



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BEST SUMMER EVER™



**YMCA of Greater Michiana
Day Camps**

Parent Handbook 2021



Table of Contents

Intro letter	3
Philosophy Statement	4
Mission Statement	4
Special Needs	4
Enrollment	4
Financial Assistance	5
Drop Off & Pick Up	5
Hours of Operation	5
Signing In & Out	6
Dismissal From Program	6
Admission & Withdrawal Policy	6
Payment Schedule & Fees	6
What to Bring	7
Meals	7
Sunscreen Policy	7
Field Trips	7
Medical Matters	8-9
Social Responsibility	10
Staff Training/Qualifications	10
Pest Management	11

Camp Specific Information

Gla-Da-Wen-Ta	12-13
Summer My Way®	14-17
Young Adventure Camp	18-20
Summer Rec	21-22

WELCOME TO THE YMCA OF GREATER MICHIANA SUMMER DAY CAMP PROGRAM!

Dear Parents,

We are committed to providing your child with a safe, enriching summer camp experience that incorporates the YMCA core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, and Inclusion.

Camp is a fun place for your child to meet friends and learn new skills. Furthermore, at our Y you can also expect that your child will benefit by learning lifelong skills and building a stronger character. Through the week, campers will participate in a plethora of activities that teach our character values while being encouraged and recognized for demonstrating these values throughout their camp experience. Y character counts!

At the Y, it's vital that children are engaged in activities in which they are continuously learning and provided experiences that build self-esteem. Our summer camps include programs where children learn by hands on experiences, dramatic play and are physically active.

We know that the quality of your child's camp experience hinges on the excellence of our staff members. Because our staff team means so much to each of our campers, we focus on selecting, retaining and training the best Camp Leaders. Our staff members are engaging, energetic, fun and excited to spend each day of camp teaching your child.

You have made a great investment in your child's future!

YMCA Summer Camp Leadership



MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

This parent handbook provides valuable information about your camper's activities, the Program's philosophy, policies, and general information about our program. You may refer any questions regarding this handbook to the Program Director at your chosen branch.

YMCA MISSION STATEMENT

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

PHILOSOPHY

YMCA day camp programs foster each child's cognitive, social-emotional and physical development through opportunities and experiences which focus on achievement, relationships and belonging. It is our belief that each camper is a unique individual with his or her own rate of development. Our goal is to introduce the campers to as many positive experiences as possible that will assist in the development of individuality in each camper and encourage an awareness of themselves and others.

The planning of each activity is offered in a physically and emotionally safe environment consistent with evidence-based principles of youth development. Each child is encouraged to develop at his or her own unique rate by encouraging skill development and leadership opportunities. Through the Y's day camp program, campers participate in fun and educational activities that help them with:

- **ACHIEVEMENT** - Learn and master skills that help them realize their passion, talents and potential
- **RELATIONSHIP** - Build friendships with new friends and staff adding to their well-being
- **BELONGING** - Help them feel like they belong so they feel safe, welcome and free to express their individuality

We are partners in your child's development. We aim to provide opportunities to strengthen the family unit and give the family and the YMCA the opportunity to work, play, learn and thrive together.

Finally, the YMCA collaborates with other organizations which are committed to serving the needs of all children and families. It's through these collaborations, a strong youth development focus and intentional program assessment that the Y delivers consistent quality programs.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If a child has special needs, please contact the Y so that we can set up a time to talk before the child begins attending our program. We welcome all children at the Y, however, we do not have the capacity to provide one-on-one staffing support and attention. This meeting is designed to exchange information to make sure we can accommodate your child's needs within our staffing capabilities. We want to see that the family's needs and expectations are met. We encourage open dialogue about what works, and what doesn't, for your child.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS & EXPECTATIONS

This information will help you understand the enrollment and payment processes. Payments are due every Friday before the week of attendance.

- A \$10 late fee per child will be assessed to all payments received after due dates
- Cash payments are not accepted; payment options are credit card, check, money order, or credit card draft.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Y is firmly committed to access for all, regardless of family financial situations. The amount of financial assistance awarded each year is dependent on the amount of fundraising and donations received each year. Financial assistance is available for families who qualify. MDHHS funding applies to select camps: Gla-Da-Wen-Ta & Young Adventure.

Scholarship form must be fully completed with all information included. Allow a minimum of three weeks for processing. All fees apply as normal until the application has been reviewed and approved. All scholarships are subject to availability of funds.

Summer Recreation participants, please refer to City of St. Joseph, MI for financial assistance information.

DROP OFF & PICK UP

Parents will be required to sign their children out. For the safety of your child, campers will not be released to anyone whose name is not on the Health/Emergency Form. Please send a note if someone not listed on this form will pick up your child. A photo I.D. will be required when picking up your child from camp.

FOR SAFETY REASONS, Children will not be dismissed early without written prior notification to the camp supervisor.

What if I am late picking up my child?

We understand unavoidable situation may arise. If you find that you are going to be late, please call immediately to let us know so neither staff nor your child will worry.

After waiting for 15 minutes, staff will begin calling the child’s emergency contact list for those allowed to pick up the child. If staff has waited an additional 30 minutes and you have made no contact, proper authorities will be called.

You will be required to pay an additional fee of \$10 for each 10-minute increment past closing time. Payment is to be made at pickup.

HOURS OF OPERATION, HOLIDAYS, & UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Glad-Da-Wen-Ta Monday–Friday 9:00 AM–4:30 PM	Summer My Way® Monday–Friday 9:00 AM–3:00 PM	Summer Rec Monday–Friday 9:00 AM–4:00 PM	Young Adventure Monday–Thursday 9:00 AM–12:00 PM
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YMCA day camp programs will be open Monday through Friday. Hours vary at each program. For more information, please check with the director of your camper’s program.

DAY CAMP PROGRAMS WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

- Independence Day (Select camps also closed July 3 if applicable)

The program will make every attempt to remain open. However, it reserves the right to close based on licensing recommendations and the safety of the children in our program. In the event of severe weather, closings will be posted via email and the YMCA website (www.ymcagm.org). Tuition remains the same, regardless if the program closes for any unforeseen circumstances (severe weather, power outage, as examples).

***MANDATORY* SIGNING IN & OUT**

Signing in and out is required by state licensing, and is also required for the purposes of financial assistance through DHS.

All children must be signed in and out of program daily by a responsibly adult (18 years or older). The individual signing the child out of the program must be listed on registration information and be prepared to show identification. The child will not be released without written permission from the parent/guardian.

It is a good idea for the family to acknowledge a member of the YMCA Child Development staff, whether they are inside or out, so we can fully acknowledge your presence. This is helpful for our staff to physically see that the children are present as well as taking note from the attendance sheet.

DISMISSAL FROM Y-CLUB PROGRAMS

Families with the following unresolved issues may be dismissed from the after school program:

- Excessive tardiness in late pick-up fee payments or failure to pay fees
- Discipline problems that cannot be solved after repeated attempts
- Disrespect from parents toward staff or youth
- A child's behavior becomes detrimental to him/herself or others
- Repeated late pick-up

ADMISSION AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Admission to this YMCA of Greater Michiana Program will be made available to children enrolled. Being a state licensed program, we are limited to allowing a certain number of enrollees. Parents will need to fill out both sides of the Child Information Record Form to register their child.

Parents wishing to remove their child from the program may do so with a notice given to the site coordinator or the program director. On rare occasions, the program director may determine that a child be withdrawn from the program due to behavior concerns or other problems that are disruptive to the program. Partial refund determined by participation may be made if payments have already been made and the service is no longer needed or in use.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND FEES

Parents will be informed of their tuition payments, and payment due dates upon enrollment. Tuition changes will occur only after a minimum of two weeks' notice has been given to parents.

WHAT TO BRING

- Backpack or bag to keep your items in
- A water bottle (water will be provided)
- A lunch and snack COLD LUNCH ONLY
- Tennis shoes are required (please no sandals for safety reasons)
- Bathing suit and towel or a change of clothes (we will have daily water activities)
- Sunscreen/Bug Spray
- Face Mask

Please write your child's name on EVERYTHING. Please keep valuable items at home. We are not at fault for lost or stolen items. Unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to local charities.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Campers should have their name on all belongings. Do not bring anything valuable to camp that could be lost or taken, including electronics and cards. All belongings are the responsibility of the camper and should be kept in a tote bag or backpack. Lost items will be displayed at pick-up time, check through these items periodically. We will not be responsible for lost or missing valuables brought to camp.

SCREEN-FREE CAMP

Camp is a screen free and cell phone free zone. Cell phones, video games, iPods, etc., become disruptive to camp life and detract from camp experience. If a cell phone, iPod, DSi, etc., comes to camp it will be collected and placed in the supervisor's possession until pick up. Please contact the camp supervisor in cases of an emergency and you need to reach your child. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

MEALS

Gla-Da-Wen-Ta

Please pack perishable items in an insulated lunch bag, cooler, or with a cold pack, as there are no refrigerators.

Summer My Way®

Breakfast and lunch are provided for campers.

Summer Recreation

Please pack perishable items in an insulated lunch bag, cooler, or with a cold pack.

Young Adventure

No lunch.

SUNSCREEN POLICY

Should our camper be required to use sunscreen while participating in the camp day, the following procedures MUST be followed in accordance to YMCA policies.

- Keep the sunscreen in the original container, labeled with your campers name
- Camp staff will remind campers to apply sunscreen multiple times a day
- Camp staff will apply sunscreen to campers under the age of nine years old. All campers that are older than nine years old will be permitted to apply their own sunscreen

MEDICAL MATTERS

Children* should stay home if they:

1. Are feverish or have has a fever in the last 24 hours
2. Have a hacking cough or sore throat
3. Have vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours
4. Have pink eye or symptoms which might be pink eye
5. Have been on antibiotics for strep or other contagious infections less that 24 hours
6. Are too "out of sorts" to participate in class activities

*These standards apply for staff and volunteers as well

Medicines

Prescription medication must be in the original container with the original label and current date attached.

If you wish for us to administer prescription or over-the-counter medicine, we must have a doctor's order on file that indicates the dosage, the frequency, the name of the medicine and the symptom. These orders are valid for one full year.

Medications must be signed in by the parent and the staff will complete the form upon administering the medication after a safety check is performed.

We must have a signed parent's note if a child should be kept indoors.

Condition for Exclusion	Condition for Returning
Axillary or ear temperature 100 degrees or greater	Fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication)
Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness (such as unusual lethargy, uncontrollable coughing, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, wheezing, or other unusual signs	Until medical evaluation allows inclusion (doctor's written approval for return)
Abnormally loose, uncontrolled diarrhea, that is-- increased number of stools, increased stool water, and/or decreased form that is not contained by a diaper	Diarrhea free for 24 hours
Vomiting	Vomit free for 24 hours and able to eat solid foods or until health care provider determines the illness to be noncommunicable, and the child is not in danger of dehydration
Red or blue in the face, or making high-pitched croupy or whooping sounds after coughing	Until health care provider or health official determines the condition is noninfectious
Unusual spots or rash with fever or behavior change	Until health care provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease
Purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge)	Until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated
Untreated scabies, head lice, or other infestation	After treatment and free of infestation, such as lice or nits
Known contagious diseases while still in the communicable stages	Until health care provider determines the condition is noncommunicable

COVID-19 SCREENING

Do you have a fever of 100.4*?	YES	NO
Have you experienced a persistent cough?	YES	NO
Do you have shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?	YES	NO
Have you had contact with anyone known to have a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19?	YES	NO

If you responded "YES" to any of these questions, please know the child will not be permitted to be in care until you are symptom free for an appropriate amount of time.

When can I return to Y Care (Questions 1-3)?

If you had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath but have not been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and have not tested positive for COVID-19, you should stay home and are not allowed in Y Care until you are fever free (100.4°F [37.8°C] or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 72 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).

When can I return to Y Care (Question 4)?

You may return to Y Care 14 days from last contact.

HAND WASHING

Children are to wash their hands upon entering a classroom, before and after meals, after toileting, before and after the use of sand, water or play-doh, and after wiping a nose, touching mouth, etc.

THE STOP DISEASE METHOD OF WASHING HANDS:

1. Turn on water and wet hands
2. Soap for at least 20 seconds outside the stream of water (scrub backs of hands, wrists, between fingers and under fingernails)
3. Rinse
4. Towel dry (or place hands under electric hands-free dryer)
5. Turn off faucet with paper towel (if faucet is not hands-free)

HOW TO PROPERLY WASH HANDS



STEP 1
Wet hands



STEP 2
Dispense soap



STEP 3
Lather hands
for 20 seconds



STEP 4
Rinse hands



STEP 5
Towel dry



STEP 6
Turn water off
with paper towel

ACCIDENT, INJURY, INCIDENT, AND ILLNESS REPORT

Any time there is an accident involving your child, whether it be a behavioral incident or physical incident, all occurrences will be documented. These documents are confidential, and are not to be discussed with other families. Our job is to protect all parties involved. When the center observes changes in a child's health, a child experiences accidents, injuries or incidents, or is too ill to remain in the group, parents will be notified via written report or phone call based on circumstance.

If it is a major incident, such as: head injury, broken bone, severe lacerations—parents will be notified immediately. If it is a minor incident, such as: stretch, bruise, bump—parents will receive a report upon pickup at the end of the day.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DEVELOPMENT & DISCIPLINE

We want your child to enjoy the activities planned, and benefit from his/her experience. Staff will work with them to help them understand the rules and give clear definitions of acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

Y Ties

We will be using our Y TIES Program to develop our children's social responsibility. This program allows the opportunity for students and staff to make living the Y character values tangible and collective. Children will be able to make individual pledges or goals, demonstrate their pledge, recognize their efforts and success, and reflect on their pledges and goals.

Expectations

- Follow directions
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself

Positive Reinforcement

- Praise
- Group rewards
- Special privileges
- Y Bucks

Consequences

- Warning
- Activity restriction
- Behavior documented
- Parent notification
- Immediate call to parents for pick-up
- Suspension

****In severe incidences, the site director will determine appropriate consequences. We do not condone use of corporal punishment, making fun of, threatening or yelling at children, using profanity, or leaving student unsupervised. Fighting, hazing of peers and disrespect toward staff will not be tolerated.****

STAFF TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

All our staff at Camp are required to attend 21 hours of training. Most of this training is completed before hand and some throughout the course of summer camp.

Our comprehensive training and development program includes CPR/ First Aid, behavior management, conflict resolution, planning age-appropriate activities, and risk management. In addition to learning all the policies and procedures of the YMCA summer camp programs, they learn how important it is to remind campers to apply sunscreen throughout the day, how to do head counts, how to check children in and out, how the drop off and pick up operates. They explore techniques of how to better interact with children, build others self esteem and confidence, and become experts in sports, games, and arts and crafts.

Volunteers are required to go through screening and a background check. Please contact camp director for opportunities.

PEST MANAGEMENT

As required per Licensing rules each classroom has an integrated pest management program and parents will be notified prior to the pesticide applications.

YMCA OF GREATER MICHIANA NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE

Pesticides are periodically applied to school district property as part of the district's pest management program. Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school or day care center are entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the pesticide application, if they so request. If you prefer to receive notification by first class mail, please obtain a form from your building principal.

Please understand that emergencies do arise and that pesticides may be applied without prior notice to parents or legal guardians. Parents or legal guardians that have requested prior notification, however, will be notified after pesticide application.

Application of pesticides will be performed only by certified or registered applicators where and when required. If a pesticide is applied in a building, students will not occupy the room for a minimum of four hours. Forty-eight hours prior to the time of application notification will be posted near the building's primary point of entry and in a common area of the building. When a pesticide is applied to school district grounds, the application will not be made within 100 feet of occupied classrooms, and flags will be inserted in the ground to mark the application area.

This notice was given in compliance with Regulation 637, as amended by Public Act 131 of 1993.

GLA-DA-WEN-TA

Gla-Da-Wen-Ta is an 10-week camp held at our Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA. Each week has an assigned theme to it where campers will have the opportunity to do many fun and exciting activities while interacting with their friends. Gla-Da-Wen-Ta offers a fun-filled field trip every week for their campers.

Location

Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA
3665 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085

Hours of Operation

Monday–Friday
9:00 AM–4:30 PM

Extended Care

Extended hours are an option for families who need care for their children before and after the camp day. Extended hours provide a supervised activity time for children of working parents. Available for specific YMCA camps.

Preregistration is required.

Pre-Care 6:45–9:00 AM • \$30/week per child • \$10/child daily drop-in fee

Post-Care 4:30–6:00 PM • \$30/week per child • \$10/child daily drop-in fee

Both \$60/week per child • \$20/child daily drop-in fee

Field Trips

Weekly field trips will be divided into two age groups. Ages 8-12 will go on Tuesday and ages 5-7 will go on Thursdays.

Registration

A non-refundable \$50 deposit is due at the time of registration for each week of camp. All remaining balances are drafted two weeks before the first day of camp.

Financial Assistance

See page 5 for more information on financial assistance.

Daily Schedule

Time	Activity
7:30–9:00 AM	Arrival/Check-In
8:30–9:00 AM	Welcome/Counselor Time
9:30–10:00 AM	Team Building Activity - Theme Related
10:00–10:45 AM	Rotation #1
10:45–11:30 AM	Rotation #2
11:30 AM–12:30 PM	Lunch & Songs
12:15–12:30 PM	Wash Up/Locker Rooms
12:30–1:30 PM	Rotation: Older Kids/Groups and Rotation #3: Younger Groups
1:30–2:30 PM	Rotation: Younger Kids/Groups and Community Room: Older Kids
2:30–3:30 PM	Rotation #3: Younger Groups and Community Room Older Kids
3:30–4:15 PM	Rotation #4
4:15–5:00 PM	Counselor Time/Clean-Up/Dismissal

Notes

- Hand sanitizer after each rotation
- Hand washing before and after lunch
- Groups will be allowed to use restrooms during their rotations

Weekly Themes

June 14–18 • Aloha Summer

Greet the summer with some island fun! Participate in limbo, tug-of-war, wacky relay games, and enjoy making Hawaiian Leis and Tiki torches while learning Hawaiian history.

June 21–25 • Engineered for Fun

Explore your engineering potential and creativity through various STEM-based challenges. You'll enjoy paper airplane cargo challenges, LEGO construction creation contests, bridge building, structure designs, and much more!

June 28–July 2 • Stars and Stripes

Celebrate America during this red, white, and blue-packed week of fun! Campers will enjoy Olympic-inspired activities and historical discoveries while learning about the USA. Activities include capture the flag, giant chalk map of the USA, and patriotic-themed crafts!

July 25–9 • Around the World

Pack your bags as we go on a fantastic journey "around the world." Travel to different regions by learning games, crafts, recipes, and stories from all over the world. See what the world has to offer!

July 12–16 • Sports Week

We will spend the week playing some of your favorite sports and displaying your spirit all over camp. Throw on your favorite team colors and create a team flag, learn a new team cheer, and play tons of sports!

July 19–23 • Art of Summer

Let your imagination flow and discover your inner artist as you explore a variety of art mediums. Draw, paint, collage, and more! We will work with a diverse collection of art and design media to create amazing pieces of art.

July 26–30 • Splashtacular

Splash and explore this spectacular wet week of camp while learning about the wonders of water and the creatures of the sea. Create your own splash painting, bottle waves, have a water balloon toss, and get ready to be splashed!

August 2–6 • Messy Kids

Get ready for a week of icky, sticky, silly stuff that you can create and play with! Slimy slip and slide, messy twister, and sticky crafts are sure to be a great time. Come dressed to get dirty and bring extra clothes!

August 9–13 • Safari Week

Put on your safari hat and grab your binoculars because it's about to get wild in here! Campers will spend the week exploring and learning about our favorite safari animals—lions, tigers, zebras, and more!

August 16–20 • Great Adventure

Become one with nature this week as we learn all about navigating the wilderness and identifying everything that's around us. From bugs to trees to natural formations, learn about what makes being outside the best!

SUMMER MY WAY®

Thank you for choosing Summer My Way® Day Camp! Our goal is to provide every child with a fantastic camp experience. We strive to create opportunities for personal growth and new friendships while keeping physical and emotional safety a priority. At Summer My Way®, our staff will greet your child warmly with a smile at the start of their day. Students will be provided with breakfast, lunch and numerous activities to help them grow into healthy, productive and responsible people.

Please take time to carefully read through this parent handbook and the rest of your parent packet. This will inform you of any information that must be submitted to us before your camper attends camp and important camp information that you and your camper should know and understand.

Location

Northside Child Development Center
2020 N 5th St, Niles, MI 49120

Hours of Operation

Monday–Friday
9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Summer My Way® Bussing

Niles Community Schools will provide bus transportation to and from Northside Elementary. You will be provided transportation information regarding bus pick-up/drop-off times & locations. Transportation lists will be uploaded to UltraCamp. Please note that there will not be supervision at these drop off locations for your child. Please contact First Student with any questions at 269-684-1420.

Extended Care

Extended hours are an option for families who need supervised care for their children before and after the camp day. Preregistration is required.

Pre Care 7:00–9:00 AM • \$25 /week per child
Post Care 3:00–5:30 PM • \$25 /week per child

Financial Assistance

See page 5 for more information on financial assistance.

Wednesday Dress Up Days

June 30 — Red, White & Blue Day	
July 7 — Crazy Hair & Mismatch Day	July 21 — Marvel Madness (Superhero Day)
July 14 — Tie Dye Day	July 28 — Sunglasses Day
	August 4 — Funky Socks Day

Daily Schedule

Time	Activity
7:00–9:00 AM	Pre Care
9:00–9:15 AM	Breakfast
9:20–11:10 AM	Morning Tracks
11:30 AM–12:30 PM	Lunch & Recess
12:30–12:45 PM	Independent Reading
12:45–1:45 PM	1st Special
1:50–2:50 PM	2nd Special
3:00 PM	End of Day
3:00–5:30 PM	Post Care

Accessing UltraCamp Account

To access your UltraCamp account, please visit ymcagm.org/UltraCamp

Tracks & Specials

When registering for camp, you will be prompted to select which available tracks & specials your child participates in. Please find descriptions for all options below.

What is a Track?

Tracks are hour and a half long morning classes that teach core curriculum such as Math, Science, English, and Social Studies. The following classes are Tracks for summer 2020.

Around the World **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Grab your passports as we take a journey around the globe as we explore all the amazing wonders of the world!

Acres of Adventures **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3**

Dive into the exciting world of science as we explore the world of agriculture and life sciences through lots of fun-filled hands on activities and experiments.

Art Explorers **Grades: 4, 5**

Get your imagination flowing and discover your inner artist as you explore a variety of art mediums

Cooking Adventures **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Cooking Adventures: Ready... Set... Whoa! Learn about nutrition, creating fun snacks, how food makes the body move (go & whoa), along with aspects of cooking and being active. Campers will have the opportunity to learn and practice good nutrition, food creation, physical fitness, and of course, eat the final projects!

Danger Zone **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Do you have what it takes to survive the danger zone? Put your skills to the test and experience an unforgettable adventure as we learn what it takes to be safe and survive!

Engineering Madness **Grades: 2, 3**

Explore engineering with real life situations and activities.

Innovation Creation **Grades: 0, 1**

Become a scientist, inventor or architect for the week. Have a blast creating an edible working volcano, constructing a tiny city out of sticks and stones, or dismantling an old toaster from a junkyard. Learn about scientific principles, recycling and the arts along the way.

Junk Drawer Robotics **Grades: 2, 3, 4, 5**

Dive into your drawer of junk and be an engineer for a day! Explore your engineering skills by testing creations from circuits and catapults to an egg drop and more! Camp participants will explore various principles of physics and science that are fun using things you can find around the house.

Your Mind Matters **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Give your brain a workout in this fun-filled track that challenges you to become your strongest self both physically and mentally. Join us as we take you on a journey to discover your greatest strengths.

What is a Special?

Specials are typically one hour classes in the afternoon that use creativity and physical activity to engage students.

All Stars **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Sportsmanship and teamwork is the name of the game this week so put me in, Coach! It's time to step up to the plate for games galore & sports of all sorts. We're going to hit one out of the park this!

Backyard Bash **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3**

Enjoy the great outdoors as we partake in favorite summertime classic games!

Build A Better World **Grades: 4, 5**

Join us as we build & create fun and exciting projects that we can give back to our community!

Creative Kids **Grades: 0,1,2,3**

Are you crafty? Then this special is for you... kids will use their creativity using a variety of art mediums.

Easy Being Green **Grades: 4,5**

Passionate about the environment? Learn how to "go green" easily with fun activities and projects as well as learn about how to support our earth through recycling.

Edible Crafts **Grades: 0,1,2,3,4,5**

Do you love food? Love to create? Then this special is for you! Join us as we unleash your inner artist to create masterpieces out of food.

Fast & Fun-ious **Grades: 4, 5**

Do you have the need? The need for speed? Join us as we kick the tires and rev our engines for a crazy good time.

Gym Class Heroes **Grades: 2,3,4,5**

Catch yourself having fun while participating in activities designed to promote a healthy lifestyle of physical activity.

Healthy U **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Are you ready to become the best U? This week we focus on promoting healthy habits that can last a lifetime by demonstrating, and learning about the importance of, physical activity and good nutrition. Campers experience games and physical activities that provide an environment for success in skill development and exercise as well as hands-on nutrition lessons and cooking!

Imagination Station **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

The creative juices are flowing! Discover your inner artist as we explore a variety of mediums & create amazing pieces of art.

Music & Movement **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

DJ drop that beat! Who doesn't want to dance when great music is played? Fun music and classic dance steps—let's party!

Nature Crafts **Grades: 2,3**

Love to be outdoors surrounded by nature? This week we will discover all the amazing things discover and create from the world around us.

Olympics **Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Olympics has arrived at camp!! For one week, we shift from an "everyone wins" mentality to a week full of friendly competition, focusing on team bonding, sportsmanship, and spirit.

Ooey Gooley**Grades: 2, 3, 4, 5,**

Explore science through “hands on” activities by creating some bottle popping, color blasting, gooey experiments!

Space Adventures**Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Campers will travel to the farthest corners of the universe as they polish their leadership skills and work together to outsmart the invading aliens. May the force be with them!

Stars & Stripes**Grades: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

SMW wants YOU! Campers have enlisted in a patriotic week of celebrating what makes America special!

Superheroes**Grades: 0, 1**

Meet and salute real life superheroes, take the Superhero character challenge, dress up as favorite superhero, Superhero games/crafts and lend a hand as we pay it forward through community service and create the hero in all of us.

Summer My Way's® Got Talent**Grades: 2, 3, 4, 5**

Calling all superstars to step into the spotlight and showcase your talents through skits, games, dance, music and creative arts. Enter the Talent Show and show us the Next Big Thing. (Parents are invited to attend)

YOUNG ADVENTURE

Young Adventure is an 8-week camp held at our Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA. Each week has an assigned theme to it where campers will have the opportunity to do many fun and exciting activities while interacting with their friends.

Location

Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA
3665 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085

Hours of Operation

Monday–Thursday
9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Registration

- A \$25 deposit is due at the time of registration for each week of camp. The remaining amount will be drafted on the Friday two weeks before care.
- Registration is available online for those who have visited the YMCA. You must have an email or current billing method on file to access your online account. Please stop by the Member Service Desk if you are new to the Y or need to update your account.
- Registered families will receive a “What to Expect” email before the start of each week.

Extended Care

Extended hours are an option for families who need care for their children before and after the camp day. Extended hours provide a supervised activity time for children of working parents. **Pre-registration is required.**

Pre-Care 7:45–8:55 AM • \$15/week per child • \$5/child daily drop-in fee

Post-Care 12:00–3:00 PM • \$25/week per child • \$5/child daily drop-in fee

Both \$35/week per child • \$10/child daily drop-in fee

Financial Assistance

See page 5 for more information on financial assistance.

Pool

Campers will swim twice a week.

Potty Training

A parent or guardian must remain in the building if child is not potty trained.

Notes

- Hand sanitizer after reach rotation
- Hand washing before and after lunch
- Groups will be allowed to use restrooms during their rotations

Daily Schedule (Non-Water/Swim Days)

Time	Activity
8:55-9:15 AM	Free Play/Question of the Day/Clean Up
9:20-9:30 AM	Circle Time - Theme Discussion, Story, Music & Motion
9:30-10:00 AM	Stations (1-Craft with teacher, 2-Play dough, 3 - Puzzles, 4- Toys)
10:00 AM	Potty Break & Wash Hands
10:15 AM	Snack
10:30 AM	Wash Hands
10:45-11:00 AM	Active Play Area for Large Motor Skills (Theme Related)
11:00 AM	Clean Up
11:15-11:30 AM	Large Group Activities at Tables
11:30 AM	Circle Time (Kids Yoga/Story), Prepare to Go Home
12:00 PM	Dismissal

Daily Schedule (Water/Swim Days)

Time	Activity
8:55 AM	Arrival
9:05 AM	Leave for Locker Room
9:15-9:45 AM	Pool
9:45-10:00 AM	Locker Room/Change/Potty Break & Wash Hands
10:00 AM	Sanitize and Snack
10:15-10:30	Circle Time
10:30-11:15 AM	Stations (1-Craft with teacher, 2-Play dough, 3 - Puzzles, 4- Toys)
11:15 AM	Clean Up
11:20-11:30 AM	Active Play Area for Large Motor Skills (Theme Related - If Time Permits)
11:30 AM	Circle Time (Kids Yoga/Story), Prepare to Go Home
12:00 PM	Dismissal

Weekly Themes

June 14-17 • Royals & Superheroes

Grab your favorite prince or princess outfit and your superhero costume and join us for a week of adventure. We will explore the exciting world of our favorite superheroes and our dashing royal friends with crafts, songs, and more!

June 21-24 • MI Adventures

Take a trip with us as we learn all about the state we live and play in.

June 28-July 1 • Party in the USA

We will be celebrating the USA's 245th birthday and we will also learn about the summer Olympics.

July 5-8 • Buggin' Out

We will discover how a caterpillar turns into a beautiful butterfly and why some bugs help our flowers grow. Come join us as we dig deep to see the bugs that live under the ground. It is sure to be a fun week learning about all of the creepy, crawlies.

July 12-15 • Ooey Gooley Messy Week

One of the best ways for kids to learn is through hands-on play and exploration! So leave the clean up to us and join us for a week of “ooey gooey” fun and learning.

July 19-22 • Mermaids and Pirates

Dive deep into a week of fun and learning as we swim with mermaids and sail the seas with friendly pirates! We will explore why boats float and find out which marine animals can hold their breath for up to 15 minutes!

July 26-29 • Seas and Shells

We will explore the depths of the oceans and discover all the crazy and not so crazy creatures that live in the sea. Come explore with us and learn what it is like to be an oceanographer.

August 2-5 • Penguins and Polar Bears

Take a break from the hot summer heat as we see what it’s like to live where the polar bears live as we learn about their habitat and habits.

SUMMER REC

Summer Rec is a 6-week camp held at the John and Dede Howard Ice Arena. The YMCA of Greater Michiana along with the City of St. Joseph will provide every child with a fantastic camp experience. We strive to create opportunities for personal growth and new friendships while keeping physical and emotional safety a priority. At Summer Rec, our staff will greet your child warmly with a smile at the start of their day and ensure that they return safely to you at the end.

Our staff has created a fun and exciting curriculum for your child. Each day will be filled with crafts, games, sports, science experiments, and our summer literacy program. Your child will also get to enjoy the playground at Lincoln Elementary School and at the end of each day with fun water activities. Every Friday will be scooter day! Bring your scooter, bike, skates, roller blades or anything on wheels. **Helmets are required.** Thank you again for choosing our program to captivate your child this summer.

Location

John & Dede Howard Ice Arena
2411 Willa Dr, St Joseph, MI 49085

Hours of Operation

Monday–Friday
9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Financial Assistance

Please contact City of St. Joseph.

Daily Schedule

Time	Activity
9:00–9:30 AM	Campers Arrive & Meet with Counselors
9:30–9:45 AM	Overview of Daily Activities
9:45 AM–10:30 AM	Activity 1 (Park, Craft, Sport, Library/Water Activity, Bounce House/Gaga Pit)
10:30–11:30 AM	Activity 2 (Groups Rotate Activity)
11:30–12:30 AM	Lunch/Restroom/Clean Hands
12:30–1:30 PM	Activity 3 (Groups Rotate Activity)
1:30–2:30 PM	Activity 4 (Groups Rotate Activity)
2:30–3:00 PM	Break/Snack/Restroom
3:00–4:00 PM	Free Time within Group/Parent Pickup

Field Trips

There will be one optional field trips scheduled to fun and exciting places this summer, it will be held the week of July 12–16. The cost is \$15 per field trip. Field trips are listed with each camp description (Kalamazoo Growlers game). We will leave for our field trip at a specific time, so please look for weekly handouts with dates and times. We are not responsible if your child is late and our bus has left. Please do not send money; campers will not be allowed to purchase items on field trips. Field trips can be enrolled in and paid for through the YMCA. Enroll in person or online at ymcagm.org.

Weekly Themes

June 14–18 • Aloha Summer

Greet the summer with some island fun! Participate in limbo, tug-of-war, wacky relay games, and enjoy making Hawaiian Leis and Tiki torches while learning Hawaiian history.

June 21–25 • Engineered for Fun

Explore your engineering potential and creativity through various STEM-based challenges. You'll enjoy paper airplane cargo challenges, LEGO construction creation contests, bridge building, structure designs, and much more!

June 28–July 2 • Stars and Stripes

Celebrate America during this red, white, and blue-packed week of fun! Campers will enjoy Olympic-inspired activities and historical discoveries while learning about the USA. Activities include capture the flag, giant chalk map of the USA, and patriotic-themed crafts!

July 5–9 • Messy Kids

Get ready for a week of icky, sticky, silly stuff that you can create and play with! Slimy slip and slide, messy twister, and sticky crafts are sure to be a great time. Come dressed to get dirty and bring extra clothes!

July 12–16 • Sports Week

We will spend the week playing some of your favorite sports and displaying your spirit all over camp. Throw on your favorite team colors and create a team flag, learn a new team cheer, and play tons of sports!

July 19–23 • Splashtacular

Splash and explore this spectacular wet week of camp while learning about the wonders of water and the creatures of the sea. Create your own splash painting, bottle waves, have a water balloon toss, and get ready to be splashed!

July 26–30 • Art of Summer

Let your imagination flow and discover your inner artist as you explore a variety of art mediums. Draw, paint, collage, and more! We will work with a diverse collection of art and design media to create amazing pieces of art.