

GRANDVIEW FAMILY YMCA PARENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to the YMCA

The Grandview YMCA Summer Day Camp offers an invaluable experience for children who are in 1st – 10th grades, helping them to unplug from the age of technology by stepping out into nature for a time of exploration. With the help of an excited staff, children gain the confidence to make friends and grow as individuals as they embark on the Best Summer Ever!!!

The Grandview YMCA Summer Day Camp is an action-packed outdoor experience led by highly trained and imaginative YMCA staff, located on 190 wooded acres with two beautiful lakes. For a Day Camp, our facilities are unmatched; complete with a water park, lap pool, athletic fields, hiking trails, mud pits, archery range, ga-ga pits, and an outdoor gymnasium all led by qualified counselors to teach each child new skills for the best experience possible. Daily devotionals, YMCA certified swim lessons, and nature education are just part of how Camp Grandview strives to fulfill the YMCA's mission to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. Let your kids come and be molded by the 4 traits of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility that they will find at the Grandview Y.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Bill Myers	VP of Operations bmyers@ymcamontgomery.org
Emily Jacobo	Childcare Director ejacob@ymcamontgomery.org
Stephanie Harrison	Associate Executive Director sharrison@ymcamontgomery.org
Mike Tinney	Sports and Aquatics Director mtinney@ymcamontgomery.org
Lisa Hoffman	Wellness Director lhoffman@ymcamontgomery.org

Grandview Drop-Off: 6:30 am – 9:00 am

Montgomery Bus Drop-Off (300 Brown Springs Road): 7:00 am – 8:00 am

Camp Hours: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Grandview Pick-Up: 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Montgomery Bus Pick-Up (300 Brown Springs Road): 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is watching my child?

The Grandview Family YMCA feels as though we have the best camp counselors in the River Region! Our camp counselors are just as eager about camp each summer as your child is! We have a very diverse group of counselors who come from all over the River Region. Most of our camp counselors grew up at Camp Grandview and have such a strong passion for the organization that they desire to come back as a counselor to mentor your children! All our camp counselors are at least 16 years old. Each are given a strenuous situational interview, experience roughly 40 hours of training, are given a criminal background check, and references are checked before they are ever placed in charge of any children or activity at camp. We do everything to make sure your children are safe in the hands of our camp counselors. Most importantly, our camp counselors are people who have a strong passion for children, and they want to spend their summer playing, teaching, and working with your children.

How many camp counselors will be watching my child?

There will always be 2-4 camp counselors with each group!

My child loves his/her counselor. Can he/she babysit for our family?

Although Y-Camp Counselors work well with children, our policy states that our staff (while they are employees of the YMCA) are not permitted to babysit for families involved in our YMCA programs.

What if my child becomes ill or gets injured while at camp?

If your child becomes ill while at day camp, our staff will contact you to pick him/her up. Camp is not designed to handle ill children, so it is important to tend to your child in a timely manner. If children come to a Y program when they are not feeling well, they will be more vulnerable to infection. It is in the best interest of your child and of the other people at the YMCA to keep your child at home when he/she is ill. Children need to be well to be able to participate actively in the program. However, the YMCA recognizes that in some cases children who are not contagious will attend the program when they are not functioning at their best.

Here are some examples of when not to bring a child into a Y childcare program.

1. If a child has diarrhea, runny nose (colored discharge) or vomiting.
2. If a child's temperature is over 100.4 degrees.
3. If your child has a case of head lice.
4. Has tested positive for Covid-19, experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19, has had direct exposure to Covid-19.

If your child is injured, our staff will take whatever steps necessary to administer/obtain medical care. If we are unable to reach you, we will try calling whoever is on their emergency contact and authorized pick-up lists. If we are unable to reach any of the above and your child needs medical attention, he/she will be transported to the hospital by ambulance. All expenses for emergency medical care are the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

Expectations of Campers

Campers are entitled to a pleasant and safe environment while participating in the Grandview YMCA Day Camp program. We know that everyone is not always going to get along or agree on things, especially when competition is involved. However, we expect that these disagreements will be handled in a non-violent and non-threatening manner. We want everyone at camp to feel that they are in a safe environment where they are valued. In case of any issues or confrontations, campers should use their number one resource when something happens, which is to first report it to their camp counselor, leadership staff, or Director right away.

Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility are the four core values, of the YMCA and we practice each of these throughout the day at camp. Therefore, inappropriate language, gestures, verbal threats, fighting, and tactics

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person, or group of people, wants to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace: using e-mails, text messaging, and other less direct methods. At the Grandview YMCA Summer Camp, bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying and strict disciplinary actions will be taken for such activity.

What are the YMCA guidelines for discipline?

We do our best to make sure every camper is experiencing a pleasant and safe environment while at camp. We will make every effort to help your child adjust to camp this summer. However, if a child is consistent with misbehavior, the YMCA reserves the right to suspend or expel a child from our program.

The following disciplinary policy will be followed for general misbehavior:

1st offense: Child will be given a verbal warning.

2nd offense: Child will talk with the Camp Leadership and Program Director, and parents will be notified.

3rd offense: Parent will be called to pick up child.

4th offense: Child will be suspended for a time based on severity of offense from a day to a week of summer camp.

5th offense: Child's enrollment will be terminated for the remainder of the summer.

*** The Program Director has the authority to bypass any step as needed. ***

Zero Tolerance Policy

Grandview YMCA Day Camp has a zero-tolerance policy for serious behavior infractions since our goal is to provide a healthy, safe, and fun environment for every camper. The behaviors below are grounds for immediate removal from camp for the remainder of the current day and additional days as deemed necessary by camp staff. Each incident will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the child can function in a group setting while at camp.

Serious behaviors that may result in immediate Camp Suspension or Expulsion: If a child is removed from camp, no refunds will be given.

1. Any behavior that endangers the health and safety of children, staff, or members
2. Inappropriate touching of other campers or sexual misconduct
3. Theft, defacing, or destruction of property belonging to the YMCA or others.
4. Verbal abuse or threats and bullying
5. Any kind of physical assault such as hitting, kicking, pushing, or biting
6. Possession of weapons, tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs
7. Leaving camp property without an authorized signature from approved list of guardians/adults

Signing Your Child In & Out

You must check with the designated staff when dropping off or picking up your child from camp. Your child will only be released to people listed on the registration form. Please notify the Program Director, **IN WRITING** if someone, other than those on the registration form, will be picking up your child. The YMCA staff will photo ID unfamiliar people who come to sign out any child(ren) involved in our camp program. ** No camper will be allowed to leave by him/herself and / or sign him/herself out of camp, regardless of written permission.

Grandview Drop off & Pick-Up Times & Procedures

If your child(ren) will be dropped off at the Grandview YMCA branch; when you first pull into the facility, you will follow the "Morning Drop Off" signs pointed towards our check-in road. Morning drop off begins as early as 6:30 am and ends at 9:00 am. Any child who is dropped off after 9:00 am must be signed in at the Camp Office. When you pick your child up from camp, you will follow the same procedure down to our check-out hut. To check out any

child you must have some form of picture ID and you must be on the child's authorized pick-up list. Afternoon check-out begins at 3:30 pm and ends at 6:00 pm. You will be directed to your child's location. In between the times of 3:00 and 3:30 pm we do NOT allow check outs which. This allows us to get to our designated check-out areas in a safe and desirable time. Periods of inclement weather are the only days when the above information may change, and we thank you all for working with us in advance!

Montgomery Bus Drop off & Pick-Up Times & Procedures

If your camper(s) is/are a Montgomery Bus Rider, you will be dropping them off at the Emory Folmar Soccer Complex in the mornings and picking them up at the Indoor YMCA Soccer Complex in the afternoons (300 Brown Springs Road). Drop off times are from 7:00am – 8:00am and pick up times are from 4:30pm – 6:00pm. Please do not drop off your child at the soccer fields in the morning if there is not a counselor present (the bus drivers do not qualify as counselors). All children must be picked up by 6:00pm. Pick-ups after 6:00pm will result in a \$5.00 per minute per child charge after the 5-minute grace period, until the child is picked up. If there is still a child left by 6:15pm we will load the bus and head back to the Grandview Family YMCA and a parent must meet us there to pick up your child.

Early Pick-Up Procedures

With nearly 200 acres of land, it can be hard for our staff to transport your child from the far side of our property to the camp in a timely manner. If you know that you will be picking your child up from camp before 3:00 pm, please provide the staff with a note, or call the Front Desk, that morning for us to make sure we will have your child ready by a specific time. All check-outs before 3:00 pm will be done in the Camp Office. At 3:30 pm our summer camp check-out staff will move down to the check-out hut located on the check-out road.

Check-Out Transition Time

With almost 500 children a day at camp, there will be a transitioning time from 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm to get campers to their afternoon check-out locations. During this time, we will not allow any children to check out. We are asking for this 30-minute no check-out time to make sure that your children get from snack to their afternoon stations safely without check-out going on as well. We ask that you please pull up to the white check-out hut and wait there until the afternoon check-out staff arrive with the sign-out sheets.

Late Pick-Up

We close promptly at 6:00 pm. For all children not picked up by the end of the program, the following late policy will be in effect:

- \$5.00 per child per minute

The late fee is in place to compensate staff members for their time. If you know you will be late, please attempt to make alternate pick-up arrangements. The YMCA should be notified if you foresee late arrival, as it is often stressful for a child when parents are late.

** Please e-mail Emily or call the Front Desk if you are stuck in traffic or having car trouble so we can let our staff know. If after 30 minutes we have not heard from you or an authorized pick-up, by law we are required to contact local authorities.

Lost & Found

It is very important that you label all items with your child's name. It is also very important that your child is aware that they are responsible for everything that they bring to camp. At the end of each day, lost and found will be collected and placed on the back porch of the lodge. Any lost and found that does not have a name on it and is not claimed by Friday of each week will be donated to charity. Parents are welcome to park and help their children look through lost and found to help recover their items. Remember the YMCA is not responsible for any items lost

Camp Attire

Please remember to dress your child appropriately for camp. Our camp uses discovery and play as a major part of our camp program; thus, we encourage you to dress your child in clothing that you do not mind getting dirty or stained while your child engages in our fun activities. Here are some other reminders regarding clothes for camp:

- ☐ T-Shirt
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Closed-toe shoes or securable sandals
- ☐ Water Bottle, Book bag, towel, sunscreen, bug spray (sunscreen must be the spray on type)
- ☐ Extra change of clothes
- ☐ LABEL EVERYTHING!! (Even underwear!)

What Not to Bring to Camp

Please do not bring cash, gum, sunflower seeds, pets, fireworks, explosives, speakers, card games/toys of any kind, weapons of any kind, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or tobacco paraphernalia, cell phones, iPods, electronic games, valuable jewelry, or any other irreplaceable items.

What if my child doesn't want to swim?

If your child doesn't want to swim or forgets his/her bathing suit, they simply won't go swimming. Usually, 75% of our campers want to swim, but the other 25% engage in other poolside activities. A big part of our camp day is the pool and lake front activities. We have trained lifeguards that are challenged with periodic in-service training to keep their skills honed. Please make sure to provide a bathing suit and towel each day. Whether it is from swimming or camp games- we stay wet throughout the day!

How often do campers take the swim test?

Swim tests are done every Monday during your child's allotted swim lesson time. For a child to swim in the deep end of the pool, campers must pass the swim test by swimming the length of the lap pool and tread water in the middle. Campers who choose not to take the swim test or who do not pass the swim test must wear a life jacket (provided by the YMCA) during swim time.

Will sunscreen be applied to my child throughout the day?

We count on parents to apply sunscreen before children come to camp in the morning, and counselors will encourage their child to apply sunscreen at snack times, lunchtime, and throughout the day. We advise that if your children burn easily that they bring some protective gear like a hat they can wear while participating in outdoor activities. Please send spray sunscreen so that your child can apply it easily.

Lunch/Snacks

Every child will be offered breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. The YMCA attempts to make these food breaks healthy. Notify the YMCA and indicate it on the registration form if your child has special dietary restrictions. You will need to provide lunch for the day(s) your child will not eat the lunch provided. If you choose, you may send your child a lunch/snack from home. If you need a menu for the month, you can find one at the front desk or posted on our Facebook page.

Will my child get a camp T-shirt?

YES!! Every camper will receive one T-shirt for the summer.

Medication Policy

Our medication policy is primarily established to accommodate the administration of medications commonly prescribed by physicians for the treatment of short-term illnesses. Prescription and "over the counter" medications will not be dispensed without written consent from the child's parent.

- Complete the medication authorization form located at the Front Desk of the Y.
- Keep all medication in the original container with the prescription label / direction label attached. Medication must be labeled with the child's name, the name of medication, the dosage amount, and the time to be given.
- Hand all medication (including inhalers, etc.) in a Ziploc bag with their name on it to the Camp Director or Front Desk staff. Campers are not allowed to keep medications in their possession, in their backpacks, or lunch bags.
- All medications will be locked up and given to your child at the prescribed time.

Medication authorizations are only valid for 5 days, at which time, all unused medication will be returned to the parent or disposed of, unless a new form is completed.

Camp Photos

Photos will be available to view and download as a keepsake on our Facebook page, facebook.com/grandviewymca. While we try, we cannot guarantee photos of every camper.

Hydration!!!

Throughout the summer, a major concern at camp is hydration! We are outside all day, and it is hot! So, what steps do we take to prevent dehydration while at camp? At camp, we have water fountains located at all main buildings, and we put out numerous water jugs at each activity. We also do our best to make sure that the children are refilling their water bottles throughout the day. Some ways that you can help us prevent dehydration are to make sure your child is drinking enough water while at home as well. You can also send with your child a hat or visor, but please make sure their name is on it in case of misplacement.

How will my child be grouped while at camp?

At camp, we group children by the grade that they are entering the next school year as well as the same gender. Therefore, if your child was in K during the school year, they will be with the 1st grade group over the summer. Overall, our groups consist of each individual grade your child is going into: First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Teen Camp (8th – 10th grade). Some of the groups are split into two separate groups depending on group numbers.

There are a lot of camp activities. Will my child get to do them all?

Yes, but it may not be every week. Due to the growing number of activities at camp, each activity may not be provided every week for every group. We try to make all camp activities diverse for all age groups, but please keep in mind that for the safety of all children at camp some activities will vary based on their age.

I only need to send my child to camp a few days a week. Is there a pro-rated fee?

No. We believe that a true camp experience is a week-long experience. Staff are scheduled weekly, so we cannot provide a daily rate.

What do I do if I need to cancel a week of camp?

Cancellations are made by a written notification and are due by Friday at 7pm of the previous week to be cancelled. (1 week in advance of the draft.) (minus the non-refundable \$20 deposit). Please make these adjustments by contacting our Membership Services Director, Stephanie Harrison at sharrison@ymcamontgomery.org. We DO NOT accept cancellations over the phone.