

YMCA Camp Weona

Where only good prevails.

Parent's Guide to Resident Camp

or

The 26 Most Common Questions
Parents Have About Camp

Business Office

YMCA Camp Weona
301 Cayuga Road
Buffalo, NY 14225
(716) 565-6008

Camp Location

YMCA Camp Weona
4025 Poplar Tree Road
Gainesville, NY 14066
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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YMCA CAMP WEONA

WHAT IS CAMP?

Welcome to YMCA Buffalo Niagara's resident camp, YMCA Camp Weona. Our camp name comes from a Seneca Native American word meaning "Where Only Good Prevails." Our goal is to provide a positive and enriching environment where children can enjoy the great outdoors to the fullest as they engage in a wide of range of activities that will challenge, educate, and entertain them while creating memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

WHERE IS CAMP LOCATED?

Located outside of Warsaw about an hour from Buffalo or Rochester, YMCA Camp Weona is nestled on nearly 1,000 acres of hardwood and pine forests. Our campgrounds are surrounded by miles of picturesque hiking trails, brooks, and offers a heated outdoor pool and both a high and low adventure ropes course, climbing tower with a zip line, two soccer fields, and canoeing on our twelve acre lake. Our indoor facilities include an arts and crafts studio, environmental classrooms, and a challenging rock climbing wall. It is the ideal setting for hands-on fun, adventure, and learning.

WHAT IS ACA?

YMCA Camp Weona is an American Camping Association accredited co-ed group work camp, inspected and certified annually by the NYS Health Department. The American Camp Association is a non-profit organization that members join voluntarily. With this in mind, YMCA Camp Weona has been a member for some 15 years and on a semiannual basis is visited by this organization and maintains over 300 standards of operation in camping. The standards establish guidelines for needed policies, procedures and practices. The camp, then, is responsible for on-going implementation of those policies. The standards are the industry standards and government recognized. YMCA Camp Weona is accredited by the American Camp Association for all program and site standards. For more information about ACA, please visit their web site at:

www.acacamps.org

WHAT ARE CABIN GROUPS?

Cabin groups consist of children enrolled in the same program and entering similar grades. Every cabin group plans age appropriate programs and special events throughout the session.

In most circumstances, 6 - 12 campers of the same age live together in a cabin with two leaders. In addition, members of the program staff are assigned cabins to live with and support. This family lifestyle emphasizes cooperation, self-esteem, success, and personal growth in a safe and nurturing environment.

WHAT ARE THE CAMP ACTIVITIES?

Our program is designed to give everyone the opportunity to experience all age appropriate camp activities. Special care is taken to ensure that each camper has challenging opportunities along with basic instruction.

Campers will go to most activities with their cabin group. Each day they will participate in age appropriate programs such as horseback riding, outdoor living skills, arts and crafts, athletics, swimming, archery, canoeing, and rock climbing.

At least once a day, time is set aside to allow campers to participate in an activity of their choice (i.e.: swimming, athletics or arts & crafts). This provides campers with the opportunity to meet and interact with campers from other cabin groups as well as their own cabin mates.

HOW ARE THE MEALS?

All campers eat their meals in the dining hall and are seated with their cabin group. Our full service kitchen adheres to NYS Health Department guidelines as well as ACA standards with regard to food service and menu preparation, ensuring that campers are offered well rounded and healthy food choices while at camp. Our sample menu is posted to our web site in the Camper Life page.

Snacks: Non-perishable snacks may be kept in cabins in a rubber maid closing container. Please remember that if you choose to send snacks – please consider sending enough for the entire cabin group.

WHO IS OUR STAFF?

The safety and wellbeing of your child is our highest priority here at YMCA Camp Weona. We take great care to ensure that each and every YMCA Camp Weona staff member is a professional of the highest caliber.

All camp staff are carefully screened, background checked, interviewed, and selected based on their desire, and ability to work effectively, creatively, and maturely with children.

Prior to the start of camp, each staff member is required to participate in a minimum of six full days of intensive training. This training includes risk management, emergency procedures, safety in all programs including water safety, childhood development stages, and positive disciplining techniques.

Our cabin leaders consist of both senior and junior leaders. They live in the cabin and are responsible for full time supervision.

Senior Cabin Leaders must be at least 18 years old or a high school graduate and have experience with camping and working with children

Junior Cabin Leaders must be at least 16 years old. Most have had previous experience working with children through YMCA Camp Weona's Leaders in Training (LIT) Program

Our activity staff are specially trained and hired for each unique activity area. These individuals follow a fun, and safe, age appropriate activities and implement them with the help of our cabin leaders. They too live in cabins and assist with your child's cabin group in non-programmed time.

Activity Staff must be at least 18 years of age, have training and leadership experience in their specific program area, and any required certifications necessary, as well as previous experience working with children in their specific area.

Activity Assistants must be at least 18 years old, have training and experience in their specific program area, and any certifications required, as well as previous experience working with children

Our "Professional Role Models" and will demonstrate the YMCA core values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility at all times. These leaders are responsible individuals who possess a strong service mentality, love of working with children and dedication to providing a fun and safe experience for your child.

STAFF AT A GLANCE:

- ✓ Culturally and Regionally diverse. We have leaders joining us from all over the world, the United States as well as local leaders who have grown up with YMCA Camp Weona.
- ✓ Handpicked by the Support Staff team based on successful past experience working with children, certifications for teaching program activities, leadership qualities and a strong dedication to positive work with youth.
- ✓ Successful completion of a background screening and positive reference checks.
- ✓ All waterfront staff holds a current American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification.
- ✓ Have a fun camp name that helps in creating a fun culture, but you are always welcome to ask them their real name and they will be pleased to share that as well.
- ✓ And finally, LOVE to work with KIDS!

Our leaders are here to help your child have a fun and exciting camp experience. They will always be attentive to the needs of campers and available for your child to share concerns or questions. Please take the time on check-in day to meet your camper's leader and learn about the wonderful role models who will help to make your child's camp experience a memorable one.

DO WE ACCEPT GRATUITIES?

We consider the staff at YMCA Camp Weona to be professionals of the highest caliber. They share our feelings that each camper has the right to equal treatment at camp. Tipping and accepting of other gratuities is therefore not permitted. Staff members understand that they can be terminated from employment for accepting a gratuity, and we ask that you not put them in this compromising position. Gifts in the leader's name may be made to our annual Strong Kids Campaign. This campaign raises funds to provide scholarship assistance for families in need so that no child is turned away from a YMCA Camp Weona summer adventure because of an inability to pay.

WHAT ARE THE CAMP BILLING PROCEDURES?

The balance for camp is due three weeks prior to the start of the session. A reminder statement showing your balance due, along with the session(s) registered for, will be mailed to you prior to your due date. *Keep in mind, your child's space will not be held if there is a waiting list and your payment is not received by the due date.*

As the summer progresses, if a camper would like to register for an additional session we will do our best to accommodate him/her. We ask that you let the camp office know of your request as soon as possible.

WHAT IS OUR REFUND POLICY?

In the case of illness, injury, or summer school prior to your child's arrival at camp, all paid fees will be refunded with written notice from a physician or school official. There are no refunds for homesickness and we ask that you discuss how to prevent this issue with the camp directing team prior to camp.

Families with children dismissed from camp for behavior reasons will NOT be refunded.

WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD THE CAMP FEE (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE)?

There are several ways that the YMCA assists families listed below.

YMCA Strong Kids Scholarships:

Through the annual Strong Kids Campaign, YMCA Camp Weona offers scholarship assistance based on available funds to families that qualify. Financial assistance forms are available upon request from our business office. Please apply early by contacting our business office. All information is held in the strictest confidence.

Department of Social Services Funding:

If your family is eligible for DSS (Department of Social Services) funding you must apply for assistance prior to applying for YMCA financial assistance. Once acceptance or declination is made by DSS, YMCA Camp Weona will evaluate your eligibility for YMCA financial assistance.

Earn Your Way to Camp:

In addition to financial assistance, the YMCA offers families the opportunity to sell candy in order to defer the costs of summer camp. Fifty cents of each \$1.00 candy bar sale is applied to your camp balance. Please call our business office at (716) 565-6008 for complete details.

Gift Certificates:

YMCA Buffalo Niagara gift certificates can be purchased and redeemed towards a session at YMCA Camp Weona or any other YMCA program at our other Buffalo Niagara family branches. A gift certificate would be the perfect surprise for any camper! Please call our business office at (716) 565-6008 to request more information.

WHAT DO I NEED TO FILL OUT? (PAPERWORK)

And when is it due? *(Due 3 weeks prior to the start of camp)*

Listed below are the four required camp forms that must be completed and returned to the camp business office three weeks prior to the start of your child's first session. Please note, total completion of all forms will make check in day much faster for you and your camper!

- 1) **Camper Information Form Parent/Guardian (Yellow):** Parents/Guardians should answer all questions honestly and as specific as possible. This information will help staff individualize programming and better relate to your child. All information on the Camper Information Form is confidential. It authorizes a partnership between you and YMCA Camp Weona that enables us to act in the best interest of your camper(s).

This form also contains the **bunkmate request** section. Please be advised, if your child wishes to be placed in a cabin with a friend this is the only appropriate place to voice that request.

- 2) **Medical Form (Green): Campers cannot be accepted without their completed medical form.**

- o The medical form is to be completed by your child's physician following a complete physical examination of your child (physical examination completed within 12 months of attendance is acceptable). This form must have your child's physician's signature and license number on it.

- Our Health Staff cannot administer any medications (prescription, over-the-counter medication or vitamins) without written authorization from your child's primary physician. If your child is bringing any medication to camp, an original prescription must be submitted along with the health form. The doctor's orders and the directions on the medicine bottle must match.
- **The Health Form also includes important contact information for parents/guardians and emergency contacts. At least one of these contacts must be available to pick up your camper due to illness, behavior, or other emergency.**
- **Meningitis Form (White):** As of August 15, 2003, the New York State Public Health Law requires camps across the state to inform parents/guardians about risks associated with meningitis. YMCA Camp Weona must have on record your acknowledgement of this information as well as a signed statement regarding your child's status with regards to immunization. Please refer to the enclosed letter and fact sheet.

HOW DO I PREPARE MY CHILD FOR CAMP?

Camp should be something that a child looks forward to. It is better to create an attitude of what they are looking forward to doing, instead of what they may be leaving behind at home. Initial homesickness (try not to use this word in front of your camper) especially for a first time camper is not unusual. Below is a list of tips to help make your child's transition to camp an easier one. Telephones, including cell phones, are not available for camper use. Be assured if homesickness is extreme we will contact you.

- Emphasize that your child is "going" to camp rather than "being sent" to camp.
- Talk openly about attending camp with your child well before they go to camp. Most campers feel less anxiety knowing their feelings aren't unique.
- Avoid encouraging your child to feel guilty about leaving you. Telling him/her "I am going to miss you so much...I can't wait until you get back" may encourage guilty feelings. Statements such as "I am so excited for you! What a great experience!" seem to work better
- Set your child up with a journal or camera for capturing their camp experiences to share with family and friends when they get home
- Creating a beautiful picture of camp is important, but also be honest with your child about the rustic camp life they might not be accustomed to. The spiders and forest critters may want to say hello after the long winter alone at YMCA Camp Weona
- Avoid saying "If you don't like camp, you can come home." This statement can cause an apprehensive child to focus on going home right from the start, instead of trying to give the camp experience a chance

You can help your child get excited about camp by doing the following:

- ❖ Ask them if they have any questions or concerns about camp. If you need additional information to help answer, please call the camp office. Having answers about what to expect will help your child feel more comfortable.

- ❖ Do not mention the word “homesickness”. Sometimes children experience this because they anticipated they would. Instead, empower your child by being positive about their ability to be away from home.
- ❖ Emphasize the exciting things they will be experiencing rather than focusing on fears.
- ❖ Remind them that there will be no phone calls between you. Prepare them to write letters by sending pre-stamped and written envelopes, paper and pen.
- ❖ Ensure them that you will communicate either through email or letters, and then follow through. It will make their day!
- ❖ Discuss what they should do if they have a problem at camp. Encourage them to talk with their cabin leader when they have a concern, or to ask to see the health care specialist.
- ❖ Remind them that you will miss them, but you are excited for this opportunity. Some children become homesick because they worry about how their parents are doing without them!
- ❖ Pack a few familiar items for your camper to decorate his/her bunk space. Pictures, notes, stuffed animals or a favorite blanket help to make camp feel like home.
- ❖ You know your child best! Please anticipate any problems and share your concerns with the cabin leader so that they may be prepared.

WHAT SHOULD WE PACK?

In order to keep our cabins as roomy and safe as possible, we suggest that your child packs:

- his or her bedding materials in a duffel bag;
- his or her clothing in a duffel bag or suitcase that fits under the bunks;
- a sleeping bag for campouts. (Sleeping bags are used for campouts and could potentially get dirty/wet. It is therefore a good idea to have regular bedding for use inside the cabin.)

Please do not pack large suitcases or footlockers as they will not fit under the bunks.

There are no laundry facilities available for campers staying less than two sessions. They should bring enough clothes for the entire 7 or 14 day session. Keep in mind that to function and enjoy certain activities, a child must have suitable attire (i.e.: rain gear for rainy days or sweatshirt for chilly nights.)

WHAT I SHOULD NOT SEND?

Cell phones, electronic games, ipods, DVD players, etc. are prohibited. These are considered “anti-social devices” and work against the foundations of camp. Any such items will be removed from the cabin and properly secured in the camp office. Please see the following page for suggested packing list.

Please note that this list is for a typical 1 week long session – if you are attending multiple weeks and Weekend camp, please visit the camp web site at www.campweona.org and click on the Parent Page and then on the Weekend Camp Packing List as well.

SUGGESTED 7 DAY PACKING LIST
(*Please label all of your child's items!***)**

Clothing

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 pairs of shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 T-shirts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 pairs of underwear | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 pairs of socks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs of jeans | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair of warm pajamas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bathing suit | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 sweater and jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts | |

Absolute Musts

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> water bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> backpack or day pack | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush and toothpaste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs of sneakers | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap and shampoo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sleeping bag (for campouts) | <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> raincoat and hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair brush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flashlight and batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Female hygiene products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mosquito repellent* | <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry bag for dirty clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *please, no aerosol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stationary, stamps, and pens | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower shoes |

Linens

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 sheets (twin size) | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pillowcases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 blankets (1 heavy, 1 light) | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 wash cloths | |

Optional Items

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Instrument |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deck of Cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books | |

HOW DO WE HANDLE LOST & FOUND?

Please be sure to label all of your child's items as YMCA Camp Weona assumes no responsibility for lost articles. The camp will attempt to return any and all lost articles while the camper is still at camp. Any remaining lost items at the end of the session will be displayed on pickup day at the pavilion next to Hyde Lodge. Please make every effort to check the lost and found before departing for home.

HOW DO I GET MY CAMPER TO CAMP?

YMCA Camp Weona does not provide transportation to or from camp. Arrangements for transportation are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Directions from Buffalo:

- Take the 90 West (NYS Thruway) to 400 South
- Exit 400 at East Aurora/20A
- Make a left off exit onto 20A
- Travel 20A East Through Varysburg
- 4 miles past Varysburg look for the Mini Mart/motel on right (corner of Orangeville Center County Rd)
- Make a right on Orangeville Center Rd

- Continue on Orangeville Center Road. Keep going straight as road becomes a dirt road and changes to Poplar Tree Rd. (look for Camp Weona sign)
- Continue one mile on Poplar Tree Road. Camp is up hill on your left. Look for sign and beige house and red barn.

Directions from Rochester:

- Take Interstate 490 West to Leroy Exit
- Make right off exit onto Rte. 19 South
- Take 19 South through Leroy and Pavilion to Warsaw
- Travel straight through the Village of Warsaw to the stoplight. Make a right at the light onto 20A West.
- Take 20A West 5 miles out of Warsaw to the Mini Mart/ Motel on your left
- At this corner make a left onto Orangeville Center Rd.
- Continue on Orangeville Center Road. Keep going straight as road becomes a dirt road and changes to Poplar Tree Rd. (look for Camp Weona sign)
- Continue one mile on Poplar Tree Road. Camp is up hill on your left. Look for sign and beige house and red barn.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I ARRIVE AT CAMP?

Please plan on arriving at camp on Sunday at 2:30PM. Arriving early will only increase your wait time. Our staff needs time to prepare for your child, so please do not arrive before 2:30PM.

Onsite Registration/ Check-In:

Once registration begins at 2:30PM, campers and parents will be directed to the barn where they will receive their cabin assignments, turn in all forms, get a health screening, and verify which choices of skills (if applicable) that your camper may want to participate. From there you will drive your child to their cabin where they will meet with your camper's cabin leader. This includes an interview of all campers to update any changes in health, scalp screenings, and cabin assignments.

Please note, if your child is bringing any prescription medication, vitamins, or over-the-counter medication you must check in with the Health Director during check in at the barn.

Late Arrivals (After 4:00PM):

If your child arrives to camp after 4:00PM, you must check in with the Camp Health Director at the Health Lodge, in Lower Camp. Please follow the signage when you pull in the driveway to get to Lower Camp and the Health Lodge.

Parent Departure:

Whether your child is a first time camper or a veteran, arrival at camp can be a time of fear, apprehension, excitement, and wonder. The best thing you can do for your child is get him/her settled in his/her bunk, say your goodbye to him/her, and let YMCA Camp Weona staff establish the warm caring camp atmosphere. Therefore, all parents are asked to depart camp by 3:30 PM at the latest.

HOW DO I PICK UP MY CHILD FROM CAMP?

Parents are asked to make every effort to adhere to the departure times listed below. *(Please no early or late arrivals!)*

- **The official pickup time for our regular sessions is 10:00 AM on the last Saturday of your child's session.**
- **The official pickup time for Mini Camps is 5:30 PM on Thursday.**

For Your Child's Safety:

- Please proceed directly to your child's cabin. There you will meet your child and his/her Cabin Leader and sign your child out in the village with the designated staff member.
- Prior written authorization must be given in advance for those people eligible to pick up your child.
- Proper photo ID will be necessary.

Early Departures:

If you need to pick up your child early, we ask that you give us advance notice so we can have your child ready. Upon arrival to camp, please proceed to the Health Lodge where you will sign your child out with our Camp Health Director. You may reach our Health Director at (585) 786-5120 during the summer camp season.

HOW DO WE HANDLE YOUR CAMPER'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS?

Our health professional lives on site 24 hours a day in the YMCA Camp Weona Health Lodge. This certified professional, in conjunction with input provided by you, your child's physician, and if necessary, the local hospital will make decisions regarding the health and wellness of your camper throughout his/her stay at YMCA Camp Weona.

It is imperative that you:

- accurately and completely fill out all health forms provided
- take the time during onsite registration to discuss any specific concerns that you may have regarding your child's health while at camp

Medication: All medication **must be in the original container**, labeled with the dosage, the name of the drug, and the child's name, in order for the camp nurse to dispense it. The physician should list the medications and dispensing instructions on the camper's Medical Form (green). Also, each medication, including over-the-counter drugs and vitamins must be accompanied with an original prescription. We carry a full supply of over-the-counter medications that our camp nurse will dispense with your physician's written consent. Please make sure to inform our Health Care staff of any recent medication changes or other noteworthy issues that may have an impact on your camper's behavior.

Medical Emergency Information: Both parents, if possible, will be notified of an injury or illness that requires emergency medical treatment. Campers will be transported to Wyoming County Hospital which is located 15 minutes from camp. 911 and local ambulance companies will handle emergencies.

We do our best to make your child's camp experience accident and illness free. However, in the event that something does occur we are prepared.

- ✓ Our health care specialist is on site at camp during the entire time your camper is here. Our specialist will treat minor cuts, scrapes and illnesses.
- ✓ You will check in with the health care specialist on the first day of camp. At that time, any medications need to be turned in their original bottles with the original doctors prescription/dosage clearly marked on the pharmacy labels. Please also share any health

information that will make your child's stay more enjoyable. The more we know about our camper's needs, the better we can serve them and ensure a positive experience.

- ✓ In the event of sickness or emergency you will be notified by phone. Please make sure we have all your contact information on the health forms.
- ✓ We understand your interest in privacy relating to your child's medical needs and will do our best to keep all Health Lodge visits and medications a matter of private business.

The Health Center staff will contact families if:

- your child spends the night in the health center
- your child has been to multiple sick calls for the same illness
- there is an injury to the head, back, eye or a severe cut or injury
- your child has a fever for more than 24 hours
- there is a medical emergency

WHAT ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS OF EACH CAMPER?

YMCA Camp Weona is a place where children discover their potential and grow as individuals. We use the YMCA's four core values of honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility to help us reach this goal. In our unique environment campers meet both mental and physical challenges, gain confidence, and become skilled team players. It is an experience unlike any other. Campers and Cabin Leaders together build relationships that will last a lifetime.

Your child's success at YMCA Camp Weona requires their ability to independently, safely, and cooperatively:

- Live with six to twelve similarly aged campers (with adult supervision) and actively participate in group activities.
- Be responsible for personal care, health and hygiene.
- Exhibit appropriate behavior without excessive individualized attention.
- Enjoy the outdoors including campouts under the stars and hikes on the rugged trails.
- Participate in YMCA Camp Weona's unique group activities and traditions such as singing at campfires and "round-ups" before meals.
- Contribute to the overall enthusiastic atmosphere of the camp community.

Camper Conduct:

All campers are entitled to experience and enjoy all aspects of camp. YMCA Camp Weona programs aim to foster personal growth, and a sense of community and belonging within a safe and fun environment.

WHAT ARE THE YMCA'S FOUR CORE VALUES THAT SERVE AS OUR BEHAVIOR GUIDE?

- Honesty – when a mistake is made own up to it
- Caring – about yourself, fellow campers, staff, and camp property
- Respect – for yourself, your fellow campers, the staff and our camp
- Responsibility – for your actions, personal belongings, and your camp involvement

HOW DO WE HANDLE CAMPER DISCIPLINE?

The staff at YMCA Camp Weona works hard to insure a safe, enjoyable experience for all campers. However, there may be times when camp staff will need to work with a camper who finds it difficult to follow YMCA Camp Weona's policies and/or who infringes upon the rights of other's enjoyable experience. YMCA staff will make every effort to work with a child to remedy negative behaviors using the following four step discipline process:

If/When a camper's behavior/actions warrant it, the following disciplinary steps will be taken:

- ❖ 1st Infraction: Cabin Leader will address behavior/action with the camper, allowing camper to demonstrate understanding and change behavior.
- ❖ 2nd Infraction: Senior staff will meet with camper to discuss possible solutions/compromise.
- ❖ 3rd Infraction: Camper will meet with Program Director. Parental contact and clear objectives to remedy behavior will be established.
- ❖ 4th Infraction: If necessary, at the discretion of the Camp Executive Director, camper will be removed from camp (no refunds).

The above plan will be bypassed and will result in immediate dismissal from camp in the following instances:

- Smoking or possession of tobacco products
- Violence
- Drinking or possession of Alcohol
- Use (and/or abuse) of Drugs prescription or otherwise

Bullying Prevention

YMCA Camp Weona takes a stand

Bullying Policy

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace: through the use of e-mails, text messaging, instant messaging, and other less direct methods. This type of bullying can also lead to persons being hurt during or between the camp seasons and be especially hurtful when persons are targeted with meanness and exclusion.

At YMCA Camp Weona bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying.

Our Camp philosophy is based on our mission statement which ensures that every camper is accepted. We are open to all to develop the spirit, mind and body.

Given our Group Work Camp model, we work together as a team to ensure that campers gain self-confidence, make new friends, and go home with great memories.

Unfortunately, persons who are bullied may not have the same potential to get the most out of their camp experience. Sometimes those who are bullied may not want to speak out.

Our leadership addresses all known incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication with their staff and their campers so both staff and campers will be comfortable alerting us to any problems during their camp experience and between camp seasons.

Every person has the right to expect to have the best possible experience at camp, and by working together as a team to identify and manage bullying, we can help ensure that all campers and staff have a great summer at the YMCA Camp Weona.

Reason for the Rules:

Please keep in mind that our program has unique requirements. Our standards are a result of the high expectations we must meet to provide 24-hour care for the campers we serve. The natural environment, outdoor activity schedule, and resident setting all require that we take safety very seriously. If a child exhibits defiance, lack of respect, fighting, stealing, or any other

behavior that puts either themselves or others in danger, they cannot remain as a participant in our program.

It is not abnormal for some children to misbehave. This is a fact. In addition, when they do, it is necessary to impose corrections so that they will not repeat actions that are antisocial, wrong, harmful, or not in the spirit of Camp.

That being the case, what might we do to discipline your child? The YMCA does not support any forms of discipline which may be harmful, cruel, embarrassing or neglectful. Your child's needs and safety are always a top priority, even when dealing with misbehavior. We emphasize the use of natural and logical consequences whenever possible and will make every attempt to maintain your child's privacy in personal matters of discipline.

CAN I VISIT OR CALL MY CHILD AT CAMP?

Parents are discouraged from visiting or calling campers during the session. Camp is a time for children to grow and gain self-esteem through experiencing independence. Our experience shows that if a child is visited they will grow homesick and wish to return home. If you want to be at Camp with your child, please, sign up for YMCA Adventure Guides or Family Camp!

Campers cannot receive or place phone calls while at camp. Any messages that need to be relayed to a camper can be sent by telephone or emailed to the camp. All messages will be relayed through the Unit Directors. Please do not send a cell phone to camp as it interferes with the camp programs and will be confiscated and returned to you upon departure.

Please help prepare your child for camp by expressing enthusiasm for their chance to show independence but do remind them that you will think about them while they are away. Let them know that calling home is not an option; however they may write and receive letters.

Phones:

Phones are reserved for emergency and business purposes only. *Campers are not permitted personal use of the phone.* If an emergency arises at home please contact the Health Director at the Health Lodge. Our staff will deliver your message to your camper(s). If there is a problem at camp, parents/guardians will be notified by the camp office or Health Director.

Mail:

Receiving mail is very important to all campers. They love hearing from parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. We ask that you write your child at least twice a week. At drop off please ask your child's leader the name of his/her cabin. You can address your letters as follows:

Child's name
CABIN NAME
YMCA Camp Weona
4025 Poplar Tree Rd.
Gainesville, NY 14066

We also encourage campers to write home at least once a week. To help make this possible we ask that you send your child to camp with mailing supplies. This could include pens, paper, stamps, and pre addressed envelopes.

Camp Photos/ News:

Pictures are updated late each evening and can be accessed at YMCA Camp Weona's website: www.campweona.org (scroll over Parents tab at the top of our homepage, click camp photos) Click new user there is no charge to create an account or just to view pictures. This service is provided by Bunk1. Bunk1 also has the ability for you to send your child e-mails for a nominal fee. Bunk1 also offers an additional option where your child can reply to your emails through a special Bunk1 form that prints out with your email. There is an additional fee for this. All payments for this service are made directly to Bunk1. E-mails are distributed once a day. Bunk1 link below:

http://www.bunk1.com/template/login.asp?origin=/template/community.asp&form_camp_id=6130

WHAT IS THE FINAL WORD?

As with any document, this document is reviewed each November and changes may occur. The YMCA and its staff reserve the right to make changes with regard to the program. We anticipate this will not be necessary, however life is full of changes and we can never predict what may occur days or months down the line. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and participation.

WHAT ARE THE YMCA CAMP WEONA'S IMPORTANT NAMES AND NUMBERS

A.L. Ferreira	Executive Director
Kim Brown	Business and Sale Coordinator
Tim Marble	Maintenance Supervisor
Natalie Murrett	Food Service Coordinator

Camp Weona Business Office:

Phone: (716) 565-6008
 (Mon-Fri, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM)
 Fax: (716) 565-6007

June 27 to August 13 Only - On-Site**Camp Health Lodge:**

Phone: (585) 786-5120
 Fax: (585) 786-0637