YMCA CAMP KRESGE

SUMMER 2027
OVERNIGHT CAMP
PARENT HANDBOOK



Welcome to YMCA Camp Kresge!

Whether you are one of our many returning camp families or new to the program, we would like to welcome you to another fun-filled, action-packed summer with old and new friends. Overnight Camp at YMCA Camp Kresge is a fun way to enjoy the summer and give children a positive experience that builds character and self-esteem.

Communication and parent involvement are essential for a positive camp experience. Please make every attempt to read the literature emailed or mailed home. Your understanding and cooperation with camp policies will ensure a smooth summer for all of our campers.

This guide provides helpful camp information. If you need additional information or have questions, please contact the Camp Office at (570) 443-2267, erin.patrick@wvymca.org.

We look forward to serving your family this summer!

-The YMCA Camp Kresge Team

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Our Mission & Values

Mission Statement
To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Core Values
YMCA Camp Kresge is committed to a value-based character development program. We seek to teach the following core values in all camp activities and programs:

- *Caring*: To love others, to be sensitive to the well-being of others, and to help others – includes compassion, forgiveness, generosity, and mercy.
- *Honesty*: Telling the truth, earning other's trust, having integrity, and making sure your choices match your values - includes trustworthiness and fairness.
- *Respect*: Treating others as you would have them treat you and valuing the worth of every person, including yourself – includes acceptance, empathy, self-respect and tolerance.
- *Responsibility*: Doing what is right, what you ought to do, and being accountable for your behavior, actions and obligations – includes commitment, determination, self-discipline, cleanliness, and helpfulness.

In keeping with our mission and core values, appropriate behavior is expected of all participants in YMCA Programs. Respectful interactions between staff, participants, and families are at the core of our mission and necessary for a successful program experience.

Session Dates & Themes

We are looking forward to hosting Overnight Camp for Summer 2026! Traditional Overnight Camp sessions are one week long. LIT & CIT programs are two-week sessions.

Traditional Overnight Camp

Week 3: June 27- July 3 Decades

Week 4: July 4-10 Tropical Paradise Week

Week 5: July 11-17 Pirates of Beaver Lake

Week 6: July 18-24 Hollywood Week

Week 7: July 25-31 Camp Color War

Week 8: August 1-6 Wild West Week



Half Week Camp
Session 1: August 4-7

NEW* Overnight Junior Counselor Camp
4 week long session- July 4-July 31

Leader-in-Training
Session 1: June 27-July 10

College Tour Week
Week 8: July 11-17

Counselor-in-Training
Session 1: July 12-23
Session 2: July 26-August 6

YMCA Camp Kresge is an accredited member of the American Camp Association. This means that YMCA Camp Kresge is compliant with over 250 standards that have been set forth for accreditation through the American Camp Association.
The standards pertain to safety, program, supervision, camper health, facilities, human resources, and general camp management. To remain an accredited camp, our facility is audited periodically to ensure we are maintaining the highest ACA standards.

Camp Youth Outcomes

The prevailing goal of attending summer camp at YMCA Camp Kresge is to gain new skills, build confidence, and make lasting friendships in a safe, supportive environment.

In an effort to provide the best possible experience for your camper, we have incorporated the American Camp Association's *Camp Youth Outcomes Battery.* This will allow our leadership team to measure various youth outcomes seen in a camp setting.

- Friendship Skills (i.e., make friends and maintain relationships)
- Independence (i.e., rely less on adults and other people for solving problems and for their day-to-day activities)
- Teamwork (i.e., become more effective when working in groups of their peers)
- Family Citizenship (i.e., encourage attributes important to being a member of a family)
- Perceived Competence (i.e., believe that they can be successful in the things they do)
- Interest in Exploration (i.e., be more curious, inquisitive, eager to learn new things)
- Responsibility (i.e., learn to be accountable for their own actions and mistakes)
- Affinity for Nature (i.e., feelings of emotional attraction toward nature)
- Problem-Solving Confidence (i.e., believe they have abilities to resolve problems)
- Camp Connectedness (i.e., feeling welcomed and supported at camp)
- Spiritual Well-Being (i.e., having purpose and meaning in life, transcendence)

Surveys may be administered by camp staff to campers and camp parents as a means of data collection so we can measure the outcomes listed above. Participation in the surveys is completely voluntary and confidential.

By providing feedback on the focused outcomes, we will be able to better serve you and your family in future camp sessions. We appreciate your support as we work to provide a safe, fun, and supportive environment for your camper.



Check In & Check Out

Check In

We aim to make the check-in process smooth and efficient for campers and their families.

-Check in takes place on Sunday. Times are determined by last names. Last names A-M will check in 2:00-3:00pm and last names N-Z will check in 3:00-4:00pm.

-Located at the Upper Pavilion

-**We are unable to check campers in early. If you arrive to check in early you will be asked to wait in your vehicle with your camper.**

During check in, campers will go through a health check consisting of general health, lice, and foot check. Please check all medications and vitamins in with the Health Officer on Duty. Medication must be in the original container. If you would like to set up a store account for your child, please bring cash to the Store Manager at Check In. Campers may not keep cash in their cabin. Parents will be able to meet the Overnight Camp Director and their camper's counselors.

Check Out

-Check out takes place on Saturday. Times will be determined by last name. Last names A-M will check out 9:30-10:00am and last names N-Z will check out 10:00-10:30am.

-Located at the Upper Pavilion in Main Camp

-Notify the Camp Office in advance if your child is staying over from one session to the next.

-**We are unable to check campers out late.**

-All adults signing a camper out of camp must be listed on the camper's release form and must present a photo ID in order to retrieve a child. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our campers safe.

If you are planning on having someone pick up your camper who is not currently listed as an authorized pick up person in CampDoc, please submit information in writing to the camp office. Information will then be verified over the phone before the child will be released to the adult in question.

Custody Agreements

At the time of enrollment you will be required to inform us of any standing arrangements regarding a custody agreement. If there is a custody agreement that prohibits a family member from picking up your child, we require a copy of said agreement, as well as for the information to be documented in CampDoc. If this information changes, please notify the camp office within 24 hours. YMCA Camp Kresge will operate lawfully and within the scope of the custody agreement. We expect all parties involved in the agreement to communicate with camp and each other with the best interests of the child in mind. If you anticipate an issue with your agreement circumstances, please notify the Camp Director (Erin Patrick, 570-443-2267) with concerns.



Handling Homesickness

After a session at camp, most campers leave with increased self-confidence stemming from their newfound independence. Homesickness is a normal part of this development, seen to some degree in 85% of campers nationwide. In order to prepare for camp, your family can:

- **Make the camper be a part of preparing for camp.** Have them assist with packing their bags, addressing envelopes, and selecting items from home (like photos or stuffed animals) that will help them feel comfortable in the cabin.
- **Keep your anxieties to yourself.** It's completely normal for parents to get anxious about sending children to camp, but sharing a lot with your camper can cause them to fixate on those anxieties as well.
- **Use positive language.** Tell them you're proud of them and you're confident they'll have fun. Remind them of the activities they are looking forward to.
- **Do not promise phone calls home.** Numerous studies have shown that phone calls increase a camper's homesickness.
- Campers love receiving snail mail, so plan to **write them a letter** or two during their stay. We will call you if we are concerned about your camper's experience.
- **Practice basic tasks** like applying sunscreen and bug spray, especially with younger campers, to help them feel more confident. Campers should also be able to manage their personal hygiene (e.g. brushing teeth, taking showers, etc.) independently.
- **If this is your child's first time away from home**, consider having them sleepover with a relative or friend prior to camp. This will allow them to experience a night away from home before spending a full session at camp.
- **Teach your camper** to know when to ask for help and how to advocate for their needs.
- **Attend the Virtual Parent Orientation** to meet the Overnight Camp Director, learn more about the program, and ask any remaining questions. Information regarding the orientation and how to register will be sent in the spring via email.

-Date/Time will be announced in early spring.

- **Schedule a private tour to see the facility.** Contact the Overnight Camp Director for more information (Erin Patrick, erin.patrick@wvymca.org, 570-443-2267).

YMCA Camp Kresge staff are trained to help your camper work through these feelings while they are at camp. Many times, keeping busy for a day or two is all a child needs to settle into the fun. If there are concerns about your camper's experience, senior staff will contact you to develop a plan to best support your camper's individual needs.



Registration & Payment Information

Camp Deposit & Registration Fee
A $200 deposit is needed per child, per week to hold a camper's spot. This deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable. The deposit must be made at the time of registration.

Payment Policy
Payments may be made any time prior to the start of camp. The session at camp must be paid at least one week prior to the start of the session. Payments can be made online, at the front desk of the Wilkes Barre YMCA, or over the phone with Camp Kresge. We accept cash, checks and credit cards.

Accounts that fall behind on payment without setting up a payment plan with the Camp Office will not be able to use any camp services until the balance is rectified. Families using payment plans must be in communication with camp staff to ensure that payments are being made on a timely basis to avoid discontinuation of services.

Refund Policy
Refunds will not be issued for cancellations, inclement weather, or dismissal from camp. Refunds for medical reasons are considered with a note from an authorized medical professional. Camp sessions will not be prorated due to absence.

Scholarship Program
The scholarship program offers families the ability to participate in YMCA Camp Kresge programs at a reduced rate. As part of the YMCA's mission, financial scholarships are available based on the need and availability of funds. The percentage to be paid will be determined by gross income and family size. All information is confidential.

To apply: Submit the YMCA Camp Kresge Scholarship Application and all supporting documents to the Camp Kresge Office. Applications will not be considered until all paperwork has been submitted. Funds are limited and completed applications are taken on a first come, first served basis.

Session Change Procedures
Please notify the camp office in writing of any desired changes in registered sessions. Changes will not be authorized once a session has begun.

Balance Due Table– Balance is due one week before your camp session.

Session	Start Date	Payment Due
Week 3	June 27	June 20
Week 4	July 4	June 27
Week 5	July 11	July 4
Week 6	July 18	July 11
Week 7	July 25	July 18
Week 8	August 1	July 25

Camp Activities include:

- Aqua Park
- Archery
- Archery Tag
- Arts & Crafts
- Boating
- Climbing Tower
- Court Sports
- Dance
- Drama
- Field Games
- Fishing
- High & Low Ropes
- Hiking
- Lake Swimming
- Nature
- Photography
- Riflery
- STEM
- Survival
- Team Building
- Theme Days
- Yoga
- Zip Line
- And More

Meals

YMCA Camp Kresge prides itself in providing campers with nutritious, flavorful and varied food. Each meal consists of protein, grain, fruit, and vegetable options in accordance with the PA Department of Health. We encourage campers to try new things while they are with us, and many leave camp with a greater appreciation for new foods. International nights are typically a camp highlight, with campers enjoying new cuisine.

If campers are not interested in eating the main course, we do have some other options. At breakfast, oatmeal, cereal, fruit, bagels, and toast are available. At lunch and dinner, side salads and vegetables are available. If a camper is continuously not eating meals, staff will work with their parents to find a suitable option.

If your camper has a food allergy or dietary restriction, please contact the Camp Office and enter the information into CampDoc so we can ensure your child is safe and healthy.

Sample Schedule

8:20am - Flag Raising
8:30am - Breakfast
9:15am - Cabin Clean Up
9:40am - Period 1 Activity
11:00am - Period 2 Activity
12:30pm - Lunch
1:25pm - Period 2 Activity
2:45pm - Period 3 Activity
3:55pm - All Camp Free Swim
5:20pm - Flag Lowering
5:30pm - Dinner
6:15pm - Camp Store/Cabin Huddle
7:00pm - Evening Program & Snack
8:45pm - Bedtime Prep
10:00pm - Lights Out

Evening Programs

Every evening, campers will participate in an all-camp event. These events include campfires, camp games, carnivals, dances, and village unity nights. After the evening program, campers will return to their cabins to get ready for bed. Lights out varies based on the age of campers, between 9PM and 10PM.

Leaders in Training

Campers who are 13 or 14 years old can register for the two-week Leader-In-Training (LIT) program. In this program, campers will participate in a mix of typical camp activities and specific training to increase leadership and communication skills. During their time in camp, they are given opportunities to lead songs and games at flagpoles & campfires, as well as assist in camp events.

LITs will participate in a camping trip during their time here. Campers will plan and pack for their trip beforehand, using their developed leadership skills to prepare. Upon returning, LITs are responsible for assisting camp staff with cleaning up after their trip, and then rejoining the camp fun. Itinerary will be sent to all LIT parents regarding details of their LIT trip.

Counselors in Training

Campers who are 15 or 16 years old can apply for our Counselor in Training (CIT) program. This is a 2-week leadership experience, consisting of a mix of classroom sessions, shadowing staff, and leading events. Campers will also go on a trip to a state park, planning, packing and coordinating with counselors and staff for a successful trip. While at the park, campers will hike, swim (with a lifeguard on duty) and continue their leadership development.

CITs will be sent a code of conduct that they must sign and return upon acceptance to the program. We expect CITs to serve as role models in camp, by modeling our core values and enthusiastically participating in camp life. If a CIT's behavior does not meet these standards, the CIT Director and Overnight Camp Director will have a meeting with the CIT to create a plan for success. If a camper's ability to complete the program is in jeopardy, a phone call home will be made in an effort to right the situation.

Stayover Weekends

Campers enrolled in back-to-back sessions will participate in our stayover program on Saturday. Stayover campers will have lunch at camp, then an outing at a local state park and/ or a variety of special activities at camp.

Money for stayover trips can be turned in at check in when setting up a Camp Store account.

Campers visiting family on Saturday of the stayover weekend must be signed out between 9:30am and 11:00am. Families must coordinate return to camp with the Overnight Camp Director (typically before 8:00pm Saturday or Sunday morning after 9am).

Trip information will be included in the weekly OC newsletter.

Week 3- July 3-4

Week 4- July 10-11

Week 5- July 17-18

Week 6- July 24-25

Week 7- July 31-August 1

Week 8– All campers will return home

What to Bring to Camp

The following is a list of the minimum essentials needed for one week at camp. We suggest that you fill out this inventory list with your camper while packing, so they are aware of what items they are bringing. When your camper returns home, check the list again to ensure that all items have been returned. *Please write your camper's name legibly on all items.*

Sleeping Gear	**Item Packed**	**Brought Home**
Sleeping Bag or Sheets/Blank	_____	_____
1 Pillow and Pillow Case	_____	_____
Clothing / Footwear		
2 Swimsuits and 2 old towels	_____	_____
8 T-Shirts	_____	_____
2 Pairs Jeans	_____	_____
6 Pairs Shorts	_____	_____
10 Pairs Socks	_____	_____
8 Pairs Underwear	_____	_____
2 Pairs Pajamas	_____	_____
2 Pairs Camp Appropriate Sho	_____	_____
1 Pair Boots (for rain and/or h	_____	_____
1 Pair Water Shoes (optional)	_____	_____
1 Bathrobe (optional)	_____	_____
Outerwear		
2 Sweat Shirts	_____	_____
1 Hat or Cap	_____	_____
1 Light Jacket/ Long Sleeved S	_____	_____
1 Raincoat	_____	_____
Toiletries and Incidentals		
Tissues	_____	_____
Toothbrush and Toothpaste	_____	_____
Bath Towel	_____	_____
Flip Flops (for showers only)	_____	_____
Shampoo/Soap/Deodorant	_____	_____
Laundry Bag	_____	_____
Flashlight & Batteries	_____	_____
Reusable Water Bottle	_____	_____
Sunblock/Bug Spray	_____	_____
1 Comb/brush, hair ties	_____	_____

Other Suggestions	Item Packed	Brought Home
Camera	_____	_____
A good book	_____	_____
Stationary, pens, and stamps	_____	_____
Stuffed animal	_____	_____
Small backpack for day use	_____	_____

Prohibited at Camp
For the safety of our campers, the following items are prohibited from camp:

- Electronics including cell phones, smart watches, mp3 players/iPods, tablets, e-reader with data or internet access, electronic games, and drones
- Animals or pets
- Items of value you cannot afford to lose (e.g. trading cards, toys, personal sports equipment, make up, and jewelry).
- For campers of driving age: cars or vehicles of any sort.
- Alcohol, drugs, and weapons (including pocket knives) will result in immediate dismissal from camp programs.

YMCA Camp Kresge is NOT responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Please note: Any cell phones that are at camp with a camper will be confiscated and locked in the camp safe for safekeeping. Exception: campers staying for back-to-back sessions may bring their phone for use on Saturday. If your camper is used to falling asleep with a TV, music, etc., please work with them to develop sleep habits suitable for the camp environment.

Dress Code
The philosophy of YMCA Camp Kresge's dress code is rooted in our variety of active programs. We want campers to be able to participate fully in all activities offered without discomfort, self consciousness, or pressure on appearance.

- No strapless attire, short-shorts, or shirts that reveal the midriff
- A secure bathing suit is required for our active aquatic programming
- No clothing that portrays inappropriate behavior, language, or logos that could be considered offensive to others
- Most camp activities require campers to wear closed-toes shoes suitable for walking around outdoors. Sport-style sandals with a back strap (like Tevas or Chacos) are permitted for overnight campers, with the expectation that they will change shoes prior to participating in active programming. Crocs are not recommended.

Lost & Found
Lost & Found is hung in a centralized location in camp. Please make sure that your child knows what they are bringing to camp and mark all items clearly with your camper's name.

We hold lost & found items for a maximum of 2 weeks. After items have been stored for 2 weeks, they will be donated.

General Camp Information

Camp Store
We have a small camp store that carries a variety of souvenirs, clothing, camp gear, and snacks. Campers will have a chance to visit the camp store daily. If your child would like to purchase any of these items, we recommend that you set up an account for them at check in. Campers may not keep money in their cabin. Recommended amount: $25-$50 a week, any leftover funds will be returned to the parent at check out.

Site Safety
All Camp Staff are identified with a name badge and/or staff shirt. For the safety of our campers, visitors are not allowed without prior authorization from the Camp Director. Any visitors must check in at the Camp Office and be escorted around camp by a staff member. We receive regular visits from local emergency services that patrol the area. YMCA Camp Kresge regularly practices missing camper drills and other emergency procedures.

Authorized pick-ups are permitted to sign campers out to visit with them off-site. Please contact the Camp Office if a non-custodial adult will be signing a camper off-site for a visit during their camp session.

Rainy Day Activities
On rainy days, Kresge fun will continue. Campers may put on a performance, play games, or have a competition indoors. Swimming will continue to take place unless lifeguards or directors deem it too cold to safely swim, if guard visibility is impacted, or in the event of thunder or lightning.

Please note that while we will do our best to keep campers dry and warm, we are an outdoor facility. Please pack your child with a raincoat/poncho, rain boots, and sweatshirt for use on rainy days.

In case of thunder or lightning, all outdoor programs will cease immediately. Campers and staff will immediately report to the nearest shelter until the storm passes (20 minutes without thunder or lightning).

In case of weather emergencies, YMCA Camp Kresge staff are trained to keep campers calm and safe in shelters at camp. If camp needs to close due to a weather emergency, all campers will be safely transported from camp once transport is safe. We will use all possible methods of communication to keep parents up to date should evacuation arise.

Cabin Mate Requests
Each camper is allowed to make one cabin mate request by emailing Erin or through CampDoc. Both campers must be in the same age group and of the same gender. We do not guarantee placement, but will make every effort to honor requests.

Laundry Service
Laundry service is available for campers staying for more than one consecutive week. For eligible campers, camp staff will wash camper laundry and return it during their weekend stayover. Please pack enough clothing so your camper is prepared for a full week of activities (see suggested packing list).

Behavior Management

It is the goal of YMCA Camp Kresge to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all camp participants. YMCA Camp Kresge teaches the core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Campers are expected to follow the behavior guidelines listed below.

Behavior Guidelines

People are responsible for their actions. We respect each other and the environment. Honesty and caring will be the basis for all relationships and interactions. If a camper needs reminders of acceptable behavior, the following steps will be taken:

- Staff will redirect the camper to more appropriate behavior. The camper will be reminded of camp rules and guidelines.
- If behavior persists, the camper will participate in a discussion with camp counselor and/or senior staff member to develop a plan to correct behavior.
- If behavior persists, or based on the severity of the situation, parents will be notified, and a meeting will take place with YMCA Camp Kresge Senior Staff, parent/guardian, and the child to develop a course of action.
- If a child's behavior at any time threatens the immediate physical safety or well-being of that child, other children, or staff, the parent/guardian may be notified and expected to pick up the child immediately.

The following behaviors are not acceptable and will result in immediate dismissal.

- Endangering the health and safety of themselves or others, including staff and volunteers.
- Stealing or damaging YMCA or personal property
- Refusing to follow the behavior guidelines or camp rules, or continuous disruptions • Using vulgarity frequently or acting in a lewd manner

If any of these behaviors persist, the Camp Director holds the right to expel the camper from the program. There are no refunds for dismissals and expulsions.

Bullying Prevention

At YMCA Camp Kresge, bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, physical, verbal, and emotional bullying. Camp staff are trained in preventing and addressing bullying. Any camper determined to be bullying others will need to be picked up from camp at the time of incident. The Camp Director and parent of the camper will need to have a meeting to discuss the behavior before the camper may return to the program.

Diversity & Inclusion

YMCA Camp Kresge does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, nationality, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We believe that diversity in our camp program is a key component in creating a strong foundation in our campers' lifelong values.

We seek to provide a safe and supportive environment for all youth in our programs, including those who are gender non-binary or transgender. Campers that are non-binary or trans will be placed in the village that best fits their identity. All of our campers, regardless of their identity, are encouraged to respect each other's privacy.

If any camper has needs that we should know about to better support them, please call our Camp Director, Erin (570-443-2267). You will also be directed to input the information in your camper's CampDoc profile. Information will be shared as needed with camp staff in an effort to respect your camper's privacy.

Swim Test & Lake Policies

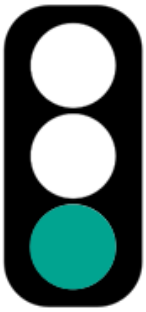
Waterfront Procedures

Our waterfront is divided into three swim sections: red, yellow, and green. Overnight Campers participate in the swim test on Sunday afternoons. During the week, the Waterfront Director will provide campers a chance to retest if they have practiced their skills and would like to try again. The swim test will consist of:

- Jumping into the water and putting head & face underwater
- Swimming the length of the dock and back without touching the ground, untimed
- Treading water for one minute

Campers are evaluated on swimming ability, stamina, and comfort in the water. Campers may be confident swimmers in pool water, but struggle in lake water. This is normal. Their swim assessment will take that lack of comfort into account, and a camper may be issued a different colored band than at a pool facility. We trust parents to understand that this is for the safety of their camper.

Campers are welcome to bring a life vest or floatation device with them to camp (US Coast Guard Approved). They will need to participate in the swim test without the assistance device and will swim in whatever section they were assigned to without the device. Camp Kresge is not responsible for loss or damage of items brought. Pool toys and noodles may not be brought to camp.



Green Section Swimmers:

- Demonstrate complete comfort in lake swimming
- Display stamina and strong swim strokes
- Can tread water for one minute

About this section:

- 8ft-14ft deep
- Diving is allowed in this section only

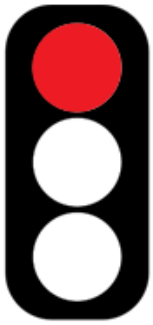


Yellow Section Swimmers:

- May have a vertical body position or doggy paddle while swimming
- May not have stamina to complete swim portion of test
- May not be fully comfortable in lake water
- Can tread water for 30 seconds

About this section:

- 3.5ft to 6ft deep
- Campers can jump into this section



Red Section Swimmers:

- Non-swimmers or reliant on floatation device in the water
- May be unable to complete swim portion of the test

About this section:

- Zero depth entry to 3.5ft deep
- Campers that cannot stand in 3.5ft may be asked to wear a PFD
- A great place to catch salamanders

Staff Expectations

YMCA Camp Kresge seeks to provide a safe and high quality experience for your child. We would like to create a partnership between staff and families in our programs. If at any time you have concerns regarding your child's emotional or physical well-being, please call the Camp Office at (570) 443-2267 so that we can work with you to rectify the situation.

Babysitting

The YMCA Camp Kresge Code of Conduct prevents all staff from babysitting or transporting any program participants in non-camp vehicles/to non-camp functions while they are under our employment. This includes staff members that remain on payroll after summer ends. The only exception is for relationships that existed prior to the summer season. (i.e. relationships stemming from church, school, family or neighbors, and other communities outside of the YMCA)

Post Summer Staff-Camper Relationships

We hope that your camper's counselors have made a positive impact on their summer, and ask you to assist us in keeping our campers safe. The YMCA's policy is for counselors to discontinue all communication and contact with campers once summer ends to ensure safety and privacy for all participants.

If your camper has made a bond with a staff member, they may send one postcard to camp. YMCA Camp Kresge will forward the postcard to the staff member, who will be permitted to respond with one postcard back, forwarded from Camp Kresge. We ask that your camper not friend or follow any staff members on social media, including Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram. They are welcome to follow YMCA Camp Kresge's official social media pages.

If your camper has a previous relationship with a YMCA Camp Kresge staff person (family member, church, school, neighbor, etc.) we will work with the staff person on appropriate camp conduct while in our program.

Training for Summer

YMCA Camp Kresge staff are trained for a minimum of 40 hours on proper conduct when working with campers in a camp setting. This training includes professionalism, youth development, program facilitation, risk management and policies, as well as First Aid, CPR, Mandatory Reporting, and water safety.



Health & Safety Information

Health Center
Medical staff are on site 24 hours a day and public health care facilities are a short distance away. All staff on site are First Aid & CPR trained. There is an AED on site. In case of minor injury, care will be provided at camp and parents will be notified as appropriate. In more severe circumstances, parents and emergency services will be notified immediately.

CampDoc
All camper's paperwork is completed through our secure website hosted by CampDoc. All information is kept confidential and is only accessible to directors and medical staff.

You will be emailed an invitation to complete the paperwork from CampDoc once you have registered. If you do not receive an invitation, please check your junk/spam folder. Add the domain "campdoc.com" to your safe sender list. If you do not have access to the internet or need help completing the paperwork online, contact the Camp Office at 570-443-2267. All profiles must be at 100% completion to participate in any YMCA Camp Kresge program.

Medical Emergency Procedures
In case of an accident, the following emergency procedures will be followed:

1. A staff member will administer immediate, basic first aid. 911 will be called if needed. 911 is called for all serious neck/head injuries. A staff person will accompany the child to the hospital and stay until the parent or guardian arrives.
2. A staff member will contact the parent if immediate medical care is necessary.
3. Information regarding the accident will be recorded. Any necessary forms will be completed by YMCA staff.

Medical Insurance
In the event that your camper needs medical treatment, the family's medical insurance will be billed. Parents will be notified of any serious accident or illness that requires treatment.

Child Abuse Reporting
The Child Protective Services Law of Pennsylvania requires any persons in contact with children to report any suspected child abuse to CHILDLINE immediately. Every staff person at the YMCA will comply with this law to protect the health and safety of all of the children.

Special Needs at Camp Kresge
YMCA Camp Kresge's goal is to provide high quality programs and highly qualified staff to enable your camper to have a fun, successful, and enjoyable learning and social experience. However, the YMCA Camp Kresge is not a disability advocacy agency and its staff and personnel are not experienced in managing special needs for medical, physical, behavioral, or intellectual abilities and challenges. Camp Kresge is not able to provide direct 1:1 care, so campers must be able to participate within the staff:camper ratios.

If your camper has an IEP or behavioral plan, we welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your camper before starting the Overnight Camp program. This will ensure that your camper's experience in the program will be fun and rewarding in a supportive environment. Campers in overnight camp must be able to care for their own basic hygiene and have basic self-regulation skills. If you have any tips or suggestions that would help us make sure your camper has an enjoyable and successful camp experience, please contact the Camp Office and input the information into CampDoc.

Medical Policies

Illness Policy

Please keep your camper at home if they are sick. Many communicable diseases start with cold-like symptoms. If at any time camp staff feel that your child is too sick to remain in camp, you will be called and asked to pick your child up from camp. You, or a person authorized on your account, must pick the child up within one hour of receiving notification. This policy is for the safety of all campers and staff.

Your camper will be sent home if any of the following conditions are apparent:

- A temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher within 24 hours of camp session
- Vomiting or diarrhea within 24 hours of camp session
- Rash (if cause is unknown)
- Suspected communicable disease
- Severe cold with fever, coughing, unclear mucus
- Bronchitis or other throat infections such as strep
- Nits or lice in hair

Please notify us within 24 hours if your camper has come down with a communicable disease, such as chicken pox, pink eye, strep throat, or lice in the days after camp, so that we can inform other parents and staff.

Medication Policy

As a part of CampDoc paperwork, you will be asked to provide information about any medications your child will take while at camp. Please provide up to date information on dosage and times administered.

All medication (prescription, vitamins and OTC) must have a prescription, be kept in the original container, and be labeled with your camper's name.

Do not pack medication in the camper's luggage, as all medication (prescription, OTC, and vitamins) must be checked in with the Camp Nurse during check in. All medication will be kept locked in the infirmary for the safety of our campers. Medical staff will distribute medications as indicated in CampDoc.

Allergy Policy

When filling out health information online, please be sure to include any allergies your child has to food or materials. If your child requires an epinephrine injector, please provide at least one to keep at camp. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that new injectors are given to camp when existing ones expire.

We require a note from a physician if your child is authorized to administer their own emergency medication. It is our policy that if an injector is used in an emergency situation, emergency services will be notified. Parents will be responsible for the disposal of used epinephrine injectors.

If a camper has a food allergy or dietary restriction, we will notify the kitchen to ensure that a suitable alternative is provided at meals. Please note that while our summer kitchen is nut free, food products may have come in contact with nuts during the production process. Please contact our office with any questions.

Release of Records
A request must be made in writing prior to the YMCA releasing any records. In order to fully protect your camper's privacy, we will not accept any faxes. Requests for the release of records will only be granted to persons/caregivers registering the camper for our programs. Any release of information will be made according to the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA operating procedures with regards to business records.

COVID-19 Policies

As described by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a novel virus that spreads from person to person through respiratory droplets produced by an infected person. To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 exposure in the camp facility, YMCA Camp Kresge is requiring the following protocols be followed by all campers and their families.

Campers with a known case of COVID-19, known exposure, or who are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 are directed not to attend the camp program.

- Symptoms may include: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell
- For a complete list of symptoms visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/ symptoms
- Should your camper exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, they will wait in the Health Lodge with the Camp Nurse while waiting for an early pick up.

Prior to meals, all campers and staff must wash or sanitize their hands. Handwashing stations have been added to various activity areas of camp and equipment will be sanitized after each use.

PLEASE NOTE: these policies are subject to change. YMCA Camp Kresge will follow all guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control & Prevention, the American Camp Association, the Association of Camp Nursing, and the PA Department of Health.





Communication with Families

Communication Expectations
It is our belief that communication and cooperation between the parents and the camp staff are key to providing and maintaining the highest quality camp experience for your camper. We will respond to all phone calls and emails within 24 hours, and as soon as possible in emergency situations.

Methods of Communication
Please make sure that you are set to receive emails from the following accounts: erin.patrick@wvymca.org, steph.bewley@wvymca.org, nick.pincin@wvymca.org, and ck.office@wvymca.org. All email communication will be sent to the primary account holder on your account. If you are not the primary account holder, please inform the Camp Office.

How to Contact Us
The camp office is open from 9am to 4pm Monday – Friday. You can call us at 570-443-2267. We will do our absolute best to have someone in the office during these times to answer phones. On Saturday and Sunday, we will be participating in Check-in/Check-out procedures, and will likely not be in the office. We will check voicemails and emails daily. If you leave a voicemail, we will respond within 24 hours.

Due to the nature of our program, senior staff may be out of the office and in camp actively observing the camp program. We will do our best to respond quickly to your inquiry (within 24 hours, in emergencies as soon as possible).

Please contain communication to email and phone calls. Messages sent through social media are not guaranteed to reach the appropriate parties. This includes Facebook messages.

Parent Notification Policies
YMCA Camp Kresge will contact a parent in the following instances:

- In the event of a head injury
- If the camper is too sick to participate in the daily program
- If the camper must go to a hospital
- If we are dealing with a behavior issue and need your assistance
- If the camper violates the camper behavior agreement and is dismissed from camp

We expect parents to provide Camp Kresge with updated phone numbers and emergency contacts that can be reached during the work day in case of an emergency situation. If we ask for your camper to be picked up from camp due to any situation listed above, we expect full cooperation from the contacted parties.

For information regarding registration, balances, and parent information, please contact: YMCA Camp Kresge Camp Office, 570-443-2267, steph.bewley@wvymca.org

For questions or concerns related to Overnight Camp programming, please contact: Overnight Camp Director, 570-443-2267, erin.patrick@wvymca.org

Communication With Your Camper

Phone Calls
Calling home has been proven to increase homesickness in overnight campers. Please do not tell your camper that they can call home whenever they like. That is not in keeping with our policy and we cannot facilitate that arrangement. Senior Staff will be in touch if we have questions or concerns on how to best support your camper in our program. If you have extenuating circumstances and need to place a phone call, please let us know so that we can assist. Cell phones found in camp will be locked in the office for safe keeping until check out.

Snail Mail
Our campers love getting mail! Mail or packages can be sent to "382 Camp Kresge Lane, White Haven, PA 18661" Please **address any mail to your camper**, and put their cabin name on it if possible. We collect mail and packages daily. Please be aware that due to our location, mail may take 4-5 days to arrive at camp. We suggest mailing letters the week before your camper checks-in at camp if needed. Letters can also be dropped off with the Overnight Camp Director at check-in and will be given to campers during the week.

Packages
Please make sure that items in a care package are appropriate for camp. Packages should be small enough that a camper can easily carry and store the items in their cabin. Suggested items for packages include: books, magazines, and things your camper can share with cabin mates (most cabins have between 6 and 10 campers total). Please do not send any items that might be disruptive (e.g. noisemakers), or food, candy, and gum, as we do not allow those items to be stored in the cabins.

Bunk1 Photos & Notes
Our online, private photo service is Bunk1. In the coming months, you will receive a password to access Summer 2026 photos on Bunk1.com. Photos will be uploaded daily, and will be categorized by week. There are opportunities to purchase quality prints for a nominal cost.

As part of our Bunk1 service, parents will have access to "Bunk Notes", which are emails addressed to a specific camper. Bunk Notes will be printed and delivered to campers each afternoon. If parents have included a "Bunk Reply", campers will fill them out each afternoon. While we do our best to encourage campers to write meaningful letters home, some campers are excited to rejoin the camp program and may just write a quick note.

Photo Philosophy
Campers enjoy coming to camp and having a chance to hang out with friends and learn independence. Some campers love getting in front of the camera, while others go out of their way to avoid it. Please know that we try to get pictures of each camper each day, but if your child asks not to be photographed, we will respect their request.
If you see a picture posted where a child isn't smiling, remember that photos are a brief image of a much longer scene. Your camper may be listening closely to instructions, or processing a conversation. We will contact you if we need help in making your camper's time here wonderful.

Tips on Camp Communication
If your camper is apprehensive about camp, keep your communication with them while at camp upbeat and positive. Let them know that you're proud of them, remind them of what they were excited for, and tell them that you'll see them at check out and can't wait to hear about their experience. Please keep serious events like lost pets, divorce, or death for an in-person conversation after check out. If you need to inform your campers of an event that may

Parent Agreement

When registering for camp, all parents/guardians were instructed to read and sign our Parent Agreement. Here is an additional copy of our reminders for this summer:

Parent Agreement

YMCA Camp Kresge activities revolve around our four core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility, and all participants, staff, and families are held to these standards to ensure a safe and fun summer for all. These standards must be initialed on your registration form. This copy is for your own records.

- I will treat all staff, campers, and volunteers with respect in all forms of communication and will receive the same thing in return.
- I will complete my camper's Camp Doc Health Profile and understand that my camper will not be allowed to attend camp if the profile is not 100% complete. Invitation will be emailed to the primary email address stated in the registration form. I will keep camp updated to any change of contact information.
- I have received this parent handbook and I understand that it is my responsibility to read and understand/be aware of all policies. If I do not receive a handbook I will contact the camp office at 570-443-2267.
- I will keep my camper home if sick and will notify the office of the absence. I will arrange for camper pick up if I am notified that my camper is too ill to remain at camp. If a household member becomes ill with a communicable disease, I will contact the camp for the safety of others.
- I understand electronic devices are not allowed to be brought to camp. I will instruct my camper to keep these items home. If an electronic device is found at camp, it will be locked in the office for safekeeping and returned to parents at pick up. YMCA Camp Kresge is not responsible for any lost or damaged property at camp.
- I understand that there are no refunds available. Dismissal from camp programs for behavioral issues does not qualify for a refund.
- I understand that payment in full for camp sessions must be paid 7 days prior to my child attending the camp week. Camp Kresge reserves the right to refuse service if an account falls past due.
- I grant permission to have my camper transported by a YMCA vehicle, participate in all YMCA Camp Kresge Programs and attend Field Trips. Field Trips will be communicated through a newsletter and with advanced notice.
- I grant permission for YMCA Camp Kresge staff to assist my camper with applying sunscreen and bug spray. I understand YMCA Camp Kresge does not supply these items and I will pack my camper with what's appropriate for my child.



Camp Kresge Contact Information

For information regarding registrations, balances, and parent info, or to reach the Camp Office please contact:

Camp Office
E: erin.patrick@wvymca.org
E: nick.pincin@wvymca.org
P: (570) 443-2267

For questions related to camp programming or to speak with the director overseeing the program, please contact:

Overnight Camp Director
E: erin.patrick@wvymca.org
P: (570) 443-2267

Mail, packages, and registration forms can be sent to:

YMCA Camp Kresge
382 Camp Kresge Lane
White Haven, PA 18661

THANK YOU!



Thank you for taking the time to read through our Parent Handbook. We want to give your camper a fantastic summer and hope to partner with you to do so. Please reach out with any questions or concerns!

"Here Are Kindled the Fires of Lasting Friendship."