



FAMILY HANDBOOK

OVERNIGHT & DAY CAMPS 2021

YMCA CAMP IMMOKALEE

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WELCOME HOME



Dear Camp Family,

During my first summer, I walked around to visit our different cabins. As I approached our oldest boys cabins (14-15 year olds), I heard them laughing hysterically – which typically makes me a little nervous with 14-15 year old boys. When I opened the door, I saw every boy in the cabin, along with their two counselors, sitting in a circle playing jacks. Yes, that jacks – throwing the ball, collecting the jacks. I was amazed to see the pure laughter and bonding they created with a simple game.

As I sit down and write this welcome letter, I find myself thinking about last year's letter – wow, have things changed. A year ago, I could never have imagined that our campers and parents would be navigating virtual or adapted in person school, wearing masks, limiting social interactions, seeing protests, and so much more. But here we are. We are facing the unpredictable every day, but we are all doing our best to live with a "new normal."

There are many, many overnight camps out there (more than 14,000 in the US according to the American Camp Association), but I truly believe that YMCA Camp Immokalee is like no other. The jacks story is a perfect example. Camp Immokalee goes beyond teaching archery, leading horse trail rides, and giving tube rides. Sitting on cabin vespers (time when cabins share questions, stories, thoughts, etc. with each other), I have never heard children be more self-aware, more vulnerable, or more supportive than the campers I have heard under the stars here. I am blessed to have inherited campers, staff, parents, and alumni who have an incredible understanding of what camp magic and camp family mean, and I love getting to solidify that and mix it intentionally into every aspect of our program.

More than ever, kids need human connection. They need conversation, they need understanding, they need empathy, and they need some time away from home. Knowing that and knowing the camp we have, I'd say kids need YMCA Camp Immokalee now more than ever.

I know overnight camp (especially now) can be scary for parents, but I encourage you to throw the ball up and give your child the opportunity to catch all the magic (or jacks) they can. You'll be amazed at what you see.

Yours in camping,

Allison Krabill
Executive Director



YMCA OF FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST YMCA CAMP IMMOKALEE



ARCHERY RANGE



RIFLE RANGE



RANCH IMMOKALEE



IMMOKALEE RD.



CENTER DR.

WELCOME CENTER

PRIVATE RESIDENCE



P

KOPPA KABANA



CHALLENGE COURSE



DAY CAMP & ART HUT

P



POOL



WORLD'S COLDEST



DINING HALL



FLAGPOLE



AIRNASIUM



NURSE

P



DIRECTOR'S QUARTERS



ORIOLES



CAMPING



BATHHOUSE



CRANES



FLAMINGO



KINGFISHER



WILMA 1 & 2



BOWEN 1 & 2



WILDLIFE 1 & 2



BEAVER BOB 1 & 2

VOLLEYBALL COURT



OWLS



HAWKS



QUAILS



AMPHITHEATER



CANOES & KAYAKS



TUBING



WATERFRONT

LAKE BROOKLYN

COVID & OVERNIGHT CAMP

In 2020, YMCA Camp Immokalee was in the 20% of overnight camps that opened for the summer in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following health guidelines put into place by our the YMCA of Florida's First Coast, the CDC, and the American Camping Association, we were pleased to finish the summer with no COVID-19 outbreaks among staff or campers.

We will continue to follow our 2020 COVID-19 protocols in 2021, which include:



Temperature & Health Screenings

All campers and families are asked at check-in if they have had any COVID-19 symptoms, have been exposed to COVID-19, or are awaiting test results from a COVID-19 test. Campers are also temperature checked in addition to lice and athlete's foot checked during check-in, and then temperature checked daily.



Age Groups & Contact Tracing

Before 2020, all campers attended activities, met at flagpole, and ate together. Now, campers attend activities and meals in their Age Group. Age Groups are separated into Younger, Middle, and Older, and up to 60 campers may make up an Age Group. Campers in one Age Group are never within 6 feet of another. Using this approach, we are able to contact trace in the event of a COVID-19 case at camp.



Sanitizing & Misting

All commonly touched areas and equipment are sanitized between group uses, and all indoor camp areas are misted with a pressurized sanitizer machine that destroys airborne virus and bacteria particles anytime a camper displays any signs of illness.



Symptom Checks

Any camper who displays two symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to get picked up by their guardian within 4 hours. Confirmed symptoms can be found on the CDC website.

CHECKING IN

Campers will check in Sunday based on their age. Check-in will begin at the following times:

- 2:00-2:45pm - Ages 7-9
- 2:45-3:15pm - Ages 10-12
- 3:15-3:45pm - Ages 13+

We cannot accommodate early check-in.

If you are bringing children of different ages, you may arrive at the earliest check in time that applies to your child's age.

In an abundance of caution during the COVID-19 pandemic, check-in will take place as a drive-through system under our airnasium. Follow our signs, cones, and staff who will direct you.

We ask that parents remain in their vehicles during check-in.

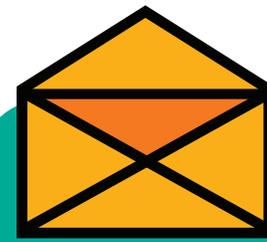
CHECKING OUT

Check-out takes place during the following times under the airnasium:

- 9:00-9:30am - Ages 7-9
- 9:30-10:00am - Ages 10-12
- 10:00-10:30am - Ages 13+

Please bring a photo ID when picking up your camper. The name on the ID must match the name on the camper's pick-up list.

Note that we cannot accommodate late check-out.



MAIL & PACKAGES

Parents can mail letters and packages to camp to be distributed during Camp Store, or provide these items at check in to be given to your camper throughout the week.

You can also send your communication via email at cimmokalee@fcymca.org

*When sending letters, be sure to include your camper's cabin!

PACKING LIST

Campers can pack their belongings in a suitcase, bag, trunk, chest, or bin.

DEFINITELY BRING

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding (single bed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> T-Shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & Toothpaste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower Shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towels & Washcloths | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bathing Suits | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Comb/Brush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Outfit | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Pants (Horse Riders) |

CONSIDER

- Camera
- Stationary
- Pre-Addressed Envelopes
- Stamps
- Book/Journal
- Writing Utensil
- Hat/Cap for Sun Protection

LEAVE AT HOME

- ✗ Phones
- ✗ Electronics
- ✗ Weapons
- ✗ Cash
- ✗ Tobacco Products
- ✗ Illegal Substances
- ✗ Fireworks

TOP TIP

Label all your camper's items on the tags in permanent marker, or through a company like Oliver's Labels, available during registration. If your camper forgets something after camp is over, email Abbi at apittman@fcymca.org, and we will do our best to find it and locate it! We can ship items back to you at owner's expense.

BEFORE YOU GO



Coming to camp, whether for the first time or the fifteenth, can sometimes cause nerves for parents and campers. This is totally normal! However, talking about this ahead of time can make your camper's experience much better.

- ✦ Ask your camper how they are feeling about camp. Explain that it's okay to feel nervous or anxious.
- ✦ Share with your camper that you'll miss them, but then share what you hope they get out of the week. Try not to stress that you'll miss them TOO much — this can burden them while at camp.
- ✦ Avoid promising your camper you'll come get them if they don't like it. You can know in your head that you will, but for a camper, hearing that may make it more difficult to let go and have fun during the week.
- ✦ Brainstorm things you can do both before camp and during camp to help with the nerves and anxiety.
- ✦ Make a list of questions and concerns that would help you both feel better and get in touch with Allison (our director) by phone or email. (You can even schedule a tour if you'd like!)
- ✦ Include them in packing and purchasing decisions so they feel ownership over their own camp experience.

OVERNIGHT ADD-ONS



POTTERY

We're excited to launch our pottery add-on for 2021! Campers who sign up for pottery will work with our pottery instructor for one hour each day to learn the craft and create fun projects.

Pottery will take the place of free period each day, meaning the camper will have less opportunities to do free swim.

Cost: \$35 per week

Sessions Available: All Week-Long Sessions

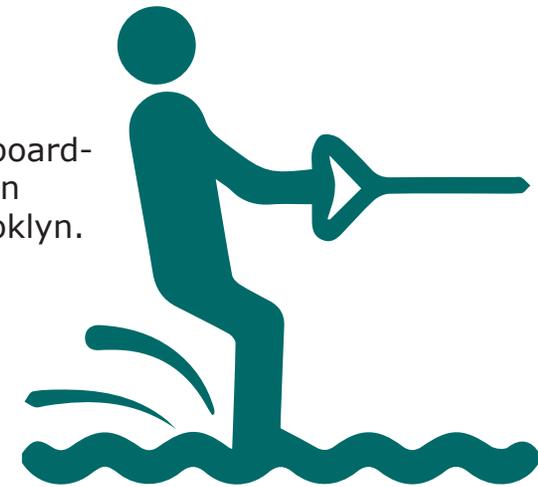
WATER SPORTS

Our Water Sports add-on gives campers the opportunity to build wakeboarding and water skiing skills at camp! Campers will head to the lake for an hour each day to work with our water sports team and enjoy Lake Brooklyn.

Water Sports will take the place of either one free period per day or one activity period per day. Campers should still be able to sign up and experience all camp activities at other times of the day.

Cost: \$100 per week

Sessions Available: All Week-Long Sessions



SEE ALSO: Ranch Camp & Swim Lessons on pg. 13

COVID & DAY CAMP

YMCA Camp Immokalee follows the guidelines of the YMCA of Florida's First Coast, as well as YMCA of the USA to determine the safest way to operate in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, we are pleased to finish the summer with no COVID-19 outbreaks among staff or campers.



Temperature & Health Screenings

Every morning at check-in, each camper's temperature will be checked with a touchless thermometer. If a camper's temperature exceeds 101.9, they will not be permitted into camp.



Smaller Groups

Before 2020, day campers attended activities with overnight campers. Since the pandemic, we have modified our schedule to keep day campers separate and in small groups of under 15.



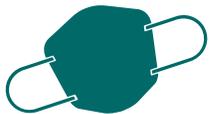
Sanitizing & Misting

All commonly touched areas and equipment are sanitized between group uses, and all indoor camp areas are misted with a pressurized sanitizer machine that destroys airborne virus and bacteria particles anytime a camper displays any signs of illness.



Symptom Checks

Any camper who displays two symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to get picked up by their guardian within 4 hours. Confirmed symptoms can be found on the CDC website.



Masks & Social Distancing

When within 6 feet of another camper or when inside (except for when eating, where they will be spaced out), day campers will be required to wear a mask. Masks are on the daily packing list, but a back-up can be provided if your camper forgets or loses theirs.

CHECKING IN

Check-in takes place in the Day Camp Hut (see pg. 2 for map) between 7:00am and 8:30am. Parents or guardians can pull in through Center Drive and loop through the circle for check-in.

Campers will be temperature checked daily at check-in. Families who have been exposed to COVID-19 or are awaiting COVID-19 test results in the past 10 days should not bring their camper to camp.

CHECKING OUT

Check-out takes places at the Day Camp Hut from 5:00pm to 6:00pm.

Parents or guardians must show a photo ID that matches a name on your camper's pick-up list for the camper to be released.



PACKING LIST

PACK IT

- Backpack
- Water Bottle
- Towel
- Bathing Suit
- Change of Clothes
- Close-toed Shoes
- Open-toed shoes
- Quiet Activity (Book, etc)
- Mask
- Backup Mask
- 2 Snacks
- Rain Jacket
- Spray Sunscreen
- Bugspray



LEAVE IT

- Phones
- Electronics
- Weapons
- Cash
- Tobacco Products
- Illegal Substances
- Fireworks



TOP TIP

Camp is fun, busy, and messy. While we encourage campers to keep up with their things, we always suggest packing older clothes and towels that your camper won't miss if lost or accidentally tie-dyed.

CAMP STORE

Camp Store provides an opportunity for campers to enjoy ice cream, chips, drinks, plushies, shirts, hats, and more while learning basic budgeting skills. Families can add money to their child's Camp Store account during the registration process and at any time after, and that account will act as a credit throughout the week.

We suggest anywhere from \$20 for a daily snack to \$50 if your camper wants to buy merchandise in the store. You can top off your camper's store account throughout the week, and emails will be sent out on Wednesdays to parents or guardians whose camper's account falls below \$5.

Camp Store accounts are non-refundable, and any leftover money becomes a donation to camp.

WE STOCK...

- ✦ Chips (Cheetos, Lays, Takis, etc.)
 - ✦ Drinks (Gatorade, Powerade, Teas, Water)
 - ✦ Candy (Skittles, M&Ms, Candy Bars, etc.)
 - ✦ Ice Cream
 - ✦ Plushies/Stuffed Animals
 - ✦ T-Shirts
 - ✦ Jibbitz/Croc Charms
 - ✦ Fidgets & Toys
 - ✦ Journals
 - ✦ Hats
- & more!



RANCH CAMP

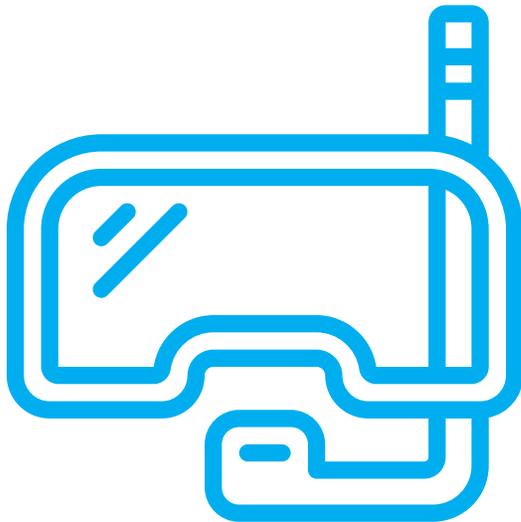
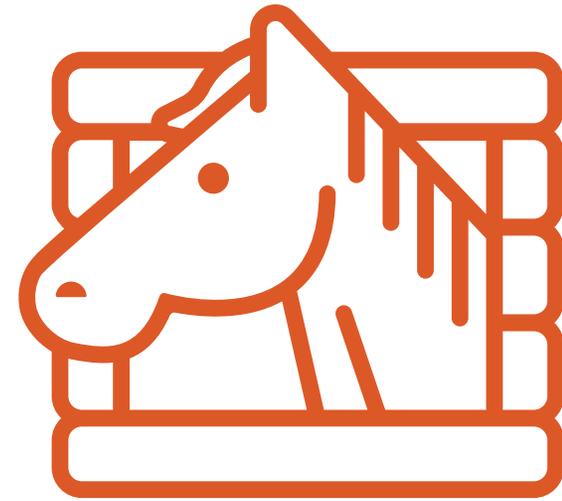
Ranch Campers spend two hours per day at the barn learning how to ride, groom, feed, and tack our horses. Campers will get riding time each day (rain permitting).

Other than Ranch Camp, our campers select their own schedules for their time at camp. We value the independence, problem-solving, and decision-making this teaches our campers, but it does sometimes mean that Ranch Campers miss the opportunity to sign up for certain activities. If you have additional questions, please contact our office.

Cost: \$150 per week

Sessions Available: All Weeklong Sessions

Want to test Barn Life out? Sign up for a 30-minute trail ride for \$25, available during all sessions.



SWIM LESSONS

Our swim lessons are targeted at beginner campers – those who have very little experience in water. They're perfect for campers who may not come to camp ready to pass our swim test (tread water for one minute and comfortably swim across the pool).

Swim lessons take place in the morning before breakfast. This will require the camper to be up and ready just 30 minutes before our other campers. Swim lessons will not interfere with any other camp activities.

Cost: \$55 per weeklong session; \$30 per Mini Camp session

Sessions Available: All Sessions

CAMP POLICIES

BALANCE DUE

All payments are due two weeks before the start of your session for overnight campers.

All payments are due the Wednesday before the Monday of camp for day campers.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

It is the goal of the YMCA to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all participants. Camp staff play a key role in ensuring that our programs are safe not only physically, but emotionally, and to create an open environment where youth can fine tune their skills and learn about themselves and how to navigate and function in the world. The core element to promoting this safe and supportive environment is for staff to be aware of youth's developmental needs and then guide and support them to getting their needs met in a healthy and positive way. The YMCA promotes behavior guidance and discipline through creating a supportive environment, developing structure and clear limits, promoting social and emotional learning, implementing skillful discipline, and addressing challenging behaviors. The YMCA uses positive discipline, which means staff promote desired behaviors through teaching and reinforcement. Staff will redirect or problem solve with youth when they are not displaying desired behaviors, rather than restrict behaviors by taking away opportunities or controlling youth with fear of punishment. YMCA Camp Immokalee staff does not use corporal punishment under any circumstances. While the YMCA will make every attempt to provide reasonable accommodations for all children, YMCA Camp Immokalee will not tolerate behaviors that cause (1) danger to themselves or others, or (2) a disruption to the normal activities, making it impossible for other children to enjoy camp, or (3) bullying of any form and sort. Any of the above reasons will be grounds for dismissal from YMCA Camp Immokalee with no refund of tuition or fees paid. YMCA Camp Immokalee has a no-tolerance policy for physical violence, social media bullying, use of cigarettes, alcohol, controlled substances, sexual activity, and fire arms, or any other action that places self, other children, or staff at risk. This applies to all staff, children, visitors, and parents while present at Camp Immokalee program sites.

CAMP POLICIES CONT.

CABIN REQUESTS

Cabin requests are the way you request that someone be in the same cabin with your camper. There was an option to do this when you registered, but it's difficult to return to. If you need to make a change, email camp at cimmokalee@fcymca.org. We'll try our best to accommodate cabin requests that are within two years of age and that do not take up more than half the cabin.

If you don't have a cabin request, that's fine! Many campers come without buddies, and it's a great way to make new friends. If you get to camp and see that your camper does have a friend there but they're in different cabins, ask the counselor checking you in to call for Allison. There are no guarantees, but we'll see what we can do.

CAMPER COMMUNICATION

Campers are not allowed to have phones at camp. You can contact your camper one of two ways:

By sending an email to cimmokalee@fcymca.org with your camper's name and cabin (if known) as the subject. We will print these around 11:00 a.m. each day, so please plan appropriately. Because of our large number of campers, we cannot accommodate camper responses via email.

By sending "snail mail" to:
Camper Name, Camper Cabin (if known)
6765 Immokalee Rd.
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Campers must be checked out by an over 16 years old listed on the Authorized Pickup List you completed during registration. Adults must show a photo ID, and it must match a name of an authorized adult on the camper's pickup list. If you are not picking up your camper, please keep your phone nearby during check out in case we need to call you and verify pick up. Campers will not be released to adults who camp staff believe to be under the influence.

CAMP POLICIES CONT.

COUNSELORS & STAFF

Immokalee campers live in the cabin with two qualified counselors. These counselors join our leadership team (director, assistant director, aquatics director, and head counselors and kitchen staff) in a great camp team. All counselors and leadership team members are 18+ or have graduated high school and trained in First Aid/CPR/O2.

Additionally, our counselors and leadership team complete online training and undergo a week-long in-person training covering a variety of topics such as homesickness, creating unity, talking to campers, and more. All staff and volunteers undergo Level II background checks and are checked against the National Sex Offender Registry. Staff members must pass a drug test prior to employment.

COVID-19

Please visit our website and see pg. 4 of this handbook for more information on how we are navigating COVID-19. The COVID-19 refund policy is as follows:

Deposits for June sessions are non-refundable after June 1, and deposits for July sessions are non-refundable after July 1. Camp funds above the deposit are refundable up to one week prior to the session. After that time, camp payments are forfeited. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the camp director in cases of illness, family emergencies, and other unforeseeable events.

To request a cancellation and refund, please email us at cimmokalee@fcymca.org.

CAMP POLICIES CONT.

HEALTHCARE & EMERGENCIES

All staff are CPR/First Aid certified, and we have a health officer on staff. Our health officer will administer daily medication and take care of basic camp issues like cuts, scrapes, and bruises. Staff may assist as well. If we are concerned for your camper's health (ex. they vomit without reasonable cause, have a temperature of 101 F or higher, hit their head, etc.), we will call.

Our infirmary is stocked with a variety of medical supplies, including many over-the-counter medicines.

All campers will undergo a health check upon arriving at camp. We screen all overnight campers for lice, fever, and athlete's foot and day campers for fever. If a camper is found with any of these ailments, we cannot admit them to camp at that time. However, we're happy to welcome them back once our health officer has confirmed the issue has been taken care of. That could be the same week, or, if an ailment requires more time to be resolved, we're happy to work with you to move to any other session that still has availability.

LOST & FOUND

Lost and found from around camp will be located outside of the airnasium during check out. Families are welcome to check while wearing masks and socially distancing. However, this doesn't include lost and found from your camper's cabin, which is often discovered and brought to us after campers have gone home. If you don't see something your camper lost, let the counselor assisting with check-out know, and we will send someone to check the cabin. If you realize you've left something and are unable to come get it, please call our camp office so we can arrange to ship, have friend bring it home, or get it delivered to either Dye Clay Family YMCA or Barco-Newton YMCA. We hold items for one week following check out before donating them.

FORMS

Camper forms, including the waiver, medical history, pickup list, and recent (last 24 months) physical will need to be completed in or uploaded to CampBrain, our registration software. All forms should be complete two weeks prior to check in.

CAMP POLICIES CONT.

MEDICATIONS

Medications must be brought to camp in the original container and will be administered according to the instructions printed on the label. A medication authorization form must be completed by the registering guardian prior to check in on CampBrain.

Please only pack as much medication as your camper needs. Drop off any medication with the counselor checking you in. Medication will be returned during check-out.

Please refrain from sending occasionally used over-the-counter medicine, as our infirmary keeps these items in stock. However, if your camper takes a certain medicine daily, we appreciate you sending a supply.

PHONE CALLS

Not all phone calls are bad! If you see Keystone Heights on the caller ID, it doesn't automatically mean something is wrong. We may call parents to let them know something positive has happened with their camper.

It's natural to miss your camper during camp, and you may want to speak to them on the phone to check in. While you are welcome to call our office anytime, you won't be able to speak with your camper right away. However, we are happy to check in on them and call you with an update, or pass on messages. In certain circumstances, we will make accommodations for parents and campers to speak on the phone.

PHOTOS

Photos of your camper will be posted to our Facebook page, YMCA Camp Immokalee, usually around 10 or 11 in the evening each day. If we are late posting them, keep an eye out for them the next day. Some campers love the camera more than others, so while your camper may not be pictured every day, know that our volunteer photographer is doing their best to get as many shots as possible.

CAMP POLICIES CONT.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

At YMCA Camp Immokalee, we ask our campers to respect all of our camp property - buildings, materials, etc. If campers make the decision to deface or destroy any property, the parent or guardian registering the camper for camp will be responsible for reasonable repairs. This includes (but isn't limited to): writing on walls, writing on bunk beds, and knowingly destroying property like mattresses, bunk beds, balls, etc.

SPECIAL DIETS, ALLERGIES & PICKY EATERS

If your camper is a vegetarian, gluten-free, or has food allergies, we ask for two-week notice prior to the start of the session to ensure we have something on the menu to accommodate them. There is a place on the medical form to add in dietary restrictions. For more information about food allergies and special diets, contact Abbi at apittman@fcymca.org.

We have had campers with severe allergies of all kinds at camp in the past, and feel confident in our ability to serve them safely and without drawing additional attention to their allergy or diet.

The menu at YMCA Camp Immokalee is very "kid friendly," with foods most kids are comfortable with and enjoy. We always provide an alternative option for campers who may not like what is being served; however, if your camper is a picky eater in general, we encourage you to bring pre-made food and snacks, which we can keep refrigerated and prepare for mealtime.