

BHP BILLITON YMCA DAY CAMPS 2019

Camper and Parent Handbook

Ages 4-11



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

ABOUT OUR CAMP STAFF

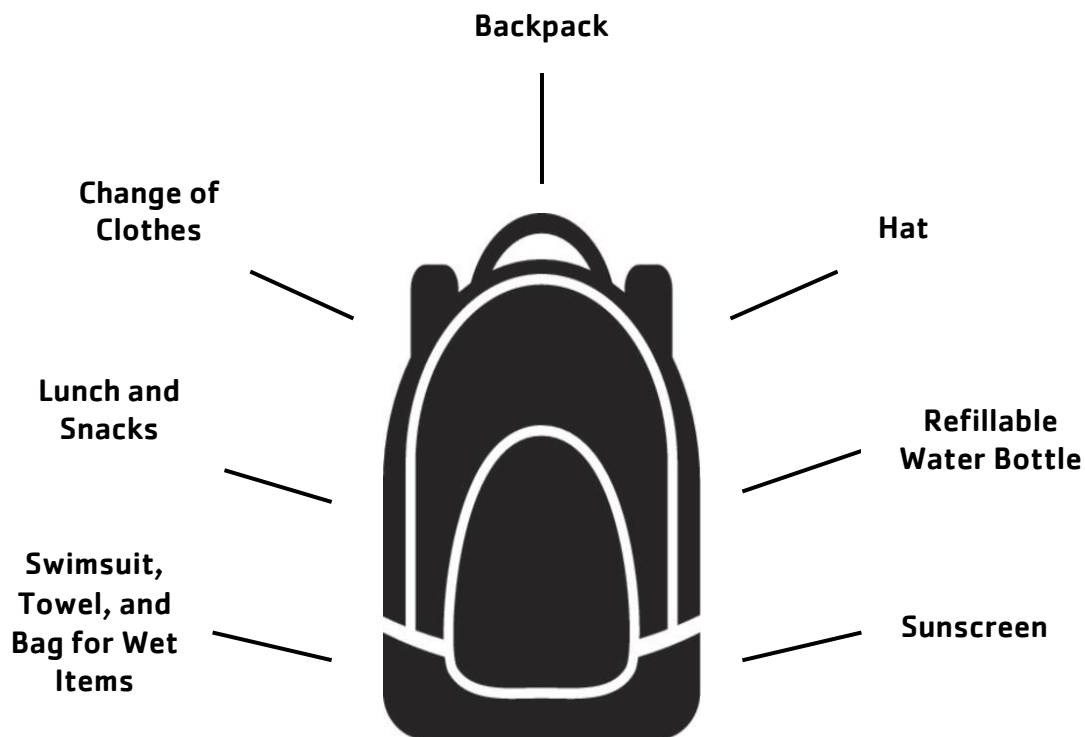
Members of the YMCA Camp Staff are chosen for their ability to role model the YMCA values of care, honesty, respect, and responsibility to campers entrusted within their care. Our intensive pre-camp training sessions focus on the personal skills and knowledge necessary to ensure your child's experience is positive, safe, and fun.

The staff also learns the sports, games, songs, crafts, and activities needed to make camp the best experience possible. During training our staff learns role modeling, child supervision, abuse prevention, aquatic safety, and general safety. All YMCA staff hold a current Standard First Aid & CPR certification. In addition, we run a criminal reference check on all YMCA staff.

We recognize the tremendous effect a good camping experience has on the development of a young child and carefully select each staff member for their interest in children and their experience in sports, camping, and recreation. Our team is a dedicated group of YMCA staff who harbor a genuine caring for youth, sports, and camp life. Our staff knows the importance of a safe environment which ensures the right combination of challenge and fun.

THINGS TO BRING EVERYDAY

Please ensure your child is sent to camp every day with the following labeled items:



THEME WEEKS AND DRESS-UP DAYS

On Fridays, we dress up at the Y! Check out your week of camp to prepare your costume/outfit!

Week 1 June 10-14: Aloha Summer! Hawaiian Luau!

Week 2 June 17-21: Local Heroes

Week 3 June 24-28: Wild Wild West

Week 4 July 1-5 (closed on the 4th): Stars and Stripes

Week 5 July 8-12: Game Show Mania

Week 6 July 15-19: Amazing Race

Week 7 July 22-26: Mad Scientists

Week 8 July 29-August 2: Under the Sea

LUNCH AND SNACKS

Nutrition and hydration are a very important aspect of each camp day. Please pack a nutritious and balanced lunch for your camper(s). Due to the high level of activity, nutritious snacks are significant for your camper. A couple of suggestions for parents...

- ✓ Pack extra drinks and a refillable water bottle
- ✓ Send foods that are easy to eat
- ✓ Do not send foods that need to be heated or refrigerated
- ✓ Strive for a litter-less snack (i.e. reusable containers and water bottles)
- ✓ PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANYTHING WITH PEANUTS!

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

It is the goal of our YMCA to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all campers. YMCA staff and directors will redirect camper behavior and respond to inappropriate choices on an individual basis. The YMCA teaches the core values of care, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Children who attend our camps are expected to follow the behavior guidelines and to interact appropriately in a group. Disciplinary techniques emphasize positive reinforcement, reason, time out, or withholding privilege. In the very rare event these techniques do not work, dismissal may be required. In the event of dismissal, a refund will NOT be issued.

The following are viewed as appropriate grounds for dismissal:

1. Possession of alcohol/drugs – 1st offense: dismissal. (Not typically a problem)
2. Stealing – 1st offense: counseling; 2nd offense: dismissal.
3. Fighting – 1st offense: counseling or dismissal if serious; 2nd offense: dismissal almost always.

4. Bad language – 1st offense: counseling; 2nd offense: dismissal possible.
5. Persistent poor behavior or other behaviors which in the judgment of the Camp Director/Executive Director threaten the well-being of the camper or other campers.

NOTE: We do involve the parent if discipline becomes a problem.

CAMPER CLOTHING AND LOST & FOUND

Please label all of your child's clothing. We have a lost and found for each camp week. The camp staff will display lost and found items each day. If you have lost anything at camp, please inform us as soon as possible so we can assist with its return. Lost and found will be kept for two weeks after each individual camp. Lost and found items not claimed after two weeks will be donated to Goodwill.

SUN SENSE

Please send your child with:

- ✓ Labeled hat
- ✓ Extra drinks/Refillable water bottle
- ✓ Sunscreen product
- ✓ Appropriate dress for the weather

At the YMCA we are committed to the safety of all children. We will do the following for your camper:

- ✓ Make sure there are frequent water breaks
- ✓ All staff will act as role models, applying sunscreen to themselves & wearing hats outside
- ✓ Campers are in the shade whenever possible on hot and humid days.

EARLY DROP-OFF & LATE PICK-UP

At the YMCA, we understand that there are parents that need to be at work before camp starts and that get off after camp ends. Our goal is for your child to have a wonderful experience with the Y, as well as you! If you should need early drop-off, there will be an additional charge of \$25 per week and you are able to drop your child off during the hours of 7:30am until 9am. If you should need late pick-up, there will be an additional charge of \$25 per week and you are able to leave your child until 5:30pm. We will have camp counselors available to watch your children as well as KidFit classes going on in the evenings. **There will be an additional \$20 fee if your child is not picked up by 5:30pm!**

MEDICATION

If your child is using any medication, please make sure you inform the counselors when you drop off your child and fill out a medication form. Please send only one day's dose each day that your child will be coming to camp. Please make sure that you turn in all medication to the counselors or the camp director. Staff will not administer the medication (unless there are extenuating circumstances), but will make sure that the camper takes his/her medication at the appropriate time. A medication form should also be filled out for Epi-pens and asthma inhalers. Non-prescription medication should not be sent to camp. If you have any questions related to medication, please contact the camp director.

SWIMMING

Swimming and water activities are an important part of the summer camp experience. The YMCA recognizes the importance of effective supervision during swimming and has established guidelines to ensure camper safety.

- ✓ All campers will go through a swim test on Monday and non-swimmers will be restricted to the splash pad in the Family Pool.
- ✓ Campers should come prepared to swim every day.
- ✓ There will be Certified Lifeguards on staff to maintain safety as well.

VALUABLES AT CAMP

The camp staff have planned a very fun and dynamic program to ensure your camper has a positive experience at camp. Please do not send your camper with any valuables such as cell phones, iPods, CDs, tablets, toys, large sums of money, jewelry, or any other item that you or your child feels is of value. We will not be responsible for lost or missing valuables brought to camp.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

A cancellation processed by Friday at 5:00pm prior to your week of camp will be issued a refund, less a \$10 per week administration fee. Refunds will not be granted if parents/guardians withdraw the camper from the session once it has started or if the camper is sent home for misconduct.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The YMCA offers financial assistance through our Y Cares program. Y Cares applications are available at the front desk of the BHP Billiton YMCA or by calling 318-674-9635. Financial assistance is awarded based on financial need and is provided through individual donations and through support from the United Way of NW Louisiana. The YMCA requires a copy of last year's tax return (1040 form), a copy of your most recent pay stub and/or your SSI allocation statement to verify your household's annual earnings. Your application will not be considered without these forms. If you would like to contribute to our Y Cares program please contact Julie Murray at 674-9635 or juliem@ymcanwla.org. All contributions to Y Cares are tax deductible.

REGISTRATION

You may register for camp in-person or online at www.ymcanwla.org.

Locations:

BHP Billiton YMCA—3455 Knight Street; 318-674-9635

Downtown YMCA --- 400 McNeill Street; 318-674-9622

CAMP HOLIDAYS

We are closed on Thursday, July 4th in observance of Fourth of July.

YMCA BABYSITTING POLICY

It is the policy of the YMCA that staff are not to babysit day camp children outside of YMCA programs. Please do not solicit outside care from YMCA staff. Please report any violations of this policy to the Camp Director or Executive Director.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions related to your child's camp adventure, please do not hesitate to contact our Summer Camp Director, Katie Morrow at 318-674-9635 or KMorrow@ymcanwla.org.