

YMCA STORER CAMPS

2021 Summer Overnight Camp Parents' Guide

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for choosing YMCA Storer Camps for your child's summer this year! Your camper's time at Storer Camps will help them experience safe, fun and outdoor adventures while growing in the four core values of the YMCA: Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. As in 2020, extra safety, sanitization and program offerings and procedures will continue in 2021.

Our professional staff plan diligently throughout the year to ensure that camp 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. YMCA Storer Camps' program has evolved from our beginning in 1918 to one that we are very proud to offer to your child.

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

Thank you for choosing YMCA Storer Camps.

Sincerely,

Becky Spencer, Vice President of Camping

Nancy Burger, Senior Program Director

Abimbola Fajobi, 2021 Summer Camp Director

Lindsay Lewis, Director of Zoology

Jim Rice, Director of Facilities and Grounds

Lois Williams, Director of Food Services

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Registration Information/Forms

Registration is available online at www.ymcastorer camps.org or by calling the camp office at 517-536-8607.

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 Friday, May 28. If your fees have not fully been paid by this date, the form of payment used to register your camper will be charged the remaining balance.

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

The \$150 registration deposit is non-refundable. Any payments made beyond the \$150 registration deposit can be refunded to the original payment method or applied as system credit. Final payment is due by Friday, May 28, 2021. Please 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 prorated basis when campers are unable to complete the program due to medical reasons.

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

All forms are available to complete through your CampMinder online account. You can access your account at <http://ymcastorer.campintouch.com>. You can request these forms be mailed to you by contacting our office at 517-536-8607.

Forms may be submitted at any time between the date of registration and up to 30 days before your child's arrival to camp. If registering less than 30 days from your child's arrival to camp, forms are due upon receipt. **Forms (and payments) submitted prior to Check-In Day allow for a faster check-in and more time to see camp with your child.** **Registration is not considered complete without a Health History form.**

Health History 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. With our new CampMinder software system, families will only need to update their child's health form beginning in 2022 rather than filling out a new form each year.

Authorized Grown-Ups Form:

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 Authorized Grown-Ups Form!** Please remember to bring your 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 leader, and camp director will see these forms. Campers are not allowed to see Confidential Camper Special Concerns Form.

Check-In & Check-Out Details (For health and safety reasons, no pets allowed, including at check-in/out).

Check-In Times and Location (also see Summer 2021 Policies & Procedures for specific details)

- Are between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm Eastern Time on opening day.
- Approximate driving time from Sylvania, OH is 1 hour and 15 minutes and from Ann Arbor it is approximately 45 minutes. Please see driving directions on page 12. Once again due to COVID precautions we have once again altered our Check In Process for 2021.
- **All campers will be checking in at Malachi Dining Hall entrance at 6701 North Stony Lake Road**
- During check-in, one adult will be allowed to accompany each camper. Adults/campers will be required to have their temperatures checked and asked COVID screening questions prior to entering Malachi Dining Hall and officially checking in.
- You and your camper receive cabin assignments, finalize any paperwork and/or payments. Adult and campers with prescription or over the counter medications, or health related questions will meet with the Camp Health Officer. All campers also go through a head/lice check. Campers with head lice or nits will not be allowed to stay at camp. Once you and your camper have completed the Check In process, a Storer staff member will walk your camper to move in and meet their counselor and cabin mates!
- Please feel free to ask questions of any camp staff as we wish to make your camper's stay as pleasant as possible.
- After all the campers arrive at the cabin, the cabin group will visit the lake for a swim check. Swim checks on the afternoon of each opening day allow us to identify any non or weak swimmers that need to be supervised more closely.

Check-Out Times & Location (also see Summer 2021 Policies & Procedures for specific details)

- Check-out times are between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on the last day of your camper's session.
- **All campers will be checking out at Malachi Dining Hall entrance at 6701 North Stony Lake Road**
- Please arrive no earlier than 1:00pm and no later than 2:00 pm. Make sure to call 517-536-8607 if you are running late. If campers are not picked up by 2 PM a phone call to the guardian will be made. At 2:15 pm if there is still no contact from the camper's guardian the camper's emergency contact will be contacted. If by 2:30 pm there is no contact with the guardian or the camper's emergency contact, child protective services will be called for the camper's safety.
- The Storer staff will direct you through the Drive Thru Check Out process.
- You will be required to sign the Camper Release form before picking up your camper. Please bring your driver's license or picture identification. Under no circumstances will camp release a child to someone not authorized on the Camper Release form, including parents who are not listed on the form.
- Your camper, their luggage, Camper Take Home Envelope and medications will be brought to you at your parked car after you have signed the Camper Release form.

Communication With Your Camper

Letters & E-Mail:

Mail is welcome at camp! Please consider the amount of time needed for delivery from your area. Mail is generally received at our office in the late afternoon and will be delivered to campers the following day on Monday through Friday. Another option to assure your child receives their mail/package in a timely manner is to drop off items during check-in.

Care packages are a welcomed sight during mail call. Ideas include: books, games, magazines, stickers, playing cards, glow sticks or stationary. In the spirit of equity, if you send a care package, remember that there are children in the cabin who may not be receiving packages. Please consider providing enough of at least one item you send to share with other children in the cabin. **Please avoid sending food or candy.**

Address postal mail to:
(Campers Name)
(Session #, Village, and Cabin Name)
YMCA Storer Camps
6941 Stony Lake Road
Jackson, MI 49201

Youth campers will be encouraged to write home. Do not be alarmed if the letters are brief and quite irregular as the youngsters are busy at camp and “no news is good news” as far as campers are concerned. Due to homesickness, early letters may sound upsetting, but usually by the time you receive the letter the camper has adjusted and often forgotten what she/he wrote. Be sure to send envelopes and stamps, you may want to help your child address/stamp envelopes prior to them attending camp.

E-mails may be sent to your camper via our website: www.ymcastorercamps.org on the Parents Page. E-mails will be downloaded Monday –Friday mornings. They will be delivered Mon—Fri along with the postal mail at lunch/dinner each day for distribution to campers. Because camp days are full of fun and activities, emails & postal mail, may not be received by campers until the following day. Please allow extra time for delivery.

Social Media:

You can find photos and camp updates by visiting the YMCA Storer Camps Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/ymcastorercamps>.

Visitors on Camp

In the interest of security, we kindly ask that there are no visits by parents or family members while your child is at camp. Visits create homesickness for campers and hinder the growth and independence that campers are able to achieve. PLEASE CALL CAMP, RATHER THAN SHOW UP UN-ANNOUNCED, if you have any concerns.

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 members receive significant training in these procedures.

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

Procedures:

Should inappropriate behavior occur, the camper's counselor will speak with the camper and check whether the camper understands why the behavior is unacceptable and knows what the consequences are. The counselor will restate the desired behavior, with clear consequences given for not following the desired behavior. Possible consequences: a talk with village director, camp director, a call home, or be sent home. 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, wandering away from their 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. Parents or guardians are responsible for any transportation after a dismissal from camp.

Packing For Camp

Use the 'What to Bring to Storer Camps Checklist' at the Storer Camps website [http://www.ymcastorer camps.org/clientuploads/2021%20Items/Summer/2021 Packing Checklist.pdf](http://www.ymcastorer camps.org/clientuploads/2021%20Items/Summer/2021%20Items/Summer/2021%20Items/Summer/2021 Packing Checklist.pdf). As you pack, mark the items off on the list. Check again upon returning home while unpacking. 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 will 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.

Horseback Riding: Weather permitting, all youth and Trailblazer campers will have the opportunity to participate in a horse lesson or trail ride (at no extra charge). Long pants and closed toed shoes are required to wear at the horse barns. Helmets are provided by the camp. Crocs are not acceptable footwear in the barn or on horseback.

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

For health and safety reasons, no pets allowed, including at check-in/out. 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 bring a fan. Campers may not bring portable IPOD/CD players, **cellphones**, tablets, radios, smartwatches, 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, vaping, alcohol, knives, guns, or any acts of violence or sexual misconduct will be grounds for immediate dismissal from camp.

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

Our counselors make every effort to ensure that your child will return with everything s/he brought to camp, 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.

Any lost and found items will be collected at the end of each session. 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.

Cellphone/Tablet Policy:

Campers are not permitted to have cellphones, tablets, or any other device that can connect to the internet. Any prohibited electronic device will be confiscated and returned to a parent or guardian. This rule is put in place to not only preserve the nature of camp, but also for safety of all campers.

Do I need to send spending money?

No. There is no need to send money to camp with your child as there is nothing for them to purchase during their camp stay. We will once again have a small variety of items (t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.) available on check-in and check-out days at our Trading Post table.

Health and Wellness at Storer Camps

Your child's health and safety at camp are of great importance to the Health & Wellness staff. Please ensure that **all** information on the health form is current, accurate, and complete 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 attach a copy of the child's insurance card to the health form. Please also note that for Diabetes, Asthma, and Anaphylaxis there are additional addendum forms that must be filled out. You may download these at ymcastorerccamps.org.

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 campers with chronic health

problems to be capable of self-management while at camp.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our health/wellness program or your child's specific needs, please give us a call Monday-Friday from 9:00am-4:30pm. We look forward to meeting your child this summer.

What if my child has a disability or special needs?

YMCA Storer Camps summer overnight 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 Confidential Camper Special Concerns Form to indicate needs and then have a phone conference with the Summer 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 one of our two Summer Preview Days (April 18 and May 16, 2021) if they are not familiar with our program or facilities. Storer Camps Health Officer manages medication administration and our Food Service Director assures special dietary needs are met. Again, let camp know how we can best meet your child's needs while they are at camp.

Your Child's Safety:

Our campers' safety and well-being is our number one concern while they are at camp. For this reason we practice "sight and sound" here at Storer Camps. All campers must be within sight and hearing distance from a counselor at all times. Campers are also never alone with a single staff member.

What happens if my child becomes ill while at camp?

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 if their child stays in the health center or has any unusual injury, bruising or discomfort. Parents are invited to talk with the Camp Director, the Camp Health Officer, or the counselors, about individual camper needs either prior to camp or during check in. 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.

Medication Management Procedures

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 luggage. Please label with the camper's name and village. Campers are not allowed to have any medication in their possession or in their cabins 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 on your child's health form.

How can I help reduce the likelihood that my child will experience homesickness?

Campers look forward to hearing from their families. Please write to them so they receive a letter the 1st or 2nd day. (You can leave letters at the registration table on check-in day and we will deliver them with the regular mail). We recommend that letters be positive in such a way that they will not make the camper homesick. Don't make your camper feel that you can't get along without them or suggest or ask them about homesickness. Have your camper do an overnight stay at a friend's or relative's house to get used to being away from home.

Temporary homesickness is a normal reaction, particularly to new campers. With proper handling by the staff, campers and parents, homesickness can be overcome and the camper can make a big stride in maturing. We welcome this opportunity to help campers grow in this area and we train our staff to handle homesickness in constructive and loving ways.

Can I arrange for my child to be in the same cabin as his/her friend?

We will do our best to honor **one cabin mate request**. While it may seem like it would be beneficial to a camper's experience to have them in the same cabin with a large friend group, this is something that we try to avoid. Having one large friend group together isolates other children in that cabin and prevents members of that friend group from making friends. Thank you for understanding that we want the camp experience to be positive for all members of a cabin.

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

Phone calls to or from campers are discouraged as they can exasperate homesickness. 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. If calling outside of office hours, please follow the voice prompts for accessing camp's Director on Call.

Bedwetting

Parents are asked to notify camp staff about bedwetting on the Confidential Camper Special Concerns Form. All forms are available to complete through your CampMinder online account. You can access your account at <http://ymcastorer.campintouch.com>.

This information is passed on to the counselors and dealt with in a discrete manner. Parents may also speak with the counselors about your child's nighttime routines at drop-off. Campers are extremely active during the day and are deep sleepers at night. If your child has a history of bedwetting, you may want to consider using "pull-ups" at night. Pull-ups can be distributed to your camper in a confidential manner at bedtime.

Parents are also asked to please talk to your child to let their counselor know if they have a wetting accident that isn't noticed. Counselors are trained to keep a wet bed as private as possible, and to get the camper's bedding to the health center for immediate laundering. Finally, please remember that a

camper may come home from their last day at camp with wet bedding because staff didn't have time to wash them on pick-up day. The goal is to limit any embarrassment and to protect camper's privacy so they may have an incredible camp experience.

Sunscreen and insect repellent are important.

Campers may keep these items with them. An SPF of 30 or above is recommended. Campers are encouraged to apply sunscreen and insect repellent whenever they leave their cabins.

2021 Program Plan

As we did in 2020, the 2021 Program Plans will be adjusted to help us meet proper COVID precautions set by the local/state authorities. Cabin groups will be smaller and will travel together throughout the day to all their program activities. Here is an example of a typical day (individual cabin/village activities & times will vary to allow of smaller groups and social distancing):

Typical Day for Youth Campers

- 7:00 Rise & Shine for youth campers
- 7:25 Daily Health Screening/temperature check/hand washing before entering dining hall
- 7:30 Breakfast in Malachi Dining Hall
- 8:15 All Camp Flag
- 8:30 Tea Time & Cabin Clean Up
- 9:15-10:00 1st Activity Period (Boating)
- 10:15-11:00 2nd Activity Period (Archery)
- 11:15 Hand washing before entering dining hall
- 11:15-Noon Lunch
- 12:15-1:00 Saska (rest period)
- 1:15-2:15 Swim Time
- 2:30-3:30 3rd Activity Period (Small Animal Barn)
- 3:45-4:45 4th Activity Period (Fishing)
- 5:55 Daily Health Screening/temperature check/hand washing before entering dining hall
- 5:00-5:40 Dinner
- 5:45 All Camp Flag Lowering
- 6:00-6:55 5th Activity Period (Disc Golf)
- 7:00-8:00 Village Evening Program
- 8:00-9:30 Snack/Cabin Devotions>Showers
- 9:30 Lights Out

Typical Day for Teen Campers

- 7:30 Showers for teen campers
- 8:15 All Camp Flag
- 8:25 Daily Health Screening/temperature check/hand washing before entering dining hall
- 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:15-10:00 1st Activity Period (Arts & Crafts)
- 10:15-11:00 2nd Activity Period (Team building)
- 11:15-Noon 3rd Activity Period (Trail Ride)
- 12:05 Hand washing before entering dining hall
- 12:15-1:00 Cookout Lunch
- 1:15-2:15 Saska (rest period)
- 2:30-3:30 4th Activity Period (Nature Center)
- 3:45-4:45 5th Activity Period (Library)
- 5:00-5:45 Tea Time & Cabin Clean Up
- 5:45 All Camp Flag Lowering
- 5:55 Daily Health Screening/temperature check/hand washing before entering dining hall
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:00-8:00 Swim Time
- 8:00-9:00 Village Evening Program
- 9:30 Snack/Cabin Devotions>Showers
- 10:30 Lights Out

Transportation while at camp.

Please be aware there may be an occasion where campers are transported from one point of camp to another via trained staff because of distance or logistical reasons. Those who sign up for Ranch/Ranch Rough Riders, Outback and Pathfinder programs may be involved in such activities for the purpose of their program activities.

Driving Instructions to YMCA Storer Camps...Getting Here!

From Toledo, Ohio and points South:

Take U.S. 23 North about 16 miles into Michigan and exit at Dundee (Exit 17). Turn left onto M-50 West. Drive 40-45 minutes on M-50. After passing through Brooklyn, the next town is Napoleon. Across from the gas station, turn left onto Stony Lake Road.

After 1/4 mile, Stony Lake Road divides into South Stony Lake Road and Stony Lake Road (sometimes referenced as North Stony Lake Road). Keep to your right on Stony Lake Road. The camp entrance is approximately 2 miles ahead on your left.

From Ann Arbor or Detroit, Michigan and points East:

Go West on Interstate 94 to exit # 157 (for Old US 12 or Pierce Road)

Turn left and proceed south 8 miles to Norvell Road. A light will be at the intersection.

At Norvell Road, turn left and proceed 7 miles to Sharon Valley Road (4-way stop)

At Sharon Valley Road turn right and go 3 miles to Austin Road.

At Austin Road turn right, you will stop at a 3 way stop in the town of Napoleon.

Turn left, go ½ blocks (there will be a gas station on your left) and turn right onto Stony Lake Road.

After 1/4 mile, Stony Lake Road divides into South Stony Lake Road and Stony Lake Road (sometimes referenced as North Stony Lake Road). Keep to your right on Stony Lake Road. The camp entrance is approximately 2 miles ahead on your left.

From Jackson, Michigan and points North and West:

From I-94, exit onto U.S. 127 South (Exit 142).

Exit onto M-50 and head southeast toward Monroe.

Continue east on M-50 about 5 miles to Benton Road.

Turn right onto Benton Road and travel approximately 2 miles to the first stop sign. This is Stony Lake Road (sometimes referenced as North Stony Lake Road). Turn left onto Stony Lake Road. The Ranch, Malachi Hall and North Center entrances will be on your right as you travel east.