

# **Parent Handbook: Summer 2011**

Everything you ever wanted to know about Mission Valley & Toby Wells Summer Camp 2011!

## **Welcome to the Mission Valley and Toby Wells YMCAs!**

The staff at our YMCAs believe that each child is a unique individual with his/her own rate of development. Our goal is to introduce children to as many new experiences as possible and help each child feel confident and secure in a fun, safe camp environment. We are dedicated to molding the lives of our campers and creating friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

We are pleased and excited about the prospect of caring for your child this upcoming summer. Please take a moment to read through this guide as it should answer many of the typical questions regarding our camp program.

All YMCA camps are designed to meet the following goals. Each camper will:

- Learn to appreciate oneself, gain confidence and self esteem.
- Develop values for living.
- Learn to appreciate the natural environment and work toward its conservation.
- Develop positive relationships.
- Develop skills in leadership and group support.
- Learn responsibility.
- Learn to appreciate diversity.
- Learn new skills.
- Develop a balanced life: physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.
- Have fun and get dirty.

Thank you for choosing the Mission Valley and Toby Wells YMCAs.

## **Mission Valley/Toby Wells YMCA Mission Statement**

The Mission Valley/Toby Wells YMCA of San Diego County is dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential as children of God through the development of the spirit, mind, and body.

Did you know the Mission Valley YMCA is an American Camp Association Accredited Camp? All of our YMCA Day Camps have been accredited by the American Camp Association. Our day camps meet or exceed the highest standards in camping services including health, safety, personnel, transportation, and facilities. For more information regarding ACA standards please visit [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org).

### **Where are we?**

#### **Mission Valley YMCA**

5505 Friars Road  
San Diego, CA 92110  
619-298-3576  
Fax: 619-298-9262

#### **Toby Wells YMCA**

5105 Overland Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123  
858-496-9622  
Fax: 858-496-8950

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**Where to get camp information:**

**Camp Registration Information**

Rachel Jacobs 619-298-3576 x11211  
Camp Administration [rjacobs@ymca.org](mailto:rjacobs@ymca.org)

**Camp Program Information**

Mission Valley Desk 619-298-3576  
Toby Wells Desk 858-496-9622

**For Additional Information:**

[www.missionvalley.ymca.org](http://www.missionvalley.ymca.org)

**Camp Hours of Operation:**

Extended Camp 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.  
Camp hours 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Extended Camp 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## **Registrations / Transfers / Payments**

### **How to Register for Camp:**

In order to register for camp, you may choose any of the methods listed below. A medical release/liability waiver must be submitted during the registration process regardless of the method you choose. Enrollments are subject to availability and registrations are not guaranteed.

- Walk into the registration desk at the branch
- Register on our website [www.missionvalley.ymca.org](http://www.missionvalley.ymca.org) if you are a member of past participant
- Fax your registration to 619- 298-9262. Call to verify receipt of faxed forms
- Mail your completed forms and non refundable deposits to the branch.

### **Camp Deposits:**

You may pre-register for any YMCA Camp at the Mission Valley YMCA or Toby Wells YMCA by placing a \$10 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT (NOTE: some camps require a \$50 non-refundable deposit). The deposit will hold your child's spot in camp up to 14 days before the start of each camp.

### **Balance Due Dates:**

PAYMENT IN FULL is due 2 weeks (14 days) prior to the start of each camp session or your child will be dropped from the roster and you will forfeit your deposit.

### **Late Registration Fees:**

Yes. A \$10 late fee will be applied 14 days prior to the start of each camp session.

### **Payment Schedule/Confirmation Letter:**

You will be sent a letter via email showing all the camps that your child is registered for and any balance dues that you owe. Please make sure to pay the balance 14 days prior to each camp or your child will be dropped from the roster and you will forfeit your deposit. Please double check the camps that your child is registered for and notify Rachel Jacobs immediately if there are any discrepancies, 619-298-3576, ext. 11211. **Reminder: You will not be receiving a weekly camp bill.**

### **Financial Assistance:**

The YMCA has raised funds for Camperships to help families in need. A family must meet the required guidelines in order to receive funding. Financial Assistance applications are available at the Mission Valley/Toby Wells YMCA Member Serve Desks and also online at [www.missionvalley.ymca.org](http://www.missionvalley.ymca.org).

Required documents include the first two (2) pages of your 2010 tax form, W2, current paycheck stubs, and current bank statements.

Applications available March 12- April 4, 2011 and will be awarded based on availability of funds. For more information contact Rachel Jacobs at extension 11211 or [rjacobs@ymca.org](mailto:rjacobs@ymca.org).

**Giving Back:**

If you wish to make a CONTRIBUTION to the YMCA 2011 Annual Support Campaign, you may do so by sending your donation to the YMCA specifically ear-marked for a Campership or Camp. Call the YMCA or Rachel Jacobs at 619-298-3576, ext. 11211 for more information.

**Refund Policy:**

Before camp starts, we pay our vendors, purchase our admission tickets and supplies and hire our staff according to enrollment. For these reasons, a full refund is given only when the YMCA cancels a camp.

A request to cancel your enrollment in a camp is required in writing 14 days prior to the first day of camp (forms available at the registration desk). You will receive a Y-Voucher minus your deposit good for 6 months. There will be no Y-Vouchers or refunds for missed or sick days of camp.

**Transfer Policy:**

Transfer requests will be accepted up to 14 days prior to each camp. The appropriate paperwork must be submitted on time and is available at the member service desk. There will be no transfers processed after the 14 day deadline. All transfers are subject to availability.

**Waiting Lists:**

In the event that a camp fills prior to your registration, you may put your child on our waiting list. You will be contacted if a spot becomes available.

**Age Exceptions:**

There will be no age exceptions. Camps are designed for campers of a certain age. Campers must be the indicated age by the first day of camp for that session.

**Pro-rating Camps:**

We believe that a true camp experience is a week-long experience. Additionally we pay our vendors and staff by the week. For these reasons, we do not pro-rate camps. We do provide a Daily Camp option for parents who only need a few days a week.

**Camp Hours, Pick-Up, Drop-Off and Transportation Information**

**Important Times**

- 6:30 a.m. Camp opens for drop-off to AM Extended Camp.
- 8:30 a.m. Camps begin specific camp activities;  
Unit Leaders arrive.
- 9:00 a.m. Buses begin leaving for field trips.
- 4:00 p.m. PM Extended Camp begins.
- 5:00 p.m. Camp Unit Leaders depart.
- 6:00 p.m. Camp closes.

**Anyone picking up a child must be authorized and present a current picture I.D.**

**Free Extended Hours\***

The Mission Valley YMCA has included free extended camp with your child's week at camp. This means that you have the flexibility of dropping your camper off any time between 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. and picking them up between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Due to staff scheduling and labor laws during these hours we will provide traditional camp type programming and your camper may have different counselors than they have from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Children will be supervised playing low impact games and activities. If you would like to speak directly with your camp's Unit Leader their hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A late fee of \$1 per minute will be assessed for children picked up after 6:00 p.m. (1:00 p.m. for Half-Day Camps).

\*PM extended camp not included with Half-Day camps.

**Sign In/Out Procedures:**

The YMCA requires that all children are to be properly signed in by an adult and turned over to a YMCA staff person. This helps ensure the safety of your child. We do require children to be signed out by an authorized adult, even if they are participating in other YMCA programs immediately following camp. PLEASE NOTE: It is our responsibility to see that your child leaves with the appropriate person each day. We will ask for identification daily. Please do not be offended. This is done with the child's safety in mind.

**Late Drop-Offs/ Early Pick-Ups:**

Our staff members do their best to accommodate late arrivals and early departures. Busses typically leave the YMCA at 9 a.m. so, be prepared to meet the camp off-site if they are traveling that day. Please, be sure you communicate with your child's Unit Leader in person during the drop-off or pick-up at least a day in advance to know where to meet the camp for either a late drop-off or early pick-up.

**Late Pick-Ups:**

Children not picked up at the end of the camp day will be supervised by YMCA staff. A fee of \$1 per minute will be charged when your camp ends. For example, most camps end at 6:00 p.m., and if a child is picked up at 6:25 p.m., there will be a charge of \$25. Every attempt will be made to contact parents. If by 7:00 p.m. the parents are not reachable, and the child has not been picked up, Child Protective Services will be contacted. A late fee will be assessed at 1:00 p.m. for Half-Day Camps and 6:00 p.m. for all other camps.

**Authorized Adults for Pick-up:**

Your child's authorized adults were designated by you on their medical/liability release waiver. You may change pick-up information at the front desk. You must present a written request and a photo I.D. to the staff and they will be happy to update the information. If it is the day-of, you need to get a hold of the Camp Director and give them the updated information.

**Reporting Absences:**

If your child will be absent from camp, please call the Camp Absence Hotline at 619-298-3576 extension 11334. There will be no credits or refunds for missed or sick days of camp.

**Teen Sign-Outs:**

Participants of the Camp Program will not be allowed to sign themselves in and out of the program. An authorized adult must sign in and out if camper is under 18 years old. LITs (Leaders-in-Training) and JL (Junior Leaders) participants are authorized to sign in/out after the parent waiver is signed. LITs and JLs must leave the program area after they have signed themselves out of the program.

**Drop-Off Areas:****Mission Valley**

Camp will operate out of our large, lower grass field. The AM/PM Information Center will be located at the west end. You should plan on parking in our west parking lot.

**Toby Wells**

Camp will operate out of the park. The AM/PM Information Center will be located by playground leading in from the National University parking lot. You should plan on parking in the Toby Wells side of the National University parking lot. All campers need to be at camp by 8:45AM, as busses leave at 9AM, and return at the latest at 3:45PM, unless noted.

**Transportation & Bus Facts:**

- Traveling camps are noted with a bus symbol next to their name throughout the brochure.
- Though we try our best to keep a consistent schedule and accomplish all of our planned activities, departure times, arrival times, and the fieldtrips themselves are subject to change without notice.
- Transportation schedules are available at 3 p.m. the day before our trips.
- School buses are designed without seat belts on purpose, for safety. According to the National Safety Council, school buses are 172 times safer than your family automobile!
- As with all YMCA staff, a background check is completed on each bus driver and they are CPR and First Aid certified.
- Each bus driver completes drug and alcohol testing and is subject to random testing as well.
- Each driver is required to perform a daily pre-trip inspection of their bus, including the air-brake systems.
- Each of our buses is inspected routinely by the California Highway Patrol. We only use buses that have passed this inspection.

**YMCA Bus Emergency Procedures**

- In the event of an accident, all campers will follow the instructions of bus supervisor or secondary staff. Staff will first ensure that there is "no further danger" for all campers after an accident, move to a safe location, off the road and far enough away as not to be injured by other traffic, fires, etc. A staff member will always supervise the uninjured campers.
- Available staff will then treat injured persons following standard first aid procedures.
- In case of emergency, available staff member will immediately telephone Director, following the Communication Plan.

- Unit leader will collect and document names of eyewitnesses, will keep notes of times and events in writing during or immediately following the emergency. Once time allows, a complete accident and incident report will be filed with the camp office.
- In case of breakdown, the driver will contact the Program Director following the Communication Plan. If a rental vehicle, supervisor may call rental company directly for support.
- During re-fueling (avoid re-fueling stops when transporting campers, do it before and after), all campers must be outside and away from the vehicle.
- Upon arrival at destination, the bus driver will report to camp Director for unloading instructions and to present and report all check in materials and attendance.

### **YMCA Bus Rules**

- Campers are organized according to the camp they are being transported to or from-baggage is loaded for travel and campers line up at door of bus.
- Unit Leaders will check campers and staff by roster on to the bus. Unit Leaders/Camp Leaders will have the registration form (with medical release and health history) on each camper. Staff are positioned strategically on the bus. One rides in back and one in front. Campers are seated so as to be safe and comfortable during the transport
- When all campers are on the bus, the bus driver will make a physical check by walking around bus and looking under bus to be sure all campers and luggage are on the bus.
- Aisle ways in the bus must be checked for clearance (no blocking of aisles). Any wheelchairs must be in locked positions and occupants must wear their seat belts during travel.
- Bus driver will then make last call and give campers on the bus the rules for transporting:
  - Noise level must be regulated so as not to interfere or disturb the driver.
  - Three campers in every seat.
  - No eating or drinking allowed on the bus.
  - Windows are opened and closed by counselors. No objects are to be tossed out the window.
  - Keep hands, arms and head inside the bus.
  - Nothing is to be dropped out of windows.
  - Campers must remain seated while on the bus. (If the driver has to slam on the brakes, a standing camper can be seriously hurt.)
  - Campers should be silent at railroad crossing and while the bus is backing up.
  - Campers are not allowed in the buses while they are parked unless a counselor is on the bus.
- If a camper is not adhering to bus rules, the driver will pull over immediately. If needed, a coordinator will be contacted to communicate with the parent. Extreme camper behavior will result in program suspension.

For more information on our buses or bus drivers, please contact Ralph Perez, Transportation Director at 619-298-3576, ext. 11288.

## **Camper Supervision**

### **Camp Staff:**

We feel confident that we have the best staff around! Our staff is as diverse as our campers. Many members of our staff team are enrolled in teaching credential programs, are college students, or are full time teachers. Our staff members are at least 18 years old, have been properly screened and trained. All Camp Staff have basic First Aid and CPR/AED certifications.

The Unit Leader of Surf, Splash, Mission Bay Aquatic Camps, Water World, Boogie Board, and Water-based camps are also all certified YMCA lifeguards. In addition, our camps only visit beaches/aquatic facilities that provide City or County lifeguards.

YMCA staff model the YMCA Character Development values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Most importantly, our staff are people who love working with kids. They are good people with good hearts who are silly enough to sing "The Y Song" at the top of their lungs!

### **Staff Training**

All camp staff are required to attend 24 hours of training prior to the first day of Summer Camp. The Unit Leaders attend approximately 16-24 hours of additional training.

Our comprehensive training and development program includes behavior management, conflict resolutions, planning age-appropriate activities, and risk management. In addition to learning all the policies and procedures of the Mission Valley YMCA Summer Camp program, they learn how important it is to apply sunscreen throughout the day, how to do head counts, how to check children in and out, and how to drop-off and pick-up operates. They explore techniques of how to better interact with children, build other's self esteem and confidence, and become experts in songs, games, skits, and arts & crafts projects.

At the end of our training, they are ready to use their new skills and knowledge with campers. Selection as a Camp Leader at the Mission Valley YMCA is competitive; last year we received well over 375 applications for 180 positions. You can be sure that we are hiring the "best of the best" to work with your children. We are sure that you'll agree.

### **Camp Ratios:**

We operate on the following ratios, which are recommended by the American Camping Association. For camps with a wide age range, we use a 1/10 (staff per child) ratio.

Ages 5 years	Ratio: 1/6
Ages 6 to 7 years	Ratio: 1/8
Ages 8 to 12 years	Ratio: 1/10
Ages 13 to 16 years	Ratio: 1/12

**Babysitting Policy:**

Although Y-Camp staff work well with children, our policy states that our staff are not permitted to have additional contact with children or babysit for families involved in our YMCA programs.

**Gratuities:**

Although our staff members work long, challenging hours, our policy states that employees are not to accept gratuities. If you wish, we would encourage you to make a donation to our Annual Support Campaign to help children who otherwise wouldn't be able to go to camp. Contact Rachel Jacobs at the YMCA 619-298-3576 ext. 11211 for more information.

**Disciplinary Issues at Camp:**

Our camp staff is trained and is expected to resolve behavior problems in a positive manner. Our staff speak with the child, allow him/her to take time out to think about the problem, discuss the problem/solution with the child, then let the child return to the activity. In more severe cases, the child will be kept out of the activity and the parent will be asked to pick up their child. Together, parents and YMCA staff will work out a custom-designed behavior modification method depending on the severity of the problem. In the event the problems persists, the child may be suspended or expelled from the program. Some acts may result in immediate suspension or expulsion including but not limited to: fighting, intentionally harming others, theft, and possession of weapons or drugs. Our policies do not grant refunds or credits for missed program days due to behavior problems.

**Camper Medication Policy:**

In order for your camp's Unit Leader to administer medication to your child, we will need the following to happen:

1. The medication needs to be prescribed by a doctor, and in its original prescription bottle with your child's name printed on the label. No over-the-counter medication will be administered.
2. The medication needs to be brought to camp and checked into the AM/PM Information Center. Please do not pack medication in your child's backpack or lunch. Camp's Unit Leader is to be in possession of checked in medication at all times.
3. A completed Medication Release Form (available at the AM/PM Information Center) must be completed every Monday morning. A completed Medication Release Form must be on file in order for our staff to give your child medication.

**Illness or Injury:**

If your camper becomes ill while at camp, our staff will contact you to pick him/her up. Camp is not designed to handle ill children, so it is important to tend to your child in a timely manner. If your child is injured, the staff will take whatever steps are necessary to obtain medical care. If we are unable to reach you and your child needs medical attention she/he will be transported to the hospital by an ambulance or by a YMCA vehicle. All expenses for emergency medical care are the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

**Sunscreen:**

Sunscreen will be applied to each camper throughout the day. We count on parents to apply sunscreen before children come to camp in the morning. We apply sunscreen at snack time, lunchtime, and in the early afternoon. If you do not want sunscreen applied to your camper, or would like a special type of sunscreen applied, please send a note to your child's Camp Unit Leader on Monday and provide them with the special sunscreen.

**Bathroom Procedures:**

No camper is ever alone and no camper is ever alone with a staff member. All campers will take trips to the bathroom with the entire camp and/or camp groups escorted by camp staff. Campers will only use bathrooms inspected for safety by camp staff.

**Contacting Your Child at Camp:**

We understand that urgent situations come up. If you should ever need to reach your child while she/he is in camp, please call the Mission Valley YMCA at 619-298-3576, ask for the Camp Receptionist, they will take your message and get the information to your child's Unit Leader and get back to you as quickly as possible.

**Communicating with the YMCA Camp Staff:**

Exchange of information between parents and staff provides insight for both parties. The format may be formal or informal. It is vital that you inform us of changes happening in your family. Changes at home include: moving, hospitalization of a sibling or parent, altercations in the parent's relationship, etc. These influence the way in which your child relates to others. Staff members can better provide for a child's needs if they are aware of the situation. We will treat this information with the utmost confidence. Most communication can be either routed through our AM/PM Information Center or by talking with your child's camp staff during drop-off and pick-up each day. Your child's Unit Leader will be on site from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Program Content****Camp Evaluations:**

Evaluations will be sent electronically and will be available on our website. We love your feedback! Please fill out evaluations and send them back at your earliest convenience. If you have questions or concerns, please call the Camp Director.

**Parent Shows/Events:**

Some of our camps have parent shows on Fridays. We invite you to see your child's new skills and to meet the staff and the new friends your child has been talking about all week! Some of the parent shows take place where your child's camp has been located all week. For example, Gymnastic Camp's parent show will take place at the Gymnastics Center at the Toby Wells YMCA. Other camps will be performing at the weekly Pep-Rally which takes place Friday's at 3:00 PM. Even camps without scheduled shows often perform a skit, song, or routine at the Pep-Rally, so family is always encouraged to attend. For specific information about time, location, and whether your child's camp will be performing, please see your Camp Schedule and/or ask your child's Camp Unit Leader.

**Instruction in Sports Camps:**

Sports camps (except All Stars) will spend 3 hours on the field/courts/gym. Please remember, you are signing up your child to attend a sports camp - not a sports clinic. The YMCA views sports as a way to fulfill our Mission Statement. Our sports camps are designed to teach self-esteem, leadership, teamwork and character values through sports. They will execute drills, learn new techniques, play games and practice the sport. Always remember, if your child would like more intensive instruction, encourage him/her to ask the camp staff!

**Instruction in Specialty Camps:**

Most of our specialty camps are brought to us by outside agencies that have partnered with the YMCA to provide a phenomenal experience in everything from outdoor education, the arts, science, and more. Campers spend 2.5-3 hours or more with their YMCA counselors learning from our specialty camp providers, each of whom have passed a background check and are qualified to instruct in the field. If you have questions about the programming or agencies we've partnered with, please contact our Camp Director.

**Grouping Campers Together:**

We'll do our best. Many of our camps are divided into groups by age and/or ability. Please send a note to your child's Camp Unit Leader on Monday morning and we will make our best effort at keeping your child with his/her friend. Of course, there are circumstances (age and/or ability) in which the YMCA camp staff will be unable to meet your request. Luckily, there is a great deal of time in which the entire camp is together. Your child will be able to be with his/her friend during this time. And remember, camp is for making new friends too!

**Rainy Days:**

On the rare occasion that it rains during camp, our staff evaluates the intensity of the weather and makes decisions accordingly. Remember, much of camp is about getting wet (the pool, the beach, water balloons, and water parks) so a little rain may not impact your child's day at all. If weather conditions require it, we will relocate camps to other areas of our facility or plan alternative trips and activities for them other than what was regularly scheduled.

**Preparing for Camp: Frequently Asked Questions****What information will I get before camp?**

Besides this handbook, a pre-camp email is our courtesy communication tool to inform you of the week's schedule of activities as well as answer any questions you may have. If you sign up for camp Wednesday-Sunday the week before camp, you will not get a pre-camp email. If you do not receive a pre-camp email, please confirm your email address with the Member Service Desk.

**How can I get a camp schedule?**

Camp schedules are available at the front desk, AM/PM information center, from Camp Staff, and on-line at [www.missionvalley.ymca.org](http://www.missionvalley.ymca.org) two (2) weeks prior to the beginning of camp. The Camp schedule provides you with information on what your child will be doing during his/her time in camp. Please note that these schedules are subject to change. We do our best to provide you with information early so you can plan ahead, but summer camp is full of surprises and we are often forced to make changes. The schedule also gives you information on what to bring.

**What should my camper wear to camp?**

Campers are required to wear closed-toe shoes and socks daily. Please remember, camp is not a fashion show! We encourage our campers to wear old clothes in which they are ready to play hard and get dirty!

**What should my camper bring to camp?**

All campers must bring their own lunch and drink to camp daily (except when noted in the camp schedule). Please send only non-perishable foods because refrigeration is not possible. You will also want to pack a small snack; most of our camps take time in the morning for snacks. Campers should also bring their own water bottle to stay hydrated during the day. In addition to water, a drink, a lunch, and a snack, it is recommended to send your child to camp with a backpack to keep all their belongings together. Don't forget protection from the sun for camps at the beach (a t-shirt) and sunscreen and a sweatshirt for campers who may get cold. If your camper is swimming, don't forget a swim suit and a towel. Please put your camper's name on all belongings.

**Should I pack water for my child?**

Yes. Though we fill coolers for the kids and our staff make regular trips to restrooms and drinking fountains, parents are ultimately responsible for sending their child with plenty of fluids for the day.

**What shouldn't my camper bring to camp?**

- cell phones
- video games
- personal cd players/stereos/ipods
- expensive jewelry/watches
- new or expensive clothes
- money
- toys and card games
- weapons
- alcohol or drugs
- personal sports equipment
- vehicles
- animals

The YMCA is not responsible for any items that are lost or stolen, and under NO CIRCUMSTANCES will reimburse for lost items.

**Can my camper buy lunch?**

No. Campers are not to bring any money to camp. At Mission Valley, parents can purchase their child a lunch at our snack bar, "Shiraz's", prior to dropping their child off. But the children will have no access to the snack bar.

**What if my camper forgets his/her lunch?**

Every so often, a lunch doesn't make it from the car to camp. The camp staff will contact you to let you know that they don't have a lunch. We will make sure your child gets something to eat or a lunch will be purchased and parents will need to reimburse camp at pick-up.

**Should my camper bring money to camp?**

No. Camp fees include all day trip admission fees. The only exception is on extended trips where the campers may want to purchase souvenirs or meals, or special camp carnivals/BBQs.

**Does the camp program provide a snack?**

Yes. All campers will get an afternoon snack at 3:30 p.m. each day. Snacks will range from fresh fruit to crackers. We encourage healthy snacks. Please send your child with a morning snack, as campers get hungry with so much activity. Please do not send candy for your campers' snacks!

**What if my camper loses something at camp?**

We know that sometimes things just get lost. Please label all of your child's belongings. The best way to prevent the loss of property is to leave it at home! Our camp Lost and Found is located at the front walkway by our AM/PM Information Center. Please feel free to check for your child's lost and found items. Lost and found items are kept at the YMCA for two full weeks and then donated to charity. The YMCA is not responsible for camper possessions that are lost or stolen.

**What camps have additional waivers? And, how do I get them?**

Every summer, a handful of our specialty camps require additional waivers. This summer Mountaineering, Hike Bike and Kayak, Ocean Adventures, Adventures in Leadership, Multi-Water Sport, Paintball, and Equestrian require an additional waiver. Beginning June 1, you may obtain one at the front desk or at camp the Monday camp begins. Your child will not be able to participate in camp activities until the waiver is filled out and signed by the legal guardian and submitted to the camp's Unit Leader.

**Pool and Beach Safety****What if my camper can't swim?**

Please inform your child's Unit Leader. All campers wishing to swim in the deep end of the pool are required to take a swim test. The children line-up and lifeguards watch as one child at a time swims from one end of the pool to the other. If a child is unable to swim from one end to the other without holding on to the side or if a child chooses not to take the swim test, she/he will be required to stay in the shallow end of the pool where they will be closely supervised.

**How often do campers take the swim test?**

In order to keep your child safe, campers wanting to swim in the deep end take the swim test at the start of every free swim session. It doesn't take long and it makes sure lifeguards know who the newest swimmers are.

**How deep are the campers allowed to get into the water at the beach?**

The campers are required to take a swim test at the beach. If they pass the test, they are allowed to go in waist deep. If they do not pass, they are allowed to go in knee-deep.

**Where do campers change into their swimsuits?**

The campers change in designated same-sex changing areas. These areas are staffed and monitored while campers are in these areas.

**What if my camper does not want to swim? Or forgets his/her bathing suit?**

If your child doesn't want to swim or forgets their bathing suit, she/he simply won't go swimming. Usually about 75% of campers want to swim. The other 25% who do not, engage in other camp activities during this time, including games, arts & crafts, and sports, but we encourage everyone to try it out.

**YMCA Day Camps challenge children to grow in imagination, creativity, confidence, self directed initiative, and leadership. We are dedicated to changing the lives of our campers in the most positive way possible, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to do so.  
Happy Camping!**