

## SUMMER 2023 RESIDENT CAMP PARENT GUIDE



### Welcome Parents

We are excited to have your camper joining us this summer at Camp Harrison! We want to make planning for camp as easy for you as possible, so we've put together this Parent Guide to answer all your questions and to help you adequately prepare your camper for this amazing experience. **Please note, highlighted text indicates a 2023 update.**

YMCA Camp Harrison: Building Confidence, Character and Faith.

### Contact Information

YMCA CAMP HARRISON  
704 716 4330  
campharrison@ymcacharlotte.org  
campharrison.org

### Guide Contents

- Registering for Camp
- Check-In & Check-Out
- Packing for Camp
- Communication during Camp
- Life at Camp
- Safety and Medical Information

### Registering for Camp

We strive to make planning for camp as simple and pleasant as possible for parents and campers. Parents must complete the following before check-in day:

- Registration/Payment
- CampDoc Medical Forms
- Activity Preferences

### Registration/Payment/Cancellations

Rates and online registration are available at [campharrison.org](http://campharrison.org).

YMCA of Greater Charlotte members receive \$125 savings per regular week. Payment can be made in full at registration or by utilizing our auto monthly payment plan.

Early Bird Registrations – Take advantage of registering your camper for the following Summer during check-out. This will help lock-in lowest pricing, not worry about waitlists, and receive a complimentary gift!

Changeover- There is no fee for campers attending multiple one week sessions to remain at camp over the weekend.

Early Arrival/Late Pick-Up Fee –as stated above, there will be no fee for campers who are attending the next session to stay the weekend. The \$125 fee will only apply to late pick-ups and early arrivals.

### Cancellation Policy

- Cancellations made after February 1, but more than 14 days before your camper's session, will forfeit the deposit.
- Cancellations made less than 14 days before your camper's session will forfeit all previous payments. Cancellations will not be accepted by phone, but can be emailed to [campharrison@ymcacharlotte.org](mailto:campharrison@ymcacharlotte.org).
- For cancellations due to medical reasons, a full refund will be issued only when a doctor's note is provided.

### Medical Forms

We partner with CampDoc.com to provide the best possible care for our campers and staff. All registered campers will receive an email detailing instructions for completing camper health care information within two weeks of registration. Please, set [register@campdoc.com](mailto:register@campdoc.com) as a safe sender to avoid delivery to a junk/spam folder.

Before camp, you will be asked to submit the following online:

- Medical Insurance card

- Prescription Insurance card (if different)
- Camper immunization record
- A doctor's plan for any diagnosed chronic condition
- A confidential camper health profile

Note: It is no longer required for all campers to receive a physical before attending camp.

## Activity Preferences

Parents will work with their campers to fill out land activity preference forms, using [YCampLife](#), at least two weeks before arriving at camp. Look for an email in May with more details about this process. You can access [YCampLife](#) using your YMCA of Greater Charlotte account credentials, which you used to register for camp (give us a call if you are having trouble logging in). You will need to fill out a preference form for each session of camp your child is attending. YCampLife will also be used to access your child's photos and to send one-way messages to your child while they are at camp. 6 and 7 year old and mini campers will automatically be enrolled in the S'mores Program. S'mores campers will travel to activities as a group, led by one of their counselors, which will allow them to experience many different activities with their peers and will set them up for success in the future. One week campers may opt out of this program if you would like to select preferences for your child. If you want your 6 or 7 year old campers to participate in this program, you DO NOT need to complete a preference form for them.

## Cabin Requests

We make every effort to honor up to 2 mutual cabin mate requests when campers are within one year of each other in age and one grade level. Requests must be made at least two weeks prior to your camper's check-in via this [online form](#). If there is an issue with your camper's cabin assignment, please speak with a camp director in the dining hall during check-in. Please note: If your camper is attending a multi-week program such as Middle School or Teen Camp, they will be in a set cabin with other participants in that program.

## Check-In and Check-Out

### Check-In – Sunday, 3:00PM-4:30PM

- Parents will select time slots to arrive at camp-sign-up link will be sent out the week before your camper's arrival
- Health screenings will be conducted for each camper on arrival
- Parents will remain in their vehicles throughout the check-in process

- Staff will unload camper luggage in front of cabin
- We must be notified of late check-ins (after 4:30PM) in advance via email
- All campers must be checked-in/checked-out by an adult over the age of 18.
- Driving aged campers will not be allowed to drive their car to camp.

## Early Drop-Off Policy

Should you need to drop off your camper early, you must contact the camp office to arrange this. We will ask that you bring your child to camp on Saturday between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM and pay the \$125 changeover fee.

## Check-Out- Saturday, 9:00AM-10:00AM or Wednesday, 5:00PM-6:00PM for Mini Campers

- Curbside pickup of campers at cabins
- Parents will remain in vehicles throughout check-out
- Campers must be signed out by a parent or parent approved adult over the age of 18. For the protection of all campers and staff, parents must give written permission to [campharrison@ymcacharlotte.org](mailto:campharrison@ymcacharlotte.org) for anyone other than themselves to pick up their camper(s). Anyone other than parent/guardian picking up camper must provide a photo ID.

## Directions & Location

Directions to camp can be found on our website. Please, use the Main Entrance (off of NC Highway 18). If your GPS directs you to Fall View Rd/Andrews Rd, please, turn around and turn right onto Hwy 18. The main entrance will be just ahead on the right.

Our address is:  
7901 S. NC Highway 18  
Boomer, NC 28606



## Packing for Camp

### What to bring

A packing list is available on the [Parent Resources page](#) of our website, and will provide you with information about what you should (and should not) pack for camp. Camp provides the necessary equipment for all activities. **Please remember, Camp is not responsible for personal items brought to Camp, including recreation equipment. All items should be labeled with your camper's name. Bring only items that you don't mind getting dirty or lost. Refrain from bringing any valuables. Please make sure you have all your child's items when you pick them up (See Lost & Found Policy).**

### Spending Money & Camp Store

No spending money is needed at camp. Campers will be provided with canteen (snack and drink) each afternoon. **Each camper will receive \$50 in store bucks to spend while they are at camp. All cabins will be given the opportunity to visit the camp store during the week. If you want your camper to have additional spending money to use in the camp store, you can purchase more store bucks during check-in. Store bucks are non-refundable and non-transferable, but we do our best to make sure campers spend their store bucks while they are here. There will also be an opportunity to visit the store during check-out.**

### Laundry

Laundry service will be offered to campers staying for multiple sessions. **We will provide laundry bags during the laundry services (but will not take bags home).** The essentials to be washed will be collected from your camper mid-week. **You will still need to pack extra and enough clothing for your camper's stay, but this will provide them with an opportunity to have their essentials washed.**

### Lost and Found

**Please label all of your camper's items. All unclaimed Lost and Found will be available for parents to look through during check-out located at your camper's cabin front porch. Lost items are not the responsibility of Camp Harrison. We will no longer hold unclaimed items. All lost items will be discarded or donated to charity. Unused medication will be placed in camper luggage prior to check-out.**

## Communication during Camp

### Email

Campers may receive one way emails through [Y Camp Life](#) or at [campharrisoncampers@ymcacharlotte.org](mailto:campharrisoncampers@ymcacharlotte.org) for no additional cost. Emails are printed Monday – Friday by 11:00am. Emails are not printed on Saturdays or Sundays. **Email Subject line must include Camper's First/Last Name and Cabin # to ensure delivery.**

### Photos

Campers are welcome to bring their cameras with them to camp, but we will also take pictures around camp throughout the course of the week. Each day, our pictures will be uploaded to [Y Camp Life](#), where you can view them.

### Care packages and US mail

- **We do not accept care packages by mail during each week.**
  - **Care packages can be packed with camper's luggage during check-in only**
- We encourage you to send messages to your camper through the [YCampLife](#) Platform
- Letters by mail are allowed (but sending emails is preferred)
- Camp Harrison will provide a post card for campers to write home during each session

## Phone Calls

Campers do not make phone calls home during camp. Counselors make phone calls to first time camper parents on Tuesday evenings. The call is intended to give new parents an update on their campers' activities and well-being during the week.

## Birthdays at Camp

Many campers celebrate their birthdays while at camp. Campers with birthdays are recognized in front of the entire camp at either lunch or dinner. Reminding us at check-in of your child's birthday is appreciated. Parents are welcome to send cake/cupcakes/cookies during check-in to share with the cabin, but any edible treats must be store-bought with listed ingredients. **Due to food allergies, products that contain nuts cannot be served.**

## Life at Camp

### Bunk Information

Campers are assigned to cabins by sex, age and grade level. New campers are intentionally placed with a mix of other new and returning campers. Our cabins are fully equipped with modern conveniences, including electricity, a/c, indoor bathrooms (with private stalls for changing), and hot water. All beds in the cabins are twin sized bunk beds.

### Campers Typical Day

- 7:00 AM Rise & shine and cabin clean-up
- 7:50 AM Flagpole – Blessing
- 8:00 AM Breakfast – Morning watch
- 9:00 AM Activities
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 12:45 PM BOB time (rest period)
- 2:00 PM Activities
- 5:30 PM Return to cabins – prepare for dinner
- 5:50 PM Flag lowering and blessing
- 6:00 PM Dinner
- 7:00 PM Evening program
- 8:30 PM Vespers
- 9:30 PM Return to cabins – cabin devotions
- 10:00 PM Lights out

## Land Activities

Adventure Hiking/Survival Skills  
Aerial Adventure (high ropes)  
Arts & Crafts  
Climbing Wall  
Farm to Feast  
Fishing  
General Athletics

Jelly Ball  
Lawn Games  
Mountain Biking (beginner or advanced)  
Mountain Scooters  
Paintball  
Performing Arts- Dance, Drama, and Rhythm & Beats  
Sporting Clays  
Target Sports (archery, riflery & slingshots)  
(\*activities are subject to change)

## Water Activities

Every camper gets to participate in water activities each afternoon, along with their cabin mates.

Boating- Canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, sailboats  
Frolicking- Water inflatables  
Lake Extreme- The blob, wet willie waterslide, water zip line and black mamba waterslide  
Pool with waterslides  
Creeking

## Swim Test

Every camper will be swim tested in accordance with the YMCA of Greater Charlotte Aquatics Standards. Campers wear identification of their swim level while at camp, ensuring they are kept safe and challenged, depending on their experience.

## YMCA Ragers Program

The YMCA Ragers Program is a goal-setting program for campers age 12 and up, in which campers challenge their personal and spiritual growth. This program is designed to help staff and campers take a closer look at themselves in relationship to their own strengths and weaknesses, their religious beliefs, and the people around them. The rags are outward symbols of the acceptance of an inner challenge for Christian/personal growth.

## Dining Hall

A variety of fresh fruit, hot & cold cereals, vegetables and kid-friendly options are offered at every meal. At mealtime, mature and knowledgeable counselors gently guide campers towards healthy and appropriate choices. Food will be served cafeteria style and family style, by cabin. Vegetarian options are always available. Products that contain peanuts and tree nuts are not served in the dining hall. Other special dietary needs should be indicated on the camper health history and directed to the Camp Harrison office. The dining hall is successful in accommodating campers with most food allergies.

## Discipline

Camp rules are designed to enhance the happiness and safety of all campers. Head counselors will contact parents to let them know if there is an on-going behavioral problem. Children who do not demonstrate appropriate behavior, in the judgment of the Directors, will be sent home. **Early dismissal from Camp will not be granted refunds.**

## Missing Home

Parental support and encouragement are crucial to a child's successful camp experience. Parents can help set campers up for success by:

- Being enthusiastic and positive about a camper's time at camp
- Encouraging campers to stay the entire session
- Helping campers set goals for camp (meeting people, learning something new, etc.)
- Not promising that a camper can come home if they do not like camp

Head Counselors will keep parents in the loop if their camper is missing home. Campers do not make phone calls home to parents, but letters and emails are great ways to communicate with your child. Encouraging comments in letters are also helpful. Though it is common for young or first-time campers to miss home, it is usually short-lived due to all the fun people and dynamic activities at Camp Harrison! Our Staff is well trained to help campers adjust to camp by immediately involving them in goal setting, team building and engaging activities.

## Safety and Medical Information

We have created a separate Health Center Parent Guide to provide you with updated Health Center and Medication policies for summer 2023 located on our [Parent Resources page](#).