



2026 SUMMER DAY CAMP PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



ABOUT JOSH

Josh serves as the Director of Camps and has been a dedicated member of the Bloomington-Normal YMCA for the past two years. With over a decade of experience working with children and young adults, Josh brings both knowledge and steady leadership to the camp community. He is deeply committed to helping young people grow, build confidence, and develop strong social-emotional skills that support them far beyond their camp experience. Josh works closely with staff and families to ensure a safe, supportive, and engaging environment for every camper. He believes camp is more than just a place for fun — it is a space where children learn resilience, teamwork, and the skills that help them thrive.

Dear Summer Camp Parents/Guardians,

I'm so excited to welcome you (or welcome you back) to our amazing Summer Camp! We work hard to create a safe, supportive, and engaging environment for our campers day after day.

At Summer Camp, your children will make lots of new friends, experience fun field trips, and get to be their true silly selves all summer long! Our Summer Camps are a great space for campers to learn through safe and engaging play away from the rigidity of school.

Our Summer Counselors are committed to providing your child with a safe space to spend their summer. Trained in CPR/AED and First Aid, Mandated Reporter certified, and DCFS Background checked, our staff strive to ensure the safety of your child(ren).

Throughout the school year, please know that you are able to reach out to me directly at any time via email at joshf@bnymca.org, or phone at 309-827-6233 ext. 123.

I'm excited to spend another summer at Summer Camp!

Have a camp'tastic day,
Josh Forbes
Director of Camps



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ABOUT THE BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL YMCA

The YMCA is a DCFS license exempt facility for youth development, for healthy living, for social responsibility and is here to make the world a better place. We offer a wide range of programs that develop self-confidence, good sportsmanship, character development, fine motor skills and many other assets children need to become successful individuals.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

A healthy community where everyone is thriving.



OUR CORE VALUES



CARING



HONESTY



RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY

It is our commitment to these values and our mission that helps better each child that attends the programs the YMCA has to offer. Summer Camp strives to provide challenging activities in both small and large group settings under the guidance of well-trained Summer Camp Supervisors and Counselors. The YMCA has been responsible for developing strong leaders in children's Summer Camp care experiences for more than 150 years. Our purpose is to continue this hallowed tradition by providing the best possible Summer Camp care experience for all children in the Bloomington-Normal community and surrounding areas. At Summer Camp every child has a name, a voice and an amazing opportunity to be strong and free. YMCA Summer Camp sites are not licensed or regulated by DCFS.

ABOUT SUMMER CAMP



Welcoming rising Kindergarten through rising 9th graders, Summer Camp is a child care program that is centered around making a difference in the lives of the youth we serve.

SUMMER CAMP LOCATIONS



Grove Elementary School

1101 Airport Rd. #9357 Normal, IL
Site Phone Number: 309-445-0863
YMCA Phone Number: 309-827-6233



Northpoint Elementary School

2602 E. College Ave. Bloomington, IL
Site Phone Number: 309-445-0863
YMCA Phone Number: 309-827-6233

GROVE ELEMENTARY DATES:

June 8th, 2026 – June 26th, 2026
Mondays – Fridays | 7:30am–5:30pm

NORTHPOINT ELEMENTARY DATES:

June 28th, 2026 – August 14th, 2026
Mondays – Fridays | 7:30am–5:30pm



Oakdale Elementary School

601 S. Adelaide St. Normal, IL
Site Phone Number: 309-212-0538
YMCA Phone Number: 309-827-6233



Sheridan Elementary School

1403 W. Walnut St. Bloomington, IL
Site Phone Number: 309-212-2461
YMCA Phone Number: 309-827-6233

OAKDALE ELEMENTARY DATES:

June 8th, 2026 – August 14th, 2026
Mondays – Fridays | 7:30am–5:30pm

SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY DATES:

June 8th, 2026 – August 14th, 2026
Mondays – Fridays | 7:30am–5:30pm



****Summer Camp facilities and programming is not licensed or regulated by DCFS.****

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Registration – YMCA Members Only Beginning March 1st
Nonrefundable Registration Fee: \$25 through March 31st

Registration For All – Beginning April 1st
Nonrefundable Registration Fee: \$50



BILLING INFORMATION

YMCA MEMBER PRICING	NONMEMBER PRICING
3 Day with Before & After Care: \$145/child	3 Day with Before & After Care: \$265/child
3 Day WITHOUT Before & After Care: \$130/child	3 Day WITHOUT Before & After Care: \$250/child
5 Day with Before & After Care: \$200/child	5 Day with Before & After Care: \$375/child
5 Day WITHOUT Before & After Care: \$185/child	5 Day WITHOUT Before & After Care: \$360/child

- Billing occurs every Wednesday prior to the Summer Camp week.
- Pre registration for each week is required.
- A method of payment must be on file as payments will be scheduled out to automatically run each week.
- Late payments will have an added fee of \$10 and must be paid prior to the start of the Summer Camp week.
- Returned payments will have an added fee of \$25 and must be paid prior to the start of the Summer Camp week.
- Families that fall behind 2 or more weeks on payments will be unable to attend Summer Camp until the balance has been paid.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Summer Camp cancellations and adjustments must be submitted via a written request to the Youth Development department at camps@bnymca.org no later than 7 days before the start of the camp week. Cancellation requests received the Monday or Tuesday before the week of camp are subject to be charged, but will receive a system credit. If less than 5 days notice of cancellation or adjustment is given, no refund or system credit will be issued. By signing up for the YMCA's Summer Camp, you acknowledge and agree to the terms of our Cancellation Policy.

For example, if a family needs to cancel their Camp week of July 13th, a written request must be submitted by Sunday, July 5th to avoid charges. If a cancellation for the week of July 13th is submitted between July 6th and July 7th, then a system credit will be issued. Any cancellation submitted July 8th or later will not receive a refund of any kind.

SPECIALTY CAMPS

Specialty Camps are an alternative to the traditional camp week. Each Specialty Camp will be held at the YMCA, and all full day Specialty Camps will have the opportunity to swim daily.

FULL DAY CAMPS: 8:30am - 4:30pm



EDIBLE ENGINEERS

June 22nd - June 26th



LEGO (K - 2)

July 6th - July 10th



LEGO (3-5)

July 20th - July 24th



ICKY STICKY S.T.E.A.M.

July 27th - July 31st

HALF DAY CAMPS



LIFE OF A SWIFTIE

July 13th - July 17th

8:30am - 12pm



MERMAID

July 13th - July 17th

12:30pm - 4:30pm



REMINDER:

Bring a lunch! The Y does not provide lunches to Specialty campers.



SWIM & SOAR

Add swim lessons to your Summer Day Camp experience! This 5-week session will allow your child to learn basic water safety at the YMCA before their day starts at camp. This camp add-on is not available for Sheridan Elementary.

Grove & Northpoint Elementary

Tuesdays from June 7th - July 11th

Lessons from 8:15AM-8:45AM

Location: Bloomington-Normal YMCA

Oakdale Elementary

Thursdays from June 7th - July 11th

Lessons from 8:15AM-8:45AM

Location: Bloomington-Normal YMCA

COST: \$100/member | \$200/nonmember



IMPORTANT NOTE:

Youth will need to be dropped off at the YMCA in their swimsuits for their lesson at their designated time.



Bloomington-Normal YMCA

202 St. Joseph Dr.

Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone Number: 309-827-6233

QUESTIONS?

Contact our Director of Camps, Josh Forbes!

Email: joshf@bnymca.org

Phone: 309.827.6233

EMERGENCY ACTION PROCEDURES



Inclement Weather:

In the event of inclement weather, including but not limited to severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, staff will move all Summer Camp participants inside to a secure location near the inner part of the building which will be assigned and told to staff during the staff training, prior to the beginning of the Summer Camp program.



Fire:

In the event of a fire, the Summer Camp staff will instruct their group to evacuate the building and will meet at a predetermined location, which will be assigned and told to staff during the staff training, prior to the beginning of the Summer Camp program. The Camp Supervisors will be responsible for securing the building and ensuring that all staff and children have exited safely.

ALICE

Active Shooter:

In the event of an active shooter, all staff will follow ALICE procedures. (see attached document for more details)

DROP OFF & PICK UP PROCEDURES

Parents/guardians or other authorized adults are required to personally sign all children out each day. A valid photo ID must be shown every time a child is picked up from the site. In order to add an authorized pick up person to your child's record, please e-mail the Youth Development department at camps@bnymca.org.

LATE PICK UP POLICY

A \$1.00/per minute late fee will be assessed per child after 5:30 PM. The time used to assess late fees will be the time that the child was checked out on the tablet, or the time of the camp phone. This fee is to be paid by the end of the week before the child attends the following week. Staff will attempt to call both parents/guardians, followed by the emergency contact on your file if your child is not picked up by closing time. If no one can be contacted within 30 minutes and no parental/guardian communication has occurred, the staff is required to notify the local police department and place the child in their care.





SNACKS

The YMCA receives snacks for programming from the Midwest Food Bank! If your child has dietary restrictions or allergens, please list them on your child's registration and/or on your Child Care Profile upon registering. We are usually able to meet the needs of most restrictions.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Remember to label ALL items brought to Summer Camp. Encourage your child to be responsible with personal belongings. The YMCA cannot be responsible for lost items. We suggest leaving all personal items at home.



RESTRICTED ITEMS



The items listed below are not allowed to be brought to Camps. If these items are brought to Camp they may be confiscated and returned to the parent at the end of the day. Disciplinary action may be taken. Firearms are prohibited at any YMCA Camp site.

- Gum
- Jewelry
- Make-up
- Video Games

- Cell Phones
- Electronics
- Tablets
- Smart Watches
- Money

- Firearms
- Pocket Knives
- Any Type of Weapon



48 HOUR POLICY – SUDDEN ILLNESS

****Non-Covid Related Illness****

A sick child is to be kept at home for their own sake and that of others. Many communicable diseases begin with cold-like symptoms. A child is considered ill when he/she is experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- An elevated temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Vomiting
- An unidentified or contagious rash
- Ringworm
- Weep & red eyes (sign of conjunctivitis, pink eye, which is very contagious).
- Excessive cough and/or nasal discharge (any green mucus)
- Lice
- Any other symptoms that prevent your child from participating in the day's activities.

If a child becomes ill while in our care, a staff member will contact the parents and request that the child is picked up immediately. Until the sick child is picked up, the child will be removed from all other program participants to ensure their health and well-being. Siblings/those who live in the same house will be sent home as well.

In case of lice, children must be completely free of nits and lice to return. Summer Camp has a nit-free policy. Staff will conduct head checks on all children returning from a bout of head lice before the child may re-enter Summer Camp.

Please inform the Director of Camps and/or the Summer Camp Supervisor about the nature of any illness. If your child has a communicable disease, please inform staff when it first appeared. To return to Summer Camp, a doctor's release stating that your child is no longer contagious must be shown.

A child may return to Summer Camp when:

- Their temperature has been normal for 48 - 72 hours without Tylenol, aspirin or substitutes.
- They have been diagnosed as having a bacterial infection and have been on antibiotics for 48 hours.
- It has been 48 -72 hours since the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea without medicine.
- Eyes are no longer discharging. If pink eye is suspected, continued treatment with antibiotics must have occurred for at least 48 HOURS.
- The rash has subsided or the doctor has determined that the rash is not contagious.

Covid Policy: The YMCA adheres to the current CDC guidelines and expectations regarding COVID 19.

ACCIDENTS & INJURIES

If your child is injured at Summer Camp, staff will take necessary steps to obtain emergency medical care. These steps will include but are not limited to the following:

1. Call 911 if the situation requires it.
2. Administer CPR and/or first aid if needed.
3. Attempt to contact parent/guardian.
4. If parental/guardian contact cannot be made, the additional emergency contact person listed will be contacted.

IEP & 504 PLANS

In order to best serve all children, if your child has special needs, an IEP or 504 plan, we request that this information be submitted before your child begins Summer Camp to help us assess the needs of your child. Please contact the Director of Camps if you have questions about Summer Camp and accommodating your child.

CAMP EXPECTATIONS



CARING



HONESTY



RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY

Behavioral Management:

Praise and recognition of good behavior will be utilized throughout each Summer Camp day. Staff will help children choose appropriate behavior when needed and will use positive reinforcement as a continual behavior management strategy. Y Bucks will be used as a recognition of positive behavior for campers and shared with parents at pick-up. If a camper is not upholding our Y Core Values or putting themselves, or others in danger, they are at risk of suspension.

Discipline:

When behavior is repetitive without improvement, severe, and/or deemed dangerous to the child or others, parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child and a suspension may be warranted at the discretion of the Summer Camp Supervisors. Examples that could lead to suspension include, but are not limited to: physical violence, verbal threats of physical violence, and inappropriate touching. If a child is suspended for a third time, the Director of Camps reserves the right to expel the child from Summer Camp. At any time, the Bloomington-Normal YMCA may waive the disciplinary procedure and reserves the right to discharge any camper without notice for misconduct without refund. Incident reports may be used to document and inform parents of a child's behavior.

Parent/Guardian Expectations:

As a Summer Camp parent/guardian, you are expected to show caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility when interacting with Summer Camp Supervisors and all other Summer Camp staff. You are expected to send your child(ren) prepared for Summer Camp. Please communicate with the Summer Camp Supervisor with any and all important information regarding your child.

Staffing:

Summer Camp staff consists of positive role models dedicated to partnering with parents and teachers to further develop the youth in our program. All Y staff members pass background checks and go through extensive training on Youth Development. We firmly believe that our staff is the best of the best. All staff are trained and certified in CPR, First Aid and Child Abuse Prevention. Our staff is experienced in working with children to have fun, be safe and develop in spirit, mind and body.

Medication Distribution:

If your child must take medication while they are at Summer Camp, you must sign the medication in with the Summer Camp Supervisors. All medications must be in the original container labeled with the child's name and specific dosage instructions. Parents must also sign an Authorization to Administer Medication Form. Children are not permitted to carry non-rescue medications at Camp at any time. For Epipens, Inhalers, and other rescue medications, please discuss with the Camp Supervisor the best way to keep the medication near your child.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

It is our goal to ensure that no one is denied services due to an inability to pay. Therefore, we offer options for financial support to those who qualify. One option for financial support is provided by the Child Care Resource and Referral Network (309-828-1892). Upon approval, your family will be assigned monthly co-pays by the CCRRN to be paid to the YMCA. Applications for the CCRRN are available in their office at 207 West Jefferson in Bloomington. If your family does not qualify for the CCRRN, they can apply for financial support through the Bloomington Normal YMCA. Financial support is determined on a sliding fee scale. Applications for financial support through the Y are available at www.bnymca.org.

Scholarship dollars are provided by generous donors contributing to our annual Strong Kids campaign. If you would like to help the Y fulfill its mission by supporting our Strong Kids campaign, please contact the YMCA at (309) 827-6233 for more information.

PRAESIDIUM ACCREDITATION

The Bloomington-Normal YMCA aims to provide an environment within the walls of our facility and when we're out in the community where children are safe from abuse and can learn, grow and thrive. All of our staff and volunteers are committed to creating programs and providing resources to help stop child abuse within our community and to keep our kiddos safe. All staff (along with volunteers who work with children) are required to pass training provided by Praesidium, the leading organization within the United States in abuse risk management, before they're allowed to work their first shift. The Bloomington-Normal YMCA is Praesidium accredited as of May 2025.



— ACCREDITED BY —
PRAESIDIUM
— 2025-2028 —



QUESTIONS?

Questions and concerns may be directed to Josh Forbes, Director of Camps.
Phone: 309-827-6233 Email: camps@bnymca.org OR joshf@bnymca.org.