

SUMMER 2020 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.

YMCA Camp Harrison: Building Confidence, Character and Faith.

Contact Information

YMCA CAMP HARRISON
336 921 7067
800 514 1417
campharrison@ymcacharlotte.org
campharrison.org
facebook.com/ycampharrison

2020 Sessions

- Session 1 (Mini Camp) June 7 – 10
- Session 2 June 7 – 13
- Session 3 Mini June 14 – 17
- Session 3 June 14 – 20
- Session 4 Mini June 21 – 24
- Session 4 June 21 – 27
- Session 5 June 28 – July 4
- Session 6 July 5 – 11
- Session 7a July 12 – 18
- Session 7b July 19 – 25
- Session 8 July 26 – August 1
- Session 9 Mini August 2 – 5
- Session 9 August 2 – 8
- Session 10 Mini August 9 – 12
- Session 10 August 9 – 15

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Registering for Camp

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

- Registration/Payment
- Medical Forms
- Activity Preferences

Registration/Payment/Cancellations

Rates and online registration are available at campharrison.org.

Register before December 31st, for Early Bird Rates (Prices will go up on January 1st). In addition, YMCA of Greater Charlotte members receive \$125 off per regular week. Payment can be made in full at registration or by utilizing our payment plan.

The payment plan requires an up-front deposit of \$200/camper. Five additional payments will be billed to your credit card on the first day of February, March, April, May and June. Registration via payment plan after February 1 requires all payments that have passed to be made at that time, and the balance will be divided among remaining payment plan dates.

All Balances for all sessions must be paid by June 1st to avoid cancellation. Any cancellations requested after June 1st will forfeit the deposit (per session, per camper). All cancellations must be made in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the start of your respective session (Cancellations made less than 2 weeks before will forfeit all previous payments). Cancellations will not be accepted by phone, but can be emailed to campharrison@ymcacharlotte.org.

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 around February (or within two weeks of registration after February). Please, set

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 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 April 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. Y Camp Life will also be used to access your child's photos and to send messages to your child while they are at camp. The Y Camp Life User Guide can be found on the "[Prepare for Camp](#)" page of our website.

Add-on Activities

NEW – Specialized Sailing Add-On – The cost of this activity is \$125, and it is only available to full week campers.

Campers will learn sailing skills from knowledgeable staff and spend time practicing these skills. This activity will take up all three morning activity periods on either A Day or B Day. Call or email the office to sign up after camp registration.

Changeover- There is no fee for multi-week campers to remain at camp over the weekend, but you must sign up for changeover upon registration. Email us at campharrison@ymcacharlotte.org if you are unsure whether you have done so.

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.

Cabin Requests

We make every effort to honor up to two 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 email to

campharrison@ymcacharlotte.org. Cabin assignments will be given upon your arrival on check-in day. If there is an issue with your camper's cabin assignment, please speak with a camp director in the dining hall.

Check-In and Check-Out

- Check-in is from 3 – 4:30 PM on Sunday
- Check-out is from 9 – 11 AM on Saturday

Check-In

Staff will be at the main entrance to greet you starting at 3:00 PM, where you will be given your cabin assignment and directed to either the Dining Hall or to your child's cabin. Staff members will be available in the dining hall to assist with accounting needs, cabin request issues, and land activity preference forms. The camp store will also be open to purchase any last minute care package items. Counselors will be waiting in the cabin to meet and welcome campers. By 4:30 PM, parents should depart while campers begin Opening Day activities. Campers must be checked into camp by someone over the age of 18. Campers are not permitted to drive themselves to camp. All camper medication (including over-the-counter medications) must be in the original bottle and checked in with the Camp Nurse in the dining hall.

Early Drop-Off Policy

Should you be unable to arrive during check-in, we ask that you bring your child to camp on Saturday between 9:00 and 11:00 AM and pay the changeover fee (\$125).

Check-Out

Camper medication will be available for pick up on the front porch of the dining hall during check-out. Lost-and-found will be readily accessible on the sidewalk between the pool and the dining hall. It is the responsibility of the parent to pick up any unused medications from the camp nurse and to make sure you have all your camper's belongings. All unclaimed medication will be thrown away after the camper has left. All unclaimed lost & found items are held for two weeks and then donated to charity. Campers must be signed out by a parent or parent approved adult. For the protection of all campers and staff, parents must give written permission to 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 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. Please make sure you have all your child's items when you pick them up (See Lost & Found Policy).

Spending Money

No spending money is needed at camp. Campers will be provided with canteen (snack and drink) each afternoon. If you want your camper to have spending money to use in the Camp Store, you can purchase store bucks in the Dining Hall during check-in.

Laundry

Laundry service will be offered to campers staying for multiple sessions. We will provide a small laundry bag for each multi-session camper. **You will still need to pack enough clothing for your camper's stay, but this will provide them with an opportunity have their essentials washed.**

Lost and Found

Please label all of your camper's items. All unclaimed Lost and Found will be available at the Dining Hall for parents to look through during check-out. Lost items are not the responsibility of Camp Harrison. Any unclaimed items are held for two weeks and then donated to charity. Parents are responsible for return shipping costs of items that are left behind at camp.

Communication during Camp

Email

Campers may receive one way emails through [Y Camp Life](#) or at 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. [Y Camp Life User Guide](#)

Care packages and US mail

You are welcome to bring letters/packages to drop off in the dining hall during check in. You may also purchase and create care packages from The Cornerstone (camp store). Please, limit packages to no more than 3 per camper. An overwhelming amount of daily packages at camp have proven to be a source of disappointment for those campers that don't receive anything from home. Packages will be delivered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday only. Letters will be delivered Monday-Friday, and there is no limit on the number of letters you can send. **No Peanuts, peanut butter or items that contain nuts are allowed.** While food items in care packages are discouraged, we ask that any that are included are healthy snacks that can be shared with the cabin. **Please, include Camper Name, Cabin #, session and the day of delivery clearly on packages/mail.** If you would like your campers to send letters while they are at camp, please, provide them with stamped envelopes.

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. Camp Harrison will provide a post card for campers to write home during each session.

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 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 gender, 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 the beds in the cabins are bunk beds, and campers will choose their bunks upon arrival.

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 Land activities
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 12:45 PM BOB time (rest period)
- 2:00 PM Water 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)/Climbing Wall
Arts & Crafts
Clay Shooting
Farm to Feast
Fishing
Horseback Riding
Lawn Games
Mountain Biking (beginner or advanced)
Mountain Scooters
Paintball
Performing Arts- Dance, Drama, and Rhythm & Beats
Sports/Games
Target Sports (archery, riflery & slingshots)

Water Activities

Every camper participates in all water activities in the afternoons, along with their cabin mates.

Boating- Canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, corcls, sailboats
Frolicking- Water inflatables
Lake Extreme- The blob, wet willie waterslide, water zip line and lake flume
Pool
Creeking

S'mores - Campers ages 6 & 7

At Camp Harrison, we want to set every camper up for success. In our "S'mores" program, campers ages 6 & 7 travel as a group to land activities and are accompanied by dedicated staff. This format provides younger campers with the consistency and structure necessary to familiarize themselves with camp and give them the best possible experience. S'mores campers have the unique opportunity to try most of the activities at camp, which will set them up for confident activity choices in the future. Participation in this program is not required, but is left to the discretion of the campers and their parents/guardians. Select "S'mores," on Y Camp Life if you want your camper to participate in this program.

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.

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.

Dining Hall

A variety of fresh fruit, hot & cold cereals, vegetables and kid-friendly options are offered at every meal. A salad bar is available during lunch and dinner. At mealtime, mature and knowledgeable counselors gently guide campers towards healthy and appropriate choices. 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 Food Service office at 336.921.7027. The dining hall is successful in accommodating campers with most food allergies. Camp meals are provided by Aramark.

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 warrant the refund of fees.

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

To ensure a safe camp experience, we maintain a 1 to 4 counselor to camper ratio. All of our summer staff are certified in Basic First Aid and CPR, with a majority of our staff being YMCA Lifeguard certified. Cabin counselors check camper's daily cleanliness, cuts, sunburn, insect bites, etc. Accident insurance is not included in the camp fee.

Medicines

For the safety of all campers, medications must be in original bottles/containers (including any-over-the-counter medication or vitamins) and must be checked in with Camp Nurse during check-in, located in the dining hall. No

medications are allowed in cabins (exceptions: inhalers & epi-pens). Camper medications are dispensed at each meal by a camp nurse. "As needed" medications will be kept at the Health Center and brought up at meal times. If there are any changes in your camper's medications, please, update your profile prior to check-in.

Medical – Health Center

Campers who are not feeling well have the opportunity to visit the Health Center, as needed. The health center is staffed and open 24 hours a day for urgent medical situations. In the event that a camper spends the night in the Health Center or there is a serious situation, parents will be called. All camp nurses are Registered Nurses (RNs) and work under doctor's orders. Doctors are on call for consultation in nearby North Wilkesboro.

Heat and Sun Precautions

Water stations are located at every activity to ensure proper hydration. We encourage campers to bring their own water bottles and sunscreen, but we also provide hypoallergenic sunscreen for campers and staff who need it.



Financial Assistance

Camp Harrison welcomes all who wish to participate, and annually raises scholarship funds to help make that possible. Applications for scholarships are available on our website by November 1st, and the deadline for scholarship applications is January 1st.