



# YMCA Camp Heritage

## 2025 Family Handbook

### About YMCA Day Camps

YMCA Day Camps are wonderful places for your child to experience fun, outdoor adventures in the summer! New and returning campers thrive during a week packed full of exciting, structured traditional and specialty activities. Campers participate in small, age-appropriate groups where they build self-esteem and learn new skills. Our experiences are built on the Y's Core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and equity.

Our goal is to give all kids the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. Day Camp is an enrichment program and the next step in youth development. Day Camp gives traditional camp experiences during the day. Each child will benefit from this connection with nature.

### Letter from the Camp Director

**WELCOME!** YMCA Camp Heritage is excited to present an outstanding program this summer. Meeting new friends, discovering the wonders of nature, and learning new skills all add up to wonderful, lasting camp memories. Our days are filled with activities that your child is sure to enjoy. Our staff are caring, nurturing and well trained to provide a safe and fun environment for our campers. Please call us with any questions or concerns you may have. We are looking forward to a wonderful summer! - **Mackenzie Kern, Camp Heritage Director**

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## Contact Information

### YMCA Customer Service Center.

612-230-9622 or visit online at [www.ymcanorth.org/contact-us](http://www.ymcanorth.org/contact-us). Contact them about registration, payments, financial assistance etc. Changes and/or cancellations must be completed in writing using the link above.

### Camp Heritage

Address: 7732 Main St. Lino Lakes, MN 55038

Summer Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:45pm

Phone: 612-806-4309 (Summer Only)

Email: [camp.heritage@ymcamn.org](mailto:camp.heritage@ymcamn.org)

Website: [https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/day\\_camp\\_heritage](https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/day_camp_heritage)

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @ YMCA Day Camp Heritage

### Mackenzie Kern, Camp Director.

Phone: 612-465-0554

Email: [mackenzie.kern@ymcamn.org](mailto:mackenzie.kern@ymcamn.org)

### Assistant Directors

612-227-9455 (Summer Only)

## This Document

This document undergoes occasional changes.

See website for the most up-to-date information.

## Camp Open Houses

### Pre-Camp Open House: Thursday, June 5th

Camp will be holding an Open House before summer begins; follow us on Facebook to see the most up to date event details. During summer families will have the opportunity to join us for an Open House at camp on one of the following Thursdays:

**June 19th, July 17th, and August 14th**

**Open Houses are from 6:00-8:00pm.**

## Communication

While your camper is at camp, all communication should be directed to the Camp Office (612-806-4309). We encourage campers to learn independence while at camp. Speaking with your child during camp hours is not encouraged. If you have an emergency please call (612-806-4309 or 612-227-9455) or email Mackenzie Erpenbach. Most of our weekly communication is done through email or counselor notes, that will be sent home in your camper's backpack.

## Directions to Camp

### From the North

I-35 S > Slight left at I-35E S > Take exit 123 for County Rd 14 > Turn right at Main St > Camp Heritage entrance is on the right

### From the Twin Cities Metro (South)

I-35W N > Take exit 36 for County Hwy 23 > Turn left at Lake Dr > Turn right at 125th Ave/Main St > Continue to follow Main St > Camp Heritage entrance is on the left

# About Camp Heritage

## Our Camp Community

YMCA Programs are about learning skills, social, emotional development, and making friends. But few environments are as special as camp, where kids become a community as they learn both how to be more independent and how to contribute to a group as they engage in camp activities.

**Camp Groups.** Campers are assigned to camp groups based on age and program choice (i.e. Specialty/Traditional Camp). Counselors will lead the camp group through a rotation of scheduled camp activities.

In addition to the group rotations, camp often gives campers the opportunity to interact with some of the other groups through large group or all camp activities.

**Camp Staff.** Each staff member goes through an extensive hiring process including criminal history background & national sex offender check, reference checks, and interview.

They receive training in camp program areas, relating to children, health and safety skills, and are First Aid and CPR certified. Camp staff members are committed to being positive role models for campers.

## Camp Store

Store order forms may be filled out and turned in with payment to your camper's counselor. Make any checks payable to: **YMCA**

\*Items will also be available during Open Houses.

**Pro Tip—***Check your camper's backpack for handouts and schedules on Monday!*

## Camp Activities

Campers will experience a variety of activities during their camp experience. Our camp staff aim to encourage campers' creativity, skill development, and understanding of the world around them. Often times, during these creative learning experiences in a camp setting, campers are exposed to the natural elements of camp. They will experience dirt, mud, bugs, plants, and various types of weather—but camp will go on. Our staff are trained to recognize and avoid unsafe situations. However, if your child has a specific reaction (*allergies, fears, etc*) to any camp elements; be sure to indicate this in their health information. Also if necessary, to help us work with your camper, please fill out the Camper **Individual Care Plan**, found on our website.

Campers registered for Specialty Camps will spend a portion of each day in their specialty area—weather permitting. If weather makes it unsafe to run a specialty activity, camp staff will lead alternative programming. In addition, they will do their best to make up activity time lost later in the week **if the schedule allows**.

**Pro Tip—***If your child is especially prone to mosquito bites, be sure to send long layers (long sleeve shirts/pants)*

## Water Activities

All swimming and watercraft activities are supervised by Certified Lifeguards.

Personal Flotation Devices are worn by campers and staff at all times during boating/watercraft activities, and are provided by camp.

Each camper's swim ability will be tested each week. Ages 4-5 always wear PFD's during swim time and stay in the shallow end.

# Transportation & Pick-up/Drop off

## Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is provided to and from camp. You will be responsible for signing your child in and out of the bus each day, with the bus captain.

## Bus Schedule

Bus times are subject to change weekly, due to enrollment. Check the website one week prior to a session for exact bus pick up/drop off times.

- Please note, you are not able to register your child for a different morning and afternoon bus stop locations.

In order to stay on schedule, busses cannot wait pass their scheduled time. If you are late for pick up please call camp. If we do not hear from you, we will attempt to reach you by phone. If you are not reached, we will call persons listed as emergency contacts. Your camper will be transported to the closest After Care site. After 1 hour, the authorities will be called to ensure the safety of your child.

## Before & After Care

You may elect to register for before & after care at one of the following locations:

Camp Heritage, Island Lake Elementary, or White Bear Area YMCA

**All Care sites begin at 7:00am and end at 5:30pm.**

\* Late fees will be assessed after 5:30 p.m.

POLICY: Any violation of our posted hours of operation will result in a late pick-up charge of \$1.00 per minute per child. Habitual lateness or abuse of this policy could result in expulsion from the program.

**Pro Tip-** Be sure to check the website one week prior to know exact bus times.

Many bus stops are at public locations. Allow yourself a few extra minutes to locate the pick up location on Monday Mornings.

## At Camp Drop-off & Pick-up

You may also elect to drop off and pick up your child directly at camp. You will be responsible for signing your child in and out of camp each day with a staff member.

- When registering, if you selected "No Bus Needed," you can drop off and pick up directly at camp.
- **Camp Drop Off is between 9:00- 9:15am.**
- **Camp Pick Up is between 3:30 - 3:45pm.**

## Important Pick-up Information

Safety of your child is our number one priority. Security procedures are in place for the safety of your family. It is not our intention to offend anyone when we question the person's right to pick up.

**Campers can only be picked up by someone listed on their guardians & emergency contacts list AND carrying their photo ID.**

If you need to add an authorized pick up or change a pick up location, camp needs that in writing. Please email [camp.heritage@ymcamn.org](mailto:camp.heritage@ymcamn.org) to make any changes or additions.

Campers in our Teen Programs are allowed to walk home from a bus stop, with your permission. You must fill out, sign and return the **Teen Release Waiver**, found on our website.



# What to Bring

## Packing List

Dress your child for a day of outdoor fun. Please do not send your child's best clothing/shoes, as camp activities are outside and rugged. **All items should be clearly labeled with your child's first and last name.** This will assist us with claiming lost and found. Camp Heritage is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items. Valuables and meaningful items should be left at home.

## Daily Packing List

- Healthy lunch and snacks
- Layers appropriate for the days weather
- Swimsuit & towel
- Re-fillable water bottle
- Bug spray and sunscreen (spray kind preferred)
- Backpack/Bag (labeled)—to tote all items

**Pro Tip**—*If time allows it, please apply sunscreen and bug spray before your child comes to camp.*

## Specialty Camps

Please bring the items on the Traditional Camp packing list. The following are additional items specific to the specialty program.

### Water Adventure Camp

- Swimsuit and towel each day
- Footwear that can get wet

### Climbing Camps

- Closed toed shoes **required**

## Archers & Anglers Camp

- Archery: Bows & arrows provided by camp. **Personal bows and arrows are prohibited.**
- Fishing: Poles, bait and life jackets provided by camp. Campers may bring a personal fishing pole and tackle box to be left at camp until Friday. **Please remove all hooks for bus ride and label all personal equipment.**
- Footwear that can get wet

## Do Not Bring

- Personal toys and sports equipment (*Except when requested for specialty camps.*)
- Electronic Equipment, cell phones, iPods/mp3 players, and smartwatches.
- Firearms, pocket knives or weapons
- Alcohol or drugs
- Unregistered friends/family
- Pets/animals

Please do not send your camper with anything that is irreplaceable. Personal items can be easily lost or damaged. Phones and smartwatches may not be used during camp and will be confiscated and returned to families at the end of the day.

## Lost and Found

Our lost & found is located next to the office. If you return home and realize you have left something be sure to stop by the before the end of the week to collect your items. Items will be held at the discretion of camp staff. Items that are soiled, damaged, or otherwise deemed not able to be safely stored will be disposed of. Items left at camp after two weeks, will be donated to local charity.

# Registration and Forms

## Registration

Registration can be completed online at [https://www.ymcanorth.org/adventure/register/day\\_camp\\_heritage](https://www.ymcanorth.org/adventure/register/day_camp_heritage)

or by downloading a registration form from <https://www.ymcanorth.org/adventure/paperwork>

You will receive confirmation by email immediately if you register online or within 24 hours of your paper registration being processed.

The balance for your session is due two weeks prior to your child attending camp, unless you have a pre-approved payment plan established with the Customer Service Center.

## Changes & Cancellations

**A refund of program fees is available if you cancel your registration no later than 11:59 p.m. CT on the Monday two weeks before your program's start date.**

Program deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable.

No refunds are available for changes or cancellations made after 11:59 p.m. CT on the Monday two weeks before your program's start date.

A \$10 change fee is assessed to any change made to the original registration, including transportation. No transportation or care changes accepted less than two weeks before program.

No tuition adjustment will be made for late arrival, early departure or dismissal from camp. No adjustment to registration cost will be made for campers who are tardy, absent from camper days or are restricted due to disciplinary reasons, or inability to manage pre-existing conditions, current illness/injury or dismissal.

*\*Y Adventure Programs cannot refund payments when sessions are cut short or canceled due to circumstances beyond our control. These may include, but are not limited to, wilderness area closures, forest fires, flooding, or other climate and environmental hazards that would prevent us from providing a safe and meaningful experience for all participants.*

## Scholarships

Scholarships are a needs-based fund that we are able to provide via annual donations and fundraising events. To apply for scholarship, go to <https://www.ymcanorth.org/adventure/scholarships>. Follow the online process to submit your request. Customer Service will notify you of the percentage and amount within about 5 business days.

## Diversity & Inclusion

It is the YMCA of the North's vision to serve our community relentlessly, until all can thrive in each stage of life. At camp, we gladly welcome campers regardless of race, ability, creed, national origin and gender.

Please contact us directly if you have perspective on you camper that may help us to better support your camper while they are at camp or complete our **Individual Camper Care Plan**, found on our website.

## Forms

All forms are available at <https://www.ymcanorth.org/adventure/paperwork>

The **Medication Form** must be submitted if you are sending medications, *prescription or non-prescription*, with your camper to camp.

The **Teen Release Waiver** is for campers (12+) in our teen programs, that when filled out and submitted allows teens to check themselves out from the bus.

The **Individual Camper Care Plan** is if you think there is anything important or specific the counselor should know about working with your child. This includes, detailed allergy information, camper's fears/reservations, behavior concerns and tips etc.



## Camper Behavior Policy

At the Y we believe that every family and child should have access to camp. We aspire to create a camp community that is safe, inclusive, welcoming, and exemplifies the Y's core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, and Equity. We recognize that campers come to us with a range of backgrounds, experiences, and history, and that this may be reflected in their mental or behavioral health while at camp. While working with children at camp our goal is to collaborate with families. To help in this effort, we utilize an Individual Camper Care Plan to help us inform and prepare our staff. We ask for families to fill out this form only if there are special concerns or situations that you feel we need to know. The more detailed information and helpful "tips" you can give, the better prepared we are to work with your child. The individual Camper Care Plan can be found here: [Individual Camper Plan](#)

It is our goal that Day Camp staff make every effort to ensure all campers have a safe and positive camp experience. We believe our success at camp stems from a safety-first mentality. Day Camp is designed to be a fun and amazing outdoor experience for kids, but we recognize that the small and large group activities may not always be the best fit for all campers.

In order to best support the safety and enjoyment of camp, we approach Social Emotional Learning as strategy for systemic improvement for all as it supports adults to strengthen practices that promote equity. Social Emotional Learning is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. We believe that our campers have the opportunity for growth and support within the five pillars of Social Emotional Learning and development- self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, relationship skills, and social awareness.

While working toward our goals of providing a safe and positive camp experience we may implement Action Plans. Action Plans are tailored to children and their specific needs. We work in partnership with campers, families, and camp staff to determine appropriate action plans for a camper. When determining action plans we strive to partner with families and meet campers where they are at in their development, all while keeping safety at the forefront.

We train and empower our camp counselors to support campers' individual needs with the implementation of action plans. These action plans are designed to work with campers on a personal basis to reach success while ensuring we are meeting each camper where they are at.

When a situation becomes harmful to an individual, the group, or when it cannot be resolved, then we will bring in additional support from the Camp Leadership team. Examples of this could be a camper running away from their group or not staying within sight and hearing range of their staff members, bullying toward another camper or staff. Our Day Camp Leadership teams include a small team of Blue Card® holders trained in CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention®. This team is trained in crisis intervention, de-escalation, non-restrictive and restrictive intervention. If camper behavior escalates to physical violence, endangering the health and safety of themselves, other children, or staff, purposefully hurting themselves, another child or staff, restrictive intervention will only be deployed as a last possible resort due to extreme danger or intent to harm. Our Y Camping teams hold a range of compassion and expertise, but we are not mental health professionals, social workers, or 1:1 camper to staff support.

We will support your child the best we can to make camp as successful as possible. If change has not been made after a thorough action plan, should a camper need support that goes beyond what we can safely provide, or, should a situation escalate to a level where we can no longer safely find a resolution for the camper an action plan may determine the need for a child to be removed from a program for any amount of time, including the remainder of the summer season.

The above serves as an overview of how our camps help to ensure the success and safety of all our campers. If you have questions regarding further details of our procedures, or if you have concerns regarding your camper's needs, please contact the Camp Director.



## Camper Behavior Policy Continued...

### Bullying

At YMCA of the North, bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against bullying. Each participant is expected to treat all other participants respectfully and help each other achieve the best possible experience.

**Parents and guardians may be called upon if a participant has difficulty meeting this expectation.**

Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously. Our staff is trained to uphold our core values and follow proper communication channels to report and respond to bullying. Our team works with their groups to ensure all participants receive safe and equitable programming opportunities.

### Living Our Values

The YMCA's core values are caring, equity, honesty, respect and responsibility. Living out these core values means there is no place for racism, bigotry and any form of verbal abuse and disrespect in our programs. Our camp teams immediately respond in line with our behavior policy to make sure camp remains a safe place for everyone. As you prepare your camper to join us, we ask for your partnership to review the behavior policy in our handbook and discuss how your camper can help contribute positively to our camp community during their time with us.

#### Pro Parent Tip

***Have proactive conversations with your camper about appropriate behavior at camp. Include the importance of being respectful to others and keeping electronics off and in their backpack.***

### Technology at Camp

To foster quality outdoor experiences and to keep youth safe, **campers are NOT allowed to use electronic devices while at day camp or on the bus.**

This includes cell phones, smart watches, gaming devices and digital cameras. **We highly recommend campers keep all electronics safe at home.** If campers must bring devices to camp, the expectation is that they are turned off and kept inside camper's backpacks. If parents need to contact their child, they can call the camp office. There is zero tolerance for using electronic devices in restrooms or changing spaces.

What happens if campers use electronics at camp?

*Campers will get one reminder to turn off their devices and place them in their backpack. If campers continue to use their electronics, they may be required to keep the device in the office until the end of the camp day. Parents may be asked to pick up their child's devices and/or talk to a camp program lead. The YMCA of the North is not responsible for lost or stolen electronics.*

### Accommodation Request

The YMCA of the North is committed to improving access to our programs and spaces for all members, participants, and children in our care. If your child has complex medical or behavioral needs, please fill out the YMCA's [Accommodation Request Form](#). YMCA of the North teams will then collaborate with you and your family to determine what accommodations we may be able to put in place and to provide a response guided by our core values if we are unable to accommodate part or all of your request.

Most YMCA Day Camp programs are not specially designed for children with complex medical or behavioral needs, so this form is a great first step for identifying potential accommodations.



# Health & Safety

## Illness Procedures & Guidelines

**If your child is ill and must miss camp, please notify camp by phone or email (email preferred).**

For the health & safety of all campers, please do not send your child to camp if they are ill. If your child is ill and must miss camp, please notify camp by email. Please notify camp if your camper contracts a communicable disease. Please follow the below guidelines before sending your camper back to camp:

- **Fever over 100.4F:** please keep your camper home until they are fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours.
- **Influenza like illness:** Keep your camper home until fever free for 24 hours, without medication.
- **Vomiting or Diarrhea:** Please keep camper home until 24 hours after last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.
- **Bacterial Pink-Eye/Conjunctivitis:** Please keep camper home until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours, or until doctor has determined they are no longer contagious. This includes no more mattering or drainage from the eyes.
- **Strep Throat:** Please keep camper home until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and are feeling well.
- **Possible Impetigo/Other Rash:** Please keep camper home until doctor determines whether or not rash is contagious. If treatment is started, camper should be on medication 24 hours before returning.
- **Head Lice:** Campers should begin the appropriate treatment before returning to camp.

## Diabetes Medical Management Plan (DMMP)

If your child is diabetic, please provide a completed [DMMP](#) with your child's med form. If your child is not self sufficient in managing their diabetes, please complete the above accommodation request form.

## Injury & Illness at Camp

Campers are well looked after. Camp staff are First Aid & CPR certified.

We will treat bumps, bruises, and scrapes. For an injury that requires more attention than our staff are trained to do, Y Staff will:

- Call 911, perform immediate first aid and contact you or emergency contacts, if you cannot be reached.
- If emergency transport is required, a staff member will accompany the child to the hospital and remain until the parent/guardian arrives.

In the case of illness, parents or emergency contacts are called to make arrangements for treatment or pick-up.

### Pro Parent Tip

Don't be alarmed if you get a call from camp. We like to get input on even minor health, homesickness, and behavioral issues.

## Medications

Please turn in your campers medication to the team member checking in your child. Medication must be in the original container and marked clearly with dosage, frequency and camper's name. This includes over-the-counter drugs. Please only send medication that will be needed for your child's week at camp. Additionally, a [Medication Release Form](#) will need to be completed upon arrival and turned in with medications. The form can be found on our website.

# Health & Safety

## Inclement Weather

Camp is held rain or shine. Please make sure your camper dresses for the weather, with appropriate rain gear. On rainy days, Your child may return home wet and muddy! Many times, fun filled activities are held in our large tented areas at camp.

In extreme heat situations, certain activities may be cancelled to keep campers safe. Campers will be monitored and encouraged to drink more water. More water games and shaded activities will be encouraged.

In the case of severe weather, campers will be bussed to a nearby indoor location. The Camp Director will notify families as soon as possible about camper safety and any bussing delays. Updates will also be posted on our Facebook page, and sent via email and pre-recorded call.

## Air Quality

In times of Air Quality Alerts, we carefully follow the guidance from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, National Weather Service, CDC, and Minnesota Department of Health.

We monitor and adjust programming to ensure children can safely participate in our outdoor programs.

Adjustments include slowing down physical activity, emphasizing hydration, and spending more time in the shade.

For campers with specific health concerns, sensitivity to air quality, or other concerns, we encourage guardians to send an N95 mask and speak with a camp leader for accommodations.

## Severe Heat

To keep participants safe during extremely hot days, we will occasionally cancel certain activities. We always encourage participants to drink lots of water, play more water games, and stay in the shade.

## Your child's safety and welfare are our top priorities.

As always, you know your camper best. If you believe your camper would not thrive on a day with lower air quality or severe heat and would prefer to keep your camper home, please notify camp by email. Refunds will not be offered due to air quality or severe heat. Families may also elect to do early pickup (anytime before 3:00pm) if you determine an early pickup would be appropriate, as air quality and severe heat often increases throughout the day.

## Child Protection Policy

Your child's safety is our top priority. If you witness or feel that your child is in danger of any type of verbal, physical, sexual or emotional abuse, please report it to our Human Resource Department at 612-465-0551. Parents/guardians may observe the program at any time.

## Risks at Camp

YMCA Day Camps are members of the American Camp Association, meaning we are rigorously held accountable on over 300 standards regarding health & wellness, transportation safety, aquatic and program safety and more. These standards guide us to use the best practices regarding camper safety & behavior, staff training and much more.

Nonetheless, like all other experiences, camp is not risk-free. Please refer to our waiver on our website if you would like to review our indemnification policies.