



Kinder Camp at the YMCA of Austin

Welcome to YMCA Kinder Camp. Below is an overview of what will be needed for camp as well as an explanation of aspects of Y programming. We are grateful for your participation and hope this makes the start of your camp experience more enjoyable.

What to bring to camp daily: (Please label everything with your child's name.)

- Labeled lunch and water bottle. We ask that you not send any microwavable food.
- Backpack: We will be swimming twice a week, and a backpack for bathing suit and towel as well as sunscreen and water bottle make it a lot easier to keep belongings together.
- Hat
- Sunscreen. Please consult the Activity Plan and field trip calendar to view planned activities. Since many activities (including field trips, swimming, and time on the playground) occur outside, we recommend that you either apply sunscreen on your child in the morning or send your camper with sunscreen. Camp staff will always have camp sunscreen available and will apply sunscreen to campers as necessary.

What to bring each Monday and take home each Friday:

- Sleeping bag
- Blanket and pillow
- One change of clothing in a zip lock bag
- A stuffed animal or doll to be used only by your child
- A laundry basket for their belongings (we recommend you leave the basket at camp throughout the summer)

Field Trip Days:

- Dress your camper in his/her YMCA Kinder Camp t-shirt

When you first arrive to camp:

- Camp opens each morning at 7:30 AM; however you are welcome to drop off your camper anytime throughout the day. On the first few days of camp, campers will wear name tags.
- Parents are required to sign their camper in and out each day. After signing your camper in, encourage them to place their belongings in their basket. The more routine, the better. Between 7:30 and roughly 8:30 or 8:45 am, centers will be available for all campers. Centers may include blocks, Legos, dolls, books, and coloring sheets.
- Every Monday you will be given a weekly Activity Plan which will give you detailed information on activities for that week and the general camp routine.

Other News and Notes:

- Morning **snack** will occur around 8:45 AM and afternoon snack around 3:00 PM.
- **Lunch** will be around 11:30 AM. Please inform us of any food allergies or sensitivities. This information should be listed on the campers' enrollment form, and we encourage you to remind the Site Director verbally as well. Many times we take our lunches with us on field trips, so labeling lunchboxes or paper bags is important.
- Each afternoon will include a **rest time**. Campers will be able to relax and listen to a story or to take a nap for 45 minutes to an hour. If some campers prefer another activity, we will try to find a quiet activity for them.
- **Field trips:** Campers will enjoy a field trip each week to a location or activity that is related to the week's theme. The address and time will be listed on the weekly Activity Plan. The Y contracts with local school districts and use their buses and drivers for transportation.
- Y staff are trained on many procedures that focus on the **safety** of your child. Supervision is important in all aspects of child care programs. Camp staff will divide the kids into small manageable groups and assign counselors to each group. Your camper will notice that we like to count and will be conducting head counts frequently -- prior to loading and leaving camp, unloading, during the activity or trip, bathroom breaks, and after returning to camp. Name tags and/or bracelets may also be used on field trips.
- **Swimming:** Every week we will have two days of free swimming. All Kinder Campers will wear a lifejacket when visiting the pool. You may provide a lifejacket for your child as long as it is Coast Guard approved. Swimming is supervised by YMCA lifeguards at all times. Additionally, camp staff will also be in the water.
- **Sharks and Minnows** is a theme offered at Kinder and Theme camps during the early part of the summer. Campers receive four days of swim instruction each week provided by trained YMCA swim instructors. Because camp is out in the pool and under the sun so much during these weeks, camp staff re-apply sunscreen often and watch for signs of dehydration.
- Camp opens each morning with an **Opening Ceremony** and closes each afternoon with a **Closing Ceremony**. This time is spent previewing or reviewing the camp day. This time is also used to acknowledge positive behaviors and choices by the kids. Y staff attempt to model and reward YMCA character values (respect, responsibility, honesty, faith, and caring) during all camp activities. Camp staff are trained to reward and praise generously.
- Kinder camp will have a camp **cell phone** and you may call at any time.