



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

AFTERSCHOOL

EXPLORATORIUM



LINCOLN COUNTY YMCA SALLY'S YMCA FAMILY HANDBOOK

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2023 – 2024 FAMILY HANDBOOK

About YMCA Afterschool

We build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is located on our website at www.ymcacharlotte.org.

OUR VALUES (Our Character Development Traits)

Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith

OUR FOCUS

For Youth Development: Nurturing the potential of every child and teen.

For Healthy Living: Improving the nation's health and well-being.

For Social Responsibility: Giving back and providing support to our neighbors.

OUR GOALS FOR THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

As an aspect of our organization's focus in Youth Development, we strive to help participants learn and grow through carefully planned, mission-focused curriculum that teaches the following four pillars:

1. Building Relationships
2. Healthy Choices
3. Skill and Educational Development
4. Servant Leadership

We also strive to provide stimulating and fun activities and experiences that will not only enrich our participant's lives but will also strengthen families and communities.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte recognizes that individuals, families and communities are diverse. The YMCA values and respects this diversity and chooses to be inclusive through its acceptance of all individuals regardless of race, age, gender, religion, ability or cultural identity. The YMCA, while not adhering to any doctrine or dogma, is committed to Christian principles. This includes asserting that all individuals, without exception, are intrinsically valuable.

OUR STAFF

Having positive role models is fundamental to our successful youth programming. We start by hiring before and afterschool counselors with excellent character, strong values, and enthusiasm to work with kids. Before the school year begins, we thoroughly interview, drug screen and background check each employee. In addition they receive over 10 hours of training on topics such as child development, group management techniques, conflict resolution, and safety.

All staff are certified in: First Aid, CPR, & AED Child Abuse Prevention

Due to our child protection policy, our staff is not allowed to babysit for participants they meet in the program.

OUR LEADERS

Lance Friday	Branch Operations Director	lance.friday@ymcacharlotte.org	(704) 716-4505
Morgan Ellis	Membership Director	morgan.ellis@ymcacharlotte.org	(704) 716-4507
Crystal Salazar	Program Director (Sally's YMCA)	crystal.salazar@ymcacharlotte.org	(704) 716-7307
Stephanie Torres	Youth Development Coordinator	Stephanie.torres@ymcacharlotte.org	(704) 716-4500

Administrative Topics

REGISTRATION

Before and afterschool registrations are processed on a first-come first served basis. Upon registration, a registration fee of \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members. Registrations fees are non-refundable. Withdrawal from the program requires a two week notice from the date of when the cancellation form is received. Tuition may be refunded if cancellation is made two weeks in advance.

Pricing: (5 Days/Week)

Before School Care (K-5th): \$95/month for Members and \$150/month for Program Participants

Afterschool Care (K-5th): \$210 /month for Members and \$325/month for Program Participants

*Rate reductions may be available through our income-based pricing structure, My Y Pricing.

Pricing (3 Days/Week)

Afterschool Care (K-5th): \$180/month for Members and \$280/month for Program Participants

*Rate reductions may be available through our income-based pricing structure, My Y Pricing.

PAYMENT DUE DATES

Tuition is due the 15th of every month prior to the following months service.

An administration fee in the amount of \$25 will be charged for each payment that is late or NSF.

My Y Scholarship (Income-Based Pricing)

My Y Scholarship is a simple, easy-to-understand pricing model that applies the appropriate program and membership rate based on the number of people in your household who choose to be members and your annual household income. In order to adjust your rate, you must present a current tax return to verify household income at the time you register, and again every two years. Accepted documents for income verification include the 1040, 1040A and 1040 EZ. A staff member will review line 22 of your 1040 and line 4 of your 1040 EZ.

INSURANCE

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte provides liability insurance on all programs. It is the program participant's responsibility to provide his/her own accident insurance coverage. Families should include their personal health insurance information on the child's health form. This information will only be used to facilitate medical treatment if required. Families are responsible for prescriptions and charges incurred for outside medical treatment of their child if such services are required while in attendance at the YMCA youth programs.

MEDICATION POLICY

If medications are required, please be sure to notify the afterschool director prior to your child's first day. A complete and signed medication release form must accompany all prescription medications.

Prescription medications must be in the original, prescribed container that identifies the prescribing physician, name of medication, dosage amount and when it should be administered. Place the medication and medication release form in a Ziploc bag with the child's name clearly written on the bag. All medications must be checked in with the site coordinator. No medications, including over the counter items such as vitamins, creams, lotions, aspirins, allergy medication or liquid medications will be distributed without family consent.

Operating Procedures

DISCIPLINE

The philosophy of our programs is based on the golden rule with respect shown for all participants. Good manners and personal empathy are traits we will foster. We work with children on an individual basis. Rules, expectations and consequences are clearly communicated to participants at the beginning of the before and afterschool program. Encouraging good behavior helps discourage unacceptable behavior. Therefore, using this principle of positive reinforcement, each child will be praised for good work and made to feel important and successful. Negative behavior will be confronted and redirected towards positive behavior. **Participants will be dismissed from the Before and Afterschool program who are (1) of danger to themselves (2) of danger to others (3) a disruption to the normal activities making it unreasonably difficult for other children to enjoy youth programs.**

In order to provide the positive kind of discipline desired, we must first begin with the proper student-teacher ratios. The next step is ensuring that our teachers understand the age group they teach and are well-prepared with a variety of activities. Within each classroom positive rules and guidelines are established. When a child does not follow the rules, he/she will be reminded. If the reminder is ineffective, the child's attention will be redirected or there will be some time allotted out of the activities for a child to think about how they prepare themselves for appropriate behavior. Discipline problems that persist or are disruptive to the class will be shared with the families so teachers and families can work together to correct the inappropriate behavior.

Even though we provide low teacher-child ratios, loving care and plenty of age appropriate toys and activities, children will sometimes show aggressive behavior (hitting, kicking, pushing, biting, etc.) toward a classmate. All signs of aggression are unacceptable but are not considered abnormal for young children who are learning to get along in group situations.

- Please note there will not be a refund or financial compensation for missed time due to negative behavior.

Families may be assured of the following:

- Food and water will never be withheld as a means of discipline.
- Children will never be disciplined for toileting accidents.
- Physical discipline (shaking, spanking, slapping, hitting) will never be used.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Communication with our families is important. Our program will utilize four main components of communication.

1. **Face to Face** communication between families and our staff.
2. **Newsletters** will be available on a monthly basis to inform you of upcoming events.
3. **Email** as a form of information for surveys, major announcements and promotion of any new program.
4. **Website** www.ymcacharlotte.org our website will be a great link for you to get information on all programs offered at the Lincoln County Family YMCA and Sally's YMCA.

PHOTO ID VERIFICATION

Your child's safety is a top priority! To further protect your child, a list of authorized pick up names should be included on the registration form. During pick-up, our staff will request to see a photo ID from any person picking up a child and we will verify that the individual is approved. In the event of a last minute change by someone not on the original pick up list, the YMCA will request written authorization by the family or a phone call from the family to the site coordinator to approve the change. The YMCA reserves the right to deny custody to all persons who do not show ID, who are not on the list of persons authorized for pick-up, who do not have a properly-secured child passenger restraint device and/or who appear to be intoxicated.

FAMILY VISITS

We always welcome families to visit our before and afterschool programs to talk with staff and observe their child's daily experience. Thank you for scheduling this time in advance with your child's site coordinator who will assist you in signing in.

CAR SAFETY

All children must be buckled up when leaving our program. Children under eight years old and weigh less than 80 pounds must be in a properly-secured child passenger restraint device (CRD) that meets federal standards and is appropriate for the child's weight and height. This device must be in the back seat of the car.

The safety of your child is paramount. Your child will not be placed in a car that is not properly equipped with a child safety seat for your child. Furthermore, your child will not be released to or placed in a vehicle with anyone that a YMCA staff member suspects is under the influence drugs or alcohol.

LATE PICK UP

A \$15.00 fee will be charged and payment expected upon arrival for the first ten minutes after 6:00pm that a family is late. An additional \$1.00 per minute will be charged for each additional minute after 6:10pm that a child remains in our care. We will make every effort to contact families and emergency contacts after 6:10pm if a child has not been picked up. Local authorities will be contacted at 7pm if we are unable to reach families or an emergency contact. If a family becomes habitually late, a meeting will be scheduled with a director to discuss your child's continual participation in the afterschool program.

FAMILY INTOXICATION

At times we are called to make judgments concerning the safety of our participants. If a YMCA staff member believes a family is intoxicated when they arrive to pick up their child, we will detain the child until an alternate plan can be established for the transportation of the child and family. Our plan will be to contact a family member or spouse. If we cannot reach a family member, we will try to contact someone on the emergency contact list. If a family is unruly, uncooperative, or out of control physically, the staff will contact the local authorities to provide assistance.

CUSTODY ISSUES

In cases of separation or divorced families where visitation rights are denied to one family, we cannot deny releasing the child to such family unless a court decree or separation documents are in our file forbidding such families to pick the child up from the program. The court order must also be specific to the rights of visitation on the YMCA property. Please contact Lance Friday at 704-716-4500 if you have specific custody issues that we need to be aware of.

Family Expectations

Please contact the Youth Development Director with any questions, comments or concerns at:
lincolncountyyymca@ymcacharlotte.org 704-716-4500 or sallysymca@ymcacharlotte.org 704-716-7300

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

We will host special events for families occasionally throughout the school year and we encourage you to participate. This is a great way for you to experience a little of the fun your child gets every day while meeting other afterschool families. Additional information about these opportunities will be included in our monthly newsletters.

KEEPING US INFORMED

Please let us know if your child experiences any issues at home or school that may affect his/her experience with us in before or afterschool care. Examples include death of a pet, family divorce/separation, death in the family, fighting with sibling, changes in health, etc. Staying aware of these issues will help us ensure that we are prepared to meet your child's needs.

LOST ITEMS

Please label everything. This will minimize the opportunity for your child to lose an item while in our care. Lost and Found items will be kept at the Afterschool Program for no more than two weeks. At the end of two weeks all items that are not claimed will be donated to the local non-profit agency.

ABSENTEE/ILLNESS POLICY

In the event of a scheduled absence from the program, families must provide a note in advance to the site coordinator with the dates that the participant will be away. In the event of a last minute absence, families must contact our afterschool director no later than 2:00pm on the day of the absence to communicate this change. This ensures the safety of every child!

EARLY PICK UP

Our staff is actively engaged with participants every day. If you wish to pick up early, please either send a note or call the youth development director in advance so that we can have your child ready when you arrive.

RESTROOM POLICY

Children are taken to the restroom as a group when they arrive at afterschool and then as needed. Children must be potty trained in order to attend the program as our facilities are not equipped to care for changing diapers, pull ups or plastic pants.

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO AFTERSCHOOL

We ask for your support in not allowing children to bring specific toys/props for use in the program. It is very easy for something to be lost or damaged that is precious to your child. Unless your child is specifically asked to do so, we ask for your help in making sure they refrain from bringing any of the following items to camp:

Money	Alcohol	Drugs	Vehicles	Animals	Weapons	Toys
Valuables	Cell Phones	Ipads/Ipods	Novelty Items	Balls		
Electronic Gaming Devices (including Game boys, Play Stations, Nintendo DS, etc.)						

Daily Programming and Activities

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Each before school care site will operate Monday-Friday from 6:15 am-7:30 am. Each afterschool care site will operate Monday-Friday from school dismissal (typically 2:30 pm) until 6:00pm unless otherwise noted.

The following schools will be served for the 2023-2024 School Year

Battleground*/**	Catawba Springs**
Childers Elementary**	G E Massey*/**
Iron Station**	Northbrook
Love Memorial*/**	Rock Springs**
Pumpkin Center Primary & Intermediate**	St. James**
S Ray Lowder*/**	Union

**Participants attending Battleground, G E Massey, Love Memorial, and S Ray Lowder should be dropped off and picked up at the Lincoln County Family YMCA. Transportation to and from school will be provided by the Lincoln County School System.*

***Sites with both Before School and Afterschool Care: Battleground, G E Massey, Love Memorial, and S Ray Lowder (Lincoln County Family YMCA); Catawba Springs; Childers Elementary; Iron Station; Rock Springs; Pumpkin Center and St. James.*

Please note that site operation is dependent on meeting minimum student enrollment and participation standards. In the event that a school site will no longer be operating, the YMCA will provide advance notification in addition to any alternative options for these students.

Children may not participate in the following programs or a combination of the following programs for more than four hours in a 24 hour period in a Charlotte YMCA or a combination of Charlotte YMCA's: Children's Enrichment Programs, unlicensed Preschool, Child Watch (drop in care) and unlicensed Afterschool.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

Before School Care

6:15am	Program Opens/Arrival of Students
6:15-7:20am	Homework Time/Enrichment Activities
7:20-7:30am	Clean-Up
7:30am	Dismissal to school day

Afterschool Care

2:30-2:45pm	Dismissal from school to afterschool
2:45-3:30pm	Snack and Character Development
3:30-4:00pm	Healthy Living and Physical Activity
4:00-4:45pm	Homework Time/Literacy Component
4:45-5:45pm	Enrichment Activities
5:45-6:00pm	Clean-up and Dismissal
6:00pm	Afterschool Program Ends

Ratios: The following are the minimum staff to participant ratios for ALL Afterschool Programs:

- Rising K - 1:10
- 1st-5th Grade - 1:10
- 25 children max per group

In cases where participants are grouped in multi-age groups, the minimum ratio for the youngest participant shall be used. A minimum of 2 staff must be present during program operating hours.

HOMEWORK TIME

Our staff will assist each child in their assigned daily homework Monday-Thursday. Friday we will use this activity period for other enrichment activities. If a child does not have homework they will read for 20 minutes and given an enrichment sheet for the duration of this time. We will make every attempt to strive toward completion and accuracy during our 30-45 minute homework period. Thank you in advance for reviewing your child's homework once they are at home to ensure completion.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Enrichment opportunities allow students the opportunity to explore other exciting areas of learning and interest. Examples could include: Art, Music, Literacy, Sports, Fitness, etc. Activities will be age appropriate and will be vary each month.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

As we work to develop future leaders, we will be emphasizing a different character development trait each month. Staff will lead engaging activities and dialogue around these focus areas.

HEALTHY LIVING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

As we strive to provide total wellbeing opportunities for participants, during the afterschool day participants will participate in 30 minutes of physical activity. These activities could be organized games, team sports, or teambuilding activities. During full day programs when participants are out of school, children will engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity. In addition, a health education component will be included in our daily programming.

SNACK

An afternoon snack will be provided for each child when they arrive to our program. Snack items will be peanut free and will include fruit or vegetable at least twice a week. We will also encourage participants to stay hydrated by drinking lots of water!

OUT OF SCHOOL DAYS

We will provide all day programs during teacher workdays but will operate these out of the Lincoln County YMCA and Sally's YMCA and not at each offsite school location. Any afterschool participant can attend care at either of these locations. A calendar of these scheduled days will be provided to you in advance. Hours of operation will be from 7:00am-6:00pm. families will be responsible for following things:

1. Signing their child up in advance for these days to ensure appropriate staffing structure and programming needed.
2. Transportation to and from the YMCA branch that they wish their child to attend on these days.
3. Providing each child with a morning snack/drink, lunch and afternoon snack/drink. Participants attending care at Lincoln County YMCA will also need their bathing suit and towel for swimming in the indoor pool.
4. Apply and/or provide sunscreen to protect your child from sun exposure. Out of School Days will be ran like a camp day, where students will spend time outside if weather permits.

Additional daily fees will be assessed for members or program participants. Participants not currently enrolled in afterschool may participate as well.

Special Circumstances

EMERGENCIES

Our staff will treat routine cuts, scrapes, and bumps. If your child is injured during program hours we will take the necessary steps to care for him/her. If necessary we will contact the families to inform them of the injury and the care that has been given. In the case of a serious injury we contact 911 while giving care. After calling 911 and getting the best care for your child we will contact a guardian. If a guardian cannot be reached we will attempt to contact other emergency contacts.

ILLNESS

It is our sincere desire to provide quality care for your children while they are participating in YMCA services and programs. For the safety and wellbeing of all children and staff, the following health and wellness policies will be strictly enforced. Children should not participate in YMCA Programs if one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in childcare activities.
2. The illness results in a greater need than the YMCA staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
3. The child has any of the following conditions:
 - a. A fever higher than 100 degrees. Child must be fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication before they can return to childcare programs.
 - b. Continuous and/or Colored Nasal Drainage. A current note from a physician can be provided if drainage is caused by an allergy.
 - c. Diarrhea
 - d. Vomiting within a 24 hour period
 - e. Communicable diseases (Including but not limited to pink eye, head lice, skin rash, etc.)

If children exhibit any of these symptoms during their stay, the family/guardian will be asked to pick their child up promptly. Children may return to childcare programs if they are symptom free after 24 hours or if a written note from a child's physician is provided to the YMCA. A doctor's note can be provided for seasonal allergies. If a child displays a combination of symptoms, a doctor's note can also be provided. **If a child is sent home from a program they are discouraged from participating in any other YMCA program within a 24 hour period.**

This is in the best interest of all the children who visit our programs. As usual we will continue to disinfect our facility to eliminate as many germs as possible. Please assist us in our efforts to maintain a healthy environment for our children.

WEATHER- INCLEMENT, SEVERE and TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES

In the event of school closing due to inclement weather, our Before and Afterschool Program will not operate on a normal schedule and out of school days will not be offered at YMCA branches unless schools close for multiple days. In the event of school closings multiple days due to inclement weather, the Youth Development Director of Education will assess the road conditions based on the weather report. The safety of our staff and participants is our #1 priority. At the time of road assessment, it will be decided whether the Out of School Days will operate on a full day schedule at Lincoln County and Sallys YMCA Branch. The decision to have a full day will be made by via email by 5:30am. You can also call our branch lines by that time. Our numbers are 704-716-4500 (Lincoln County YMCA) and 704-716-7300 (Sally's YMCA). It is the family's responsibility to check their emails and/or contact the branch for weather related decision.

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In the event of a delayed start, before school care will not be offered. In order to receive the most up to date information, school and program closings will be posted on the WBTV News Channel 3. The YMCA will also not offer Afterschool Care on days that school is dismissed early due to inclement weather. The YMCA reserves the right to cancel YMCA transportation and scheduled program due to inclement weather. We will not charge extra for makeup schools Monday-Friday. We do however do not refund for cancelled days, delayed start or early dismissal.

2023 – 2024 FAMILY HANDBOOK
**Before and Afterschool
Family Acknowledgement**

I have been provided a copy of the 2023-2024 Afterschool Family Handbook and I have read and understand the content.

Child's Name: _____

Family Member Signature: _____

Date: _____

***Please sign and return this form to the Youth Development Director. Thank you for your attention to these guidelines and for helping us make the YMCA Before and Afterschool program a success.**