



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



# YMCA CAMP CARTER PARENT HANDBOOK DAY CAMP 2021

## WELCOME TO YMCA CAMP CARTER

*"In the heart of the Ft. Worth community, Camp Carter provides quality programs that enhance people's relationships with themselves, others, and the world around them."*

**YMCA CAMP CARTER**  
6200 Sand Springs Road  
Fort Worth, Texas, 76114

[www.campcarter.org](http://www.campcarter.org)

**Phone:**

(817) 738-9241

**Fax:**

(817) 731-1673

Dear Summer Camp Parents,

At Y day camp, we are here to make your kids feel welcome. To help them quickly realize this is a place where they belong and can be themselves. Try new things. Make new friends. And be a part of something great.

The Y is giving kids their *best summer ever* through a day camp experience with more activities to help them learn, master skills, make friends and feel welcome.

Through the Y's day camp program, kids participate in fun and educational activities that help them:

- Learn and master skills that help them realize their passions, talents and potential;

- Build friendships with new friends and staff role models adding to their well-being;

- Help them feel like they belong so they feel safe, welcome and free to express their individuality.

We know we have a huge role in each camper's development and we take that seriously. Thank you for allowing your camper to spend the summer with us. The YMCA understands the many benefits a quality camping experience can provide: lasting friendships, skill development, healthy physical activity and FUN to name a few. We ensure that the YMCA is for youth development, for healthy living and for social responsibility. We offer diverse programs and activities to match the interests and needs of our campers of all ages.

Children's lives are changed on a daily basis and our staff is exceptional! The summer staff is a group of experienced, talented and dedicated people who enjoy working with children. They understand that every child is unique and will strive to help each child develop at their own pace. Every staff member completes a two week-long staff training and goes through extensive reference and criminal background checks as well as a personal interview.

Our staff are also BLS certified. Camper safety, both physical and emotional, is of the utmost importance to us. Our staff truly wants the best for your child to grow, develop and have fun!

We know you have a lot to consider when choosing the right summer camp for your child and we are here to answer all of your questions. You are always welcome to contact us for an individual meeting through our office anytime during weekly business hours.

As Camp Directors, our goal is to make a difference within this community by providing a camp experience that creates an enjoyable memory for all campers. This goal is achieved through selective screening of staff and a camp atmosphere that fosters the development and strengthening of friendships.

Sincerely,

Holly K. Martin

Executive Director

[hmartin@ymcafw.org](mailto:hmartin@ymcafw.org)

## Registration Policies

- A one-time, non-refundable \$60 registration fee is due upon registration. If registering with less than 2 weeks to start of session, then balance is due in full upon registration. Weekly balances are due as follows.
- We continue accepting registrations until camp is full. Sessions are filled by strict camper to counselor ratios. Availability is contingent on gender and age.
- Specialty camps are offered each week (except week 1) to make the camp experience even more personalized. These camps are listed in this handbook. Specialty camps will be available for sign up when you register for your specific weeks. Some specialty camps will have a small additional fee and must be paid in full at the time of registration.
- **Balance Due Deadlines (all balances due 9 days before camp session starts):**

- Week 1 – Due by May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Week 2 – Due by May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Week 3 – Due by June 5<sup>th</sup>
- Week 4 – Due by June 12<sup>th</sup>
- Week 5 – Due by June 19<sup>th</sup>
- Week 6 – Due by June 26<sup>th</sup>
- Week 7 – Due by July 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Week 8 – Due by July 10<sup>th</sup>
- Week 9 – Due by July 17<sup>th</sup>
- Week 10 – Due by July 24<sup>th</sup>
- Week 11- Due by July 31<sup>th</sup>

- A \$30 charge is made for all returned checks. Funds to cover check and NSF charges will be accepted in cash, cashier check, money order, or credit card only.
- Session transfers will be granted based on availability. Any session change must be requested in writing in advance of the session start.
- 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.
- 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.

**Please read our behavior contract with your child and ensure they understand all the behavior policies.** Thank you for assisting us to help your child have a great Day Camp experience!

- I will **listen to the staff** and follow directions.
- I will **respect other people's belongings** by not touching/ using their stuff without permission.
- I will **respect all property** and help clean personal messes and assist in leaving areas better than I found it.
- I will **respect other people's** personal space by keeping my hands and feet to myself.
- I will **respect other people's feelings** by having a positive attitude when talking to them.
- I will **act in a caring way, and I will not hit, fight, bite, tease, harass or bully others.**
- I will **use my indoor voice when speaking** inside.
- I will **use appropriate language**, which does not include swear words or negative remarks (i.e. "shut up", "stupid", "dumb").
- Before leaving the room or program space, **I will ask a staff member for permission.** I will never leave an area without adult acknowledgement.

**Not abiding by these rules may result in suspension and/or termination from the program.**

YMCA staff and management reserve the right to dismiss/dis-enroll 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 staff. Children suspended/terminated from the program will not qualify for a refund.

- NO REFUNDS will be issued if a camper leaves camp for any reason other than a medical emergency. Medical emergencies apply only to campers and their immediate family. Proof of medical emergency will be required for refund. Refunds are made on a pro-rated basis and less the \$60 non-refundable registration fee.

## Illness and Exclusion Criteria

All immunizations must be current. Children must be healthy enough to participate in the program's daily routine. We do not have the facilities to care for sick children and therefore do not allow them to attend the program. 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 9:30am and let the staff know of your child's absence. When your child has a fever (fever of 100.4) or vomiting/diarrhea, please make sure they remain at home 24 hours after their temperature and symptoms returns to normal. We may require a physician's release for any medical or health condition. If your child becomes ill while at camp, you will be asked to pick up your child as soon as possible.

Exclusion from camp may include, but not limited to the following illness/communicable health problems:

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

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.

In the case that your child becomes ill during the program, you will be contacted as soon as possible. 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.

## COVID-19 Precautions

Below are a few of the new measures we have put into place at this time to ensure health and safety.

- Masks are optional, but not required, for campers and staff at camp.
- We will do our best to help educate our campers on proper handwashing processes; however, we do ask that you have this discussion at home prior to coming to day camp.
- For more information on how to have these types of discussions please see the CDC's information [here](#) and [here](#).
- We are also asking that if you are able, you provide your camper with their own craft supplies this summer. A full list of recommended supplies can be found [here](#).

## Day Camp's Cancellation Policy

In order to reserve your place in camp you must register in advance and enroll in an automatic draft. We hope that you will not need to cancel your camp weeks but we understand that things come up.

- There is a \$60 one-time, non-refundable registration fee due upon registration.
- Cancellations must be requested two weeks prior to the start of the week of care.
- All cancellations must be made in writing. The link to the form is provided below. This is the only way cancellations are accepted so please fill this out to begin the process.  
[https://ymcafortworth.formstack.com/forms/daycamp\\_cancellation](https://ymcafortworth.formstack.com/forms/daycamp_cancellation)
- If your cancellation request is not made two weeks in advance you will be charged and can receive a 50% refund if the request is made 7 days before the start of the camp week.
- If you fail to submit a cancellation request prior to 7 days before the start of camp, you will be drafted and no longer eligible for refund regardless of your child's attendance in camp.
- 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 exceptions. Summer school is not an exception. However, we will work with you to change sessions if space is available.

## Daily Photos

Camp has a photographer who takes daily photos of campers, and uploads them to Facebook. This is a good way to see a snapshot of what your camper is doing, and share the moments with your network. You can find that sampling at: [www.Facebook.com/ymcacampcarter](http://www.Facebook.com/ymcacampcarter). Be sure to like our page so you receive updates when new photos are posted!

We do our best to get pictures of every child, but some children avoid the camera and some activities cannot be photographed safely.

## Consent and Health Forms

YMCA Camp Carter has gone green with the ability for parents to fill out and electronically sign their campers consent and health history forms online. The Day Camp Health Form will be emailed to you.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may stop by Camp Carter during regular business hours and complete the forms there. Camp Carter will also have a limited number of tablets at check-in for form completion. Please allow 15 minutes to complete forms for each camper. Each child **MUST** have their own paperwork. **New forms are required EACH YEAR.**

## Drop Off

Camper drop-off occurs each Monday\* morning from 7:00 – 8:15 AM at the Rec Hall. No camper will be admitted prior to 7:00 AM! Please contact the Day Camp Director if your child needs to arrive **after** drop-off hours. Children dropped off after 8:25 AM should be taken to the camp office where they will wait to be united with their camp group. At drop-off each morning a parent/guardian is required to sign their child in at the check-in desk.

\*The following will occur on Monday morning check-in (Monday's can be hectic so please be patient):

1. Parents must fill out any forms that have not been received by the office prior to camp.
2. Parents and campers will receive their group and counselor assignment.
3. Store money is turned in. (Although store money may be received at any check-in, we recommend that this money is turned in during check-in on Monday because store schedule is always subject to change.)
4. Any medications are turned in. **Camp Carter may only accept/administer medication in its original packaging with the doctor's current prescription printed clearly on the bottle.**
5. Your child will receive the 2021 YMCA Camp Carter t-shirt

***(Only 1 t-shirt per camper per summer as a special gift from Camp Carter)***

*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.*

## Pick-Up

Camper pick-up occurs each day at from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Recreation Hall.

Parents/Guardians and authorized people 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 desk. 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 (including parents)
- 2) a person on the list who does not show proper identification

There will be a \$20/hour late fee for children picked up after 6:00 pm. Early pick-up, prior to 4:00 PM, will happen at the office and requires prior written notification and must be given to the Day Camp Director. Campers will be dropped off at the office as close to an activity change time as possible.

## Camp Store

Campers will have the opportunity to visit the camp store during their time at camp. The camp store carries items such as beverages and snacks, t-shirts, hats, water bottles, souvenirs, etc. Items in the store range in prices 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. At check-in parents may deposit money into a personal account for their camper. When campers make purchases at the store, their account is debited for that amount. **Cash is not accepted from campers at the camp store. Campers should not keep money with them at camp.** Refunds will be processed at the end of Camp in August. Parents will be given options on how to receive their refund (YMCA Credit, check, refund to credit card) If a camper has less than \$5 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!

# Program Information

There will be eleven one-week sessions of Day Camp during the summer of 2021. The first day of camp is Monday, June 1 and sessions will run Monday through Friday until August 13.

## Daily Schedule

A Typical Day will look something like this:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
7:00 AM	Day Camp Drop Off (thru 8:15 AM)
8:30 AM	Snack (Ice Breakers Day 1)/Opening Ceremony
8:45 AM	Water / Sunscreen / Restrooms
9:00 AM	Core Activity Time (Canoeing, Archery, Etc.)
10:00 AM	Swim Group 1 / Theme Activity
11:00 AM	Swim Group 2 / Theme Activity
11:40 AM	Line Up / Hoppers (11:40 AM)
11:45 AM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Camp Store Open
1:00 PM	Water / Sunscreen / Restrooms
1:45 PM	All Camp Gather At Pavilion
2:00 PM	Clinic Time (Progressive Activities)
3:30 PM	Snack
3:45 PM	Water / Restrooms
4:00 PM	Day Camp Pick Up (Thru 6:00 PM)

## Activities

Activities may include, but are not limited to:

Canoeing (ages 8+)	Archery
Hiking	Team Sports
Outdoor Living Skills	Arts & Crafts
Swimming	Gaga Ball
Challenge Course	Tie-dying

**Activity availability will vary each session and is also dependent on the week's theme. There are many individual week activities based on themes!**

## Themes

Each week of camp has a special theme. Our daily activities are then designed around the theme of the week to keep them fun and interesting, to all campers. We will give advance notice of any special events your child may want to participate in, such as a costume day. This summer's themes are as follows:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Wednesday Dress Up</b>
• Week #1 - June 1 - 4	Camp Cruise	Tacky Tourist
• Week #2 - June 7 - 11	Tropical Adventure	Jungle Animals
• Week #3 - June 14 - 18	Backpacking Through Europe	Neon
• Week #4 - June 21 - 25	Soaring to South Africa	Superheroes
• Week #5 - June 28 - July 2	Foodies of the World	Cloudy with a chance of meatballs
• Week #6 - July 5 - 9	Born in the USA	RED, WHITE & BLUE
• Week #7 - July 12 - 16	Exploring Cultures	Explorers
• Week #8 - July 19 - 23	Movin' and Groovin'	Decades
• Week #9 - July 26 - 30	Architectural Challenge	Greek Empire
• Week #10 - Aug. 2 - 6	Year of the Ox	Disney
• Week # 11 - Aug. 9 - 13	Off we go to Mexico	Color Wars

## Horseback Riding

Every Friday, the day campers will get the opportunity to have an arena ride at the equestrian center. If campers are interested in more equestrian programming, then they can participate in our "Ready to Ride" program every morning Monday-Thursday from 9-11am for an additional fee. Space is limited and this program is for ages 8-16 & under 180 lbs. For more information check out the horse tab at [www.ymcacampcarter.org](http://www.ymcacampcarter.org) Please note these programs are for ages 8+.

## 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. If you'd like to find out more about the weekly menu please contact the Day Camp leadership team closer to the start of a session.

# Preparing Your Camper

## What to wear to camp:

- Shorts or pants
- T-shirts
- Socks
- Tennis Shoes (sandals or flip-flops are only allowed during swim time)
- A Good Attitude

## What to bring to camp... Please mark all items with camper's name.

- Backpack
- Towel
- Swimsuit
- Sandals or Flip Flops
- Water Bottle
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellant
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Rain Gear
- Fishing Pole & Gear (optional)
- If participating in Ready to Ride, bring long pants and 1 pair of hard soled boots

## What to leave at home:

- **Cell Phones**
- Knives
- Firearms
- Fireworks
- Trading Cards
- Animals and pets
- **Cell phones**
- Items of sentimental or monetary value
- All forms of "tech-toys" (**cell phones**)
- iPods
- PDA's
- **Cell Phones**
- CD /DVD Players
- Matches
- Alcohol
- Illegal Drugs
- OTC Drugs
- Cash or Credit Cards
- Computers

We encourage our campers to be unplugged while at camp and hope you can honor this request. Any of these prohibited items brought to camp will be collected by our directors, and returned at the end of the session. Please note that **cell phones** are prohibited!

**\*YMCA Camp Carter is not responsible for any lost or stolen articles!**  
**If any of these items are found, they may be taken up by the camp directors.**  
**Parents may request them at check out, Lost and Found is located by the Camp Store.**

## Phone Calls:

Camp is a time for children to develop independence and escape from distractions such as TV, the 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 until the child is picked up.
- Our camp office is open from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm Mondays and 8:30 am – 6:00 pm, Tuesday – Friday. The office phone number is (817) 738 – 9241.
- 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.
- If you need to reach us for any reason during non-office hours please call our 24 hour Emergency Line at (817) 401-6796.

## 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 Senior Counselor who is at least 18 years old.
- ⇒ Day camp leadership staff is comprised of 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.
- ⇒ 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. Camp has an on call doctor and is just minutes from Cook's 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.

## 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.

# Goals for Day Camp

**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.

## **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?**

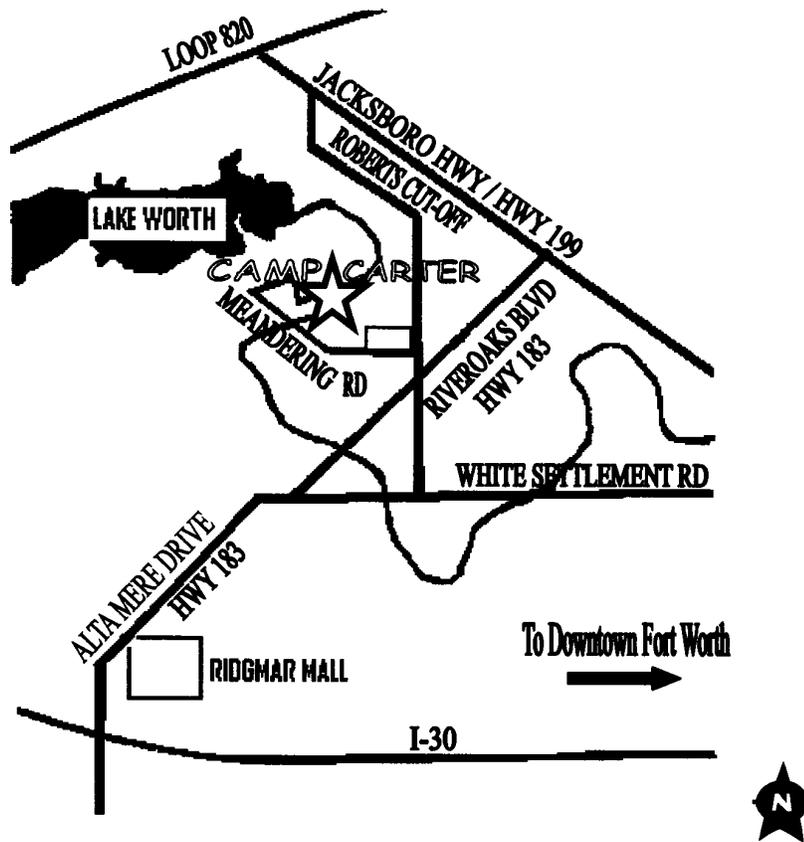
- Campers attend skill areas daily and are encouraged to try something new.
- Campers are oriented to the safety rules and supervised by staff at each skill area.
- Campers will receive awards in certain skill areas to recognize achievement.

## **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).



**6200 Sand Springs Road  
Fort Worth, Texas 76114  
817-738-9241**

**From South IH-35:** Take I-30 West. Take 183 North (exit 7B). Sign says 183/341 NAS FW JRB/Green Oaks. Follow signs to 183 north. Ridgmar Mall will be on your right. Go 3.5 miles to Robert's Cut-off. (Note: road changes to 183 **East**). Look for CVS on Right, Taco Bell on left. Turn **left** on Robert's Cut-off (sign is very small). Turn **left** on Meandering Road, Qwik-way shop is at corner. Travel approx. 1 mile, road forks. Take fork to **right**. Go across river, past Burger's Lake, follow road around to end. Turn **right** into Camp Carter.

**From IH 30:** Follow directions above.

**From North IH-35:** Exit 820 West. Take Jacksboro Hwy / 199 East exit (exit 10A). Follow signs to 199 **east**. Home Depot is on right. Turn **right** on Robert's Cut-off, first light. Continue 2.5 miles on Robert's Cut-off through neighborhood. Pass elementary school on left. Turn **right** on Meandering Road (Qwik-Way shop on right). Continue 1.5 miles, road forks. Take fork to **right**. Go across river, past Burger's Lake, follow road around to end. Turn **right** into Camp Carter.

**From 820 East or West:** Follow directions above.