



Champaign Family YMCA Summer Camp

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who can attend YMCA Summer Camp?

Our Summer Camp is open to children who are kindergarten-eligible through age 12. We also offer a Counselor-in-Training (CIT) opportunity for youth ages 13–15 who want to build leadership skills. CIT's need to apply for their volunteer job and will go through an interview process to be accepted.

2. Do campers have to be YMCA members?

No. YMCA Summer Camp is open to both members and non-members. YMCA members receive early registration access, reduced fees on camp and care, and other Y member benefits, but everyone is welcome.

3. What if I received assistance from ODJFS?

Confirm fulltime authorization with residing county

4. What are the camp hours?

Before Care: Begins at 6:30 AM

Camp Day: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

After Care: Until 6:00 PM

Drop-off begins at 8:45 AM, and pick-up begins at 3:45 PM.

5. Where is camp located?

Camp is primarily held at the Champaign Family YMCA in Urbana, with additional activities and special days at Camp Shiffer and community locations throughout the summer.

6. How are campers grouped during the day?

Campers are placed in age-appropriate groups to ensure activities, supervision, and expectations match each child's developmental level. The American Camp Association (ACA) sets guidelines on camper/counselor ratios and they are strictly followed.

7. What does a typical day at camp look like?

Each day includes a mix of:

- Organized games, themed activities and songs
- Hands on Science projects
- Daily swimming or water play activities
- Lunch, snack
- Daily reading time provided
- Nature driven activities

No two days look exactly the same — and that's part of the fun!

8. Is swimming required?

Yes. Swimming is a regular and important part of our camp day, except on certain field-trip days. This helps us keep campers engaged and safely supervised during the summer heat. Approved life jackets are supplied.

9. What should my child bring to camp each day?

Campers should bring:

- Tennis shoes
- Swimsuit & towel
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen (applied before arrival)
- Bug Spray (applied before arrival)
- Packed lunch on field-trip days

Please label all belongings with your child's name.

10. Does the YMCA provide meals or snacks?

A free lunch is provided through the Summer Feed Program with Urbana City Schools on camp days. On field-trip days, families will be asked to send a packed lunch. Weekly newsletters will always communicate meal details clearly. After swimming each group has a scheduled Trading Post (snack) time. A snack can be purchased for .50 per day. Trading post money is collected at sign in at the beginning of the week. Campers can also pack a snack from home.

11. How do parents receive weekly camp information?

Families receive weekly camp newsletters that include:

- Schedules
- Field trip details
- Lunch reminders
- Special events and theme highlights

We also use email and utilize the Brightwheel App for quick updates.

12. What kinds of field trips and special activities are offered?

Field trips may include:

- Parks and pools
- Camp Shiffer
- Community attractions
- Guest presenters and hands-on experiences
- Trips vary by age group and weekly theme.

13. How are counselors trained and supervised?

All camp staff are:

- Carefully selected and background-checked
- Trained in CPR, First Aid, child safety, and YMCA policies
- Supported by experienced leadership staff

We blend seasoned counselors with select high-school and college-aged leaders to create a strong, supportive team.

14. What if my child needs medication or extra support?

If your child requires medication, one-on-one support, or has a medical or behavioral condition, please contact the Summer Camp Director before enrolling so we can plan appropriately.

15. How does the YMCA handle sunscreen and personal care?

Parents should apply sunscreen before drop-off. Campers are reminded to reapply, but staff cannot apply sunscreen due to licensing rules. Sunscreen must be lotion-based (no aerosols).

16. What is the YMCA's approach to child safety?

Child safety is our top priority. The YMCA follows strict policies to prevent abuse and neglect, and we train staff to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for every camper. All staff at the YMCA are mandated reporters.

17. Can my child attend only certain weeks?

Yes. Families may register by the week, depending on availability.

18. What happens if plans change and my child can't attend?

Because YMCA Summer Camp operates with limited enrollment and required staff-to-camper ratios, camp registrations are considered reserved space once confirmed. If you need to cancel a registration contact needs to be made two weeks in advance.

Deposit / Registration Fees

- A non-refundable deposit is required at the time of registration to hold a camper's spot.
- This deposit helps cover administrative and staffing costs and will not be refunded under any circumstances.

Cancellations & Changes (Before Camp Begins)

- More than 14 days before the start of camp:
 - Families may receive a credit on their YMCA account for camp fees paid *minus the non-refundable deposit*.
- 14 days or fewer before the start of camp:
 - No refunds or credits will be issued.
 - At this point, camp spots are typically filled, staffing is finalized, and waitlisted campers can no longer be accommodated.

Cancellations During Camp Week

- If a camper does not attend due to illness, vacation, or scheduling changes after the camp week has begun, no refunds or credits will be issued for missed days.

Exceptions & Special Circumstances

We understand unexpected situations can arise. Medical emergencies or significant family circumstances may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- Any exception must be reviewed by the Camp Director
- Final decisions rest with the Camp Director or YMCA CEO
- Documentation may be requested when applicable

Weather, Field Trips, or Schedule Changes

- Camp operates rain or shine.
- Changes to schedules, activities, or field trips do not qualify for refunds.

Why This Policy Exists

This policy helps ensure:

- Fair access for families on waitlists
- Appropriate staffing and camper safety
- Long-term sustainability of YMCA Summer Camp

We appreciate your understanding and partnership in making camp a great experience for all families.

19. Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns during the summer?

We're always happy to help and encourage families to reach out anytime. For most questions or day-to-day needs, our camp leadership team is the best first point of contact and can quickly assist.

Start here:

camp@champymca.org

or 937-653-9622

If additional support is needed, you're welcome to contact our Camp Director directly:

Nicky Naylor – nnaylor@champymca.org

If an issue still needs further attention, families may reach out to:

Greg Hower, CEO – ghower@champymca.org

We believe open communication is key and are committed to supporting your family every step of the way!