

# Welcome to Kindercamp 2009!

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing to spend your summer with us at the A.E Finley YMCA! We understand the significance of your decision to send your child to camp, and we are excited that you are considering our Kindercamp program! Our leadership staff approaches every day with imagination, innovation and best of all, fun! Your child will experience days full of games, swimming, arts and crafts, creative play, and opportunities to make life long friends in the community.

We realize that many of these children have not spent time away from home. We are prepared to help you and your child with separation anxiety and homesick moments. We provide a loving and nurturing environment, and structure our days with easy transition times for the younger ages. Because these children are so excited to be part of camp, we provide opportunities for parents to visit during family lunch times and family fun days.

We are here because we love kids and believe that by creating a unique environment in which every child is valued, we strengthen your family and our community. Each member of our camp staff believes that every child should have a chance to grow and shine in a caring and nurturing environment. We hope that your child will come grow with us this summer!

Sincerely,

Angela Miterko  
Camp Director  
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Family Programs Director  
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# Daily Logistics

## **Pick-Up Cards:**

All parents/guardians will be issued a pick-up card either at registration, orientation or on the first day your child attends a YMCA program. This card acts like a photo i.d.; cards will only be issued to those on the pick-up list. You must present a picture i.d. in order to receive your pick-up card. All returning campers will be issued new cards as the cards change colors each year.

## **Late Fees:**

Parents who arrive late to pick up their children will be charged a late fee of \$5 for the first 10 minutes and an additional \$1 for every minute there after. Late fees are to be paid at the time of pick-up. Cash or checks made payable to the YMCA are acceptable forms of payment.

## **Absences:**

If your child is sick or unable to attend summer camp, please contact your program's office prior to the start of the program on that day.

## **Parent Visits:**

Please feel free to stop by any time during program hours. Parents and other visitors are always welcome at any of our YMCA programs. For the safety of our campers, a visitor's pass must be obtained from the program's office before being allowed to tour the program.

## **Inclement Weather:**

Camp will run rain or shine unless Wake County Year Round Schools are **closed**, because of inclement weather. Please note that if there is inclement weather during the camp day (i.e. thunder or lightning) there will be no swimming. On days that there is inclement weather during Rides In or Out, we ask that parents please park and walk their children inside to drop off or park and walk inside to pick their children up.

**Note:** If schools are closed for an extended period of time the YMCA will make every effort to re-open our camps as weather and facilities permit. This will be determined on a daily basis and will only occur if the facility can be opened and the staff can safely get to work. It is the parent's responsibility to check the YMCA website to determine if camps will operate. We may run on an abbreviated schedule.

If schools are **delayed**, all YMCA programs are delayed by the same amount of time (i.e. if year round schools starts 2 hours late, summer camp will start two hours late).

### **Swim Band Policy:**

To ensure water safety, campers will take a swim test on the first day of the session or on his/her first day attending the program. Color-coded swim bands will be used to enable life guards to differentiate swimmers of different abilities. Even if your child has attended a YMCA program prior to this summer, he/she will still be required to take a swim test on his/her first day of camp.

If your child has already taken a swim test at the Finley YMCA, we have recorded the color swim band he/she received in our computer system. As campers take swim tests this summer, we will update our computer system. Each camper who does not already have a swim band will be issued a new band on his/her first day of camp. If your camper already has a swim band, we ask that you send that band to camp with the child. If a camper misplaces a swim band at any time during the summer, he/she must purchase a new swim band for \$3.00. The camper will not need to re-test at this point because we will have each child's swim band color recorded in our computer system. We will not allow campers to borrow swim bands if they forget or misplace their bands. If a camper does not have a band on swim day, he/she will either need to pay \$3.00 to purchase a new one or he/she will be required to swim in the shallow area of the pool.

There are two different swim band colors that your child can test for. A yellow band can be earned by freestyle (face in water and arms out of water) swimming half of the length of the pool and treading water for 30 seconds. Earning a yellow band allows a child to swim in the shallow area or the middle area (4-5feet) of the pool. Each area is clearly marked.

A black swim band can be earned by freestyle swimming the entire length of the pool and treading water for 60 seconds. Earning a black band allows a child to swim anywhere in the pool.

The life guards will administer all swim tests. If a life guard does not feel like a child is a strong enough swimmer to receive a swim band, then the life guard will encourage the child to keep practicing and try again at a later date.

Children in grades K-2 who do not pass a swim test or who do not wish to take a swim test will be required to wear a YMCA life vest and will swim in the shallow area of the pool only. Children in grades 3-8 who do not pass a swim test or who do not wish to take a swim test will be required to swim in the shallow end of the pool only.

## **Contacting Us:**

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding your child's day or the operations of our programs in general, we would be happy to speak with you. Please do not hesitate to call us. Our contact numbers is listed on the Camp Fact Sheet towards the end of this packet.

## **Medical/ Emergency Information**

If medications need to be given during program hours, please review the policies below. **Our staff cannot administer medicine to any camper without the following:**

- A completed and signed "Medication Form" which is available at the program office.
- A written and dated note from your physician for ANY over the counter medicine.

All prescription medication must be kept in the original container in which it was received from the pharmacy. The container should include the prescribing doctor's name, name of medication, procedures for use, and the child's name. Any medication sent to camp must be checked in at the program office by the parent/guardian.

If your child has an epi-pen or an inhaler, these items must also be checked in at the program office and a medication form must be filled out.

Please note that if your child attends multiple YMCA programs (i.e. Summer Camp, SOS, After School, Tracking Out), we ask that you please provide a signed medication form and your child's medicine to each program that your child attends. We are not able to move medications between programs/sites nor are we able to allow campers to transport medications between programs/sites.

## **Illness and Emergency Procedures:**

If a camper becomes ill during the program day and is unable to participate in activities, the parent/guardian will be notified. If a camper is hurt, a member of the staff or an authorized person will administer immediate first aid. If the situation should require immediate medical attention, the program director or a member of the staff will attempt to contact and inform the parent/guardian as soon as possible. In the event that the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the emergency contacts will be called. The program director or another staff member will call the designated physician and/or local emergency unit for treatment

and/or transportation to a hospital. A staff member will accompany the camper to the hospital and stay until the parent/guardian arrives and signs the camper into his/her custody.

## **Behavioral Guidelines and Policies**

### **YMCA Rules:**

To ensure that our programs are safe, pleasant, and fun-filled for all children and staff, our basic YMCA rules are clearly communicated and consistently enforced. They include:

- Safety First
- Listen and Follow Directions
- Try Everything and Give Your Best
- Do What is Right
- Have Fun

### **An Emphasis on the Positive:**

We realize that the single most effective behavior management tool at our disposal is an emphasis on positive behavior. Our counselors are trained to constantly look for opportunities to praise or otherwise reinforce positive behavior. Common reinforcers include (but are not limited to): verbal praise, a high-five or hug, and/or program wide recognition (for example, being named “Camper of the Day” and “Honor Camper”). As often as possible counselors will share incidents or positive behavior with parents.

### **YMCA-Home Partnership:**

Sometimes families have specific concerns regarding their child’s behavior or are working in the home and school to modify certain behaviors. Our staff welcomes the opportunity to support these efforts. Please do not hesitate to speak with the Program Director if you have concerns or if you would like for us to support any work that you are doing at home or at school with your child. We will be happy to include your child’s counselor(s) in a discussion regarding specific approaches or concerns.

### **Suspension/Expulsion:**

While it is our hope that these procedures and a strong YMCA-home partnership will promote positive behavior (and minimize behavioral problems), serious and/or chronic disciplinary problems can occur. In these cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary.

The YMCA maintains a zero-tolerance policy with respect to sexual misconduct, alcohol/tobacco/drug use, and weapons possession. Campers found in violation of this rule will be sent home immediately.

If your child is suspended from one YMCA program, he/she will not be allowed to attend any YMCA program for the duration of the suspension.

## **What Makes YMCA Camps Special?**

### **Character Traits:**

The YMCA believes strongly in character development and in teaching our campers the importance of our four core character traits: respect, responsibility, caring, and honesty. We spend time reinforcing these traits at camp by pointing out campers who display these traits throughout the day and by rewarding campers with beads.

### **Beads:**

Each elementary age camper who attends a YMCA camp will receive a bead necklace on his or her first day at camp. These necklaces are very important to your children so please help them take care of their bead necklaces. Throughout each day at camp your child will have the opportunity to earn beads for his or her necklace by displaying a YMCA character trait, by participating in clinics, by showing spirit in assemblies, and by being a good friend. Each camp has different beads with different meanings but ALL camps will give out beads to recognize campers who display our character traits.

If your child loses his or her bead necklace, there is a \$2.00 charge to replace it. You may also want to keep a list of the beads that your child earns so that the beads can be replaced with the necklace. We do not keep a record of beads earned for each child.

Campers in middle school or high school attending Camp Upward Bound will receive a Carabiner instead of a bead necklace. Campers can earn character trait rings to display on their Carabiners.

Campers who attend our Kindercamp program will each receive their necklace and beads on Fridays based on the beads they have earned throughout the week.

### **Devotion:**

The YMCA believes strongly in our mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. We incorporate our mission into our daily programs in many ways... one of the most important means of sharing our mission is by holding daily devotions with our campers. Devotions are a time of sharing our YMCA character traits as well as

sharing Bible stories and verses with campers. If you have further questions about this part of our day, please talk with your child's Camp Director.

### **Parent Communication:**

The YMCA will make every effort to communicate with you about camp activities and special events as well as about your individual child. We communicate through session newsletters, e-mails, signs posted in Rides In and Rides Out, phone calls, and face to face during Rides In and Rides Out. If there is ever a time when you feel that you need more information about your child or about your child's camp, please let your Camp Director know.

### **Staff:**

Many of you are probably wondering who will be working with your child while he or she attends YMCA summer camp. Our counselors at the YMCA are mostly high school and college students. In our preschool programs, there are also many preschool teachers. These staff are selected through a comprehensive application and interview process. Each counselor undergoes three reference checks and all counselors over the age of 18 undergo a background check as well. Each staff member completes a minimum of 30 hours of staff training that emphasizes the importance of safety, fun, and acting as a good role model. The YMCA strives to maintain a 1:7 ratio for preschool programs and a 1:10 ratio for all elementary/teen programs.

Children that are transported for field trips and swimming are transported on YMCA vehicles driven by YMCA drivers. All YMCA drivers are required to attend a driver's training class and must be 21 years of age or 20 years of age with three years driving experience. They must pass both a written and driving test before being allowed to transport children. In addition, each driver must pass a DMV background check and a drug test. All bus drivers must hold a current CDL license with a passenger endorsement.

### **Micro Play Ball:**

There will be a separate huddle for those campers enrolled in Camp Play Ball. They will attend assembly with Kindercamp but be pulled out afterwards for sports instruction. Campers may bring cleats, shin guards, gloves and balls but they are NOT required. If you bring items from home please label everything. The YMCA will provide all essential equipment.



# Kindercamp

## Where is Kindercamp held?

North Raleigh Church of the Nazarene  
9200 Strickland Road  
(at the corner of Six Forks and Strickland Rd.)

## What are the program hours and dates?

Kindercamp runs from 8:30AM-12:30PM.  
Camp is one week sessions running from June 15<sup>th</sup> – August 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Who are the directors of Kindercamp?

Angela Miterko, Director  
[Miterkone@gmail.com](mailto:Miterkone@gmail.com) or 919-815-5976  
Adrienne Morton, Family Programs Director  
[Adrienne.morton@ymcatriangle.org](mailto:Adrienne.morton@ymcatriangle.org)

## What are the drop off and pick up times for camp?

Rides In and Out is located at the front of the church (the same location as preschool drop off and pick-up)

- Rides In starts at 8:30am and runs until 9:00am.
- Rides Out starts at 12:00pm and runs until 12:30pm.

If you are unable to drop off or pick up your child during the designated times, please do so at the camp office. The camp office is located in the church. Only side doors next to the playground will be open. All other doors will remain locked.

## What if I pick up my child late?

Rides out ends at 12:30pm. Beginning at 12:40, a late fee of \$5.00 will apply. Each minute thereafter will result in an additional \$1.00 fee. This fee is payable at drop-off the following day.

## What will my child need to bring/wear to camp?

- A snack (no nut products) & drink (no red juice)
  - Wear a bathing suit on swim days\*
  - Towel and a change of underwear
  - Change of clothes
  - Tennis Shoes – no sandals or heeled shoes please.
- Please pack these items in a labeled duffel or book bag.

*\* The week prior to your child's first day of camp you will receive a newsletter which will include the swim schedule for the week. Children will be swimming on alternating days. Please note that children will ride a YMCA bus to and from the branch on their swim days. Transportation guidelines are available upon request. Car/booster seats are not allowed.*

## What kinds of activities are planned for my child?

Kindercamp will be full of fun games, swimming, assemblies, values times, theme days, arts & crafts and much more. This summer will be an exciting time for your child!

## What does a typical day look like?

8:30-- 9:00	Rides In
9:00 – 9:30	Assembly
9:30--10:00	Activities
10:00 – 10:30	Huddle Time & Snack
10:30 – 11:30	Swimming/Water Activity
11:30 – 12:00	Activities/Closing Assembly
12:00--12:30	Rides Out

## How can parents get involved?

Campers and their families will be invited to a brown bag lunch (bring your own) each Friday and a family party on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Kindercamp staff will also be encouraging volunteerism this summer. We would love parent involvement with daily activities, reading stories, special guests during themed weeks, and our annual upcoming We Build People Campaign! Please contact Angela Miterko for more information.

## What are the theme weeks at Kindercamp this summer?

June 15-19	Pirates & Princesses
June 22-26	Everyone's An Athlete
June 29-July 2	Under The Big Top
July 6-10	Getting Buggy
July 13-17	Wet n' Wild
July 20-24	Fairytales Forest
July 27-31	Superheroes
Aug 3-7	Messy Art
Aug 10-14	Sizzling Summer Safari
Aug 17-21	Racing to the Finish Line

## Potty Training

We encourage all children to be potty trained before entering camp. We realize that many children will be learning to use the potty this summer and we want to support you and your child in this new endeavor! If your child is still unsure of the potty, have he/she wear a pull-up to camp; no diapers please. Swim diapers are allowed in the pool area.