



YMCA CAMP CARTER

OVERNIGHT & DAY



CAMP INFORMATION PACKET

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

YMCA CAMP CARTER

6200 SAND SPRINGS ROAD, FORT WORTH, TX 76114

817-738-9241 | CAMPER@YMCAFW.ORG | YMCACAMPCARTER.ORG

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 Vice President of Camping Services, 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,

JJ Balderas & 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 meditation with 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).



MEET OUR VIBRANT COUNSELORS

At YMCA Camp Carter, our counselors are more than just staff; they're the heart and soul of our camp! Before the summer fun begins, each counselor selects a unique nickname, sparking an ongoing, playful challenge where campers try their best to discover the counselors' real names. So, whether you're chatting with "Captain Adventure" or "Ladybug", remember that these nicknames add an extra layer of fun and mystery to your camp experience!

Our enthusiastic team isn't just about fun and games; they're also highly trained professionals. We strive to recruit responsible, caring, quality staff members. Each counselor has completed an extensive screening and intensive training covering everything from safety and health protocols, CPR and First Aid, to effective supervision techniques, activities planning, and nurturing camper relationships. Their training ensures that every camper enjoys a safe, supportive, and incredibly fun environment at Camp Carter.

Moreover, many of our counselors are actively pursuing degrees in education, child development, and various other fields, enriching their skills which they bring to camp every day. This mix of professional training and academic insight makes our counselors not just leaders but role models and mentors for every camper they meet. Our program and staff/camper ratios comply with Texas Department of Health standards, and are licensed and inspected by the State of Texas, and accredited through the American Camping Association.

Should you have any questions, comments, or need to discuss a concern, our camp coordinators are always available to assist you. We are here to ensure your campers experience is as wonderful and enriching as possible.

Get ready for a summer of inspiration, learning, and unforgettable adventures at YMCA Camp Carter, where our counselors can't wait to make your camp experience the best ever!

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.



REGISTRATION & ADMISSION

Pre-registration is strongly recommended. We have a limited number of spaces and enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis. All registration are done online, scan the QR code that is in the Day Camp or Overnight Fees Section. No child will be refused admittance to the program due to race, religion, or gender. Same day registration and attendance is not allowed.

- If your child has special needs, please contact the Camp Experience Coordinator to discuss prior to registration.

CAMPERSHIP / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The YMCA offers financial assistance to those who qualify. Applications must be completed and turned in 7 business days before you register for camp.

WAITING LISTS

In the event that a camp fills prior to your registration, you may place your camper on our waiting list. You will be contacted if a spot becomes available 3-5 days prior to the sessions start date.

AGE EXPECTATIONS

Campers must be the age indicated in the camp brochure by the beginning of the camp season. Due to our licensing requirements there will be no age exceptions. Camps are designed with curriculum and programming for campers of a certain age.

BUDDY REQUESTS

We attempt to honor one mutual buddy request between campers of the same age level. A buddy can be comforting but we encourage all campers to make new friends.

PAYMENTS & FEES

DAY CAMP FEES

- \$60 Registration/Supply Fee per camper (non-refundable)
- \$295 YMCA Family Member weekly fee
- \$345 Non-YMCA Family Member weekly fee
- \$15 deposit per week per camper of day camp (non-refundable)

OVERNIGHT CAMP FEES

- \$60 Registration/Supply Fee per camper (non-refundable)
- \$895 YMCA Family Member weekly fee
- \$995 Non-YMCA Family Member weekly fee
- \$200 deposit per week per camper of day camp (non-refundable)

PAYMENTS & FEES

- All tuition balances are due 14 days before camp session starts.
- 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.
- Payments can be set up as auto-draft during registration.
- Non-refundable deposits per week and per child are due at the time of registration for day or overnight camp.
- Please note that if full week tuition is not paid before the 14 days it may result in forfeiture of your campers registration for that session.

As a reminder, the camp registration fee and deposits are non-refundable.

Any camp cancellation request made less than 7 days before the start of camp will not be refunded. If not your account will be drafted regardless of your child's attendance in camp and camp credit will not be available.

Our camps often have a wait list and we want to give everyone an opportunity to attend our camps. When cancellations are not made in advance, the open spot in camp is not filled.



**RESERVE
YOUR SPOT
TODAY**

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 or vapes, 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://forms.office.com/r/DNMDi8ZTDdb>



- If you submit your cancellation request more than 30 days before your registered session starts, you will receive a full tuition refund or full camp credit to apply to another week.
- You will receive a 50% tuition refund or camp credit 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.
- **As a reminder, the \$60 Camp Registration fee and the \$15 weekly deposits are non-refundable for any reason.**

REFUND POLICY: NON-ATTENDANCE

No refunds for nonattendance and no credit for days absent. Our fees are based on a full week.

SESSION TRANSFER REQUESTS

After registration, session transfers will be charged a \$25 transfer fee and based on availability. Any session change must be requested in email to camper@ymcafw.org at least 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.



ATTENDANCE POLICY

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE

If your child will be absent, the camp office must be notified. This helps prevent unnecessary concern and ensures that camp operations can adjust accordingly. Failure to inform the camp of an absence may result in losing your child's reserved spot.

DAILY SIGN-IN AND SIGN-OUT

Each child, regardless of age, must sign in and out daily. Authorized pick-up and sign-in checks must be used to ensure the safety and security of all campers.



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.

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 within three hours of contact. 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 to submit your exemption form or statement.

REQUIRED FORMS

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

The mandatory forms include:

- Health History (Daxko Registration)
- Immunization Statement (Daxko Registration)
- Terms and Conditions (Liability Waiver and Photo Release)
- Camper and Parent Code of Conduct

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



MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Camp staff can administer medication only if the parent or guardian completed the medical authorization form at registration. All medications must be presented in their original containers with clear labels.

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. **Inappropriate Physical Conduct:** Hitting, slapping, biting, pushing/shoving, punching, choking, pinching, scratching, tripping, kicking, stealing, etc.
2. **Sensitive Words:** Derogatory “jokes” and statements, insults, cussing, inappropriate language and topics, degrading and/or belittling words, peer pressure, nagging, teasing, gossiping etc.
3. **Bullying:** Intentional repetitive hurting of one person or group by another person or group where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.
4. **Hazing:** When someone or group of individuals makes another person or group of people do things that can be embarrassing, uncomfortable, or even unsafe to be accepted into a group, like a team or camp unit.

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 Camp Experience Coordinator. 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.

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.
- Campers will NOT have access to camp phones except in the event of an emergency, please call (817) 940-9276 if there is 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 through Bunk1. Camp staff will print the emails (in black and white) and deliver them to your camper.
- **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



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 Bunk1 weekly.

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!

BUNK1 INFORMATION

Be the first to know what's happening this summer at YMCA Camp Carter. We offer private photo gallery, you can also send messages using Bunk Notes.

Go to www.Bunk1.com

Click "New here? Get Started" button and complete the basic form. The Invitation Code for YMCA Camp Carter is: **YMCACC25**

You will be prompted to select a bundle for access to your Parent Portal. Bundles include credits for you to send Bunk Notes and enhance your notes with borders, photos, etc.

For more information on what Bunk1 offers please see the Bunk1 attachment.

CAMP STORE

Campers will have opportunities to visit the camp store. The camp store carries items such as snacks, drinks, t-shirts, and camp 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. During the registration process guardians will be able to put money on the campers account.

Cash will not be accepted from campers, 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!

PROTECTING YOUR CAMPER

REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION

- **Child Abuse Reporting:** All camp staff are mandated reporters and are required to report any suspicions of physical, sexual, emotional, or mental abuse or neglect.
- **Communication Devices:** Staff members are quipped with handheld radios for quick communication in emergencies or operational needs.

AUTHORIZED PICK-UP

- **Emergency and Identification Card:** Campers will be released only to individuals listed on the Authorized pick up list located in your campers registration profile. You are able to update these contacts when ever needed.
- **ID Verification:** Camp staff are required to check the ID's of any individuals they do not recognize, including parents, relatives, or friends, to ensure the safety of all campers.

SUBSTANCE INFLUENCE

Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted to pick up campers under any circumstances.

NON-CAMP ACTIVITIES

Camp staff are prohibited from babysitting or engaging in non-YMCA-organized activities with campers outside camp programs.



ACCIDENT/ EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- **Parental Contact:** In the event of an accident involving a child, camp directors will make every effort to contact the parents immediately. Parents must keep the camp office updated with current contact information.
- **Medical Authority:** If parents cannot be reached in a medical emergency, camp directors are authorized to seek medical attention for the child, and the parents will assume any associated costs.
- **Emergency Services:** In severe emergencies, the director will call 911 without delay. Parents are responsible for any fees incurred for emergency transportation.

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. Campers will receive their group and counselor assignment.
3. 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 Camp Experience Coordinator, 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.

DAY CAMP PICK-UP

- All 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 picture ID at each pick up. 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. 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 \$10/ 5 minute late fee for every child picked up after 6:00 P.M. and you must notify the front office if late pick up is anticipated.

Early Pick Up: EARLY PICKUPS MUST BE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE IN WRITING THROUGH EMAILING camper@ymcafw.org.

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 emailing them to us at camper@ymcafw.org. Early releases cannot be verbally requested at drop off. Pick up before camp is over must happen at the Camp Office.

- Please submit early-release requests as early as possible, at least one hour in advance to collect campers from their activities and will be waiting in the main office for you as soon as we are able to process the request.

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.	Group Gathering
8:45 A.M.	Opening Ceremony
9:15 A.M.	Camper Choice
10:45 A.M.	Unit Challenge Event
12:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 P.M.	Aquatics Group 1/Unit Choice Group 2
2:15 P.M.	Aquatics Group 2/Unit Choice Group 1
3:30 P.M.	Shine Squad
4-6 P.M.	Day Camp Pick Up



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: Dress like your favorite counselor day!
- Friday: Tie Dye!

DAY CAMP LUNCH

Lunch is provided every day at camp's dining hall. This is included in the price of camp. We also provide an afternoon snack, which usually consists of fruit, or another health snack.

We can accommodate most major food allergies. Please make sure to have allergy information included in your child's registration documents and email camper@ymcafw.org if you have concerns or questions.

SWIM TIME

Campers will swim daily in our pool or lake, weather and schedule permitting!

- All campers can swim in the shallow end of the pool.
- Campers who are not tall enough to stand in the shallow end with their shoulders above the water will be required to wear a Coast Guard-approved flotation device (life jacket or a puddle jumper). The YMCA does have a limited supply of these jackets and puddle jumpers on site. You are welcome to send your camper their own US Coast Guard-approved PFD; please label it with first and last name.
- Campers who wish to swim in deeper parts of the pool must pass a swim test supervised by YMCA lifeguards. The test will consist of campers swimming the length of the pool unassisted and treading water for 1-min.
- All participants in the lake must wear life jackets regardless of age or swimming ability. YMCA certified lifeguards supervise all swimming activities.

PREPARING YOUR DAY CAMPER

What to wear to Day Camp?

- Shorts that can get played in and are labeled
- T-shirts that can get played in and are labeled
- Socks
- Tennis Shoes or closed-toed shoes are required. Crocs are not allowed at challenge course. Sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet are only permitted in designated areas. Non-compliance with this policy may result in the camper being sent home to ensure their safety and that of others.
- A Good Attitude

What to bring to Day Camp:

Please mark all items with your camper's name.

- 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
- Refillable Water Bottle
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Rain Gear

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
- 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, headphones
- 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). Leave camper's luggage in the car and come on in! Here's what you can expect during check-in:

1. Parents/Guardians 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 until we are able to check your ID, then 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 Daxko. 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 email us at camper@ymcafw.org by Friday at 5:00 P.M.



TYPICAL DAY AT OVERNIGHT CAMP

A typical day will look something like this:

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:30 A.M.	Rise and Shine!
8:00 A.M.	Breakfast
8:45 A.M.	Flag/ morning announcements
9:15 A.M.	Camper Choice
10:45 A.M.	Unit Challenge
12:15 P.M.	Lunch
1:00 P.M.	Shine Squad
1:15 P.M.	Rest Period
2:15 P.M.	STEAM/ Makerspace
3:00 P.M.	Skill Development
4:00 P.M.	Aquatics Group 1/ Cabin Choice Group 2
5:00 P.M.	Aquatics Group 2/ Cabin Choice Group 1
6:15 P.M.	Dinner
7:45 P.M.	Evening Program Activity
8:45 P.M.	Cabin Time/ Vespers
9:30 P.M.	Lights Out / Unit Devotionals



SWIM TIME

Campers will swim daily in our pool or lake, weather and schedule permitting!

- All campers can swim in the shallow end of the pool.
- Campers who are not tall enough to stand in the shallow end with their shoulders above the water will be required to wear a Coast Guard-approved flotation device (life jacket or a puddle jumper). The YMCA does have a limited supply of these jackets and puddle jumpers on site. You are welcome to send your camper their own US Coast Guard-approved PFD; please label it with first and last name.
- Campers who wish to swim in deeper parts of the pool must pass a swim test supervised by YMCA lifeguards. The test will consist of campers swimming the length of the pool unassisted and treading water for 1-min.
- All participants in the lake must wear life jackets regardless of age or swimming ability. YMCA certified lifeguards supervise all swimming activities.

PREPARING FOR OVERNIGHT CAMP

What to pack for Overnight Camp

Pack everything in 1-2 duffle bag, suitcase, small trunk or box. Let your camper help so he/she knows what he/she has and where it is.

Recommended clothing: Shorts, T-shirts and Tennis Shoes: old rugged, comfortable clothes work best. Do not send anything to camp that cannot get dirty, messy, or broken.

Pack Separately for Check-In

- Backpack/ Tote for Day Pack
- Money for store deposit
- All Medications in original containers: Prescriptions, Over the counter medications, Epi-Pens, Inhalers, etc.
- Swimsuit, swim towel, water shoes

Luggage (Suitcase/Duffle bag/Tote – Limit 2 items per camper)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| • Sleeping bag and/or twin sized sheets or bed roll | • T-shirts |
| • Pillow and pillow case | • Socks (extra socks!) |
| • Bath towel | • Underwear |
| • Swim towel | • Laundry bag |
| • Wash cloth | • Rain jacket or poncho |
| • Toiletry Bag/Tote | • Flashlight with extra batteries |
| • Toiletries: Soap, Wash Cloth, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Brush, Deodorant, Hair Ties (as needed) | • Refillable water bottle |
| • 2 pair close-toe shoes | • Bug spray |
| • Pajamas | • Sunscreen |
| • Shorts/Jean | • Swimsuit/ swim shirt and shorts |
| | • Water shoes/sandals |

Optional Items

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Journal | • Hat |
| • Pen/Pencil | • Sunglasses |
| • Home addressed, stamped envelopes | • Camera (no phones, please) |
| • Book for reading | |

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
- 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, headphones
- 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!)
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YMCA Camp Carter is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items.

CAMP CARTER SUMMER CAMP FAQs

WHAT TYPES OF CAMP DOES CAMP CARTER OFFER?

Overnight camp is an opportunity to be away from home for a week-long adventure where campers forge friendships, strengthen confidence, sharpen character, develop independence and create lasting memories. Campers participate in traditional camp activities, unit nights, come together for every meal, enjoy campfires, songs and live with their peers in fully climate-controlled cabins. **Day Camp** provides an opportunity for campers to experience what Camp Carter has to offer while returning home each night.

WHERE IS CAMP CARTER LOCATED?

YMCA Camp Carter is just minutes from downtown Fort Worth. Our address is 6200 Sand Springs Road, Fort Worth, TX, 76114.

WHAT ARE THE AGES AND SESSION DATES FOR CAMP?

Our **Overnight Camp** program is for campers 7-17 years of age. We are offering 1 exciting week, Sunday, June 8th through Saturday, June 14th, this 2025 Camp season.

Our **Day Camp** program is for campers 5-16 years of age. We offer 11 weeks, starting Tuesday, May 27th. Day Camp runs Monday through Friday.

CAN WE TOUR CAMP?

For first-time and returning families, we offer 4 Open House dates. If you cannot attend one of these dates, please reach out to us at camper@ymcafw.org to set up a personal tour. Open houses will be on Sunday February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, and May 25th from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. To RSVP, please click on this link or scan QR code.



WHAT IS THE COST OF A WEEK OF CAMP?

YMCA members save on tuition:

Overnight Camp for membership households are \$895 per camper plus a \$60 registration fee. Fees for non-YMCA membership households are \$995 plus a \$60 registration fee.

Day Camp for membership households are \$295 per camper per week. Fees for non-YMCA membership households are \$345 per camper per week. A one-time registration fee of \$60 is accessed during the initial registration process. To become a YMCA member, please visit ymcafw.org/join/

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CAMPER FOR CAMP?

Scan the QR codes to be directed to the registration platform.



Overnight Camp



Day Camp

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR CAMPSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Scan the QR codes to be directed to the financial assistance form.



DO YOU HAVE A CAMP STORE, AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Our camp store carries limited snacks and drinks and Camp Carter souvenirs such as t-shirts, stickers and stuffed animals. Deposits to your camper's account can be made during registration. Campers will visit the camp store many times throughout their time at camp alongside their units.

CAN I REQUEST MY CAMPER BE IN THE SAME UNIT/CABIN AS THEIR FRIEND?

To facilitate the best age-appropriate experience for all our campers, our units are divided by age groups. During registration you are able to submit one mutually requested buddy request. We will do our best to meet these requests but cannot guarantee it.

CAMP CARTER SUMMER CAMP FAQs

DO YOU OFFER A SIBLING DISCOUNT?

Yes. The first camper tuition is full price any additional siblings (children sharing in the same household) will receive a 10% discount for each additional camper. There is no discount for multiple sessions for the same camper.

WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN MY CAMPER EXPECT TO DO AT CAMP?

Campers can expect a week full of adventure!

Overnight Campers choose their activities on Sunday evening.

Day Campers choose their activities on Monday morning.

Some activities are already set in the schedule that will help build skills, community, and friendships. Activities may include, but are not limited to the following skills: Arts & Crafts, Canoeing, Hiking, Outdoor Living Skills, Archery, Challenge Course, Riflery (ages 10+), Team Sports, Paddleboarding and more! Some activities have age restrictions.

WHAT STAFF/CAMPER RATIO DOES THE CAMP FOLLOW?

Overnight Cabins will have 2 staff for every 10 campers.

For **day time** activities, our ratios are as follows:

5 year old = 1 counselor: 6 campers

6-8 year old = 1 counselor: 8 campers

9-14 year old = 1 counselor: 10 campers

15-17 year old = 1 counselor: 12 campers

WHAT IS THE CIT (COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING) PROGRAM?

Counselors-in-Training (CIT) is a 2-year teen leadership program for youth ages 16 & 17, who wish to increase their confidence and responsibility, and have a ton of fun with other people their own age and who wish to be counselors at camp when they turn 18. CIT coordinators supervise and mentor CITs throughout the program, as well as facilitate activities and evaluate the participants.

WHAT SHOULD MY CAMPER BRING TO CAMP?

Overnight campers come to live at camp for a week, so they will need everything from a sleeping bag to toiletries and enough clothes for the week.

Day campers will bring the necessities to make themselves comfortable, including a day pack.

We provide a detailed list of items of what to bring to camp and what to leave at home in our camper information packet. This packet is emailed to parents/guardians after registration.

CAN MY CAMPER BRING THEIR ELECTRONIC DEVICES?

We encourage a screen-free experience. Phones, tablets, and other electronics should be left at home. If a camper is found to have an electronic device, we will confiscate the device, place it in the camp safe and immediately notify the parents/ guardians. Devices can be picked up on check-out day..

WHEN IS CAMP CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT?

Overnight campers check-in on Sunday Afternoon from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Check-out is on Saturday morning between 9:00 am to 10:00 am. All families are invited to attend our closing ceremony. The closing ceremony will begin at 9:30 am and end at approximately 10:00 am at the Point in front of the Dining Hall. Check-out will occur after the closing ceremony ends.

Day campers check in each day between 7:00 am to 8:30 am and check-out between 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Parents/guardians must sign in and out their camper each day with a camp staff member.

CAMP CARTER SUMMER CAMP FAQs

DOES THE YMCA PROVIDE MEALS?

Overnight Campers – Yes, we provide all meals from Sunday dinner to Saturday breakfast while campers are here. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner and a daily snack are provided to all of our overnight campers.

Day Campers – We provide a snack and lunch each day they attend.

Please list any food allergies or dietary restrictions on your camper's enrollment form.

WILL THERE BE PHOTOS TAKEN OF MY CAMPER'S EXPERIENCE?

Be the first to know what's happening this summer at YMCA Camp Carter. We offer private photo gallery, you can also send messages using Bunk Notes. Go to www.Bunk1.com. Click "New here? Get Started" button and complete the basic form. The Invitation Code for YMCA Camp Carter is: **YMCACC25**

CAN I SEND MAIL TO MY CAMPER OR CALL MY CAMPER WHILE AT CAMP?

We encourage parents/ guardians and family members to send emails through Bunk1, write letters, and mail care packages to your camper during his/her session. Camp is a time for campers to develop independence and escape from distractions such as TV, internet, and phone calls. For this reason we do not allow campers to call home or receive calls from home.

CAN I VISIT MY CAMPER WHILE THEY ARE AT CAMP?

We work to create an environment to develop independence in each camper. For the safety and well-being of all of our campers, we do not allow visitors during the camp session. If it is your camper's first time away, you are welcome to call and request an update on your camper throughout their stay.

WHAT TRAINING DO STAFF COMPLETE?

Our camp staff complete intensive training prior to the start of camp. Topics covered during training include CPR/First Aid or lifeguarding, mental, emotional, and social health, Abuse Prevention and Recognition, behavioral management, age characteristics, and much more. Staff leading our specialized activities such as canoeing, target sports and challenge course have received additional training in those areas.

AM I REQUIRED TO PAY THE \$60 FOR BOTH DAY AND OVERNIGHT CAMP?

If your camper is attending both day camp and overnight camp at YMCA Camp Carter, we will credit the additional registration fee to your total camp balance or issue store credit. Campers registering for multiple day camp sessions will only be charged a one-time registration fee.

WHAT IF MY CAMPER LOST AN ITEM OR LEFT IT AT CAMP?

All items will be donated, disposed of or repurposed one week after the end of your campers session. If your camper has lost/left an item, please complete this form. A section for lost items will be available for parents/guardian/camper viewing at check-out.

WHAT IF MY CAMPER GETS SICK AT CAMP?

We have a health center attendant on site to manage any minor first aid and/or minor complaints such as headaches or tummy aches. If a camper is too ill to participate in their scheduled activities, parents/guardians will be contacted. If a camper shows signs of contagious illness such as coughing, fever, or other symptoms, parents/guardians are required to pick up the camper within 3 hours of contact for overnight camper and 90 minutes for day campers. All visits to our health center by campers are recorded and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at camper@ymcafw.org.

HOW CAN I REACH THE STAFF AT CAMP?

If you have any questions during your camper's session, you may reach our staff at our Camp office at 817-738-9241. We are out with campers throughout the day so, we may not be able to answer right away, but if you leave a message, someone from our team will get back to you as soon as they are available. You can also reach us by email at camper@ymcafw.org.



YMCA CAMP CARTER

**CONTACT US IF YOU
HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS**



**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO OUR ADVENTURE
TOGETHER!**

YMCA CAMP CARTER

6200 SAND SPRINGS ROAD, FORT WORTH, TX 76114

817-738-9241 | CAMPER@YMCAFW.ORG | YMCACAMPCARTER.ORG