



**YMCA CAMP CARTER**

**OVERNIGHT  
& DAY**



# PARENT PACKET

**EXPLORE THE MEMORY MAKING 360+  
ACRES THAT ARE WAITING AT CAMP!**

**YMCA CAMP CARTER**

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## WELCOME TO YMCA CAMP CARTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the family! We are so very excited to have you as participants in our upcoming summer program. Summer camp creates so many opportunities for kids to learn and grow in a safe outdoor environment while under the supervision of our trained staff.

Did you know that studies conducted over the past 5 years by the American Camp Association have shown that just one week of summer camp can have a lasting positive impact on your child's life? Camp is a place where you can try new things without fear of failure, where differences are celebrated, and unity is strengthened. We believe kids experiencing this firsthand will allow campers to grow up as strong adults representing the core values of the Y: Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility.

Our Mission at camp is to ensure each camper has a safe and magical experience that allows them to leave camp as the best version of themselves. While practicing a "Camper first" philosophy, our intensely trained staff will help to create opportunities for campers to grow and succeed in having fun, making friends, and learning something new.

All of our staff go through two weeks of staff training and skill certification to ensure high standards in not only our program areas but within all that we do to create memorable experiences. We are proud to say that this year we are an accredited camp with the American Camping Association, meaning we have met over 300 standards that are designed to ensure quality, safe programming for campers.

As a camp director, it is my goal to create an environment that is going to provide a lifelong passion of growth and excitement for not only being outside but developing physically, socially, and emotionally. We aim to be a partner in the growth of your camper as we watch them grow and change the world.

Thank you for entrusting us with your camper this summer. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any concerns or questions.

At your service,

Ricky Langton & The YMCA Camp Carter Team



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# THE POWER OF CAMP

At YMCA Camp Carter, we believe that the power of camp lies in:

## RELATIONSHIPS

- Campers will establish meaningful relationships with camp mates.
- Campers will find a positive role model in counselors and camp staff.
- Campers will learn to effectively communicate with others.
- Campers will learn positive technique for problem solving.

How does this happen?

Campers are placed in cabin/groups with peers.

- Counselors and staff are trained to meet the developmental needs of campers.
- Campers are encouraged to express their feelings constructively.
- Campers are encouraged to solve problems through mediation of camp staff.



## CHARACTER

- Respect: Campers will develop a respect for their peers, camp staff and the environment.
- Honesty: Campers will be responsible for their own actions and attitudes.
- Responsibility: Campers will learn to take care of the camp and their personal environment.
- Caring: Campers will learn to balance individual needs with those of their group or community.

How does this happen?

- Campers are encouraged to appreciate the differences in others and accept others for who they are.
- Campers are encouraged to own up to their mistakes and apologize to others when they have done wrong.
- Campers participate in day-camp area clean-up, dining hall clean-up and litter hikes.
- Campers are encouraged to recognize the needs of others and act with a spirit of generosity and kindness.

## SKILLS

- Campers will learn new skills.
- Campers will follow proper skill area procedures.
- Campers will increase self-esteem through excellence in skill areas.

How does this happen?

- Campers attend skill areas daily and are encouraged to try something new.
- Campers are oriented to the safety rules and supervised by staff at each skill area.
- Campers will receive awards in certain skill areas to recognize achievement.

## HAVING FUN!

- Campers will develop a sense of self-confidence.
- Campers will learn to express emotions.
- Campers will develop a deeper sense of personal satisfaction.

How does this happen?

- Campers are encouraged to participate in games, songs, skits and camp silliness.
- Camp staff role model positive behavior through hugs, high fives and positive words, laughter and smiles.
- Campers are awarded through Boy & Girl Camper of the week, and Character Awards (Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility).

## YOUR CAMPINTOUCH ACCOUNT

New for Summer 2024, we have consolidated our systems into the CampInTouch system in order to deliver a smoother and more convenient approach for our families!

All registrations must be completed through the Camp Carter CampInTouch site, which you can access directly through [www.ymcacampcarter.org](http://www.ymcacampcarter.org).

Once you are registered for camp, you can log back in to your account through this link:  
<https://campcarter.campintouch.com/v2/login.aspx>

\*If you ever get locked out of your account, don't worry! Email [camper@ymcafw.org](mailto:camper@ymcafw.org) and we will reset it for you.

**In your CampInTouch account you can do all kinds of things, including:**

- Pay your tuition balance. (See the financial section for more information)
- Complete your camper's forms.
- Enroll in additional sessions of camp.
- Review the medications that we have received and accepted on your camper's behalf.
- Review your Camper's Information – this is also where you can see what your child is registered for.
- Request an early release.
- Print a statement of your camp payments for tax purposes.
- Update your contact information.
- Add money to your camper's camp store account.
- View photos of Camp
- Sign up for add-ons that you might have missed during registration: Arena Rides, Laser Tag, and Archery Tag; or purchase a birthday package or camp store care package!

## WHEN TO PAY CAMP TUITION

- Nonrefundable deposits are due upon registration.
- A nonrefundable deposit per week and per child is due at the time of registration for day or overnight camp. If you are registering less than 2 weeks before the start of a session, the deposit and tuition will be due in full upon registration. The deposit for day camp is \$40 per week per child and the deposit for overnight camp is \$200 per week per child.
- Tuition is due 14 days before each camp session starts.
- All tuition balances are due 14 days before camp session starts. Failure to pay any remaining balance 14 days prior to the start of a session may result in forfeiture of your registration for that session.

## HOW TO PAY CAMP TUITION

To pay your tuition bill at any time, log in to your CampInTouch account (see page 9). Scroll down to "Financial Management." Clicking on that will take you to a summary of your balance due, where you can click "Make a Payment" and then enter the payment amount you would like to make and click "Make a Payment."

## CAMPINTOUCH QUICK LINKS

SET UP ACCOUNT



REGISTER



PLATFORM FAQs



# REFUND, TRANSFER & CANCELLATIONS

## Refund Policy: Dismissal for Behavioral Issues or Medical Emergencies

Admission as a camper at YMCA Camp Carter carries many privileges and responsibilities. Campers found with tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or weapons will immediately be dismissed without a refund. In addition, should a behavior or discipline problem affect our work with other campers or their enjoyment of Camp Carter, we reserve the right to dismiss those campers responsible **without a refund**.

Refunds will not be issued if a camper leaves camp for any reason other than a medical emergency of the camper or an immediate member of their family. Proof of medical emergency, such as a doctor's note, may be required before a refund is processed. Refunds will be pro-rated to account for any portion of the session attended, and the deposit will remain nonrefundable.

## Refund Policy: Cancellations

We hope that you will not need to cancel your camp registration, but we understand that things come up.

All cancellations must be requested in writing through the following form:  
[https://ymcafortworth.formstack.com/forms/daycamp\\_cancellation](https://ymcafortworth.formstack.com/forms/daycamp_cancellation)

- You will receive a full tuition refund if your cancellation request is submitted more than 30 days before the start of your registered session.
- You will receive a 50% tuition refund if your cancellation request is submitted less than 30 days and no later than 15 days prior to the start of your registered session.
- Any cancellation requests made less than 15 days prior to the start of a registered session will not be eligible for a refund. A medical emergency to the camper or immediate family member OR a contagious illness of a camper (doctor's note required for both) are the possible exceptions at Camp Carter's discretion. Summer school is not an exception. However, we will work with you to change sessions if space is available.
- Deposits are nonrefundable.

## CANCELLATION



## Session Transfer Requests

After registration, session transfers will be granted based on availability. Any session change must be requested in email to [camper@ymcafw.org](mailto:camper@ymcafw.org) 2 weeks in advance of the first day of the registered-for session. We will do our best to accommodate your request, but no request can be guaranteed.



## BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

A high-quality program can only take place in an orderly, mutually respectful, and caring environment. Child guidance is a process where children take increasing responsibility for their own actions. At the YMCA, we take the happiness and safety of our participants seriously. Therefore, we work very hard at creating a safe and fun environment. Along with our efforts, we need the children to help us by following some simple rules. Below is our behavior agreement.

No camper is perfect; each one will have moments of being upset and allowing those big emotions to influence their actions. Our goal at YMCA Camp Carter is to help each camper continue to learn how to develop and implement the skills to make wise and responsible decisions in the face of those big emotions. Our desire is to love, serve, and care for each camper by taking the time to demonstrate, explain, and implement positive and appropriate actions and responses before, during, and after those moments of big emotions with ourselves, other staff members, and every camper. Our hope is that as they watch, interact, and talk with us, they will join us in these actions and responses.

Please read, review, and talk with your camper about the following Behavior Guidelines for Success:

In realm of our mission statement of putting Christian principles into practice, through programs, services, and relationships that build a healthy mind, spirit and body for all, YMCA Camp Carter strives to develop and display our four core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility, as it is a large part of our commitment to offering a safe and exciting camp experience.

### Four Core Values:

1. **Caring:** Be kind; be compassionate and show you care for yourself and those around you; express gratitude; forgive and offer forgiveness.
2. **Honesty:** Be reliable and truthful by upholding your words and commitments; do not steal or cheat; have the courage to do the right thing—even when no one is looking.
3. **Respect:** Be kind and polite to others and yourself with your words and actions; interact with others and yourself with love and patience.
4. **Responsibility:** Be proactive with your actions and words; take ownership for your actions and words; make wise and thoughtful decisions; be quick to forgive and offer forgiveness.

### What is considered no-tolerance behavior?

1. **Hands-On:** More times than not, campers placing their hands on each other, in any manner, is the cause of conflicts. Hands-on includes: hitting, slapping, biting, pushing/shoving, punching, choking, pinching, scratching, tripping, kicking, stealing, etc.
2. **Sensitive Words:** We all know how quickly jokes turn into using harmful words that are sensitive to others. We also know how quickly having big emotions can result in using harmful words that are hurtful to others. Examples of these words are: Derogatory "jokes" and statements, insults, cussing, inappropriate language and topics, degrading and/or belittling words, peer pressure, nagging, teasing, gossiping etc.
3. **Bullying:** Whether in verbal or physical forms and whether intentional or unintentional, no-tolerance actions, responses, and reactions all result in bullying. Bullying does not promote, create, display, or teach a safe and fun environment, and therefore, it is something that we cannot tolerate due to the lack of care towards each other.

### Disciplinary Procedure:

Campers are expected to treat fellow campers and staff with respect and to abide by camp rules. For most minor behavioral incidents, it is our policy to use a three-step procedure when disciplining campers:

1. Verbal warning
2. A behavior agreement with their counselor
3. A conference with the Summer Camp Director

For other, more serious or severe behavioral incidents, this three-step procedure may not be appropriate. Severe behavioral incidents require a phone call home and may necessitate bypassing the three steps and moving directly to a conference with the Summer Camp Director, the Operations Director, and/or the Senior Executive Director. Any child verbally or physically abusing or bullying another camper may be sent home at any time and at the discretion of the YMCA Camp Carter leadership team. Bullying is absolutely not tolerated within the YMCA of Fort Worth and YMCA Camp Carter. Parents of campers who are being sent home must make arrangements for the child to be picked up within three hours of being contacted. Campers sent home due to behavioral problems will not be entitled to any refund of fees.

Not abiding by the rules may result in suspension and/or termination from the program. YMCA staff and management reserve the right to dismiss/disenroll a child from the program if the child's behavior is disruptive to the program and/or compromises the safety of themselves, other children, and/or camp staff. Children suspended or terminated from the program will not qualify for a refund.

## WHAT IF YOUR CAMPER GETS SICK

Children must be healthy enough to participate in the program. If your child is sick, for the safety and comfort of your child, please keep them home until they feel better and no longer present the danger of passing on their illness.

If you are keeping your child home due to illness, please contact the camp by 9:30 A.M. and let the staff know of your child's absence. If your child has had a fever (temperature at or above 100.4) or vomiting/diarrhea, please do not send them back to camp until they have been fever- and symptom-free for 24 hours without medication. We may require a physician's release for any medical or health condition.

If your child becomes ill while at camp, you will be contacted as soon as possible and asked to pick them up. You will be asked to keep your child home from camp or to come pick them up from camp if the following illness/communicable health problems are evidenced by their symptoms:

- Conjunctivitis (pink eye);
- A chronic runny nose with colored discharge;
- A chronic cough;
- A fever (temperature over 100.4);
- Vomiting or upset stomach;
- Signs of general fatigue or discomfort;
- An open rash;
- Head lice; or
- Knowledge that the child has had a fever within the past 24 hours.

Additional reasons for our contacting you regarding your child's health child may include but are not limited to:

- Any injury to the head.
- Ongoing illness lasting more than 24 hours.
- Repeat trips to the health center.
- Signs of an altered mental state.
- Care exceeding basic first aid that requires care from urgent care or emergency services.

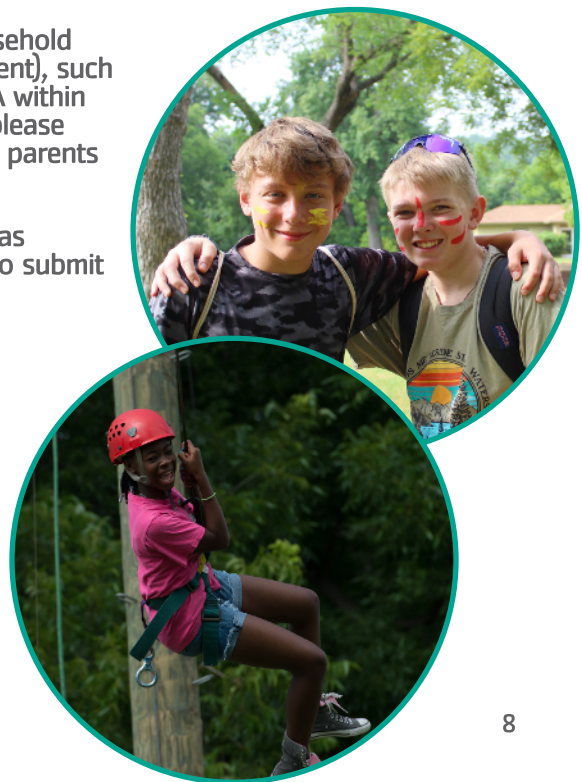
Additionally, you may be contacted regarding your child's health under circumstances including but not limited to:

- Any injury to the head.
- Ongoing illness lasting more than 24 hours.
- Repeat trips to the health center.
- Signs of an altered mental state.
- Care exceeding basic first aid that requires care from urgent care or emergency services.

If the parent or guardian is unable to be reached, the child's emergency contact will be notified. It is the responsibility of the parents to arrange for the child to be picked up from camp as soon as possible. If your child has had a fever (temperature at or above 100.4) or vomiting/diarrhea, please do not send them back to camp until they have been fever- and symptom-free for 24 hours without medication.

Please notify the YMCA if your child or any member of your immediate household develops a communicable condition (as defined by the local health department), such as pink eye, chicken pox, or lice. Parents are responsible to notify the YMCA within 24 hours or the next business day. In the case of a life-threatening illness, please notify the YMCA immediately. It is important for us to post a notice to other parents as soon as possible.

All immunizations must be current. If you have an immunization exemption as defined under Texas law, please contact the office at [camper@ymcafw.org](mailto:camper@ymcafw.org) to submit your exemption form or statement.





## REQUIRED FORMS

All mandatory forms must be filled out in CamplnTouch before your camper may attend camp. Avoid delays on your first day by completing those forms ahead of time!

Log in to your CamplnTouch Account and click on "Forms and Documents." The mandatory forms include:

- A Physician's medical exam within the last 12 months – save yourself a headache and check this one off as soon as possible!
- Health History
- Immunization record
- Parent Authorization (Medical Insurance Form)
- Terms and Conditions (Liability Waiver and Photo Release)
- Camper Behavior Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct

Each child **MUST** have their own paperwork, and new forms are required **EACH YEAR**.

## CAMP STORE

Camper will have a daily opportunity daily to visit the camp store. The camp store carries items such as:

- beverages and snacks
- t-shirts
- hats
- water bottles
- souvenirs

Items in the store range in price from \$1.00 to \$25.00. A good rule of thumb is \$4 per day (this will allow your child to get 1 drink and 1 snack item) plus any additional for souvenirs. Prior to camp, parents may deposit camp store money through CamplnTouch. Log in to your account, and then scroll to "View Camp Carter Store Funds." You can add money there for each camper in your household.

**Cash will not be accepted from campers in 2024, and campers should not keep money with them at Camp.**

Refunds will be processed at the end of Camp in August. If a camper has less than \$20 in their store account at the end of all sessions, the remainder will be donated to our annual scholarship campaign. If you have any questions about this, or how these funds are used do not hesitate to contact us!



## DAY CAMP DROP OFF

Camper drop-off will begin at 7:00 A.M. each morning, and no campers will be admitted prior to 7:00 A.M. Drop off will take place at the Rec Hall every morning until 8:30 A.M. Please do not get out of your vehicle; a staff member will meet you at your vehicle to sign your child in and escort them.

Please drop off your camper before 8:30 A.M. each morning. In the event you need to drop your camper off after 8:30 A.M., bring them to the Camp Office and sign them in.

**Monday, Monday, Monday!** The Monday morning check-in process may take longer than most mornings; please allow extra time. Filling out forms online prior to check-in day will make your check-in faster and more efficient. What to expect at Monday morning check-in:

1. Any missing mandatory forms will have to be completed.
2. Any remaining balance for that session will have to be paid in full.
3. Campers will receive their group and counselor assignment.
4. Any medications must be turned in. Camp Carter may only accept/administer medication in its original packaging with the doctor's current prescription printed clearly on the bottle. The medication release form must also be filled out for each child with medication.

**Waitlisted?** If you are on a wait list and have not received a confirmation email from the Summer Camp Director, or if you are registered for another branch and not Camp Carter, we will do our best to get your child into Camp, but our programs do tend to fill up months in advance. Please wait until camp leadership contacts you before bringing your child to camp and waiting in line. Thank you!

Please verify that you are registered for YMCA Camp Carter and not for another branch, including the Amon G. Carter, Jr. Downtown YMCA. (Hint: If you do not have a CamplnTouch account, you are not registered with YMCA Camp Carter. Please contact us in advance if you'd like to transfer your registration, but please note we cannot guarantee any such transfer and additional charges may apply.)

## DAY CAMP PICK-UP

- Sprockets campers (age 5 and not having attended Kindergarten) will be picked up at 12:45 P.M. at the Rec Hall each day.
- All other day campers: Camper pick up is from 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

All Parents, Guardians, and authorized adults will be asked for a signature and a picture ID and the license number will be recorded per state guidelines. A list of people authorized to pick-up your child will be located at the check-in line. Only authorized adults may pick up your child; the authorized grown-up form is located in CamplnTouch with all of your forms. Please inform anyone, including parents, authorized to pick-up your child that ID's will be checked for the child's protection. A child will NOT be released to:

1. any person that is not on the list;
2. a person on the list who does not show proper identification.

Please stay in your car and your child will be walked to your vehicle. For the safety of campers and staff, we ask that you do not get out of your car to get your child. Drop off and pick up will look like a drive through so please pull forward and have your ID ready!

**Late Fees:** There will be a \$20/hour late fee for children picked up after 6:00 P.M. and you must notify the front office if late pick up is anticipated.

**Early Pick Up:** NEW FOR 2024, EARLY PICKUPS MUST BE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE IN WRITING THROUGH CAMPINTOUCH.

We understand that sometimes an early pick-up may be necessary. Due to the high volume of requests and in efforts to avoid confusion and run more smoothly, we are now requiring all early releases be requested in writing through Campminder. Early releases cannot be verbally requested at drop off. Pick up before camp is over must happen at the Camp Office.

- Log in to your CamplnTouch account, go to Forms and Documents, and click "Camp Early Release Form":
- Please submit early-release requests prior to 10:00 A.M. of the day early release is needed. Campers will be dropped off at the office as close to an activity change time as possible. Staff will try to process requests and have campers ready to go in the office in-between activity times to facilitate easy early release when requested.

## TYPICAL DAY AT DAY CAMP & THEMES

A typical day camp day will look something like this:

TIME	ACTIVITY
7-8 A.M.	Drop off; Campers enjoy free play at the Rec Hall
8:30 A.M.	Snack (Ice Breakers)/Opening Ceremony
8:45 A.M.	Water/ Sunscreen/Restrooms/Buddy Huddle
9:00 A.M.	Activity 1 (Canoeing, Archery etc.)
10:00 A.M.	Activity 2
11:40 A.M.	Line Up
11:45 A.M.	Lunch
1:00 P.M.	Swim Group 1/Free time, camp store
2:00 P.M.	Swim Group 2/Free time, camp store
3:00 P.M.	Activity 3
3:30 P.M.	Snack
3:45 P.M.	Water/restrooms
4-6 P.M.	Day Camp Pick Up



Day Camp activities include but are not limited to the following: Canoeing, Challenge Course, Fishing, Hiking, Outdoor Cooking, Survival, Lake Activities, Slingshots, Stand-Up Paddleboard, Lake swimming, pool swimming, archery, riflery, sports, games, skits, songs, animals (did you know we have a nature center with a bunny, guinea pigs, snacks, lizards, a bearded dragon, and a tarantula?).

Each week of day camp has a specific theme that we integrate into their experience for extra fun! Campers are welcomed to dress for the themes on Thursdays! Below are this year's themes:

### Camp Theme:

### Dress Up Thursday:

- |           |                   |                           |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • Week 1  | Adventure         | Camo Day                  |
| • Week 2  | Star Wars         | Out of this World         |
| • Week 3  | Camp Olympics     | Crew tradition-crew color |
| • Week 4  | Neverland         | Pirates                   |
| • Week 5  | Jungle Cruise     | Explorer day              |
| • Week 6  | Stars and Stripes | Red, White and Blue       |
| • Week 7  | Superheroes       | Superhero                 |
| • Week 8  | Tomorrowland      | Fantasy dress up          |
| • Week 9  | Color Craze       | Crew Color                |
| • Week 10 | Warrior           | Survivor Day              |
| • Week 11 | Splash Adventure  | Tropical Day              |

In addition to theme Thursdays, Campers are welcome and encouraged to participate in the following dress-up days:

- Tuesday: Aloha! Wear your tropical/Hawaiian Shirt!
- Wednesday: Crazy hair day – show us your best crazy hair!
- Thursday: Theme day!
- Friday: Tie Dye

## DAY CAMP LUNCH

A cooked lunch is provided every day at camp's dining hall. This is included in the price of camp. We also provide a morning and an afternoon snack, which usually consists of fruit, or a healthy snack. Menus will be posted on CamplnTouch by the Wednesday before each summer.

We can accommodate most major food allergies. Please email camper@ymcafw.org if you have concerns or questions.

## PREPARING YOUR DAY CAMPER

### What to wear to Day Camp:

- Camp appropriate swimsuit under clothes and labeled – this makes the transition to swim time smoother!
- Shorts that can get played in and are labeled
- T-shirts that can get played in and are labeled
- Socks
- Camp Appropriate Costumes–can be worn any and all day
- Tennis Shoes are recommended. Sandals such as Chacos can be worn, but closed-toed shoes are required in many high adventure activities including: challenge course, canoeing, archery tag, equestrian, and laser tag. Campers cannot climb on the challenge course if wearing Crocs.
- A Good Attitude

### What to bring to Day Camp:

Please mark all items with your camper's name. Check out CamplnTouch to order labels from Oliver's Labels!

- Backpack
- Towel
- Swimsuit
- Closed-toe shoes – these are essential for activities like the Challenge Course, and your camper will be more comfortable walking around camp in closed-toe shoes!
- Sandals or Flip Flops for the pool
- A full Water Bottle
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Rain Gear
- If participating in Junior Wrangler in Training, wear long pants and boots (no boots? Don't worry! We have some at the Equestrian Center that your child is welcome to borrow!)

### What to leave at home:

Cell Phones! We encourage our campers to be unplugged while at camp and hope you can honor this request. Any cell phones or other items on the below list brought to camp will be collected by our directors, put in the camp safe, and returned at the end of the session. Cell phones must be picked up by an authorized adult during pick up from the Leadership team at pick up.

The following items should also be left at home:

- Vapes
- Knives
- Firearms, fireworks, matches
- Big backpacks
- Items of sentimental or monetary value: Trading Cards, Pokemon cards, Beyblades, their favorite stuffy – if your child will be upset if the item is lost, it's best it doesn't make the trip to camp with them!
- Animals and pets
- All forms of "tech-toys" (Nintendo Switches)
- iPads, phone chargers, AirPods
- Toys and stuffed animals
- CD/DVD Player
- Alcohol, Illegal Drugs or OTC Drugs
- Cash or Credit Cards (We will not accept cash for the store!)
- Computers, skateboards, rollerblades

YMCA Camp Carter is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items.

## OVERNIGHT CAMP CHECK-IN

Overnight Camper check-in is from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday afternoons. Registrants will NOT be admitted before this time. The camp staff is busy getting camp ready for a week of fun!

Please call by 5:00 P.M. on Friday prior to check-in to inform us if your child needs to arrive later than the scheduled check-in time.

Burger's Lake traffic is typically a hassle and may have you waiting in line. You will want to go around the traffic by driving on the left-hand side of the road if possible. Officers should be there to help direct you to camp. You will just need to inform them that you are going to Camp Carter.

Once you are inside the gates, please head to the Dining Hall (watch your email the week before camp in case we need to move check in to the Retreat Center). Leave camper's luggage in the car and come on in! Here's what you can expect during check-in:

1. Parents must fill out any forms that have not been received by the office prior to camp.
2. You will receive your child's cabin and counselor assignment.
3. You will meet with the camp health care provider to:
  - a. Make sure all health forms are signed and on file
  - b. Turn in any medication (you will need to have all meds on hand—please keep them separate from your child's luggage); we can only accept medication in its original bottle (including over-the-counter meds) with the doctor's current prescription printed clearly on the bottle.
4. Your child will receive a head check for lice.
5. You will meet your child's counselor and drop your child off at their cabin—you may help them set up their bunk if you would like, then we would ask you leave the cabin by the end of the hour so we may get started with our Camp activities!

## OVERNIGHT CAMP CHECK-OUT

All families are invited to attend their camper's closing ceremony at 9:30 A.M. on Saturdays at The Point (near the Dining Hall). Check-out will take place after the closing ceremony ends at 10:00 A.M. and once campers are dismissed to their cabins. Campers will be excited and ready to see you, but please allow and encourage them to stay with their counselor to head back to their cabin, where you will meet them, we will check your ID, and you can take them home!

Any adult (18 years of age and up), including parents, picking up a camper must have their name listed on the camper's Authorized Grown Ups form, located in CampInTouch. Any authorized adult that is signing out a camper must have a Photo ID – even parents. We will not release any camper to anyone who without a Photo ID or that is not on the Authorization Pick-Up list—no exceptions. This is for the protection of your child and the safety of all children entrusted to us. Please have your ID ready.

If you need to pick a camper up at an earlier time, please submit an Early Dismissal Form in CampInTouch by Friday at 5:00 P.M.



## TYPICAL DAY AT OVERNIGHT CAMP

A typical day will look something like this:

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:15 A.M.	Rise and Shine!
7:30 A.M.	Flag Raising / Line Up
8:00 A.M.	Breakfast
8:30 A.M.	Morning Announcements
9:00 A.M.	Announcements / Specialty Add-ons (Horse Camp) pick-ups
9:00 A.M.	Class #1 - 1 hour
10:00 A.M.	Class #2 - 1 hour
11:00 A.M.	Class #3 - 1 hour
12:05 P.M	Cabin Clean / Cabin Meet Up
12:40 P.M	Line Up for Lunch
12:45 P.M.	Lunch
1:45 P.M.	Rest Period
2:45 P.M	Cabin Time
3:45 P.M	Younger Unit - swim, store and cabin activity
4:45 P.M.	Older Unit - swim, store and cabin activity
6:00 P.M.	Get ready for dinner, dress up and evening program
6:20 P.M.	Flag Lowering
6:30 P.M.	Dinner
7:30 P.M.	Evening Program Activity
9:00 P.M.	Back to Cabins / Showers
10:00 P.M.	Lights Out / Unit Devotionals



## OVERNIGHT CAMP ACTIVITIES

Track classes are available each week but will alter and change throughout the summer. Campers will stay with their Class counselor in the mornings where there will be different activities centered around these opportunities and tracks. Each track offers all campers an opportunity for Archery, challenge course and canoeing throughout the week integrated within their track choices:

- Adventure
- Expeditions
- Splash
- Global
- Multi-or Wacky Sports
- Specialty
- Themed

## SAMPLE WEEK EVENING PROGRAMS

Activities at Camp Carter take place during Class times each morning. Classes are designed to introduce campers to new activities, as well as increase their knowledge and skill in familiar activities. Campers will choose one track for the week on Sunday evening.

Sample Week Evening program:

- Sunday evening: Crazy opening campfire and crew drawing
- Monday: Unit Night
- Tuesday: All camp game
- Wednesday: Crew night-outpost or challenge
- Thursday: All camp game
- Friday: Closing campfire

## PREPARING FOR OVERNIGHT CAMP

### What to pack for Overnight Camp

Please mark all items with your camper's name. Check out CampInTouch to order labels from Oliver's Labels!

- Sleeping bag, pillow, blanket and sheet or bed roll
- Toiletries
- Flashlight, glow sticks also welcome
- Costumes for Sunday night's Crazy Campfire (tutus, capes, funny hats, all encouraged!)
- Swimsuit and towel (goggles are optional)
- Backpack
- Waterbottle
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Sunglasses (Optional)
- Hat (Optional)
- Pajamas
- Sweatshirt
- SOCKS, SOCKS, SOCKS and extra undergarments
- Clothes for the week (We recommend t-shirts and shorts)
- White bandana for crew night (Optional)
- Closed-toe shoes (required!)
- Slides or flip flops for the pool (Optional)

### What to leave at home:

Cell Phones! We encourage our campers to be unplugged while at camp and hope you can honor this request. Any cell phones or other items on the below list brought to camp will be collected by our directors, put in the camp safe, and returned at the end of the session. Cell phones must be picked up by an authorized adult during pick up from the Leadership team at pick up.

The following items should also be left at home:

- Vapes
- Knives
- Firearms, fireworks, matches
- Big backpacks
- Items of sentimental or monetary value: Trading Cards, Pokemon cards, Beyblades, their favorite stuffy – if your child will be upset if the item is lost, it's best it doesn't make the trip to camp with them!
- Animals and pets
- All forms of "tech-toys" (Nintendo Switches)
- iPads, phone chargers, AirPods
- Toys and stuffed animals
- CD/DVD Players
- Alcohol, Illegal Drugs or OTC Drugs
- Cash or Credit Cards (We will not accept cash for the store!)
- Computers, skateboards, rollerblades

YMCA Camp Carter is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items.

## CONTACTING YOUR CAMPER

Camp is a time for children to develop independence and escape from distractions such as TV, internet and cell phones.

- Campers are NOT allowed to bring cell phones to camp. If a camper brings a cell phone to camp, it will be taken up and kept in the office safe until the child is picked up.
- Our camp office is open from 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Mondays through Fridays. The office phone number is (817) 738 – 9241. Outside of these hours, we may be out of the office and on the property, please call (817) 401-6796 if it is an emergency, or email us at [camper@ymcafw.org](mailto:camper@ymcafw.org) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.
- Campers will NOT have access to camp phones except in the event of an emergency. If persistent homesickness or illness occurs, camp staff will contact parent/guardian(s) to discuss the situation.

Parents are welcome to write letters and mail care packages to your camper during his/her session.

- **EMAILS:** You may email your camper at [camper@ymcafw.org](mailto:camper@ymcafw.org). Camp staff will print the emails (in black and white) and deliver them to your camper. Please keep in mind that emails will not be immediately delivered but we do our best to deliver them by the next meal time. Campers cannot email back.
- **LETTERS:** Keep your child up to date on what is happening at home, but be careful to keep your letters positive! Be creative and send photos, have a pet write a letter, etc. Make sure to send letters a few days before camp starts, so that they have a better chance of arriving in time for your campers stay! You can also drop off letters to the staff at Check-in and we will deliver them on the date you request.
- **CARE PACKAGES:** Non-Food care packages are welcome at camp. We do not allow food in an effort to keep cabins clean and bug-free. Make sure to send packages a few days before camp starts, so that they have a better chance of arriving in time for your campers stay! You can also drop off packages to the staff at Check-in and we will deliver them on the date you request. Please do not drop off packages mid-session without prior approval and arrangements through the camp office.

Letters and care packages should be addressed as follows:

- [Camper's Name] YMCA Camp Carter
- Session Name or Date
- 6200 Sand Springs Rd. Ft. Worth, TX 76114

## HORSEBACK RIDING

There are two ways to incorporate horseback riding into your child's day- or overnight-camp experience:

- Friday Arena Rides or
- Junior-Wrangler-in-Training program

### Friday Arena Rides

Friday Arena Rides are a \$5 add-on that you can sign up for through CampInTouch in the Additional Options section of your Forms and Documents. All registrations for arena rides must be submitted by Tuesday of each session. Due to the popularity of the arena rides, we can no longer accept verbal requests for the add-on.

### Junior-Wrangler-in-Training

Campers ages 8-16 who are interested in more equestrian programming can participate in the Junior-Wrangler-in-Training Monday-Thursday from 8-10:30 A.M. for an additional fee (\$250 for YMCA Members; \$300 for Nonmembers). The JWIT program incorporates groundwork and riding lessons to learn more about caring for and riding horses. Space is limited and this program is for ages 8-16 & under 180 lbs. You can register for JWIT during the registration process in CampInTouch. Day Campers who combine JWIT with day camp must be dropped off at the Equestrian enter by 8:00 A.M. Monday through Thursday. At 10:30, Camp Carter staff will bring the campers back to Main Camp to join their group.





## PHOTOS

We love to share photos with you of your camper's experience! We will be taking photos periodically throughout the week, with the goal of posting them to Companion starting on Wednesday of your camper's session. This is a good way to see a snapshot of what your camper is doing, and to share the moments with your network.

Please have patience with us as we upload them throughout the summer. We do our best to get pictures of every child, but some children avoid the camera and some activities cannot be photographed safely.

Disposable cameras are still a great option to send with your camper so they can document their camp experience!



## STAFF

The Camp Carter staff is carefully selected to ensure that your child has an enjoyable camp experience. We strive to recruit responsible, caring, quality staff members to serve as role models for campers.

- Each group is supervised by a Counselor who is 18 years old or older.
- Day camp leadership staff is comprised of Y Camp Professionals, upper level college students and graduates.
- All staff members undergo extensive screening and training (including CPR/First Aid certification and criminal background checks) prior to being placed on the job.
- YMCA Certified lifeguards supervise all pool and waterfront activities.
- Equestrian instructors are experienced and trained instructors.
- Camp health care providers hold certifications that meet standards set by the Texas Department of Health and the American Camping Association. Camp has an on-call doctor and is just minutes from Cook Children's Hospital.
- Our program and staff/camper ratios comply with Texas Department of Health standards, and are licensed and inspected by the State of Texas, and the American Camping Association.

## CHRISTIAN EMPHASIS

Developing spiritually through Christian programs is an important part of life at YMCA Camp Carter. Each session, campers have the opportunity to share in non-denominational fellowship through daily devotionals and singing graces at mealtimes. These gatherings are attended by everyone at camp and emphasize morals, values and friendship. YMCA Camp Carter welcomes all persons without regard to religion, race, color, national origin, or political belief.

