

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# C.I.I. Agents

Create. Imagine. Inspire.

AT YMCA SUMMER CAMP 2022 Dear Parents,

Welcome to the YMCA of El Paso's Summer Camp Program! We are looking forward to an exciting, fun, and safe summer day camp session this year: a season full of new themes, new ideas, and new adventures designed to challenge your children in spirit, mind, and body.

In addition to the fun and excitement, YMCA Summer camp also provides opportunities for kids to develop self-esteem, learn to work and play together, develop an appreciation for the environment, learn new skills, and develop the value of honesty, caring, respect, responsibility and faith that will last a lifetime. This is going to be the BEST SUMMER EVER!

-YMCA of FI Paso

# **OUR MISSION**

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

# **PURPOSE**

YMCA summer camps seek to provide a safe, fun-filled, creative, educational day camp experience utilizing Christian leadership to help children achieve a higher physical well-being, social growth and the development of values. Our program reflects four core values, which are Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility.

# **OBJECTIVES**

- To provide a safe and fun summer camp experience
- To learn and develop social skills through group activities, sports, arts and crafts, games, swimming and peer interaction
- To learn to function in a group with emphasis on team building, leadership, group identity and involvement
- To learn and develop key skills by incorporating the YMCA's core values into daily Curriculum
- To develop self-confidence and self-worth, which is accomplished by the treatment of campers as individuals and through positive reinforcement
- To improve health and fitness through physical activities and recreation

# PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Going off to summer camp is a very exciting experience for campers and parents. It is natural for everyone to be anxious about the first day of camp and meeting new friends. We encourage all parents and campers to attend our open house/parent orientation to meet camp staff and fellow campers. In addition, the following information will hopefully minimize first-day anxiety.

# **Parent Statement of Understanding**

- I understand that I am not to leave any child at the YMCA site without signing in or unless a YMCA staff member is present.
- I understand that my child will not be allowed to leave the program with an unauthorized person or staff.
- I understand that the YMCA Staff is not allowed to baby-sit or transport children outside of program hours.
- I understand that a student Behavior Contract is the first formal step to help resolve repeated rule violation on the part of a child. A behavior contract involves parents, child, and staff. Failure to correct specified inappropriate behavior may result in suspension or dismissal from the Summer Camp Program.
- I may request a meeting with the YMCA Program Director to ask question about day camp policies and procedures. You are encouraged to contact the YMCA Office any time you have a concern or comment about the operation of this site.
- Should I, or another authorized person, appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol and seek to sign out my child, staff are empowered to contact local law enforcement authorities and place your child in their custody. Please do not place staff in a position to make this judgement.
- I understand that the YMCA is mandated by state law to report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities for investigation. The Child Abuse Hotline is 1-800-252-5400.
- Parents are encouraged to participate in the activities and special events at the child care center. Please feel free to come to the site at any time. Be certain to check in with YMCA Summer Camp Director or Assistant.

# YMCA SUMMER PROGRAM HOURS

Start Date: June 6, 2022 End Date: July 29, 2022 Regular Hours: 8am – 4pm Before Care: 7-8am

After Care: 4-6pm

#### **PAYMENT INFORMATION**

A one-time Registration Fee of \$25 is due at the time of registration. A registration form must be filled out completely before your child may participate in the Summer Day Camp Program.

Weekly Fees for camp are as Members: \$70

follows per child: Non-Members: \$120

Before / After Care fee Members: \$5 per hour

weekly Non-Members: \$10 per hour

# ALL PAYMENTS MADE AFTER 7PM ON FRIDAY FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK WILL INCLUDE A \$15 LATE FEE PER CHILD.

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Our YMCA Programs are designed to benefit persons of all backgrounds. While participants are expected to pay their fair share, the YMCA will assist any individual who wants to participate but cannot afford the fee. Contact our YMCA Office for more information. Applications and prior participation is not a guarantee of award. Due to limited enrollments, an application for financial assistance must be made with the YMCA Branch in advance of enrollment. In addition to the Financial Assistance Application, you must complete the Summer Camp Enrollment forms. Proof of income and expenses for the entire households. Acceptable proof of income will be the latest Tax 1049, last 3 paystubs, WIC letters, FAFSA, etc.

# THE BENEFITS OF FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

By becoming a member of the YMCA you can save money on your child's camp tuition and receive discounts on other YMCA programs. To learn more about our family membership options, call your local Y.

# **ENRICHMENT CURRICULUM**

Each YMCA Day Camp site follows a curriculum framework based on sound planning principals the following core developmental content areas. The specific activities associated with the various curriculum categories generally take place in one or several of the following contexts, each of which is balanced throughout the day or week. Includes non-completive and competitive team sports, games, arts & crafts and other projects that encourage children to use team skills, be creative, and challenge themselves.

Children will be allowed to swim daily during their schedule swim time. Additionally, Archery will be offered for all campers who have a signed waiver from parents and have successfully passed the rules and regulations course.

**Free Choice:** The child has the option of choosing from among several activities.

**Small Group:** The activities available can be done either in small groups or alone.

**Project Time:** Time is set-aside for children to begin or return to a long-term project.

**Large Group:** Activities are designed for large group participation. **Indoor/Outdoor:** All of the contexts and activities above are presented or done in both indoor and outdoor settings.

# A Typical Week of Camp includes:

- Camper's Choice & Play during early morning and late afternoon hours
- **Skills building** related to STEM, Art and Humanities, Sports and outdoor recreation play
- Participates in Camp Readers Program
- Start and end a camp day with a group assembly filled with song, dance and recognition to celebrate the spirit of camp
- At least twice a week, campers participate in our Safety Around Water program which is designed to gain the basics skills of water safety in group a setting.
- Character development with a focus on our core values: Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility
- Diversity, Inclusion and Global Awareness opportunities to gain knowledge and cultural awareness

Component	Outcome	Examples
Arts and Humanities	Demonstrate an appreciation for arts and humanities	Program offers arts activities a minimum of two times per week.
Character Development & Leadership	Demonstrate caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and faith as well as social skills that help promote leadership.	Staff and activities teach, celebrate, model, reinforce, and practice character development values on a daily basis. Staff confront behaviors that are inconsistent with the values.
Health, Wellness, and Fitness	Demonstrate physical fitness and knowledge about healthy lifestyles	Program offers at least 30 minutes daily of physical activity, cooperative games, dance, or sports.
Literacy	Develop skills in reading, writing, vocabulary, and comprehension,	Program offers activities a minimum of two times per week.
S.T.E.M.	Demonstrate a commitment to learning and problem-solving skills.	Program offers activities a minimum of two times per week.
Diversity, Inclusion and Global Awareness	Gain knowledge and understanding of cultures awareness	Program offers activities on a daily basis

#### STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

All staff has to undergo a background screening, drug screening and receive comprehensive training. Each camp site is also staffed with a professional Head Counselor. Any camper needs should be brought to the attention of either the Head Counselors, Coordinator or Director and they will be taken care of in a timely manner. All summer staff are at least 16 years or older and are selected based upon their experience with children, their personal character and their enthusiasm.

#### DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

When picking up and dropping off your child at camp, parents and guardians are required to sign your child in and out with the correct time and your full signature. You will be asked for a federally issued photo ID, i.e. driver's license or military ID, before we release your child (employee photo badges will NOT be accepted). Only the names listed on the registration form are permitted to remove your child from our care. Only in an emergency situation may you fax written authorization for someone other than who is on file to pick up. Children will not be allowed to leave the facility to walk or ride their bike home. Siblings must be at least 18 years old to sign out their younger siblings, no exceptions.

#### **CUSTODY**

Should you have court ordered paperwork for any parties who are not able to have contact with your child enrolled in the YMCA Summer Day Camp, it is required that the legal custodial parent or guardian provide documentation of any custody and/or guardianship agreement at the time of registration and keep it updated regularly. The parent or guardian that has signed the registration for is responsible for paying the fees. Occasionally we are asked to provide attendance records. Please know that in order to obtain any records from the YMCA, we must be subpoenaed for them.

# **ABSENCE POLICY**

If your child is absent from the Summer Day Camp Program, it is the responsibility of the parent to contact the Summer Camp Site and leave a message. The weekly payment covers the whole week, regardless of days missed. Days cannot be transferred to subsequent weeks.

# TRANSFER POLICY

Camper transfers from one session to another or from one site to another will only be made if space is available. Transfer requests must be made in writing and made ahead of time. Please note: the deposit is nontransferable and nonrefundable.

#### **WAITING LIST**

In the event that a camp fills, you may place your child on our waiting list. You will be contacted if a spot becomes available. You will have until the end of the business day to contact us back to reserve your space.

#### AGE EXCEPTIONS

Campers must meet the age requirements by the 1st day the child begins camp. Campers must be 4 years old, completely toilettrained and be able to change in/out of clothing on their own. There will be no age exceptions. Camps are designed with curriculum and programming for campers of a certain age.

#### **REFUNDS**

Non-attendance without proper notification does not entitle the parent to a refund. The Camp Director and the bookkeeper must approve all refunds. If applicable, the parent will be issued worth 50% of the cost refund within 30 days of written cancellation. Parents may also receive a 100% credit for a YMCA Program.

#### LATE PICK-UP FEES

A \$15 late fee will be enforced for any child picked up after 10 minutes. Parents will sign the late-pick up form, which indicates time of arrival and charges due. Parents need to pay the YMCA Office Front Desk Staff before paying for future weeks of camp. If your child has not been picked up by 7pm and the Summer Camp staff has had no contact with parents/guardian the El Paso Police Department will be notified.

# PERSONAL PROPERTY

Toys, CD players, Gameboys, cell phones and other personal items are not allowed at camp.

The YMCA is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

#### **LOST & FOUND**

Due to health issues and limited space, lost and found will be cleared out weekly and donated to those in need. Please check the lost and found every day for any belongings your child/children may have misplaced. The YMCA assumes no responsibility for the loss of personal property.

#### PROPER CAMP ATTIRE

- Campers should wear comfortable, cool clothing that is able to get dirty and worn out.
- Campers may not have bare feet, sandals, open-toed shoes or flipflops. Closed-toed shoes must be worn. Only non-marking shoes will be allowed on the gym floor.
- Clothes, swimsuits, towels, bags and all other belongings should have the camper's name on them.
- Camp shirts must be worn on field trip days and we highly suggest having their name/initials marked on the tag due to the number of similar shirts.
- Appropriate clothing is a must. No strapless shirts, spaghetti strap shirts, halter-tops, or midriff shirts. Bikini bathing suits will not be allowed.
- Apply sunscreen prior to camp. **Staff members are not allowed to apply sunscreen to campers.**

Parents, please monitor your child's clothing to ensure it's appropriate for YMCA summer camp including swimsuits.

#### **MEALS**

The YMCA will provide breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack daily. Parents may pack an alternative/extra meal.

Lunches will be kept in an air-conditioned building but will not be refrigerated. Please pack lunches with an ice pack. Do not bring food that needs to be heated or refrigerated. Water will be available throughout the day.

Although nutrition is considered, the YMCA is not responsible for the nutritional value of the food provided.

Parents must tell site staff of a child's allergies or negative reactions to food.

If your child does have a food allergy, a physician's note must be provided for an alternative food to be provided.

#### **SWIMMING**

Swimming is part of our regular schedule and it helps us in our promotion of fitness and water safety. Please encourage your child to swim every day it is scheduled. A bathing suit, towel, sunscreen and change of clothes are required daily. If suits are worn to camp please do not forget to pack undergarments to allow for a dry, comfortable rest of the day. Goggles will be allowed during swim time.

The "Safety Around Water" Camp Swim Initiative focuses on campers learning the basic skills of water safety in a group setting. Children are swim-tested upon their first visit to the pool, and are designated as a red (non-swimmer), yellow (poor swimmer), or green (strong) swimmer. Campers will be introduced to a new skill each pool day which builds to create two sequences that teach a child how to safely move across the water and exit the pool. Campers will gradually learn the following skills in sequence: Comfort in submersion of face and body, comfort swimming on front and back, jump-push-turn-grab and swim-float-swim. If you would like your child to learn more advance swim skills, we offer swim lessons at our local Y branches. Please ask the front desk for more information.

## **POOL RULES**

- 1. Running, shoving and horseplay is not permitted on the pool deck, in the water or in the changing rooms / restrooms.
- 2. Do not hang on staff or fellow campers.
- 3. Obey lifeguards and staff at all times.

# FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

# **Grouping Campers Together**

Our camps are divided into their groups by age. Groups may have blended ages but we strive to keep them within 1 year of each other. We will make our best effort at keeping your child with his /her friend within the same age group but we cannot guarantee this. Luckily, there is a great deal of time in which the entire camp is together. Your child will be able to be with his / her friend during this time. And remember, camp is for making new friends too!

#### **BUS RULES**

- 1. Be seated, facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- 2. When seat belts are provided, they must be worn.
- 3. Keep all heads, arms, legs and objects inside the bus.
- 4. Maintain a reasonable noise level.

#### SAFETY PROCEDURES

All staff will be required to wear staff shirts, staff IDs and face coverings. Camp staff will provide direct supervision of campers and only staff and campers are permitted in program areas. A federally issued picture ID, i.e. driver's license or military ID, must be provided to sign a child out of the YMCA's care.

#### BABYSITTING POLICY

The YMCA strives to employ the very best staff possible in all of our programs. After they are no longer employed with us, these persons are private citizens and no longer subject to our employment rules and procedures. The YMCA cannot and does not endorse or recommend its former staff members as babysitters to any parent or guardian of any child in any of our programs. Any babysitting arrangements with former staff of the YMCA are separate and independent from any YMCA program and must be based on the independent investigation, responsibility and judgment of the parent or guardian. Current YMCA staff is prohibited from babysitting while under employ of the Y. The YMCA shall not be responsible and will be held harmless from any claims or liability in connection with such babysitting activities.

#### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

All emergency procedures including building and facility emergencies, bomb threats, fire emergency, missing persons, life-threatening injury, aquatic emergencies, blood borne pathogen control and hazardous materials control are available at the front desk in the Emergency Procedures Flip Book.

#### **INSURANCE**

The YMCA does not carry or provide accident or medical insurance for the children participating in Summer Day Camp programs. Your health insurance is the primary coverage for your child.

#### CHILD ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY

We ask that if your child is showing any symptoms of illness that he or she be kept at home for the protection of self, other children and staff. Parents will be notified and asked to remove the child from camp if symptoms develop while in our care. Parent may be asked to show proof that the contagious condition no longer exists prior to a child returning.

We ask that children who have vomited, had diarrhea, fever, runny nose, etc. within 24 hours of beginning of the camp day be kept home until they are symptom-free for at least 24 hours. We thank you for being sensitive to the health and safety of all our campers.

If your child becomes seriously ill or sustains an injury, all efforts will be made to contact a parent, guardian or emergency contact immediately. As in any severe emergency, 911 will be called. PLEASE KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

#### **MEDICATION**

All medication must be turned in to the Camp Director with a completed medicine form. The time, dosage and name of medication must be listed. A parent must sign this medication form. Medication must be in the original container with the original label. Medications will be distributed by the Camp Director only and will be documented. Children **CANNOT** carry any medicine with them including over the counter items such as cough drops, etc.

## **UPDATING INFORMATION**

It is the responsibility of parents to inform the YMCA Office regarding any changed to your child's record. This information includes phone numbers, addresses, emergency and authorized pick-ups, billing, and changes to other pertinent information. All changes must be made in person.

#### REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

In order to ensure the wellbeing of all children in our care, our staff has a continuing duty under state law to report incidents of possible neglect or abuse, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, to the Department of Children and Families and to cooperate in any investigation of such possible neglect or abuse. All staff members are mandatory reporters and must follow Florida statute for mandatory reporting. We may be subjected to criminal penalties if we fail to report such possible harm. Staff is not allowed to comment to parents, other staff or any other persons on the subject of reported child abuse. Parents may not accuse or question staff concerning child abuse allegations. Child abuse investigations are a matter for DCF or local police departments.

#### **WEATHER**

Outdoor play is an important part of our daily camp schedule. Parents are asked to dress their children appropriately for the weather conditions.

During periods of extreme heat, the camp staff will scale down the physical camp activities. Campers will not be able to be outside for more than 30 minutes at a time. Indoor facilities will be utilized for more hands on and low-activity events and programming. Staff will ensure water coolers with ice are fully stocked and monitored throughout the day. All precautions will be taken to prevent heat related injuries during these times.

#### Hints for the Heat

The YMCA will monitor the weather conditions and plan our camp day accordingly. On Code Red days, we will limit outdoor play. Additionally, here are some ways you can keep your camper COOL:

- 1. Provide at least two drinks in his/her lunch.
- 2. Drinking water is encouraged at camp. (We instruct our counselors to "water" their campers whenever they pass the drinking fountain.)
- 3. Provide them with a hat to wear and dress them in light colors.

# Lightning/ Thunder

At the first sight of lightning or thunder, children will be brought indoors. The pool will be cleared. Activities may resume 30 minutes after the last observed thunder/lighting.

# **CAMP RULES**

The purpose of rules is to set boundaries for a child's behavior. Please review with your child daily the types of behaviors that we expect (outlined below) and perhaps even spend some time discussing their importance in order for your camper to have a successful time at camp.

Friends Helping Friends! Honesty and respect will be the basis for all relationships and interactions. Reach out and make a new friend each week. We respect each other and the environment. If we listen to others; they will listen to us. Use your magic words, please and thank you often. Be courteous with the words you use. Inappropriate language, verbal threats, fighting and tactics used to humiliate or intimidate another simply WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

**Social Inclusion**: Teamwork and cooperation will be the basis for including every one. Politeness and courtesy go a long way. People are responsible for their actions. Use positive language at all times. Speak for yourself, not anyone else. Encourage others by avoiding put downs, who needs them? Show respect. Every person is important. Keep your hands and feet to yourself at all times. You are not allowed to touch another camper/staff member in a negative way.

Building a community: Every child is part of the Y day camp. You are here to make new friends, play with old friends, learn new games, try something new, build on an old skill and just have fun. Respect all Y staff, Y members, counselors and other campers. The proper use and cleanliness of the locker rooms, equipment, supplies, etc. is the responsibility of all. Clean up is important and we need your support. Not only do we respect each other but also we respect our camp environment by putting litter in its place, by not destroying property that belongs to camp or to others and putting equipment up in its proper place. We are all responsible for our words and our actions. Be responsible for personal belongings. More things are lost than found. Leave important things at home. Stay in program areas with your counselor – running away is not acceptable. Cooperate with staff and follow directions. They know best how to keep you and your friends safe.

Behaviors that will result in mandatory suspension and may result in immediate dismissal include but are not limited to:

- Any action that could threaten or pose a direct threat to the physical or emotional safety of the child, other children or staff
- Fighting, biting, stealing and running away
- Possession of a weapon of any kind
- Vandalism or destruction of YMCA property or property of others
- Sexual misconduct
- Possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances

#### POSITIVE REDIRECTION & DISCIPLINE

YMCA staffers wish to work with your child and for you to have the best experience possible. It is important that staff maintain good order and discipline in all programs. Top objectives in all YMCA programs are safety and a positive atmosphere for learning and developing social skills. The YMCA makes every effort to help children understand clear definitions of acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

The YMCA does not condone and will not permit:

- Corporal punishment
- Ridiculing, threatening, using an inappropriate loud voice
- Leaving children unsupervised
- Use of profanity

A child's behavior is expected to be consistent with the following:

- Use appropriate language at all times.
- Cooperate with staff and follow directions.
- Respect other children and staff, equipment and facilities, and yourself.
- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Aggressive behavior and hitting is not allowed.
- Stay in program areas running away is not acceptable.

# **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

- If a participant is unable to comply with the behavior expectations, the child will be given an initial warning and his or her parents/guardians will be notified.
- If a participant's behavior continues to be disruptive, he or she will receive a written reprimand and parents will be notified and consulted concerning the participant's behavior.
- The YMCA reserves the right to suspend or expel a child from the program if his or her behavior places other participants or staff in immediate harm and/or if his or her behavior places him or herself in immediate harm.
- Expulsion from the program is for one calendar year and includes other YMCA programs. There will be no refund of program fees. A child who has been expelled from the program may request to be allowed back into the program after a short assessment period of 90 days

The YMCA reserves the right to suspend or expel any child from the program who poses serious or continual behavior problems with no fee reimbursement. Infractions deemed "serious" may result in immediate suspension and/or expulsion regardless of previous disciplinary action.

# Behaviors which may result in immediate dismissal include but are not limited to:

- Any action that could threaten or pose a direct threat to the physical/emotional safety of the child, other children or staff
- Fighting or hitting
- Possession of a weapon of any kind
- Vandalism or destruction of YMCA property or property of others
- Sexual misconduct
- Possession of or use of alcohol or controlled substances unless under the prescription of a doctor
- Running away
- Biting

# SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Parents or guardians are required to inform the YMCA in writing, prior to a child's acceptance in a YMCA program, of any special circumstances which may affect the child's ability to participate fully and within the guidelines of acceptable behavior, including but not limited to any serious behavioral problems or special circumstances regarding psychological, medical or physical conditions.

Upon being informed of such circumstances, the Program Director may require a conference with the parent(s)/guardian to discuss issues created by these circumstances.

I understand and acknowledge that: (i) it is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian to make full disclosure to the YMCA of any special circumstances which may affect the ability of my child/ward to participate, as described above; (ii) it is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian to inform the YMCA of any requested accommodation believed by the parent(s)/guardian to be necessary and readily achievable for such participation; and (iii) full disclosure of any special circumstances is material to the YMCA's evaluation of the child's/ward's ability to participate and the YMCA's consideration of any requested accommodation.

# **CAMPERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

The YMCA of El Paso takes seriously the important of the protection and safety of the children enrolled in the program. As a participant in the YMCA Summer Day Camp Program, I agree to:

- 1. Remain seated and quiet during roll call, announcements and answer only for myself.
- 2. Follow all Day Camp Program rules during meal times, activities, swim time, field trips, and emergency drills.
- 3. Follow all instructions given by the day Camp Program Staff.
- 4. Tell the Day Camp Program staff counselors, if I am stick or hurt.
- 5. Respect all other children, supplies, equipment, property and the Day Camp Program Counselors at all times.
- 6. Never leave my group at YMCA Day Camp without proper permission.

# **CALENDAR DATES**

June 6 - 10 June 13 - 17 June 20 - 24 June 27 - July 1 July 5 - 8\* July 11 - 15 July 18 - 22 July 25 - 29 Find Your Y
Disney Bound
Animal Planet
Outer Space
Around the World
Superheroes
Movie Mania
Splish Splash

Off Site field trips will begin week of June 13 – July 22.

Gathering of the Campers: July 21st!

\*All YMCA Branches will be closed Monday July 4th for Independence Day. Camp will resume on Tuesday July 5th.

YMCA Summer Day
Camp FOR ALL is
brought to you in part
by the generous
contributions of:



# Contact your local Y for more information on the camp nearest you.

# Loya Family YMCA

2044 Trawood Dr

El Paso, TX 79935

915.590.9622

# Westside Family YMCA

7145 N. Mesa

El Paso, TX 79912

915.584.9622

# **Bowling Family YMCA**

5509 Will Ruth

El Paso, TX 79924

915.755.9622

# Give to the Y. Change your Community.

Donations made to the Y's Annual Giving Community Support Campaign provide scholarships for children to participate in recreational, learning and life-enhancing experiences, like summer camp. Anyone interested in sending a child to camp this summer by giving to the campaign may do so in person or online.

To give to the Y or for a complete list of locations, please visit elpasoymca.org