



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

PARENT HANDBOOK SUMMER CAMP 2026

For Full-Day and Half-Day Camps: Kinder Ridge, Explorers,
Wilderness, Timber Ridge, Voyagers, Varsity, Sports and Fusion



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The B.R. Ryall YMCA staff is very excited to welcome your child into our 2026 summer camps. We know that finding the right camp can be a tough decision, but we assure you that your child will enjoy an exciting summer here at the Y. We are constantly adapting to the challenges of our changing world to ensure that your camper has a magical summer.

Our goal is to ensure a successful experience for all our campers, and to do so we feel it is extremely important to prepare you and your family for this summer adventure in advance. Please mark your calendar to join us for camp orientation night at your registered camp location.

This parent packet includes all of the important information that is relevant for your camper. Please read this packet carefully and contact the camp director with any questions you may have.

We look forward to a magical summer!

YMCA Camp Directors

MISSION STATEMENT

The B.R. Ryall YMCA is a non-profit organization that promotes the development and enrichment of a healthy spirit, mind and body. The Y accomplishes its mission by offering programs and activities that are based on Christian values. Areas of focus include youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

CAMP PHILOSOPHY

We promise to support our community by offering camps that meet the needs of youth through age-appropriate activities and trips. Character development is incorporated into each camp program emphasizing the four core values of the YMCA: Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility.

ABOUT THE STAFF

There is nothing more important than the safety and well-being of your child. The Y takes pride in hiring staff who are responsible, mature, considerate and passionate about working with children and teens to ensure a quality program experience. All of our camp staff members are first aid and CPR certified, and receive additional training in emergency procedures. In addition, staff are trained in child abuse prevention, pool safety, customer service and the implementation of age appropriate activities.

YMCA CAMP CONTACTS

Kinder Ridge

Raquel Despe 630.547.2011 | rdespe@ryallymca.org

Westfield Camps

Cindy Goss 630.627.5389 | cgoss@ryallymca.org

Abe Lincoln, Sports Camp, Camp Fusion, Varsity Camp and Voyagers

Jim Powers 331-627-5541 | jpowers@ryallymca.org

LOCATIONS

B.R. Ryall YMCA:

49 Deicke Dr. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Abe Lincoln Elementary School:

380 Greenfield Ave. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Ben Franklin Elementary School:

350 Bryant Ave. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Westfield Elementary School:

25125 Mayfield Ln. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

CAMP HOURS

Traditional Camp: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please arrive to camp by no later than 8:45 a.m.

Traditional Plus: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

*Staff are not on duty until 7 a.m.

**Please review our late pick-up policy.

Half Day (Fusion & Sports): 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

REGISTRATION, WITHDRAW & REFUND POLICY

To register for camp, all interested parties must complete the online registration forms. Your child's forms will be accessible to YMCA staff through our online portal and in printed form in our participant information binder. These forms are also accessible to staff if they log into our YMCA system. If you need to make updates to your child's information, parents can update/delete information online. Upon the end of the school year, all paper copies will be disposed using a third party shredding company. If you would like to remove your child's information online, you may login to your account and "delete information online".

A \$30 registration fee per camp week, which is non-refundable and non-transferable, is required to reserve your child's spot. (This registration fee is applied toward the weekly camp fee.) Changes to camp registrations must be made no later than two week prior to the registered camp week. After that, a camper may withdraw from a camp week, but will forfeit 60 percent of the fee. Refunds will not be given for unattended sessions.

YMCA MEMBERSHIP

To receive the member rate, you must have a family membership. Memberships must be active during registration and remain active while child/ren are enrolled in camp.

MULTI-CHILD POLICY

If your family has 3 or more children enrolled in our "All Day" programs (Day Care, Safe 'N Sound, or Camp), you qualify for a 10% discount on the lowest rate!

How to Redeem Your Discount:

Contact Jim Powers at jpowers@ryallymca.org to activate your discount.

Important Details:

- Discounts apply only to programs after you've contacted Jim.
- Prorations or credits will not be issued for programs that occurred prior to your contact.

Don't miss this opportunity to save while your kids enjoy amazing programs! Reach out today!

CAMP INFORMATION (A-Z)

ABSENCES

If your camper will not attend camp, please notify the camp contact (see page 1) by no later than 8:30 a.m. A message reporting an absence may be left on the camp director's voicemail.

AUTHORIZED PICK-UP

- Only individuals listed as an authorized pick up may pick up your camper.
- Always be prepared to show a photo ID at pick up.
- For someone not listed to pick up your camper, an email or phone call to the camp director is required in advance.
- A camper will never be released to an unauthorized adult. A parent with visitation rights must be listed on the Camper Information Form (list visitation days).

CAMP SHIRT

Campers will receive a shirt on the first field trip day, and **MUST** wear the shirt on all field trips. If your child arrives on field trip day without the shirt, you will be asked to get it or purchase a new one for \$10.

CLOTHING

Campers should wear comfortable clothes selected in accordance with the weather. **Closed toe shoes are required; sandals and flip flops are not permitted.**

FIELD TRIPS

Campers attend at least one field trip weekly, usually departing at 8:30 a.m. and returning mid-afternoon. It is very important to arrive on time on field trip days, wearing the camp shirt. If late and campers have already departed, your camper can not attend camp that day.

LATE PICK-UP POLICY

On-time pick-up is required, however, parents who will be delayed picking up must contact the Y immediately. Notification does not exempt you from the late pick-up fee of \$1 per minute per child after 6 p.m.

LOST AND FOUND

Please label all items and ensure your child has everything before leaving each day. Misplaced items are held by their camp locations. On Fridays, lost and found items are brought to the sign-out table. Staff are not responsible for misplaced items. Items not collected by end of the summer are donated.

LUNCH

Each camper must bring a labeled lunch and water bottle daily; please pack food that will not spoil.

PROGRAM SITE CONTACT INFORMATION

Program sites will have a Y issued program phone. This number is shared with all participants each week in our weekly newsletter.

Should a program site phone not be working, staff may use the phones available onsite to contact parents. If a parent is trying to reach a program site and reaches a voicemail, parents should leave a message and staff will return their call. If immediate assistance is needed, parents are asked to reach out to the Y general line at 630-858-0100 and Y staff will get your messages to the appropriate person.

SIGN IN/OUT PROCEDURES

The sign-in/sign-out table is located at the designated location at your site. Table hours are 7-8:45 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. All other times will require you email the camp director to arrange late drop-off/early pick-up.

All children must be signed in/out by a parent/guardian or authorized pick-up. Only those listed as authorized pick-ups on the Camper Information Form may pick up a camper. All persons should bring photo identification at pick-up. Children cannot sign themselves in/out.

SNACKS

The Y will provide an afternoon snack only. Please pack a morning snack for your child. Indicate any dietary or food restrictions on the information form. You are also welcome to pack your own snacks. A peanut-free zone will be available for children with allergies.

CAMP INFORMATION (A-Z)

SUNSCREEN/BUG REPELLANT

Sunscreen and/or bug repellent should be applied daily prior to arrival. Staff will ensure that campers have proper sunscreen protection (provided by the parent/guardian); however, staff may not apply it or provide it. Campers, supervised by staff, will apply sunscreen/bug repellent. Please label all belongings.

SWIMMING

Swimming will be held on various days throughout the week and noted on your weekly newsletter. A swimsuit and towel should be packed daily. Appropriate swimwear is required; shorts, t-shirts and bikinis are not permitted. All campers are encouraged to swim. No alternative activity is available during swim time.

SWIM TESTING

Campers who wish to swim in the large pool must take a swim test. The swim test consists of swimming the width of the large pool without struggling. If swimming off-site we will follow the policies of the outside facility. Swimmers will be given a colored necklace that indicates where they are permitted: Green – large pool shallow and deep ends, Yellow – large pool shallow end only, or Red – small pool only. If your camper does not pass the swim test for the large pool, he/she may practice and retest the next week.

TOYS AND ELECTRONICS

Personal toys and electronics are not permitted, including apple watches, cell phones and Nintendo Switches*. Counselors will take such items and store them in the director's office until the end of the day. The Y is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

*Voyager campers may bring electronics; however, tech time will be allowed during designated times only. A tech contract will be signed at the start of your campers camp week.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Each week a camp newsletter will be available at the sign in table. We encourage parents to read the newsletters for important information on field trip locations and departure times, special events and general happenings.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

We suggest campers bring a backpack to carry their belongings. All campers must bring the following items every day:

- A.M. Snack (non-perishable)
- Lunch (non-perishable)
- Refillable water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Towel
- Swimsuit
- Change of clothes (shorts, shirts, underwear & socks) for Kinder & Explorer campers

Please make sure to label all items, in multiple places, so that we can ensure items do not get mixed and can be easily identified as to whom they belong.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND DISCIPLINE

ACCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES

- The Y camp staff are equipped to handle MINOR injuries. All staff are trained in First Aid/CPR/AED, so basic care your child needs will be tended to properly.
- For injuries that may require additional care—such as a chipped tooth, small laceration or joint injury—you will be contacted immediately.
- If you are notified of an injury that may necessitate additional care, you are expected to pick your child immediately. If you are unable to do so, you are expected to identify someone to pick up your child.
- An injured or ill child will not be transported to a medical facility by a counselor or director under any circumstances.
- In the case of a serious injury or illness, our staff will contact the paramedics to transport your child to the nearest hospital. A staff member will accompany your child to the hospital and remain until a parent or guardian arrives. You will be contacted immediately and informed to meet your child at the hospital.
- Your signature on the Release Form allows the hospital to provide appropriate care for your child.

ILL CHILD

For the health and wellness of all campers and staff, any child showing signs of a communicable disease such as COVID, chicken pox, pink eye, diarrhea, severe coughing, sore throat or difficulty swallowing, vomiting, lice, temperature of 100 degrees or greater, severe stomach or head pain should be kept home. Any communicable disease must be reported to the program director.

If a camper becomes ill, the following steps will occur:

- He/she will be removed from proximity with other children.
- Parent/guardian will be notified and expected to pick up the child within the hour.
- If parent/guardian cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be notified.
- If a child is sent home, he/she may not return to camp until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.

MEDICATIONS

- If your child needs medication (including self-administered inhaler or epipen) during the day, please indicate on camp forms and follow up with the director via email.
- Medication should be given to the sign-in table on your camper's first day. Medication will be held until the end of the summer, unless otherwise requested. Medication must be in the original container labeled with your child's name, dosage amount and time.
- If there is a change in medication, email the director.

DISCIPLINE

Because our goal is to provide a fun, safe environment where your child can grow, campers are expected to act in a manner that demonstrates our four core values: Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility.

The following behavior is not tolerated: inappropriate language (swearing, slang/negative words); hitting, kicking, biting or dangerous actions; fighting; stealing; bullying (physical or emotional); vandalism or improper usage of Y property; disrespectful behavior; failure to follow directions repeatedly; and running away from camp and/or counselors.

If a camper demonstrates any of the above behaviors, the following actions may occur:

- Camp Lead will talk to the camper.
- Camper will be removed from activity for a period of time with warning.
- "Tough day" report completed by camper with Camp Lead.
- Visit with director; parent will be notified; child may be sent home.

If staff have utilized all steps and the camper still demonstrates inappropriate behavior throughout the week, additional actions may occur:

- Child sent home
- Two-day suspension or dismissal
- Dismissal for entire summer
- Possible removal on field trip day

CAMPER CHARACTER CONTRACT

At the start of each week, staff will introduce/review the camper character contract so all campers are aware of the expectations. Please review the next page with your camper.

PARENT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

- I understand that staff and volunteers are not allowed to babysit children at any time outside the YMCA.
- I understand that I am not to leave my child at the program until my child has been signed in by a staff member.
- I understand that I am to pick up my child at or before 6 p.m. If I am late, a \$1 late fee per minute will be charged.
- I understand that my child will not be allowed to leave the program with an unauthorized person. Any person picking up my child must have been authorized by a parent/guardian and must present a valid I.D.
- I understand that should a person arrive to pick up my child and appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the staff will report this person to the police.
- I understand that only a court order of protection will prohibit a non-custodial parent from picking up his/her child even if he/she has not been listed as an authorized pick up.
- If I fail to meet my obligation to the program policies, the YMCA reserves the right to suspend my child's participation in the program.
- I understand that failure to pay all fees on time may result in removal from program.
- I understand that in case of a divorce, the custodial parent is responsible for all payments.
- I understand that the YMCA is mandated by state law to report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities for investigation.
- I understand that the YMCA prohibits firearms on the premises
- I understand that this program is not licensed or regulated by DCFS
- I understand that I am responsible for following the policies outlined in the handbook that I received prior to my child's first day of attendance.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to register my child online for the program and to make sure that all registration information (child name, DOB, address, parent contact information, emergency contact and authorization for medical care) is accurate and up to date. I acknowledge that my information will be stored online. If my child is no longer enrolled in the program, it is my responsibility to delete my child's account.
- I understand the withdraw/refund policy.
- I verify that all information I have provided upon registering is correct, and I understand that I must inform the YMCA if any information does change.
- *Parent statement of understanding is signed upon online registration.



SUMMER CAMP 2026

CAMPER CHARACTER CONTRACT

Developing and displaying positive character values is very important at the B.R. Ryall YMCA Summer Camp. Understanding and practicing the Y's core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility is a big part of our commitment to offering a safe and fun camp experience. Therefore, we expect our campers to agree to follow our Camper Character Code:

- We CARE for ourselves and those around us.**
- We earn each other's trust by being HONEST.**
- We RESPECT each other and the environment.**
- We are RESPONSIBLE for our own actions and choices.**

Campers are expected to:

- Show respect and kindness to other campers and staff.
- Be honest with other campers and staff.
- Respect the property of the Y and other campers.
- Demonstrate responsibility by being helpful.
- Be respectful of others' feelings and differences.
- Do what I can to have fun, and to help others have fun, too.

The following behavior will not be tolerated:

- Inappropriate language (swearing, slang/negative words)
- Fighting, "rough-house" play or behaving in an unsafe or aggressive manner (hitting/kicking/biting)
- Stealing
- Bullying (physical or emotional)
- Vandalism or improper use of Y equipment
- Disrespectful behavior
- Failure to follow directions repeatedly
- Running away from camp, counselors and/or Y staff

Failure to comply with these expectations will result in disciplinary actions outlined on page 5 of the Parent Handbook.