



**YMCA of the Coastal Bend
Summer Day Camp
Parent Handbook**



The YMCA Mission Statement

To put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

The YMCA Vision

The YMCA of the Coastal Bend will build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

YMCA Guiding Values

- Respect - be tolerant of differences
- Responsibility - always do your best
- Caring - be compassionate and show you care
- Honesty – be truthful at all times through actions and words

Camp Philosophy and Goals

YMCA camping provides a positive atmosphere of safety, support, and care for each individual child, while allowing for personal growth and development in spirit, mind, and body. Children who participate in a YMCA Camp program will:

- Increase their ability to work with others;
- Demonstrate a growing ability to make decisions;
- Show increased self-confidence;
- Increase eagerness to try new things and develop new skills;
- Build awareness of the environment and healthy lifestyle;
- Have fun!

YMCA 2010 Camp Locations:

YMCA of the Coastal Bend
417 South Upper Broadway
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
(361) 882-1741

John Paul II High School
3036 Saratoga
Corpus Christi, TX 78415
(361) 877-2063

Club Estates Recreational Park
4902 Snowgoose Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78413
(361) 877-2093

YMCA Day Camp Programs

No one creates camping experiences like the YMCA. For over 25 years, Corpus Christi youth have come together for a summer full of nature, water fun, games, cookouts, arts & crafts and new friendships! A wide variety of programs are offered for children grades K through 5th.

YMCA of the Coastal Bend: June 1st – August 20th

Club Estates Recreational Park: June 1st – August 20th

John Paul II High School: June 1st – July 2nd

YMCA Teen Xtreme

A whole summer of exciting activities designed especially for 6th–8th graders.

Every day of your week brings a new and different adventure. One day you could be playing in a basketball tournament and the next you might find yourself on a trail in the woods, hiking or scaling down a climbing wall. Unique and challenging opportunities including team building, leadership skill development and service learning projects and special field trips are just some of the activities that are guaranteed to provide teens a summer of fun!

John Paul II High School: June 1st – July 2nd

Club Estates Recreational Park: July 5 – July 30th

What to Bring to Camp

Campers should wear comfortable, closed-toed shoes and play clothes. On field trip days, campers must wear their 2010 Y Camp T-shirt. One free Camp T-shirt per child will be provided. Additional Camp T-shirt's may be purchased for \$10.00 each while supplies last.

Campers Need: Please label EVERYTHING with your child's name.

- _ Sack Lunch (No sodas or candy, please)
- _ Closed-Toe Shoes
- _ Water Bottle
- _ Back pack
- _ Swim Suit and Towel
- _ Goggles are recommended
- _ Sunscreen
- _ Cap/Visor

Campers are not allowed to bring electronic devices (i.e. mp3 players, hand held video games, etc) unless otherwise notified. Campers should not bring personal sports equipment, animals, or any toys from home. We will provide the campers with all that they need for their enjoyment. These items sometimes disappear and we are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Lost and Found

A lost and found table will be located at each camp location. Lost and Found will be cleaned out every other Friday. Leftover items will be donated to a local charity. Please clearly label all belongings sent to camp.

Camp Groups

Campers are placed in activity groups according to age and gender.

7:30 am - 9:00am Pre-Camp Activities
9:00 am - Opening Activities
9:30 am – 12:00 pm – Morning Rotations
12:00 pm– 1:00 pm – Lunch
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm – Afternoon Rotations
4:30pm – 6:00pm - Post-Camp Activities

Ratios

Counselor-to-camper ratio is 1:10 for day camp. Campers will rotate among some daily activities as small groups and participate in field trips as a whole.

Counselors

The YMCA hires enthusiastic, child-focused staff and volunteers seeking to be positive role models in the lives of children. In addition, the YMCA requires that all camp staff and volunteers be certified in CPR and First Aid. Each camp counselor has been through intensive training in order to work at the Day Camp/Teen Camp Program. Most counselors are furthering their education in child development and/or related fields.

YMCA Camp Programs are managed by a highly trained YMCA Director that not only has the academic requirements for the position but also has past experience of operating a variety of children's programs. The Director spends the majority of their time at the program providing leadership, guidance and overall supervision to insure a high quality program is provided for the children and families. The summer camp staff program operates under direct supervision of Christie Beauregard. Each site is staffed by a camp director, who is responsible for the overall operation of the camp including; supervision of children and staff, program planning and implementation, communication and parent relations. Camp directors are then supported by camp counselors who have regular one-on-one interaction with campers.

Activities

In general daily activities include: sports, crafts, field trips, special events, skits, singing, games, group announcements, swimming, special guests and more are all part of our daily schedule. Weekly calendars are available on Monday of each week. Please read calendars for important information regarding field trip and activity times. Although unlikely, changes that include dates, times, location and cancellation due to lack of enrollment or location difficulties remain the right of the YMCA.

Recreational Swim

All campers will have the opportunity to swim every day, weather permitting. We recommend that female campers wear their swimsuit under their shirt and shorts and male campers wear a shirt and swim suit. This will help keep lost clothing to a minimum. A towel and goggles are recommended.

The YMCA has a strict no touch policy. If you send a spray on sunscreen, we will be happy to assist your camper in spraying it. All campers will be swim tested every day. This consists of swimming the length of the pool starting in the deep end. If your child swims the length of the pool, they are allowed to swim in the deep end. If your child does not pass, they will swim in the shallow end. The certified lifeguards will announce general swimming rules before each swimming period. Life jackets are available for campers.

Field Trips

In most cases, all campers will go on one major field trip per weekly session. These trips include places such as bowling, museums, beaches, parks and more. Parents can pick up a copy of the weeks activities on Monday each week. A field trip permission form is part of the registration packet and is on file at each program site. On field trip

days all campers are required to wear their 2010 camp shirt. The YMCA has been successfully taking children on field trips for many years. Field trips are carefully planned out and at no time will children be left unsupervised.

Transportation

On field trip days transportation is done by school bus. Bus behavior will be strictly enforced. At no time are camp staff members allowed to transport campers in personal vehicles.

Medication

We discourage the administering of any medication while at day camp. If it is mandatory that a camper receive medication, all medication must be turned into the camp director on the first day of camp and must be in its original container, with pharmacy label including: child's name and dosage instructions. Separate YMCA Permission to Medicate form must be completed by the parent and returned with the medication. Non-prescribed over-the-counter medication is not permitted in camp. Please be sure to collect medications immediately after camp.

Accident/Emergency Procedures

Parents will be contacted in the event of an emergency or accident. Parents are asked to notify the YMCA at 361-882-1741 immediately with any change of address or telephone numbers. If parents cannot be reached, the director has the authority to call 911. In the event of a major emergency, 911 will be called automatically.

A camper will only be released to those persons listed on the enrollment form. If someone else is to pick up your child, the parent must contact the camp at 361-882-1741 or give the camp director a written note with the name of the person picking up your child. In case of divorce or legal separation, we must have a copy of court documentation when a parent is NOT authorized to pick up a child. All Day Camp/Teen Camp Staff are required to ID anyone whom they do not know. This includes parents, relatives, and friends. Be prepared to show your picture ID. Anyone obviously under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be allowed to take a child from camp. Anyone working with children is required to report to the proper authorities on any suspected child abuse. This includes physical, sexual, emotional, mental, and neglect abuse. Many staff members are equipped with hand held radio communication devices for fast, immediate contact for emergency or communication reasons.

Parent Concerns

The YMCA is dedicated to developing and maintaining high levels of member service. We want to hear from you if we have not accomplished this goal. Anyone of our YMCA staff is available to assist you with questions or concerns and will work with you for resolution. In the event a concern is not resolved to your satisfaction you may contact the YMCA and speak with the President/CEO.

Camp Boundaries and Maintenance

Children must remain with their group and counselor at all times. Camp boundaries will be reviewed daily to ensure the safety of all campers. Campers are expected to help keep the camp facility clean by picking up after themselves and assisting in the daily cleanup of camp activities and areas.

Program Commitment to Include All Children

The YMCA Camp staff strives to respond to the needs of each individual child in a group care setting. The YMCA provides opportunities for involvement in large and small groups with a balance of staff directed and child-initiated activities. The YMCA Camp Program is, however, unable to provide one-to-one care for any child except on an intermittent basis, such as injuries, immediate disciplinary issues, and certain personal care needs customarily provided to other children. The YMCA Camp program welcomes all children. To the extent it is reasonably able to do so, the YMCA program will provide services to children with disabilities or any special needs in the same manner as services provided for other children of comparable age.

Children's Appropriate Conduct

It is our intent that each child enjoys the activities planned by understanding that they are responsible for their own actions. With prior knowledge of our basic rules of safety and good conduct, each child is made aware of how to exercise self-discipline. We are here to assist campers and to know that we expect them to succeed. Character development is an important part of our program. We also use positive reinforcement by consistently acknowledging good behavior. The expectations listed below are the general expectations we have for all our program participants:

Respect for yourself, for others and for property.

Safety first.

Speak for yourself/listen attentively.

Be responsible for your words and actions.

In cases of negative or inappropriate behavior, the following process will be employed:

1. Reasoning and Redirection: Every effort will be made to help the child understand the inappropriateness of her/his action and agree to an alternate form of behavior. Children may be redirected to alternative activities. When the conflict is child-to-child, every effort will be made to have them reason together face-to-face with staff facilitating.
2. Removal from Specific Activity: When reasoning has been used and has not changed behavior, removing the child from the activity involved for an appropriate amount of time may become necessary. The denied activity should be related to the misbehavior and the removal should not exceed 10 minutes.
3. Child/Director Conference: When the Camp Counselor is not successful correcting behavior, the Camp Director may meet with the child to redirect him/her to use of proper conflict resolution strategies.
4. Parent Conference: If the parent needs to be formally involved in the process, specific changes in behavior will be requested with specific consequences for non-compliance outlined. This is usually accomplished through the use of a "Behavior Contract." Whenever possible, the child's present and participates in these

conferences. The goal is to define what changes need to be made to help the child be successful in the program.

Camper Removal from Program

If the above steps have not resulted in correct behavior, the parents will be asked to remove the child from the program, at their expense. The YMCA may terminate a child's enrolment for any of the following reasons: Emergency names and phone numbers are incorrect, parent is consistently late picking up child after Camp closes, non/late or NSF payment of fees, failure to sign child(ren) in and out daily, child leaving the Camp without authorized written permission, behavior that is continually disruptive or dangerous to others and/or self, behavior that is destructive to property and/or refusal to replace said property and/or any single incident that is deemed by the Camp Director to be dangerous, harmful or disruptive.

Camp Fees

CAMP DEPOSIT – Non-refundable

A Camp Deposit of \$10.00, per week, per child is required for all camp sessions. (i.e.: If you are registering for three camp sessions, a \$30.00 deposit will be required to hold your spot for those sessions of camp. These fees will be deducted from your total weekly camp cost. However, in the case that you cancel those weeks of camp, \$10.00/week is non-refundable).

CAMP FEES

Camp fees are payable through bank draft, credit card payment or may be paid weekly (in advance) by check or cash. If you are registering for multiple sessions, you must complete the Payment Method Authorization Form authorizing payment for the balance of sessions if paying by draft or credit card. Automatic drafts will occur (7) seven days prior to the beginning of each session. Only paid campers are allowed to attend camp. All camps must be paid in advance.

Camp special: Pay for nine weeks of camp for one camper in advance of June 1, 2010 and get the 10th week for free.

Want to add swim lessons with camp? Swim lessons are provided for \$25 per week. Lessons will consist of four one hour sessions with a certified WSI instructor. All lessons will need to be paid for in advance of each class. To sign up for lessons please contact the camp director.

NSF PAYMENTS: A \$25.00 fee is charged for all non-sufficient funds and declined credit card charges. Children will not be allowed to attend camp unless payment for camp session has been received and recorded by the YMCA.

CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS and TRANSFERS

After initial enrollment, no refunds will be given for registration fee and camp deposit(s). All changes to a child's enrollment or cancellations must be received by the YMCA in writing via email or fax.

Changes made 14 days or more, prior to first day of camp session: If transferring, a \$10 transfer fee will be assessed for all requests to transfer weeks or locations; if canceling, no cancellation fee will be charged.

Changes made 5-13 days prior to first day of camp session: If transferring, a \$10 transfer fee will be assessed for all requests to transfer weeks or locations; if canceling a \$10 cancellation fee will be charged.

NO CHANGES can be made less than 5 days, prior to the first day of camp session. You will be held responsible for the full amount of camp fees, regardless of whether or not your child attends camp.

YMCA Summer Day Camp Fees by Location and Date:

YMCA of the Coastal Bend,

417 S. Upper Broadway, Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Summer Camp Dates: June 1 – August 20, 2010 Grades: K-5th Grade

Summer Camp Fees: \$90 per week per camper

YMCA Summer Day Camp at John Paul II High School,

3036 Saratoga, Corpus Christi, TX 78415

Summer Camp Dates: June 1 – July 2, 2010 Grades: K-5th Grade

Summer Camp Fees: \$110 per week per camper

YMCA Summer Day Camp at Club Estates Recreational Park,

4902 Snowgoose Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78413

Summer Camp Dates: June 1 – August 20, 2010 Grades: K-5th Grade

Summer Camp Fees: \$110 per week per camper

YMCA TEEN XTREME DATES AND FEES:

John Paul High School, June 1 – July 2

Club Estates Recreation Park, July 5 – July 30

Weekly Fee: \$120 per camper for weeks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 Weekly Fee: \$140 per camper for weeks 3 and 8