



DISCOVER
YOUR
BEST
SELF

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2019
DAY CAMP



YMCA CAMP THUNDERBIRD | PARENT GUIDE 2019

WELCOME

The YMCA is the nation's leader in camping, offering outdoor programming for over 100 years. YMCA Camp Thunderbird serves children in day and resident camp programs each summer and we are excited to have your camper experience what we have to offer.

CAMP THUNDERBIRD

Camp Thunderbird is a place where campers have fun and parents find an environment that will help their children grow in spirit, mind, and body. Our activities are designed to provide campers with an exciting, safe, and enriching summer experience that is appropriate to their age, interests and abilities. **DISCOVER YOUR BEST SELF** this summer at Camp Thunderbird Day Camp!

ADMISSIONS/ ENROLLMENT/ WAIT LIST

Camp Thunderbird will not discriminate by race, color, sex, national origin, creed or special needs.

- An online registration form must be completed for each camper to be enrolled in Camp Thunderbird Day Camp.
- **AN ONLINE HEALTH FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH CAMPER TO ATTEND CAMP** which must include immunization dates or shot records. **The health form and camper confidential form must be filled out completely either by a parent or a physician. This is completed online through Camp Docs and uploading documents.**
- Final camp payment must be made by the 1st of the month prior to the start of your child's camp session.
- Camp Thunderbird's Day Camp program fills all camper spots each session and will have a wait list for many sessions. If your camper is placed on a wait list due to the session being full, we will contact you by phone if we have openings and are able to move your camper off the wait list.
- The YMCA reserves the right to request withdrawal of a camper if one or more of the following conditions exist:
 1. The camper is not participating in or benefiting from the program.
 2. The staff cannot provide adequate or safe care for the camper.
 3. The staff cannot provide adequate or safe care to other enrolled campers due to the care needs or behavior of one camper.

CAMP LOCATION

– CAMP THUNDERBIRD –

Camp Thunderbird is located on a beautiful 100-acre site in Lake Wylie, SC just south of Charlotte, NC. Our physical address is: One Thunderbird Lane, Lake Wylie, SC 29710.

FROM CHARLOTTE:

Travel south on I-77 toward Columbia/Rock Hill. Take exit 90 Carowinds Blvd. Turn right off the ramp, go through four traffic lights and at the fifth light turn left on Route 49 (Tryon St—York Rd). Continue six miles crossing the Buster Boyd Bridge into Lake Wylie, SC. At the second light past the bridge, turn left. You will see the Thunderbird Barn on your right and the front gate on your left, just before the River Hills main gate. Welcome to Camp Thunderbird!

FROM ROCK HILL:

Travel north on I-77 toward Charlotte. Take exit #90 Carowinds Blvd. Turn left off the ramp, go through five traffic lights and at the six light turn left on Route 49 (Tryon St—York Rd). Continue six miles crossing the Buster Boyd Bridge into Lake Wylie, SC. At the second light past the bridge, turn left. You will see the Thunderbird Barn on your right and the front gate on your left, just before the River Hills main gate. Welcome to Camp Thunderbird!

FROM GASTONIA:

From I-85 South exit at New Hope Road (Hwy 279). Turn left at the top of the ramp onto New Hope Road. Follow Hwy #279 New Hope Rd through Gastonia until the road dead ends at Hwy 274. Turn left onto Hwy 274. At the next stoplight (Bi-Lo on left) turn left onto Hwy 49. At the 3rd stoplight turn right. You will see the Thunderbird barn on your right and the front gate on your left, just before the River Hills main gate. Welcome to Camp Thunderbird!

WHAT TO EXPECT

Going off to summer camp is a very exciting experience for campers and parents. It's very natural for everyone to be anxious about the first day of camp and meeting new friends. Hopefully, the following information will familiarize everyone with camp procedures and minimize "first-day" anxiety. Camp Thunderbird has well-trained staff that are focused on meeting the needs of individual campers and are committed to serving as excellent role models.

SUGGESTIONS FROM "EXPERIENCED" PARENTS

Dress for the weather. **THE CAMP DAY WILL CONTINUE RAIN OR SHINE.**

- Campers are very active during camp. Therefore, have your camper wear "play clothes" that can become dirty.
- Send swimsuit, towel and a (frozen) water bottle every day. An inexpensive backpack is useful for campers to keep personal items together. Lunch should be packed in a separate cooler outside of the backpack. Lunch may also be purchased.
- Label all items with camper's name including: swimsuits, towels, water bottles, lunch boxes and backpacks.
- There are more activities at camp than your child can participate in during a one week session. If your camper does not do all the activities he/she wants, encourage him or her to look forward to another session.

DAILY PROGRAM

The **Younger Camp** program (ages 6 - 8) has activities that are progressively structured to challenge each child according to their age. The program is planned to give children an introduction to a wide variety of camp activities, along with providing them the opportunity for creative expression.

Campers (ages 9-12) participate in the **Older Camp** program. The program allows for group team building and individual skill development in a variety of fun and motivating activities.

DAY CAMP SCHEDULE

TIME	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
7:30-8:30	Camper Drop-off / Rides In	Curb-side service in cars, Campers participate in optional games and activities
8:30-8:55	Opening Ceremony and Devotion	All campers
8:55-9:05	Group Time & Attendance	Getting to know each other!
9:15-10:15	Land Activity Period 1	Archery, Arts & Crafts, Group Games, Sports, Nature, Riflery, Low Ropes, Fishing, Challenge Course (ages 7-12), Slingshots (9-12)
10:20-11:20	Land Activity Period 2	Same as above
11:30-12:00	Lunch	(Parents Provide Lunch or Purchase on a weekly basis)
12:00-12:30	Change for Water Activities	Full coverage swim suits, details under What to Bring to Camp.
12:30-1:30	Water Activity Period 1	Banana Boat, Water Toys, Water Slide, Canoe and Kayak, Free Swim, Sailing (9-12 yr olds), Stand Up Paddle Boards (ages 9-12)
1:35-2:35	Water Activity Period 2	Same as above
2:35-2:45	Change for Electives	Dry clothes back on.
2:50-3:10	Canteen (Snack)	Provided by Camp.
3:15-4:10	Electives	Campers select from the specific week-long activities being offered during that week.
4:10-4:25	Group Scoop	Group time for reflection and daily recognition
4:30-5:00	Closing Ceremony	All campers
5:00-6:00	Camper Pick-up / Rides Out	Curb-side service in cars, Campers participate group specific small-group activities

BEFORE CAMP BEGINS

CAMP FEES PAID: PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Due May 1	Day Camp Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4; LIT 1 Sessions 1, 2; LIT 2 Training Days #1 and Training Days #2; LIT 3 Training Day #1 and Training Day #2
Due June 1	Day Camp Sessions 5, 6, 7, 8
Due July 1	Day Camp Session 9

Refund and Cancellation Policy for Day Camp:

- Full refund of all deposits or payments may be received if change/cancellation occurs 8 days prior to start of the week--by Sunday close of business.
- This also applies to transfers of camp programs.
- No refund will be issued if the session is cancelled after the SUNDAY before the session is scheduled to begin.
- Parents/Responsible Party will be accountable for the BALANCE of their session if they do not follow the cancellation timeline stated above.
- All changes and cancellations must be IN WRITING either through US Mail, Fax 704-716-4101 Attn: Day Camp Registrar, or email campthunderbirdregistrar@ymcacharlotte.org.

Returned Check Charge

- There will be a \$35 charge for any check returned to YMCA Camp Thunderbird. After two returned checks, we will accept only money orders. Outstanding balances resulting from uncollected returned checks must be rectified before the child may enroll or attend any YMCA of Greater Charlotte program.

FORMS THAT MUST BE COMPLETED:

- Health History Form –To ensure good health and ability to enter into normal camp activities, parents must complete the health history form via CampDoc.com by June 1st.
- A camper may not attend camp without a completed health form.

OPTIONAL CHARGES

- Overnights may be registered for online. Campers may attend overnights that are on the closing day of the session they are attending.
- Camp Swag Bags can be ordered at registration or online before the last day of camp.
- Camp Merchandise is available via <http://www.campthunderbirdstore.org/>
- Lunch - We will provide a nutritious lunch for your child for an additional fee. Registration and payment for lunch is online and must be completed by the Monday prior to the Session of attendance.
- Bus Transportation is available from Church of Charlotte, 2500 Carmel Road. Drop off is from 7:15-7:40 AM with a PROMPT 7:45 AM departure. Pick up is between 5:30-6:00 PM.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- Arrival – Please bring your children to camp between 7:30am and 8:30am. Opening Ceremony begins promptly at 8:30am.
- Optional Bus Arrival - Please arrive at Church of Charlotte parking lot between 7:15 and 7:40 AM. Parents and Authorized Pick up individuals will be responsible for providing the correct identification, a Driver's license, when signing out their camper. To ensure the camper's safety, YMCA Camp Thunderbird reserves the right not to release a camper to "unauthorized" individuals.
- Parents who wish to pick up their camper early may do so at the camp office PRIOR TO 4:15PM. The camp property is very large; please send a note with your child in the morning or call ahead, so we may arrange to have your camper waiting for you. Otherwise, please be prepared to wait at least 20 – 30 minutes in order to gather your camper and their belongings for departure.
- Normal daily pick-up time is between 5:00-6:00 PM.
- Optional Bus Pick up time is 5:30 - 6 PM at Church of Charlotte.

LATE PICK-UP

- Staff are scheduled until 6:00 p.m. However, staff will not leave a camper unattended.
- \$1.00 per minute will be charged per camper for every minute that a camper remains after 6:00 p.m. Payment is expected upon pick-up.
- Chronic late pick-up may be grounds for dismissal from the program.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

LUNCH

Pack a nutritious lunch for your camper, including a drink. Camp does not have refrigeration for lunches. Please do not send milk or mayonnaise based products. A small cooler with the camper's name works best for packing lunches and drinks. A (frozen) water bottle is recommended. Please note: Water fountains are located throughout camp. Do not send any nut items as we strive to provide a "nut-free" camp. Purchase Lunch Option – We will provide a nutritious lunch for your child. Registration and payment for lunch is online and must be completed by the Monday prior to the Session of attendance.

SNACK / CANTEEN

The Camp Canteen will be open every afternoon for campers. Lemonade, water, chips, pretzels, hummus, cheese sticks, and fruit are some of the snack options for campers. The specific menu for the week will be included in your Session Newsletter. Campers are limited to one snack item and one drink per day at the canteen. Camper's special dietary and food allergy needs will be met when necessary. Please be sure to note these on your camper's health form and confidential form to help your child's counselor and the Health Center staff know your child's special needs.

CLOTHING

Please send appropriate clothing with your child, taking into consideration the weather forecast and the camp activities. On rainy days, campers will need a poncho or rain coat. We encourage you to have your camper wear play clothes to camp as your camper will be participating in outdoor activities and may get dirty. For safety reasons, sandals and Crocs are not permitted at camp; please be sure your child wears sneakers and socks to camp daily.

PLEASE NOTE: Please examine your camper's selection of clothing which might carry offensive slogans or symbols. In a large camp community, these items can result in discord between campers. Our goal is to create a community where all persons feel welcome and accepted.

SWIMWEAR GUIDELINES:

Swimwear should provide complete coverage, fasten securely and be designed for active wear. Two piece suits are allowed if they have one tie, accompanied by another fastener. No triangle bikini tops and bottoms that tie are allowed.

SWIM BANDS: Your child will be given a swim band that they wear as a necklace at the pool. This is a safety procedure that helps staff distinguish between swimmers and non swimmers. Please be sure your child wears their swim band to camp every day.

SUNSCREEN

To help prevent sunburn, it is required that parents apply sunscreen prior to arriving at camp. In addition, parents should provide campers with sunscreen to keep with them throughout the day. Staff will aid children in applying sunscreen before water activities and as needed throughout the day.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Camp is a natural setting to retreat from the amenities of electronic technology and get more in touch with peers. Toys, radios, iPods / mp3 players, electronic games, cellular phones, and other electronics do not fit into this setting. Counselors will give any of the above items to directors if they are brought to camp. They will be returned to campers' parents during evening pick-up. Please leave these items at home. In addition, please leave firearms, fireworks, knives, matches, lighters, tobacco products, expensive items, illegal drugs, money, and trading cards at home. Canned repellent is not allowed at camp. Insect repellent must be in the form of lotion or wipes. Aerosol cans become a safety hazard around other children and the campfire. Please do not send money to camp.

LOST AND FOUND

We will make every effort to return lost and found items while your camper is in camp. Please mark all items with a permanent marker or laundry label with your child's first and last name for easy identification. Lost and Found will be kept for two weeks after your child's camp session and then will be donated to a local charity. If you discover something is missing, please check lost and found immediately. Camp Thunderbird is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged clothing or equipment.

MEDICATIONS/HEALTH CENTER

HEALTH CENTER

The Health Center is staffed and open for urgent medical situations. To ensure good health and ability to enter into normal camp activities, the health history form via CampDoc.com must be completed by June 1st. Accident insurance is not included in the camp fee. Camp is not responsible for eye glasses that are lost or broken at camp. Routine scrapes and cuts will be treated by our staff. First aid supplies are provided at no cost to campers. In the case of a serious illness or accident involving your child, the camp will contact you directly. In the event you cannot be reached, your authorization signature on your child's health form allows us to secure prompt treatment. If you can not be reached in the event of an emergency, medical cost outside of our Health Center will be billed to the camper's parents at the end of the session.

MEDICAL RECORDS

Medical Records are managed through CampDoc.com This is a web-based health management system that will provide doctors and nurses with instant access to camper health information, a key component in providing quality patient care.

Details for registering with CampDoc.com will be available upon registration. Camper parents will receive a welcome email detailing instructions for completing camper health care information at this time.

You will be asked to upload the following information:

1. Medical insurance card(s)
 2. Prescription drug insurance card(s) if not included on the medical insurance card
 3. Camper's immunization record(s)
 4. Care plan(s) for chronic conditions such as diabetes or severe allergies as diagnosed by a physician
- As you complete the form CampDoc.com will guide you as to where to upload the care plan from your physician.

Please set register@campdoc.com as a "safe sender," to avoid accidental delivery to junk and spam folders.

Parents will complete the camper confidential as part of the health form available through CampDoc.com.

If you have a returning camper, you will not need to complete the entire medical record, but it is necessary for you to examine your record for any changes and assure both you and camp that your camper's medical record is accurate and up to date.

After you have registered for camp you will receive a confirmation from CampDoc.com. Simply log into your account from last year using your email address that you registered and the password you selected. If you cannot remember your password the CampDoc.com program has the ability to help you reset your password. You will enter your email address, and signify you have forgotten your password. An email will be sent to you with instructions on how to reset your password.

All previous information should be reviewed and updated if any changes have been made since attending camp last year. The program will ask you to confirm all information. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Health Center Administrator at camp.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

For campers who will take medications during camp, parents are required to provide the medication on Day 1 of the session during Rides In. **The medicine must be in an original container with the prescription.**

OVER THE COUNTER MEDS

- Unless a medication, vitamin, supplement is prescribed by a physician; we ask that campers refrain from taking over the counter substances while at camp.
- Please do not bring OTCs to camp. Should your camper require an OTC while attending camp, an OTC may be provided at the Health Center and administered by one of the camp nurses.
- For specific questions please contact our Health Center Administrator at camp.

BEHAVIORAL MEDICATIONS

We want your camper to be successful at camp. While we think of camp as being a relaxing and fun time, it's important to remember that campers are learning new skills, having lots of new social interactions, needing to concentrate on instructions from counselors and having fun in all their activities. In keeping with The American Academy of Pediatrics and The American Camping Association joint policy statement; we are requiring all campers who normally take psychotropic medicines and are in long term psychotropic therapy to not have elective interruption of their medicines while at camp. ("Med Holiday")

CAMPER EAR DROPS

Otitis Externa or swimmers ear is a common condition seen at camp due to the amount of time the campers spend in the water. In order to decrease the risk of infection, camp provides ear drops daily after all water activities. These drops are a mixture of rubbing alcohol and white vinegar. The purpose of the drops is to dry the camper's ear canal and create an uncomfortable environment for bacteria to grow. **Please inform the camp if your camper has ear tubes by making a note on the health form.**

HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

As an ACA Accredited Camp, we are required to screen all campers for good health prior to admission. We request that no campers come to camp ill or with any contagious condition. Your camper needs to be fever free for 24 hours and off medication. We reserve the right to send your camper home for illness. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Health Center Administrator at camp.

DISCIPLINE

Camp Expectations are designed to enhance the happiness and safety of all campers. Directors will contact parents to let them know if there is an on-going behavior problem. Children who do not demonstrate appropriate behavior, in the judgment of the directors, will be sent home from camp. Early dismissal from camp will not warrant the refund of fees. Each camper has an opportunity to earn "rewards" throughout their stay at camp. This system works as an incentive rather than a disciplinary measure. It is based on the theory of logical consequence. Positive behavior results in "rewards" received; negative behavior results in a "reminder" given. This system promotes a positive environment and encourages personal responsibility. Campers that pose a danger to themselves or other campers will be dismissed early and possibly suspended for a day or from the program entirely.

GENERAL CAMP EXPECTATIONS

Caring: Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.

Keep rocks and other objects on the ground.

Honesty: Tell the truth.

Do not steal.

Respect: Treat others like you want to be treated.

Respect your counselor and fellow campers.

Take care of equipment, property and your environment.

Responsibility: Stay with your group at all times.

Keep up with your belongings.

Faith: Believe in each other and put others first.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT DAMAGES

Parents are financially responsible for intentional damage to all equipment and facilities caused by their camper.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

Personal responsibility and group cooperation are important elements of the camp experience. Mature, caring counselors work with campers on the importance of caring for one's personal belongings, assisting in daily camp clean-up, and pitching in on general camp tasks known as "shared responsibilities". We strive to imprint these characteristics on each child so they will carry over to his/her home and school.

PARENT COMMUNICATION & EVALUATIONS

- **Open House** - All campers and their families are invited to visit camp during our Open Houses. These dates can be found on our website, www.campthunderbird.org.
- **Session Newsletter** - This informative document will be emailed to you on the Wednesday and Friday prior to your Session of attendance.
- **Friend Request** - A camper may request **ONE** other camper to be placed in their Camp group via Campdocs.com, and it will be granted given that:
 - 1) The request is received by the Monday prior to the Session of attendance.
 - 2) The children are within 12 months of age of each other and within the Younger Camp age range (6-8) or Older Camp age range (9-12).
 - 3) The request is mutual.
- **First Day Email** - This email will come to you and include updates about the week ahead.
- **Picture Postcard** - You will receive a picture of your campers group with a hand written note from their counselor after camp.
- We appreciate your immediate comments and feedback about our staff and programs. If you see or hear of a problem with any part of our program or staff, please contact the Camp Director at 704 716 4117, so immediate corrections can be made. Our Camp Directors and Senior Counselors are available at any time to answer your questions or concerns.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

SECURITY & EMERGENCIES

- All visitors are required to check into the office to receive a visitor badge and be escorted by a staff member while on Camp.
- YMCA Camp Thunderbird has an extensive Emergency Action plan for Weather, Fire, Health concerns and several other incidences. We view our care of campers our #1 priority and have these plans in place in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. Because of this, we may, at any given time, choose to execute a "drill" of the Emergency Procedures.

Celebrations on Facebook Live Every Friday during Camp.

We invite our families to engage with each other through our Facebook Live event every Friday at 3:25pm. You can view our campers as they present their achievements from the week. Let's connect!

@CampThunderbirdDayCamp

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

SATURDAY – CLOSED

SUNDAY – CLOSED

CONTACT INFORMATION

MAIN OFFICE 704-716-4100

FAX LINE 704-716-4101

Laurel M. Zitney, Director of Day Camp and Outreach | laurel.zitney@ymcacharlotte.org | 704-716-4110

campthunderbird.org

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