



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

YMCA Camp Sloper

Parent Handbook

A letter from the director;

Thank you for choosing YMCA Camp Sloper for your child's summer camp experience. We look forward to providing your child with a memorable summer, filled with fun, adventure and learning, all while in a safe and positive environment. YMCA Camp Sloper is dedicated to ensuring your child's safety and understands the great responsibility that comes with caring for each child and teen in our day camp program. You can be certain that YMCA Camp Sloper is the perfect setting for your child's summer—we are proud of our past and our wonderful reputation of providing a high quality day camp program focused on children and teens for more than 70 years, and many more to come.

YMCA Camp Sloper is committed to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility! We help kids grow and have fun through exploring the outdoors, building self-confidence and independence, learning core values, developing life skills and most importantly being active. Our stepping stone program promotes new challenges and personal growth each summer. We do that by providing 150+ positive role models who guide, teach, support and lead campers through fun, innovative and exciting camp programs and activities. Our 143 densely forested acre property is full of state of the art facilities and program areas designed and built for campers of all ages.

If at any time you have concerns or questions about the programs, staff or facilities, please feel free to address these issues with the appropriate staff person or me. We welcome your constructive criticism, new ideas, and suggestions for improvement to ensure your child's experience is exceptional. Please take some time to read through the following pages with your camper(s). This handbook will help you and your child better understand the programs, philosophies and policies.

Thank you for choosing YMCA Camp Sloper, we look forward to meeting or exceeding your expectations for a day camp program. For more information on our programs and services, visit our website at ymcacampsloper.org.

Slopefully yours,

Justin Hubeny

Camp Director

jhubeny@scnymca.org



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**YMCA Camp Sloper Credo:** Welcome to YMCA

Camp Sloper. Here, new experiences are introduced and lasting memories are never forgotten. We reach out to the child in everyone and build character in the leaders of tomorrow. We change lives, build smiles, and provide an environment for people to grow. Welcome to YMCA Camp Sloper; love it, share it, and preserve it for the next generation.

Goals of the day camp program**For Youth Development**

- Instill the YMCA Mission and YMCA Character Values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.
- Provide opportunities to increase self-confidence.
- Provide positive role models who lead by example.
- Create and develop long-lasting friendships.

For Healthy Living

- Lead activities and programs that promote exercise and staying active.
- Develop a connection and enjoyment for being outdoors.
- Provide direction for making healthy choices.

For Social Responsibility

- Strengthen social skills by teaching patience, cooperation and teamwork.
- Develop an appreciation and respect for the environment.
- Offer opportunities to develop and improve leadership skills

Be FUN, have FUN, give FUN, everyday!

- YMCA Camp Sloper Staff Philosophy

Registration

- YMCA Camp Sloper open registration begins the first Sunday in February at 8:00AM.
- Participants are encouraged to register online at ymcacampsloper.org. For assistance with registration, please call the camp office at 860-621-8194. To register in person, visit the YMCA Camp Sloper Outdoor Center camp office, the Southington Community YMCA, or the Cheshire Community YMCA.
- A **non-refundable** \$50 deposit for each session and a \$20 Camp Improvement fee is required for EACH child to complete registration.
- YMCA Membership is not required to attend summer camp at YMCA Camp Sloper. Families will pay the non-member rates unless the camper is a full member of the Southington-Cheshire Community YMCA.
- Registration for each session will close Wednesday before that session at 4:00PM.
- To make changes to your campers registration, contact the camp office directly at 860-621-8194 or yca@sccymca.org.



Split Sessions

The best day camp experience at YMCA Camp Sloper is a full 2-week session, as it takes that long for campers to build relationships in a group and experience all the activities we have to offer. We do recognize that family vacations or other commitments mean that this is not always possible. For that reason, we do allow campers to attend only one week of a two week session. The policy for splitting a session are as follows;

- ONLY Traditional camps are eligible to be split, we can NOT split a specialty camp. If the camper is registered for a specialty camp when a split session is requested, they will first be transferred to the traditional camp option for their grade for the week they are attending.
- A \$30 split session fee is applied
- The session cost will be reduced to half the session rate

Come for a Visit!

We offer Open Houses every Spring with camp staff on site to answer questions and provide camp tours. Our property includes 143 acres with a 19 acre pond with two waterfronts for swimming and boating. We have a nurse's station, camp office, changing rooms and bathrooms, arts and crafts cabin, the Melanie Rossini Program Center, Myers Family Nature Center, Meade Family Library, 10 open-air pavilions, and the Pirate's Point Tower. There are miles of trails for hiking, sports fields, two basketball courts, a 33ft climbing tower, both high and low ropes courses, an 80ft superslide, playscape, slip-n-slide, amphitheater, waterslide, waterpark, rope swing, Zoom-Floom, Ninja Warrior course, and splash pad. We are a non-smoking and drug/alcohol free facility.

Forms and Required Information

All forms can be found by clicking the "Day Camp" tab on our website; ymcacampsloper.org

It's easy to submit all of the required forms! You can;

- Upload all documents to your campers profile anytime by logging into your account on the website
- Email forms to yca@scwymca.org
- Mail forms to 1000 East St. Southington, CT 06479
- Drop off forms in person at the camp office (a locked after-hours drop box is located outside of the office door)

Health Assessments may be transferred upon request from another Southington-Cheshire YMCA program to camp if it meets all requirements below. To have a Health Assessment transferred, please select that option during the online registration process, or fill out a "Request to Transfer Health Assessment" form available on the website.

All medical forms and documents must be complete, valid, and in the camp office no later than two weeks before your campers first day of camp.

No child will be allowed at camp without a completed Health Assessment on file that meets all State of CT Office of Early Childhood requirements.

To be considered valid and complete;

- Part 1 of the State of CT Health Examination record must be completely filled out and signed by the parent/guardian
- Must include a date of exam that is within 36 months of campers first day of camp
- Medical assessment section must include a statement about the child's general health and the presence of any known medical or emotional illness or disorder which affects the child's ability to participate in camp activities.
- A complete, up-to date record of immunizations.

Medications at Camp

If your camper needs to take medication (prescription or over-the-counter) during the camp day;

- Medication must be in its original container with the child's name on the prescription
- Must be picked up and dropped off to the camp nurse by an adult, campers cannot travel with medication.
- Campers can only self-administer their medication if it specifically states so on their Administration of Medication form
- An **Administration of Medication form must be on file at the camp office with the following requirements;**
 - Filled out and signed by a physician
 - Signed by a parent/guardian
 - Current dates specified when camper will be attending camp
 - Form must state "For Camp Personnel"

Individual Care Plans (ICP's)

If your camper has health or developmental needs, you will be required to fill out an Individual Care Plan (ICP) for your camper. This form is used to ensure that all staff caring for your child are aware of their specific needs. ICP's are required for;

- Severe allergies
- Asthma
- Seizure disorders
- Chronic illness
- Special custody arrangements (please also provide a copy of any applicable court documents)
- Any other health or behavior related special instructions
- Specific dietary needs
- Hearing or visual impairments
- ADD/ADHD
- Autism Spectrum

Campers with developmental/behavioral special needs should contact the Special Needs Coordinator at campoffice@sccymca.org or the Camp Director prior to registering.

Campers with an elevated level of medical needs should contact the Camp Office Administrator to meet with the Camp Nurse prior to registration.

Financial Aid

Financial Assistance is available through the Southington-Cheshire Community YMCA for Southington and Cheshire residents. Our goal is to provide a summer camp experience to as many children as we possible can. Our annual Sloper Plunge Fundraiser is held every year in February to raise money to send kids to YMCA Camp Sloper, Naciwonki Summer Adventures, and YMCA Camp Quinnipiac.

To apply for financial assistance, please completely fill out the application and turn it in with the requested documents to Brittney Fontaine, Accounts Receivable Coordinator. She can be reached at bfontaine@sccymca.org or 860-426-9515. Financial Aid applications can be found on the camp website ymcacampsloper.org in the "Camper Forms and Documents" on the Day Camp tab.

If your camper will not be attending camp on a specific day, please contact the camp office no later than 11:30am. Refunds are not given for absences

Mama Cass-

A camp legend, and our official camp mascot, Mama Cass is a seldom seen, friendly, giant turtle that lives in Sloper Pond.



Payment Policy

There are a few ways you can make your payments for your campers registration. One of the three payment options must be chosen at time of registration. You may call the camp office anytime to make changes to your payment option or to pay by cash or check. If you do not call the camp office to make changes to your account, your original option will be used as payment and will be automatically deducted on the dates determined in the option of your choice. We do not carry over payment plans from previous years. **The payment options are;**



1. Pay in full at time of registration
2. Pay all applicable deposits and fees at time of registration, then the balance will be automatically charged to the card on file in equal, bimonthly installments on the 1st and 14th of each month through August
3. Pay all applicable deposits and fees at time of registration, then the card on file will be automatically charged each session balance two weeks prior to the start of each registered session.

A one-time camp improvement fee of \$20 per child is applied to your camp balance annually and must be paid at the time of registration. 100% of this annual fee is invested into the camp for program improvements.

Camp payments and deposits may be transferred between camp sessions or camp programs, as well as any other programs within the Southington-Cheshire Community YMCA. The camp improvement fee is non-transferrable and non-refundable.

Refund Policy

The \$50 per session deposit and \$20 camp improvement fee are non-refundable

Please note that there are significant fixed costs relating to the operation of a day camp program. When a refund is given upon cancellation, the following policy will be implemented;

Pre-camp –Day 1: Full refund (minus deposit and fees)
Day 2- 5: 50% refund (minus deposit and fees)
Day 6-10: No refund will be given at this time

YMCA Camp Sloper reserves the right to cancel a camp for low enrollment. If your child's camp is cancelled, you will be notified prior to the beginning of the session. At that time, you may choose to

enroll in another camp option or you may withdraw for a full refund.

What to Bring to Camp

Backpack—will be with camper all day
Lunch—will be refrigerated upon arrival
Snacks—packed separately from lunch
Closed-toe shoes
Refillable water-bottle
Towel
Swimsuit—one piece or tankini
Hat
Change of clothes— include underwear
 & socks
Sunscreen
Bug Spray
The Character Values!—see below



What to Leave at Home

Cell phones
iPads
Hand-held electronics/video games
Trading cards
Jewelry
Matches/lighters
Knives
Guns/weapons
Drugs/alcohol
Cigarettes
Illegal substances
Household Pets
Clothing with offensive messages i.e.;
drugs, alcohol, sex, vulgar language

Day Camp Programs

Our day camp program is broken down into programs areas that campers graduate into as they grow. Each program has specifically trained staff members, activities and facilities designed to meet the needs of that particular age group.

Wanderers

Pre-K

The youngest campers, this half day program gives pre-schooler's an intro to camp. Based out of the "Big Red Barn".



East Coast

Entering Gr. K-5

Close attention is given to campers entering K-5th with a variety of age appropriate activities.



West Coast

Entering Gr. 6-9

Designed for campers entering Gr. 6-9 to keep up with the changing interests of this energized age group that allows pre-teens to be themselves in a fun and safe environment.



CIT's

Entering Gr. 10

Counselor's-in-Training spend 4 weeks training and working with campers, developing leadership skills, communication skills, and teambuilding activities

Wanderers Program

The Wanderers program is a half-day program that runs from 9:00AM – 1:00PM throughout the summer. We run the program in one week installments to provide the best intro to camp. This program is designed to give our Pre-K campers an introduction to a camp experience as well as get them adjusted to extended periods of time away from “Mom & Dad”. Our Wanderers will try new things everyday from, arts and crafts, group activities, swimming in Sloper Pond, hiking our trails, going down the Superslide, riding the Sloper Express and more! With smaller ratios and their own personal base of operations in the Big Red Barn, Wanderers get to grow and thrive in a safe and fun environment. **Wanderers must be at least 2 years and 9 months old by their first day of camp, and fully potty trained to enroll in this program.**

Typical Wanderers Daily Schedule

9:00am	Arrival: drop off at the Big Red Barn, center play upon arrival
9:30am	Circle Time: weather, songs, get ready for the day
10:00am	1 st Activity Period: group games
10:15am	Snack
10:30am	2 nd Activity Period: arts & crafts
11:00am	Story Time
11:30am	Lunch then changing for swimming
12:15pm	Swimming
12:45pm	Closing Meeting
1:00pm	Departure: pick up at the barn

Traditional vs Specialty Camp Program

- **Traditional Camps** are those programs that offer a well-rounded camping experience. Campers enrolled in Traditional Camps will be exposed to all the activities that YMCA Camp Sloper has to offer as well as special highlights offered for each of the different age groups. As campers graduate to the next age group, more activities, choices and special events are offered. These camps are recommended for first-time campers and children interested in all areas of camp. The groups are divided by grade that the camper is entering in the new school year;

- **Sloperians** Entering Kindergarten
- **Navigators** Entering Gr. 1
- **Explorers** Entering Gr. 2 & 3
- **Pioneers** Entering Gr. 4 & 5
- **Rangers** Entering Gr. 6 & 7
- **Trailblazers** Entering Gr. 8 & 9

- **Specialty Camps** are designed for campers with specific interests. The camper spends the majority of the day focusing on the desired area of interest with the afternoon full of traditional camp activities. **Specialty camps do NOT have a daily swim period.** The current Specialty Camps being offered every year are updated on the website and in the camp brochure. Specialty camp options are divided by Coast and will include campers from a larger age range;

- **East Coast** Entering Gr. 2-5
- **West Coast** Entering Gr. 6-9

Campers will stay with their group in ratio’s that range from 5:1 to 12:1 and move from activity to activity with their counselor. In addition to scheduled camp activities, Activity Periods can include;

- **Swimming:** The East Coast and West Coast have their own waterfronts with their own characteristics that appropriately fit the swimming levels of the age groups. Our waterfronts are each lead by a Waterfront Director who are 21+ year old certified lifeguards accredited by the American Red Cross. The Waterfront Directors lead a team of certified lifeguards. Every camper is swim tested before they can enjoy the waterfront, and there are multiple safety protocols in place. For more information on the safety protocols and swim test procedures please visit the “Activities” section in the Day Camp tab on the website.
- **Unit Period:** The entire Traditional Camp unit (Sloperians, Explorers, etc.) will gather for an activity organized and planned by the Unit Director.
- **Free Activity:** West Coast campers are given the opportunity to select their own afternoon activity. They can choose from a variety of traditional camp activities such as; arts & crafts, swimming, climbing tower, high ropes, field games, hiking, volleyball, boating, Ninja Warrior, and others.

Typical Daily Schedule

	Traditional Camp	vs	Specialty Camp
6:30am-9:00am	Before Care		Before Care
8:45am-9:00am	Parent Drop off/Buses Arrive		Parent Drop off/Buses Arrive
9:00am	Morning Announcements		Morning Announcements
9:30am	1 st Activity Period		Specialty Camp Activities
10:30am	2 nd Activity Period		Specialty Camp Activities
11:30am	Lunch		Lunch
12:00pm	3 rd Activity Period		Activity Period/Special Events
1:00pm	LOGS (Lots Of Great Stuff)		LOGS (Lots Of Great Stuff)
1:30pm	4 th Activity Period (East Coast) or Free Activity (West Coast)		Activity Period (East Coast) or Free Activity (West Coast)
2:30pm	End of Day Announcements		End of Day Announcements
2:45pm-3:00pm	Dismissal/Parent Pickup		Dismissal/Parent Pick up
3:15pm	Buses Depart Camp		Buses Depart Camp
3:00pm-5:30pm	After Care		After Care

Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program

What is it? The CIT program is a 4 week program that is designed to teach our oldest campers the ins and outs of being a camp counselor at YMCA Camp Sloper. The first 2 weeks of the program consists of various trainings, workshops, activities, lessons, teambuilding, and regular camp fun with the intention to give them knowledge about how and what it is like to be a counselor. During the second 2 weeks, each CIT will be placed in an actual camp group to shadow a senior counselor and practice what they have learned. CIT's only get placed in Pre-K through 5th grade groups.

Who can be a CIT? Anyone that is entering their 10th year of high school (Sophomore year)

When is it offered? The CIT program is offered twice during the summer; Wave A and Wave B. Both waves are identical 4 week programs. The most important weeks in the program are the first 2 weeks of the wave.

- Wave A: Session 1 & 2
- Wave B: Session 3 & 4

How do we register? CIT's are considered campers still, so you will need to register them just like you would any other camp program by visiting the website.

Benefits of the program: This program is primarily designed to teach our oldest campers strong character values, stewardship, skills in a childcare setting, responsibility, creativity, and to provide a safe place to be themselves. They also develop leadership skills, personal values, teambuilding, and communication skills along the way. This is a great program to fulfill volunteer hours for community organizations. Candidates will fill out a CIT application, including obtaining references; just like a real job candidate! (CIT's are not turned away based on the application, it is simply part of the program)

YMCA Camp Sloper Online Store



Check out a variety of camp-branded merchandise online! Everything from t-shirts, sweatshirts, and backpacks to waterbottles and beachtowels! Show your Sloper pride everywhere you go! Scan the QR code, or visit ymcacampstore.com

First Aid and Camper Safety

Staff

We believe the success of our program lies in the quality of our staff. We spend a great deal of time recruiting, interviewing, and training our camp staff. Our day camp is unique because we have many staff members who work during the school year with our Child Care, Youth Programs, and Teen Programs at the Southington-Cheshire Community YMCA. In June, before camp starts, our staff participates in an in-depth training program that covers program goals, emergency procedures, group work skills, and program planning. We have specific procedures for a “lost camper”, as well as fire, severe weather and medical emergencies.

- **Outside Care Policy**—It is the policy of the Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs that staff who meet program participants and members under the age of 18 in a YMCA program may not provide outside care services to that participant. All employees sign this policy upon hire. If there is a pre-existing relationship, the employee must obtain an “Unsanctioned Child Care Waiver” from camp or HR. The waiver must be fully completed acknowledging that the staff person is not working in their capacity as a YMCA employee and that the parent or guardian will not hold the YMCA liable for any actions of the YMCA employee while performing outside care.
- **Ratios**—Camper to counselor ratios range from 5:1 to 12:1. Wanderers are 5:1, Sloperians & Navigators are 8:1, and all other camps are up to 12:1 with most being 10:1.



Waterfront

YMCA Camp Sloper has multiple safety protocols on the waterfronts that are used every day, as well as safety drills practiced each session. During each swim period, “Buddy Checks” are called every 6-7 minutes on the East Coast, and every 9-10 minutes on the West Coast. All campers, regardless of what



camp they are registered for, are swim tested before being allowed to swim in the deeper end of the waterfront. For more information on the swim test procedures, please visit the “Activities” section in the Day Camp tab on the website. The swimmer to lifeguard ratio is 25:1. In addition, the counselors in each group swims in the water along with their group, maintaining the original group ratio even while swimming. Each waterfront is led by a Waterfront Director who is 21+ and accredited by the American Red Cross. All waterfront staff hold current Lifeguard, First Aid, and CPR Certifications.

First Aid/Injury Procedures

- The **Camp Nurse** is present during regular camp hours (8:30am-3:30pm) The Camp Nurse is a licensed RN and manages all of the medical and health needs of our campers and staff during the day, including; first aid, illnesses, medication administration, concussion management, as well as ensuring we have the correct medical forms and documents on file for each camper.
- A **local physician** is on-call and supervises our medical and emergency procedures.
- **First Aid staff member** is present each day to assist the nurse with minor injuries and routine care. The "First Aider" is certified in First Aid, CPR and Medication Administration.
- **All Unit Directors and Leadership staff** are required to be certified in First Aid, CPR, and Medication Administration.

In the case of an injury that requires further medical attention, campers will be transported to the Hospital of Central Connecticut Bradley Memorial Campus.

First aid Notification Policy–All campers who receive first aid will have their injuries recorded in the First Aid Log Book by the Camp Nurse or appropriate staff. Our Camp Nurse sees many campers each day for minor first aid treatments such as sunscreen, and band-aids. The Camp Nurse will call parents to notify them of mild injuries at their professional discretion and for all serious injuries that occur at camp.

Illness/Communicable Diseases–Campers must be healthy, injury-free and well enough to fully participate. If your child becomes ill at camp, we require that they be promptly pick up and transported home or to a medical facility within 30 minutes of being notified. Any child how has a fever, diarrhea, or vomiting, must be free of symptoms for 24 hours before returning to camp. Any child with a communicable disease must remain out of camp for the prescribed isolation period designated by the physician for that particular situation. Please keep sick campers home.

Concussion Management– If there is any sign that your camper may have suffered a concussion due to a trauma to the head, they will be removed from activities immediately. The Camp Nurse will evaluate your child and make a call home so that you can follow up with your primary care physician. Your camper will not be permitted to return to camp activities until written medical clearance from a licensed health care professional is received. For more information on Connecticut regulations regarding concussion protocols for licensed youth camps, please visit www.ct.gov/oec/camps

Weather

We operate on rainy days! Most rainy day activities take place inside different building and under pavilions. However, campers should be prepared with the proper rain gear for transitions to and from program areas. On rainy days, please send campers with a raincoat, extra clothing, and proper footwear.

We also operate on extremely hot days! On these days, we make sure campers have ample opportunity to get drinks and be in the shade. Please send campers to camp with a water bottle and an extra beverage for lunch. We also encourage swimming as a Free Activity choice on hot days.

Sunscreen/Bug Spray

- We recommend that campers apply sunscreen every day before coming to camp. Time is allotted during the lunch period to reapply.
- YMCA Camp Sloper will have a supply of Banana Boat Kids 50 SPF Sunscreen Lotion available for use during lunch. Permission to use the camp provided sunscreen is required.
- Permission is required for our camp staff to assist with sunscreen or bug spray application
- Please label all sunscreen brought from home with your child's name as it will be collected by camp staff for storage during the session. If you would like the product returned at the end of our child's session, please contact the camp office at yca@sccymca.org. All products left at camp will be discarded one week after the last day of camp each summer.
- Bug spray is not provided by camp, and must be brought from home if you wish for your camper to reapply.

Behavior Management & Positive Discipline

We believe the best way to prevent potential behavior issues are to provide quality camp programming. With engaging, impactful, and fun activities, we believe that many problems can be avoided.

We strive to build strong character values using the YMCA's 4 core character values (Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility) In alignment with our mission, all staff are encouraged to be positive role models at all times, teaching campers positive social and emotional values. After our initial efforts to positively change a camper's behavior have failed, we will contact parent/guardians for additional assistance.



Preventing and Managing Negative Behavior

- Create group rules/set expectations
- Keep activities moving-no down time
- Use positive reinforcement
- Be tolerant of certain behaviors-being annoying is not negative
- Redirect attention
- Have consequences for unacceptable behavior and rewards for acceptable behavior
- Use "cool off" breaks-take a break from the group
- Never use physical or emotional punishment

The detailed Behavior Management Policy, including steps taken for misbehaviors can be found on the camp website, ymcacampsloper.org in the Parent Forms and Documents tab.

Pick up and Drop off Policy

AM Drop off 8:45am–9:00am
PM Pick up 2:45pm–3:00pm

Photo Identification of all person's picking up is required each and every time.

- All campers must be signed out when being released.
- **Campers who are arriving after 9:30am** need to be signed in late in the camp office. Camp staff will get the camper to their group once they are signed in.
- No campers will be released to individuals who are NOT on the approved pick up list unless written permission is given by the parent/guardian, or with verbal permission from the parent/guardian with consent from a member of the leadership staff.
- All campers must be picked up by someone at least 16 years old
- Do not enter the roundabout for pick up, as this is where the buses park
- Please leave pets at home when picking up or dropping off campers.
- If a child has not been picked up 5 minutes after dismissal has been completed, the staff will contact the child's parent/guardian. If there are unable to reach them, and the child is not picked up within 15 minutes after dismissal, emergency contacts will be called. If staff is not able to contact an authorized person 1 hour after dismissal, the camp will contact the Southington Police Department for further assistance.
- A charge of \$10.00 for every 15 minutes will be added to the camp balance for continued late pick ups.

Early Pick up Procedures

Do:

Contact the camp office by 1:00pm

Plan ahead; let us know ASAP

Plan on waiting 15 mins or more if you come to pick up early with no notice

Go to the pick up tents if you arrive with no notice between 2:30pm and 2:45pm

Come into the camp office to sign out your camper

Don't:

Send a note with your camper (we only accept email, phone call, Remind text)

Give less than 15 min notice that you are picking up your camper

Come to the office to "sign out" after 2:30pm—you will be directed to the pick up tents for regular p/u

Arrive to pick up when your camper is riding the bus—this will delay the bus departure from camp

Forget your ID!

Picking your camper up from camp early is very different than when you pick up from school because they are not in one classroom all day. At different times throughout the day, the campers groups will be “in transition” from one activity area to another. In addition, they may be not easily accessible if they are hiking, boating, etc. During these times, it is difficult to pinpoint your campers exact location within the 143 acre facility. For this reason getting your camper to the office for pick up may take up to 15 minutes or more.

If your camper normally rides a bus, and you wish to pick them up instead, please call the camp office ASAP, and NO LATER THAN 1:00PM. With approximately 1000 campers here every day, we work hard to ensure that every camper is dismissed to their correct place. To accomplish this, we log EVERY dismissal change in our computer and generate daily reports informing each Unit Director and Bus Monitor of dismissal changes that they review at 2:30pm during the end of day announcements. **Buses do NOT leave camp until every dismissal area (pick up tents, buses, and aftercare) are audited to ensure that every camper is accounted for.** Please help us ensure that your change to your campers dismissal makes the reports, and does not delay the buses leaving camp.

Bus Transportation

YMCA Camp Sloper offers busing with stops in Southington, Cheshire, and Berlin/Kensington at no extra cost. We use New Britain Transportation for all of our camp busing. The NBT office is located at 33 Norton St. Plantsville, CT. If you need to contact NBT for any bus related issues, such as concerns with the driver or late AM buses, please call 860-628-5515.

- Predetermined stops have been established, and can be found on the camp website under the Day Camp Tab. **DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICE WILL NOT BE PROVIDED.**
- We run 10 buses during Sessions 1-4, and 3 buses during Preview and Finale week. For this reason, the stop options are greatly reduced for those weeks, please make note when registering.
- You must choose your stop and register for the bus during the camp registration process. Space on the bus is limited, and may fill up from session to session. If a bus reaches capacity, you may add your campers name to the bus waitlist.
- All buses have a YMCA Camp Sloper staff member serving as a bus monitor. Bus monitors will take attendance each morning and afternoon to ensure that the campers are on the correct bus. They will also assist the driver in supervising campers.
- In the afternoon, buses do not leave camp until every camper is accounted for. To avoid delays, please avoid last minute, same day changes to your campers dismissal.
- Please allow a 10 minute grace period before and after scheduled pick up and drop off times posted. Buses will usually run late the first day of each session.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to meet their child at the appointed stop at the scheduled time each day. Buses will not wait past the assigned stop time. In the event that a



parent/guardian is not present, the camper will remain on the bus for the remainder of the route and we will contact the parent/guardian. A second attempt to drop off the camper at their designated stop will be made once the route is complete. If this is not successful, the child will be brought back to YMCA Camp Sloper where they will remain until picked up.

- Campers are expected to maintain appropriate behavior on the bus and at the bus stop. Campers are subject to removal or suspension from riding the bus based on the Camp Directors discretion.
- Wanderers are not allowed to ride the bus.

Extended Care

An extended day at YMCA Camp Sloper is offered for an additional cost and can be added as an option during registration. **Extended care is available for full weeks only. We cannot accommodate random, or single days.**

The options are

- AM Care: starting at 6:30am
- PM Care: until 5:30pm
- Both AM and PM care

Extended care is also available in Cheshire at YMCA Camp Quinnipiac, with bus transportation included to bring your camper to/from YMCA Camp Sloper for the day program. Please select this option at registration.

Please pick up your camper no later than 5:30pm. An additional \$10.00 for every 15 minutes, or portion thereof, will be charged for picking up late. If a child is not picked up by 5:35pm, the staff will contact the parent/guardian. If there are unable to reach the parent/guardian, at 5:45pm emergency contacts will be called. At 6:30pm, if your staff is still unable to contact and authorized person to pick up your child, they will contact the Southington Police Department for further assistance.

Lost and Found

Lost and Found is located outside on the side of the East Coast building, near the basketball Courts. You are welcome to check lost and found anytime outside of camp hours (9:00am-3:30pm) Items left at camp will be donated or discarded 2 weeks after the last day of camp.

Sloper Alumni Association

Are you a previous camper or staff member? The goal of the Sloper Alumni Association is to reconnect former campers and staff with the magic of YMCA Camp Sloper. If you are, or know a former camper over the age of 18 or staff member who might be interested in becoming a member of the Sloper Alumni Association, please contact the Camp Director for more information.

Diversity and Inclusion

Everyone is welcome!

The YMCA consists of people of all ages and from every walk of life working side by side to strengthen communities. Together we work to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race, or sexual orientation has the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity. Our core values; **Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility** guide everything we do.

Statement on Accommodations for Participants with Disabilities in YMCA Programs

The Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs are committed to making its programs and activities available on a non-discriminatory basis as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of disability with regard to the full and equal enjoyment of its services, programs or activities. The Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs will make reasonable modifications to its programs for children with disabilities, both new applicants and those already enrolled, on a case by case basis to permit them to participate in our programs in the most integrated setting possible, unless the Southington-Cheshire YMCA can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of its services, programs or activities.

When a request for a modification is made, the YMCA will assess the needs of the child for whom the request has been made on a case by case basis. Parents/guardians should make the request in writing to the appropriate Program Director. The YMCA will work with families to provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with YMCA policy and applicable laws. The YMCA may request documentation concerning the child's needs. Absent extenuating circumstances, parents/guardians will be notified of the YMCAs decision on the request for accommodations within 5 business days.

If the YMCA determines that they will not be able to provide the requested reasonable accommodations, the YMCA will notify the parents in writing which modification it will provide (if any) and which ones it will not provide. Pursuant to the ADA, the YMCA may choose to not provide an accommodation if that modification would fundamentally alter the nature of its services, programs or activities.

Did you know...?

The numbers on the back of all of our orange staff shirts represent how many years YMCA Camp Sloper has been serving the local communities with our day camp program. In the summer of 2024, we are celebrating 75 years!

Contact us!

During the camp season, the camp office hours of operation are 7:00am-5:30pm
Off-season office hours are 9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

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