

YMCA CAMP WILLSON

# GUARDIAN GUIDE



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# WELCOME TO SUMMER 2026!

For over 108 years, Camp Willson has provided children with meaningful camp experiences where they can build new skills, form friendships, and create lifelong memories. Our programs are designed to help campers grow while enjoying the outdoors and trying new activities.

This playbook includes important information to help answer common questions and prepare your family for camp. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out - we are always happy to help.

We also ask families to support our cell-phone-free environment, which allows campers to fully connect with nature, their peers, and the camp experience.

We are excited for the summer ahead and can't wait to welcome your camper to YMCA Camp Willson!

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# 2026 SUMMER SESSIONS

## Traditional Camp

Our Traditional Camp is for campers entering grades 1st through 12th, who want to explore and experience all that Camp Willson has to offer. Our Traditional Camp is an overnight week long experience that runs Sunday-Friday.

DATES	GRADES	COST
WEEK 1 June 07 - June 12	1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 2 June 14 - June 19	1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 3 June 21 - June 26	1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 4 June 28 - July 03	1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 5 July 05 - July 10	1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 6 July 12 - July 17	1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 7 July 19 - July 24	1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 8 July 26 - July 31	1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 9 August 02 - August 07	1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800

# YMCA CAMP WILLSON

# 2026 SUMMER SESSIONS

## MINI Traditional Camp

Our MINI Traditional Camp is for campers entering grades 1st through 8th, who want to explore and experience all that Camp Willson has to offer. Our MINI Traditional Camp is an overnight MINI week experience that runs Sunday–Wednesday.

DATES	GRADES	COST
MINI WEEK 4 June 28 – July 01	1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$450
MINI WEEK 6 July 12 – July 15	1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	\$450

## Leadership Development

Our Leadership Development program fosters and develops group dynamics, problem-solving leadership and camping skills in future staff members. This camp, which has a ranch focus, helps teens take on responsibility that will benefit them at camp and at home. Additionally, there is an opportunity for WITs/CITs to volunteer for at least one week during the summer.

DATES	GRADES	COST
WIT WEEK 4 June 28 – July 01	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$450
CIT WEEK 4 June 28 – July 01	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$450

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# 2026 SUMMER SESSIONS

## Ranch Camp

Spend your week with your new best friends: some with two legs, some with four! You will find the horse that perfectly matches you and spend the week riding and caring for your new pal. During that time, you'll learn from one of our instructors and many traditional camp activities.

DATES	GRADES	COST
WEEK 1 June 07 - June 12	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 2 June 14 - June 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
2 WEEK-LONG June 14 - June 26	5 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$1550
WEEK 3 June 21 - June 26	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 4 June 28 - July 03	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 5 July 05 - July 10	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
MINI WEEK 6 July 12 - July 15	1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$800
WEEK 7 July 19 - July 24	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 8 July 26 - July 31	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 9 August 02 - August 07	1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$800

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# 2026 SUMMER SESSIONS

## Fishing Camp

Young fishermen and fisherwomen entering the grades 6th through 12th enjoy the sport they love! Campers will explore our beautiful lake with other campers, perfecting their casting skills. We crown Angler of the Week to one top-notch fisherman or fisherwoman.

Our Fishing Camp is an overnight week long experience that runs Sunday-Friday.

DATES	GRADES	COST
WEEK 1 June 07 - June 12	6 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 2 June 14 - June 19	6 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
WEEK 5 July 05 - July 10	6 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
MINI WEEK 6 July 12 - July 15	1 <sup>st</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$450

## Frontier Camp

Frontier Camp is an adventurous, hands-on experience for campers entering grades 5th through 12th who are ready to master the art of outdoor living. Campers will learn essential survival skills like fire building, outdoor cooking, shelter setup, and wilderness safety, all while gaining confidence and independence in the great outdoors. From learning practical camping skills to sleeping under the stars, Frontier Camp is all about embracing adventure, teamwork, and life outside the comfort zone.

Our Frontier Camp is an overnight week long experience that runs Sunday-Friday.

DATES	GRADES	COST
WEEK 7 July 19 - July 24	5 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$800

# YMCA CAMP WILLSON

# PACKING FOR CAMP?

Toiletries, swimsuits, towels, and shoes should be packed in a small backpack or day bag. This allows your camper to easily access their swimsuit and towel for the Sunday afternoon swim assessment.

**Packing Tip: Please label all items with your camper's name.**

## Bedding

- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Twin sheet (fitted or flat)
- Pillow

## Clothing

- Jacket or sweater
- Long sleeve shirt for evenings
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Jeans or pants
- Socks and underwear
- Pajamas
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Swimsuit or swim trunks

## Footwear

- Closed-toe shoes (broken in)
- Sandals with heel strap (no flip-flops or slides)
- Shower shoes
- Boots with heel (required for Ranch Camp)

## Personal Items

- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, travel-size shampoo, soap, washcloth, etc.)
- Feminine hygiene products (if needed)
- Deodorant
- Shower towel and beach towel
- Water bottle
- Flashlight with spare batteries
- Bag for carrying items (drawstring bag or backpack)
- Laundry bag or bag for dirty clothes

## Optional Items

- Stationery, pens, and stamps
- Books, playing cards, or quiet games for rest time
- Insect repellent (30–70% DEET recommended)
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher; lotion or spray)

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# PACKING FOR CAMP?

## Clothing Policies

These guidelines help ensure the safety and comfort of all campers and staff.

**Tops:** Casual or athletic clothing is recommended. Shirts must fully cover the midriff.

**Swimwear:** One-piece suits, tankinis, or board shorts are preferred. Swimwear should allow for active aquatic participation.

**Jewelry:** Camp is not responsible for lost items. Jewelry should be left at home when possible. If earrings are worn, small studs only.

**Footwear:** Shoes with heel straps must be worn at all times. Open-toed shoes are allowed, but flip-flops may only be worn in cabins or showers.

Above all, campers should bring comfortable, practical clothing suitable for outdoor activities.

## What NOT to Bring

Campers should not bring expensive items that could be lost or damaged. Camp Willson is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged belongings.

### Please do not bring:

- Cash or credit/debit cards
- Personal sporting equipment
- Weapons (including pocket knives)
- Drugs, tobacco, alcohol, vapes, or e-cigarettes
- Explicit or inappropriate materials
- All electronics (cell phones, tablets, smart watches with cellular service, e-readers, etc.)
- Food or candy (due to allergies and pests)



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# PACKING FOR SPECIALTY CAMP?

Toiletries, swimsuits, towels, and shoes should be packed in a small backpack or day bag. This allows your camper to easily access their swimsuit and towel for the Sunday afternoon swim assessment.

**Packing Tip: Please label all items with your camper's name.**

## FISHING CAMP

(Available at most sporting goods stores)

Rod and reel with 6–8 lb line or less

Tackle box

1 pack jig heads (1/32 oz)

1 pack 2" white plastic twisters

6" black plastic worms (10)

2 stick-type bobbers

Hat

Old sneakers, sport sandals, or water shoes

Sunscreen and sunglasses

Elastic eyeglass band (optional)

Please do not bring knives. Staff will assist campers with any cutting needs.

## RANCH CAMP

Boots with heel

Long pants

Personal riding equipment (helmet or chaps if you own them)

Sunscreen

Head bug net (optional but helpful)

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# ELECTRONICS & CELL PHONES

We strongly encourage families to leave electronics at home. The camp environment is not ideal for these items, and Camp Willson cannot be responsible for loss or damage.

**CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED AT CAMP.**

If a phone is brought, it will be confiscated and held in the Main Office until departure.

## WHY?

When campers attend camp, there is a natural transition of care from parents to camp staff. This experience helps campers build confidence, independence, and problem-solving skills while forming relationships with caring adults. If campers are able to contact home directly, it can interrupt this important growth experience.



Our staff will always contact parents if a camper is having difficulty adjusting. Before camp, you can help prepare your camper by reminding them they can always talk to a cabin leader, activity leader, unit leader, camp director, or nurse if they need support.

In the next section of this playbook, we will explain how families can communicate with campers during their time at camp.

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# VISITORS & COMMUNICATION

We ask that parents and/or friends do not visit or call campers during the camping session as campers are busy playing, developing independence and being kids. Unplug for the week! Campers are not permitted to have cell phones at camp. This policy helps reduce homesickness and results in an improved program. Please feel free to call the camp office and speak with a Director for any extenuating or family situations.

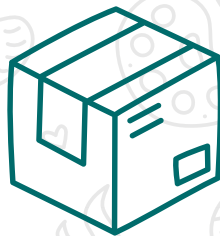
## Check out SmugMug!

We post camper photos on our Smug Mug page throughout the week, giving parents the opportunity to see our wide variety of camp activities. You might see your child in one of the pictures!



## Send a Care Package!

When sending packages, please be mindful of limited space in the cabin, and that your camper cohabitates with other children. Suggested items to send are books, magazines, decks of cards, and things to share with their new friends.



## Send an Email!

You can contact your camper daily through an email 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.



# TYPICAL DAY

## RANGER/PATHFINDER

7:40 Rise and Shine!  
7:50 Flag raising  
8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Spark  
9:20 Activity 1  
10:30 Activity 2  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Siesta  
2:00 Swim  
3:45 Activity 3  
5:00 Unit Time  
5:50 Flag lowering  
6:00 Dinner  
7:15 Evening program  
8:15 Evening Embers  
8:30 Cabin Time  
9:30 Lights out

## TRAILBLAZER/TEEN

7:40 Rise and Shine!  
7:50 Flag raising  
8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Spark  
9:20 Choice Activity  
10:30 Swim  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Siesta  
2:00 Specialities  
4:00 Unit Time  
5:30 Activity Sign Up  
5:50 Flag lowering  
6:00 Dinner  
7:15 Evening program  
8:15 Evening Embers  
8:30 Cabin Time  
9:30 Lights out

Please note that this is an example of a typical day and is subjected to change.

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# HEALTH SERVICES



All campers must have current health and medical information to attend camp. Individual camper health records are kept confidential; information is only shared on a “need to know” basis. Due to camp sessions being short, we rely on parents and guardians to share important information about their camper’s needs before arrival. Partnering with us helps ensure we can best support your child and provide a safe, positive camp experience.

## Medication/Immunizations

Medication needs to be checked in with the nurse at check-in, this includes all over-the-counter medications as well as prescription. **ALL MEDICATIONS must be in the original containers** and taken under the supervision of the camp nurse. Medication WILL NOT be accepted or distributed if it is not in the original container with dosage directions.

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 they attend camp.

## Illnesses or Emergencies

If your child needs care from a physician or emergency room, staff will contact you or your designated emergency contact right away. Mary Rutan Hospital is located about 10 minutes from camp. If we cannot reach you, we will contact the emergency contact listed for your child.

## Medical Bills

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



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# BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

**It is the vision of YMCA Camp Willson to provide a welcoming atmosphere and a sense of home for all our campers. As a close-knit community, Camp Willson expects each camper and staff to respect themselves and everyone at Camp Willson as well as the facilities and surroundings.**

## General Rules & Standards    Unacceptable Behaviors

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

- 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 from other campers, staff, or camp property
- 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

## Discipline at Camp

At camp, we encourage each camper to take responsibility for their actions, and parent/guardian partnership is important in supporting our discipline policy. If a camper is having difficulty following rules, staff will work with them to improve behavior. If issues continue, parents/guardians will be contacted to help find a solution. Disciplinary decisions, including possible dismissal from camp, are made at the discretion of the Summer Camp Director.

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# Arrival & Departure

Check in has staggered start times. Please **DO NOT** arrive early. Our staff will not be ready for you and you will be asked to wait.

Ranch check-in is from 1:30pm-2:30pm

Rangers / Pathfinders check-in is from 2:00pm-3:30pm

Teens / Trailblazers check-in is from 2:30-3:45pm

## SUNDAY CHECK-IN

- Pull into the lower parking lot for luggage drop-off
- Enjoy a hay wagon ride up to the Dining Hall
- Complete check-in stations:
  - Health check (including lice check & medications)
  - Camper check-in
  - Mail, Camp Store, and Admin Services
- Receive cabin assignments & information
- Head to your cabin to meet your counselor and cabin group

## FRIDAY CHECK-OUT (11:00 AM – 1:30 PM)

Join us for a fun Block Party & Cookout as you pick up your camper!

Please have a valid ID ready for camper pick-up

Park in the lower lot and take the hay wagon up

Stop by before you leave:

Camp Store

See Camp displays

Donation opportunities

# YMCA CAMP WILLSON

# Registration & Fees

## Registration is Easy!

Simply register online and pay a non-refundable deposit to each session you reserve.

You can access our Parent Dashboard through our website or at <https://ymcacampwillson.campbrainregistration.com/>



## Ways to Pay Your Remaining Camp Balance

- Authorize us to automatically charge your credit card monthly to spread the cost of camp over several months. (This can also be set-up online through the registration process).
- If you register for camp online through our Parent Dashboard, you can make additional payments online as often as you would like.
- Send physical checks (payable to YMCA Camp Willson).
- Mail to:  
YMCA Camp Willson  
2732 County Road 11  
Bellefontaine, OH 43311
- Call in to our office at 937-593-9001

Make sure your final payment is made at least three weeks prior to your camper's session.



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