



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



FRIENDS

FUN

ADVENTURE



2026 PARENT HANDBOOK
YMCA OF COLLIER COUNTY

Welcome to YMCA Summer Day Camp!

Dear Families,

Welcome to YMCA Summer Day Camp! We are delighted that your family has chosen to spend the summer with us. At the YMCA of Collier County, we are committed to providing a safe, enriching, and fun-filled environment where children can grow, explore new interests, build friendships, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Our summer camp programs are thoughtfully designed to support the whole child—fostering confidence, independence, teamwork, and a love of learning through engaging activities, caring staff, and meaningful experiences. From active play and creative projects to character development and community building, every day is an opportunity for your child to thrive.

This Parent Handbook is intended to serve as a helpful resource throughout the summer. It outlines our program philosophy, policies, and procedures, and provides important information to ensure a positive and successful camp experience for your child and family.

Thank you for trusting us with your child this summer. We look forward to an exciting season of growth, discovery, and fun—together.

Feel free to reach out to your child's camp director or any of our Youth and Families Leadership Team with any questions. We look forward to working with you this summer!

YMCA of Collier County Youth and Families Leadership Team:

Drita Bajram

Youth Development Director- North Campus northyd@ymcacollier.org

239-394-9622 ext. 140

Denise Mendez

Youth Development Manager- South Campus

southyd@ymcacollier.org

239-394-9622 ext. 104

Catera Isme

Outreach Childcare Programs Manager (CCPS locations) outreachcc@ymcacollier.org

239-394-9622 ext. 115

Charlene Rose

Youth and Family Director- Collier County

cycd@ymcacollier.org 239-394-9622

ext. 116

We have multiple camp locations across Collier County to cater to the diverse community in which we serve. All of our current locations with the appropriate contact information are listed on the following page.

Camp Sites:

The YMCA of Collier County will offer camp at the following sites: *All sites operate Monday-Friday and children are enrolled based off the grade they are going into. Please note all phone numbers are only active during program hours. Phone numbers and emails will become active from 5/18/26-8/11/26.*

Marco YMCA (South Campus)- Youth Development Center

101 Sand Hill Street
Marco Island, FL 34145

*open to any child who is 5 by June 1st, and entering K-6th grade.

Hours: 7am-6pm

Site number: 239-537-6498

239-394-9622 ext. 122

Email: marcoyouth@ymcacollier.org

Naples YMCA (North Campus) 5450

YMCA Rd.

Naples, Fl. 34109

*open to any child who is 5 by June 1st, and entering K-5th grade

Hours: 7am-6pm

Site number: 239-385-2957

239-394-9622 ext. 140

Email: naplesyouth@ymcacollier.org

Manatee Elementary School

1880 Manatee Rd. Naples, FL
34114

*open to CCPS students grades Kinder.-6th grade. *every camper at this location MUST have a CCPS student ID number. Hours: 6:30am-6:30pm

Site number: 239-877-4097

Email: manateeyouth@ymcacollier.org

Parkside Elementary

5322 Texas Ave. Naples, Fl, 34113

*open to CCPS students grades Kinder.-6th grade. *every camper at this location MUST have a CCPS student ID number.

Hours: 6:30am-6:30pm

Site number: 239-776-0930

Email: parksideyouth@ymcacollier.org

Golden Gate Elementary School

4911 20th Pl SW, Naples, FL 34116

*open to CCPS students grades Kinder.-6th grade. *every camper at this location MUST have a CCPS student ID number.

Hours: 6:30am-6:30pm

Site number: 239 452-1906

Email: goldengateyouth@ymcacollier.org

Manatee Middle School

1920 Manatee Rd

Naples, FL 34114

Open to any child entering 6-8 grade.

Hours: 8:00 am-5pm

Site Phone: 239-385-3852

Email: teenyouth@ymcacollier.org

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY:

At the YMCA, we believe that children are our most valuable treasures and that family is the core of our society. Our goal is to support local families by providing safe, stimulating, and nurturing environments where our children will grow and thrive. We strive to provide our children with the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential in mind, body, and spirit. All of our programs are designed with this goal in mind. We emphasize values through our Character Development Program, which teaches the importance of respect, honesty, responsibility, and caring. At the YMCA, we build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

MISSION STATEMENT: To put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

OUR VALUES:

CARING to love others, to be sensitive to the well-being of others, to help others.

HONESTY to tell the truth, to act in such a way that you are worthy of trust, to have integrity; making sure your choices match your values.

RESPECT to treat others as you would have them treat you; to value the worth of every person, including yourself.

RESPONSIBILITY: to do what is right, what you ought to do; to be accountable for your behavior and obligations.

VISION:

To build Strong Kids, Strong Families, and Strong Communities

Camp Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Please bring your child into camp each day and sign him or her in with a counselor. For the safety of your child, no child may walk into camp alone. Please see that your child is placed with a YMCA staff member before leaving. We will strictly enforce these rules.

Payment for camp

All children must be registered prior to entering the program. Payment is due at time of registration. Please note, that due to limited spaces and mandated child to staff ratios, your child is **NOT** guaranteed a spot automatically for the following week. Spots are not held or reserved, spaces are on a first-come, first served basis (unless you pre-registered for the "full summer" option). You may be asked to show proof of payment for that week to the YMCA Staff in charge.

Refunds

All Camp programs are non-refundable and non-transferable! Additionally, system credits will not be issued either.

Snacks and Lunch

Morning snack will be provided at the Marco Island and Naples YMCA Branch Campuses; please pack a healthy afternoon snack for your child if they are attending our North or South Branch camps. Outreach camps (CCPS locations) will provide AM and PM snack daily. Some of our camp locations may offer a free lunch option. Please check with your camp site staff regarding free lunches being available at your site. If your camp location does not offer a free lunch, you must pack a healthy lunch for your child daily. Please send water in your child's lunch, and pack a labeled water bottle each day. You will be notified of any special food days in advance. Please be sure that your child's name and grade is clearly marked on the lunch bag. Additionally, please note that we do not have a microwave or refrigerator on site for campers' lunches. Please pack ice packs and foods that do not require heating. If your child has food allergies, please let us know. We will be happy to make reasonable accommodations, or you are welcome to send in alternative snacks. Snack times may vary on trip days. Vending Machines will be **prohibited** during camp hours.

Soda, Energy drinks, and high sugar snacks of any kind are not allowed.

The YMCA of Collier County strives to stay in line with the HEPA standards set forth by the National Y of the USA.

What is HEPA? Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Standards Developed for School Age Programs. Recommended standards outlined for out-of-school programs which include before and after school programs, day camps, and overnight camps are:

- Serving fruits and vegetables (fresh, frozen, or canned) as options instead of cake, cookies, candy and chips
- Offering water as the preferred drink option during snack times instead of juices, punch boxes or soda
- Dedicating at least 20 percent or at least 30 minutes of program time to physical activity (60 minutes for a full day program)
- Ensuring that daily physical activity time includes aerobic and age-appropriate muscle and bone strengthening and cardio-respiratory fitness activities

The standards elevate the importance of training out-of-school program staff on the role of healthy eating, physical activity, and social supports for healthy behavior.

Birthday Policy

We are a healthy living facility. Our staff works hard to teach healthy eating habits to the children. We are following the HEPA standards. We can only serve fruits and vegetables for our birthday celebrations. Please note that we cannot serve cookies, cakes, cupcakes, popsicles, etc.... If you bring these items, the teacher/counselor will not be able to accept them. Please feel free to discuss with your child's teacher/counselor/ director healthy options and ideas.

Camp T-shirts and Dress Code

Each camper will receive one camp t-shirt as part of the registration. This is usually given to the camper on the first day of their first scheduled field trip if not sooner. Extra shirts may be purchased for \$10.00 if available. If your child forgets their t-shirt on a field trip day, the option to purchase another shirt for \$10 will be given. The \$10 must be paid at pick-up time. If you choose not to purchase an additional shirt on a field trip day, then alternate care must be arranged for the child and they will not be permitted at camp on that day. Please label inside of shirt as it will help to identify should the shirt become lost. Camp t-shirts must be worn on field trip days, NO T-SHIRT EQUALS NO TRIP!!! Campers will not be permitted to stay behind with another group/staff member. This is a safety requirement.

What to bring to camp each day:

- A labeled water bottle must be brought into camp every day.
- Backpack with a bathing suit, towel, sunscreen, and mosquito repellent should be packed daily.
- All children must wear comfortable, casual clothes with sneakers.
- Sandals and flip flops are not permitted at camp.
- Jewelry, particularly dangly earrings is discouraged for wear at camp. As the YMCA will not be responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen jewelry/valuables.
- Appropriate attire for activities is required. Please no see-through shirts, short shorts, halter tops, spaghetti straps, or bikinis with strings.

Personal Items

All personal items and electronics such as phones, IPODS, Game boys, toys, dolls, and trading cards are to be left at home. Unless we are having a special event that requires items from home, we ask for your support with enforcing this policy. **The YMCA will assume no responsibility or liability for items brought from home. Counselors will assume no responsibility for money brought to camp.** Any item that is lost or stolen is the sole responsibility of the owner. The YMCA will not make any type of restitution for missing or damaged items. Children will NOT be permitted to use phones during camp. In the event of a true emergency our Site Director will have a phone available.

Each site will have a lost and found. Please check this location at the end of each day as all items will be thrown away or donated to a charitable organization each Friday at 6:00pm.

Safety

We are committed to providing the safest possible environment for our children. To ensure their safety, we maintain the following conditions and procedures:

- Children are never left unsupervised.
- There is always a working phone on site.
- Parent's and Guardians are asked to keep all emergency information current in their child's file.
- There is a staff member that is CPR/First aid always certified on-site.
- Children will only be released to authorized adults that are able to show proof of identity upon pickup. Parents must notify the YMCA Camp Director of any changes to the authorized pick-up list in writing.
- If there is a court ordered custody arrangement, parents/guardians must provide that documentation to the YMCA Director on site, and keep the staff informed in writing of any changes.
- We will only comply with Florida State Law regarding court ordered custodial and parental custody rights and shared parental plans that are provided to us in writing.
- In accordance with the Florida State Law, when any abuse or neglect of a child is suspected, staff will make a report to the Department of Children and Families.

Medications

We will only dispense prescription medications. Medications must be turned into the site director in their original containers in a clear Ziploc bag with a current picture of your child taped to the Ziploc bag. No medication will be dispensed without a medication form filled out. These forms are available from your child's site director. All medications will be kept in a locked storage cabinet or secured area. It will be the parent's responsibility to pick up their child's medication at the end of the camp stay from the site director. Please make appropriate arrangements ahead of time. The site director may be in the middle of an activity and unable to leave the group.

Weather Conditions

If we experience extreme weather conditions the summer camp program may close for your child's safety. If this happens, you will be asked to pick up your child as soon as possible.

Hurricanes: If we are under a hurricane watch, our Leadership team will work closely with city and county officials to make decisions of possible closures at any program locations that would be deemed necessary. We will notify our program participants and families of any closures and updates as soon as possible via our website, emails, and community messages. After a storm has passed, we will re-open as soon as the YMCA premises are inspected and declared safe. We will provide a line of communication for informational purposes.

Tornados: In the event of a tornado warning all children will be brought into the interior areas of the main camp facilities. We will continue this until Emergency Management has notified us that it is safe to resume operations.

Illness and Accident Policies

If a child exhibits any of the following symptoms, we will call parents for immediate pick-up.

- Severe cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Suspected conjunctivitis
- Lice
- Suspected ring worm, scabies, or unfamiliar skin rash
- Persistent vomiting
- Thick, yellow, or green nasal discharge
- Temperature of 101.0 or higher

When a child is sent home, we ask that you plan to keep the child home until he or she is symptom free for at least 24-hours. This means that in most cases, the child may not return to camp the next day. In some circumstances a doctor's note may be required before your child can return to camp.

Accidents

Despite the care taken by our staff, we know that accidents will sometimes occur. Our response is based on the degree of injury.

In the case of minor cuts, scrapes or bruises, the staff on site will provide basic care.

If the injury is potentially more serious, (suspected sprain or fracture, or deep cut, etc...) the site director will provide first-aid as needed and call the parent or guardian for further instructions.

In a serious or life-threatening situation, we will call emergency services first, and then we will call the parents/guardian.

In all cases an accident report will be filled out for the parent to sign. This will be kept in the child's file.

Discipline policy

Please take time to go over the camp rules with your child. Attending camp is a privilege. Campers who consistently disregard our rules will not be allowed to participate fully or at all. It is very important to be sure that your child understands what is expected so he or she is well prepared and understands the possible consequences of his or her actions. A camper may be dismissed at any time for behavioral problems without refund based on severity of the behavior. Additionally, the YMCA of Collier County reserves the right to dismiss a child from the program due to lack of cooperation from the parents/guardians, or for any inappropriate behavior or misconduct exhibited by any parents/guardians, especially when targeted at any YMCA staff or personnel. This also includes negative and/or any misleading information that parents/guardians may post on any social media platforms particularly naming the YMCA, it's staff, and its programs.

For the safety of all campers and employees, if any child runs away from their assigned group or out of view of their teacher/counselor, they will be terminated automatically with no program refund.

We have 4 basic rules:

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Responsible
3. Be a Role Model
4. If it is not yours, don't touch it.

If any of these rules are broken the following consequences will take place:

- For minor rule infractions, the child may lose the privilege of a certain activity or be asked to take a cooling off period.
- If rule infractions are broken on a field trip, the child may lose privilege to participate in next field trip, or all remaining field trips depending on the infraction (Child would not be able to attend that day- days of camp).
- If a camper caused destruction to an area, they may be required to clean the area or make restitution (which may come out of your pocket).
- If previous efforts do not seem to be helping, suspension or expulsion from the camp may be used as a last resort.

Of course, our goal is to make sure that everyone feels safe and welcome at summer camp. A conference may be scheduled to assist in benefiting your child's camp experience or to discuss behaviors. The YMCA reserves the right to dismiss a child from the program due to lack of cooperation or respect from parents/guardians.

Illegal Substances

If we suspect a camper is under the influence of an illegal substance, we will remove him or her immediately and bring him or her to the attention of the Site Director. The parent will be notified immediately, and we will call the assistance of the Police Department Juvenile Officer. If the child is found under the influence it will be automatic expulsion from the camp.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment is a form of discrimination and in some cases constitutes abuse. It violates Federal and State Laws. All campers, female or male will be provided with an environment free from all forms of

unlawful discrimination and conduct which can be considered harassing, coercive, or disruptive. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

If your child has observed or believes that he or she is a victim of harassment by a counselor or fellow camper, you should bring this matter immediately to the attention of the Site Director. The YMCA will notify the Department of Children and Families to investigate the complaint.

Pool Rules

The camp provides cool down time at the pool for our campers. Each camp will have allotted days. Swim days are to be announced. As a reminder: Please remember to send bathing suits and towels everyday (we do water activities even on non-pool days).

To ensure everyone's safety, our campers must abide by the following pool rules:

- Walking only when on deck
- No rough housing in or out of the pool.
- YMCA approved life jackets will be supplied; no "water wings".
- Only approved flotation toys provided by the YMCA lifeguards are approved for use.
- Labeled water bottles permitted in designated camper supplies area of the pool deck, not in pool area.
- No food allowed.
- Be mindful of swim camp, lessons, and swim team participants while at the pool.
- Campers are to use the designated restrooms identified to them by camp staff at each location.
- Campers must remain in the shallow swim area unless authorized by lifeguards on duty.

Prior to entering the pool for the first time, a swim test will be given to ALL children for the safety of our campers. Children will be defined as;

Deep water swimmer

Shallow only swimmer

Life jacket only swimmer

Our certified lifeguards will be conducting the swim tests, and their analysis is what our staff will follow. Additionally, a brief water safety lesson will be taught to all children prior to entering the pool for recreational swimming at camp. Failure to adhere to the swim test results, water safety lessons, and lifeguard expectations will result in all pool privileges being revoked. Tests will be given throughout the summer to give opportunity to excel.

Field Trips:

All campers must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the departure time on field trip days. Due to time restraints at our fieldtrip destinations, we are not able wait on late campers or pick campers up along the way. If a child misses the trip, then parents will need to make other childcare arrangements for the day.

When the camp travels as a group, the same rules will apply as when they are on site at our facilities. In addition, the following rules must be adhered to during a trip:

On bus or van:

- Campers must always remain seated.
- Campers must wear seat belts if they are provided on the bus.
- Standing, jumping, or running down the aisle of the bus is strictly prohibited and will result in loss of field trip privileges.
- All body parts must remain inside bus at all times.
- Use inside voices so the driver has minimal distractions maintaining a safe driving environment

At the destination:

Campers will always remain with their counselors!

Campers will be respectful and courteous at the sites. This includes showing respect to other patrons.

Remember we are guests!

Persistent rule breaking on trips will result in suspension from future field trips.

Field trips are subject to change or be cancelled due to inclement weather, transportation, or other circumstances beyond our control. If a trip is cancelled, the YMCA will attempt to reschedule the field trip, but does not guarantee another trip. Cancellations of field trips will not validate a refund from the program.

Parents and Guardians are not permitted on field trips. Additionally, parents or guardians will not be permitted to drop-off/pick-up children at a field trip location.

Confidentiality

All files and child information are kept confidential. Any information regarding child registration, child or family needs, incidents, and behavior issues will be kept confidential.