



CAMP RISING SUN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAMP BASICS

When does Camp Rising Sun operate? Monday–Friday; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Where is Camp Rising Sun located? Camp Rising Sun is located at the Taylor Family YMCA, 101 YMCA Dr. Cary, NC 27523. The Taylor Family YMCA shares the building with YMCA members and other programs. Most activities at Camp Rising Sun (about 90%) take place outdoors. Shaded areas and water stations are available throughout our Camp space to keep campers cool and hydrated.

How does drop off and pick up work? Rides In (drop off) will take place in the front loop by the flag at the YMCA. Please stay in your car. From 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., we will have a staff member in that loop opening car doors, greeting you, and checking campers in. Rides Out (pick up) is from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and will be run in the same loop. Please use the second entrance to the Taylor Y (if you are coming off of Cary Parkway onto YMCA Drive) and take an immediate left and head towards the front of the building loop. The person picking up must have their pick-up card (provided on your child's first day of camp) and an ID as a safety precaution. If you are dropping off or picking up outside of our Rides In and Rides Out times (between 9:00am – 4:30 p.m.), please park in the loop, stay in your car and call 919-653-2155. A staff member will come to you!

Can I drop off early? For the safety of your child, we cannot allow children to be dropped off prior to Rides In/7 a.m. while our staff are setting up for camp.

What happens if I'm late to pick up? After camp closes at 6:00 p.m., a late fee applies. The fee is \$5 for the first 10 minutes and \$1 for every minute thereafter. If you are stuck in traffic or recognize you will be late, please call the Camp Office at 919-653-2155.

What does my camper need to bring to camp?

- Backpack with a bathing suit, towel, and flip flops/sandals. At Camp Rising Sun campers have the option to swim every day.
- Campers should wear weather appropriate, comfortable clothes, socks and tennis shoes
- Bead necklace (your camper will receive this on their first day of camp)
- Insulated lunch box or cooler with a lunch, two snacks and a reusable water bottle labeled with their name. We do not have refrigerators for campers' lunch boxes and most lunches are stored outdoors, so a substantial amount ice packs are recommended in lunch boxes/coolers to keep food cool
- Extra changes of clothes are recommended for children that may have accidents or for younger campers
- Please label all items you send to camp with your camper's first and last name to assist us in returning all lost and found
- Toys, personal listening devices, portable game devices, cell phones, trading cards, stuffed animals, pets and money should stay at home. The YMCA is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken items

How are children divided into groups? For activities such as morning attendance, lunch time, snack time and huddle times, campers are divide into "huddles" based on age and grade. Camp is staffed at a 1:10 ratio with camp counselors and leadership staff supervising campers and running activities. While campers are in their huddles, two camp counselors are with each huddle.

Can I have a tour of Camp? Because we have youth programs running all day and all year, we are not able to give tours in our program spaces while youth programs are running. If you and your camper would like to see the spaces that we will use while at Camp, you can attend a tour of the facility at the Taylor Family YMCA during our operating hours that are posted on our website. Come in to the front desk, ask the staff for a tour and indicate that you would like to see the areas that youth programs uses—our front desk staff are happy to show you around!

Will there be a camper orientation? A few weeks before Camp starts, you will receive an email with a recorded Family Orientation video for you to watch together with your camper that goes over everything you will need to know about Camp, in addition to this FAQ page.

PROGRAMMING

What will my child do on a typical day? Our camp day is packed with awesome activities! The day includes rides in, morning snack and attendance, morning assembly, swimming, open programming periods, lunch time, huddle times, camp times and rides out.

What is Open Programming? At Camp Rising Sun, we do a style of programming that offers choice to campers called Open Programming. Campers will do morning attendance/meetings, lunch and snack times, huddle times and camp times in their huddle groups. Outside of times with their huddles, Camp has three activity or Open Programming periods throughout the day. During one of the Open Programming periods, your camper will have the option to go swimming with their age group or choose from a variety of activities to go to. They have the option to pick from choices like arts and crafts, archery, different themed-activities based on that week's theme and a rotation of a variety of sports like soccer, basketball, lacrosse and more. Your camper can stay at the same activity the whole 45-minute time slot or go to multiple activities and try different things.

What are RANKS? Open Programming makes it possible for us to offer RANK activities, which are activities where campers have the opportunity to develop skills and level up in various activities. Examples of areas where your camper can RANK up are arts and crafts, performing arts, archery, soccer and basketball. When your camper ranks up they will receive a certificate and a bead for their bead necklace.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTINUED...

PROGRAMMING CONTINUED...

What are the bead necklaces for? Every camper will receive a bead necklace on their first day of camp! Their bead necklace will have their name and huddle on it and it is where your camper will put the beads that they collect throughout their time at Camp. Campers earn beads by ranking up in activities, earning unique camp counselor beads and by displaying good character. Campers will participate in bead time, bandana time for middle schoolers, at the end of each day and will have the opportunity to receive character beads as well as give them to their peers.

What are your Character Traits? At Y day camps we focus on five main character traits and use huddle times and bead times to have lessons about these traits. Each character trait coincides with a color of a bead: caring (red), honesty/good sportsmanship (blue), responsibility (green), respect (yellow) and faith (purple).

When is Spirit Day? Wednesday is our Spirit Day at camp! If your camper would like to participate, they can wear as much of their camp color as they can! Camp K (rising Kindergarten) is purple, Camp 1 (rising grades 1 & 2) is red, Camp 2 (rising grades 3-5) is blue, Camp 3 (rising grades 6-8) is green, and CILTs (rising grades 9 & 10) are black

What are Family Nights? Camp Rising Sun offers three family nights each summer! Family Nights are an opportunity for the whole family to come and check out Camp and participate in our fun activities. Campers love to show their families around where they spend their day and introduce them to their camp counselors. You can come to Family Night even if your camper is not registered that week or if you are registered for a future week and haven't attended yet that summer. Family Night dates are posted on our website and details will be included in the weekly newsletter.

SWIMMING

When does my child swim? Campers have the option to swim every day at Camp Rising Sun during their age group's assigned time. Rising Kindergarten swim in the kiddie pool and all other age groups swim in a pool

What is the swim assessment? Safety at the pool is a top priority for us—swim assessments are given on each Monday of camp to earn a swim band that allows children to swim in different parts of the pool (shallow end, deep end, etc.) based on their level of swimming ability. This test includes swimming the length of the pool (to earn a black band) or half the length of the pool (to earn a yellow band) with no goggles, getting the face wet and then treading water for 30 seconds. The assessment is administered by the lifeguard staff. Children without a swim band are required to wear one of our Coast Guard approved life jackets while at the pool.

Does Camp Rising Sun offer swim lessons? You may choose to place your child in swim lessons with our Aquatics Department (register online) for an additional fee. Camp Rising Sun staff will walk campers to and from the 9 a.m. swim lesson session if your camper is checked in to camp by 8:45 a.m. Please send your camper ready to go for swim lessons in their bathing suit.

IMPORTANT FORMS & COMMUNICATION

How do you manage medications? We are able to administer both daily and emergency medications. Please bring all medications to us in their original containers on the first day of camp along with a completed medication form. Medication forms will be provided in our newsletter or can be found on our website.

Can I send my camper with sunscreen? If your child needs assistance in applying spray on sunscreen, we can do so if you provide us with the sunscreen and complete our Sunscreen Administration Form located on our website. As a safety precaution, we cannot assist a child with applying lotion sunscreen.

How will you communicate with me this summer? An email will be emailed to you the Friday before the beginning of each camp week your campers are registered. This newsletter will have important information happening each week including: dress up days, special events and more. Please be sure to have an accurate email on file with us. We will also communicate in person at Rides In/Out and through phone calls when needed. An email with the week's remaining lost and found items is sent the Friday of each week your camper attended camp. If your camper has any lost items once Camp has closed for the week, they can be picked up M-F during Camp hours of 7 a.m.—6 p.m.

REGISTRATION

All registration is completed online. Registration is by week, and we do not offer partial day or week registration. If you are having trouble getting registered, need to cancel a week or have questions about Financial Assistance, contact our Customer Success (Customer Service) Team: CustomerSuccess@YMCATriangle.org / 919-719-9989

Cancellations require a two week notice via email to our Customer Success Team in order to receive a refund.

CONTACT INFORMATION

When Camp is not in session (End of August—beginning of June), contact the Camp Director with questions.

Camp Director: Julie Barnes-Delgado / Julie.Barnes-Delgado@YMCATriangle.org

When Camp is in session (Jun 16—Aug 22, 2025), contact the Camp Office with questions.

Camp Office: CampRisingSun@YMCATriangle.org / 919-653-2155