WELCOME TO SUMMER CAMP!
Thank you for joining Camp Star. We look forward to the upcoming summer to make new friends and see all of the familiar, returning campers.

At the Y, our cause is strengthening community. We do so by focusing our efforts on youth development, improving healthy living for all and fostering social responsibility to create positive social change.

The Y day camp program is committed to providing a quality summer experience for your child. Summer camp provides many benefits such as the opportunity for growth in spirit, mind and body, increased confidence, emphasis on fun, teamwork, physical learning and social development, the opportunity to strengthen friendships, and the ability to learn through play.

Children leave the Y day camp with more than just fond memories. The children take with them leadership skills that will prove to be useful into adulthood. The Y counselors take the time to listen and make every child feel special.

Please read on for more information on how to prepare your child for camp.

Sincerely,
Matt Gray and Laura Rodriguez, Camp Directors
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Thanks to funds raised through our Annual Campaign, we are able to ensure Y programs are accessible to everyone. To apply for our confidential Financial Assistance Program visit our website at gscymca.org/fa.
OUR MISSION
Greater Somerset County YMCA is a charitable community service organization, rooted in Christian values and dedicated to helping all people grow in spirit, mind and body. We are guided by our core principles of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
The Y is made up of diverse people working side by side to strengthen our communities. Together, we work to ensure everyone, regardless of income, faith, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, cultural background or other unique personal characteristics, has the opportunity to live life to its fullest. We share the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility – which are the foundation for everything we do.

DAY CAMP OBJECTIVES
While this summer may look a bit different, we will continue to provide challenging activities in their small groups and come together as a community in innovative and socially responsible ways. The purpose of the YMCA day camp is to help children grow spiritually, mentally and physically. We achieve this by providing challenging activities in both small and large group settings. Greater Somerset County YMCA day camp gives children an experience that can last a lifetime. This experience is grounded in seven objectives that define all the Y programs. They are to:
• Grow personally
• Learn values
• Improve personal and family relationships
• Become better leaders and supporters
• Appreciate diversity
• Develop specific skills
• Have fun

YMCA CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT
At the Y we strengthen community by focusing our efforts on developing youth, improving healthy living for all and fostering social responsibility to create positive and lasting personal and social change. YMCA day camp provides priceless opportunities to promote and help instill the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. We provide staff role models and activities that are conducive to positive character development.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Sign up early! Camp sign up is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The day camp day is 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS
Registration is done by 8 week, 4 week, and 2 week blocks.
• Camp balances are due upon registration and July 15th.
• Extended care is available for an additional fee.

PAYMENT INFO
Entire 8-week summer camp season
• Members - $2272 per child
• Non-members - $2552 per child

Before Camp Care
• Additional $216 per child

After Camp Care
• Additional $264 per child

First half (50%) of your child’s total summer camp fees will be due on the registration date Remaining half (50%) of your child’s summer camp fees will be charged to your payment method on file on July 15th.
• A $25 per week/per child late fee will be assessed on all late payments.
• In addition, a surcharge of $25 will be added on all returned checks. Two returned checks will require that future payments be money order or cash.

REFUNDS
There will be no refunds this camp season. The only exception to the refund policy is for a cancellation due to a medical reason that has been documented by a doctor.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
We believe every child should have the chance to participate in the Y day camp program. Financial assistance is made possible through the generous support of our Annual Campaign. Individuals unable to pay the full program fee are encouraged to pick up a financial assistance application at the Welcome Center or online at gscymca.org/fa. Financial assistance is limited and is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
basis. Please apply early for priority giving. If you would like to make a donation to our Annual Campaign, please see a Member Services Representative for assistance.

THIRD PARTY PAYMENT POLICY
Families that receive a subsidy from another agency are still required to register children at the Y and submit all necessary paperwork. Parents will be responsible for all payments that the agency denies, reasons for which could include early pick up from camp, missed days, or a variety of other reasons. It is the family’s responsibility to ensure payment is made and their account is left in good standing with Greater Somerset County YMCA.

MEMBERSHIP
Greater Somerset County YMCA is a membership organization. Membership dues enable the Y to continue to focus our efforts on developing youth, improving healthy living for all, and fostering social responsibility to create positive and lasting social change. A current membership is not required for camp registration, however, a discount is given to current members.

AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION ACCREDITATION
This important seal of approval means that we have complied with up to 300 health, safety and program quality standards set by the ACA (acacamps.org) including meeting established guidelines for building and program quality and camper-staff ratios. An ACA accreditation assures our camps meet both industry-accepted and government-recognized standards. It means that we have gone to great lengths to provide a safe and quality environment for your child by choosing and training a great staff, setting up smart safety precautions, planning excellent curriculums, and following the standards of the American Camp Association.

GENERAL INFORMATION
CLOTHING
Please send your child to camp in comfortable, ‘play’ clothing. Children will be doing arts and crafts and playing sports so clothes may get soiled. Children should not wear clothing that will restrict activity. We are a very active camp, so sneakers are required for all camps. No heels, sandals, flip flops or crocs please! You may send them in their backpack if you would like them to wear them during swim time. For swimming, campers must bring a mask or face covering. Please label all clothing. All lost and found items are kept for a week and put on display at the sign in-out table, we will encourage campers before leaving for the day to check.

DAY CAMP STAFF
Staff are carefully chosen to provide the highest quality day camp experience. In accordance with State Licensing and our ACA Accreditation, staff go through training including First Aid, CPR, Behavior Management, and Camp Policies and Procedures. All staff have been background checked and have agreed to Greater Somerset County YMCA’s Code of Conduct, which can be found on our website gscymca.org

WEATHER POLICIES
The Y summer day camps are outdoor-based programs. To ensure every child can fully participate in all outdoor and indoor activities, campers, parents and staff must work together to make sure a great time is had in all types of weather.

Hot Weather
• Sunscreen – We will be outside! Please apply before arriving to camp so we’re able to start our camp day right away. Please send your child with a labeled sunscreen and we will remind your child to reapply throughout the day to appropriately protect against the sun’s rays. Due to the nature of sunscreen allergies, children are not allowed to share sunscreen and the Y staff will not provide or apply sunscreen. We recommend a waterproof, SPF 30+ lotion.
• In the case of extreme heat, we will make reasonable accommodations for the safety of all campers. These include coming inside the building, extra emphasis on staying hydrated, making use of camps shaded spots, playing water games, and more.

Inclement Weather
• In the case of inclement weather, we will make accommodations for campers to be inside out of the rain.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP
In order for your child to have a safe, fun experience, we ask you to help them prepare for their camp day. There are a few things we request you send your child with each day:
Labeled Backpack
• A backpack is the best way to keep track of your child’s belongings. Please label your child’s backpack. Many bags may look alike. Never send your child with more belongings than what fits into the backpack. Please leave valuable attachments at home. These items sometimes fall off and are lost. We are not responsible for these items.

Labeled Food For Your Child
• Water Bottle(s) – Freezing water bottles helps keep lunches cold, and also provides children with cold drinking water later in the day. We will provide opportunities all day for refills.
• AM Snack
• Lunch – Please do not send food that needs to be refrigerated, reheated, or glass containers. Please include an ice pack with your child’s lunch. Refrigeration is not provided, so please do not send perishable items. We will also be unable to heat food. A goal of the Y is to promote good nutrition for children. Please keep that in mind as you pack your child’s lunch for camp.
• PM Snack

Labeled Sunscreen
(We recommend a waterproof, SPF 30+ lotion)
• Labeled Bathing Suit and Towel
• All camps will have a recreational swim time!
• Goggles (optional)

Bug Repellent (optional)

Cap (optional)

WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME
Please encourage children to leave their toys, games, etc. at home as they are NOT allowed to use them at any time during the camp day. These include such items as:
• Candy/Gum
• Toys from Home
• Electronics- DSs, Video Games, Tablets, Cell Phones, any electronic devices, etc.
• Money/Valuables

If your child brings such items to camp, the Y and its staff will not be held responsible for lost, stolen or broken items.

Campers will be given a warning to put it away if staff sees any of these items. If the camper cannot listen to directions and keep these items away in their backpacks, staff will take these items for the day and return them to the parent at pick up.

Please do not send money with your child to camp. Children may not use the vending machines during camp.

PARENT INFORMATION
When you entrust the care of your child to our Y day camp programs, please do so knowing that all staff members have been trained to prepare for a safe and fun summer. We will focus on the four core values of Caring, Respect, Responsibility, and Honesty, utilize all teachable moments, keep camp a positive environment, and do our best to make sure your child feels a part of the group.

DAILY PROCEDURES
Each day, please consult email communications. This is the most efficient way for the camp to disseminate information to parents. Any changes in schedule, important information or interesting opportunities will be found there.

SAFETY GUIDELINES RELATED TO COVID-19
The safety of all our campers and camp staff – is our number one priority. We’re following guidelines from health experts and local officials to ensure that our summer camp programs meet the highest standards for health and safety, and we have modified our camp policies and procedures to facilitate all recommended safe physical/social distancing practices. The following practices will be implemented this summer:
• Campers and staff are encouraged to stay home if not feeling well.

The following signs and symptoms being displayed by your child and anyone in their household would prevent their entry to camp.

- Signs (how people display illness)
  • Temp of 100.4 or higher
  • Rapid breathing
- Symptoms (how people feel)
  • Fatigue, nausea, loss of taste/smell, muscle aches/pain, headache, difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, cough

• Camper drop-off and pick-up will take place in car lines only. Parents/guardians will NOT be permitted in the outdoor or indoor camp spaces.
• Daily screenings required for every camper and all staff each morning of camp. Screening will include a temperature check and brief questionnaire about symptoms the person is experiencing and potential exposure to someone who has tested positive of COVID-19.

• Campers will stay together in “groups.” Group size will never exceed more than 10 campers and 2 counselors at any given time.
  – Social distancing measures will be in place throughout the day.
  – Campers that register for multiple weeks will be assigned to the same group for the entirety of their camp registration. An exception to this policy may be made in the event of a two or more week gap between camp registrations.

• All campers and staff are required to wear face masks/coverings whenever utilizing indoor spaces or in outdoor spaces when distancing is not possible. Face masks/coverings are not required in outdoor spaces when distancing is practiced. Campers must bring their own face masks/coverings each day. The Y will have extra face masks on hand in the event a replacement is necessary however supplies are limited so please encourage your child to keep care of their mask throughout the day.

• Activities that promote distancing will be emphasized throughout the camp day as much as possible.

• Camp equipment will be designated per group as much as possible to limit sharing of items. Equipment that is shared will be disinfected thoroughly between each use.

• All campers and staff will wash/sanitize hands between every activity block throughout the camp day, approximately every 45 minutes.

• All camp spaces will be thoroughly disinfected at the end of each camp day.

• A designated isolation room will be available indoors in the event that a child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

• A Health Director with an advanced CPR/FA certification will be onsite during all camp operating hours.

Greater Somerset County YMCA reserves the right to cancel the child’s participation in the camp program should they refuse to comply with these guidelines.

**BEHAVIOR**

It is the Y’s goal to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for all children who attend the summer day camp program. At Y camp, children are encouraged to exhibit behavior guided by the four core values, to include:

• Respecting all campers and counselors
• Taking responsibility for one’s own actions and belongings
• Using honesty as the basis for all relationships and interactions
• Caring for ourselves, others, and the spaces we use

Any issues your child is having outside of camp may affect their behavior at the YMCA. Please keep the staff informed of any issues so we can be sensitive to your child’s needs. The Y would like to work as a team with your family. This will enable us to provide the best environment for your child’s growth and development.

Our first step is being proactive in our approach towards behavior management. We take action steps before a situation occurs. The more we know about a child, the easier it will be for us to be able to take this step. We also use positive reinforcement by consistently acknowledging good behavior.

We never use corporal punishment. The Y staff is committed to providing a program in which all children can succeed. In the event that a child’s negative behavior cannot be improved through discussion between leader and child, the following steps will be taken:

• Staff will inform the parent of the behavior and seek additional suggestions on how to handle the child’s behavior.

• If the behavior continues, the parents will be asked to come to the Y and meet the staff to work out a plan to resolve the situation.

• We are sensitive to the fact that each situation is delicate to its own circumstances. Appropriate and respectful interactions with program participants and Y staff are essential to having a successful experience.

If behavior becomes unmanageable or is threatening to the well-being of others, Greater Somerset County YMCA reserves the right to cancel the child’s participation in the camp program. If we must cancel a child’s participation, we will refund the balance of the unused camp payment.
MEDICATIONS
• All medications must be hand delivered to the director and a medical permission form must be filled out with complete written instructions for administering it, including exact dosage and time to be administered.
• All medication must be in its original container; this applies prescriptions and non-prescriptions, and must include the dosage amount for the camper for that week.
• All medications are stored in a locked container in the camp office. Only the director or designated assistant will administer medication.
• Emergency medication such as epi-pens or inhalers will stay with your child during their time at camp. These medications will stay in the possession of the staff members responsible for their group in case of a medical emergency. At the end of the day, these medications will be stored overnight in the locked container in the camp office.
• Medications will be returned at the end of your child’s time at camp.

MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY FORMS
In order to participate in the camp program, each child enrolled must have completed forms for emergency contacts and medical information such as allergies or medications that may need to be administered. The health records and emergency contacts are important to our staffs’ ability to appropriately care for your child.

To streamline the process of collecting this information, we use a web-based health record system for camps called CampDoc, which is approved by the ACA (American Camp Association). Approximately one month prior to the beginning of camp you will receive an email from CampDoc (register@campdoc.com) that will include a login and password created specifically for you to securely complete a health record for your child. Before each camp session, you will be notified if any important information is missing.

Please be sure that a valid email address is part of your child’s membership record so that you receive important emails and updates about the camp program – you can call your Branch’s Welcome Center or stop by to update your records.

DAILY HEALTH SURVEILLANCE
Your child’s basic health status will be observed daily. This is a general health observation, which is informal. If your child appears to be showing signs of illness (temperature, swollen glands, or sore throat, etc.) the parent will be called to pick up the child. Please do not bring sick children to camp. Children need to be well enough to participate in all activities offered. It is imperative that the parents or designated alternate be accessible by phone.

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING PROCEDURES
In the event that there is an accusation of child abuse, the YMCA will take prompt and immediate action.

The YMCA will make a report in accordance with relevant state or local child abuse reporting requirements, and will cooperate to the extent of the law with any legal authority involved.

YOUR COMMENTS
We look forward to providing your child with the highest quality day camp experience. Your comments and suggestions are important to us, as we work to exceed your expectations. Please contact the day camp director at anytime to share your feedback.

CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION
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