



BEHAVIOR

Camp is only 12 weeks long. Because of this shortened time frame, we want our campers and staff to have the best possible experience. In order to reach this goal, we will be very firm in behavior policies and ask that parents and children understand these policies before joining us at camp this summer.

Child's Behavior Expectations

To ensure safety and comfort for all, we ask children to act appropriately while they are participating in Summer Camp activities. We expect children to behave in a mature and responsible way and to respect the rights and dignity of others. Summer Camp staff will redirect a child's behavior and respond to inappropriate choices on an individual basis. The YMCA teaches the core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Children who attend camp are expected to follow the behavior guidelines and to interact appropriately in a group.

- I will keep my hands and feet to myself.
- I will not fight or play fight with my friends.
- I will not use vulgar language including swearing, name calling or shouting
- I will be responsible to clean up my space.
- I will be responsible for the toys I played with.
- I will be respectful and listen to Camp Counselors while they give me directions.
- I will practice social distancing at all times.
- I will be quiet during a time out.
- I will use my walking feet while inside the cafeteria.
- I will report inappropriate behavior to our Camp Counselors.
- I will not throw wood chips while on at the playground.
- I will use the playground equipment appropriately.
- I will not leave the room without asking Camp Counselors first.
- I will not carry or conceal any weapons or devices that may be used as weapons.
- I will not demonstrate any sexual activity or sexual contact with another person.
- I will not demonstrate behavior which intends to, or results in, the theft or destruction of property.

I know if I break these rules I will need to sit in a time out for _____ minutes and one discipline form will be written informing my parents of my bad choice(s).

Removal from the program for inappropriate behavior

The following behaviors are NOT acceptable and may result in the immediate suspension or removal of a child as listed below:

- Endangering the health and safety of children and/or staff, members, or volunteers
- Stealing or damaging YMCA, school, or personal property
- Leaving camp without permission
- Continuing to disrupt the program
- Using profanity, vulgarity, or obscenity frequently
- Acting in a lewd manner

Staff's Behavior Expectations

When a child chooses not to follow the behavior guidelines of the Summer Camp, the following steps will be taken:

- Staff will give a verbal warning and/or redirect the child to more appropriate behavior.
- The child will be reminded of the behavior guidelines and rules and a "time out" will be given.
- If the behavior persists, a parent will be notified of the problem.
- The staff will document the situation. The written documentation will include what the behavior problem is, what provoked the problem and the corrective action taken.
- If the behavior continues, staff will schedule a conference that includes the parents, child, staff, and SACC Coordinator. The Coordinator will have all documentation and notes from the previous actions for review.
- If a child's behavior at any time threatens the immediate safety of themselves, other children, or staff, the parent may be notified and expected to pick up the child immediately.
- If the behavior persists and the child continues to disrupt camp, the YMCA reserves the right to suspend the child from the program. Expulsion from the program will be considered in extreme cases.

First Offense-dismissal from current day and the following day

Second Offense- dismissal from the current day and the following three days

Third Offense- dismissal from the current day and the following 5 days

Fourth Offense- expulsion from the Summer Camp Program

Immediate expulsion will occur if a child is in the possession of and/or using tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, firecrackers, firearms, knife or explosives.

Parent Statement of Understanding

The following information is important for the safety and protection of your child. Please read the information and sign below.

I understand that:

1. Children may only be dropped off at camp during the time-frame chosen at registration.
2. Children are released from camp to authorized individuals only. An authorized individual must be listed on the authorized pick-up list, be 18 years of age, and present photo identification. Changes in authorization must be provided to the child's membership file prior to implementation.
3. To ensure your child's safety please take an active interest in his or her YMCA experience. Ask your child specific questions about program activities and staff relationships.
4. YMCA staff is prohibited from babysitting or transporting children at any time outside of the Summer Camp program.
5. For the safety of children and staff, the police will be contacted immediately if a person arriving to pick up a child appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or in possession of a weapon.
6. By law the YMCA must report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities.

My digital signature during registration acknowledges I have read and received the Portage Township YMCA Summer Camp handbook which includes our behavior policy and severe weather policy.

