



FUN FOR A SUMMER LESSONS FOR A LIFETIME

2026 Overnight Camp Parent Handbook
YMCA Camp Tippecanoe



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

81300 Stewart Rd, Tippecanoe, OH 44699
www.camptipp.org 740.922.0679





Dear Summer Camp Families,

On behalf of the YMCA Camp Tippecanoe Staff, I would like to thank you for allowing YMCA Camp Tippecanoe to be part of your child's summer. We are honored to provide a fun, safe, and meaningful camp experience for families in our community. Our goal is to ensure every camper has a positive experience while building friendships and memories that last well beyond the season.

Please take a few moments to read through this guide with your camper. It includes important information about camp policies and procedures, along with helpful details on payments, packing lists, and what to expect throughout the summer.

We realize you have a choice when it comes to you and your family's recreational and camping needs, and we thank you for choosing YMCA Camp Tippecanoe. We are looking forward to a great camping season!

See you this summer!

Molly Hudson - Program Director

campoffice@ymcastark.org 740.922.0679

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CHECK IN & CHECK OUT

Sunday Check In

Camper Check In is open from **3:00–4:00PM every Sunday**. Please **DO NOT** arrive before 3:00PM, as the road will be closed past the barn. If you must arrive after 4:00PM, please notify someone in the camp office at (740)922-0679.

Here is what you can expect upon your arrival:

- Meet our staff, sign in and get your cabin assignment
- Form check, did you get all your forms in (Health form is most essential).
- Option or need to see the nurse. If your child has medical needs, receives medications, has any injuries (bruises, cast, cuts, etc.) or any specific concerns, we want you to meet our nurse.
- Drop off luggage
- Park and you have the option to walk down and move your kid into their cabin.
- On the way out, you'll have the option to drop off care packages and / or add money to your camp store account.

Friday Check Out

Check Out will begin at **5:30 PM each Friday**. Please arrive promptly to pick up your camper.

Here is what you can expect for Friday pickup:

- Please bring photo ID, staff are only able to release campers to adults with photo ID as listed on your camper's authorized pickup list (a component of the registration process).
- If your camper participated in horse camp, or mini horse camp, please arrive to the main barn by 4:45 PM to be part of the riding event. Lazy T Ranch campers will be part of a whole camp rodeo not available to parents earlier in the day (sorry)
- At 5:30 PM we will open the road past the barn. Please head to the luggage pavilion and collect your camper's luggage.
- The Closing Ceremony will begin at 5:35 in the Main Lodge. This will be a 15 minute program that provides camper recognition and highlights a photo slideshow from the week.
- After the closing ceremony, the Trading Post will be open. Please spend any remaining balance on your camper's account, any remaining funds will be donated to camp.
- There will also be an opportunity to pre-register for Summer 2026 following the Closing Ceremony.
- **We will have FOOD / Burgers and Hot dogs available for families after check out!**

MISSION STATEMENT & OBJECTIVES

Mission Statement:

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Goals & Objectives:

Our cause is for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Our camp programs, as part of the YMCA, reflect these values and are designed to help our campers grow physically, mentally, and spiritually within a fun camp environment. Well-trained camp staff act as a catalyst for the development in your child as they lead the campers in challenging activities.

All YMCA camps are designed to meet the following goals and are established for our three causes. Each camper will:

- Grow personally
 - Learn values
 - Improve personal and family relationships
 - Appreciate diversity
 - Become better leaders and supporters
 - Develop specific skills and assets
 - Have fun
-

Character Development

At the YMCA, character development and values are a part of who we are. At our YMCA, that means more than just activities. We believe character development is an important challenge for all of us – staff, volunteers, members, participants, and parents – to accept and demonstrate the positive values of caring, respect, honesty, and responsibility.

The YMCA also adopts the practices of the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets that help young people make wise decisions, choose positive paths, and grow up competent, caring, and responsible. The assets are grouped into eight categories:

1. Support
2. Empowerment
3. Boundaries and Expectations
4. Constructive Use of Time
5. Commitment to Learning
6. Positive Values
7. Social Competencies
8. Positive Identity

TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

6:45 Wake up
7:15 Hilltop Play or Iron Hike
8:00 Raise Flag
8:15 Breakfast
9:00 Morning Meeting
9:15 Elective Choice Activities
12:00 Lunch
12:45 Cabin Activities
3:15 Free swim
4:20 Rest Hour
5:20 Flag Lowering
5:30 Dinner
6:10 Camp Store/Hilltop Play
7:00 Evening Program
8:30 Cabin Reflection
9:30 Lights Out!

CAMP TIPP ELECTIVES

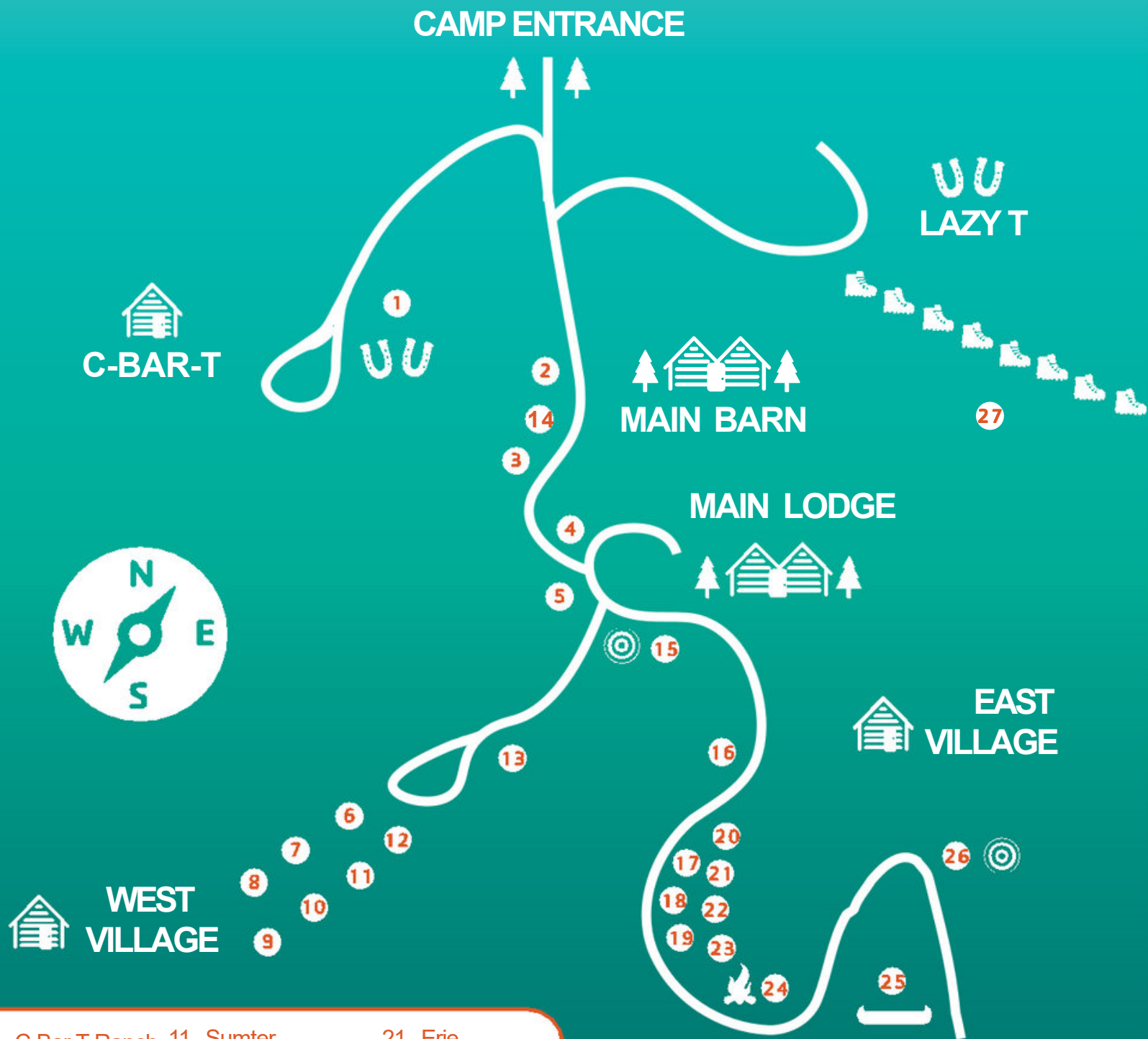
Archery
Archery Tag
Creek Hike
Farm fun
Arts and Crafts
Low Ropes Course
Giant Swing
Zipline
Tie Dye
Horseback riding
Pontoon Ride
Kayaking
Canoeing
Fishing
Nature Center
Kickball
Gaga Ball
Target Sports
Pickup Football
Fire making
Survival skills



**Want to see photos of
your kids?**

**Log into your account
for links to our secure
photo site**

YMCA CAMP TIPPECANOE



- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. C Bar T Ranch | 11. Sumter | 21. Erie |
| 2. Maintenance | 12. Custer | 22. Huron |
| 3. Eagle's Nest | 13. Bathrooms | 23. Shawnee |
| 4. Office | 14. Main CampFire | 24. Nature Ctr |
| 5. Bear's Den | 15. Archery | 25. Boathouse |
| 6. Pitt | 16. Bathrooms | 26. BB Range |
| 7. Niagara | 17. Sioux | 27. Fox Fire Ridge |
| 8. Dodge | 18. Apache | |
| 9. Carson | 19. Comanche | |
| 10. Laramie | 20. Crow | |

REGISTRATION & PAPERWORK

How to Register

All registrations require a completed registration form per camper and a \$75 non-refundable deposit per camper per program.

1. Register online at www.camptipp.org.

The deposit is applied to your total camp fee and reserves your camper a spot for that registered session. Balances must be paid in full two weeks prior to camp; campers with outstanding balances at check-in must pay their balance before attending their session. You may make payments on the balance anytime prior to the deadline.

For your convenience, our registration website will email payment reminders with balance included. You can pay balances through this web site. Payment plans can be set up at the time of registration.

In order to complete your camper's registration, you must fill out all required paperwork, including health forms and activity waivers.

Required Paperwork

To ensure that our staff is well-informed on how to best care for your child, we ask that you complete all forms at least two weeks prior to arrival at camp.

Financial Assistance

We promise to not turn anyone away due to an inability to pay. We provide financial assistance through our Annual Campaign to help families in need. Assistance is determined using Federal Income guidelines. All families awarded assistance are still asked to pay the \$75 non-refundable deposit and the remaining balance is based upon qualified amount. Financial assistance can be applied to a maximum of two weeks of camp. Applications for financial assistance are available at ymcastark.org or by contacting us at 330.499.2587 or by email at ycamptipp@ymcastark.org. All financial assistance applications must be sent to the Registration Office at least three weeks prior to desired camp session.

Transfer Policy

Transfers from one session to another will only be made if space is available, with at least one week's notice. Should your camper not be able to attend their session, you can transfer their payments to a sibling.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

We want every camper to be able to experience Tippecanoe, however, we recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances that may create a need to change plans. Refunds can be made available within the following set of circumstances:

- Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days before your session and applies to current year only.
- Full refunds can be made when a written notice is received to camptipp@ymcastark.org with at least 30 days notice prior to arrival. No refunds will be granted within the 30 days prior to arrival at camp.
 - The only exception is for a medical reason; full refunds can be made at any time prior to arrival only when a physician's written notice is received. Campers sent home by staff due to medical reasons are refunded on a pro-rated basis.
- No refunds are granted for homesickness or disruptive behavior that results in a camper being sent home.

TRADING POST CAMP STORE

The Trading Post is our camp store, filled with snacks, keepsakes, clothing, and other goodies. The Trading Post is open for purchases during Check Out and periodically throughout the camp session.

How does the Trading Post work?

- Campers can make purchases at the Trading Post through their Spending Account. The Spending Account is a running balance used for all Trading Post purchases while at camp. You deposit money into your child's Spending Account before camp (or at Check In) so your child can purchase items throughout their week at camp.
- Deposit money into your child's Spending Account by filling out the online form at time of registration or at Check-In with the office manager.
- \$25 is suggested for a weekly account, or \$50 for a two-week camp session.
-

Care Packages

We encourage you to send care packages for campers during their stay. You are welcome to supply your own care package in a shoe-box sized plastic container. Fill it with favorite trinkets, playing cards, snacks, and other treasures for your child. Please do not include any items containing tree nuts or peanuts in your care package. We will deliver your care package to your child on Wednesday of their camp session.

If you don't have time to put together your own care package but want to send one for your child, we have you covered! We offer care packages for purchase for \$25. These care packages include a 2025 T Shirt, some candy, and a water bottle. The care packages can be ordered online via the CampDoc registration process.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Our staff is First Aid and CPR certified and prepared to handle minor cuts and bruises. Any health concern beyond what a counselor can handle is directed to the Health Coordinator. Our Camp Health Coordinator handles and directs all health concerns alongside the Camp Director in the following manner:

- Parents are contacted when a camper gets more than a scrape or bruise.
- If your camper should find a tick on themselves, it will be removed and stored by the Health Coordinator. You will be contacted promptly.
- Campers spending more than 12 hours in the Health Lodge will be asked to be picked up to go home. Refunds are given on a pro-rated basis.
- In the case of serious illness or accident involving your child, we make every effort to immediately contact you with the status of your camper. However if we cannot, camp staff will act on your behalf with medical personnel. You will be promptly notified with updates.
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For the safety of your camper, please include all health history, immunization records, medical insurance, and Dr. information in your camper's Health Information Form, sent to you in your welcome email.

Illness Policy

In an effort to mitigate the spread of communicable illness at camp, we ask that you inform the staff at Camp Tippecanoe if your child or anyone in their household is exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19. If your child or anyone in your household exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you keep your child home from all programming until symptoms subside and the child is cleared by a physician. If your child starts to exhibit symptoms while in care, we ask that you pick them up immediately upon being called. Camp Tippecanoe will follow all guidelines and policies set forth by the YMCA regarding the COVID pandemic.

Any camper who has an unexplained fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit for over an hour will be sent home. They may return after being fever-free for over 24 hours.

Medications

All prescription medications need to remain in their original prescription containers and will be dispensed by the Health Coordinator. Please send clear directions with all medications. All medicine will be given according to the label on the prescription container unless otherwise specifically authorized by the child's physician in writing.

OTC (Over The Counter Medications) must be in their original container and medication must be consistent with manufactures recommended dose, frequency, and purpose. Camp and our health care providers may require additional documentation from your physician for OTC medications they are unfamiliar with. If you have a concern, please call and speak with our health care provider prior to your camp session.

Our Health care providers cannot administer non-commercial medications (herbs, tinctures, etc.)

Severe Weather Policy

Under severe weather warnings, all camp activities are suspended and campers are moved inside to safe locations. Campers will remain inside safe locations until warnings are lifted or an all clear is given by the Camp Director or Safety Officer. Camp uses FEMA disaster standards and practices for emergency and severe weather situations. In the case of severe weather at camp, we work with the YMCA of Central Stark County Corporate Staff to post notices on social media, website, and email to all camper parents.

Missing Home While at Camp

Campers having feelings of missing home is normal, especially if it's their first time at camp. Our staff makes every effort to help campers make friends and create a comfortable cabin atmosphere. With proper handling by the staff, campers, and parents, homesickness can be overcome. Here's how you can help:

- Campers love to hear from you; write them letters ahead of time to mail to camp. Additionally, you can send camper letters through Our Ultra Camp registration software
- Send along a favorite toy, stuffed animal, or book to help them feel "at home."
- Do not let your camper know that he/she can call home; hearing your voice often causes the camper to miss home even more
- Contact Camp Staff if you have any specific concerns.

Often it is the parents who are "child sick" and this reflects onto the camper. We ask that you allow staff to effectively work with your camper to overcome homesickness and be comfortable at camp. Please note that campers picked up and returned home due to homesickness will not receive a refund.

ACCOMMODATIONS & BEHAVIOR POLICIES

Dietary Needs/Restrictions

We do our best to accommodate special dietary needs and requests for your camper. Our camp cook will be available to discuss the menu for your camper's session and work with you to make accommodations as necessary. Campers with severe food allergies or major health concerns are also permitted to send food to camp, at the parent's expense. If providing food for your camper, please provide their daily menu with portions for your camper along with any written instructions that may be necessary. All dietary needs/requests must be sent to campoffice@ymcastark.org at least two weeks prior to arrival at camp.

Special Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Considerations

Our caring and experienced staff are trained to work with kids from all backgrounds and treat every camper with equality. In order to accomplish this goal, we need your help by:

- Being honest and detailed when filling out the Camper Profile & Release Form
- Informing us of any special emotional/behavioral/mental considerations for your child
- Not removing your child from his/her behavioral medications while at camp

Campers found to be beyond the scope of our staff will be asked to leave camp for the safety and best interest of everyone at camp. The Camp Director will work with parents/guardians to find a camp that best fits the needs of your child.

Behavior Policies

Camp staff focus on bringing campers together to create a community in a positive atmosphere. However, at times, disruptive behavior can arise among one or a few campers. Our staff is trained on how to deal with these types of problems on a case-by-case basis using positive reinforcement tactics. Camp has established two classifications of unacceptable behavior for our campers and how to deal with them:

General Disruptive Behavior (GDB): includes but is not limited to profanity, verbal abuse, uncooperative attitude, and bullying. GDB instances are dealt with in the following manner:

1. Counselors discuss the instance with the camper using positive redirection. According to Piaget's Stage Theory, as children grow older, they progress through several stages of reasoning behind thought. At young ages, children learn to avoid negative behaviors because there are disciplinary consequences. As children age, they learn that they should avoid negative behaviors because the behaviors themselves have negative impacts on others and should thus be avoided. At Camp Tippecanoe, staff are trained to support your child's cognitive development by explaining why the exhibited behavior had negative consequences on others, give the child positive alternatives, and implement a disciplinary consequence as appropriate.
2. Should further problems persist, the Village Director or Program Director will step in. They will work to create a plan for behavioral success with the camper which includes disciplinary consequences and appropriate positive behaviors.
3. If above actions fails to correct behavior, parents are notified of the problem. Parents and the Camp Director discuss the behavior and agree on a plan to modify behavior.
4. If disruptive behavior continues after #3, parents are notified and dismissal from camp may occur.

Dangerous Behavior and Actions (DBA): includes but not limited to theft, physical violence, property damage, assault of any type, possession of illegal items, or continual cabin or program disruptive behavior. We have a zero tolerance for violence, abuse or bullying. Campers that have DBA are brought to the attention of the Camp Director immediately, parents are notified, and dismissal from camp may occur.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP



Packing Tips

- Campers are not permitted to have cell phones on camp, so they can connect with each other and the nature that surrounds them.
- Pack with your camper so you both know what is going to camp.
- Campers get dirty and messy - pack old clothes and shoes!
- Mark all items, clothes, suitcases, and bags with your camper's first and last name. We are not responsible for lost items; a Lost & Found station is set up at Check Out for you to look for items that may be your camper's. All Lost & Found items left at camp are donated to a charitable cause after one month if unclaimed.
- Do not pack electronic items, cell phones, valuables, firearms, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, aerosol cans of any kind, or pets.
- No food in the cabins please. You can pack food in your camper's care package (more info about care packages on page 7).
- If your camper will be with us for multiple weeks, please pack enough to last those weeks. Laundry service is NOT available

Suggested Items for One Week of Camp

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • T-Shirts (7) | • Sunglasses |
| • Shorts (7) | • Beach Towel |
| • Jeans/Pants (2-3 pair) | • Pillow and Case |
| • Long-sleeved shirt (1) | • Sleeping Bag AND Bedding |
| • Pajamas (3) | • Dirty Laundry Bag |
| • Lightweight Jacket & Rain Coat (1) | • Tote/bag for toiletries |
| • Swimsuit (2) | • Shampoo/Soap/Deodorant |
| • Underwear (8) | • Tooth Brush and Paste |
| • Socks (8-10 pair) | • Towels and Washcloths (2-3) |
| • Sneakers | • Sunscreen (spray-on is preferred) |
| • Sandals with Heel Strap | • Bug Spray |
| • Water Shoes | • Flashlight and Batteries |
| • Backpack or Bag | • Water Bottle (Very Important!) |
| • Flip Flops for Shower | • Stuffed Animal for Bed Time |

Extra Items for Specialty Camps (Horse, Ridge, Expeditioners)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Sleeping Pad | • Helmet (Camp Can Supply) |
| • Large Backpack or Duffel Bag | • Socks (3-4 extra pair) |
| • Jeans/Long Pants for Riding, (3-4) | • Sweatshirt |
| • Heeled Shoes for Riding | • Bandannas (4-5) |

COMMUNICATION

Staff Contact Information

Molly Hudson	Program Director	mHUDSON@ymcastark.org	740.922.0679
Eva Airhart	Registration Coordinator	eaIrhart@ymcastark.org	330.499.2587
General Email campoffice@ymcastark.org			

Staying in touch with your camper

You are welcome to mail letters to your camper, just be sure to mail it early so it is received during their stay. Please address it in the format below:

Your Camper's Name, Camp Week
YMCA Camp Tippecanoe
81300 Stewart Rd
Tippecanoe, OH 44699

Photo Gallery: You will have access to secure photos for each of the weeks you've registered for. Link should be directly in Registration and supplied at check in

Phone: Phone calls to your camper are discouraged. Campers are not permitted to have cell phones on so they can connect with each other and the nature that surrounds them.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do you have a Lost and Found?

Yes we do! We encourage you to label all of your camper's belongings when packing, so if an item is lost it is easily identified. YMCA Camp Tippecanoe cannot be held accountable or responsible for any lost items during your camper's session. We do our best to gather lost items at the end of the session after Check Out. If an item is labeled, we will contact you to coordinate returning it to you. All unclaimed items will donated to a charitable cause after one month.

Is there a swim test?

Yes, all campers must pass a swim test to enter the deep swim area without a personal flotation device (PFD). If campers are not successful on the swim test or opt not to take it, they must wear a PFD at all times within the deep swim area. The swim test is not required to use watercraft, but all campers must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) while using any watercraft.

Is there an age limit for any activities?

Campers wishing to go on the zipline or inflatable must be at least 10 years old. Campers wishing to participate in shooting .22 rifles must be at least 13 years old.

Is there any equipment required for horse camp?

Helmets are provided by camp, but please make sure your camper has proper attire, pants and hard-soled heeled shoes that cover the entire foot.

My camper is not signed up for horse camp, but would like to ride a horse. Will they be able to?

Yes! Campers not enrolled in Horse Camp will still be given the opportunity to ride a horse during the week if they choose. Please just be sure they have proper attire, including long pants and hard-soled heeled shoes that cover the entire foot.

How do I voice a concern, grievance, or share positive feedback?

Your feedback is essential to helping us be a better summer camp and provide better experiences for kids, families and groups. If you feel comfortable, please call or email us. You may reach out to our program director, executive director or registration office. Phone number at camp, 740.922.0679 Program Director - Molly Hudson mhudson@ymcastark.org or Registrar Eva eairhart@ymcastark.org 330.499.2587. Anonymous feedback may be sent to us at camp : 81300 Stewart Rd. Tippecanoe, OH 44699 or to our Association Office HR Department : 4600 Dressler Rd. NW, Canton, OH 44718. Anonymous online options are available both through www.camptipp.org and www.ymcastark.org

What are some of our basic camper protection rules?

We love our Rule of 3's! We require this of our staff and campers. We want kids to always be in groups of three or more. This may include 3 campers, 2 campers 1 staff, or 2 staff and one camper. On occasion a staff may wish to speak with a camper without the group being involved. We train our staff to address camper issues in highly visible public spaces - like outside our lodge in plain view of anyone passing by. To be a staff member, everyone must go through extensive background screening, background checks, and assessing interviews.

What makes a staff qualified and what about their training?

Some of the powerful experiences at camp come from campers have "near-peer mentor" relationships. That our counselors are young enough to relate, but old enough to be responsible and role models. Staff hired for the entire summer go through a week long training that not only covers the basics of how to lead activities, but sessions on age group characteristics, camper needs, preventing abuse, positive discipline, home sickness, and developing character. Counselors get trained in first aid and CPR and have the option for additional advanced training in high ropes, life guarding, and / or wilderness first aid.