



Frequently Asked Questions about YMCA Summer Camp

1. Where is Camp Collins?

YMCA Camp Collins is located on the Sandy River in Oregon, just 30 miles east of downtown Portland. YMCA Camp Collins is adjacent to Oxbow Regional Park, seven miles east of Gresham. Driving directions are posted on our website at ymcacw.org. When using an online navigation search enter our address at: 3001 SE Oxbow Parkway, Gresham, OR 97080.

2. How long does my child stay at camp?

Resident campers arrive on Sunday at 11 AM and leave on Friday at 3 PM. There are half-week overnight sessions, Sunday-Tuesday or Wednesday-Friday, available for campers entering 2nd-4th grade. Day campers arrive at camp each morning and leave each afternoon, Monday through Friday.

3. Is financial assistance available?

The Open Door Program is available for all YMCA Camp Collins' summer programs. We believe that all children should have the opportunity to attend summer camp. Applications are required along with proof of monthly income. Access the Open Door application on our web site at ymcacw.org. For more information call the camp office at 503-663-5813.

4. Do YMCA members get a discount?

Yes, if you are a member of the YMCA of Columbia-Willamette or one of the branches, you can register for camp at the member rate. For more information call the camp office at 503-663-5813.

5. Is there bus service to camp?

Bus transportation is NOT provided to YMCA Camp Collins. This includes the day camp program or getting to camp for overnight camp.

6. How old does my child need to be to attend camp?

Day Campers must be entering 1st grade to participate. Resident Campers must be entering 2nd grade.

7. How do I know if my child is ready to stay overnight?

Children are ready to attend resident camp at different ages. A great resource for parents is the American Camp Association website www.campparents.org. One of our camp staff would be happy to speak with you about whether YMCA Camp Collins' summer programs will be a good fit for your child. Call the camp office at (503) 663-5813 or email to campcollins@ymcacw.org.

8. What will my child do at Camp Collins?

YMCA Camp Collins offers horseback riding, swimming, tubing, archery, arts & crafts, singing, a challenge course, a 65 foot climbing tower, hiking, morning chapels, evening campfires, and more! The activities that your child will participate in will depend on their age and the program they register for.

9. Can my teenager attend summer camp?

Yes! YMCA Camp Collins has Teen Camp (grades 9-12) and a Counselor in Training Program (grades 10-12) available. Teen programs focus on personal responsibility, friendship, YMCA values, self-awareness, and leadership development and fun!

10. When does summer camp begin and end?

We offer eight one-week sessions of Resident Camp and Day Camp between June 26th and August 19th. In addition, we offer a Spring Break Day Camp and Family Camps over Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

11. What is the ratio of staff to campers?

During the day, one counselor supervises a group of ten campers and many activities will have an additional program staff member present. In the cabins there are ten campers and two staff.

12. Is Camp Collins prepared to give attention to my child who has special needs?

We strive to be inclusive and provide the staff supervision to meet your child's needs. However, our program may not be right for all campers. Please contact the camp staff to speak in depth about whether YMCA Camp Collins' summer programs will be a good fit for your child with special needs and how we might work together to meet their needs.

13. What if my child is taking prescription medicine?

YMCA Camp Collins has a Health Officer in residence that administers medications and provides health care to our campers. All of our summer camp staff are also First Aid and CPR certified.

14. May I tour the site before sending my child to summer camp?

Yes, we strongly encourage your family to visit our site before your child's camp session. We host 2 Spring Open Houses , one in April and another in May, so that families can meet camp staff, take a tour, and ask any questions before signing up for camp. We are happy to give tours during office hours on the weekdays, please call ahead at (503) 663-5813 to make tour arrangements.

15. What does my child need to bring to camp?

Once your child is registered for camp, your family will receive a link to our Parent/Guardian Handbook. It includes ideas of how to help them be successful, what to pack, and other useful information. The Handbook is available at the website www.ymcacw.org.

16. Can my child and their best friend be put in the same cabin?

Yes, for overnight camp we ask that your child's friend is of the same gender identification and within one year of age. *Please request only one cabin mate for your child.* Camp is the perfect place to meet new friends!

17. What kind of experience does the summer staff have working with children?

Many of Camp Collins' staff members return for multiple summers and our new staff members have experience working at outdoor school programs, other camps, or childcare sites. At the beginning of each summer, staff members attend a weeklong intensive training and orientation that helps prepare them to work with your child and his or her cabin group. All of our staff members go through a comprehensive hiring process that includes a multi-state background check.

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