

2020 RESIDENT CAMP PARENT GUIDE

- **Communication during Camp**
- **Life at Camp**
- **Safety and Medical Information**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Cancellation Policy**

Welcome Parents

Thank you for trusting us with your child this summer! Our primary goal is to provide your camper with a safe, magical experience to discover their best selves in mind, body and spirit. We are committed to an atmosphere of collaboration, communication and support in our relationship with every parent. This guide is designed to share the key information you may need to prepare yourself and your camper for their best summer ever!

Contact Information

YMCA CAMP THUNDERBIRD

704 716 4100

800 732 3855

campthunderbird@ymcacharlotte.org

www.campthunderbird.org

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Resident Camp**

Follow on Instagram YCampThunderbird

2020 Sessions

- Session 2A June 7 – June 13
- Session 2B June 14 – June 20
- Session 2 June 7 – June 20
- Session 3 June 21 – July 4
- Session 2/3 June 7 – July 4
- Session 4 July 5 – July 18
- Session 5A July 19 – July 25
- Session 5B July 26 – August 1
- Session 5 July 19 – August 1
- Session 6 A August 2- 8
- Session 6 B August 9-15
- Session 6 August 2 – August 15

Guide Contents

- **Registering for Camp**
- **Getting to and from Camp**
- **Packing for Camp**

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 campers arrive:

- Registration/Payment
- Medical Forms- Online at Camp Doc
- Activity Preferences- Y Camp Life

Registration/Payment

Rates are available online. Registration is via our website at campthunderbird.org.

Early Bird rates are in effect through January 31, 2020.

Payment can be made in full at registration, or by using our payment plan.

The payment plan requires an up-front payment of \$200. Unless payment is made in full at the time of registration, payments for the remaining balance will be billed to your credit card on the first 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 into remaining payment plan dates.

During online registration, you may choose certain add-on activities, which can be paid with the same payment schedule. These add-ons may also be requested by emailing campthunderbird@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 in March 2020 (or within two weeks of later registrations.) Please set register@campdoc.com as a safe sender to avoid delivery to a junk/spam folder. Please complete your child's CampDoc profile in full prior to check in. This will allow us to serve all families timely and minimize wait time.

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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
- Prescription Medications – dosage and time of administration

Activity Preferences – Y Camp Life - for 1, 2 and 4 Week Sessions

To ensure your camper creates a camp adventure best suited to his or her preferences, we use technology to collect and schedule all the land activities at camp. In March (or within two weeks of later registrations) we will send instructions for you and your child to choose their 10 favorite activities together online. The overall daily schedule will be based on these choices. After camp begins, there *may* be flexibility to switch one or two activities, depending on availability.

All campers participate in every water activity, so choosing water activity preferences is not necessary.

Add-on Activities

The following activities can be added on as extra activities during registration to enhance your camper's experience at YMCA Camp Thunderbird:

- *Advanced wake sports- takes place of 3 land activities
- Horseback riding- 2 land activities
- Junior lifeguard- 2 land activities
- Tennis- 1 land activity
- Paintball- 1 land activity
- Bus transportation to Atlanta
- Change-over between two camp sessions

Fees and registration information is available online. After initial registration, add-on activities can be added (based on availability) by emailing campthunderbird@ymcacharlotte.org.

*Wake sports is included in all campers experiences, the add-on is for those campers who want to enhance their skills on the boards.

Getting to and from Camp

Arrival and Pick Up Times

- Drop off is from 3 – 5 PM opening Sunday
- Pick up is from 9 – 11 AM closing Saturday
- For sessions 2B, 5B and 6B drop is at 1:30-3:30pm and pick up is 9-11am on Saturday.

Arriving by car

Please plan to arrive between 3-5pm, our gates will open at 3pm. Directions to camp are found on our website, or you can enter our address into your mobile device mapping application: 1 Thunderbird Lane, Lake Wylie, SC 29710 or 1 Thunderbird Lane, Clover, SC 29710.

Departing by camp bus (Atlanta only)

We provide safe, supervised bus transportation from Atlanta for our two-week sessions at a nominal charge. To sign up for the bus please email campthunderbird@ymcacharlotte.org

Arriving by airplane

We offer supervised shuttles to and from the Charlotte International Airport (CLT). Parents who wish to send their child to camp via air must complete the airport form and email it to andy.belich@ymcacharlotte.org for confirmation. Please find the form on our website under Parent Resources to sign up for this service.

Sending luggage separately

Any items not accompanying a camper should be shipped to camp at least one week prior to their session start. We deliver early luggage to cabins the morning camp begins. You are responsible for all costs of shipping luggage to camp.

We will be happy to assist you in shipping your camper's luggage home. Please provide a **pre-paid** shipping label for the carrier of your choice, and your camper's name and date of birth.

Send labels to: YMCA Camp Thunderbird, Attn: Luggage, One Thunderbird Lane, Lake Wylie, SC 29710 Or, scan by email to: campthunderbird@ymcacharlotte.org

Hotels

For families desiring to stay in the area while traveling to camp, there are multiple hotels within ten miles of YMCA Camp Thunderbird. Our recommendations include:

- Courtyard by Marriott
1385 Broadcloth Street, Fort Mill, SC 29715
TEL: (803) 548-0156
- Embassy Suites by Hilton – Charlotte Aysley
1917 Aysley Town Blvd, Charlotte, NC, 28273
TEL: (704) 970-5400



Packing for Camp

What to bring

Camp is not a time for special clothes, brand names, or valuables, because campers are too busy making friends, learning skills, and being themselves. Our website has a comprehensive packing list. Please be sure all items are clearly marked with the camper's full name. Camp Thunderbird provides all the necessary equipment for all activities. Duffel bags, trunks, or plastic bins must fit in the 24 inch space below the bunks during camp.

The following items are prohibited on camp: cell phones, electronics, weapons, pets, fireworks, tobacco, drugs, hammocks, or vehicles.

Spending Money

No spending money is needed at camp. Camp store has fun Thunderbird items for sale during opening and closing days.

Laundry

Laundry service is offered once for campers who stay for four weeks at no charge. We provide one laundry bag per camper to be sent on Thursday and returned by Saturday morning at the end of the first two weeks.

Lost and Found

Counselors help campers maintain their belongings, but losses do happen. On closing day, a table will be set up in front of the office with all found items from that session. YMCA Camp Thunderbird is not responsible for items lost during camp.

Communication during Camp

Email

Parents are invited to email campers while they are at camp through our own Y CAMP LIFE portal. Emails are printed and delivered the day after they are sent.

Information about contacting campers during camp will be sent to you.

Photos

Camper photos will be posted on our secured Y CAMP LIFE portal. **Instructions for logging on and access will be sent in early March.** Campers are never identified by name in photos. We do our best to get as many campers as possible in photos daily but there is no guarantee that your child will be in a photo daily.

Care packages and US mail

Care packages and letters are delivered daily during lunch.

Address mail and packages to

Camper name and cabin #
YMCA Camp Thunderbird
One Thunderbird Lane
Lake Wylie, SC 29710

Packages can be sent from home, ordered through our online store, or purchased at the camp store on opening day.

Counselor Check-ins

First time campers will get a phone call from their camper's Head Counselor before the end of the day on Wednesday. This will be an update on how their camper is enjoying camp and your opportunity to ask any questions. The Head counselor will be your point person for all questions regarding your camper's experience. Cabin Counselors will write a letter to camper parents on the first Friday of a two-week session to be mailed on Saturday.

Phone calls

Campers are not permitted telephone use except in the event of an emergency. Please do not attempt to contact your child by phone while they are at camp. Cell phones are not allowed.

Birthdays at Camp

Many campers celebrate their birthdays at camp. We make a special effort to ensure that campers are recognized and feel special. An ice cream cake and the whole camp sing happy birthday is how we celebrate. Feel free to leave a small birthday gift at the dining hall on opening day, or order a special something at campthunderbirdstore.org.

Life at Camp

Cabin Mate Requests & Bunk Information

Requests for cabin mates will require that **both** campers make the request and must be within one year. All cabin assignments will be done by age, not grade. We will do our best to keep our one week campers together, our two week campers together and our four week campers together. However, it is not guaranteed but we will do our best. Careful consideration will be given to each request; however, the final decision rests with the directors. Requests must be made at least three weeks prior to opening day [in Camp Doc](#).

Campers are grouped in cabins of 10 - 14 by age and 2 – 4 counselors will be housed there, depending on the camper's ages.

Cabins are equipped with comfortable and modern conveniences including bunk beds, air conditioning, full bath facilities including hot and cold water, ample electrical outlets and cubbies. Trunks can be 24" high and fit under the beds. Bunks and cubbies are pre-assigned. The oldest boys in each session (ages 13+, usually) are assigned to our most traditional cabins, with open air screened windows, ceiling fans, and a shared bath facility. These cabins stay cool at night with the breeze coming off the lake and are awesome! A clip on fan is all you need.



Typical Day for Campers

- 7:30 AM Rise & Shine - Reveille
- 7:45 AM Cabin clean-up
- 8:15 AM Flagpole - Blessing
- 8:20 AM Breakfast
- 9:15 AM Morning water and land activities
- 12:15 PM Return to cabins, prepare for lunch
- 12:45 PM Lunch
- 1:15 PM Rest period
- 2:30 PM Afternoon water and land activities
- 5:30 PM Return to cabins, prepare for dinner
- 6:00 PM Flag lowering and blessing
- 6:05 PM Dinner
- 6:45 PM Supervised free time
- 7:45 PM Evening program
- 9:00 PM Return to cabins
- 9:30 PM Devotion
- 10:15 PM Lights out - Taps

Activities

Our vast array of activities on land provides the opportunity for our campers in session 2-5 to create their own adventure, choosing from:

- Archery
- Arts & Crafts
- Athletic Conditioning
- Backyard Games
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Challenge Course
- Cheerleading
- Dance
- Digital Media
- Disc Golf
- Drama
- Fishing
- Flag Football
- Future Engineers
- Geocaching/Orienteering
- Guitar
- Lacrosse
- ATLAS (see Teen Leadership)
- Outdoor Living Skills
- Pottery
- Putt Putt
- Riflery
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Tree Climbing
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball

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Every camper participates in all water activities, which usually last 45 – 90 minutes:

Paddle Sports	Wake Sports	Water Toys	Swimming
Corcls	Skiing	The Banana and Hot Dog	Recreational Swim
Canoeing	Kneeboard	The Blob	Swim Lessons
Paddleboards	Wakeboard	Large Inflatables	Pool Basketball
Kayaks	Wake skating	Tubing	
Sailing	Wake surfing	Water Slide	

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

We consider the dining hall part of the fun! Children have different palates, so meals include a delicious entree AND other healthy choices like cold cereals, pasta bars, salad bars, soup and fruit. Expect variety to meet every need and a commitment to nutrition! Vegetarian, gluten free, dairy free options are available. Meals are served family style with cabins sitting together at all mealtimes. Campers relax and enjoy fellowship during their busy schedules. Campers are expected to assist with Cleanup/KP duty before and after each meal. Recognition for effort and tidiness are a long tradition of service to others and self-care at camp.

Allergies

Products that contain peanuts and tree nuts are not served in the dining hall. The dining hall is successful in accommodating campers with most food allergies. Contact Chris Averett (averett-chris@aramark.com) prior to arrival for info on labeling, storage or other food related concerns. Every attempt will be made to accommodate camper dietary needs.

Special Programming

Evenings are a special time for campers, when memories are formed and relationships strengthened. Talent shows, sports challenges, field parties, and campfires give campers a showcase for their talents, recognition of new skills, and most importantly, opportunities for deeper connection to other campers and counselors.

The packing list contains packing ideas for special programming, and we'll supply some fun to the process, but you may want to include some talent show props, costumes and instruments of your own!

Counselors

A majority of our counselors were once Thunderbird campers themselves! Because they experienced and loved camp themselves, our staff is uniquely qualified to create a magical experience for your camper. New staff is recruited through college camp fairs as well as through word of mouth from those who have served Thunderbird in the past. Beyond their 70 hours of training before camp begins, counselors are provided staff training manuals and resource guides for facilitating devotions and other cabin activities. Safety and quality instruction are paramount, but we train on how to have fun too!

Safety and Medical Information

To ensure a safe camp experience we maintain an overall 4:1 camper to counselor ratio. Not all cabins will have that ratio, it depends on age. All land and water staff is trained in CPR and First Aid. All waterfront staff is lifeguard certified, and boat drivers have a US Coast Guard license or safe boater's license. Before all staff are hired, they go through background and drug screenings.

Medicines

All medications to be dispensed at camp must be brought directly by camper's parent or legal guardian on opening day. If possible, medication should be blister packed by your local pharmacy. Otherwise, medications must be delivered in original packaging showing dosage instructions. Medication is distributed to campers during meal times. *No medication, vitamins, supplements or sleeping aids are allowed in cabins at any time, including over the counter substances (OTC).*

Should your camper require an over-the-counter medication while attending camp, it will be provided by the Health Center. Please plan to leave all non-prescribed over the counter medications at home. You will receive a list of provided over the counter medications from our health center via email prior to camp.

Questions about medicines should be directed to ashley.mason@ymcacharlotte.org

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 spray on sunscreen. We have sunscreen available for all campers and staff, and counselors advise campers on proper clothing (closed-toed shoes and long pants, for paintball and horseback) for the day's activities.



Financial Assistance

Camp Thunderbird welcomes all who wish to participate, and annually raises scholarship funds to help make that possible. Summer 2020 Financial Assistance applications are open until December 31, 2019. As of January 1st all applications will be placed on the waiting list. Visit campthunderbird.org for more details and to apply for financial assistance.



Balances/Refunds/Changes & Cancellation Policy

All balances for all sessions must be paid by June 1, 2020 to avoid cancellation. A \$200 refund (per session/per camper) will be given if camp is notified in writing of cancellation prior to December 31, 2019. Cancellations in writing after January 1, 2020 will forfeit \$200 (per session/per camper). All cancellations and/or changes must be made in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the chosen Camp session. Any changes made after that day will forfeit all camp fees. Please email cancellation requests to: campthunderbird@ymcacharlotte.org or fax to 704-716-4101 Attn: Sharon Hinson. Cancellations will not be accepted via telephone.

