



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



SUMMER DAY CAMP

2023 PARENT HANDBOOK

Camp ACORN at Somerset Hills YMCA
Revised April, 2023



WELCOME TO SUMMER CAMP!

Thank you for joining Camp ACORN at Somerset Hills YMCA. 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,

Kendra de Zutter
Camp Director



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

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OUR MISSION

Greater Somerset County YMCA is a nonprofit community benefit 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, EQUITY & 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

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.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

Camp Registration is done in week by week segments, register for as much or as little as you would like. All camp offerings are 5 days per week. Partial week options are not available.

- A \$50 deposit is required upon registration for each camp session that you choose.
- 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.

These payments will be made through our online system and require the use of a credit card. This credit card will be kept on file and used to draft the camp balances automatically on the aforementioned due dates. For other payment arrangements, please contact the camp director to discuss.

CAMP PRICING

KinderCamp

Regular hours (9:00am–4:30pm)

- YMCA members – \$504 per week
- Non-members – \$554 per week

Traditional Day Camp

Regular hours (9:00am–4:30pm)

- YMCA members – \$494 per week
- Non-members – \$544 per week

Performing Arts Camp

Regular hours (9:00am–4:30pm)

- YMCA members – \$890 per 2-week session
- Non-members – \$940 per 2-week session

Sports Camps

- YMCA members – \$510 per week
- Non-members – \$560 per week

STEAM Camps

- YMCA members – \$510 per week
- Non-members – \$560 per week

Teen Travel Camp

- YMCA members – \$562 per week
- Non-members – \$612 per week

Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program

- YMCA members – \$467 per 2-week session
- Non-members – \$517 per 2-week session

Extended Hours

Before Care (7:30am–9:00am)

- YMCA members – \$30
- Non-members – \$35

After Care (4:30pm–6:00pm)

- YMCA members – \$30
- Non-members – \$35

REFUNDS

- **Prior to May 1, 2022:** A full refund will be given for any cancellations.
- **After May 1, 2022:** There will be no refund of the \$50 deposit. A refund of a camp balance that has been paid will only be given if your child's spot can be filled by another child.*

*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

The Y is the leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. At Greater Somerset County YMCA, we believe that everyone—no matter who they are or where they're from—deserves the opportunity and the resources necessary to reach their full potential. We provide direct financial assistance to our neighbors in need—made possible through the generosity of our Y's Annual Campaign donors and proceeds from special fundraising events. The Y's Financial Assistance program is available to anyone who meets the financial guidelines of the program, lives or works in our service area and has the desire to participate in YMCA programs or services. Families interested in applying for financial assistance are encouraged to download a financial assistance application online at gscymca.org/fa. For confidential assistance, please contact the Y's Financial Assistance Committee at financialassistance@gscymca.org. Financial assistance is limited and is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Please apply early for priority giving. If you would like to make

a donation to our Annual Campaign, please contact your Camp Director 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.

Registration cannot be done online, and must be done with the Camp Director. Parents will be responsible for all payments that the agency denies, reasons for which could include early pick up from camp, missed days, missed or incompleting swipe attendance logging with Community Child Care Solutions, 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.

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. Also our staff are trained in Trauma Informed Care, Child Abuse Prevention, Fostering Welcoming Environments for LGBTQ+ Campers, Implicit Bias/Dimensions of Diversity, and COVID-19 trainings. 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.

Thunder/Lightning

In the case of thunder/lightning, we will make accommodations for campers to be inside.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CAMP HOURS

Regular camp hours:
9:00am–4:30pm

Before camp care hours:
7:30am –9:00am

After camp care hours:
4:30pm–6:00pm

CAMP LOCATION

Somerset Hills YMCA, 140 Mt Airy Road,
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

AM DROP-OFF

All parents must park their car and bring their child to the Camp Check-in Desk and sign them in. Please do not drop your children off by the tent where we may not see that they have arrived.

PM PICK-UP

On the first day of camp you will be provided with "Pick-Up Cards" for any individuals that are authorized to pick up your child. These cards must be completed with your child's name, the name of the camp, and the name of the person picking up your child and displayed upon arrival for pick-up. Anyone who does not have one of these cards at pick-up must present a government-issued photo ID and the camp staff will match the identification to the list of authorized individuals prior to releasing the child.

REGULAR HOURS PICK-UP: 4:30PM

- At pick-up, please form two lanes of traffic for the car line across the front of the building and remain in your car.
- When you reach the counselors, they will ask for your Camp Pick-Up card and will escort your child(ren) to your car.

EARLY PICK-UP

- If you need to pick up your child early, it must be done before 4:00pm or after 4:45pm. Between 4:00pm and 4:45pm Camp staff prepare the children for the Regular Hours pick-up process and deviations at that time are disruptive to the program.

EXTENDED HOURS PICK-UP: AFTER 4:45 – 6:00PM

- At pick-up, please park your car and pick your child(ren) at the Camp Check-in Desk.
- You must present your Camp Pick-Up card to the staff at the Camp Check-in Desk and then sign them out.

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! Please label all clothing.

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)

Bug Repellent (optional)

Cap (optional)

Jacket or Sweater for cooler morning hours (optional)

Rain jacket on rainy days (optional)

Refillable water bottle

Change of clothes

Swim Gear (goggles, towels, swim suits, etc.)

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 – including stuffed animals and plush toys

- Electronics– Nintendo Switch, 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.

LOST AND FOUND

Please be sure to label everything your child brings and wears to camp.

If something has been lost, within a few days please check the Lost & Found bins – they are located near the Camp Check-In Desk and in the main lobby of the Y.

Items that have not been reclaimed by the end of each session are donated to charity.

PIZZA & ICE CREAM FRIDAYS

Each Friday at camp, we offer Pizza and Ice Cream lunch. We partner with an Bedminster Pizza Brothers who prepares and transports the meal for our campers.

- The cost of the pizza lunch is included in the camp program, no additional fee is required.
- Lunch includes two slices of pizza, water and an ice pop (peanut-free) for dessert.
- A list of specific ingredients for the pizza and ice cream lunch will be available at the Camp Check-In Desk.
- If preferred, children with food allergies or special dietary needs are welcome to bring a lunch on Fridays.

TRIPS

Kinder Camp, Traditional Camp, all Sports Camps (Basketball, Soccer and Sport Mix). These camps include one field trip or special event during each 1-week session. Details can be found in your Weekly Welcome Email sent out the week before.

- Trips are generally to local venues and are included in the camp fee.

- Children are required to wear their camp T-shirts for the trips.
- All camp staff is needed to run the field trips; and, therefore, there will not be a camp alternative on the day of a trip for children who do not wish to participate.

FIRST DAY

COUNSELORS:

On the first day of each camp session, the campers are assigned to counselors upon check-in. We appreciate your patience with the process so that we can ensure each child is properly placed.

CAMP T-SHIRTS:

- Each child will receive one free t-shirt for the entire summer camp
- Children will be instructed if they need to wear their camp shirts for any special events.
- All children must wear their camp shirts when participating in a camp trip.

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.

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.

Approximately one month prior to the beginning of camp you will receive an email for you to complete and provide the Y with 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.

CAMPERS WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES

Parents/guardians of campers with diverse abilities that require medication or other accommodations are asked to inform the Camp Director of their child's needs before registering for camp to ensure that the Y is capable and prepared to best serve them.

Accommodations will be considered on a case-by-case basis, as each camper and each camp program/week is different. The Y will provide reasonable accommodations based on a camper's needs as long as the accommodation does not pose an undue burden on or fundamentally alter the program.

If disclosure of a camper's previously unknown need for accommodations has occurred after registration, the Camp Director shall meet with the parent/guardian within one week to understand the child's needs and determine if the Y is able to successfully meet them.

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.

PICK-UP POLICY

In an effort to continually improve the safety and security of our YMCA, we utilize a system called Raptor which instantly screens visitors against registered sex offender databases in all 50 states. This is in addition to sex offender screenings the Y regularly conducts on all members, participants, and staff.

To help protect the children in our care, we require the name and date of birth of all individuals authorized to pick up a child from our camp program in order to run a check prior to pick-up. All authorized pick-ups must present a state or government issued photo ID every time when picking up a child.

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 any time to share your feedback.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Should parents need to reach a camp director in the event of an emergency, please contact the Somerset Hills YMCA Welcome Center at 908 766 7898 (press 1 at the prompt). Be prepared to provide your child's name and camp group for quick locating.

PHOTO STREAM

Throughout the camp day, our camp staff are taking fun photos of our campers and uploading to our private photo stream on the GroupMe platform. Registered camp families will receive an email inviting them to create their GroupMe account and join the photo stream.

SWIMMING

There will be daily swim for all camps. We will strive to offer all camp groups a swim lesson Monday–Thursday with free swim on Fridays. Please check your child’s weekly calendar for swim times. Please send proper swimming attire

(no cutoffs/shorts), a towel, goggles (optional), and a plastic bag for wet clothing. Please make sure that all swimwear is age-appropriate and take into consideration that the ages of the children your child will be swimming with may vary considerably.

CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION

Kendra de Zutter
Camp Director
908 766 7898 x8526
kendradezutter@gscymca.org

SOMERSET HILLS YMCA

A branch of Greater Somerset County YMCA

140 Mount Airy Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 | 908 766 7898

 SomersetHillsY

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Greater Somerset County YMCA is a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. The Y empowers everyone—no matter who they are or where they're from—by ensuring access to resources, relationships and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive. For information about Greater Somerset County YMCA and financial assistance, visit us at www.gscymca.org.