

# YMCA Summer Camp: Epic Explorations



## 2018 PARENT INFORMATION

Thank you for registering your child for Marshall Area YMCA's Summer Camp! Welcome to our Summer Camp Program: Epic Explorations! Our staff is looking forward to serving you and your child this summer. We hope his/her experience is rewarding and fun. The following is important information that you will need to know in order to best prepare your child for their camp experience.

**REGISTRATION & FEE PAYMENT:** At this point, you should have already completed our registration paperwork. The information form needs to be completed and returned before your child will be allowed to attend camp. This can be done online or on a paper copy. Thank you for taking the time to do this thoroughly. Please remember the balance for each week is due the Monday (one week) prior to Camp starting. If your account is not paid in full, your child will not be able to attend camp until it is paid.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Based on available resources, the YMCA provides financial assistance for all summer camps to youth who can benefit and demonstrate financial need. Financial Assistance applications are available at the YMCA. If you would like to apply, please complete the application at least one month prior to the start of camp. The YMCA also accepts payments through Lyon, Lincoln, and Murray County Human Services.

**CREDITS & REFUNDS:** Once a week of camp begins, we will not give credits or refunds for that session.

**HOURS & DAYS OF OPERATION:** Camp operates Monday- Friday, unless otherwise noted, from 7:30am-6:00pm, and an up to 3 day option. Camp will start and end each day at the Marshall Area YMCA. Camp may be off site anywhere between the times of 8:00am-5:00pm. If you are arriving late or picking up early, please call the YMCA in advance to find out where Camp is located. Camp is only staffed until 6:00pm so it is very important that your child is picked up by that time.

**HOLIDAYS:** Camp Spirit will not be in session on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This week will have a prorated fee for a full week option only.

**SIGNING IN & OUT:** A person listed on your child's registration form must sign campers in and out each day. Campers will only be allowed to sign themselves in and out of camp if the following apply: parental permission is given prior to the session of camp by filling out the self-check-out form, the camper is 9 years or older, and it has been approved by the Director of Community Programs. If permission is given, the Camper must sign him/herself in by 8:00am and/or sign out at 4:00pm. Campers will not be permitted to sign themselves out between the hours of 8am-4pm. Self-Check-Out form can be obtained from the Director of Community Programs.

**ILLNESSES/ABSENCES:** Please keep ill campers at home for their own sake and that of the others. If your child is registered for camp but cannot attend, please call the YMCA and let us know as early as possible on the day of his/her absence. **The YMCA phone number is 532-YMCA (9622).** If your child becomes ill during camp, the staff will provide care and comfort and you will be notified so you may come and pick up your son/daughter. If we cannot contact you directly, attempts will be made to contact you through the people you listed as a contact in an emergency. Also, if your child is arriving late or leaving early,

please let us know in advance, so that we can best accommodate him/her. **If Camp is taking a field trip or going to an area park, we will not be able to accommodate late arrivals or early departures.** We do not give credits or refunds for individual days of camp missed. If your child becomes suddenly ill or injured and must miss an entire week of camp, please notify the Director of Community Programs immediately.

**SAFETY:** Safety is our first priority. Children are taught respect for nature and others and the proper use and care of equipment. There will always be a staff person on site who is trained in CPR & First Aid. Swimming activities only occur where a lifeguard is on duty.

**INJURIES:** Campers are well cared for and properly supervised at all times; nevertheless, an injury may occur. Camp counselors are trained in adult, child, and infant CPR as well as first aid procedures. Staff will usually treat minor scrapes and bruises, if any occur, and notify parents/guardians at the end of the day. If your camper is seriously injured while at camp, the Director of Community Programs, or designated staff person, will take whatever steps may be necessary to obtain emergency medical care. These steps may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Attempts to contact the parent/guardian; Parents/guardians are cautioned to keep the YMCA informed about changes to telephone numbers and other contact information.
- Attempts to contact you through the people listed to contact in an emergency;  
If we cannot contact you we will do any or all of the following:
  - Call an ambulance or paramedic;
  - Have the camper taken to Avera Marshall Medical Center in the company of a staff member.

**MEDICATION:** If your child needs to take medication (over the counter or prescription), please bring the amount needed with written directions and give to Director of Community Programs. Please do not send any more medication than is needed for one week. All medications are kept locked up until needed, with the exception of inhalers and epipens. If possible, we ask that you administer any necessary medication before or after camp.

**WATER:** Getting enough water is vital during strenuous activity, especially during hot summer months. We will give your child drinking breaks throughout camp. You can help keep your camper hydrated by sending along a water bottle full of water. Please put your camper's name on the bottle.

**ATTIRE:** All campers should be prepared for a full day of outdoor activities. Campers should wear appropriate clothing for these activities. We recommend light colored, loose fitting clothing; light-weight pants or shorts, t-shirts and sneakers. Sandals and flip-flops may be worn but shoes must be brought **daily!** Campers need to bring swimwear and a towel on designated swim days.

**SWIMMING:** Campers will be swimming at the Marshall Area YMCA on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Director of Community Programs will inform parents in advance if we are swimming on non-designated swim days. As this is an all-camp activity we encourage everyone to participate. If your child has a medical condition that keeps him/her from swimming, please send written notice to the Director of Community Programs. Campers not swimming will accompany camp to the pool and do a quiet activity on the pool deck with a counselor. Please send a swimsuit and towel with your camper on these days. Make sure all clothing and personal articles are labeled with your camper's name. Our camp counselors are aware of the additional safety concerns when taking campers swimming so **all campers will be Swim Tested by certified YMCA lifeguards if they wish to go down the slide or go in the Lap Pool, if they cannot complete the test, we will only let them in the Family Fun Pool.** In addition to the lifeguards, the camp counselors

will station themselves around the pool. We also use a colored wristband system which makes each swimmer's abilities and where they are allowed to swim clear to staff at a glance.

**SUNSCREEN & INSECT REPELLANT:** For your camper's safety and protection, we apply spray bug repellent and sunscreen (SPF 15) each day. The bug repellent and sunscreen will be supplied by the YMCA and all forms of it will be spray-on. Camp counselors will supervise the application and remind campers to apply it throughout the day. In an effort to reduce overexposure, it is also suggested that campers wear hats or sun visors. If you have a specific preference for the type of bug repellent or sunscreen used on your child, you may send your child with it to camp. NOTE: Counselors will not apply liquid sunscreen to children.

**LUNCH/SNACK:** Campers will receive a lunch provided at the YMCA. Lunch will consist of a hot lunch prepared by Loaves and Fishes and served at the YMCA. There will be a small snack in the morning and afternoon provided by the YMCA as well. We are not able to accommodate for food allergies or special diets. You will have to bring your own lunch/snacks if needed. If you choose to bring your own lunch, we recommend using self-contained coolers for your child's lunch. **Lunches will not be refrigerated or microwaved.** Please provide your camper with nutritious food to give your child energy for the day.

**CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:** Each Marshall Area YMCA Summer Program will include components of Character Development, in which counselors will teach and model the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Some activities will be specifically focused on these traits and others will be woven into the camp's specific activities.

**CAMP LOCATIONS:** Camp Spirit will start and end each day at the Marshall Area YMCA. Camp will remain at the YMCA or walk to the library or nearby parks. We will also be taking field trips throughout the summer.

**BASIC DAILY SCHEDULE:** Campers will have a basic daily schedule to follow for the week. We will usually follow this basic outline, but at times we may be spontaneous and do something different, so please be patient with us if we move things around from time to time. A tentative schedule for the week will be available by the Friday before each week begins. Copies of this will be available at the Service Center Desk and sent out in our weekly email every Friday.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** Even though Camp is mainly at the YMCA, there will be times when we are off site. In the case of inclement weather while off-site, camp staff will follow all necessary safety precautions, depending upon the outdoor location for the day. In the instance that the weather would prevent camp from being held at our designated outdoor location, camp will be held indoors at the Marshall Area YMCA.

**CALLING CAMP:** If you need to get a message to your child or the Director of Community Programs during the camp day, please call the YMCA at **532-9622**. We will forward your message!!

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions, contact Racquel Winters- Director of Community Programs.

Email: [rwinters@marshallareaymca.org](mailto:rwinters@marshallareaymca.org)

Phone: 507.532.9622