



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR THE SUMMER OF THEIR LIFE

**A Parent Handbook to Resident Camp
YMCA CAMP WILLSON**

2019

**YMCA Camp Willson
2732 County Road 11
Bellefontaine, OH 43311**



Welcome to YMCA Camp Willson!

For the past 100 years, YMCA Camp Willson has given children the experience of a lifetime. Here at the Y, we pride ourselves in providing programs that are high in quality and fits your child's needs and interests. We look forward to having your child at camp where he or she will gain new skills, develop friendships, and leave with a lifetime of memories.

Please read through this information carefully as it will help answer many of your general camp questions. And as you review this handbook, please remember that while we did our best to include as much information as possible, you may still have questions – and that's ok! Please do not hesitate to ask a question; we are happy to help you feel confident in your decision to send your child to camp this summer. We hope this information will help you prepare for your time at YMCA Camp Willson.

One policy I would like to highlight is our cell-phone free policy. In order to provide your child with the best experience, it is important that you support camp's cell-phone free environment. There is extensive information on why this makes for a safer and more trusting environment and we are happy to walk you through this decision. Thank you in advance for being our partner in giving our kids a screen-free summer.

While your child is at camp, the possibilities are limitless. We hope campers will try new things, get out of their comfort zone, find good role models, and connect with their peers. We are confident your child is going to have the best summer ever at YMCA Camp Willson.

On behalf of the summer camp staff, we are excited for Summer 2019 and we can't wait to see you at camp!

Mary Sullivan
Summer Camp Director
P: 937-593-9001
E: mary.sullivan@ymcacolumbus.org

BEFORE CAMP BEGINS

The Willson Experience

At the core of our program is the lessons that come from living together with eight to ten other people. Through this experience, campers learn life skills and values that will serve them throughout their life. Our focus and guarantee that your child will learn and carry out the YMCA character values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility while at camp, and at home, helps set us apart from other camp experiences. During their time at camp, campers gain valuable life skills including working with others, a connection with the outdoors, and a sense of independence.

Benefits of Camp

During your camper's adventure at YMCA Camp Willson, campers will get to experience many new activities unique to our natural setting. Throughout the summer, activity and cabin groups will be able to explore our extensive 500 acres, swim or take a boat out on Lake Mac-O-Chee, participate in fun group games, like GaGa, work together to solve team challenges, and even take a trail ride on a horse. Camp allows campers to grow deeper friendships, to slow down and enjoy a slower pace, and to develop a sense of belonging. Our entire camp program is geared toward helping campers build friendships and develop a sense of community with one another creating a lifetime of memories.

Campers Ages and Programs

Our campers are divided into programs by age to help ensure your child's experience is age-appropriate. Because we believe it is important for older and younger children to learn together, during some evening programs, camp has big group games for all camp interaction. These programs are always supervised by camp staff who have been counseled on what to watch for when working with large groups with a large age range. Campers range from age 7 to 17.

Affordability for All

We feel strongly Camp should remain affordable for everyone. To ensure that is possible, YMCA Camp Willson created a Camp For All Fund. Through donations, you can help Camp fulfill our goal and stay strong for the next 100 years of Willson kids coming to camp.

To donate, call the Main Office, 800-423-0427 or email willsoninfo@ymcacolumbus.org

Our Staff

Our well-trained, diverse YMCA camp staff is dedicated to providing your child with an exceptional camp experience. Summer camp staff are carefully chosen for their enthusiasm, talent, and dedication - many of our counselors are former Camp Willson campers. All staff participate in pre-season training to further develop their skills to create an environment where our campers feel cared for, accepted, and encouraged. Training is approximately 40 hours and includes child protection,

safety procedures, and best practices – as well as, extensive training on how to be a great camp counselor. Lifeguards receive additional advanced training and provide primary supervision responsibilities during all waterfront activities. Additional training is also provided for staff in wall climbing, archery, BBs, and boating.

All staff are subject to reference and background checks. Staff members receive first aid training, as well as, instruction on policies and procedures specific to the camp programs prior to the start of camp. Our well-trained, dedicated staff return year after year to help campers develop skills in athletics, art and swimming, all while having fun, making new friends, and creating lifelong memories.

Please note:

- Staff are prohibited from babysitting, nannying or having contact with campers outside of camp without a prior relationship being established. If you know a staff member from home, please contact our office so we may document this relationship.
- Staff are prohibited from sharing social media or contact information with campers. If your child would like to contact a staff member, please have them write to them, care of camp, and we will make sure that they receive the letter.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION

- Register online with a \$100 non-refundable deposit to each session. Log on to Parent Dashboard to register

WAYS TO PAY YOUR REMAINING CAMP BALANCE

Please note: All balances must be paid in full in order for campers to check-in.

- Authorize us to automatically charge your credit card. This can be set up online, or call our Office at 937-593-9001.
- Mark your calendar, and mail or call in your final payment at least 3 weeks in advance of your camp session.
- Make additional payments online through Parent Dashboard <http://ymcacolumbus.org/willson>
- Mail to:

YMCA Camp Willson
2732 County Road 11
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DAYS

Important:

- To receive a cabin assignment on check-in, your camper must have the following completed:
 - Health History Form, attach health and prescription insurance information
 - Parent/Camper Confidential Information
 - Payment in Full 3 weeks prior to the start of camp
- Returning Campers: Please update medical forms and all yearly forms must be re-submitted (Authorization to Release Child, Parent/Camper Confidential, etc.)

No Pets! Please do not bring your pet to camp with you when picking up or dropping off your camper.

ALL ARRIVAL DAYS: Sundays, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

1. **Cabin assignments** will be given out starting at 3:00 p.m.
 - a. Please do not arrive early; our staff will not be ready and we will direct you to town to wait.
 - b. Please park in the lower lot for luggage drop-off. Camp staff will greet you, unload your luggage, and direct you to the upper parking lot and Commons for check-in.
2. **Check-in Station:** Camp Staff will confirm camper's forms, money, trail rides, and any additional information.
 - a. If any forms are missing information, you will need to fill out a paper form before moving to next station.
3. **Nurses' Station:** If you have medication, including over-the-counter, proceed to the Nurses' station.
 - a. All medication must be in original containers, including inhalers, with instructions printed on the bottle. If camper takes prescription medication, the medical prescription form must be filled out and signed by a healthcare provider.
4. **Health Check:** To complete check-in, all campers must have a quick general health and head lice check, with parent present. Once camper is cleared at the Health Check area, he/she will receive a pass to move into their cabin.
5. **Cabin Move-in:** Talk to your camper's counselor(s), tell them anything you think they need to know and ask any questions you may have. Please note: If you have administrative questions, please direct those questions to the Main Office or Summer Camp Director.

ALL DEPARTURE DAYS: Saturdays, 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Mini-Week Departure is Wednesday, July 3

Important:

- All campers are to be signed out by parent/guardian or authorized adults with a picture ID
- Ranch Camp Campers: A Bar W Ranch Parent Show will begin at 9:30 a.m. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early and bring your camera.
- **No Pets! Please do not bring your pet to camp with you when picking up your camper.**
- Talk with your child's counselor as this is the best way to get first-hand feedback regarding your child's experience.
- Medication: Please ensure that all medications/medical supplies are with your child before departure.
- Lost and Found: Each summer, we end up with significant amount of lost items. Prior to departure from camp, please check lost and found. (Putting your camper's name on belongings is the best way to minimize loss of items.)

LIFE AT CAMP

Typical Daily Schedule

7:45 a.m.	Cabin Wake-up
8:00 a.m.	Cabin Clean-up
8:20 a.m.	Flag Raising
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30 a.m.	Morning Paths (Area of Focus)
11:40 a.m.	Cabin Activity
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Siesta/Rest Period
2:40 p.m.	Activity Period
3:50 p.m.	Activity Period
5:00 p.m.	Free Time
6:00 p.m.	Flag Lowering
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:15 p.m.	Evening Watch (Reflection)
7:30 p.m.	Evening Program
9:00 p.m.	Cabin Talk/Ready for Bed
10:00 p.m.	Lights Out

- During Morning Paths (Areas of Focus), Pathfinder campers will choose an activity that will be their Area of Focus for the week. Ranger campers will rotate to different age-appropriate activities each morning to give them a well-rounded camp experience.
- If a camper is signed up for Wranglers, their morning activity will be spent in that activity.
- During the Activity Periods, campers will be able to choose a different activity both time periods or stay at the same one. All campers have an opportunity to swim each day if they choose a water-based activity.
- Trailblazers and all teen programs will have a different schedule based on interests of the campers and activities offered. These schedules vary week-to-week. If you have any questions, please call the Camp Office.

YMCA CAMP WILLSON ACTIVITIES

This is traditional camp at its best, with activities for everyone! Campers get to choose their own daily adventure, with free choice opportunities, time for fun-filled cabin activities, and exciting evening programs.

AREA OF FOCUS

- **Target Sports** (Archery, BBs, etc.)
- **Outdoor Wilderness Living Skills (OWLS)**
- **Waterfront** (Swimming, Boating, etc.)
- **Creative Arts** (Painting, Leatherwork, etc.)
- **High Adventure** (Climbing Wall, Zip Line)
- **Drama**
- **Sports and Games**
- **Soccer** (Basics and Skills)
- **Wranglers** (Equestrian; additional fee)

ACTIVITY PERIOD ACTIVITIES (Activities subject to change each day)

Soccer	Flag Football	Farm Camp, Gardening, and Animals
Nature	Street Hockey	Oreinteering/GPS/Geo-Caching
Pickleball	Arts & Crafts	Drama
Photography	GaGa	Basketball
Tennis	Canoeing	Human Foosball
Low Ropes/Teambuilding	Kayaks	Archery
Soccer Golf	BBs	Water Trampoline
Climbing Wall	Softball	SUP (Stand Up Paddle Board)
Hiking	Swimming	Trail Rides (additional fee)
Fun Bugs	Fishing	Fort Building
Capture the Flag	Kickball	Outdoor Cooking

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

Sun Protection

To ensure your child is protected from the sun during their stay at camp, all campers must bring sun block SPF 30 or higher/broad spectrum/waterproof. We strongly recommend testing your child's reactions to sunscreen before sending it with them.

Clothing

All clothing must be clearly marked with camper's FULL name. A packing list is included in this packet. To minimize lost and found, please pack with your child so that you both know what they are bringing to camp. Marked articles which are turned in at "Lost and Found" and will be held for a limited time. All lost and found items not claimed will be donated.

Our clothing policy has been established for safety purposes and appropriate for an active camp day. All attire should be casual or athletic. Be sure to provide proper clothing for rainy days and footwear for hiking.

- Tops: Must fully cover midriff.
- Swimwear: One-piece athletic bathing suits are preferred. Bikinis and monokinis are not allowed. Speedos for boys are not allowed.
- Jewelry: Refrain from bringing jewelry to camp. Earrings must be straight studs. Dangling jewelry is a safety hazard and are not allowed. Camp is not responsible for lost items.
- Footwear: In order to prevent injuries, all staff and campers are required to wear closed-toed shoes with heel straps, athletic shoes, or similar at all times. Open-toed shoes, such as flip-flops, may be worn inside the cabin, while showering, or carried to a swimming activity.

Packing List (located at end of this packet)

Please pack all clothes in a drawstring bag or laundry bag. Toiletries, swim suits, and shoes should be packed in clear plastic bags and easily removed from packed bag. Please be sure to read about our proactive stance in addressing the bed bug issue, which is prevalent in Ohio, located with the packing list.

The items on this list are items we suggest. It is not necessary to have a complete change of clothes for every day. Please send your child to camp with clothing appropriate for playing, painting, and participating in outdoor activities. Clothing that restricts movement and/or is delicate is not appropriate clothing for camp. Sneakers and socks are recommended for all activities except swimming.

What NOT to Bring to Camp

Campers should not bring expensive items to camp that could be lost, misplaced, or stolen. Camp is not responsible for damage, theft, or loss of personal items brought to camp.

Electronics

Please note the camp insurance policy does not cover personal items.

We strongly urge you to leave iPods, cameras, cell phones, tablets, etc at home. The physical camp environment is not kind to such items and Camp is not responsible for anything that may happen to these items.

If you have a question about whether your child can or cannot bring an item to camp, please contact us prior to arrival.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are not allowed and will be confiscated and held in the Main Office until departure.

When children come to camp there is a transfer of primary care from you as their parents to us and their counselors. As children learn to trust other caring adults, they learn little-by-little to solve some of their own challenges. We believe this emerging independence is one of the greatest benefits of camp, and it teaches resiliency.

If your child has a phone and can contact you prevents this transition; it prevents Camp from guiding and working with campers to address and resolve concerns.

We respect and appreciate the relationship you have with your campers. We agree to tell you if your child is experiencing a challenge with their adjustment to camp. Prior to your child attending camp, you can help with this adjustment by talking with your child to let them know there is always a person they can reach out to, whether it is a counselor, a trusted activity leader, unit leader, or even the Camp Director or Camp Nurse.

Under Communication in this handbook, we address how you are able to communicate with your camper during their time at Camp.

Other Items NOT to Bring to Camp

- Cash or Credit/Debit Cards
- Sports Equipment
- Weapons (including pocket knife)
- Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol, including e-cigarettes or other vape devices
- Explicit items, including pornography

Communicating with Your Camper

Mail: Incoming and Outgoing

Letters are important at camp and we encourage your family to write often. When writing to your child, be cheerful, talk about home, friends, and activities matter-of-factly. Ask questions about camp that will let your child know you are genuinely interested in what he/she is doing.

You can plan out a whole week of letters by stopping at the Camp Store and dropping off letters into our mailbox and they will be delivered on the day you request.

Camp staff will encourage campers to write home. You may also wish to send your child with addresses or pre-addressed and stamped envelopes so they can write home or to other family members and friends.

Address mail as follows:

Camper Name; Cabin
YMCA Camp Willson
2732 County Road 11
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

Send Your Camper an Email

Sending an email to your camper while they are camp is now easy; and it's free! You can contact your camper daily through an email on our website located in the Parent Dashboard.

When you send your email, please put your camper's name and cabin name in the subject line of the email. All emails received before 11:00 a.m. will be given to the camper that day.

Packages

Packages can be fun for campers to receive at camp. When sending packages, please be mindful of the limited space in cabin, and that your camper cohabitates with other children. Suggested items to send are a book, magazines, stationary, markers, decks of cards and things to share with their new friends. Please do not send food or drinks.

Social Media

The privacy and protection of our campers and staff is a priority here at YMCA Camp Willson. We maintain Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and YouTube accounts, and will update them throughout the week.

Photos will be posted on Smug Mug. A password protected link will be provided for you to view photos of our camper in action. Please do not make assumptions about your child's wellbeing or enjoyment of camp based on photos – we will contact you if there any concerns.

Facebook	facebook.com/YMCACampWillson
Twitter	twitter.com/ymcacampwillson
Pinterest	pinterest.com/ymcacampwillson
YouTube	youtube.com/YMCACampWillson
Smug Mug	ymcacampwillson.smugmug.com

Staff-to-Camper Communication Policy

As part of our child abuse prevention policy, YMCA camp counselors are not permitted to communicate (email, social networking, or telephone) and/or interact with campers after campers depart from camp. Our staff is asked to mark their social networking (Facebook, etc.) websites for private invitation only, preventing campers from viewing staff members' personal websites. We appreciate your cooperation in enforcing this policy with your camper(s).

HEALTH SERVICES

The health center is centrally located in the main area of camp and is equipped with first aid supplies and emergency medical equipment. A staff person with advanced medical training (RN, EMT) is on duty 24 hours/day.

Time at camp is short, so our camp leaders need as much assistance as possible from parents/guardians in order to get to know our campers. Whatever your child's needs are, we ask that you partner with us to ensure your child has the best camp experience possible. Our ability to accommodate and meet the needs of your child is directly related to the information provided to us prior to camp arrival.

Required Health Information

All campers must have current health and medical information to attend camp. If your child takes ANY medication or supplement, prescription or over-the-counter, it must be turned in to the nurse upon check-in, along with the Camper Medication Form, signed by a doctor. Individual camper health records are kept confidential; information is only shared on a "need-to-know" basis.

Medications

Along with turning in medications to the Camp Nurse, with appropriate forms, if required, ALL medications must be in original containers and taken under the supervision of the Camp Nurse.

Sun Protection

To ensure your child is protected from the sun during their stay at camp, it is required that all campers bring sun block SPF-30 or higher/broad spectrum/waterproof. It is also recommended campers bring sun glasses and/or hat/visor. If your child is sensitive to the sun, you may wish to send a UV protective rash guard shirt. Please let the camp director or camp nurse know if you have concerns about sun exposure and your preferred protection plan so we may work with the counselors to carry out that plan.

Immunizations

Each camper must have all immunizations as required by law and/or deemed necessary by your family doctor. Every child must be within the protection period of an up-to-date tetanus booster at the time he/she attends camp.

Mental Health

The mental health of our campers and staff is just as important to us as their physical health. It is paramount that parents/guardians disclose mental health difficulties and management plans with the health care team at camp. The Camp Director is trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid and all camp staff are trained in best practices to work with campers experiencing anxiety and other mental health challenges.

Illnesses or Emergencies

Camp personnel will contact you or other designated emergency contact if your child requires the services of a physician. If a camper requires hospital emergency room treatment, camp personnel will contact you. Mary Rutan Hospital is 10 minutes away. If you cannot be reached, Camp will contact your child's designated emergency contact.

Medical Bills

All medical bills are the responsibility of the camper parent/guardian. Camp does not carry medical/accident insurance for individual campers.

HOMESICKNESS

Occasionally, children do feel homesick. This is natural and a normal part of camp experience. We have trained staff to help your child through their homesickness. Before your child comes to camp, it is important for you, as a parent/guardian to recognize the potential for homesickness and create a plan with your child.

- Talk about camp with enthusiasm.
- Practice being away from home: sleepovers at a peer's house, or relative's house, will help children acclimate to sleeping away from home.
- Help your child to understand that it is okay to be homesick. It is a normal feeling; your child will not be the only one feeling this way; and it something he/she can overcome.
- Let your child know you have confidence in him/her. Camp is an experience for which you feel he/she is ready.
- Pack familiar items for your child: a picture of family or pet, a stuffed animal, or favorite t-shirt.
- Give camp counselors tools to help communicate with your child when he/she is not feeling 100%.
- Create a plan with your child for what to do if he/she misses home: who to talk to, how to send letters, or opening a special package packed in their bag. Please do not promise to come for them if they experience homesickness.

Children who are experiencing life-changing events, such as divorce, death in the family, and moving, may feel homesickness more acutely. Please communicate any life-events with us so we can be better prepared to assist your child.

If your child is struggling at camp, we will call you to discuss what we are seeing and what we are doing to help your child through it. In most cases, we are able to resolve and your child comes home loving camp. Please trust our judgment on this matter.

BEHAVIOR and DISCIPLINE at CAMP

It is the vision of YMCA Camp Willson to provide a welcoming atmosphere and a sense of home for all our campers. Please review the following guidelines with your child so we can work together to keep camp safe for all participants.

As a close-knit community, Camp expects each camper to respect themselves and everyone at Camp, as well as, the facilities and surroundings. All members of the Willson community are expected to behave responsibly and appropriately at all times.

Behavior Standards

Campers and staff are expected to understand and follow general behavior guidelines while at camp. When your child is at camp, specific rules for safety will be explained to them.

General Rules and Standards

- Campers and staff must respect themselves, other people's bodies and other people's belongings.
- Campers and staff must follow all rules and guidelines in every area of camp.
- Campers and staff must not intrude on other's enjoyment of camp.
- Campers and staff must maintain their personal hygiene.
- Campers and staff must represent themselves and Camp in a positive manner.

Hate Speech Policy

YMCA Camp Willson denounces the use of words or images to harass individuals or groups based on gender, gender expression, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other aspect of identity. "Hate speech" of this nature is contrary to our YMCA's Mission Statement, Diversity Statement, and Core Values. Individuals participating in such harassment may be subject to consequences, including suspension and expulsion.

Discipline at Camp

A camp, we stress the need for each child to take personal responsibility for her or his own actions. In addition, we believe that parent/guardian cooperation is vital to the successful implementation of our discipline policy.

In the event a child is having trouble following the rules of the program, one of the Unit Leaders will work with the counselor to make every reasonable effort to modify inappropriate behavior(s). When campers repeatedly ignore Camp rules and policies, a parent/guardian will be called to discuss how to best resolve the situation. It is at the discretion of the Summer Camp Director to determine disciplinary action, including expulsion from the program.

Examples of unacceptable behavior:

- Being rude or disrespectful to staff and/or other children, including the use of offensive language or gestures.
- Bullying
- Refusing to follow basic safety rules, including sneaking out of cabins at night
- Stealing
- Defacing or intentionally breaking camp property
- Physically harming, or threatening to harm, another camper or staff member
- Possession and/or use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol

Depending on severity and frequency of behavioral issues, one or more of the following actions will be take :

1. Verbal warning from staff
2. Temporary removal from activity with corrective action plan created between Unit Leader and camper.
3. Phone conference with parent/guardian to discuss plan to move forward in a positive manner.
4. Dismissal from Camp program for remainder of the summer without refund. Campers who are removed from the summer program may not be asked to return in the future.

Bullying

In order to ensure everyone has a positive experience, the physical and emotional safety of each camper and staff is our number one priority. Therefore, at YMCA Camp Willson, bullying is grounds for immediate dismissal from camp.

Bullying comes in many forms. Throughout the summer, we work with our staff to identify and stop any incidents that may occur. We work with cabins to set expectations of how each camper wants and can be expected to be treated. Our schedule is designed to provide many opportunities for cabin unity and understanding. We are committed to offering a program that helps campers to see the "common ground" they all have. The best way to reduce bullying is to create a positive atmosphere from the start.

We encourage you to let us know about concerns you may have regarding bullying, whether at camp or outside of camp. We greatly appreciate you sharing with us if your child has been involved in a bullying incident. All campers are given a clean slate when they arrive at camp, but knowing a child has been involving in a past bullying incident will help us identify any issues earlier. We know with staff training, follow through, solid communication with campers, and a strong parent partnership, we can be successful in managing this issue.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Camp Store

Campers are encouraged to deposit money into their Camp Store account, which may be used to purchase items from the Camp Store and trail rides only. Items sold in the store are Camp Willson memorabilia and items they may use at camp like stamps, flashlights, water bottles, etc. Please note:

- No food or drinks are sold in the store.
- Campers are unable to withdraw money.
- Any money remaining at the end of camp will be donated to YMCA Camp Willson Fund that enables children to attend camp.

Cabin & Cabin Assignments

Main camp cabins have electricity, ceiling fans, air conditioning, and bunk beds. Campers should bring a sleeping bag or sheet, blanket, pillow and pillow case. Campers stay in age-appropriate cabins under the supervision of our adult counselors with a ratio of 1 counselor to 6 campers. Bathroom and showers are located conveniently near cabins.

Placement with a cabin group depends on camp and age. While we attempt to honor bunk requests, please understand you may only request one child, and that request must be mutual. Placing too many friends in the same cabin disrupts social interaction of the group. Cabin assignments will be given upon your child's arrival.

Holdovers

Campers staying multiple weeks in back-to-back sessions, have the option of staying at camp to participate in our holdover programming. If you choose to participate, you must register IN ADVANCE. You may register online or call the camp office.

What About Laundry?

Laundry is provided for stay-over campers only. Laundry will be gathered and taken to the local laundry mat on Fridays. Parents wishing to visit/take laundry home may do so on Saturdays.

Food

Camp serves 3 well-balanced meal with an afternoon snack each day. We offer healthy choices including salad bar, and can accommodate most allergies. This includes dairy, nut, wheat, soy, and egg. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are also available.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Main Office.

Tipping

The policy of the American Camp Association, the YMCA and YMCA Camp Willson, does not allow tipping of an employee. If you wish to express your appreciation in a material way, we invite you to join our Annual Campaign by contributing to our camp fund and help us send more kids to camp! You can make the donation in the name of the camp counselor.

Pets

Campers are not allowed to bring animals, of any kind, to camp. During camp arrival or departure, Pets are not allowed at camp.

Safety and Health

YMCA Camp Willson is licensed through Logan City Health Department, is Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA), and accredited through American Camp Association (ACA). To be accredited by ACA involves meeting over 300 standards of health, safety, and program excellence.

Contacts Information

Summer Camp Director: Mary Sullivan, mary.sullivan@ymcacolumbus.org

Executive Director: Heather Graham, heather.graham@ymcacolumbus.org

Office Manager: Kelly Cronkleton, kelly.cronkleton@ymcacolumbus.org

Phone: 800-423-0427

Fax: 614-382-8974

Website: ymcacampwillson.org

ENSURING A CLEAN FACILITY

Bedbugs are a nuisance and we work very hard at providing the best programming and camping facilities in the area. We do not want bedbugs to detract from the wonderful experience. From our discussions with licensed professionals and others who are dealing with bedbugs, we believe heat is the best way to ensure bedbug elimination.

Prior to your arrival, the cabins are cleaned and inspected. Upon camper arrival, luggage is heated and delivered to your cabins. This is why it is important to pack in drawstring or laundry bags made out of cloth or mesh. These can be purchased at a local dollar store or WalMart, etc.

How You Can Help:

- Please pack clothes, towels, sleeping bags, and linens in laundry or drawstring bags because these items can be heated easily. Pillowcases work well too.
- Rubbermaid tubs may NOT be used in the heating process. Suitcases may be damaged through the heating process.
- Personal items such as toiletries, makeup & shoes should be packed separately. A tote or tub may be used to store clothing after your clothing and bedding have been heated.
- Other items that should not be heated include Under Armour cold gear, foam sleeping mats, and shoes. Use your best judgment. If you are not sure whether it will melt or not, you should not bring it to camp!

If you have any questions, please contact our Main Office at 937-593-9001.

CLOTHING EQUIPMENT LIST

Packing List (based on one-week stay)

- Sleeping Bag
- Sheet for Bed (fitted or flat)
- Pillow
- Jacket/Sweater
- Long Sleeve Shirt for Evening
- Flip-Flops for Shower/Waterfront
- Shoes (closed-toed/broken in!)
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Jeans or Pants
- Socks and Underwear
- Rain Jacket and Poncho
- One-Piece Swimsuit
- Pajamas
- Shower Towel/Beach Towel
- Optional: closed-toed sandals with heel strap
- Horseback Riding: Boots with Heel
- Drawstring bag/BookBag (for carrying items)
- Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, travel size shamoo, soap, washcloth
- Carrier for toiletries to shower
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- WATER BOTTLE
- Flashlight with spare batteries
- Sunscreen Protection: SPF 30 or higher/broadspectrum/waterproof
- Insect Repellant: 30-70% Deet, non-aerosol
- Laundry Bag (for dirty clothes)
- Items to decorate cabin
- Costumes for weekly theme
- Trailblazers and TEENation/TEENxtreme Campers: White t-shirt or Pillowcase for tie-dying

Additional Items Needed for Specialty Camps:

Frontier: Insect Repellant, Wide-brimmed hat, Old Tennis Shoes/Sport Sandals (no Flip-Flops), Sleeping back in Stuff Sack. Optional: Sunglasses, Elastic Eyeglass Band, Hammock

Fishing Camp: Rod & Reel, 6-8# line or less, Tackle Box, 1 pk. Jig heads 1/32 oz. (lead ball & hook), 1 pk. 2" Plastic White Twisters, 6" Black Plastic Worms (qty. 10), 2 Bobbers – stick type, Hat, Old Sneakers/Sports Sandals/Water Shoes, Sunglasses, Elastic Eyeglass Band.