



# 2021 LOWE'S YMCA PARENT HANDBOOK



# WELCOME!

By choosing to send your camper to a YMCA Day Camp, you are choosing more than a summer day care service. YMCA of Greater Charlotte day camps are centered on improving the well-being of children. We at the Lowe's Family YMCA believe in each child's individuality and intentionally focus programs and services on three areas of development: **friendship**, **accomplishment** and **belonging**. We work to create a safe and vibrant environment that allows children to:

- Learn and master skills that nurture their passions, talents and potential
- Bond with new friends and positive staff role models to create lasting memories
- Know they belong so they feel welcome and free to express who they are

We are committed to giving you all the information you need to be prepared and have an awesome camp experience! You'll receive a "Welcome to Camp" email with detailed camp information the Friday before your child's camp begins. Please read through it thoroughly. If you do not receive an email the Friday prior to camp starting, please [email us](#).

## DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Please help us keep camp on schedule by dropping off and picking up your child on time. Please note that preschool camps and half-day camps **DO NOT** have early drop-off or late pick-up.

### DROP-OFF

**School-age Summer Camp:** 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**Preschool Camp:** 9:00 AM

### PICK-UP

**Preschool Camp:** 1:00 PM

**Full-Day Camp:** 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

### DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

- Enter the Lowe's YMCA at Joe V. Knox Avenue
- Pull by front door and the staff will come out to your car at drop off and come out to your car at pick up to take and bring your children to and from camp
- Exit out of Hope Park entrance onto Morrison Plantation Drive

## CONTACT US

Email us with any questions at [lowesdaycamp@ymcacharlotte.org](mailto:lowesdaycamp@ymcacharlotte.org)

### Or contact our director directly:

Danielle Crimi, Sr. Youth Development Director  
[danielle.crimi@ymcacharlotte.org](mailto:danielle.crimi@ymcacharlotte.org) | 704 716 4043

Jennifer McKnight, Preschool Coordinator  
[jennifer.mcknight@ymcacharlotte.org](mailto:jennifer.mcknight@ymcacharlotte.org) | 704 716 4063

Jennifer Baker, Member Experience Coordinator & Afterschool/Camp Coordinator  
[jennifer.baker@ymcacharlotte.org](mailto:jennifer.baker@ymcacharlotte.org)

## CAMP SCHEDULE

While individual camp agendas vary, here's what a typical day at camp looks like at the Lowe's YMCA:

### FULL-DAY CAMP

**7:00 AM – 9:00 AM:** Drop-off car line and combined group games

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM:** Morning snack and morning assembly

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Split into specific camps for activities

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM:** Lunch

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM:** Swim groups on Monday - Friday. Outside of this swim time, campers are in their camp groups doing activities based on their specific camp, literacy, and afternoon snacks in group.

**4:00 PM - 4:30 PM:** Groups all combine for group games

**4:30 PM – 6:00 PM:** Combined group games and pick-up car line

### PRESCHOOL CAMP

**9:00 AM:** Drop-off

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM:** Morning activities and assembly

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM:** Snack, bathroom and playground

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Centers and crafts

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM:** Lunch, bathrooms, songs and closing assembly

## HEAT ADVISORY

The safety and comfort of our campers is always our top priority and we want you to be aware of the changes we will make to our camp schedule on extremely hot days.

## LUNCH INFORMATION

Please pack your child's lunch; however, we are a nut free facility. We aren't able to refrigerate lunches, so please pack them in a small cooler/lunch box with ice packs or frozen water bottles. Label everything! Please pack a water bottle daily with your child's name on it. Also, please pack two snacks.

# MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

Does your child need to take medicine during the day? If so, use our form to give us your permission and the specific details about your child's medication.

## PARENT FAQs

Here are some answers to our most frequently asked questions about day camp at the Lowe's YMCA.

### **Does the Y provide lunch?**

No, you must pack a nut-free lunch, two nut-free snacks and a water bottle daily.

### **Is there swimming at camp?**

Campers will swim on Monday through Friday afternoons, in separate groups between the hours of 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Preschool campers DO NOT swim throughout their camp week.

### **Should we put our name on our child's belongings?**

Yes! Please label ALL items you are sending with your child to camp. Check the camp's lost and found at the end of the week before items are donated.

### **Do we update pick up information or other personal information at the front desk?**

Yes, to ensure the safety of all children in our programs, we need your most current information. The quickest and easiest way is to go to your account on the website and [update your information](#) online. You can also update your information at the branch.

### **Who is caring for my camper while he/she is at camp?**

Well-trained and energetic staff! Out counselors, camp staff and lifeguards are required to complete 30 hours of pre-camp training including CPR, First Aid, AED and Child Abuse Prevention. We conduct background checks and drug screenings on all camp staff and employees. Our counselors also learn child development best practices as well as techniques to encourage all campers to be inclusive and celebrate our differences.

### **What is your counselor to camper ratio? How many campers is one staff member responsible for?**

For our Preschool Aged Camps, our ratio is 1:8. For our School-aged Camps, our ratio is 1:10.

## PHOTOS

Log on to our Y Camp Life portal to check out fun photos of your camper in action! [Visit Y Camp Life >>](#)

# SUNSCREEN APPLICATION

Protecting skin from the sun's damaging rays is important. If you have specific questions about sunscreen application or if you have a child with a sunscreen allergy, please contact your branch camp director.

- Apply sunscreen to your child before arriving at camp — we can assist in reapplying as needed
- Send your preferred sunscreen labeled with your child's name on it

# SWIM ASSESSMENT

Before swimming at camp, all campers are swim tested in the pool under the direct supervision of certified lifeguards and camp staff. Parents can help speed up our swim testing by having your child swim tested before camp begins. Swim tests can be given at any YMCA of Greater Charlotte branch. If you are planning to have your camper take the swim test prior to his or her session, it must be completed by close of business the Wednesday before the session begins. Certified Life Vests are available for any child not able to successfully pass our swim test.

# WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

Check the weather daily and dress your camper accordingly — the camp day will continue rain or shine! Be sure to label **EVERYTHING** you send to camp with your camper and check the camp's lost and found at the end of the week before items are donated.

- Children should dress comfortably in clothes that can get dirty
- Clean mask(s) for your child.
- Pack a healthy lunch, water bottle and two snacks for morning and afternoon; food must be nut-free due to several children with allergies.
- Swimsuit and towel for swim time.
- Plastic bag for the wet swimsuit and towel
- Please apply sunscreen before drop-off and send spray sunscreen; if the camper needs help applying, we need a note of permission by the parent or guardian.
- Extra change of clothes
- Book bag to hold all belongings that your child can comfortably carry
- Campers will be outdoors 90% of the day so be prepared for hot weather days
- Please dress your kids in cool clothing for hot weather days (light colors, light fabric, hat and visor)
- We strongly recommend kids wear tennis shoes to protect their feet during camp activities
- Please label everything