



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# LET THE ADVENTURE UNFOLD

CAMP IMMOKALEE PARENTS' INFORMATION PACKET  
Resident Camp



[FirstCoastYMCA.org](http://FirstCoastYMCA.org)



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

# **YMCA CAMP IMMOKALEE**

## **Program Handbook**

### **Dear Family**

Welcome to Camp Immokalee! Since 1909, YMCA Camp Immokalee has been creating summer camp magic and transforming lives for thousands of youth across our state and county. It is our pleasure to help your child learn, grow, and have fun at camp this summer. This handbook is full of detail and information to assist you in preparing your child for their Immokalee adventure this summer. Please keep it accessible for future reference.

YMCA Camp Immokalee occasionally makes changes in program policies and schedules. Families receive notification of changes through the updated program handbook at the beginning of each season. When we must change policy or substantially change program operations mid-season, we will notify families in writing.

In the event that you cannot find the information you need in this handbook, we encourage you to call camp at 352-473-4213.

Creating a camp experience that is nurturing, fun, and enriching is a priority for all of us. We welcome your input, and look forward to an amazing summer.

**Thank you for entrusting us with your children's summer memories.**

**The YMCA Camp Immokalee staff team**

### **What should I do to help my child prepare for camp?**

Camp is a place for young people to develop responsibility and independence. Campers will take care of themselves, their belongings, and make their own beds with counselor supervision. We therefore encourage you to let them help with their own packing (or do it themselves if old enough) and don't worry too much about neatness! Treat them as a young adult when arranging for their coming and going. Support your camper's decision to go to summer camp and concentrate on the many new, exciting experiences ahead!

### **When Do I Pay the Balance of Camp Fees?**

The balance of camp fees are due by May 15. We are unable to guarantee a space for your camper if fees are not paid in full by that time. If you enroll after May 15, payment is due in full at time of registration.

### **What is camp policy on refunds?**

Camp fees are non-refundable except in very exceptional circumstances usually involving illness of sufficient seriousness to require withdrawal based on the advice of a physician. It should be clearly understood that minor illness, homesickness, failure to abide by camp policies/rules, and change in plans on the part of parents are not sufficient grounds to warrant a refund. When a refund is granted, it will be the prorated portion of tuition paid. Any camp session cancellation within two weeks of scheduled arrival date will require payment of full camp fee.

### **Guidance, Discipline, & Rules**

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.

We believe this approach focuses on the needs of the child and contributes positively to the child's overall development. Staff members teach children about managing their behaviors and emotions as well as about conflict management techniques, to support them as they become responsible for resolving conflict among themselves.

*There are times when restrictions may be necessary, and will most likely be directly linked to the health, safety, or well-being of that youth or others. The 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 selves or others, or (2) a disruption to the normal activities, making it impossible for other children to enjoy camp. (3) Bullying of any form and sort. Any of the above reasons will be grounds for dismissal from Camp Immokalee with no refund of tuition or fees paid.*

*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 YMCA Camp Immokalee program sites.*

### **What about medical care?**

All staff are First Aid and CPR/PR certified and there are staff members in residence at the Camp Immokalee Health Clinic. In case of emergencies, St. Vincent's Hospital in Middleburg accepts our campers. Emergency transportation is available from camp by our local EMS, which is only 3 miles from camp. Should any serious accidents or illnesses occur at camp, parents or guardians are notified as soon as the situation is under control. In the case of minor illness, parents are informed only if the camper is confined in the Health Clinic for more than 24 hours. Camp reserves the right to send a child home if a physician so advises. If you plan a vacation or are away for a few days while your child is at camp, please notify the camp office IN WRITING of your temporary address and phone number.

## **Medical Questions:**

***Does my child need a physical to participate in camp?*** Yes. Regulations require that all campers have a current physical on file during their camp attendance. "Current" means within 12 months of attendance. If your camper was at camp in 2017, this means their physical on file is no longer valid.

***What about medications?*** Medications must be brought to camp in the **ORIGINAL** container issued by the physician or pharmacist and will be administered according to the instructions printed on the label. Labels must include the camper's name and the name of the medication. A medication authorization form must be completed by the registering parent/adult prior to staff accepting any medication. Put all medication in a zip lock bag and mark with child's name. All medication must be submitted to camp staff upon check in.

## **Are there visiting days?**

There is no visiting day for the one-week sessions. If you would like to visit your camper during a two-week session, 11:00am–2:00pm on Sunday is the best time. Please make arrangements with the camp office in advance if you plan to visit, as the camp program continues throughout the weekend.

## **What about homesickness?**

When children are away from home for the first time, it is reasonable to assume that until they become adjusted to the camp environment, they may experience several days of mild to severe homesickness. Understanding parents realize that it is something that a child may need to experience and see through to the finish if he or she is to gain the degree of independence that is necessary to make the camper a self-reliant individual. If you suspect that your camper may become homesick, don't delay your departure from camp—he or she will be in great hands with our amazing camp staff! If you feel there is a problem, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Camp Director. They will make every effort to keep you informed of your child's progress adjusting to camp life.

## **Communication with Camp/Campers**

In the case of an emergency at home or camp, there is a camp telephone available in the office. The phone number is 352.473.4213. Messages will be delivered to campers. Campers will not be permitted personal use of the camp phone. You can also email the office or your camper at **[CImmokalee@fcymca.org](mailto:CImmokalee@fcymca.org)**

## **Cell phones**

Camp is an immersive experience, designed to promote independence and self-reliance. Campers are not permitted to have cell phones at camp. If you require a phone call with your child, please contact the office and we will make arrangements for your child to call you.

If email is not an option, you can also send letters through regular mail. You are likely to receive more mail if you pack stamped, self-addressed cards or envelopes. Send a cheerful note to your camper often, but please avoid mentioning how much you miss them, as this triggers homesickness. Camping is quite an adjustment for some children, but they can handle it very well if only given a little help. If you don't hear from camp for a few days, don't worry! It just means we are busy having extreme amounts of fun! Please address all mail as follows:

## **Camper's Name, Camper's Cabin Name**

YMCA Camp Immokalee  
6765 Immokalee Road  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

## **Activity Sign Up**

Campers will register for their week's activities on their first evening after dinner and throughout the camp session. Campers will be able to choose from a wide variety of activities for the five full days they are here, including: archery, riflery, land sports, challenge course, canoeing, kayaking, nature, outdoor living skills, arts & crafts, group games, fishing, swimming, tubing, drama, and more. They will also sign up for one club activity: this is an activity offered by counselors that is not one of our regular camp activities. Examples of club activities are bottle rocketry, step dancing, a foreign language, etc. Campers who pre-register for the paintball or horseback riding programs will be assigned a designated time for these activities and will continue to complete the remainder of their schedule.

**Horse Camp**- This program will be an additional fee program, just like paintball. Campers will have the opportunity to learn to care for the horses, ride in the ring and on the trail, and make a new friend.

**Paint Ball**- Campers may select to add a one-time paint ball opportunity either at check in or through the camp store. Multiples of this add on can be purchased.

**Horse-Back Rides (non-horse camp)** New this summer, campers will be able to purchase a one-time horse experience at camp. Either a ring ride or horse-back trail ride are program add-on's at check in or through the camp store.

### **Camp Store**

New this summer. In addition to the abundant and healthy camp meals and snacks included in the registration fee, campers now have the opportunity to purchase additional treats, camp gear, supplies, and add on activities through the camp store. Upon check in, camp store punch cards can be purchased for use in this new program feature. Please do not send any additional cash with your camper.

### **How are cabin assignments made?**

The camp management takes responsibility for cabin assignments. We try our very best to honor requests for bunkmates as indicated in the application process, particularly in the case of new campers. We are unable to change cabin assignments on the opening day of the session. After opening day, cabin changes are made only when they are deemed necessary for the good of the campers and staff.

### **Arrivals & Departures**

**Check in** days are Sunday afternoon, and the times are as follows:

| <b>AGE</b>         | <b>Please plan to arrive between:</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>7 or 8</b>      | <b>2:00pm and 2:30pm</b>              |
| <b>9 or 10</b>     | <b>2:30pm and 3:00pm</b>              |
| <b>11 or 12</b>    | <b>3:00pm and 3:30pm</b>              |
| <b>13 &amp; up</b> | <b>3:30pm and 4:00pm</b>              |

Please enter camp at the dining hall entrance and park near the Airnasium. You will then be directed by a staff member to our dining hall. Please bring all medications and any paperwork to the dining hall but leave your camper's luggage in the car. Check-in will include: form and medication collection, health review, and cabin assignments. Campers then move to assigned cabins, make their beds and get settled. Parents are requested to depart after getting children settled to ensure a smooth transition.

**Check Out** days are Saturdays, and check out is at 10 am.

Campers will be released to the registering parent/adult or other persons designated on the registration form. YMCA Camp Immokalee requires that person to show photo identification prior to the camper's release. Counselors-In-Training may transport and sign themselves in and out of camp. Individuals under the age of 16 are not authorized to sign out other campers from camp. If an authorized or emergency contact appears to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, camp staff will not release the child until another authorized adult assumes responsibility for the child.

### **What should I bring to camp?**

Below is a list of necessary and optional items a camper should take to camp. A light sleeping bag will eliminate the need for all but one sheet. Personal belongings should be plainly marked for identification. Nametapes or marking pens can be used.

- Lightweight sleeping bag with sheer liner or 1 blanket with set of single bed sheets
- Pillow (camp does not have spare!)
- Water bottle
- 3 towels
- 2 washcloths
- 2 bathing suits (if program includes aquatic activities)

- 2 pair of comfortable pants or jeans\*
- Underwear, shorts, socks and T-shirts for the corresponding # number of days at camp
- Light sweater or jacket
- Rain gear
- 2 pair shoes (one being tennis shoes)
- Wash kit: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, comb, brush
- Sunblock/suntan lotion
- Insect repellent
- Hat or cap for sun protection
- Laundry bag or old pillowcase
- Flashlight

### Personal Property

Campers who choose to use personal belongings, sports equipment, and supplies will do so at their own risk! Storage and safe-keeping of personal equipment is the responsibility of the owner of the equipment. All personal equipment used within the program must meet the program standards and requirements for safety and condition. Equipment needed is provided, so we recommend that personal property is not brought to camp. Electronic and other toys or personal items should not be brought to camp. YMCA Camp Immokalee is not responsible for lost or damaged personal equipment.

Weapons, fireworks, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or potentially dangerous objects may not be brought to camp. If these items are suspected at camp, parents will be notified and any items found will be seized and held until parent's arrival. Pets are not allowed in camp, and must remain in cars if brought to campus.

### Anything Extra?

Paintball and horseback riding campers will need three pairs of long pants. Paintball participants will need 3 long-sleeved shirts and horseback riders will need one pair of hard-soled shoes. Camp will provide all necessary safety equipment for these campers.

### What about lost & found?

All unclaimed articles will be brought to the camp office on the afternoon of departure. Please check if you think your camper is missing an item. Any unclaimed clothing will be donated to a local charity.

### What does a typical day look like?

| Sunday  |                       | Monday – Friday (sample/demo daily schedule) |                          |
|---|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Arrival   | <b>2:00 – 4:00pm</b>  | Rise and Shine                               | <b>7:00 am</b>           |
| Orientation and Camp Tour                                   | <b>4:30 – 5:30 pm</b> | Flag Pole                                    | <b>7:45 am</b>           |
| Cabin Time  | <b>5:30 – 6:00 pm</b> | Breakfast                                    | <b>8:00 – 8:30 am</b>    |
| Flag Pole   | <b>6:00 – 6:10 pm</b> | Activity #1                                  | <b>9:00-10:00 am</b>     |
| Dinner  | <b>6:15 – 7:15 pm</b> | Activity #2                                  | <b>10:15 – 11:15 am</b>  |
| Activity Sign Up  | <b>7:30 – 9:00 pm</b> | Clubs  | <b>11:30 am-12:15 pm</b> |
| Evening Snack   | <b>8:00 – 8:30 pm</b> | Flag Pole                                    | <b>12:15 pm</b>          |
| Back to cabins/devotions                                    | <b>9:00 PM</b>        | Lunch  | <b>12:30 – 1:00 pm</b>   |
| Lights Out  | <b>10:00 PM</b>       | Rest Period                                  | <b>1:00 – 2:00 pm</b>    |
|   |                       | Activity #3                                  | <b>2:00 -3:00 pm</b>     |
| <b>Saturday Trips (subject to change based on location)</b> |                       | Snack/Store                                  | <b>3:15-4:00 pm</b>      |
| Departure from Camp   | <b>8:00am</b>         | Activity #4                                  | <b>4:15 – 5:15 pm</b>    |
| Arrival, Lunch & Dinner                                     | <b>10:00am</b>        | Dinner                                       | <b>6:00 pm</b>           |
| Gather for Departure  | <b>8:00pm</b>         | Evening Activity                             | <b>7:00 – 8:30 pm</b>    |
| Depart Location   | <b>8:30pm</b>         | Snack/Camp Store                             | <b>8:30 – 9:00 pm</b>    |
| Arrive back at Camp   | <b>10:30pm</b>        | Back to cabins/devotions                     | <b>9:00 – 9:30 pm</b>    |
|   |                       | Lights Out                                   | <b>10:00 pm</b>          |

**Direction to Camp Immokalee:**

**From Jacksonville:** Take Route 21 (Blanding Blvd) south towards Keystone Heights (approximately 34 miles from I-295). Turn right on Immokalee Road, which is just before you enter Keystone Heights (approximately 17 miles south of the junction of Rt. 21 and Rt. 16). Look for our signs. The entrance to camp is 1.5 miles on the left. Please turn in next to the dining hall.

If you are coming from some other direction than Jacksonville, please call the camp office and we will be glad to assist you with the best directions to get to us! You can also get directions at [www.maps.google.com](http://www.maps.google.com).



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

# CAMP IMMOKALEE

## Parent to Counselor Letter

The information that you provide on this form will be reviewed by the cabin counselors in order to help them best prepare to meet the needs of your camper while they are at camp. While the information requested on this form is primarily of a general nature, we would encourage you to write (or call) the Camp Director if you would like to share private concerns.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

CAMPER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME NICKNAME/PREFERRED NAME  
D.O.B. / / AGE WHILE AT CAMP YEARS MONTHS WILL YOUR CHILD HAVE A BIRTHDAY WHILE AT CAMP? [ Y / N ]

NAME OF SCHOOL CAMPER IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE COMPLETED BY JUNE 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF PREVIOUS YEARS AT CAMP IMMOKALEE? \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_ PROTESTANT \_\_\_\_\_ JEWISH \_\_\_\_\_ CATHOLIC \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Correspondence regarding this camper should be sent to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

### HOME LIFE

CAMPER LIVES WITH \_\_\_\_\_ BOTH PARENTS \_\_\_\_\_ MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_ FATHER \_\_\_\_\_ GRANDPARENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S ARE \_\_\_\_\_ MARRIED \_\_\_\_\_ SEPARATED \_\_\_\_\_ DIVORCED \_\_\_\_\_ REMARRIED \_\_\_\_\_ WIDOWED

#### Other children:

| NAME  | AGE   | GENDER    | IS HE OR SHE ATTENDING CAMP THIS SUMMER?       |
|-------|-------|-----------|--|
| _____ | _____ | [ M / F ] | [ Y / N ] _____ SAME TIME _____ DIFFERENT TIME |
| _____ | _____ | [ M / F ] | [ Y / N ] _____ SAME TIME _____ DIFFERENT TIME |
| _____ | _____ | [ M / F ] | [ Y / N ] _____ SAME TIME _____ DIFFERENT TIME |
| _____ | _____ | [ M / F ] | [ Y / N ] _____ SAME TIME _____ DIFFERENT TIME |

Give a brief description of your child. Include anything you feel will help us understand him/her. Have there been any recent major changes in his or her life - a move, death or separation, birth of a sibling? Is your child currently receiving counseling or has he or she received counseling in the past? Our ability to help your child will be enhanced by your candor in sharing such information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete both sides of this form.**

In what ways can we assist in your child's development of positive attitudes and habits?

---

---

Please list any special interest in program activities that the camper has:

---

---

Each camper's experience at camp is somewhat different. Please tell us what you hope your child will gain from their summer experience. What are your goals for him/her?

---

---

Are there any particular activities or programs that your child might like to participate in while at camp?

---

---

What type of leader, or style of leadership, does your child work with best?

---

---

## HEALTH AND MEDICAL

(PLEASE BE SURE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO INDICATED ON THE HEALTH FORM; THE MEDICAL STAFF DOES NOT SEE THIS FORM.)

CAMPER HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ CAMPER WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any medications the camper is taking and what the medications are for. (Please note that all medications, even non-prescription, must be secured at the Health Care Center and administered by a staff member.)

---

---

---

---

Please circle any of the following tendencies that merit watching or special attention and provide additional information below:

|                |              |                  |              |          |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------|
| Bed-wetting    | Tires easily | Dietary concerns | Constipation | Fainting |
| Food allergies | Sleepwalking | ADD/ADHD         | Nightmares   | Asthma   |

Other comments:

---

---

Does the camper have any special dietary needs or are there any eating habits that should be monitored (foods they will not eat, food allergies, unusual dietary habits, etc)?

---

---

## MISCELLANEOUS

Is there anything that has not been previously covered that you would like us to know about your child? (Please feel free to attach additional sheets as needed.)

---

---

---

THIS FORM COMPLETED BY \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP TO CAMPER \_\_\_\_\_



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
**FOR HEALTHY LIVING**  
**FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

# CAMP IMMOKALEE

## Camper to Counselor Letter

This letter to your cabin counselor will help him/her get ready for your arrival at camp. The information you provide will help your counselors get to know you better. Your counselors will also use some of the information to help them plan afternoon activities for you and your cabin mates. (Younger campers may need parental help in completing this letter.)

### Dear Counselor:

My full name is \_\_\_\_\_, but my friends just call me \_\_\_\_\_.

The things I like to do most with my friends are \_\_\_\_\_

What I like most about school is \_\_\_\_\_

and what I like least about school is \_\_\_\_\_

Most of my friends would probably describe me as someone who is \_\_\_\_\_

If you were to ask my best friend about me, they would say that I \_\_\_\_\_

The qualities I like most in people are \_\_\_\_\_

My best friends are people whom \_\_\_\_\_

I am coming to Camp Immokalee because \_\_\_\_\_

The kind of counselor I would like to have most is one that \_\_\_\_\_

As my counselors, I also want you to know that \_\_\_\_\_

When I get to Camp Immokalee, the things I want most to achieve or accomplish are \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am coming to YMCA Camp Immokalee to develop new skills, be a good sport and have a good time. I understand that there are camp guidelines that I must follow in order for everyone to have a safe and fun time. I agree to abide by YMCA Camp Immokalee's rules including being considerate of my cabin mates, cooperating with my counselors and practicing good health habits and personal hygiene. I agree not to have any illegal drugs, firearms, weapons or alcohol while participating in Camp Immokalee programs.

**CAMPER SIGNATURE**

**Former campers, please complete additional questions on the back of this form.**

## Former campers only.

If you have previously been a camper at YMCA Camp Immokalee, please complete the information below.

While at camp during the previous summer(s), the things which helped me grow the most were:

---

---

---

---

---

I have decided to return to camp because:

---

---

---

---

How did your camp help you during the school year?

---

---

---

---

What concerns do you have about returning to camp for another year?

---

---

---

---

What was the best part about your last summer at camp?

---

---

---

---

What was the worst part about your last summer at camp?

---

---

---

---

If you could change anything about camp, what would it be?

---

---

---

---

**Thank you for taking the time to provide your counselors with this information.**