



# YMCA CAMP IMMOKALEE



# PARENT GUIDE 2020

## OVERNIGHT, DAY, AND RANCH CAMPS

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# YOUR HOME

Dear Camper Families,

We're excited to kick off our 111th summer of building healthy spirit, mind, and body at YMCA Camp Immokalee, and we're even more excited to share it with you! When naming Camp Immokalee all those years ago, the founders pulled from the Mikasuki language and chose a word I believe describes Camp Immokalee perfectly. "Immokalee" means "your home."



In all my camp experience, I have never seen a community quite like ours. We often use the phrase "catch the magic," and there really is something incredibly magical about this place and these people.

Behind the magic, though, we're extremely intentional in making Camp Immokalee a home to everyone who drives through our gates. Part of the YMCA's mission statement says "for all," and we strive to ensure we really live that mission. We see our campers, parents, staff, alumni, and community as part of our family. We train our staff to think and act that way and accept nothing less, and we ask our campers to follow the model our staff set.

To us, being a family goes beyond showing each other respect. Being a family means wanting the best for each other and helping each other achieve the best. It means communicating honestly with one another. It means welcoming everyone around us – no matter who they are or where they come from.

Thank you for your support and for putting your trust in us. Whether it's your first time or tenth time, welcome home to YMCA Camp Immokalee. Catch the magic.

Yours in camping,

Allison East  
Executive Director



# YMCA OF FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST YMCA CAMP IMMOKALEE



ARCHERY RANGE



RIFLE RANGE



RANCH IMMOKALEE



IMMOKALEE RD.



## 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+

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

Check In takes place in the Dining Hall. Follow our parking signs and flags!

## CHECKING OUT

Check out will take place in the Dining Hall from 10:00-11:00am. An optional Closing Ceremony will take place before check out.

Campers will only be released to adults with a valid ID who are listed on their pickup list.

## CLOSING PROGRAM

Your camper's experience will be celebrated at our Closing Ceremony from 9:00-10:00am on Sunday. We will recap the week, hear from campers, share songs and traditions, and more.

## STAYOVERS

Stayover weekends are available between sessions so that your camper can enjoy a fun, relaxing weekend at camp.

### Available Stayover Weekends

Sessions 1 & 2: June 13-14  
Sessions 3 & 4: July 4-5  
Sessions 4 & 5: July 18-19  
Sessions 5 & 6: July 25-26  
Sessions 6 & 7: August 1-2

Cost: \$75



## MAIL & CARE PACKAGES

Parents can mail letters and care 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 through email at [cimmokalee@fcymca.org](mailto:cimmokalee@fcymca.org)

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

## PACKING LIST

Packing can be done in any kind of container — chests, stacking drawers, duffel bags, or suitcases. Some families (especially of younger campers) will pack daily outfits in Ziploc bags. We encourage you to label your campers' items. You can do this with a simple permanent marker, or you can use a company like Identame (available online).

### BRING

- Bedding (for single bed)
- Pillow
- Water bottle
- Towels
- Washcloths
- Bathing suits
- Underwear
- Shorts
- Socks
- T-shirts
- Laundry bag or old pillowcase
- Flashlight
- Rain gear
- Tennis shoes
- Shower shoes
- Soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Comb
- Brush
- Sunblock/suntan lotion
- Insect repellent
- Long pants (Ranch Camp or trail/ring ride)

### CONSIDER BRINGING

- Hat/cap for sun protection
- Camera
- Stationary
- Stamps
- Journal

### LEAVE AT HOME

- Phones and other electronics
- Weapons
- Tobacco products
- Illegal substances
- Fireworks

# OVERNIGHT CAMP

## TYPICAL DAY

8:00	Breakfast
8:45	Cleanup Teams
9:15	Activity 1
10:25	Activity 2
11:35	Free Choice
12:35	Flagpole
12:45	Lunch
1:30	Rest Period
2:40	Activity 3
3:40	Activity 4
4:50	Clubs
5:50	Flagpole
6:00	Dinner
6:45	Dress/Prep
7:30	Evening Activity
8:45	Camp Store



## THEME WEEKS

Session 1: June 7-13  
**Camper vs. Wild**

Session 2: June 14-27  
**Ultimate Color Wars**

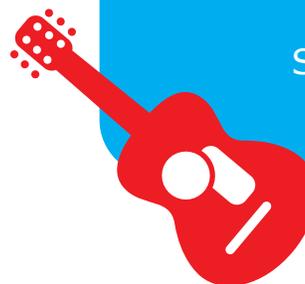
Session 3: June 27 – July 4  
**Olympics**

Session 4: July 5-18  
**Harry Potter**

Session 5: July 19-25  
**Wet 'n Wild**

Session 6: July 26 – August 1  
**Color Wars**

Session 7: August 2-8  
**Camp Rock**



## BEFORE YOU GO



Coming to camp, whether for the first time or the eighteenth time, 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.

Try these tips:

- 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.

### HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness isn't a bad word. It's a normal part of life. In fact, according to the American Psychological Association, about 90 percent of young people reported feeling some sad feelings when spending time away from home. Homesickness can occur in varying levels, and many times, a little homesickness can be good for campers — by the end of the week, they'll know it's just one more thing they're capable of getting through. Our staff are trained to work through homesickness with our campers. In the event your camper experiences severe homesickness, one of our leadership team members will give you a call. We believe that you know your camper better than we do, so we'll let you decide if talking to your camper will make the situation better or worse. From there, we'll work together to make a plan for your camper's success.

## DROP-OFF

Drop-off takes place in the Day Camp Hut. Drop-off begins at 7:00am and ends at 7:50am, right before breakfast.

## PICK-UP

Pick-up begins at 5:00pm and ends at 6:00pm in the Day Camp Hut. Parents or guardians coming to pick up must show photo ID (state-issued ID, passport, or military ID) and must be listed on the child's registration paperwork to pick up the child. Staff will check ID daily, or until they are familiar with the adult picking up. If you are late (after 6:00pm) to pick your child up, a \$1/per child/per minute charge will be applied.

## TYPICAL DAY

<b>7-8:00</b>	Drop-Off
<b>8-8:45</b>	Breakfast
<b>8:45</b>	Cleanup Teams
<b>9:15</b>	Activity 1
<b>10:25</b>	Activity 2
<b>11:35</b>	Free Choice
<b>12:35</b>	Flagpole
<b>12:45</b>	Lunch
<b>1:30</b>	Rest Period
<b>2:40</b>	Activity 3
<b>3:40</b>	Activity 4
<b>5:00-6:00</b>	Pick-up

## SELECTING ACTIVITIES

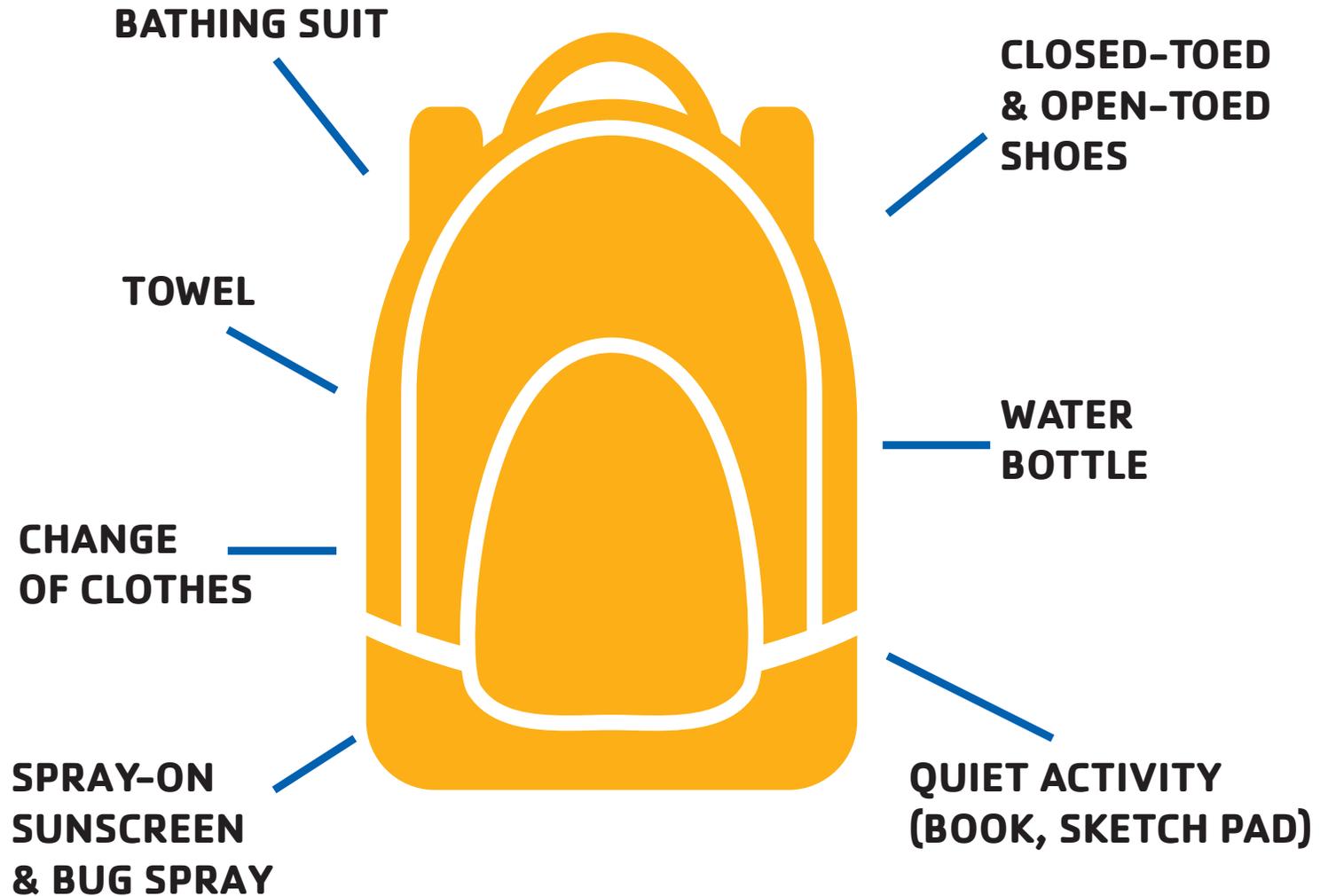
Parents will receive an email the Thursday before camp starts with a list of activities for your camper to choose from. Sit down with your camper and rank the activities based on their interest, and a schedule will be put together for them.

Activities cannot be guaranteed and are assigned on a first come, first served basis. If your camper's chosen activity is full, we will assign one that is as similar as possible.

## MEALS

Breakfast and lunch are provided daily and included in our pricing, but you are always welcome to bring a lunch from home!

## PACKING FOR DAY CAMP

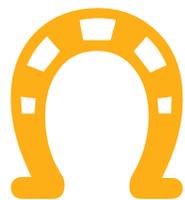


Your camper should bring their phone or electronic devices. See page 5 for a list of items that are not allowed at camp.

## OUR RANCH CAMP

Ranch Camp is an optional add-on that provides your camper two activity periods a day to begin their journey into becoming an equestrian. First-time Ranch Campers will be sorted into Ranch A or B groups, and will learn everything from grooming and leading a horse to groundwork and, of course, riding.

### RANCH SKILLS



#### FEEDING & LEADING

Ranch campers begin their studies into equestrianism by learning to lead, feed, and groom their steed.

#### TACKING

Campers will learn how to prepare their horse to ride, including saddling and bridling, as well as proper husbandry.



#### RIDING

Ranch campers will get on the saddle and learn proper riding technique and etiquette, from nudging the horse forward to steering with the reins.



#### DON'T FORGET

Ranch Campers will need to bring boots with a heel and long pants. If you already own a riding helmet, feel free to bring it!



# CAMP STORE

## OUR CAMP STORE

Camp Store provides an opportunity for campers to enjoy ice cream, chips, healthy snacks, drinks and more while learning basic budgeting skills. Parents can add money to their child's Camp Store account at check in, 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.

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

A small Camp Store will be open in the Dining Hall during check out if your camper would like to purchase any merchandise before they leave.

### WHAT WE STOCK

Our Camp Store stocks:

- Chips (Cheetos, Flaming Hot Cheetos, Lays variety, Takis, and more)
- Candy (M&Ms, Pixy Stix, Skittles, Hershey's variety, and more)
- Hummus
- Applesauce
- Ice cream
- Gatorade
- Water
- Sunglasses
- Shirts
- Bracelets
- Hats
- Journals

& MUCH more!



## BALANCE DUE

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

## 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 YMCA Camp Immokalee program sites.

## 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 Allison at [aeast@fcymca.org](mailto:aeast@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, come back to the Dining Hall to find Allison. There are no guarantees, but we'll see what we can do!

## CAMPER COMMUNICATION

Campers are not allowed to have phones at camp, but that doesn't mean you can't communicate with them! You can contact your camper two ways:

By sending an email to [Cimmokalee@fcymca.org](mailto: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

## CHECK OUT

Campers must be checked out by a parent or adult over 16 years old listed in their 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 of drugs and/or alcohol.

## 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

In an abundance of caution, YMCA Camp Immokalee will be changing its standard precautions throughout camp to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). We will be testing every child for fever upon check in, spreading out tables and chairs where possible during meals, and upping our sanitation regimen for cabin, bathhouse, and activity area cleanup.

## HEALTH CARE & 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 child's health (ex. your child vomits without reasonable cause, has a temperature of 101 F or higher, or has a fever for over 12 hours), 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. Because camp takes place in such close quarters, we screen all campers for lice, fever, and athlete's foot. 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 Dining Hall during check out. Parents are free to check. However, that doesn't include lost and found from your camper's cabin, which is often discovered and brought to us after campers have gone home. After checking out, parents are welcome to walk to the cabin to check the bathrooms, under the beds, the clotheslines, etc. to look for other items campers may have missed. Please remember to check out first so our staff can know who's at camp. 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 it or have a friend bring it home. 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 PlayerSpace, our paperwork platform. All forms should be complete two weeks prior to check in.

PlayerSpace is sometimes difficult to navigate, so if you have issues, feel free to visit the Parent Help Portal on PlayerSpace, or email Abbi at [apittman@fcymca.org](mailto:apittman@fcymca.org).

## 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 parent/adult prior to check in. Drop off any medication at during the health check with our health officer and pick up medication at check out. Please refrain from sending occasionally used over-the-counter medicine. Our infirmary keeps these items in stock. However, if you take 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 child may not be pictured every day, know that our photographer is doing their best to get as many shots as possible.

## REFUNDS

Due to the financial strain the COVID-19 crisis has placed on our camp families, our normal cancellation policy and payment schedule has been waived this year.

2020 Summer Camp Policy:

1. If the YMCA cancels the session (due to recommendations by the CDC and local health authorities):
  - a. If we are able to have some sessions but not all sessions (ex. June sessions are cancelled but July sessions happen), camp families will be able to switch to another session based on availability, OR;
  - b. Camp families can choose to donate all or a portion of their camp fees to YMCA Camp Immokalee. Donations help with the ongoing horse/property care as well as preparation work for summer which has already occurred (suggested donation: the deposit - \$150 per camper), OR;
  - c. Camp families can choose to roll their 2020 payments over to summer 2021, OR;
  - d. Camp families feeling the financial strain are eligible for a full refund, OR;
  - e. Camp families can make some combination of donation/rollover/refund.
2. If a family wishes to cancel the session:
  - a. Full refunds will be offered up to two weeks before the camp session is scheduled to begin. Please make the request in writing by emailing [CImmokalee@fcymca.org](mailto:CImmokalee@fcymca.org). Families are asked to consider donating a portion of their fees to YMCA Camp Immokalee to help with the ongoing horse/property care as well as preparation work for summer which has already occurred.
  - b. Deposits (\$150) and Ranch Camp/Trail Rides will be refundable up until 24 hours before camp.

We are grateful for all of our camp families and their trust and loyalty over many years. If you have to cancel and request a refund due to your family's circumstances, we understand and hope you will consider joining us again in the future!

Families who choose to convert their camp fees to a donation will receive donation acknowledgement letter at the end of the year for tax purposes.