

WADSWORTH YMCA

**SUMMER DAY CAMP
PARENT PACKET**

**Completed
Kindergarten – Age 12**

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Dear Parents:

Welcome to the wonderful world of YMCA Child Care! The YMCA has been serving the child care needs of our community for over 30 years. We were one of the first organizations to recognize parents' needs for quality care for their children. Nationally, the YMCA is the largest provider of non-governmental child care.

We are a Christian organization and we take the "C" in our name seriously, not in an exclusive manner but in an inclusive way. We welcome people of all faiths in our YMCA. We believe in the Christian values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. You will find them implemented in our day-to-day operations, in our interactions with our families, staff and the children in our care. We feel it is important to incorporate these values in our curriculum knowing they are the same values you hold dear.

It is the mission of the YMCA "to provide services to all youths and adults of our community through quality programs which use Christian principles to build a healthy spirit, mind, and body." We interpret this to mean everyone should have access to YMCA programs regardless of an ability to pay. Our Partners with Youth financial assistance program is available to those who qualify.

Please read this handbook carefully. If you have any unanswered questions, please feel free to contact me.

We look forward to serving you and your children.

Sincerely,

Wadsworth YMCA

INTRODUCTION

All child care staff meet or exceed standards set forth by the State of Ohio for education and training. Background checks are done on each staff member and regularly scheduled volunteers. Six references are required for each employee. All of this occurs following a thorough interviewing process.

PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

The Y believes all children should have the opportunity to grow, learn and develop to their fullest potential. We recognize and accept each child as a unique individual with his/her own strengths and challenges and rate of growth and development.

Every child grows and develops physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. A child grows physically through active participation in motor activities, develops emotionally and socially by becoming aware of his/her own feelings and those of others, and develops intellectually through problem solving experiences.

To assist all children in achieving their potential, our child care team is committed to knowing each child individually. Knowing how each child grows, feels, and interacts enables our staff to plan appropriate experiences and curriculum.

The goal of this center is to help your child (ren) learn to live comfortably with him/herself, as well as interact with others. Because children learn from what they see, hear, and experience, we aspire to provide them with positive role models in a safe, healthy, warm environment. Our qualified and caring staff members supervise age appropriate activities. Because we know the value of quality care and guidance during these impressionable years, the staff works to help each child:

- ✓ Expand his/her world by exploring and experimenting with the environment
- ✓ Respect the rights of others
- ✓ Recognize and solve problems
- ✓ Accept responsibility for his/her actions.
- ✓ Express feelings and emotions (through art, stories, music, etc.)
- ✓ Develop fine and gross motor skills through active play and manipulative activities
- ✓ Gain an appreciation for learning

The Y adheres to the belief that the family is the primary unit in the child's life, with child care being a secondary, supportive unit. We believe that becoming partners with parents in sharing ideas and in creating solutions to child rearing challenges is the best atmosphere for having a positive impact on a child's development. Such relationships give the child a feeling of security, which will add to the benefits she/he receives from experiences in the program.

ADMISSION

A child is considered enrolled in the center only after the **\$40.00 Registration Fee is paid (waived before April 15th) and/or auto draft enrollment is completed**. Parents and guardians are required to disclose all medical, physical or behavioral issues at the time of the child's enrollment. For the safety of your child, and so current information is always on file, any changes to registration or medical information must be immediately communicated to the directors.

All children must be 100% toilet trained. We do not accept children whose parents refuse permission to transport in case of an emergency or evacuation. Refer to *Field Trips/Transportation and Accidents/Emergencies* for more detailed information.

HOURS AND DAYS OF OPERATION

Our center is in operation Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The center will close to observe the following holidays: Fourth of July, Juneteeth. Full tuition is due for the weeks in which these holidays occur. During summer months, day camp activities begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. Extended care is available beginning at 7:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00p.m. - 6:00 p.m. for all day campers.

STAFF / CHILD RATIOS

The Wadsworth YMCA's Summer Day Camp meets or exceeds the staff.
ACA Ratios include the following:

5yrs – 1:6 6-8yrs 1:8 9-12yrs 1:10

Absent staff are covered by substitutes on call. Please take the time to get acquainted with all day camp personnel.

DAILY SCHEDULES

The children's' daily schedule is flexible enough to provide adaptability when appropriate, but structured enough to provide predictability. We want them to view their school/center as a safe and comforting place, where they know what to expect and when to expect it. The following are examples of what a typical day includes:

Because we want participants to view our day camp program as a safe and comforting place where they know what to expect and when to expect it, the daily schedule is flexible enough to provide adaptability when appropriate but structured enough to provide predictability.

Except on major fieldtrip days, which may require us to be out of the building all day, a typical day would include:

7:00-9:00am	Before Care/Arrival – Indoor Free Play
9:00-9:30am	Opening Camp (Restroom, Swim Bands, etc.)
9:30-11:30am	Arts and Crafts, Games, Field Trips or Swimming as Scheduled
11:30-12:30pm	Restroom & Hand washing, Lunch and Clean up
12:30-3:30pm	Outdoor Free Play/Organized Fieldhouse Games
3:30-4:00pm	Restroom & Hand washing, Snack, Camper of the Day
4:00-6:00pm	Extended Camp/Pickup – Indoor Free Play

* All campers need to be at Day Camp no later than 9:00am. Please note that one field trip days, you may have to arrive earlier. Any camper arriving late will not be permitted to stay with another age group unless prior arrangements have been made with the Camp Director. Also, if your child is absent you must notify the camp.

TUITION/FEES AND PAYMENT POLICY

All weekly/monthly tuition is due the **Friday** prior to the week/month of service via auto draft (EFT or credit/debit card draft). The Akron Area YMCA defines a full week of child care as three (3) or more days and corresponding weekly fees will be charged accordingly.

Registration Fee: An annual, non-refundable registration fee of \$40.00 per child is charged. This fee is charged for each child enrolled and is renewable per school year and summer day camp program. A child is not considered enrolled until the registration fee is received.

Our tax ID number is 34-0714727. Year-end child-care summaries are prepared upon request.

The rates are as follows:

Weekly Rates	Members	Program
Day Camp	\$200.00	\$220.00
One Time Fees		

Camper Fees \$40 registration for all
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Cancelation Policy/Withdrawal Policy

The center's Program Director must be notified in writing of cancelation dates no less than 7 days in advance by emailing Program Director. Without proper notice, you will be responsible for paying your weekly/monthly fee. In the event of illness, weather related, or unforeseen events, full payment is expected. All fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Delinquent Accounts/Returned Payments

1. Outstanding balances of \$100.00 or more or that are 30 days in arrears may be turned over to collections.
2. A \$5 service charge is assessed to cover our direct costs of processing any NSF payments.
3. If your child care payments fall one week behind, your child may not attend until the balance is paid or a payment plan is worked out between you and the billing agent.
4. Parents with any outstanding balance at any facility within the Akron Area YMCA Association will be unable to register for any programs or memberships until the balance is paid.

Late Pick-Up Charges

If a parent realizes circumstances beyond his/her control are going to delay pick-up, a phone call is requested. A late pick-up fee in the amount of \$15 for every 15-minute increment per family will be imposed if children are picked up after the closing time. This applies to Title XX recipients as well. **If a child is picked up late more than twice, the director may request a conference to discuss alternate arrangements for the child's transportation.**

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

Parents are required to bring their child/children to their child's designated age group area inside the building. Parents need to check in/out with a counselor. Any special messages, such as special pick-up notes, etc. are to be given to the staff person on duty to the attention of the Program Director. **Children may not be dropped off at the entrance to the building or be sent inside alone. Staff must be made aware of each child's presence before the parent departs.** At the time of pick up, parents will go to the designated area and sign their child out with counselor. The signature must include their full name. Parents are responsible for the supervision of their child before and after sign in/out.

SUPERVISION POLICY

Supervision of School Age Children

School age children may run errands inside the building, use the restroom, or engage in a short-term activity which poses no physical risk to their safety alone or in groups of no more than six children without adult supervision as long as the following conditions are met:

- ✓ Children are within hearing distance of a staff member.
- ✓ The staff member checks on the children in kindergarten through third grade at least every 5 minutes.
- ✓ The staff member checks on the children in fourth grade or higher at least every 10 minutes.
- ✓ The center has exclusive use of the child care space being used by the children.

Release of a Child

Please be sure all authorized pickup people are on file at the time of registration. Children will only be released to those listed on that form. If someone not listed on the form is needed to pick up the child, the parent/guardian must call the Program Director or Wadsworth YMCA front desk with the name and description of the adult they are designating for child pick-up. Staff will require identification before releasing the child. Please let people know about this ahead of time so they bring a picture ID and they are not offended. The children's safety is our priority!

The following policy pertains to authorized persons arriving to pick up a child in our care who appear to be under the influence of alcohol or other substances.

- ✓ A custodial parent **cannot** be barred from taking their child home. If it is a person other than the custodial parent, staff will contact the custodial parent before releasing the child.

- ✓ Staff may consider counseling the custodial parent, who appears impaired, to call another person to drive the family home. Staff will emphasize the Y's values and commitment to the safety of the children.
- ✓ If this is a recurrent problem, staff will consult with the director (s), who may involve authorities.
- ✓ Please be sensitive to staff and not put them in a position where they may need to take these actions.

Stranded Child Policy

If we haven't been notified that a child will be picked up late, staff will first attempt to reach parents/guardians, followed by those persons authorized to pick up the child if the child remains at the center more than 10 minutes after closing. If we are unable to contact a parent/guardian or authorized person within one hour of closing, we will contact the Wadsworth Police Department.

Custody Agreements

If there is/are custody issue(s) involved with your child(ren), you must provide the center with full court papers indicating who has permission to pick up the child. The center may not deny a parent access to his/her child without proper documentation.

Child Abuse Reporting

All staff members are mandated reporters of child abuse. If staff suspects a child is being abused or neglected, they **MUST** make a report to Children's Services. The safety of the children is always our first concern.

FIELDTRIPS/TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN

The center will not transport children in medical emergency situations. If a child requires transportation, the parent or the emergency squad will transport.

Field Trips During Summer Camp

The center will be providing transportation for routine or scheduled field trips using vehicles operated by the center. A staff member with First Aid, Communicable Disease and CPR trainings will be present in the vehicle. Before departing the center, a count will be taken of all of the children, and each will be marked on a separate attendance sheet, specifically created for the trip. Upon arrival at the destination, another count will be taken to assure all of the children have safely arrived. This process will be repeated upon leaving the destination, and returning to the center. During the course of field trips, each staff member will be responsible for supervising specific children. **Before any child participates in either a routine trip or field trip, the center will obtain written permission from the parent or guardian.**

Swimming Information

Swimming may consist of trips to pools. Swimming in lakes, rivers, ponds, creeks, or other similar bodies of water is prohibited. A lifeguard will be present at all times and child care staff will also be actively supervising children. Parents will be provided with permission slips ahead of time. **Permission slips must be signed for a child to participate in any swimming activity.** Please remember to send bathing suits and towels for your child. Please consider providing a lightweight, long sleeve shirt and a hat for additional sun protection.

GUIDANCE POLICY

Akron Area YMCA child care staff believes helping children learn self-control is very important. Our hope is each child will learn self-discipline through careful guidance. Your child will be treated with love and respect. If children are treated with respect, they in turn learn to respect the teachers and their friends. Our expectations will be kept within the child's capabilities and the child will be made aware of these expectations. Positive reinforcement (commenting on children doing the "right" thing) and positive redirection (removing the child and giving him/her an appropriate activity) will be used.

A child may be asked to sit for a short period of time to give the child a chance to regain control if he/she is having a difficult time. Time-outs will be age appropriate in length and done within the classroom. Staff will not impose punishments for failure to eat or toileting accidents. **This discipline policy applies to all staff and parents while at the center.**

If a situation arises where a child is consistently endangering him/herself, peers or staff, it may become necessary to terminate care. Every attempt will be made to work together with the parents and the child to correct the behavior. However, the safety of children is always our primary concern. The director would be in communication with the parents prior to this occurring.

The Y does reserve the right to terminate a child's enrollment for disciplinary or other reasons at any time.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline

Negative behaviors or poor decision-making by a child shall be addressed in an appropriate manner. Levels of discipline shall be implemented as follows:

- 1st offense: Verbal warning with note
- 2nd offense: Age appropriate time out & note
- 3rd offense: Loss of privileges, age appropriate time out & behavior report
- 4th offense: Sent to Director
- 5th offense: Parents shall be contacted for pick up

Level Appropriate Notes

1. Positive Note
 - Positive Notes will be sent home to notify positive behaviors displayed by their children throughout the course of the day.
2. Directive Note
 - Directive Notes will be sent home to notify negative behaviors (not warranting a behavior report) displayed by their child throughout the course of the day.
3. Behavior Reports
 - Behavior Reports will be sent home to notify poor behaviors displayed by their children throughout the course of the day.

The Day Camp program has a zero-tolerance policy on violence. If a child should strike or attempt to harm another child in any manner, a Behavior Report shall be completed and the parents shall be contacted for pick up. ALL violence shall result in immediate disciplinary action at the discretion of the Day Camp Director.

LUNCHES & SNACKS

At the Y, we believe in healthy living, which includes providing healthy snacks! We strive to offer fresh fruit, vegetables, and other nutritious snacks to our campers. Parents must send a packed lunch for their child daily unless notified otherwise. We ask that you provide healthy lunches that include a drink, and food that is low in fat and sugar. (There is no refrigeration provided by the camp.)

Please let us know ahead of time if your child is not permitted to have any type of foods due to allergies or religious beliefs.

ACCIDENTS/EMERGENCIES

The center has devised several procedures to follow in the event that an emergency would occur while a child is in the center's care. In the event of a fire, or tornado, staff will follow the written instructions posted in each room, describing emergency evacuation routes, and the procedures to follow to assure children have arrived at the

designated spot. In order to prepare children for the unlikely need to evacuate, the center conducts monthly fire drills, and periodic tornado drills. Should we need to evacuate due to fire or weather conditions, or the loss of power, heat, or water to the center, our emergency destination is: The Wadsworth Middle School. Parents will be contacted by the YMCA Member Service staff and/or the Program Director as soon as possible to come to pick up their child. If a parent cannot be reached, we will contact the emergency contacts as listed on your child's enrollment information.

There is always one staff member present that has received training in First Aid/Communicable Diseases and CPR. In the case of a minor accident/injury staff will administer basic first aid and TLC. If the injury is more serious, first aid will be administered and the parents will be contacted immediately to assist in deciding an appropriate course of action. If the injury/illness takes place in the YMCA building, we will work with our Summa nurse on call and take further action if necessary. If the injury is very serious, staff will contact 911 and then the parents. A staff member will accompany the child to the hospital with all available health records. Staff may not transport children in their vehicles. Only parents or EMS will transport.

An incident/injury report will be completed, and given to the person picking up the child, on the day of the incident/injury if any of the following occur: the child has an illness, accident, or injury which requires first aid; the child receives a bump or blow to the head; the child has to be transported by emergency squad; or an unusual or unexpected event occurs which jeopardizes the safety of the child. If a child requires emergency transportation, the report shall be available within twenty-four hours after the incident occurs.

MANAGEMENT OF ILLNESSES

We provide the children with a clean and healthy environment. However, we realize children become ill from time to time. If this is your child's first group care experience, it is possible he/she may experience more frequent illnesses at the beginning before his/her immune system becomes more active. We observe all children as they enter the program to quickly assess their general health. **We ask that you please not bring a sick child to the center.** We will be contacting you to take your child home, as we are unable to accommodate mildly ill or sick children. We encourage you to plan ahead for these times and have a back up care plan in place if you are not able to take time off from work/school.

A child with any of the following symptoms will be isolated and discharged to the parent or emergency contact:

- ✓ Temperature of at least 101 degrees F (100 degrees if taken axillary) when in combination with any other signs of illness
- ✓ Diarrhea (more than three abnormally loose stool within a 24-hour period)
- ✓ Severe coughing (causing the child to become red in the face or to make a whooping sound)
- ✓ Difficult or rapid breathing
- ✓ Yellowish skin or eyes
- ✓ Redness of the eye, obvious discharge, matted eyelashes, burning, itching
- ✓ Untreated skin patches, unusual spots or rashes
- ✓ Unusually dark urine or grey or white stools
- ✓ Stiff neck with an elevated temperature
- ✓ Evidence of untreated lice, scabies or other parasitic infestation
- ✓ Vomiting more than once or when accompanied by any other sign of illness
- ✓ Sore throat or difficulty swallowing

Any child demonstrating signs of illness not listed above will be isolated and carefully observed for symptoms. The parent will be notified. If a child does not feel well enough to participate in center activities the parent will be called to pick up the child. Anytime a child is isolated he/she will be within sight and hearing of a staff member. The cot and any linen used will be washed and disinfected before being used again.

Please notify the center if your child has a communicable disease. Parents will be notified by letter, email, posted notice or telephone of any communicable diseases at the center.

Children will be readmitted to the center after at least 24 hours of being free of fever and other symptoms. This includes head lice and nits. If they are not symptom free a doctor's note will be required stating that the child is not contagious.

MEDICATIONS

The center will administer medications to a child only after the **Request for Administration of Medication** form (JFS 1217) is completed. All proper sections must be completed and the medication handed to the staff person. The prescription must be in the original container with the prescription label attached to the medication. The label must contain the child's full name, dated within the last twelve months and the exact dosage to be given and the means of administration. Medications will be stored in a designated area inaccessible to children and either returned to parent or disposed of when no longer needed or it has expired. **After each program, it is the parent's responsibility to pick up any medication stored at the facility. Any medication not picked up at the conclusion of the program will be disposed of within one week.**

Medications may **NOT** be stored in a child's cubby or book bag. The only exception to this is for school age children who require the immediate use of an inhaler or diabetic equipment and medication for a medical condition. School age children will be permitted to maintain control of their inhalers and diabetic equipment and medication. Parents must sign a release form stating that they are permitting their child to have access at all times to the inhaler and/or diabetic equipment and medication. The child must keep the inhaler, diabetic equipment, and/or medication on his/her person at all times; it may not be stored in a cubby or book bag. Anytime the child is unable to maintain control of the inhaler, diabetic equipment, and/or medication, it must be handed directly to the staff member responsible for the child.

Over the counter medications are only administered with current written permission from the child's physician along with instructions for administering. In addition, over the counter medications will not be administered for more than three days without instructions from a licensed physician. Administration or application of medication must be documented on the prescribed form.

Food Supplements or Modified Diets

If your child requires a food supplement or a modified diet, you must secure written information from your physician. This information must be completed on a "Request for Administration of Medication" form (JFS 1217).

OUTDOOR PLAY

Research has shown children stay healthier when they have daily outdoor play. Based on this information and state requirements, outdoor play will be included in our program on a daily basis. We will limit the amount of time outside when the temperatures are very warm or very cold. Children will not be taken outside when the temperature (wind chill factored in) drops below 25 degrees and when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees. If the situation requires it, we will also adjust outdoor time due to rain, threatening weather, etc. On days outdoor play is not provided due to these conditions, we will include a time for indoor gross motor activities.

Please send your children with the proper clothing so they may be comfortable and safe whenever we are outside. Staff will be actively engaged with the children during outdoor and large muscle activities. Children well enough to attend the center are considered well enough to engage in outdoor activities.

PARENT CONCERNS

Staff is available to discuss a child's progress or needs at anytime. However, due to staff responsibilities and schedules, parents are asked to make appointments when it is necessary to engage in any lengthy conversations. Staff wants to be able to focus on you and your child at these times.

If parents have any concerns or questions at any time it is recommended they first discuss it with the child's counselor. If further discussion is necessary, the Program Director or Executive Director would be the next contact person. The next person to assist with a resolution would be the branch director.

We encourage parents to bring concerns up when they occur. Often, they can be addressed when they are little problems. We realize that you trust us with your little ones, and we want our relationship to be a good one.

PERSONAL PROPERTY POLICY

Day Camp programs do not permit toys or other outside items to be brought into the program, unless staff has set aside a specific day to do so. In keeping with the Christian principles of the Y, toy guns, swords or other weapons or toys with sharp edges are not permitted. Children may bring cell phones, but will be asked to keep them “away” in backpacks - unless given permission by a counselor to have it out. Child will only be allowed to play on phone during before care, lunch, and after care. *If you choose to send your child with any electronic, YMCA staff and other campers are not responsible for any damage that may occur. Alcohol and drugs will not be permitted. Personal belongings such as animals will also not be permitted. Please guide your children in their choices of what to bring to the center. Staff may request that a particular toy not come to the center if such toy is causing problems among the children. Delicate toys or those that could lose pieces or be easily broken or lost should not be brought to the center. **For the safety of all persons in the Center, the Y reserves the right to examine the contents of backpacks, totes, etc. to determine that no weapons, either toy or real, are brought to the center.** The Y is not responsible for lost or broken toys.

Listed below are all of the locations of YMCA child care programs that are a part of the Akron Area Association:

- Akron Rotary Camp
- Camp Y-Noah
- Cascade Village Early Care and Education Center
- Family Enrichment Center
- Firestone Park YMCA
- Green YMCA
- Lake Anna YMCA
- Longwood YMCA
- Riverfront YMCA
- Wadsworth YMCA
- WDACA Early Care and Education Center

An Akron Area YMCA child care program reserves the right to provide a child’s information to another child care program within the Akron Area YMCA Association.

CLOTHING AND SHOES

For full participation in our child care programs, we ask that parents adhere to the following guidelines when dressing their children each day:

- ✓ Tennis shoes (non-marking soles) must be worn daily.
- ✓ Children’s shoes must cover the entire foot and be secured with ties or Velcro, unless it is a scheduled beachfront or swimming activity. Beach shoes will then be permitted.
- ✓ Pants/shorts should fit properly at the waist.
- ✓ Shirts with spaghetti straps or ill-fitting shirts are not permitted.
- ✓ Play clothes (clothing easier to care for) are preferred for both boys and girls as they are less restrictive and allow the child to fully participate in activities without worry of ruining their clothes during some of our messier activities.
- ✓ Proper swimwear must be worn for swimming activities.

A complete set of clothes, clearly marked with the child’s first and last name, may be left at the center. Please check this change of clothes seasonally to be sure it is appropriate and still fits your child.

BITING POLICY

Biting among preschool and school age children is not acceptable behavior and will be considered an aggressive act. Suspension may be implemented with the recommendation that the parent seek medical advice from the child’s physician.