



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## KOKOMO FAMILY YMCA SUMMER STEM CAMP PARENT GUIDE 2021

### Welcome to YMCA Camp Tycony!

The YMCA is the nation's leader in camping, offering outdoor programming for over 100 years. The Kokomo Family YMCA serves over 200 children at Camp Tycony each summer and we are excited to have your camper experience what the Y has to offer. You are in for a fun-filled, exciting session at Summer STEM Camp. NiSource Charitable Foundation, the charitable foundation supported by NIPSCO's parent company NiSource Inc., and the Kokomo Family YMCA are excited to offer this specialty camp. This STEM Camp is designed to enrich your child's understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Your child will participate in hands-on activities at our beautiful camp.

Established in 1954, our goal at Camp Tycony is to provide a safe, wholesome, Christian environment for campers to experience outdoor adventures and grow physically, mentally and spiritually so that they may achieve their greatest God-given potential. Our focus at camp is to encourage campers to demonstrate four key character traits: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility while creating an environment that promotes belonging, achievement, and positive relationships. Keeping our mission and purpose in the forefront allows us to reach our goal of the YMCA pillars of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

The YMCA is committed first and foremost to the safety of your child. YMCA professionals supervise all Camp Tycony staff. We place a serious emphasis on safety standards by requiring our counselors to complete an extensive pre-camp training, including CPR, First Aid, AED and Child Abuse Prevention, along with specific training in the areas of working with children, discipline, group dynamics, safety and programming. All YMCA staff go through background checks prior to hiring. We take pride in the high expectations we set for our camp staff each year and evaluate them on a regular basis.

Please read through this guide and let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

A.J. Edwards  
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Kokomo Family YMCA  
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### PROGRAM SESSIONS

Summer STEM Camp runs four week-long sessions:

SESSION	DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Session 1	June 21-25, 2021	Friday, June 18
Session 2	June 28-July 2, 2021	Friday, June 25
Session 3	July 5-9, 2021	Friday, July 2
Session 4	July 12-16, 2021	Friday, July 9

There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$10.00 that will be assessed at the time you submit your application. If you email the application, the fee must be paid by the Friday before the week your child will be in attendance. Please fill out the enrollment application and submit to the Downtown YMCA front desk or Camp Office by the registration deadline. You may also scan/email to [stemcamp@kokomoymca.org](mailto:stemcamp@kokomoymca.org).

## **PROGRAM HOURS**

Summer STEM Camp runs from 9:00am to 1:30pm, Monday through Friday. Before and after care is offered from 6:30am to 9:00am and 1:30pm to 6:00pm. All campers must arrive by 9:00am.

## **PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Parents must follow all established policies and procedures outlined in the Summer STEM Camp enrollment form and this guide.
- Parents are responsible for reading all emails, newsletters, signs and flyers at Camp Tycony to keep well-informed about the program.
- Parents should read and review the Youth Code of Conduct with their children prior their first day at Camp Tycony.
- Camp Tycony is a beautiful 52-acre camp. If you need to pick up your child quickly from camp and cannot wait a few minutes, please call ahead at 765-434-3711 or let our Office Staff know when you sign your child in.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

Going to camp is a very exciting experience for campers and parents. It's very natural for everyone to be anxious about the first day of camp and meeting new friends. Hopefully, the following information will familiarize everyone with camp procedures and minimize "first day" anxiety. YMCA Camp Tycony has well-trained staff that are focused on meeting the needs of individual campers and are committed to serving as excellent role models.

- Campers will participate in a variety of STEM activities led by our STEM counselors.
- Dress for the weather. The camp day will continue rain or shine.
- Always make sure your child is wearing tennis shoes. Campers will not be permitted on our grounds in sandals, flip-flops, or croc-style shoes.
- Campers are very active during camp. Therefore, have your camper wear "play clothes" that can become dirty or muddy.
- Lunch will be provided by Kokomo School Corporation.
- Your camper will probably come home tired and may need additional rest after a day of high-energy activities.
- Label all items with your camper's name. Be sure to send sunscreen and bug spray with your child.
- Please don't send valuable clothing or items to camp, including jewelry or electronics. Cell phones are not permitted at Camp Tycony.
- Make sure all forms are completed the week prior to attending camp. This will save time at check-in.

We take special care of our campers. The program is progressively structured to challenge children according to their age. Campers stay with their counselors throughout the entire day. However, YMCA lifeguards and camp counselors supervise waterfront activities. Our program is designed to give children an introduction to a wide variety of camp activities, along with providing them the opportunity for creative expression.

## **VIEWING OUR DAILY ADVENTURES**

We use SmugMug to share pictures of our programs. Pictures of our campers and staff will be posted in a gallery at [kokomoymca.smugmug.com](http://kokomoymca.smugmug.com). Pictures will only be posted of campers that have signed photo/video releases and all camper albums are password-protected. Please contact A.J. Edwards for the password.

## **IT'S WEATHER OR NOT**

In the event of severe weather such as thunderstorms or tornado warnings, we will take immediate cover in our Lodge. The Director will stay alert for weather advisories.

Staff members are trained to handle severe weather conditions such as storms, tornadoes, and heat conditions. During heat advisories, campers continue activities at a slower pace and will see an increased amount of water breaks. We will adjust schedules so that children will not be participating in field sports during the hottest parts of the day.

## **LEAVE IT AT HOME**

The YMCA is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables. Please make sure your child leaves toys, trading cards, video games, iPods, cell phones, candy and other electronic devices at home. Campers will not be allowed to

use these items, and if they do, they will be confiscated and returned to the parent or guardian at check-out. At the Y, we make sure our programs are packed with activities and these personal items can often be a distraction.

## **BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS**

The Y expects all children to demonstrate the four core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. Children are expected to follow our Youth Code of Conduct at all times. Children who fail to exhibit these core values will be counseled by Y staff. YMCA employees use positive discipline approaches (including redirection and teaching the importance of following our core values) to modify behavior. Y staff respect children and do not participate in any forms of physical discipline or corporal punishment, including spanking, hitting, or using exercise as punishment. Should discipline problems arise that require parent/guardian involvement, the Y will follow these steps below:

- First Offense - Corrective Action Plan issued.
- Second Offense - Corrective Action Plan revised and/or suspension from the program.
- Third Offense - Corrective Action Plan revised and/or dismissal from the program.

Please Note: These steps are guidelines and YMCA Directors reserve the right to adjust consequences on an individual basis as the situation warrants. We want all of our children to enjoy their experiences at the Y. We also want all of our children to be physically, emotionally, and mentally safe when in our programs. Children who interfere with the mental, emotional, or physical safety of others may not find this program a good fit and may be asked to leave. If your child is dismissed from the program due to behavior, no refunds or credits will be issued.

**All campers, parents, guardians, and other caregivers are expected to behave in a respectful manner toward others at all times.**

### **Youth Code of Conduct**

- Children must behave toward others and their environment in a way that demonstrates the Y's four core values: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility.
- The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is not permitted.
- Children are expected to follow all instructions issued by Y staff.
- Children may not strike or kick other children or staff.
- Children may not use disrespectful or vulgar language.
- Children must stay with their group at all times. Children may not leave their group without their counselors.
- Children may not intentionally damage or destroy Y property or the property of others.
- Children may not steal or take items that do not belong to them.
- Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated.

## **DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP**

### **Check-In:**

Camp Tycony opens at 6:30am. We provide pre-camp care from 6:30am to 9:00am. Activities include crafts, indoor and outdoor games (beginning at 8:00am), and reading. Campers must arrive by 9:00am, when the camp day officially begins. All campers must be walked in with a parent or guardian and signed-in at the Camp Office in the Lodge each day. This is considered a transfer of responsibility.

### **Check-Out:**

Camp Tycony closes at 6:00pm. We provide post-camp care from 1:30pm to 6:00pm. Activities include outside games and crafts. The STEM camp day officially ends at 1:30pm. When picking up your camper, please go to the Lodge first to sign-out your camper. When you sign-out your camper, Office Staff will radio your camper's group to send him/her to the Lodge. We ask that you do not take your child from their group prior to signing him/her out. Only authorized adults listed on the enrollment form will be allowed to pick-up your child. We will check photo IDs of all adults picking up your child.

Any change to the alternate pick-up list must be submitted in writing to the Y by the parent or guardian. Any court orders declaring changes in custody should also be provided to the Y for our records. The parent or guardian(s) listed on the enrollment form are the only people authorized to amend the alternate pick-up list. Changes should be made with the STEM Camp Director or Office.

### **Late Pick-Up Policy:**

YMCA Camp Tycony closes at 6:00pm. However, staff will not leave a camper unattended. A late fee of \$1 per minute per child will be applied for late pick-ups beginning at 6:01pm. After three late pick-ups, your family will be dismissed from the program. In the event that you fail to pick up your child, the following will happen:

- All phone numbers we have on file for your child will be called.
- After 6:45pm, the Director will contact the Howard County Sheriff's Department.

## Impairment

Your child's safety is our priority. At times we are called to make judgements concerning a camper's safety. If a YMCA staff member suspects that a parent, guardian, or other adult authorized to pick up your child is impaired when he or she arrives, the YMCA will keep the child at the facility until alternative transportation can be arranged. The YMCA reserves the right to involve the appropriate authorities, if necessary, to protect the child and the YMCA.

## **TAKING GOOD CARE**

### Health and Wellness:

It is our sincere desire to provide quality care for you camper while they are participants at YMCA Camp Tycony. It is absolutely imperative that we work together to make this happen. If a child becomes ill during the program and is unable to participate in activities, we will contact the parent/guardian. Any child running a temperature over 100 degrees or has vomited will be required to go home.

If a child is hurt, a certified staff member will administer first aid. If the situation requires further medical attention, a staff member will attempt to contact the parent/guardian. In the event that the parent/guardian cannot be reached, all contacts on our emergency contact list will be contacted. Please be advised that staff will not exclude your camper from activities unless one or more of the following exists:

1. The illness prevents the camper from participating comfortably in camp activities.
2. The illness results in greater care needed than the counselor can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other campers.
3. The camper has any of the following conditions:
  - a. Fever
  - b. Signs of Possible Severe Illness: Examples include lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing or other unusual signs.
  - c. Diarrhea
  - d. Vomiting
  - e. Signs of communicable illness (rash, lice, etc.)

If your camper has any of the symptoms above or is removed from camp because of an above listed condition, please refrain from returning to camp until the condition discontinues (a minimum of 48 hours). This is in the best interest of all of our campers in the program. Please assist us in our efforts to maintain a healthy environment for our children.

### Medications:

If prescription medications need to be administered during camp hours, all medications must be in the original container that identifies the prescribing physician, the name of the medication, the dosage, and the frequency of administration. All medication must be turned in to the Camp Office, and the parent/guardian must fill out a Medication Authorization Form. **DO NOT PACK MEDICATION IN BACKPACKS.**

### What's Going On At Home:

Children's actions in camp often reflect situations they are experiencing at home (i.e. pet's death, divorce, sibling conflict, etc.) If any disruptive or traumatic experience should occur, please inform our administrative staff. Please review the following regarding the YMCA's policy:

- YMCA Staff are not allowed to transport children at any time outside of YMCA programs.
- Parents may not leave children at YMCA Camp Tycony unsupervised.
- The YMCA is a mandated reporter of any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.
- YMCA Staff are not allowed to babysit any youth involved in YMCA programs.

### Safety:

YMCA Camp Tycony is a private facility. No unauthorized individuals are permitted on our property. Weapons of any kind are not allowed on YMCA property. Camp Tycony is a tobacco-free environment, including vapes/e-cigarettes. The YMCA conducts regular emergency drills, including fire and tornado drills, throughout the summer.