



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**YMCA**  
**CAMP ALGONQUIN**  
**YMCA of Barry County**

**SUMMER**  
**FAMILY**  
**HANDBOOK**

Updated in October 2022

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# WELCOME TO YMCA CAMP ALGONQUIN

## **OUR MISSION**

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

## **OUR CORE VALUES**

The YMCA is guided by five core values:

**CARING:** to demonstrate a sincere concern for others, for their needs and well-being

**HONESTY:** to tell the truth, to demonstrate reliability and trustworthiness through actions that are in keeping with my stated positions and beliefs.

**RESPECT:** to treat others as I would want them to treat me, to value the worth of every person, including myself.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** to do what is right—what I ought to do, to be accountable for my choices of behavior and actions and my promises.

**INCLUSION:** We believe that everyone, regardless of gender, income, faith, ability, sexual orientation or cultural background, has the right to live life to its fullest.

## **OUR FOCUS AREAS FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

At YMCA Camp Algonquin, empower youth to reach their full potential by discovering new things about themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world around them.

## **FOR HEALTHY LIVING**

At YMCA Camp Algonquin, we promote healthy lifestyle choices by providing opportunities for a healthy spirit, mind and body through programs, interactions and healthy food choices.

## **FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

At YMCA Camp Algonquin, everyone is welcome. Campers will have the opportunity to learn how to give back through programs and interactions within our community

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMP DIRECTOR**

Welcome to another summer of adventure and fun at Camp Algonquin. I am so excited to continue my journey at Camp Algonquin. I am looking forward to seeing all your familiar faces and meeting all our new campers. Camp Algonquin and the YMCA of Barry County is a special place. This community is unlike any other camp I have worked for. As a camp family and community member, you know the value of this experience for your children. Your support matters.

Summer camp has been a part of my life for over seventeen years, and because of the magic of camp, I have learned new skills, made lifelong connections, and became my true authentic self. As Camp Director, my job is to create a safe and welcoming environment where every participant—whether it be staff, campers, families, or visitors - feel at home and free to be themselves. My goal is to ensure that everyone feels connected to this special place while having the best time possible.

Summer camp is a unique experience that is unlike any other. Children have the opportunity to make memories, gain friendships, and learn skills that can last them a lifetime.

This handbook has been designed to provide detailed information that you will need and answer frequently asked questions that may come up as your family prepares your camper. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

I look forward to making sure that your camper has the best summer ever!

**Megan Muma** (She/Her)

Direct Line: 269-309-1279

[megan@ymcaofbarrycounty.org](mailto:megan@ymcaofbarrycounty.org)

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

At the YMCA we strive to provide our members with the highest level of customer service. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us immediately.

**YMCA of Barry County  
Camp Algonquin  
PO BOX 252  
Hastings, MI 49058  
269-945-4574**

[office@ymcaofbarrycounty.org](mailto:office@ymcaofbarrycounty.org)

### **YMCA CAMP ALGONQUIN STAFF**

We hire a selective group of individuals from the United States as well as from abroad to celebrate worldwide connections. All Camp Algonquin staff are carefully chosen and interviewed for their skills, abilities, and belief in the ideals of the YMCA. They love the outdoors, are responsible, and have an interest in helping children grow. Many are college students, as well as former campers and YMCA activity participants. All staff complete intensive training related to their position, including first aid, CPR, camp craft skills, child development, and waterfront skills.

### **ASKING FOR HELP**

At YMCA Camp Algonquin, every counselor, staff member, and employee is there to help. Our goal is to provide a safe, memorable, and fun experience for your camper. Talk to them ahead of time about asking for help when needed and how to share it with camp staff. Remind your camper that while very talented, the counselors can't read minds and they will need to ask for help, and that is okay.

Similarly, for parents, the staff and directors are more than happy and willing to assist in any way, but we can't help if we don't know there is a problem. Please e-mail or call if you need anything.

### **GROUP AGREEMENTS & CAMP POLICIES**

Our Core Values and general guidelines at camp are as follows;

1. Be Caring
2. Be Honest
3. Be Respectful
4. Be Responsible

When these four things happen, then everyone will be able to have fun which is what camp is all about. With our core values as a starting point, campers will develop group agreements with their counselors and other campers. These group agreements will determine the guideline they want to live by during their stay at camp.

In addition to the guidelines above, campers are not permitted to use or have in their possession, tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems, alcohol, or drugs in any form. Illegal substances are not permitted at camp.

### **NO BULLYING ZONE**

There is a zero-tolerance policy for bullying at YMCA Camp Algonquin. Our staff is trained to watch for and detect signs of bullying behavior. We know that at times, children may have disagreements; however, direct targeting of an individual will not be allowed. We encourage any camper to share any concern they may have with the way they or any other person is treated while at camp to their counselor or another trusted adult.

### **DEFACING CAMP PROPERTY**

The YMCA of Barry County works hard to make sure that we have outstanding facilities for our campers and staff to experience the joys of camp. If a camper chooses to deface camp property, the family will be responsible for any cost associated with the repairs.

## **BUDDY REQUESTS**

Something new this year is buddy requests. Due to the high demand for our programs, it will not be guaranteed that your camper will be in the same cabin or group as a friend unless indicated by submitting the first and last name of the camper your child wishes to have in their cabin or group. Buddy requests must be mutual, meaning both campers must indicate they would like to be in a cabin or group together, and they are within two years of age. If you forget to fill out the buddy request form please email the Camp Director ([megan@ymcaofbarrycounty.org](mailto:megan@ymcaofbarrycounty.org)). Buddy requests will not be guaranteed but will be taken into serious consideration.

## **INCLUSION**

Every child should have the chance to go to camp. If your camper requires special accommodations (dietary, physical, behavioral, etc.), please fill out the Camper Information Form accordingly. If you indicate that your camper will need additional assistance, additional detailed questions will open up. Our Inclusion Form will help us get a better understanding of your camper's needs so reasonably necessary accommodations may be made prior to your camper's arrival. To discuss your camper's special needs, please contact the Camp Director.

## **CAMP MERCHANDISE**

Each camper will receive a camp T-shirt and photo as part of their stay. A wide variety of other camp merchandise will be available at the YMCA Camp Algonquin Camp Store.

## **CAMP STORE**

The camp store is your source for camp souvenirs, gifts, T-shirts, and many other fun camp accessories. Purchases at the camp store are optional and no camper is singled out for not visiting the store or not having funds. Each camper will have multiple opportunities to visit the camp store.

Cash, check, or credit card can be used for a deposit to set up a digital store account for your camper. Please set up your camper's digital wallet prior to check-in. Store deposits can be collected at check-in, but it is better to have this handled beforehand to make the check-in process more efficient.

Campers will not be permitted to carry cash on the premises or pay for their items in cash at the store. If you find the need to add store money after you have dropped off your camper, please call the camp office for assistance at 269-945-4574 or [log into your household's online registration portal](#) to add funds. Families will have the ability to add camp store funds to their camper's digital wallet at any time while their camper is at camp as well as view a statement of their spending.

Your camper's digital wallet is for *the entire summer*, not one session at a time. If your camper is registered for multiple sessions, any balance not used in their first week will roll over to their next week at YMCA Camp Algonquin, and so on. If your camper is registered for multiple sessions, it is up to you to decide if they will receive a lump sum store deposit for the whole summer or if you will add funds to their digital wallet before each new session. Camp staff is not required to budget the camper's store funds.

Any funds in the camper's Camp Store Wallet remaining at the end of the summer will be refunded after summer is over.

We recommend \$30 per session for campers to have the option of purchasing snacks, treats, and merchandise.

The camp store will be open for families who want an additional opportunity to purchase camp merchandise during check-out on Friday.

## **CAMPER FORMS**

All forms must be completed *4 weeks prior to the camper's arrival*. If you have updates after you have filled the forms out, please contact our office at [office@ymcaofbarrycounty.org](mailto:office@ymcaofbarrycounty.org) or call 269-945-4574 weekdays between 9am-4pm.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

The YMCA of Barry County is committed to providing quality programs to everyone. Financial assistance is available. Families can donate to the scholarship campaign or apply for assistance by calling the camp office at 269-945-4574.

## **PROGRAM DEPOSIT FEES**

You must pay a registration deposit fee with each camp registration to hold your spot.

The deposit fee for Camp Algonquin is \$25 for Tiny Tots Day Camp, \$50 for Adventure Day Camp and Junior Overnight Camp, and \$100 for all other sessions. The registration deposit fee covers our basic administrative costs for the entire registration process.

*All camp balances must be paid in full the Friday 4 weeks before your camper's session of camp. Should you wish to set up a payment plan, please contact our office. We will never turn anyone away due to financial circumstances.*

## **CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS**

Cancellations and changes to registrations should be made in writing (PO Box 252 Hastings, MI 49058) or sent via e-mail to [office@ymcaofbarrycounty.org](mailto:office@ymcaofbarrycounty.org). Any cancellations or changes to registrations that are over the phone will be documented in our camp registrar's notes.

*Cancellations at any time prior to the session will forfeit the deposit for the registration fee.*

*No-shows will be charged the full registration fee for that session of camp.*

*There is no refund for behavior-related issues causing the camper to be sent home.*

Campers who cancel or leave camp on the advice of medical personnel will receive a prorated refund. A physician's note is required.

## **PREPARING FOR CAMP**

### **PREPARING YOURSELF**

It's totally normal for parents and guardians to have mixed feelings when their camper goes away – whether it's their first time away or not. Remember, you have chosen a fun and safe place and your camper will be well cared for. The staff is trained to deal with any problem from homesickness to first aid. Try not to let your camper know how much you are going to miss them. Be strong! You don't want them to worry about you while they are at camp.

## **PREPARING YOUR CAMPER**

One of the primary goals of camp is to offer progressive experiences that allow children to develop new skills and confidence. Coming to camp and being away from home and family for an extended time provides a great opportunity to grow.

Each camper must be able to care for their general well-being. While counselors are always there to support them, campers are expected to eat meals, shower, groom, dress, and communicate their needs with camp staff. Please note that we only have showers available at camp. There are no bathtubs.

Help your camper get ready for camp by being excited! Let your camper know that you want them to have fun and learn new things. Emphasize that your camper is "going" to camp, instead of saying you are "sending" them. If your camper has any anxiety about the dark, bugs, night noises, or being away from home, please start preparing them for these things now and make sure you include those notes on their camper forms. We want your camper to be successful.

### **PREPARING FOR CAMP**

- Have overnights at friends' or relatives' homes working up to multiple nights away
- Plan some outdoor activities as a family to get your camper used to outdoor weather
- Encourage your camper to pick out their clothes and help with packing
- Pick out a security item like a teddy bear or blanket to bring
- Help them learn how to make their bed and wipe and set the table
- Make sure they are comfortable doing personal care routines like showering, brushing teeth/hair, and independently dressing
- Explain that homesickness is normal and discuss what it may feel like and suggest ways to help your camper overcome it if they experience it
- Talk to other families and friends who have attended camp, so you know what to expect
- Bring letters during drop off to be delivered during the week

## PACKING FOR CAMP

By following these easy tips, your camper will be prepared for anything during their camp adventure.

- Pack your camper's possessions in a duffel bag or plastic tub with a secure lid
- Encourage your camper to pack everything into one suitable-sized container for their session because this helps ensure things do not get lost
- Clearly mark all clothing and equipment with the camper's name, including luggage or tubs
  - Pack comfortable, lightweight clothing that is easy to clean as clothes WILL get dirty at camp
  - Have your camper wear properly fitting, sturdy shoes to camp

Campers need to wear sturdy shoes every day due to the natural hazards at camp. Sturdy sandals with a heel strap are acceptable for some camp activities; however, tennis shoes are necessary. Campers may only wear flip-flops in the shower.

- Pack extra clothing/shoes in case of rainy weather, etc.

Zip Lock bags are great for keeping items dry and keeping wet items from leaking on clothes.

## THE PACKING LIST

### **CLOTHING**

- Shorts for each day and extras
- Shirts for each day and extras
- Long pants or jeans for hiking, cooler days, etc.
- Underwear for each day and extras
- Socks for each day and extras
- Pajamas
- Lightweight sweater, jacket or sweatshirt
- Swimsuit(needs to be appropriate for activities and water sports such as a one-piece, tankini or other sport style suit)
- Two pairs of properly fitting shoes that can get wet and dirty. One pair needs to be tennis shoes while the other may be a sandal with a sturdy heel strap. (No crocs, jelly shoes, or clogs)

### **PERSONAL ITEMS**

- Soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hairbrush and/or comb
- Hairbands or other hair accessories
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Towels and washcloths
- Deodorant and toiletries
- Feminine hygiene supplies\*
- Eye care needs\*
- Dental care needs\*

## EQUIPMENT

- Sleeping bag or comforter
- Extra sheets and blankets for chilly nights if desired
- Pillow
- Raincoat or poncho
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Hat with brim
- Laundry bag
- Insect repellent
- Water bottle with camper's name
- Sunscreen
- Backpack or daypack
- Beach towel

## OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Inexpensive camera with batteries or charger
- Bandana
- Sandals or flip-flops for the shower
- Stationary or postcards, addresses, pens or pencils, stamps
- Sunglasses
- Books, magazines, or journal for downtime
- Watch
- Boots or rain boots
- Extra swimsuit and towel
- Water shoes/aqua socks
- Safety strap for glasses/sunglasses\*
- Personal fan for bunk

\*If necessary for your camper

## CHECK-IN ITEMS

***\*Do not pack away in luggage\****

- Medication
- Money for Camp Store

## ITEMS TO LEAVE AT HOME

- Food! - It only attracts unwanted critters  
Camp will provide opportunities for snacks
- Inappropriate clothing or clothing items that are not functional for camping, such as halter tops, tube tops, or formalwear
- Items that advertise inappropriate material
- Pocket knives or other weapons
- Any item that would cause distress if it was lost or damaged

If these, or any other items found to be disrupting the camp program are brought to camp, they will be collected by a staff member and returned to the camper upon check-out.

## LOST AND FOUND

Lost items are displayed to be claimed every day at meals and are laid out during check-out. Unclaimed items will be held at YMCA Camp Algonquin until 4pm on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

You will receive an email and a QR code to access the photo gallery of all lost and found items.

Any items left unclaimed by then will be donated. Socks and underwear will be thrown away.



# WELLNESS AND SAFETY

## **WELLNESS TEAM**

The Health Services Director or a wellness team member is on duty at camp at all times. In emergencies and cases of non-routine illnesses and injuries, parents/guardians will be notified immediately. In cases of minor injuries or illnesses (ex: bug bites, scrapes, headache, minor sunburn, etc.), treatment will be provided. If the wellness team has questions or concerns regarding these minor cases, parents/guardians will be contacted.

YMCA Camp Algonquin's wellness team may be contacted at [camphealth@ymcaofbarrycounty.org](mailto:camphealth@ymcaofbarrycounty.org) between May-August. If you have health-related questions or concerns outside of the regular camp season, please contact our camp office.

## **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Health information is required for all campers, regardless of session and program. Health/medical forms are available [on your household's online registration portal](#) or by calling the office. All campers must complete the record of immunization section. A current tetanus booster (administered within the last 10 years) is required for all campers.

The security, confidentiality, and privacy of your camper's personal health information will always be protected. Only our wellness team will have access to camper health information.

## **MEDICATIONS**

**\*\*All over-the-counter and prescription medications must be in original containers with the correct, current label, including the camper's name. All medication should be checked in on opening day with the wellness team, who will oversee the proper administration of all medications. Medications may NOT be kept by campers.\*\***

Camp is a different environment from home and school, with new procedures and rules. We want your camper to have a positive experience. If your camper takes prescription medication for any health-related condition, we strongly advise that they continue these medications under the supervision of our wellness team. This will ensure that the transition to camp life is smooth and successful.

*Please let us know if your camper's doctor has advised that your camper not take their medications during camp.*

## **OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS**

The Wellness Center has a supply of common over-the-counter medication. Unless your camper takes an over-the-counter drug as a part of their regular medication regimen, we recommend you primarily use the camp's supply if needed.

The following medications are available at the Wellness Center and are recommended by our camp physicians through our standing orders. They will be administered under the Health Director or designee's supervision; dosed as appropriate for the camper's weight and/or age.

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Ibuprofen (Motrin)
- Decongestant (Sudafed)
- Antihistamine (Claritin)
- Antacid (Tums)
- Antidiarrheal (Pepto-Bismol)
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
- Naphazoline/Pheniramine
- Expectorant  
(cough suppressant, cough drops)
- Topical Corticosteroid  
(Hydrocortisone Cream)

## **HEAD LICE**

YMCA Camp Algonquin has a no lice, no nit policy. The presence of nits, live lice, or dead eggs will require the camper and their belongings to be treated at home before re-admittance to camp. The camper's laundry will also need to be treated at home to ensure it is lice-free. No camper will be admitted back to camp until all lice and eggs (nits) have been removed after the application of a lice-killing product. All belongings, including clothes, pillows, and sleeping bags, must be laundered in hot water and dried in a hot dryer. The camper will need to be completely nit free to return to camp.

## MANDATED REPORTER

All YMCA of Barry County staff are considered mandated reporters. If we suspect that a child may be subject to maltreatment: physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse, we are legally required to make a report.

## HOMESICKNESS

Though not very often, common, or long-lasting, homesickness can occur at camp. We have experienced staff members that are trained to work with homesick campers. If it occurs, homesickness usually happens at the beginning of the week and quickly dissipates as the camper gets settled into camp life. The first few hours and days are a normal transition phase for everyone, and it is typical for campers to all adjust at different paces.

There are a few things a parent can do ahead of time to help prevent long-lasting homesickness:

- Explain what homesickness is and let them know that it is normal, what it might feel like, and that it will go away
- Give them some ideas of things they can do to help alleviate homesick feelings

Think about the fun things you will be doing later

Take a special stuffed animal or book that makes them feel secure.

Talk to your counselor or a friend

- Show that you have confidence in your camper that they will do great and will not experience too much homesickness
- Let them know that you want them to have a good time and make new friends
- Avoid bargaining or saying something like, "If you're really homesick, I promise I'll come pick you up right away." as this sends the message to your camper that you are not confident in their ability to succeed.

- Provide stationary and self-addressed, stamped envelopes for them to write you notes
- Consider preparing letters for them and bringing them to check-in to be delivered to your camper throughout the week
- Do not suggest that they call you if they feel homesick. Often, calling home makes homesickness worse, and campers do not have access to the camp phone.
- If your camper asks, "What if I get homesick?" remind them of the many people at camp who are there to help.

Here are a few things to remember once you have checked your camper in:

- Once you get your camper moved in, try to leave as soon as possible so your camper can start making new friends and get involved with activities.
- Keep upbeat when you say goodbye. Save your tears until you get to the car where your camper won't see you.
- Be aware that your camper's counselors will engage the campers in singing songs and playing games as soon as you leave.
- You can stay connected to your camper by sending mail ahead of time or by bringing them mail or sending e-mails while they are at camp.
- You will have access to a secured site with photos from all the sessions at camp at the end of each week.
- You are always welcome to call or e-mail to check in on your camper.

*If you believe your camper is prone to homesickness, please share this information when filling out their health information. You can also discuss it with a staff member at check-in (without involving your camper).*

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Access to the camp property is limited, controlled, and only authorized visitors are allowed on site. To ensure the safety and security of camp, please limit interruptions in the camp program, and prevent homesickness among campers, unauthorized visitors are not allowed on site. If you need to stop at camp please call the camp office before your arrival.

## **SEVERE WEATHER**

At camp, we have a communication system to alert all staff and campers of any weather watches and warnings. Our staff are trained and drilled in emergency procedures and participate in drills to make sure that they are prepared in case of a weather-related emergency. Campers are also aware of what happens during different types of emergencies. In case of a weather-related emergency, updates can be found on the [YMCA of Barry County Facebook Page](#).

# **CAMPER COMMUNICATION**

Campers love to hear from home while they are away at camp. We offer options for you to communicate with your camper.

## **SNAIL MAIL**

Campers love cheerful letters from home. You can mail a letter before your camper leaves for camp to make sure it is delivered before they return home. Please address mail as follows:

**Camper Name**  
**Week #**  
**Cabin Number**  
**YMCA Camp Algonquin**  
**PO Box 252**  
**Hastings, MI 49058**

Send your camper with stationary, pre-addressed envelopes or an address list, and stamps and practice with your young campers how to properly address an envelope. We will help them get the letter in the mail.

During check-in there is a station for you to drop off pre-written mail. Please put what day you would like the letter/package delivered. This is the most efficient way to ensure your camper gets mail while they are at camp.

## **E-MAIL TO CAMPERS**

You can stay connected to your camper by sending them an e-mail while they are at camp. Simply send an e-mail to [office@ymcaofbarrycounty.org](mailto:office@ymcaofbarrycounty.org) with your camper's name and cabin as the subject line. The staff will print it out and deliver it to your camper during mail time.

**E-mails or mail received after NOON are not delivered until the next day.**

## **TIPS FOR CAMPER COMMUNICATION**

### **DO tell them:**

- You know they are having a good time
- You can't wait to hear all about their new friends, the fun activities they are doing, to see their art projects, or to learn all of the new songs they are singing
- You hope they are writing down songs, names of new friends, and taking lots of pictures
- Use positive words like love and proud

### **DON'T tell them about:**

- Trips or fun things they are missing out on
- How a sibling cried all night because they are not home
- How much you miss them
- An ill relative or a hurt animal

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

We kindly ask that all electronic devices are left at home. With youth development being one of the focus areas of the YMCA, we would like to encourage participants to be engaged in the programs offered at camp. *If any electronics are brought to camp the staff will collect them. Electronics will be stored securely in the Camp Director's office and returned to the parents/guardians during check-out.*

## DAY CAMP SPECIFICS

It will be beneficial for Day Camp families to read this whole handbook. However, there are a few specifics for our Day Camp programs. You will receive an e-mail from the Day Camp Coordinator two weeks before your camper visits camp. This e-mail (from [daycamp@ymcaofbarrycounty.org](mailto:daycamp@ymcaofbarrycounty.org)) will contain specific additional information you will want to have. The Day Camp Coordinator may be contacted via e-mail between May-August. If you have questions or concerns outside of the regular camp season, please contact our camp office.

**Check-in and check-out** will happen each day by the parking lot, in the big field. If the weather is poor, please follow the black paved path to the main building. **Please make sure to check your camper out each day with the staff.** You may be asked to show a photo ID at pick up. **If your camper will be leaving early or missing a day of camp please notify the Day Camp Coordinator or the main office.**

### **Meals & Snacks**

Adventure Day Campers are provided breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack every day plus dinner for the optional theme day extended stay and delayed pick-up. "Tiny Tots are provided a snack each day.

Adventure Day Camp will go on a field trip to the [Battle Creek Outdoor Education Center](#) on Tuesdays. They will use public transportation to get there and will be back in time to do a water activity before heading home.

### **ADVENTURE DAY CAMP**

On Wednesdays (except on shortened sessions), Day Campers are invited to stay until 8pm at Camp Algonquin. This extended stay is completely optional. Day Campers that decide to go home Wednesday instead of staying for the themed all camp activities will need to be picked up at their usual check-out time at 4:00 pm. When Day Campers choose to stay, they have the opportunity to learn about overnight camp and experience, enjoy the themed dinner, and participate in the all camp game.

### **Day Camp Packing List**

Adventure Day Campers and Tiny Tots are asked to pack the following name labeled items in a backpack each day:

- A change of clothes
- Swimsuit  
(needs to be appropriate for water sports such as a one-piece, tankini or other sport style suit)
- Towel
- Water bottle
- A light jacket/sweatshirt
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Tennis shoes that can get dirty
- Two pairs of properly fitting shoes that can get wet and dirty. One pair needs to be tennis shoes while the other may be a sandal with a sturdy heel strap.  
(No crocs, jelly shoes, or clogs)

## TEEN TRIP SPECIFICS

It will be beneficial for Teen Trip families to read this whole handbook. However, there are a few specifics for the trip. You will also receive an e-mail from camp two weeks before your camper visits camp with additional detailed information.

Things to note:

- Trips are a co-ed camping opportunity
- Trip campers will not be on-site to participate in all of the usual camp activities. They should not expect to do any of them, other than the closing fire.
- Trip campers will have the chance to go to the camp store during check-out on Friday to get any camp swag they wish to purchase. Trip campers are allowed to bring money to camp with them, but they are responsible for their own money. This money will be for getting snacks at gas stations while on their trip.
- All camp rules included in this handbook will still apply while on the trip

### **TRIP ITENARY**

The itinerary for this trip is flexible for a couple of reasons. The weather may be a factor, and we like to allow these older campers to have an input on some things they do. While on the trip, they will cook their meals and may do activities such as hiking, swimming, tubing or boating, relaxing, and exploring. The campers will spend their first night at YMCA Camp Algonquin preparing for the trip. They will learn about caring for equipment and trip expectations. After packing the vehicles, they will depart camp on Monday and return Thursday afternoon. Pick-up will be Friday at 4pm.

This year we will be offering two separate Sleeping Bear Dunes trips. This trip has been a huge success over the years and we are excited to make it better than ever.

Teen Trip Example Schedule:

Sunday:

3:00 pm- Camp check-in  
6:00 pm- Dinner  
7:00 pm- Opening campfire

Monday:

8:30 am- Breakfast  
9:20 am- Last minute packing  
10:00 am- Depart for dunes  
2:30 pm- Arrive at dunes & explore  
5:00 pm- Dinner  
6:30 pm- Hike

Tuesday:

7:30 am - Wake up  
7:50 am - Start breakfast  
9:50 am - Leave for the Sleeping Bear Beach  
10:30 am - Arrive at Sleeping Bear Beach  
12:00 am - Lunch  
12:30ish pm - Explore Glen Haven  
4:30 pm- Head back to the campsite  
5:00 pm- Rest hour and shower  
6:00 pm- Start making dinner  
7:00 pm - Open for activity  
11:00 pm - In tents ready for bed

Wednesday:

7:30 am - Wake up  
7:50 am - Start breakfast  
9:50 am - Leave for the Dune Climb  
10:30 am - Arrive at Dune Climb  
12 pm - Lunch  
1ish pm - Start hike down dune to North Bar  
3:00ish pm - Pick up at North Bar Lake  
4:00 pm- Arrive back at the campsite  
4-6 pm- Rest hour and showers  
6:00 pm - Evening activity  
12:00 pm - In tents ready for bed

Thursday:

8:30 am- Wake Up  
8:45 am- Start breakfast and tearing down the campsite  
10:00 am- Leave for camp (Stop for lunch on the way back-fast food)  
2:30 pm- Arrive back at camp  
3:00 pm- Unpack Vans

## TEEN TRIP PACKING LIST

- Large backpack  
(to hold all the possessions you will need for a 3-day stay in a tent)
- Small daypack backpack  
(for carrying a water bottle, snacks, swimsuit, etc.)
- Clothing for 3 days
- Extra socks and underwear
- Warm clothes
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Swimsuit  
(needs to be appropriate for water sports such as a one-piece, tankini or other sport style suit)
- Towel
- Hiking shoes/boots  
(that fit well and are broken in)
- Easy to slip on shoes with a heel strap  
(no flip-flops)
- Ziploc/ trash bags  
(Great for keeping things dry)
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Any additional toiletries you may need
- Bug Spray
- Sun Screen
- Flashlight / Headlamp / Lantern
- A large water bottle
- Sleeping Bag
- Pillow

## Optional items:

- Sleeping pad
- Sheets

If you do not own a large backpack, another bag will suffice; however, please avoid bags with wheels or totes if possible.

Try to avoid bringing perfume or body spray as it will attract mosquitoes. It is even a good idea to find deodorant and shampoos with no scent or tea tree scent.

# CAMP ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Everyone is excited for the first day of camp. Every effort is taken to make the check-in process as efficient as possible. However, several steps must be taken to ensure that your camper has a healthy and fun camp experience. Please be prepared to spend some time going through the check-in process. Come dressed for the weather and be prepared to walk and stand.

## **CHECK-IN**

As you arrive at camp, there will be staff on hand to help direct you where to go. Ask any staff member in a Camp Algonquin staff shirt if you need help. The check-in will take place outside the camp lodge and will begin promptly at the check-in time listed. Please be patient while waiting if you arrive at camp early. When you arrive at camp, you and your camper will visit a few different stations to ensure that your paperwork is complete and to open your camp store account if desired.

Your camper will complete a quick health check, which will include a general health screening and lice check in a private area.

You can expedite the check-in process by making sure your camper has the items listed below, either already completed, or out and ready to process at the proper check-in stations.

- Completed registration and forms [on CampBrain](#) before arrival.
- Store money – optional but suggested
- *All medications – All inhalers, medicated creams, prescriptions, and non-prescription drugs need to be checked in with the wellness team upon arrival. **They must be in original containers with labels and doctor's release.***

Once check-in is complete, families will be directed to their camper's cabin. Families are invited to help their camper move into the cabin, meet the counselors, and ask any last-minute questions. Please try to keep this process quick as prolonging good-byes can promote homesickness in your camper.

## **CHECK-OUT**

Please verify your check-out day and time (the schedule is on page 16) and plan to pick up your camper at the appropriate time. On-time pick-up eases your camper's nerves during the anticipation of going home. If something happens and you are running late, please call the camp office so we can let your camper know you are on your way and keep them busy until you arrive.

Please note that before pick-up, campers are busy finishing activities, so we ask that you not pick up your camper before their check-out time. We understand that things come up and schedules are busy. If your camper needs to be picked up early, please notify the camp office as soon as possible so we can assure your camper is prepared.

If someone other than a parent is picking up your camper, be sure to include those individuals on your camp forms under pick-up authorization, or notify camp staff during check-in.

***The person picking up each camper will be asked to show a photo ID at pick-up. No campers will be released to unauthorized persons. Campers will not be released unless the authorized individual shows the proper ID.***

***If your child will be leaving early or missing a day of camp please notify the Camp Director or the main office.***

## **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Your camper's program activities will begin immediately after being checked in. We do not want your camper to miss out on this valuable time to get to know their fellow campers and settle into camp life. Campers who must arrive late, depart early, or leave during a session are asked to make this request to the Camp Director before the camp session begins.

## **PETS**

Pets are *not* allowed on camp property. Please leave pets or other animals at home or in the car when dropping off or picking up your camper from camp

# TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

|          |                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| 7:15 am  | Optional Polar Bear Plunge         |
| 7:45 am  | Wake Up & Clean Up                 |
| 8:00 am  | Optional Chapel                    |
| 8:20 am  | All Camp Huddle, Flag, & Breakfast |
| 9:30 am  | Skill Sessions                     |
| 11:30 am | Cabin Activity                     |
| 12:30 am | Song Fest & Lunch                  |
| 1:45 pm  | Rest Hour                          |
| 3:00 pm  | Swim Time                          |
| 4:30 pm  | Open Activity time & Store Open    |
| 5:45 pm  | All Camp Huddle, Flag, & Dinner    |
| 7:00 pm  | Evening Program                    |
| 9:00 pm  | Shower                             |
|          | *Bed Times Vary Depending on Age*  |

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

### **Traditional Overnight Camp**

Check-In (Sunday) 3:00-4:00pm

Check-Out (Friday) 4:00pm

### **Jr. Overnight Camp**

Check-In (Wednesday) 1:00-2:00pm

Check-Out (Friday) 4:00pm

### **Adventure Day Camp**

Check-In (M-F Daily) 8:00am

Check-Out (M-F Daily) 4:00pm

### **Teen Trip**

Check-In (Sunday) 3:00-4:00pm

Check-Out (Friday) 4:00pm

### **Tiny Tots Day Camp: Morning**

Check-In (M-F Daily) 8:00am

Check-Out (M-F Daily) 11:00am

### **Tiny Tots Day Camp: Afternoon**

Check-In (M-F Daily) 1:00pm

**Check-Out (M-F, Daily) 4:00pm**

### **Family Camp**

Check-In (Wednesday) 3:00pm-4:00pm  
(with Dinner at 6:00pm)

**Check-Out (Saturday) 2:00pm**