

The First Time (or 100th Time) YKnots Camper Parent Quick Guide

YMCA Office (973)762-4145 YKnot Aftercare (973)762-0860

Who will my child's counselors be?

Camper groups will not be assigned until the week before camp. There will be at least one Senior Counselor and 2 Junior Counselors in each group. No more than 20 campers per group. The campers will help name their groups during the first week of camp!

What does my child need bring to camp every day?

Lunch should be packed in a **disposable, labeled lunch bag** to be placed in the group lunch bin separate from the backpack. (No glass bottles please.) Your child should come to camp with his/her bathing suit on and a change of clothes in a lightweight (non-rolling) backpack. A small towel, sunscreen, hat and labeled water bottle should also be in the backpack. Sneakers are appropriate shoes for camp. Sandals with back straps will be accepted, but not preferred. Please have your children leave personal toys at home. These are always prone to getting lost at camp.

Where do we go for camp on the first day?

Camp Hours are 9-3 for YKnots One and 9:30-3:30 for YKnots 2.

Pick-up and drop-off can be challenging the first couple of days. We will be doing sign-in at the cars starting at 8:50am for YK1 and 9:10am for YK2 for non-AM Care campers. Pick-Up starts at 2:50pm and 3:20pm respectively. **All campers MUST be signed In and Out Daily. You may not park in the Jefferson Avenue parking lot.** There is parking available in the CHS parking lot on West Parker Ave (next to the child care center lot, but please park on the train tracks side as camp buses park on the other side for other day camps. Please be patient the first few days.

What if my child will be attending AM Care?

Campers attending AM Care will start as early as 7:15am (only if you are preregistered) in the Program Center downstairs. You are welcome to escort your child there and stay as long as you need to. Miss Karen James supervises the AM care. Many Senior Counselors start at 8am. There are some activities and some free play options for before care.

What if my child will be attending PM Care?

YK Campers attending PM Care must be picked up by 6:30pm (only if you are preregistered) in the Child Care Center upstairs. Miss Marie (our year-round Parents Night Out Supervisor) is the PM care supervisor for YKnots upstairs in the CCC. Many Senior Counselors work until 4pm to help the transition time from camp to aftercare. There are some structured activities and some free play options for after care. **There is a late pick-up fee of \$15 per 15 minute interval after 6:30pm.** If you need someone else to pick up your child other than is listed on your camp paperwork, you will need to send in an Alternate Pick Up Form to our office before 3pm.

How will my child stay hydrated all day?

You must send a labeled water bottle in your child's backpack every day. Our campers will stop at water fountains all day. They are located throughout all program areas and at the pool site. Labeling your child's water bottle will help the staff keep it with your child. **All unlabeled bottles go in the trash as campers are prone to drinking out of a similar-looking water bottle.** Daily schedules are set-up to give campers both indoor and outdoor activities back-to back in 40 minute intervals.

What if my child loses something at camp?

Please help prevent lost items by **labeling all articles of clothing and backpacks.** It is very difficult to return items not labeled and a camp Lost and Found box is not very fun to search through.

How will I know what my child did at camp every day?

Daily schedules for each group will be emailed home and will stay the same all summer, but different activities will occur each week in the special classes. Theme week plans will be emailed out weekly so you can ask your child, for example, if they played soccer today in sports (when their group is scheduled for sports that day).

What about trips?

All trips have been scheduled for Wednesdays (except the Talent Show which will be held on a Friday per last year's parent requests). A trip schedule will also be emailed out. Campers will receive t-shirts by the end of the first week and must wear them every Wednesday. Please discuss bus rules with your child...seatbelts, safety and keeping hands inside. Per state rules, our campers will participate in a Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill before leaving for their first trip through the back door of the bus. Our staff will alert the children before it happens, but please help us by discussing this procedure with your child first. Parent Chaperones are more than welcome on trips. We take as many parents as we can, but we have limited spots on the bus so you may have to drive. The YMCA would be honored to pay for your trip entrance fee for the donation of your time. Please email Jennifer MacAfee if you are interested in chaperoning a trip to save a bus spot for you in advance when you receive the trip schedule.

Swimming - What is the pool like for lessons? How deep?

We add extra staff during swim lessons so the ratio is about 1:5. The pool is 4 feet deep at the shallowest end. Campers will be swim-tested the first day of camp and will be placed in a swim level of 1, 2 or 3. My staff is fully trained in Aquatic Safety and will work with every camper to make them feel comfortable in the pool and then will begin challenging them with their swim skills. **At no time will your child have a chance to swim unattended at YKnots Camp.** The only time a swim group gets in the water at the same time is to hold onto the sides of the pool while learning to kick their legs and blow bubbles together to learn to breathe underwater.

What if my child needs to take medication while at camp?

All medications need to be handed to Karen James along with our **Authorization to Medicate Form**. She dispenses all medicine daily. If your child is in need of an inhaler or Epi-Pen, one should be given to your Senior Counselor to stay with him/her all day and also one to the PM Care Supervisor, Marie.

Can I add weeks to my child's summer camp experience once I do the first session?

It is very common that most first-time parents register for the first session of camp and then wait to register for more if their child is happy. We don't blame you. Camper registrations will be accepted until capacity is full as long as additional trip tickets can be secured. It is best to register for more sessions or single weeks as early as possible. Our last session can get full quickly once the camp season starts and parents are satisfied. Because we allow campers to attend different sessions, we can not guarantee your child will be kept in the same group if you add weeks as the summer progresses. Please book early if you think you will be staying with us longer than expected. We take great care to accommodate all requests.

What if I still have questions?

Please feel free to call Jennifer MacAfee at (973)762-0860 ext 127 or email her at: jmacafee@metroymcas.org Camp Directors don't expect you to remember all the information we send out. Please ask for help. Please communicate any future needs or concerns you may have while at camp with the staff or contact Jennifer MacAfee. We will work to correct them immediately. We appreciate all feedback, good or not so good.

**WE THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING THE SOUTH MOUNTAIN YMCA
FOR YOUR SUMMER FUN!**