



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA of Montclair VOYAGERS CAMP

A Traveling Camp



Information Packet



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Greetings!

Your child will want to stay a teen forever after spending the summer in the Y Voyagers Camp!

Our goal is to provide a fantastic camp experience by creating opportunities for personal growth and new friendships and keeping physically and emotionally safe. We do this through participating in team building activities, meeting career professionals, volunteering at local organizations and enjoying some great field trips!!

Our staff is committed to the safety of our campers and the utmost fun anyone can possibly have during the summer months. All of the staff has intense training that includes: positive communication, CPR & First Aid, handling peer pressure and more.

On the following pages you will find important information about Voyagers Camp. Please read it thoroughly. Feel free to call or email my office if you have any questions or concerns about camp.

Thank you for your attention to these important details. We look forward to seeing you and your camper this summer!

Sincerely,

Kimberley Griffiths
Youth, Teen & Family Director
kgriffiths@montclairymca.org
973-415-6102

**Voyagers Camp will be located at the First Presbyterian Church
(46 Park Street, Montclair, NJ 07042).**

WELCOME TO VOYAGERS CAMP!

PROGRAM HOURS:

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with some later exceptions on field trip days. Parents/Guardians will be given field trip information each week as well as how to get in contact with the camp staff while on a trip.

“Voyagers Camp” is for youth ages 12-14. While at camp, these youth are able to experience an unforgettable summer filled with fun, learning and making new friends! Each week is jam packed with activities that will stimulate their minds, offer opportunities to grow as individuals and to travel to attractions in the area with a group of excited teens! Voyagers Campers are supervised by YMCA Adult Staff that are experienced in working with this age group.

If campers have permission from parent/guardian, they can sign themselves out at the end of camp each day. Without permission, remaining campers must be signed for at the end of each day. You can fill out a “Walk-Home Permission Slip” at any time that will give your camper permission to sign him/herself out.

Due to the fact we do not provide before or after care for this camp, you should know campers are welcomed to go to the Y down the street to wait for camp to finish and/or wait for you to pick them up. In years past, the campers like to meet up with each other on the church steps to hang out and chat before camp begins. You and your teen should decide what is best for him/her.

DAILY CAMP SCHEDULE

- Mondays:** Team building games, teen leadership groups, participation in character development workshops, camper choice activities and swim testing/ recreational swim at the Y.
- Tuesdays:** Participate in character development workshops, camper choice and community service.
- Wednesdays:** field trip
- Thursdays:** field trip (overnights are planned on some weeks!)
- Fridays:** big trip- loads of fun!

Different activity choices such as sports, cooking, drama, writing and more will be offered on a regular basis as well.

If we are returning home later than planned, parents will be notified of the estimated arrival time. Please provide all of your current contact numbers (work, home, mobile). Note: If your teen does not participate in the trips there will not be any alternate activities and they will have to go home for the day. Additionally, if any camper displays repeated disrespect and/ or violates the Code of Conduct, he/she will not be permitted to attend camp.

NOTE: If your camper was excused from a day at camp due to inappropriate behavior and it falls on a field trip day, you might be held responsible for reimbursement of that trip (entrance cost to a place).

Additionally if you take your camper out of camp for a day or more when there is a field trip, you will be held responsible for paying the field trip costs that are paid in advance.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS/ CAMP WITHDRAWALS

\$75 non-refundable deposits are required for each session. Each week/session is \$405.

In order to discontinue scheduled payments and receive a full refund (MINUS the deposit), families must notify the YMCA of Montclair of any cancellations/changes 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the cancelled camp session. Any cancellation/change notification later than 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the cancelled camp session will NOT be refunded.

For campers that are not withdrawn properly from a session, the family will be billed for any field trip expenses.

SWIMMING and WATER ACTIVITIES

Voyagers Camp will travel to water parks or the shore. It is necessary for all youth to be tested in their ability to swim. **All youth will be tested on Mondays at the YMCA.** Please be sure to send appropriate swim attire. The YMCA offers swim lessons throughout the year. **Please Note: TWO PIECE BIKINIS are NOT permitted at Voyagers Camp.**

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Communication is essential to the success of our program.

Voyagers camp relies on a free program called "Remind" which allows staff to text campers and parents/guardians without cell phone numbers exchanging. It also keeps a detailed history of all communication should any questions arise regarding a text.

Families will get instructions weekly (if your camper attends multiple sessions) as to what "code" to use for that week-in order to get text messages. We have found that this is a safe and effective way to communicate to numerous people at one time- especially if we are in traffic on our way home one day or if the weather has us changing plans.

We would appreciate you signing up for Remind as soon as you are given the code/instructions. Without it, you may miss vital information as it pertains to the Voyagers camp program.

If you are running late to pick up your child at the end of the camp day, it is very important to call the Camp Director. We do not allow camp counselors to accept verbal messages (i.e. "My child is going home with ___"); please put everything in writing.

You will also be given the work cell phone number of the director once camp begins.

WHAT TO BRING AND GENERAL INFORMATION:

- **Non-perishable, nutritious lunch/drink** in a labeled bag with an icepack. We do not have any other option to order or pick up food especially on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- On trip days (Wednesdays-Fridays) your teen might have the option of purchasing additional food – they still need to bring a lunch/drink/snack unless otherwise instructed. We will let you know by sending you a Remind text/email.
- **SNEAKERS – with socks!!!** For safety reasons, open toed sandals and flip-flops are not allowed
- Spending money for souvenirs, snacks, etc. (Optional)
- Water bottles (frozen if possible).

- Rainy Days/ Chilly Weather – Please keep an eye on the weather and dress/pack accordingly. In the event of light rain, rain jackets should be worn.
- Be sure your camper has a good breakfast so that they have energy needed for a full camp day.
- The YMCA’s employment policy prohibits our camp staff transporting children to and from the camp program. Please do not ask our staff to transport your child(ren)
- Your child will not be permitted to stay at camp if they are wearing any inappropriate attire. Inappropriate attire includes:
 - short shorts—they must come to mid thigh!!
 - tops that show mid section or chest and no tank tops
 - pants/ shorts that hangs low to reveal underwear (“sagging”)
 - clothing with inappropriate slogans
 - 2 piece bikinis

BRING AT YOUR OWN RISK

THE YMCA of MONTCLAIR WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS!

This includes: Portable game systems, CD players, iPod’s, cell phones, jewelry or other items. Teens are allowed to listen to personal music during bus rides but **cannot** be in their possession or used during camp activities – PLEASE LABEL ITEMS WITH HIS/ HER NAME. When Campers arrive, all electronics are to be given to the Camp Director. They are returned at the end of the camp day.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

Campers having cell phones during the camp day is prohibited for multiple reasons.

If your child brings a cell phone, they MUST turn in it as they sign in. It will be returned to them when they sign out at the end of the day. Please contact the Camp Director’s cell phone if you need to get in touch with your child. Cell phones, if found after sign in could be confiscated. Suspension may result if your child cannot adhere to this rule.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY RULES

Bus drivers conduct a daily check of the vehicle that shall include all safety equipment to ensure that the vehicle is in sound working condition. Counselors are trained to do a spot safety check of the bus and deliver a ‘Bus Safety and Procedures’ orientation to all campers on the first morning of each session and to any new campers if they were not present on that day.

BUS EVACUATIONS:

This procedure will be practiced on the first day or first trip of each session and documented with the Camp Director.

LOST AND FOUND

It is important that all of your child’s possessions are clearly labeled with their name. Those items include towels, bathing suits, containers, backpack, etc. You may contact the camp office or report a lost item to a counselor. We will do our best to find it. Please help reinforce to your child the importance of keeping track of their possessions. Please note that the YMCA of Montclair is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Any items left in our “Lost and Found” box will be cleaned and then donated to charity at the end of the summer.



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EMERGENCY INJURY COMMUNICATIONS

Parents/ Guardians will be notified immediately if your child becomes seriously ill or injured. Every effort will be made to contact parents/ guardians through all emergency numbers provided. If parents/ guardians are unavailable, emergency contacts will be called. All phone numbers will be called until contact is made. Treatment will be given as necessary. Should a child require hospital treatment, they will be transported to the nearest hospital by ambulance or a YMCA vehicle.

If a child has received minor injuries or taken ill, first aid will be administered and a parent/ guardian will be contacted. If a parent/ guardian are not available, a message will be left and the emergency contact person will be notified.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

Kimberley Griffiths; Youth, Teen and Family Director
Kgriffiths@montclairymca.org or 973-415-6102

**YMCA OF MONTCLAIR
CAMPER WALKING HOME CONSENT, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISKS
AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

CONSENT

I authorize and give consent to the YMCA of Montclair to release my child from Camp without parental supervision and hereby consent, acknowledge and allow my child to walk home from camp without parental or YMCA supervision. I acknowledge that my child is 12 years of age or older.

RELEASE and WAIVER OF CLAIMS

I, individually and/or on behalf of my minor child(ren), hereby release and hold the YMCA of Montclair and their officers, trustees, employees, directors, volunteers, and/or others acting on their behalf harmless from negligence and any and all claims that I or my child may have arising from walking home from camp.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I, individually and/or on behalf of any minor child(ren), expressly and specifically assume any and all risk of injury, illness, death, or property damage resulting from allowing my child to walk home from camp.

YOU ASSUME THE RISKS

I, individually and on behalf of my minor child(ren), understand that walking home unsupervised may be dangerous. **Once you sign, you are saying that you understand the risks involved and accept all of the risks.**

INDEMNIFICATION

I, individually and on behalf of my minor child(ren) shall hereby defend and indemnify the YMCA of Montclair and their officers, trustees, employees, directors, volunteers, and/or others acting on their behalf from any and all claims arising from allowing my child to walk home from camp.

DURATION

This release will remain in effect for the existing camp season and I agree that I will notify the YMCA in writing if I choose to revoke this authorization.

Child's Name:	Child's Date of Birth:
Child's Address:	
Child's Phone Number:	Camp Year:
Comments:	

PARENTS MUST SIGN (where applicable)

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name:	Parent/Guardian's Printed Name:
Parent/Guardian's Signature & Date:	Parent/Guardian's Signature & Date:
Parent/Guardian's Daytime Number:	Second Phone Number: