a part of our Day Camp family here at YMCA Storer Camps, and hope that this experience is rewarding for your camper as well as our community.

The information in this guide is essential for ensuring that camp runs smoothly for your camper and all other participants. Please read it carefully and save for future reference. If you have any questions, please feel comfortable giving us a call at (517) 536-8607.

In service through YMCA camping,

YMCA Storer Camps Staff

YMCA STORER CAMPS

Traditional Summer Camp | The Storer Outdoor School | Specialty Programs & Group Retreats
6941 Stony Lake Rd, Jackson MI 49201

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Before You Come to Camp...Have you completed and sent in all the necessary forms?

All forms are available for download on our web site at ymcastorercamps.org/daycamp or can be mailed upon request by calling (517) 536-8607.

Forms may be submitted at any time between date of registration and May 27th. If registering after May 27th, forms are due upon receipt. Forms (and payments) submitted prior to the first day allow for a faster check-in and more time for your camper to enjoy camp. **Registration is not considered complete without a health form.**

Camp Health Form:

Please fill the health form out completely, including signing and dating the Parents/Guardians Authorization section. Incomplete or unsigned health forms will require a signature at check in. We cannot give treatment to your child if the health form is incomplete or unsigned. Please note that a physical examination is not required by camp.

Permission for Camper Release:

List any individual who may be picking up your child. We cannot release campers to anyone other than those who are listed on this form, including parents. Please don't forget to list parents on the Camper Release Form! Please remember to bring photo ID to check-out for verification.

Confidential Camper Special Concerns Form:

Complete this form only if you have concerns to share with our staff. This information sheet is given to your child's counselor to help him/her meet your child's goals and expectations most effectively. These forms are confidential. Only the counselor, village director, and camp director will see these forms. Campers are not allowed to see Confidential Camper Special Concerns Form.

Statement of Account:

A statement will be emailed to you upon registration for camp. This is your record of any fees due prior to the start of camp. Fees are due May 27th.

What if my child has a disability or special needs?

YMCA Storer Camps day camp counselors are encouraging and patient and help facilitate successful camp experiences for children who need reasonable accommodations. Parents/guardians are asked to complete a Special Concerns Form to indicate needs and then have a phone conference with the Day Camp Director in advance, to discuss reasonable accommodations. Counselors are trained on ADA requirements and are also made aware of Special Concerns Form information for campers. It is recommended that parents and campers visit camp during an open house, or arrange a time to tour, if they are not familiar with our program or facilities. There is a health officer who manages medication administration, and dining services accommodates special dietary needs.

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Social Media:

Follow your camper's week at <http://www.facebook.com/ymcastorer camps> along with YMCA Storer Camps news on Twitter and Instagram! If you would like to be notified with any announcements or updates, please download the Remind App on your smart phone and share your phone number or e-mail with the Camp Director.

What if I need to cancel my child's stay at Camp?

The \$25 per week reservation deposit is non-refundable. Cancellations less than 30 days prior to the start of your child's session will receive no fee remission. Final payment is due by May 27th. Understand that the camp fee does not include accident insurance. **No refunds are given if a child leaves early or is dismissed for disruptive behavior.** Program fees will be refunded on a pro-rated basis when campers are unable to complete the program due to medical reasons.

Camp Property Rules

We believe that every child has the right to experience camp and all it has to offer. We believe in setting limits and explaining the boundaries for all participants. When these boundaries are tested, we use specific procedures to help the camper to continue his/her experience at camp. All of our staff receives significant training in these procedures.

On the first day of camp, our counseling staff will go over the expectations and ground rules of camp life so everyone is clear about expectations regarding inappropriate behavior.

Procedures:

Should inappropriate behavior occur, the camper's counselor will speak with the camper and check whether the camper understands the reason the behavior is unacceptable, as well as the consequences. The counselor will restate the desired behavior, with clear consequences given for not following the desired behavior. Possible consequences include a talk with the camp director, a letter home to parents/guardians, or dismissal from camp.

If the behavior is repeated, the counselor will let the camper know that this is still unacceptable and will involve the camp leadership. Storer Camps will contact the parent or guardian of the camper to make them aware of the situation and to ask for cooperation and insight.

This discipline policy attempts to let campers know that while they are cared for, certain behaviors are not acceptable in a camp setting. This policy also involves the parents before the problems escalate, and invites them to be a part of the solution.

If the behavior persists, the camp director will determine if the camper should remain at camp or be sent home. Parents will need to make transportation arrangements, and there are no refunds for campers sent home for behavior reasons.

Some actions may warrant immediate removal from camp. These actions include, but are not limited to: smoking or using tobacco products, using alcohol or illegal drugs, physical contact to other children, wanders away group or endangering their own safety or the safety of staff or campers. If parents are traveling, they should have a pre-selected individual who will follow through with these rules.

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What do I bring to camp?

Use the 'What to Bring to Storer Day Camp Checklist' at the end of this guide. As you get ready each day, make note of what your child takes to camp. Check again upon returning home. Since practicing personal responsibility is part of the camp experience, please discuss with your child the importance of keeping track of all personal items. To help recover lost items, **please have full names on all belongings.**

Does Storer Camps have guidelines for clothing?

In striving to provide an environment of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility we ask that you help with the choices of clothing your child brings to camp. We request that sayings/pictures on clothing be in good taste. Camp reserves the right to prohibit the wearing of clothing the Camp Director deems inappropriate.

Campers should have enough clothing to last the duration of their stay. Campers should bring clothing that can get wet and dirty without concern. All clothing should be marked with the camper's full name.

Swim Attire: To help maintain an atmosphere of modesty, we respectfully ask that boys only bring board short style swim trunks and girls wear one-piece swim suits that provide adequate coverage. Final authority of dress appropriateness lies with camp administration.

Are there any items my child should NOT BRING to Camp?

Being a natural environment designed for children to get a break from the pressures of the world, camp will continue with, and enforce, the policy of no electronic equipment. Campers may not bring portable IPOD/CD players, cell phones, radios, electronic games, laptop computers, etc. If it is discovered that your child does have any of these items after you leave, the items will be locked in the office until the camper checks out. We want to encourage wholesome outdoor recreation in the beauty of the natural world.

The possession of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco, alcohol, knives, guns, or any acts of violence or sexual misconduct will be grounds for immediate dismissal from camp.

For health and safety reasons, no pets are allowed, even at check-in/out.

Check-In Times and Locations:

- Our program runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Check in will take place at Denman Lodge on the South Center of YMCA Storer Camps from **8:45–9:00 a.m.** Please sign your camper in on our roster each day (do not drop off your child without signing in).
- If you are dropping your child off for Extended Care, please notify the Day Camp Director 24 hours in advance. Early Care activities run from 7:30 am to 9:00 am in the morning, and After Care from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm in the evening. All check in and check out for Early and After Care will be at Denman Lodge.
- If your child is sick or will not be coming to camp on a particular day, please call the camp office at **(517) 536-8607** and leave a message before 9 a.m. **The camp can make no reimbursements for sick days or absences.**

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- Some campers may have a challenging time saying goodbye to you on the first day. They might be overwhelmed and/or excited and have some anxiety about separating from you. Don't worry! Talk to them about how much fun they will have with the other kids and counselors while at camp.
- During check-in, parents and campers receive group assignments, finalize any paperwork and/or payments. Parents and campers with prescription or over the counter medications, or health related questions will meet with the Camp Director. Once completed, you and your camper are off to meet their counselor!

After your camper is checked in, please feel free to ask questions of any camp staff as we wish to make your camper's stay as pleasant as possible. Note: Counselors will check campers for head lice prior to meeting fellow campers. Campers with head lice or any nits will not be allowed to stay at camp.

Check-Out Times and Locations:

- Please pick up your camper at the same place you dropped them off. For the safety of all campers, you will be required to show a picture ID in order to check your child out. Check out will take place from 3:45 to 4:00 pm. **Please note that you will be charged \$1 for every minute that you are late picking up your child past 5:30 pm.**
- If you are planning to have your child stay for After Care, please inform the director 24 hours in advance.
- Any adult picking up a camper at check-out must be on the approved list on the camper release form.
- If you will be late to pick up your camper, please call in advance to avoid any anxiety for your child.

What if my camper is missing some of his/her belongings?

Lost and found items are collected and displayed at check-out at the end of the day. Our counselors make every effort to ensure that your child will return with everything s/he brought to camp, including a lost and found sweep at the end of the day, but your child is responsible to ensure that nothing is lost. **Please be sure all items brought to camp are plainly marked with your child's first and last name** and please counsel your child to keep close track of all items. If you discover something is missing upon your return home, please call as soon as possible. The more time that passes, the less likely it can be found. Lost and found items will be held for three weeks and taken to a local charity after that time.

Other Important Information:

What happens if my child becomes ill while at camp?

If a child stays in the health center or has any unusual injury, bruising or discomfort, or in the case of serious illness or other situations that require seeing a physician, the camp director or camp health officer will notify the parent/guardian. Parents are invited to talk with the Camp Director, the Camp Health Officer, or the counselors about individual camper needs when you arrive at camp. Remember all medications, prescriptions or over the counter medications must be turned in to the Health Officer at Check-In. They **must be** in their original containers.

Can I contact my camper in the event of a home emergency?

Phone calls to or from campers are discouraged. In the event of an emergency, parents should contact the camp at (517) 536-8607. The Camp Director will then work with the parent to determine the best way to notify the camper.

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Activities

Campers will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. All activities and schedules will be determined by the group's counselor and include but not limited to:

Nature

Get up close and personal with all things nature. Have you ever wondered what lives in pond or lake water? Have you asked yourself how many different ecosystems can be found here at YMCA Storer Camps? Learn about the flora and fauna that is located on the 1280-acres here at camp through games, activities, and explorations. Get hands on with animals and plants while discovering what you can do to help the natural environment that surrounds us every day.

Team Sports

Develop sportsmanship and character development while learning basic skills for team sports such as basketball, volleyball, football, soccer, and more. Each village will work on different skills and techniques for a wide variety of planned activities.

Target Sports

Improving accuracy with target practice as well as learning responsible care for equipment.

Arts & Crafts

Campers will develop artistic skills through a wide variety of projects including natural art and exploring pioneer crafts and more. They will explore different modes as they learn art concepts and skills.

Canoeing

Take a ride out on Stoney Lake with your friends and counselors. Staff will provide a brief tutorial on the ins and outs of canoeing before enjoying our beautiful, private lake.

Themed Activities

Theme weeks are what drive programs and culture at YMCA Storer Day Camp. Each week will provide different opportunities and experiences for your camper and is completely driven by our qualified counselors and directors.

Health and Wellness at Storer Camps

Your child's health and safety at camp are of great importance to the Health & Wellness staff. Please insure that **all** information on the health form is current, accurate, and complete, so that in case of an emergency we can provide proper treatment for your child. This includes specific information on how to reach YOU at a moment's notice, if necessary. Please also note that for Diabetes, Asthma, and Anaphylaxis there are additional addendum forms that must be filled out. You may download these at ymcastorer camps.org/who-we-are/download-resources/.

All medication must be given to the health officers at check in. This includes over-the-counter medication as well as vitamins or alternative/homeopathic medications. Pack their medication in a zip lock bag, in the original container, separate from the camper's belongings. Please label with the camper's name and village.

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Camper's are not allowed to have any medication in their possession while at camp with the exception of: rescue asthma inhalers, EPI-Pens and diabetic supplies. We recommend that your child's ADD/ADHD medication **not** be interrupted during their camp stay.

*Inhalers must come with the prescription information. We will accept the box or a copy of the label from the pharmacy.

If the dose of medication the camper is receiving is different than the pharmacy or container label states, a new prescription stating the current dosage, signed by the camper's physician must be included. This applies to over-the-counter meds as well if the dosage or age (i.e. melatonin) is different than what's stated on the label.

The Health & Wellness Center does carry a limited number of over-the-counter medications (for the complete list refer to your health form) to treat minor conditions such as headache, nausea, constipation, and allergic reactions. These products will be given per manufacturer's instructions. If you do **not** want your camper to receive these, please cross them off as indicated on your child's health form.

Sunscreen and insect repellent are important.

Camper's may keep these items with them. An SPF of 30 or above is recommended. Camper's are encouraged to apply sunscreen and insect repellent prior to starting an activity.

We look forward to serving your child, however, we reserve the right to refuse admission to any camper with a communicable disease. Please be advised that we expect camper's with chronic health problems to be capable of self-management while at camp.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Health & Wellness Center and your child's specific needs, please give us a call at 517.536.8607 Monday –Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm. We look forward to meeting you and your camper this summer.

In the interest of security, we kindly ask that there are no visits by parents or family members while your children are at camp. Visits create homesickness for camper's and hinder the growth and independence that camper's are able to achieve. **Please call camp, rather than show up unannounced, if you have any concerns.**

Transportation To and From Camp:

Camper's are brought to and from camp by their parents/guardians.

When using a GPS device for directions, please use the following address:

South Center Entrance: 7260 S. Stoney Lake Road, Jackson, MI 49201

For more information, call our office at (517) 536-8607 or check our web site www.ymcastorerccamps.org

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What to Bring:

- Backpack
- Water Bottle
- Towel
- Close-Toed Shoes
- Sunscreen (pump or lotion only)
- Insect Repellant (pump or lotion only)
- Swimsuit (one piece/trunks)
- Change of clothes (i.e. t-shirt and shorts)
- Camera (optional)

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