

FAQ

Where are you located?

YMCA Camp Duncan is located 55 miles northwest of Chicago, Illinois, near Fox Lake. We are situated off of Hwy. 12 (Rand Road), north of Wauconda and South of Fox Lake, Illinois.

How do I register for camp? How much deposit/registration fee do you require?

Camp's registration fee is \$100 for each week you enroll your child. The registration fee/deposit is a part of the total fees. To register you can complete the brochure registration form and mail it back to the camp with your deposit or click on the link on our website to print the registration form and mail it to the camp with your \$100.00 deposit.

Can you take credit card for payment?

Yes, using a credit card for deposit and camp fees are most commonly used and preferred. For your convenience we recommend using your credit card in paying the total camp fees and for the camp store. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. We do not accept cash payments!

Is there a registration deadline?

No, there is not a registration deadline. We continue to take registrations until the sessions are filled. It is a first come, first serve basis for each session. Many times sessions will fill, however, if we have an opening we will accept enrollment throughout the camp season.

What are the ages of resident camp campers?

YMCA Camp Duncan resident camp accepts campers aged 7-17.

Is resident camp coed?

Yes, the resident camp program is coed; however, cabins are grouped according to age and gender.

If I need to cancel what is your refund policy?

The \$100.00 registration deposit is non-refundable. The balance of fees is refundable for medical reasons only and will be issued upon receipt of Doctor's authorized medical reason. There are no refunds for cancellations or for campers being sent home early for behavioral reasons or homesickness. Program fees are refunded on a pro-rated basis when campers are unable to complete the program due to medical reasons.

Does my child need a physical before coming to camp?

Yes, all campers need a physical, signed by a physician, in order to attend camp. Health forms must be brought to camp on the first day and NOT sent in prior to arrival. Campers are not permitted to check-in at camp without their physician and parental signed health form. If your camper has had a physical or a school physical within the last 24 months, simply obtain a copy of his/her physical from your physician/school, attach the copy to the camp health form and fill in additional information.

Are you a Christian camp? How much Christian emphasis do you have?

Camp Duncan is a Christian core based camp, as the YMCA is a Christian organization. This means that we follow Christian values and morals. We do not have church services or chapels but rather teach and model the core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. We want campers to leave camp with more than learning a new skill but rather learning values and how to practice those values in life outside of camp. We do sing grace before each meal but are sensitive to respect all religions and cultures.

If I request a cabin mate, am I guaranteed to get my request?

Our registration form states “one name only” and must be similar in age. Your name must appear on the cabin mate request line on registration form to be assured the request. We have always tried to do what we can to meet parent’s requests, and will sometimes put 3-4 campers together, but usually no more than that. We want to make your child’s camp experience all that we can. We know from experience that the cabin groupings play an important role in helping each child to grow in self-confidence, social skills, and independence. One of the keys is learning to live with others the same age and from different backgrounds. Cabin mate request must be in the same session and be within a year’s difference in age. Campers, who request another camper 2-3 years difference in age probably will not be granted requests, please talk to the Camp Director if you have any questions.

How many children and counselors will be in the cabin?

Typically there could be 10-14 campers in a cabin with 1-2 counselors. Depending on the age of campers, usually the youngest groups will have 2 counselors.

Do the counselors stay in the cabins along with the campers?

Yes, the counselors will be staying/living in the cabin with the campers. Your child will be supervised throughout the day and night.

How old are the counselors? Are staff background checked?

Staff will be at least 18 years or older. Typically staff average age is 19-20 years old.

Staff are criminal background checked prior to being hired. Each applicant is interviewed, 6 reference checks and if their background check comes back cleared and they are a match for our camp, they are offered the position.

What are your shower and bathroom facilities like?

All but 4 cabins use a washhouse facility located nearby the cabins. The washhouse facility has toilets, individualized showers, sinks and mirrors. Only 4 of camp’s cabins have bathrooms facilities in the cabin. These cabins are located on the girl’s side of camp.

What about homesickness and how does camp handle this?

Temporary homesickness is a normal reaction, particularly to new campers. With proper handling by the staff, campers, and parents homesickness can be overcome and the camper can make a big stride in maturing. We welcome this opportunity to help youngsters grow in this area and we train our staff to handle homesickness in constructive and loving ways. It is common for first-year campers to send a first letter home that expresses homesickness, but typically by the time the parents receive the letter, the homesickness has passed. If concerned, please feel free to call and speak to the camp director.

My child has a problem with bedwetting. How do you handle this situation?

Counselors are trained to handle this delicate situation by being discrete and will privately help the child gather items to be laundered. The rest of the cabin group will not be involved. If your child has this problem it is very important for you to communicate this to our counselors & camp director when you arrive. Please be sure to supply your child with plenty of extra bedding and clothing.

Can I call camp and talk with my child?

Campers do not have access to telephones. In keeping with the Camp's program it is not recommended that children receive phone calls as it can sometimes interrupt the child's camp experience. However, if a parent is missing their camper, they are encouraged to contact the camp director to find out how their camper is doing.

Can I email a message to my child and can my child email back to me?

Yes, you can E-MAIL or FAX your child at Camp. Emails and faxes are encouraged by parents so that your camper gets mail daily. Campers will not be able to e-mail or fax outgoing messages. You as a parent can encourage your child to write a postcard or letter home while they are at camp by supplying them with stationary, envelopes and stamps.

In Emergency bad weather situations, how do you handle this?

All staff are trained in camp's emergency procedures and will direct children to the appropriate shelters in camp.

How does camp handle injuries or sickness?

In the case of serious illness or other situations that warrant the need, the camp director or health officer will notify parents immediately. Parents are invited to correspond with the camp director or talk with the camp health officer about individual camper needs when you arrive at camp.

How does camp handle a camper with medical needs or prescriptions?

Camp has a camp health officer on duty. At check in parents are asked to stop by the health officer station to drop off any medications. At that time you can explain what the meds are for and how they are administered. In the case of a medical emergency the Fire Dept is located about a mile away.

How do you handle lost and found articles?

Lost and found items are collected and displayed on the fences in the back of the lodge. Our counselors make every effort to insure that your child returns with everything he/she brought to camp. But your child is responsible to insure that nothing is lost.

Please be sure all items brought to camp are plainly marked with your child's name and please counsel your child to keep close track of all items. Camp is not responsible for lost items. Please be especially thorough on check out day as sometimes laundry or luggage bags are left. If you discover something is missing upon your return home, please call as soon as possible. The more time that passes, the less likely it can be found. Lost and found items are only held for two weeks and then is taken to a local charity (clothing bank or thrift store).

How can I schedule a tour of the camp?

Please call during our office hours which are Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at 847-546-8086 and talk to the camp director, Rona Roffey. Rona would be happy to meet with you and show you the facilities. Please call at least 24 hours in advance of the day you hope to visit.

Do you have bus service to and from camp?

No, Camp Duncan does not provide bus service to and from camp. All campers must provide their own transportation to and from Camp. Camp encourages parents to drive their child to camp. This is an important opportunity to meet your child's counselors, get settled and see the camp facility. Driving directions can be found on our website @ www.ymcacampduncan.org.

Are their lifeguards for the lake and the pool? How does the pool and waterfront work?

Yes, trained and certified lifeguards will be lifeguarding both the waterfront and the indoor pool. The ratio of lifeguards to campers falls well above the requirements by ACA, the state and the YMCA standards.

On the first day of camp, campers are swim evaluated. This takes place at the pool and let's the camp staff know the swimming ability of each camper. The campers are either a red chip, white chip or blue chip swimmer. This color dictates what boats a camper can take out on the lake and what areas a camper can swim in at the pool.

What if I need to pick up my child early from camp?

This is not a problem and can be accomplished by contacting the camp director at the camp office and arranging a time to pick up your child. This allows the camp to have your camper packed and ready to go when the parent arrives.