



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA CAMP TYCONY

SUMMER 2023 PROGRAMS

The Kokomo Family YMCA is pleased to offer several great programs at YMCA Camp Tycony this summer:

DAY CAMP (9:00am to 4:30pm)

This is our traditional day camp program for children who have completed Kindergarten through 8th grade. Activities include air riflery, archery, arts and crafts, canoeing/kayaking, hiking, sports games, swimming and other theme week activities.

NIPSCO STEM CAMP (9:00am to 4:30pm)

Campers participate in STEM activities led by a separate STEM staff. Our STEM campers will also participate in some traditional camp activities.

LEADER-IN-TRAINING (9:00am to 4:30pm)

Our Leader-in-Training (LIT) Program is designed for campers going into 9th or 10th grade in Fall 2023. LITs will participate in a variety of YMCA-led trainings and workshops designed to enhance their leadership skills. Interested applicants should submit application by Friday, April 14, 2023. Acceptance is not guaranteed.

All programs offer pre and post camp care from 7:30am to 9:00am and 4:30pm to 6:00pm.

***NEW FOR 2023* All campers MUST be dropped off by 9:00am.**

YMCA CAMP TYCONY FAMILY HANDBOOK

Welcome to Camp Tycony!

All of our amazing camp programs take place at YMCA Camp Tycony. The YMCA is the nation's leader in camping, offering outdoor programming for over 100 years. We are the original social network! The Kokomo Family YMCA serves over 400 children in our Camp Tycony summer programs each year, and we are excited to have your camper experience what the Y has to offer. Your camper is in for a fun-filled, exciting summer.

ABOUT CAMP TYCONY

Established in 1954, our goal at YMCA 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 strengthening our community.

OUR ALL-STAR STAFF: WE ARE PROFESSIONAL ROLE MODELS!

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 all of our staff to complete 40 hours of pre-camp training, including CPR and First Aid, Child Abuse Prevention, and specific trainings in the areas of working with children, positive 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.

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of our camp administration. Please email camp@kokomoymca.org.

Camp Leadership

A.J. Edwards, Matt Sandoe & Mark Sutton
Camp Directors

Nick Glover
Chief Operations Officer

Trish Severns
Chief Executive Officer

Enrollment and Session Registrations

Please visit www.CampTycony.com to complete our online enrollment form (you must register your child for at least one session). We also must have copies of your child's birth certificate and immunization records prior to their first day at camp. Please submit these documents to the Downtown YMCA front desk or email to camp@kokomoymca.org.

There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$25.00 per child due at the time of enrollment/initial registration. This fee is waived for Kokomo Family YMCA members. Session registrations are due Fridays at noon for the following week. However, should a session reach its capacity limit prior to that deadline, registration for that particular session will close when the limit is reached. Late registrations are not accepted. If payment is not received, your child will not be permitted to attend camp. All session payments for camp registration(s) are due at the time of registration.

FORMS OF PAYMENT

You may pay for camp registrations either online at www.CampTycony.com, at the Downtown YMCA front desk, or at the Camp Office (during camp). We accept checks, cash and credit/debit card payments. Outstanding YMCA account balances (including membership and other program fees) must be paid before your child may attend any YMCA program. Please include your camper's name in the memo line on all checks. If you need assistance accessing your online YMCA account, please email camp@kokomoymca.org.

CCDF vouchers are accepted at Camp Tycony. If your child has CCDF vouchers for Camp Tycony, you must still register for each session your child will be attending. Please email camp@kokomoymca.org for a promo code to register online. You must complete your check-ins/outs each day your child attends camp. Your child will not be permitted to attend camp if your CCDF account is not current. Drop-off will not be permitted if you do not complete your check-in.

The Kokomo Family YMCA's Annual Campaign ensures that everyone in Kokomo has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. At the Y, no child, family or adult is turned away because of inability to pay, as long as funds and space are available. If you would like to apply for financial assistance for Summer 2023, please email camp@kokomoymca.org to receive a copy of our scholarship application. Applications for financial assistance for Summer 2023 are due Friday, April 28, 2023.

SCHEDULE CHANGES/REFUNDS

Refunds will only be issued if a request is submitted to the camp office at least one week in advance of the requested session. We will not offer any refunds or credits after that deadline.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- > Parents, Guardians and Caregivers must follow all established policies and procedures outlined in this YMCA Camp Tycony Family Handbook, including our pick-up policies, session payment policy, and schedule change policy.
- > Parents and Guardians are responsible for reading all emails, newsletters, signs and flyers at the YMCA and Camp Tycony to keep well-informed about our programs.
- > Parents and Guardians should read and review our Camper Code of Conduct with their children prior to the first day of camp. Campers will be expected to adhere to our Code of Conduct at all times.
- > Camp Tycony is a beautiful 52-acre property. 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.
- > Campers must be dropped off by 9:00am each day. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

Going to a summer camp program 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 any "first day" jitters. YMCA Camp Tycony has well-trained staff that are focused on meeting the needs of our campers and are committed to serving as excellent role models.

- > Your child will be grouped with other children close in age. Our day camp age units are Trailblazers (6-7), Explorers (8-9), Pathfinders (10-11), and Adventurers (12-14). All campers must have completed Kindergarten to attend Camp Tycony.
- > Dress for the weather. The camp day will continue rain or shine.
- > Campers **MUST** wear tennis shoes. Campers will not be permitted to be dropped off in sandals, flip-flops, crocs, or any shoes with holes or openings.
- > Campers are very active during camp. Please send your camper in "play clothes" that can become dirty or muddy.
- > Your camper will likely come home tired and may need additional rest after a day of high-energy activities.
- > Label all items with your camper's name, including: swimsuits, towels, water bottles and lunch boxes.
- > Please don't send valuable clothing or items to camp, including jewelry or electronics.

OUR DAILY ADVENTURES

It is important to us that your child has a wonderful "first," "second" or "seventh" summer at camp. Therefore, our goal is to create an atmosphere of trust and friendship so each camper will feel happy and confident at camp. Camper activities include, but are not limited to: Chapel devotions, swimming at the Y, activities based on weekly themes, skits, stories, arts and crafts, playground games, sports games, canoeing/kayaking, visiting our Sandy Beach, fitness activities, air riflery, STEM activities, hiking and academic enrichment.

We take special care of our campers. Camp programs are progressively structured to challenge children according to their age. Campers stay with their group counselors through the entire day. However, YMCA lifeguards and additional staff supervise aquatic activities. Our programs are designed to give children an introduction to a wide-variety of camp activities, along with providing them the opportunity for creative expression.

Please Note: It is important for us to define ourselves as a day camp and not day care. While we do promise to care for your child as if they were our own, we must stay inside the boundaries of operating a day camp. Groups move every 50-60 minutes with little downtime. Campers must be able to handle a large, fast-paced, loud environment with several transitions for the whole day.

CHAPEL

We start each morning as a group with Chapel. During Chapel, our campers will listen to a devotion or character-development story, sing camp songs, and go over any announcements for the day. We will go over the Camper Code of Conduct and expectations on the first day of each week. YMCA Camp Tycony is a Christian camp, so Chapel will contain religious devotions.

VIEWING OUR DAILY ADVENTURES

We use SmugMug to share pictures of our programs, along with Facebook. Pictures of our campers and staff will be posted in a folder at kokomoymca.smugmug.com. Pictures will only be posted of campers that have a signed photo/video release. Camper galleries on SmugMug are password-protected. Please see our office staff for the password. Our Facebook page is facebook.com/campytycony.

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 or our shelter area at the Downtown Y. Camp administrators will stay alert for weather advisories. We will not transport campers on our camp bus during severe weather conditions. Our camp staff are trained to handle severe weather, 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 group schedules so that campers are not participating in field sports during the hottest parts of the day. On days where we are able to anticipate rainy weather, we may bus some of our groups to the Downtown Y to participate in activities. Parents will always be notified in advance.

LEAVE IT AT HOME

The YMCA is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items. Please make sure your child leaves toys, candy, trading cards, video games, iPods, cell phones, smartwatches, 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, guardian or caregiver at pick-up. At the Y, we make sure our programs are packed with fun activities and these personal items can often be a distraction. We understand some families send a device "in case of emergency," however, campers are always under the safe supervision of staff. If you need to get ahold of your child urgently, please call the camp office at 765-434-3711. If any of the aforementioned items become a repeated issue, dismissal from the program may follow.

SWIMMING AT THE Y

Swimming is a great part of our summer programs. We only swim at the downtown Delmar E. Demaree Family YMCA's Aquatic Center, located at 114 N Union Street, Kokomo, Indiana. All groups swim on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Swim schedules will be emailed out to registered families as summer nears.

Each camper must take a swim test on their first day at camp, regardless of whether one is on file with the YMCA or not. Please send a swimsuit and towel with your camper on swim days. YMCA staff cannot help children change into swimsuits or any other clothing. Campers must be able to do this on their own.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

- > **Lunch:** Please pack a nutritious, balanced lunch for your camper and include a healthy drink. Camp does not have refrigeration or a microwave available for lunches. A small cooler with your camper's name works best for packing lunches and drinks. Please do not send nut/peanut products, soda or microwavable items.
- > **Water Bottle:** Campers have access to water jugs at all times during the day. We ask that you send your camper with a labeled, reusable water bottle each day.
- > **Sunscreen and Bug Spray:** It is recommended that all campers wear sunscreen and bug spray each day. Please apply both to your child at drop off. You are welcome to send sunscreen and/or bug spray with your camper. Our groups will take time to reapply after lunch. Staff may assist with spraying bug spray, but not sunscreen. Due to sensitivities and allergy concerns, the Y will not supply either.

Behavior Guidelines and Expectations

The Y expects all campers, parents, guardians and caregivers to demonstrate our core values of **Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility** at all times.

Campers who fail to exhibit these core values will be counseled by Y staff. YMCA employees use positive discipline approaches to modify behavior, including redirection and discussing the importance of following our core values. 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 involvement, the Y will follow the steps below:

- > **First Offense:** Corrective Action Plan issued.
- > **Second Offense:** Corrective Action Plan revised and/or suspension.
- > **Third Offense:** Corrective Action Plan revised and/or dismissal from our programs.

Please Note: These steps are simply 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 our programs a good fit and may be asked to leave. No refunds or credits will be issued if your child is dismissed or suspended from our programs due to behavior.

ALL CAMPERS AND ADULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BEHAVE IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER TOWARD OTHERS AT ALL TIMES. Using a disrespectful or threatening tone toward Y staff will not be tolerated. Mutual respect is expected.

CAMPER CODE OF CONDUCT

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

BUS CODE OF CONDUCT

- > The Camper Code of Conduct applies while riding the bus.
- > Eating is not permitted on the bus.
- > Campers must remain seated at all times while the bus is in motion.
- > Campers' hands, arms, etc. may not extend outside the bus at any time.
- > Campers may not tamper with the emergency doors.
- > Campers must follow all instructions issued by our bus driver.
- > The bus driver is in charge of the bus and has the right to administer corrective action.
- > Campers may not throw objects on the bus, shout or display any other behavior that may distract the driver or compromise the safety of those on the bus.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up**CHECK-IN**

Camp Tycony opens at 7:30am. Parent/Guardians must park and walk their child into our lodge each day. Campers must be signed in with our camp office. If your child has CCDF vouchers, you **MUST** complete their check-in each morning (drop-off will not be permitted if not). **ALL CAMPERS MUST BE DROPPED OFF BY 9:00AM.**

CHECK-OUT

Camp Tycony closes at 6:00pm. Parent/Guardians must park and go to the camp office in the lodge to pick up their child. When picking up your camper, please go to the check-out desk first to sign-out your camper. When you sign-out your camper, our staff will radio your camper's group and a staff member will walk your child to the desk. We ask that if you see your child outside, please do not take your child from their group prior to signing them out. If your child has CCDF vouchers, you **MUST** complete your check-out each afternoon.

Only authorized adults listed on your child's enrollment form will be allowed to pick-up your child. We will check photo IDs of all adults picking up your child. Anyone coming to pick up a child from our programs should always be prepared to show photo ID. Any changes to your child's authorized 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 individuals authorized to amend the alternate pick-up list. Changes may only be made with our office staff or camp director.

LATE PICK-UP/FAILURE TO PICK-UP

Camp Tycony closes at 6:00pm. However, staff will not leave a camper unattended. At 6:01pm, a late pick-up fee of \$20.00 per child will be applied, with an additional \$20.00 per child applied every 10 minutes thereafter until your child is picked up. Late pick-up fees must be paid in full prior to your child's return to our programs. After three late pick-ups (at any YMCA program), your family will be dismissed from our programs. In the event that you fail to pick up your child, the following will happen:

- > All phone numbers on file for your child will be called.
- > After 6:30pm, the Director will contact the Howard County Sheriff's Department.

IMPAIRMENT

Your child's safety is our top priority. At times, we are called to make judgments 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 your 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.

CUSTODY ISSUES

In cases of separated or divorced parents, where visitation rights are denied to one parent, we cannot deny releasing the child to such parent unless a court decree or separation document is on file expressly forbidding a parent from picking up their child from YMCA Camp Tycony.

Camp Store

Each afternoon, our campers will have a designated time to purchase snacks at our Camp Store for a nominal fee. You may add money to your child's camp store account with the camp office. All snacks and drinks are \$1.00. Campers may not spend more than \$2.00 per day. Please do not send money with your child. Our office staff will not accept money from your child.

Health and Wellness

It is our sincere desire to provide quality care for your 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 while at camp 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 immediately.

If a child is hurt, staff will administer appropriate first aid. If the situation requires further medical attention, our office staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian. In the event that the parent/guardian(s) cannot be reached, all contacts on your child's emergency contact list will be contacted. Please Note: In cases of emergency, where medical treatment is urgently required and 911 is called, YMCA staff may be required to secure medical treatment for your child prior to contacting the parent/guardian(s) or emergency contacts. Any medical treatment/ambulance services utilized are not the financial responsibility of the YMCA. If your child should require a hospital visit, they will be brought to Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo Hospital via ambulance, along with a staff member.

Please be advised that staff will not exclude your camper from activities unless one or more of the following exist:

- > Your child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- > The illness results in greater care needed than the counselor can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other campers.
- > 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 or (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 24 hours medication free). This is in the best interest of all of our campers and staff at the Y. 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 medications must be turned in to our office staff at check-in, and the parent/guardian must fill out a Medication Administration Authorization Form. **DO NOT PACK MEDICATIONS IN BACKPACKS OR LUNCH BAGS.**

If your child has an inhaler or EpiPen, one must be provided to the Y to stay on site at all times. The inhaler or EpiPen will remain with your child's counselor throughout the day. If your child has an allergy that requires an EpiPen, 911 will be called in the event of an allergic reaction. You must have your child's physician fill out our Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan Form and return to our office staff prior to your child's first day at camp. Please communicate any severe allergies or concerns to our administration.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT HOME

Children's actions at 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 office or administrative staff. Please review the following regarding YMCA policies:

- > Parents may not leave children at the YMCA or Camp Tycony unsupervised.
- > The YMCA is a mandated reporter of any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.
- > Please do not ask our staff members to babysit or transport your child. The YMCA has a very strict policy that does not allow our staff members to babysit any of the children enrolled in our programs. Our policy also states that staff members are never to transport any of the children in our programs or communicate with them outside of the Y. This is to help ensure the safety of our campers and staff members.

Safety

All Kokomo Family YMCA properties (including YMCA Camp Tycony) are private facilities. No unauthorized individuals are permitted on our property. For your safety, families may not be on camp property after hours. Weapons of any kind are not allowed on YMCA property. The YMCA is a tobacco-free environment, including e-cigarettes/vapes. Smoking is prohibited, even in our parking lot. The YMCA conducts regular emergency drills (including Fire, Tornado and Code Adam) throughout the summer. All emergency drills are conducted under the supervision of YMCA directors.

ABOUT THE YMCA

The YMCA is a cause-driven, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, dedicated to strengthening our community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

CONTACT INFORMATION

At any time during camp hours (7:30am to 6:00pm), you may contact our team at 765.434.3711 or email camp@kokomoymca.org. If the line is busy and you need to get in touch with us urgently, please call 765.457.4447 and our staff at the Downtown Y will get you in touch with our camp staff.

DISCLAIMERS

The Young Men's Christian Association of Kokomo, Indiana ("YMCA") is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items. Any items without names will be discarded after each Friday at the end of the camp day. The YMCA and its staff are mandated by the State of Indiana to report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. The YMCA is not responsible for any injury, accident, or death that may occur as a result of participation in our programs. The YMCA does not permit any potentially dangerous items to be brought onto our property. Possession or use of firearms and/or other dangerous weapons on our property is strictly prohibited. For security reasons, the YMCA reserves the right to search the bag, backpack, or pocketbook of any individual on our property or in our programs. All camp community members (campers, parents, guardians and caregivers) agree to all policies, procedures and disclaimers included within this family handbook as part of the program enrollment form.