



# THE BEST SUMMER STARTS HERE!



Tri-County YMCA  
Summer Day Camp  
2026 Parent Handbook





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

Welcome to Summer Camp 2026!

Thank you for choosing to be a part of the Tri-County YMCA's Summer Day Camp Program! As we begin the 2026 season, we would like to welcome all of our new summer families and would also like to extend a warm welcome back to each of our returning families. We look forward to providing the campers with an exciting summer filled with countless, memorable moments.

The Tri-County YMCA's vision is to inspire everyone with caring people and family-friendly programs and facilities. We strengthen our members and communities through offering a **variety of services. We're more than just a place to work out. At the Y, we help build a healthy** spirit, mind, and body for all with the core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and faith at the heart of everything we do. With our Summer Day Camp program, our goal is to provide a quality camp experience to the families in our communities. We strive to ensure that you and your child have a positive experience this summer and build long lasting relationships.

This handbook is designed to assist you in better understanding the policies and procedures of our Summer Day Camp program. We encourage you to review this information with your child and retain it for future reference. As a team, we can provide your child with a successful experience in our program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

We thank you for allowing us to spend the summer with your child.

Welcome to the Tri-County YMCA Family!

Christine Kleaving  
Director of Youth Development  
812-367-2323  
christine@tricountnymca.org

# SUMMER DAY CAMP STAFF

Our highly trained counselors (Youth Development Leaders) are passionate about creating a safe, inclusive environment for campers to learn, grow, build relationships, and most importantly, have fun over the summer. They genuinely care about the individual development of each camper and every staff member will serve as a guide to live and work together as a team throughout the summer.

Our Youth Development Leaders have diverse backgrounds which allows them to bring their own special talent to camp and share it with the campers. Many of them have worked with children in the past and are looking to gain more experience with children. Our staff are 18 years of age or older. Camper to staff ratio is 15:1. The YMCA strives to provide a safe, happy, playful, nurturing, and stable environment for all of our campers.

Our Youth Development Leaders participate in several training sessions, which includes safety procedures (CPR/First Aid), learning age appropriate games and activities that will impact children in a positive way, and behavior management to name a few prior to the start of camp.

Our camp staff are selected based on their experience, education, character, talents, and interpersonal skills. Many of our staff are returning from last year and some are employed in other YMCA areas during the school year. We also welcome new camp staff this summer. Above all, our Youth Development Leaders have one thing in common—a love for working with children.

# YMCA CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

The mission statement of the Tri-County YMCA is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. We believe character development is an important characteristic for all of us – staff, volunteers, members, participants and parents – to accept and demonstrate the positive values of caring, respect, honesty, faith, and responsibility. To help make this summer a positive experience for your camper, discuss with your child what they are learning and experiencing, and how your family can display these values and qualities with others.

# CAMP AGES & GROUPS

Our Summer Day Camp program is for children who will be going into Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade (based on the 2026-2027 school year). In regards to the Kindergarteners, the child must be 5 by June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to join us this summer. At Ferdinand and Jasper, we will have 3 groups: K-1<sup>st</sup> graders (Camp ACE), 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders (Camp HEART), and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders (Camp STAR). At Tell City, the campers will be grouped into two groups: K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders (Camp ACE) and 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders (Camp STAR). The campers will be broken into these groups between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and participate in age-appropriate activities.

# LOCATIONS

Through partnerships with the local schools, we are able to offer our Summer Day Camp program at three different locations to help serve the residents of the communities and surrounding areas.

## Ferdinand:

Location: Clem and Mary Lange YMCA

Dates: May 26<sup>th</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup>

\*\*Holiday Camp will be offered on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Clem and Mary Lange YMCA

Times: Camp is open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (ET)

Days: Monday through Friday

## Jasper:

Location: Jasper Elementary School

Dates: May 26<sup>th</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup>

Times: Camp is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (ET)

Days: Monday through Friday

## Tell City:

Location: William Tell Elementary

Dates: May 26<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>

Times: Camp is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (CT)

Days: Monday through Friday

\*Camp will be held at the Schergens Center June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup> & July 27<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>

# A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

Each camp location is unique but all three locations follow a similar schedule. Campers participate in a variety **of activities each day that have been designed to fit the week's theme. Each camp group will** participate in a different set of activity choices designed to **optimize the child's camp experience.**

The following is a sample schedule:

6:00/6:30-**9:00 am: Camper's Choice (board games, puzzles, coloring, gym time, outside time)**

9:00 am: Character Development

9:15 am-3:00 pm: Weekly Themed Activities (group games, arts & crafts, lunch, reading time, journal time, **camper's choice**, STEAM activities)

3:00-3:30 pm: Snack Time

3:30-6:00 pm: **Camper's Choice (board games, puzzles, coloring, gym time, outside time)**

# THEMED WEEKS

Each week has a theme and the crafts, games, and activities will be focused around the theme. The staff will plan the activities and develop a schedule for parents. Each week, the schedule will be emailed out to parents for the upcoming week and posted on our website, [www.tricountyymca.org](http://www.tricountyymca.org).

Dates	Theme	Character Development	Color War Monday	Fun Friday Theme
Week #1 (May 25 – May 29)	Wacky & Wonderful Campers	Respect	Yellow	Silly Sock Day
Week #2 (June 1 – June 5)	Under the Sea	Caring	Green	Neon/Camo Day
Week #3 (June 8 – June 12)	World of Make-Believe	Responsibility	Brown	Pajama Day
Week #4 (June 15 – June 19)	<b>YMCA Circus...We're All Clowns</b>	Trustworthy	Purple	Crazy Hair Day
Week #5 (June 22 – June 26)	Camp Champions	Fairness	Pink	Jersey/Sport Day
Week #6 (June 29 – July 3)	U.S.A. – Unbelievable Summer Activities	Citizenship	Red	Red, White, & Blue Day
Week #7 (July 6 – July 10)	World Explorers	Self-Discipline	Blue	Mismatch/Wacky Day
Week #8 (July 13 – July 17)	Summer Luau	Teamwork	Grey	Hawaiian Day
Week #9 (July 20 – July 24)	Operation: Celebrations	Honesty	Black	Backwards Day
Week #10 (July 27 – July 31)	Summer Safari	Faith	Orange	Animal Print/Animal Shirt
Week #11 (August 3 – August 7) <u>**Ferdinand &amp; Jasper Only**</u>	Summer Highlights	Courage	Wear Your School Colors	Inside Out Day

For the Color War Monday, campers are encouraged to wear the color of the day. We will have a friendly competition between the groups at camp to see which group can wear the most color for the day.

For Fun Friday, campers are encouraged to dress the part for the day. We want to end the week with a little fun and craziness! We will have a friendly competition between the groups at camp to see which group has the most campers dressed up.

# CAMP COSTS

Our Summer Day Camp program is a contracted part-time and full-time program. Parents can enroll their child in our program based on a 3 Day Contract or a 5 Day Contract option. Parents will be charged the contracted **rate weekly and is not based on the child's weekly attendance.**

We will waive one week (either 3 Day Contract or 5 Day Contract) of contracted fees due to vacation time/time away from camp as long as we are informed the Friday BEFORE the absence. You can email Christine at [christine@tricountyymca.org](mailto:christine@tricountyymca.org) with the details. If you have change of plans for your child during the summer **and need to cancel your child's registration**, the cancellation must be submitted in writing by emailing our Director of Youth Development at [christine@tricountyymca.org](mailto:christine@tricountyymca.org). No refunds or adjustments will be granted for partial weeks due to illness or vacation. If a child withdraws mid-week, the parent will be responsible for paying the complete fees for that week.

With the generous support of local donors during our Annual Campaign, the Tri-County YMCA is able to provide a pricing structure based on financial need. This structure will follow the free/reduced school lunch program at school.

## YMCA Household Memberships:

5 Day Regular Lunch at School Contract: \$115.00 / \$99.00 each additional child

5 Day Free/Reduced Lunch at School Contract: \$65.00 per child

3 Day Regular Lunch at School Contract: \$82.00 / \$74.00 each additional child

3 Day Free/Reduced Lunch at School Contract: \$45.00 per child

\*If you are interested in signing up for a membership at the time you register your camper, you can visit <http://tricountyymca.org/home/membership> to set up your membership. In order to receive the member rate for Summer Camp, the child(ren) must be included on the household/single household membership.

## Non-Facility Members:

5 Day Regular Lunch at School Contract: \$130.00 / \$114.00 each additional child

5 Day Free/Reduced Lunch at School Contract: \$70.00 per child

3 Day Regular Lunch at School Contract: \$94.00 / \$84.00 each additional child

3 Day Free/Reduced Lunch at School Contract: \$50.00 per child

## Registration Fee:

The registration fee is a one-time fee used to help cover the cost of supplies. It is due at the time of registration. The cost is \$60.00 for one child or \$90.00 for the family.

## Parents:

When registering your child through the online link, you will be asked to submit a credit card, checking, or savings account and it will remain on file. The form of payment will be charged on Saturdays and will be for the week of camp that was just finished. Refunds will not be provided for childcare services already provided.

## Financial Assistance:

YMCA Scholarship Program Financial Need Statement: **"No person will be denied access to YMCA programs or facilities due to an inability to pay."** Scholarship Applications are available online or at the Tri-County YMCA upon request.

# PERSONAL BELONGINGS

## What to Bring to Camp:

We recommend that all campers bring a refillable water bottle each day. With us being active indoors and outdoors, it is important that we keep the campers hydrated. We will have the campers take frequent water breaks and the campers will be able to refill their water bottles throughout the day.

With our activities, we like to be outside during the camp day. To help keep the campers safe, please apply sunscreen to your child(ren) before dropping him/her off in the morning. The staff will have the campers reapply sunscreen before going outdoors for an extended period of time. We will provide sunscreen (Banana Boat 50) for the campers but parents are welcome to send their own along with their child, especially if your child is allergic to certain sunscreens.

At our Ferdinand Location, each child should bring the following items daily: lunch, snacks, and a drink that does not require refrigeration or requires to be heated up. The items can be brought in a cooler with ice packs, lunch bags, or in paper bags. Parents are welcome to send along a morning snack with their child. We will offer an optional morning snack time for campers who arrive early and/or who did not eat breakfast at home. We will also have snack time in the afternoon. The kids will be active during the day so please plan lunch and snacks **accordingly. Please label the cooler or bag with the child's name.**

At our Jasper Location, campers will be utilizing the Summer Food Service Program at Jasper Elementary School over the summer and will not need to bring a lunch. Parents are welcome to send along a morning snack with their child. We will offer an optional morning snack time for campers who arrive early and/or who did not eat breakfast at home. We will also have snack time in the afternoon. The kids will be active during the day so please plan snacks accordingly. Parents are responsible for sending a morning/afternoon snack with their child daily. Snacks WILL NOT be provided by the school or by the Tri-County YMCA.

At our Tell City Location, campers will be utilizing the Summer Food Service Program at William Tell Elementary over the summer and will not need to bring a lunch. If campers arrive before 8:00, they will be able to eat breakfast at school as well in the morning. We will have snack time in the afternoon and parents will need to send a snack with their child. The kids will be active during the day so please plan snacks accordingly. Parents are responsible for sending an afternoon snack with their child daily. Afternoon snacks WILL NOT be provided by the school or by the Tri-County YMCA.

## What NOT to Bring to Camp:

We ask that the campers leave ALL toys, art supplies, stuffed animals, blankets, pillows, playing/trading cards, hats, electronics, cell phones, and other personal belongings at home. Our staff plan engaging activities from the time the camp day begins until the day ends. Toys from home often cause conflict between campers and distract them from the planned activities. The YMCA will not be responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen personal items.

## Lost and Found:

All belongings are the responsibility of the camper. All items left behind at the end of the day will be placed in **the lost and found box at your child's camp site. We recommend checking the box periodically for any items** your child may have left at camp. Items will be donated at the end of the summer.

# DAILY PROCEDURES

## What Should My Child Wear to Camp:

Children should wear play clothes and tennis shoes. No open-toe shoes, crocs, or sandals are allowed at camp. We ask that children wear tennis shoes daily to protect their toes and support their feet and allow them to fully participate in the activities. Please refer to the weekly schedule for any specific camp attire.

## Drop-off/Pick-up:

Parents are required to accompany their child into the building each morning and must come into the building at the end of the camp day to sign them out. During drop-off and pick-up times, please remember to drive slowly and carefully in the parking lots.

At the Clem and Mary Lange YMCA, parents will enter the front doors of the building and walk past the Courtesy Desk and turn left down the first hallway. The sign-in/out table will be located in the hallway. Parents will sign their children in and the staff will direct them on where to put their belongings and where to go. When picking up, the parents will enter the building, turn left past the Courtesy Desk, and walk down the hallway to the table in the hallway to sign their child out. Parents will be able to locate the kids in one of the classrooms, Activity Center, or Program Gym. When picking up, the staff will notify the child that it is time to leave and the child will meet the parent in the hallway. When exiting, parents are welcome to walk down the hallway and exit the door at the end of the hallway.

At Jasper Elementary School, parents will enter Door #24 at the back of the building. When dropping off in the morning, the Youth Development Supervisor or Youth Development Assistant Supervisor will be at the gym door entrance from 6:30 to 9:00 to greet campers and parents. The parent will sign the child into camp and the staff will direct the child on where to put his/her belongings and where to go. If a child arrives after 9:00, the parent will call the camp phone and the Supervisor/Assistant Supervisor will meet the parent at the door to let the child and parent in. When picking up in the evening, the Supervisor/Assistant Supervisor will be at the gym door entrance from 3:30 to 6:00 to sign children out. If a parent comes before 3:30, the parent will call the camp phone and the staff member will meet the parent at the door to let the parent in. When picking up, the staff will inform the child that it is time to leave and the child will come to meet the parent in the gym door entrance.

At William Tell Elementary, parents will pull around to the back of the school and enter the gym doors under the long, red awning. When dropping off in the morning, the Youth Development Supervisor or Youth Development Assistant Supervisor will be in the gym foyer from 6:30 to 9:00 to greet campers and parents. The staff will then direct them on where to put their belongings and where to go. If a child arrives after 9:00, the parent will call the camp phone and the Supervisor/Assistant Supervisor will meet the parent and child at the door and let them into the gym foyer. When picking up in the evening, the Supervisor/Assistant Supervisor will be at the gym foyer from 3:30 to 6:00 to sign children out. If a parent comes before 3:30, the parent will call the camp phone and the staff member will meet the parent at the door to let them in. When picking up, the staff will inform the child that it is time to leave and the child will come to meet the parent in the gym foyer.

### Pick-up List:

Parents or designated persons picking up a child must bring photo identification with them in order to sign a child out and pick him/her up. The staff will ask to see it to verify that the individual is on the pick-up list and has been identified as an authorize pick-up person by the parent. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the camp of any changes in authorization. If someone other than the authorized individuals must pick-up your child, a written note must be given to the staff when you drop off your child in the morning or a phone call must be made to the camp if things change **during the course of the day**. **For your child's safety, we will not allow** your child to leave the site without staff authorization and no child will be released to anyone who is not on the list and authorized to pick up the child.

### Closing:

The camp day will end at 6:00 p.m. If a child is not picked up by 6:05, a YMCA staff member will contact the parent. If a contact can not be made with the parent, the staff member will then call the emergency contact list to arrange pick-up. If 15 minutes late from official closing time **and contact cannot be made to the child's** parents or emergency contacts, a call will be made to the Director of Youth Development for further instructions. There will be a late charge assessed at \$1.00 per minute after closing time. Your child may not be accepted back to camp until the late fee is paid in full.

## COMMUNICATION

Open, friendly, and effective communication is essential during the summer not only between child and staff but between staff and parent. The format may be formal or informal. It is vital that you inform us of changes happening in your family. Changes at home include: moving, hospitalization of a sibling or parent, changes in **the parent's relationship, death of the family pet, parents gone** on vacation, or children staying with relatives, etc. These events can influence the way in which your child relates to others. Staff members can better provide care **for a child's needs if** they are aware of the situation. We will treat this information with the utmost confidence.

During the summer, we will be using the Remind App as another way to communicate with parents. Prior to the **start of camp, parents will be provided the class code and information on registering for the child's camp group** to receive the weekly reminders about camp.

There will be a cell phone at each camp site in case of an emergency. You are welcome to call the camp phone during the day to speak directly with the staff. Parents will be provided with the camp phone number prior to the start of the program. The number to the YMCA is 812-367-2323. The Director of Youth Development, Christine Kleaving, can be reached at [christine@tricityymca.org](mailto:christine@tricityymca.org) or at the number above.

# PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Tri-County YMCA is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all participants. Participants **who attend the program are expected to follow the behavior guidelines based on the Y's five core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and faith and interact appropriately in a group setting.** It is the role of the parent to **guide their child's behavior both as a role model and in conversations at home regarding events that may occur** during the program. We want children to have fun and enjoy coming to our programs. Positive attitudes and good behavior make the YMCA experience fun and exciting for everyone.

## Behavior Guidelines:

- We will CARE for ourselves and those around us.
- HONESTY will be the basis for all relationships and interactions.
- We RESPECT each other and the environment.
- Participants are RESPONSIBLE for their actions.
- We are a Christian organization and offer FAITH opportunities in our programs.

## As a participant, the child will.....

- Recognize that he/she is a part of the YMCA family. The child will respect his/her peers, staff, and the environment.
- Be respectful of the feelings of others by treating them the same way that they would want to be treated.
- Communicate with others in an appropriate manner. Participants will not use foul language.
- Refrain from the verbal or physical harm of other participants and/or staff.
- Use equipment and supplies in an appropriate manner.
- Be fully responsible for his/her actions and understand the consequences of any inappropriate action.
- Help keep his/her area and the surrounding environment clean.
- Have lots of FUN and a GREAT time.

## Disciplinary Procedures:

When a participant does not follow the Code of Conduct, the following actions will be taken:

1. Staff will redirect the participant to more appropriate behaviors.
2. The participant will be reminded of the behavior guidelines and a discussion will take place.
3. If the behavior continues, the staff will document the situation and provide parents with a written documentation of the behaviors that occurred during the day.
4. If the problem persists, staff will schedule a meeting with the parent or caregiver, participant, program staff, and program supervisor to discuss the behavior and determine the appropriate action to take.
5. **If a child's behavior, at any time threatens the immediate safety of the child, other children, or staff, the parent may be notified and expected to pick up the child immediately.**
6. If a problem persists and a child continues to disrupt the program, the YMCA reserves the right to suspend the child from the program. Dismissal from the program will be considered in extreme situations.

All efforts will be made to guide children to appropriate behavior. Respect for your child will be demonstrated at all times and the same respect will be expected from your child for his/her peers and YMCA staff.

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Please keep your child home if he/she seems listless, unusually irritable, complains of stomachache, headache, earache, has a fever (100 or above) or seems unusually pale or flushed. It is better to be over cautious than to risk exposing the rest of the campers and staff to contagions. The Y staff wants your child to enjoy his/her time at camp. It is in the best interest of your child and the other campers that everyone at camp be healthy. If a child becomes ill, such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, etc., during their time at camp, parents will be asked to make arrangements to have the sick child picked up within the hour. The child may return to camp when they are symptom and fever free, without medication, for 24 hours.

In the event that a child is injured at camp, the staff will

1. Attend to the child
2. Administer first aid as needed
3. Assess the seriousness of the injury
  - a. If the injury is non-serious, the camp staff will notify the parent/guardian at pick-up.
  - b. If the injury is serious, the parent or guardian will be contacted at the time of injury.
  - c. If the injury appears to be life threatening, a call to 911 will be made for further assistance.
4. **Observe and monitor the child's activity**
5. Fill out an incident report and submit to the Director of Youth Development

Medications will be locked and stored by the camp staff and will only be administered according to the **physician's instructions. A medication log will be kept to record days and times of when medication was given.** Over the counter medications can also be stored and administered as needed throughout the summer. The complete name of the camper must be written on the medication container. If your child has a need for medication to be administered by a staff member during the camp day, you will need to give us the original **container in which the medication was received, child's name, times to administer, and type of medication.** Please only send enough medication for one week. Parents will sign the medication sheet at the beginning of the summer and staff will initial when it is administered throughout the summer.