

YPP & GENERAL INFORMATION for PARENTS

Drop off/Pick up: The YPP runs from 9:15am to 5:45pm. Although camp is hectic (especially for families!) we encourage parents to bring their children to the YPP on time each morning. Getting to YPP on time not only helps teachers with their planned activities, but also fosters a sense of routine for your child and allows for a smooth transition into the program. It can be challenging for children (especially the younger ones) to make the transition even if your child regularly attends a daycare center at home.

We require parents to fill out a form every day, during drop-off, outlining their daily schedule. Children cannot be left without contact information for the day. Please come prepared with your daily schedule so that staff may find you if needed.

Except for the under 2 age group, program sign-in times are only 9:15am and 1:00pm. If you would like to pick up your child early, you may do so, but you must keep him or her under your supervision for the rest of the day, and they will not be permitted to sign back into the program until the following day. All children must be signed out at the end of the day by 5:45.

Meals: Lunch is provided in the childcare-area for children in the two youngest groups. The two older age groups eat a supervised lunch in the dining hall together at a designated table. We provide light morning and afternoon snacks (crackers, fruit, veggies, juice, corn chips, etc) for all age groups.

All meals at camp are vegetarian with vegan options. Special, kid-friendly meals are made by the kitchen staff (example: if the adult's meal is spicy, curried-vegetables with rice, young people will be provided with rice and plain steamed vegetables). We are able to provide cow, soy and rice milk, but if your child has other special dietary needs (i.e. needs baby-food, formula, etc.), please bring what you need for the duration of your stay. If you have questions regarding food or allergies, please contact us.

Health Care: The Wellness Center at camp provides basic emergency supplies. All childcare classrooms have very basic first aid kits. However, we strongly suggest that you bring what you need to treat your child in the event of an illness. In previous years we have seen cases of the flu, colds, poison ivy, sun burn, head lice*, strep throat, and plenty of spider and bug bites.

Children who are ill (fever, chills, flu, sore throat, digestive disruptions, vomiting, etc.) and/or have contagious conditions (head lice, eye infections, strep throat, etc) will not be allowed into the YPP. Parents are expected to care for their children in these circumstances. On a more positive note, many members of our staff are trained in first aid and CPR, and we are absolutely diligent about hygiene.

*PLEASE check your children for head lice daily for a few days prior to camp. Early detection can prevent a community-wide infestation. (We have been free of any problems with lice for many years, and would like to maintain that record!)

What to Bring: Each child needs to bring an extra set of clothes, a bathing suit and towel, sunscreen (and other needed sun protection such as a hat) to YPP each day. All of your child's items must be labeled in permanent marker with your child's name. Although classrooms have cubbies to store your child's belongings, it is very helpful to have everything for your child contained in a bag or backpack. Transitional objects (a favorite blanket, stuffed animal, doll, etc) are also often helpful for young children. If you have more than one child, each one should have his/her own bag of things.

If you have a child who is potty training and/or in diapers make sure to leave extra diapers *and* an extra change of clothes at the YPP.

Items that are nice to have at camp include: slippers for inside the childcare cabins (the floors are COLD in the morning and shoes must be removed); enough clothes to dress in layers (we have chilly evening and mornings but hot afternoons); fun costumes; instruments; a wash basin, laundry detergent, clothes line, and clothes pins for cleaning/drying clothes; extra towels, blankets, and wash cloths; portable high chairs (especially the ones that "clip" onto the table for the dining hall); sports items (the camp has basketball courts, tennis courts, a waterfront area, and large grassy fields great for soccer and Frisbee); and strollers or carrying packs (strollers should have large wheels as the terrain at camp is rough).

What not to bring: We've found it best to keep "war" toys (soldiers, guns, etc), electronic toys, and hand-held computers out of the YPP. We do not advocate bringing children's bicycles to camp; in the past, they've caused many conflicts and accidents. If you do bring one for your child, be sure to bring a helmet, and be aware of the hazards involved - such as hidden roots on the paths, people walking in the evening, tent ropes, and other children begging to use the item.

Parent Chores: All adults at camp are required to do chores. If you are a parent of a young child (5 years or younger) you have the option of doing some of your chores in the YPP. Single parents of young children can do all of their chores in the YPP. During registration you can sign up for chore shifts in the YPP. It is important to keep in mind that when doing parent chores in the YPP you will be asked to do tasks such as supervising small groups of children, cleaning up the cabins, cleaning the bathrooms, and running errands for the teachers. We realize that it can be difficult (especially for young children) to share mom or dad with other kids, but in the interest of cooperation and community, we welcome and rely on parent input.

Please remember that we must have both a completed Health form and a completed Medical Release form for each child before s/he can join the Young People's Program.

Looking forward to seeing you at camp!
Susan McGinn, YPP Coordinator
susmcginn@earthlink.net
(413) 230-6503