



YMCA CAMP WAKONDA HANDBOOK

22237 Lawrence 2080
Ash Grove, MO 65604
417-491-4206
campwakonda.org



Dear Camp Wakonda Family,

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your child's life this summer. For over 100 years Camp Wakonda has been providing positive camping experiences for campers from Missouri and around the world. The counselors have been chosen for their maturity and dedication. Each is focused on ensuring your child has a safe, fun week, filled with activities that help them learn new skills, develop relationships with the other campers and grow in confidence and self-esteem.

This handbook contains information that will help ensure your camper's success. After reading this material, if you still have questions, please contact me directly at 417-491-4206

In the Spirit of Camp,

Myra Cassady,
Camp Director
YMCA Camp Wakonda

EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR CAMP

Myra Cassady
Camp Director
cell: 417-491-4206
mcassady@orymca.org

YMCA Camp Wakonda
22237 Lawrence
2080 Ash Grove, MO
65604

Please follow our Facebook page for updates regarding inclement weather and other emergencies.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP

Camp Wakonda is just 30 minutes west of Springfield.

From Springfield: Take I-44 west to exit 58. Go south over I-44 and turn right on Highway O heading South for 2.5 miles to Lawrence 2080. Turn right. Camp is 1.25 miles from the intersection on the left side of Lawrence 2080.

From Joplin: Take I-44 east to exit 58. Turn right on Highway O heading South for 2.5 miles to Lawrence 2080. Turn right. Camp is 1.25 miles from the intersection on the left side of Lawrence 2080.

CAMPER FORMS

Forms are to be filled out at the time of registration. If any edits need to be made to your campers health forms between registration and two weeks prior to camp, please email campwakonda@orymca.org

FEES, CHANGES & REFUNDS

Camp Fees:

Your \$20.00 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of registration and will be applied to your child's camp session. All sessions are to be paid in full 2 weeks before attending camp. Payments may be made online at www.campwakonda.org or in person at any Ozarks Regional YMCA location. Final session balance reminders will be emailed out 3-4 weeks before your child's session of camp to the email address on file.

Session Changes:

To change your session, please email campwakonda@orymca.org at least 2 weeks before your scheduled session. Please note that spaces are limited, and we cannot guarantee an open spot on a different week.

Refunds:

Camp fees are not refundable unless the program is not offered or a special circumstance, approved by the director, prohibits the camper from attending. \$20 deposits are not refundable for any reason. Special requests must be submitted in writing to the camp director for consideration. Campers who are required to leave camp early, for any reason, during their session are not eligible for refund.

REFER-A-FRIEND PROGRAM

We know that word of mouth is our best form of marketing, and we would like to reward our campers and families that help spread the word about Camp Wakonda by participating in our referral program! All families registered for the summer camp season can participate in our referral program. We suggest that you simply pay the deposit and work to earn the rest of your camp balance. Once you've registered for the summer camp season, **REPLY TO THE CONFIRMATION EMAIL** and ask the camp office for a code that you can share with your friends and family. When a first-time camper registers and puts your name in the referral box, you will receive \$50 in camp credit, and the family you referred will receive \$50 off their registration per camper in addition to early bird discounts.

- New Family discount is taken off the Tier they select at checkout (up to \$250 in discounts)
- Your discount will be taken off the Tier you select at checkout

Each Camper can earn up to their remaining balance for their summer programs until two weeks before your child's week at camp. Once that time is reached or you have fully paid for the week of camp, any additional credits can be used at the Trading Post or saved for a future camp week.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available for all sessions of camp for those who qualify. To apply, please email campwakonda@orymca.org. Please allow up to 2 weeks to process, keeping in mind payment due dates.

If approved, you can receive a discount off the Tier A rate of camp. Please note that each child can only receive Financial assistance on one week of camp.

TRANSPORTATION

All campers need to provide their own transportation to and from camp. We suggest that guardians create a plan in the instances a camper must leave camp early.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

Check-In:

Parents/guardians are required to bring their children to camp to meet the staff and help the camper settle into the cabin. Check-in time will be very busy. Please check-in at the Recreation Hall located in the center of camp.

Plan to arrive between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm on Sunday.

Unfortunately, due to our tight schedule you will not be able to check in prior to 2:00 pm. If your camper does not arrive by 4:00pm for Check-In their guardians will be contacted to clarify whether or not your camper plans to attend camp that week. Absences without proper notification will not be refunded.

** Please park on the grass in front of the Trading Post

** Leave belongings in your vehicle except for your camper's medication

** You will be directed to drive to your camper's cabin once you have checked in at the Recreation Hall.

** Please **do not bring pets to camp** at check-in or check-out.

Check-Out:

To give campers and families the most out of their camp experience, Camp Wakonda has tradition on check out day known as the "Closing Ceremony". This ceremony will bring parents, guardians, campers, and staff together to reflect on their week and watch our end of session slideshow.

Parents and Guardians please join us in the rec hall between 1:30-1:45PM for refreshments and a message from our Camp Director. Campers will enter the Rec Hall at 2:00PM for a combined closing ceremony where campers will be acknowledged for their accomplishments and dedication to camp.

***Campers will be permitted to leave only with their guardians or authorized pick ups as designated by the camper's guardians through written permission

Please have a photo ID with you in order to pick up your camper.

CAMPER CHANGES & TWO WEEK REMINDER

As a reminder, final camp payment, notification of special diet, and any changes are due two weeks before your camp sessions. Changes to your forms or camper's diet may be emailed to campwakonda@orymca.org.

MEDICATIONS

All medications must be brought to camp in the original prescription container with the appropriate prescription label, prescribed for your child. All medications, including over-the-counter vitamins, creams, lotions, and similar items, must be turned in to the nurse at check-in for dispensation through the infirmary. Camp stocks most over-the-counter medications commonly needed (Tylenol, Benadryl, etc.), so there is no need to send these. Please send only the medications your child is scheduled to receive during the week. Camp is not a time to test taking your child off any prescribed medication. For your child's safety and success at camp, please continue all medications exactly as directed unless advised otherwise by your healthcare provider. Please ensure your camper's name is on all items turned in and do not pack any medication in your camper's luggage.

INSURANCE

Camp does not carry accident or sickness insurance for summer campers. Parents/guardians must include their personal health insurance information in the space provided on the medical information form. This information will be used to facilitate outside medical treatment if required.

In the event of serious illness or accident, parents will be notified immediately. If we are unable to reach you, the authorization signed by you on your medical form allows us to acquire immediate medical treatment for your child. Parents/ guardians are responsible for prescriptions and charges incurred for outside medical treatment and transportation of their child while attending camp. Routine cuts, scrapes and minor illnesses will be treated by camp health staff.

GROUP ASSIGNMENT-CAMPER PLACEMENT

Cabin assignments are made by age and gender identification. We generally try to have an age range of no more than 24 months between youngest and oldest in each cabin group. We ask each camper to make one cabin mate request. We can't guarantee cabin mate requests but will make every effort to honor them if campers request each other and are within 24 months of each other. (In some cases the older camper may move down to a younger cabin)

INSTANCES WE WILL CONTACT YOU

Camp will always contact guardians if there is an emergency with your camper. There are however many other instances in which we will contact you that you should be aware of. Here at camp we believe in Zero Surprises. If there is something to communicate we will. This includes but not limited: instances of missing home, camper to camper issues, excessive trips to the health center, or any instances in which we need to consult a guardian for advice on how to handle a situation with your camper.

A phone call from camp does not automatically mean there is an emergency. We call families anytime you need to be communicated about something that we want you to know about before you pick up your camper. *Ex: one summer an animal entered our chicken coop and ate all of our chickens...* those phone calls made some families laugh and others worried for their camper. Either way we want you to know these things.

OUR STAFF

Our staff of college-age leaders are all certified by the American Red Cross in First Aid and CPR and have passed a background check. They come from Missouri, across the country, and around the world and are hired for their maturity and passion for working with kids.

They understand the importance of their role model status and are taught the skills to fulfill that role through an intensive 2-week training. Our pool is staffed with certified Lifeguards, and our high ropes course, climbing wall, and rock wall are staffed with certified instructors. A health care professional is on site at all times to dispense medications and handle any health concerns.

Each cabin will be staffed with two staff members, with at least one always being an adult. Per YMCA policy, we strictly enforce the "Rule of Three," prohibiting anyone at camp from being in a situation where they are one-on-one with another camper or staff member.

For the safety and well-being of all participants, relationships or contact between campers and staff outside of camp programs is not permitted.

CABIN CULTURE

Everything we do at Camp is put through the lens of our core values: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility.

If a situation arises where we might need to work through adversity, we will be in contact with you to seek your parental expertise and advice. Our top priority is the safety of your campers and this means both emotional and physical safety.

If a misunderstanding arises we are committed to ensuring it is a teachable moment where campers can understand their impact and resolve conflicts. If in the limited time we have available we cannot resolve a conflict and it became no longer safe for a camper to be at camp we will ask for that camper to go home.

WELCOME AND INCLUSION

“At the Y, we welcome everyone whose behavior adheres to our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. We advance our cause by building a stronger and more equitable community where everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, thrive and reach their full potential with dignity. The Y is a force for building bridges among all people—regardless of ability, age, birthplace, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender identity, ideology, income, race, or sexual orientation. The Y is for all.”

Camp should be enjoyable and encouraging, where campers share space with a group of other campers and staff both in the cabin and at their program. We pride ourselves on welcoming individuals and families from diverse communities, genders, gender identities, faiths, and socio demographics where they may learn, grow, and thrive together. Your child may share a cabin with someone who represents one of these communities. We recommend taking a moment with your camper to celebrate how great an opportunity this is to make a lasting friendship with someone they might not interact with outside of camp.

MISSING HOME

Adjusting to any new environment is difficult for any person no matter what age you are. We understand that no matter how great camp is there will be some campers that need extra attention or resources in order to adjust. From the moment campers arrive our staff will keep your camper occupied and engaged.

We have found that downtime, especially on the first day, can quickly lead to campers longing for the certainty of home. If a camper starts showing signs of homesickness or any particular need, we will contact you and seek your guidance and expertise. Here are some ideas we have for you to prepare your camper ahead of time to be successful. Think of what makes them happy and let your camper's counselor know. Set a goal with your camper ahead of time. We recommend completing the whole session, if a camper's goal is $\frac{1}{2}$ the week they tend to do great up until $\frac{1}{2}$ the week. Ask them what they would need to complete this goal. Write them an email or a letter, but make sure to not go into too much detail about the cool stuff they may be missing. Try to not to schedule their session during any big events at home. If they ask what is going to happen at home while they are gone, explain that you will be doing something that they might not enjoy (example: chores, waking up early, mowing the lawn. Etc.)

And finally of course, celebrate them if they achieve their goal! Camp should be fun. We never want camp to feel like it is a punishment. A lot of campers might not be ready for the full session. If that is the case, we want to catch it before we roughen camp for them and celebrate the progress they made.

***If a camper starts showing signs of homesickness or any particular need, we will contact you and seek your guidance and expertise.

SPECIAL DIET

Our camp dining hall can serve limited special diets if your camper has dietary needs. Please inform the camp office of any special needs at least 2 weeks prior to arrival, unless already communicated at registration.

TRADING POST & SNACKS

Our trading post offers many camp souvenirs and “extras”. Trading post items include t-shirts, logo souvenirs, disposable cameras, flashlights, water bottles, etc. Camper purchases during their stay will be made through a **prepaid account**. Purchases can be made at check-out on Friday. Snacks will be available at our trading post throughout the week. Most items range between \$1.00 and \$2.00. Snacks are limited to 2 items/day. Other souvenirs, t-shirts, key chains, flashlights, sweatshirts range in price from \$1 to \$35.

Campers may bring individually packaged or resealable snacks to camp. We also ask that these come stored in a sealable container.

PHONE CALLS, VISITORS, MAIL & CARE PACKAGES

Telephone Calls:

At Camp Wakonda, we believe resident camp is a way for campers to begin to develop independence. With this in mind, we do not permit phone calls to campers unless there is a family emergency. Also, please do not ask your child to call home or allow your child to bring a cell phone to camp. Camp Wakonda posts photos daily on our Facebook page for parents to keep up with their camper’s activities.

Visitors at Camp:

We have found that parental visits during the camp session tend to promote campers’ feeling of uneasiness and homesickness. For that reason, we discourage parents and friends from visiting during the session. For the safety of your campers, all parents/visitors must check-in at the camp office immediately upon arrival.

Mail and E-Mail to Campers:

Please allow for five business days for mail to reach camp. Campers LOVE to receive mail! Please write to your child at least once before their camp session begins. You may also send email to your camper. Emails will be printed daily. Please send emails to camper@orymca.org. Be sure to place campers full name and cabin in the subject line. This will ensure the camper will receive at least one letter from home while at camp. We deliver mail each day. Make sure your letters are cheerful and enthusiastic, while focusing on camp events and involvement--not what is happening back home. This will help prevent homesickness. Parents can drop off mail during check in to ensure your camper receives a letter(s) right away. **We do not deliver mail on Fridays.**

Care Packages:

Care packages are a fun way to brighten your camper’s week. You are encouraged to drop off any care packages at check-in to ensure timely delivery. Fun items to include are frisbees, disposable cameras, bubbles, goofy sunglasses, or other inexpensive toys and games. If you want to send goodies for your camper’s entire cabin, we suggest including 12 of each item so every camper receives something. This helps make the experience fun and fair for everyone.

SWIMMING

All campers will take a swim check on Sunday to demonstrate their level of ability. This helps establish the safest areas in which the camper will be allowed to swim.

A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

Schedule

7:00AM	Wake Up
7:45 AM	Morning Inspiration at Chapel Rock
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Clubs
12:00 PM	Free Time/Trading Post
12:30 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM	Rest Hour
2:30 PM	Swim Time
3:45 PM	Cabin Activities
5:45 PM	Free Time/Trading Post
6:15 PM	Dinner
7:15 PM	Evening Program
8:30 PM	Showers/Embers
9:10:00PM	Lights Out

What is Morning Inspiration?

Morning inspiration is a morning service devoted to teaching our four core values of Hnoesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility. Campers and staff start their day with a hike across goose creek and spread positivity with songs and skits about our values.

What are Clubs?

Clubs are three choice activities that your camper participates in each morning. Your camper will pick their clubs on check in day and go to their clubs Monday-Thursday morning. We have our traditional clubs such as boating, fishing, climbing, crafts, and swimming. We also have some unique clubs on rotation such as clown club, drama, yoga, synchronized swimming, photography, sports, etc.

What is free time?

Free time is also known as brunch crunch and grub club. These are two 20 minute time slots where your camper may choose what they would like to do with their time. During this time, staff are stationed throughout a set of boundaries. Campers may hang out in the A/C, go to the trading post, go to archery, or play at the treehaus.

What is Rest Hour?

Rest hour is an hour long period after lunch devoted to recharging after a busy morning outdoors. Campers are taken to their cabin for a quiet hour in the A/C. Campers may take a nap, read a book, or engage in another quiet activity.



CAMPER HYGIENE

Good hygiene is an important part of the camp experience. Campers are required to shower regularly, brush their teeth daily, and apply sunscreen and bug spray each day. These routines help keep campers healthy, comfortable, and ready for all of our outdoor activities. Campers must also be able to shower, dress, and use the restroom independently. Our staff will provide reminders and guidance, but they cannot physically assist campers with personal care tasks.

BEHAVIORAL CONDUCT POLICY

Camper Behavior Policy:

Step 1: Inappropriate behavior is discussed with the camper by their counselor and/or program director, helping the camper to understand the rules and take responsibility for changing the behavior. The 4 core values of the YMCA and appropriate behavior as well as consequences are discussed.

Step 2: A call home is made by senior staff to discuss the behavior and gain insight. The camper will meet with the program director/camp director to discuss their actions, the negative impact these actions have, appropriate behavior and consequences should inappropriate behavior continue. Camper will call home.

Step 3: The camp director will inform parents that their camper cannot remain at camp. A parent or guardian will be asked to pick up the camper from Camp Wakonda as soon as possible. Parent or guardian is responsible for pick up/transportation of camper.

There are a few situations that will automatically result in a child being sent home. Those situations include, but are not limited to; causing physical injury to another camper, intentionally damaging another campers belongings or camp property, and violating other items on this Camper Conduct Policy.

Parent/Guardian/Family Member- Code of Conduct

The Y requires parent/guardians of enrolled children to behave in a manner consistent with courtesy and respect. One of the goals of our program is to provide the most appropriate environment in which a child can grow, experience, and develop. Achieving this ideal environment is not only the responsibility of the staff but is the responsibility of every family member or adult who enters the program. Parent/Guardians are required to behave in a manner that fosters this ideal environment. Those who violate the Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct may be dismissed from the program.

Swearing/Cursing: No adult is permitted to curse or use other inappropriate language at camp, whether in the presence of children or not. Such language is considered offensive and will not be tolerated.

Threats of any kind will not be tolerated. Camp Wakonda follows a zero-tolerance policy of staff, children, or other adults. Parent/guardians do not have the right to verbally attack, yell at or demean any staff member. Following the chain of command is also required when addressing concerns/conflicts within a program.

Other children: Parent/Guardians are prohibited from addressing, for the purpose of correction or discipline, a child that is not their own. No parent/guardian or other adult may physically punish another parent/guardian's child. If a parent/guardian should witness another parent/guardian's child behaving in an inappropriate manner or is concerned about behavior reported to them by their own child, it is most appropriate for the parent to direct their concern to the staff.

Confidentiality: It is inappropriate for one parent/guardian to seek out another parent/guardian to discuss their child's inappropriate behavior. All behavior concerns should be brought to the attention of the staff. The Director will address the issue with the other parent/guardian. Although you may be curious about the outcome of such discussion, camp is strictly prohibited from discussing anything about another child with you. All children enrolled privacy rights and are further protected by our Confidentiality Policy. Be assured that leader will also follow this policy.

Violations of Safety Policy: Parent/guardians are required to always follow all safety policies. These procedures are designed not as mere inconveniences, but to protect the welfare and best interest of the children and staff.

CAMP WAKONDA PACKING LIST

Please label all items. No laundry is available.

- Underwear (6 sets)
- Socks (at least 6 pairs)
- Pajamas
- Shirts
- Jeans or other long pants
- Shorts
- Sneakers and/or hiking shoes
- Flip Flops (for pool and shower only)
- Raincoat/Poncho
- Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt
- Towels and washcloths (2 each)
- Beach towel
- Sleeping bag and twin sheets and blanket
- Pillow
- Laundry bag
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Soap
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Swimsuit (athletic)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Water bottle
- Hat or cap with brim
- Sunglasses
- Stationary with stamped envelopes
- Disposable camera
- T-shirt or pillow case to tie-dye

LOST AND FOUND

The YMCA is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. To avoid lost items, be sure to label everything with your camper's first and last name. Lost and found items found during camp are displayed daily for campers. Prudent attempts will be made to reunite labeled items with their owners after check-out, but due to limited space, all unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to charity 48 hours after the end of your camper's camp session.

What not to bring

The following items are not allowed to be brought to camp. Camp Wakonda gives the opportunity for campers to get away from the connected world we live in. Unplugged for a week, connected for a lifetime.

- Cell phone
- Television
- Knives
- Fireworks
- Alcohol
- Electronic games
- Firearms
- Illegal drugs
- Music players
- DVD players
- Matches/lighters
- Tobacco products
- Pets
- Money or items that are expensive or irreplaceable

*** If a camper brings an illegal or dangerous item, the item will be confiscated and disposed by the appropriate authority and the camper will be sent home.

HELP YOUR CAMPER SUCCEED

Whether this is your camper's first time staying away from home or they are a veteran Wakonda camper, we want to do all we can to help make it an incredible experience. Guardians can help by taking time in advance to communicate any special concerns or needs. The Camp Director can be reached via email: at mcassady@orymca.org or by phone at 417-491-4206