

YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities Camp for Families FAQ's

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we've updated our camp plans to ensure we can safely offer incredible camp experiences while following guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), American Camp Association (ACA), and the MN Department of Health.

Is Camp Icaghowan offering camp for families this summer?

YES! At this time, we are planning to provide families with what will surely be a much-needed, fun-filled family experience on our magical island. We have an excellent working relationship with our state's Department of Health and the American Camp Association and are excited to offer a new experience at Camp Icaghowan.

How will you be screening campers and staff for COVID-19?

All campers and staff will be asked to maintain self-observation before coming to camp. If you or a family member have been sick or in contact with someone who's tested positive for COVID-19, we'd ask that you wait 14 days before coming to camp. We can help arrange for a cancellation or change in registration. We will be asking participants about their current health, as well as asking about symptoms upon arrival.

How will you be separating anyone suspected of having COVID-19? We will continue to adhere to guidance from the CDC, our state department of health and local officials. Any staff that exhibits symptoms will immediately be separated from our camp population and isolated in a safe, dedicated space until we are able to have them leave camp. Families would be asked to depart as soon as possible if a member of their family is exhibiting symptoms of the virus.

Is staff prepared and trained to handle any outbreak of COVID-19? Our Risk Management department has developed an action plan and protocol to follow in the case of any outbreak at our facility. We have also planned additional training for our staff to orient them to minimize exposure of themselves and others to COVID-19 – or any communicable disease or virus– in our campers and fellow staff members. This training will include, but is not limited to: signs and symptoms, stringent cleaning and disinfection protocols, program changes to minimize risk, and outbreak response plans. These trainings will take place before any campers arrive.

How are you staying informed and up-to-date? We are remaining informed by receiving timely updates from the American Camp Association, YUSA, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health Services and experts who serve on our community boards, alumni and our YMCA Senior Leadership.

What is camp doing to prevent anyone from contracting COVID-19 while at camp? Our leadership team has reviewed and updated necessary camp protocols. These include:

- Health screening of campers and staff upon arrival.
- Extra vigilance around cabin, building and bathroom cleaning. There will be cleaning and disinfecting our high traffic buildings 3 times daily, as well as deep cleaning and disinfecting of cabins between sessions. Dishes and cookware will be disinfected by staff between sessions.
- There will be more handwashing and hand sanitizer stations located throughout camp. All staff will be reminded to promote regular handwashing and good hygiene practices.
- Program area and equipment protocols are being put in place to minimize spread.
- Large group gatherings have been adjusted to meet the current requirements of the CDC and the Department of Health.
- Physical Distancing practices are in place for campers and staff.
- Campers will be asked to bring their own linens, dishes, cooler and coffee pots.
- Camp store will operate with distance requirements.
- Campers and staff are required to wear masks in any indoor space other than their own living quarters.

Check-in

Campers may arrive any time between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on your **arrival day**. Campers will be greeted by staff in front of the Weesner Welcome Center. Physical Distancing of at least 6 feet will be adhered to. All Campers will be asked a few questions related to their health and exposure prior to heading to their cabins/yurts.

Meal Service

Inside dining options will remain closed; however, our Kitchen Manager is planning a number of delicious and innovative options for take-out meals that will be offered for both lunch and dinner. You will need to provide for your own breakfast, this includes coffee. There is electricity in all cabins except for the Sunset yurt, so feel free to bring your own coffee pot.

Swimming

Our swimming beach will be open! Physical distancing will be in place on the beach and in the water and we will ask that no more than 20 people be in the swim area at one time.

Docks will be available for use, but limited to 6 people at a time from the same cabin group.

Boating

We encourage you to get out on the lake! Canoes, kayaks and paddle boards will be available as usual, and will be disinfected in between uses by the user. Purell wipes are available to wipe down paddles and high touch areas of your boat. We will not have lifeguards on duty at our beach or boating area, you will be responsible for life guarding your own family. Children under 5 will be asked to wear a lifejacket unless they remain in the shallow area.

If you have lifejackets, we ask that you bring them along this year.

- We will have lifejackets and paddles for campers to borrow and will disinfect them in between uses.

Saunas

Unfortunately, our sauna will remain closed at this time due to health guidelines around COVID-19. We appreciate your understanding regarding this policy and hope to give you the opportunity the next time you visit Camp!

Cabins and Yurts

In order to follow best practice standards set forth by the State Campground guidelines, we made a slight adjustment to the tent sites that will be available this summer.

- Due to needed changes in cleaning protocols, we are not able to provide dishes and cookware. We ask that you bring your own cooking equipment this summer. Including your coffee pot!

Bathhouses and Biffies

We are making every attempt we can to make our campers as comfortable as possible this summer. Cabins/Yurts without their own bathroom facility will each have a biffy or port-a-potty assigned for their use. A few porta-potties around camp will be available for any camper to use while out and about camp and will be cleaned regularly. Bathhouses will be open for campers to use, and will be disinfected 3 times each day.

Equipment & Supplies

Pack your fun! We plan to allow campers to use much of camp's equipment and supplies (boats, paddles, art supplies/tools, etc), but we will not always have enough of everything to go around.

- Life Jackets – if you have your own, please consider bringing this along to camp. We will be assigning lifejackets to campers for the entire week and cleaning in between sessions.
- Games and Books – we will not be lending these out, so please bring your own
- Bicycles-we have a great trail around the island and many mountain bike friendly trails on the mainland. Helmets are required.

- Roller skates or blades-our basketball court doubles as a great place to skate and have fun. Helmets are required.
- Pack-n-plays – Please plan to bring your own
- Strollers – If you have a sturdy jogging type stroller, we highly recommend you bring this along.
- Highchairs– if you have little one’s that require this, we highly recommend you bring this along.

Will camps have international staff this summer?

In light of the current circumstances, the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities has made the decision to forego the hiring of international camp staff for the summer of 2020. Our international camp staff add so much value to the culture of camp and it is our goal to move forward with these relationships in the future.

What if camp needs to be shut down? It is difficult to answer such a hypothetical question, but above all else, the health and safety of our campers and staff is our top priority. Should we receive guidance that camp should end early due to an outbreak, we will adhere and do everything we can to ensure that everybody gets home safely in a well-organized fashion.

What about Refunds and Cancellations If for any unanticipated and uncontrollable reason camp should need to cancel sessions, such as by directive from the CDC or other officials, you would have the following options: 1. Carry your registration and fees paid to date forward to future reservations. 2. Donate to Camp. 3. Refund of fees to your original payment method.

In light of a slightly shorter session, we are happy to offer a 10% discount on your camp fees. However, if you are willing and able, we would greatly appreciate your consideration of sticking with the full payment plan, as our expenses are not reduced with these changes. If you choose, your refund may be request by [filling out this form](#).

If you would prefer to cancel your registration at this time for whatever reason, [you can do this online](#), and we’ll look forward to seeing you up north at a future date!

Is there financial support available to help me pay for camp? Yes. As always, we never want to turn anyone away because they are unable to pay. Please consider reaching out for financial assistance before choosing to cancel, we want campers to be able to experience camp this summer: <https://www.ymcamn.org/scholarships>.

How is the Greater Twin Cities YMCA responding to serve community needs during this crisis?

We have positioned our Y as a Community Response Hub offering life-saving programs and services, more information can be found here: <https://www.ymcamn.org/impact-summary>

As a donor, how can I help?

We are beyond grateful to the members of our community – our volunteers, campers, alumni and staff – who have recognized the challenges crises like this can pose to a human services organization regardless of their own hardships that they may be facing. For those that are able and interested, please [make a gift here](#). THANK YOU for your support of families during these uncertain times.

All of us here at YGTC Camps wish good health and good spirits to everyone in our camp community and your families.