



YMCA OF GREATER HARTFORD



# 2024 SUMMER PARENT GUIDE YMCA CAMP CHASE



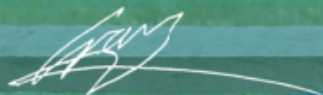
# DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS

We are so glad you have chosen to join us! Whether you are a new or returning camp family, we hope you are as excited about Summer Camp 2024 as we are!

Our goal at Camp Chase is to create a place where lifelong friendships begin and kids can learn new things. Camp is about developing life skills that help kids build and maintain positive relationships, appreciating the differences in others, and feeling confident in the person they are becoming. Our staff is selected for their maturity, character and leadership capabilities to be positive role models for our campers. Many of our staff were campers at Chase. We select our other staff members from across the world and colleges throughout the US.

This Parent/Camper Handbook should answer many of your questions concerning your campers' upcoming summer camp experience. Please read and save this guide as you will need it now and as your summer camp session approaches. We look forward to partnering with you and your camper!

In the Spirit of Camp,



Craig Dawson  
Executive Director

## CARING

Thinking beyond yourself to consider others and the greater good of our community.

## HONESTY

Telling the truth and becoming someone others know they can trust.

## RESPECT

The Golden Rule: recognizing your own sense of worth as well as that of others.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Learn what is within your own control and take accountability for it.



## OUR MISSION

The YMCA of Greater Hartford is a charitable association open to all and committed to helping people develop their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body. This commitment is reinforced by our belief in living out universal values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

# OUR VALUES

Parents, please cooperate with us by sharing these camp rules and procedures with your campers before they come to camp. Please share with your camper the importance of good behavior patterns at camp and on field trips. The families' participation in these efforts is crucial. We want your camper to have a wonderful time while keeping the program safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Stay with your group at all times.

Respect and obey all staff. (counselors, aquatics staff, and directors)

Take pride in the facility and equipment.

Be mindful of what words you use

Keep your hands to yourself. No fighting

Follow all aquatic rules. They are there to keep you safe.

Follow the Golden Rule: Do for others what you would want others to do for you.

Speak for yourself... not for everybody else.

Show respect... every person is important.

Listen to others... then they will listen to you.

# GENERAL INFORMATION



## ABSENCES

Please call between 8:00a and 9:00a if your child will not be in camp that day. It is extremely important for us to have confirmed absences. The YMCA cannot deduct days missed from your fee. When registering your child for any of the weeks of camp, we reserved a space for your child. We make a commitment to staff, space, and materials based on your registration. Therefore, if your child is absent from camp, no refunds will be made.

## EARLY DISMISSALS

For any changes to pick up, or to notify us of an early dismissal. Parents must notify camp prior to 11:00 a.m. for early pickup. Please pick your camper up BEFORE 3:00 p.m. or at Parent Pickup at 4:00 p.m. Children will only be released to individuals with a valid photo ID who are listed on the contact sheet. Campers MUST be signed out.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Camp will operate on rainy days and extremely hot days. On hot days we make sure campers have ample opportunity to get drinks of water and be in the shade. Please send campers to camp with a water bottle and rain gear. In case of inclement weather, the safety and security of your child is our highest priority. Please see the camp director for more information about the inclement weather policy for your camp.

## AGE GROUP RATIOS:

In accordance with State of Connecticut Policy, as well as the American Camping Association Accreditation, all YMCA of Greater Hartford camps strive to maintain the best staff-to-camper ratio possible. It is important to mention that ratios are typically smaller at the waterfronts, as well as when field trips are taken.

AGE	CAMPER-TO-STAFF RATIO
4-5 YEAR OLDS	6-1
6-8 YEAR OLDS	8-1
9- 15 YEAR OLDS	10-1

## LOST AND FOUND

Any Lost and Found left after a session ends will get labelled for what session it was found and brought to the main office. If it has a name, we will attempt to get it back to you. If it isn't collected by Sept 31st, then items will be donated.

## WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

Please pack your camper daily with the following labeled items:

- Backpack
- Lunch
- Snacks
- Bathing Suit
- Towel
- Sunscreen/ Bug spray
- Water bottle
- Complete change of clothes for campers under 6.

All campers need to wear sneakers or closed toe shoes unless at the pool. Campers are encouraged to wear hats and warm weather appropriate clothing. Sunscreen should be applied prior to drop off (please see sunscreen policy). On rainy days, please pack rain gear. The camp day schedule will continue as long as the weather permits. All items should be clearly marked with camper's name.

## WHAT TO KEEP AT HOME:

We encourage campers to learn to be responsible for their own belongings. All Greater Hartford YMCA camps are screen free. Any camper who brings weapons to camp will be suspended immediately. All YMCA camps are drug, alcohol, and tobacco free facilities. Any camper found with tobacco, drugs, or alcohol will be immediately suspended from camp. We are also interested in keeping a clean, healthy, image at our camp. Clothing with messages referring to tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or sex is not permitted. The YMCA is not responsible for campers' lost or broken items. The following items are not permitted at camp.....

Cell phones, Video Games, Trading Cards, Animals, Fireworks, Weapons, Electronics of all kind! E-Cigarettes (Jules or Vapes)

## ELECTRONIC FREE ZONE!

Our camps pride themselves on being electronic free. In a world consumed by cell phones, social media, and technology; emphasis is placed on nature exploration! Help us by reminding campers on the importance of being electronics free.



## GROUP REQUESTS

We understand that campers often come with a friend they would like to be with. We strongly believe that camp is an opportunity to meet new people. As such, we limit requests to one per camper. There is a space on the registration form to make your request or you can contact the camp office. Requests will only be honored for campers within one year of each other in age. Both campers must also mutually request to be in the same group.



## FEES AND CANCELLATION POLICY

A \$75 non-refundable deposit per session/per child must accompany your camper's registration and will be applied to the total camp fee. The balance is due three weeks before the start of the session. In case of dismissal due to poor behavior or voluntary withdrawal there is no refund of fees. A physician authorized medical excuse is required to be considered for refund of camp fees after 5/1/24. The refund will be prorated if your child is at camp at the time of cancellation. Cancellations after May 15th are eligible for a 50% refund of total session fees paid (less deposit). Refunds (less deposit) will be considered only after a written request. Cancellations after June 1st are not eligible for any refund.

## GRATUITIES

Our staff works hard to provide everyone with the best camp experience possible. We know that your child will have a great time at camp because of our caring staff and the program we offer, but please note that **gratuities are prohibited**, although our staff appreciates thank you letters. If your child had a great time, and you would like to provide this same experience to another child in honor of our staff, please consider a tax-deductible contribution to our Annual Campership fund in the name of your child's counselor.

# HEALTH CARE AT CAMP

A group of children, mostly boys, are standing outdoors at what appears to be a camp. They are wearing blue and grey t-shirts. One boy in the foreground is smiling. In the background, there are wooden benches and green trees. A large green semi-transparent box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing white text. Another similar box is overlaid on the bottom left.

## FIRST AID

YMCA day camp staff participates in first aid training. In addition, camp employs the services of a first aid provider trained in CPR for the Professional Rescuer & Standard First Aid. In the event of camper illness or injury, the First Aid Provider will notify parents/ guardians. Please keep sick campers home so that germs and illnesses will not spread to other campers and staff. If deemed necessary; you will be contacted to pick up your camper.

## SUNSCREEN/SUNBLOCK/ AND OR BUG SPRAY:

Sunscreen, sunblock, and bug spray are not provided by the YMCA. To comply with state regulations, YMCA staff may only apply topical ointments if the parent's supplies the lotion labeled with the child's name and accompanied by a state provided, signed permission slip. It is recommended that parents apply a first coat of sunscreen prior to the camp day. No aerosol cans allowed.



## MEDICAL FORMS & WAIVERS

No child will be allowed to attend camp without a completed medical form and waiver on file. Updated medical forms must be completed and signed by a physician or their designee that includes current medication orders and physical exam. The physical exam must have been given within 2 years of the camper's arrival date. Any camper who does not have said form into the YMCA camp office the Wednesday prior to the start of camp will not be permitted into camp.

## CARE PLANS

Our priority at Camp is to provide a positive experience for children where they can explore, try new things, develop friendships and have fun in a safe and nurturing environment. If a parent feels that their child has any need that would require more information to be shared with our camp staff to facilitate this positive experience, our Camp leadership staff are happy to meet with a campers parent(s) prior to the session. The YMCA has a General Care Plan that can be used to help the staff manage the behaviors to the best of their ability. Our staff are happy to make reasonable accommodations as needed to make camp a positive experience for your child. There may be a time during camp when, even with the accommodations, that a child's behavior needs more specialized care than is able to be provided in a camp setting. Based on the Behavior Modification rubric delineated in the parent handbook, a child may be removed from camp if serious behaviors continue. Prorated refunds will be issued if this occurs.

Section 428-3(a) of the Connecticut State Statues for camps requires a child's health record to include information regarding disabilities or special health care needs such as allergies, special dietary needs, dental problems, hearing or visual impairments, chronic illness, developmental variations or history of contagious disease. Individual care plans are required for the child with special health care needs or disabilities. The plan shall be developed with the child's parent(s) and health care provider and updated as necessary. Such plan of care shall include appropriate care of the camper in the event of a medical or other emergency and shall be signed by the parent(s) and staff responsible for the care of the camper.

The background image shows two young girls from behind, standing on a paved area. They are wearing backpacks and hats. The girl on the left has a light blue backpack and a pink hat. The girl on the right has a pink backpack and a dark blue hat. They are standing in front of a white building with the words 'YMCA CAMP CHASE' painted on the wall in large, dark letters. A wooden bench is visible to the right of the girls. The scene is outdoors with green trees in the background.

# MEDICATIONS

Do NOT pack any medications in your camper's backpack. Prescription and nonprescription drugs must be submitted to the Camp Staff in the original container with the licensed physician's instructions at check in. Please place each medication in a clearly labeled bag, (zip-lock bags work well, with camper's name, dosage and Camp Jewell Medication Authorization Form (one per medication). Unused medications will be returned to you during check out. Vitamins, over the counter medications, and homeopathic remedies count as medications that require a medical authorization form signed by a physician.

# LUNCH

Pack each camper's lunch separately. All campers must bring a brown bag lunch and drink clearly marked with his/her name. Please do not send lunch boxes, as they are hard to store. Lunches will be refrigerated. Always pack a good, nutritious lunch for your child. Do not send food that needs to be heated. No glass bottles or containers, please. Remember to pack plastic forks or spoons if needed by child.

# SWIMMING

On the first swim day of each session, all campers will be given a swim test conducted by our YMCA lifeguard using the system of test mark protect. Returning campers that want to retest are able to do so on this day as well. This procedure allows the lifeguards to decide which swim level the campers will participate. The "buddy system" is used during the swim period for additional safety. Each swimmer is paired with another camp and "buddy checks" are conducted throughout the period to be sure all swimmers are accounted.



A young man is swimming in a pool, with water splashing around him. A teal text box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title and the main text. The background shows the pool's edge and other swimmers in the distance.

## BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

At the YMCA we believe that the best way to deal with behavior issues is to provide a quality camp program. By keeping activities moving and well organized, we believe that many potential problems can be avoided. Disrespect towards staff or property, injuring other children or staff, disruptive behavior, bullying, stealing, leaving camp property, profanity, drug, alcohol, tobacco use and other serious infractions, will not be tolerated. If such a problem arises, the following steps will be taken.

- Verbal discussion with child.
- If inappropriate behavior continues, the child will be removed from the group for a specified time frame or privileges may be taken away.
- When there is a serious concern about a behavior or discipline problem, the directors will share their concerns with the parents and will make an effort to work with the parents to resolve the problem.
- If the problem persists, or a serious infraction has been made, the camper will be put on suspension or asked to leave the program

# SEND HOMES

In order to ensure that every camper has a safe and positive experience at camp, campers found to be in violation of any of the items below will be sent home at the discretion of the Camp Director.

1. Possession or use of illegal or prescription drugs.
2. Possession or consumption of alcohol.
3. Possession or use of any kind of weapon, including martial art tools.
4. Sexual Activity.
5. Tobacco Possession.
6. Running away, which includes "sneaking off."
7. Biting.
8. Possession of a cell phone.
9. Any form of bullying (including mental, emotional, and physical).
10. Violent or dangerous behavior (including self harm).

Consequences for fighting are to be determined by the camp director. However, physical aggression typically results in dismissal from camp.



# PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

A young girl with dark hair and pink swim goggles on her head is smiling. She is wearing a grey towel. In the background, there is a swimming pool with a blue slide and many people, suggesting a summer camp setting.

While campers are at the forefront of what we do at summer camp, the relationship we have with parents—and the whole family—is important to our entire staff. We know that whether it is a camper's first time or their tenth time at camp, communication is important.

We pledge we will:

- Offer your child a positive, safe and supportive community where kids make new friends, try new things and learn independence and other life skills.
- Update our social media news and photos as to what's happening at camp several times each week.
- You will receive an evaluation survey during each session. We encourage all parents/guardians and campers to completely fill out the evaluation. This valued input and information is used to improve upon the programs and staffing to insure a safe and fun summer for all our campers and staff. Evaluations may be returned by mail or your child may return it to camp if they are participating in another session.