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## **YMCA CAMP HAYS 2023 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

### **Where is Camp Hays located?**

1 Maple Street East Haven, CT 06512

### **What is the contact number to reach someone?**

203-481-9622 Ext. 3206 Soundview Family YMCA or 203-691-7944 YMCA office at the Vernon Hays School (Only During Camp Hours.)

### **Is there an office location where I can talk to a person face to face?**

Yes, it located at 628 E. Main Street, Branford CT. Hours are 9:00 am- 4:00 pm M-F

### **What are the operating hours for this location?**

Monday through Friday. Camp day runs 9:00am-4:00pm, extended day 7:00am-6:00pm

### **How old does my child need to be to attend camp?**

Campers must be between the ages of 3-15 years old to attend camp. All campers must be potty trained before the start of camp.

### **What should my child bring to camp?**

Backpack, non-perishable bag lunch, nut-free snack, refillable water bottle, spray-on sunscreen and bug spray, swim suit and towel with bag for wet gear, change of clothing, rain gear, and close toed shoes.

### **What should I leave at home?**

All electronics, cell phones, toys (stuffed animals, LEGO's, cards, etc). The Y is not responsible for lost or broken items.

### **How are campers broken up into groups?**

Campers are divided into the following groups depending on their grade in the fall.

- Discovery: Preschool (3-5 years old)
- Greenhorns: K-1
- Explorers: 2-3
- Pioneers: 4-6
- Adventurers: 7-8
- CIT's: 9-10

### **Should I pack my child a lunch?**

Campers should bring a nut-free lunch and snacks to camp daily. Most weeks of camp, there is camp lunch available to those that chose to take it. After arrival, camper lunches will be gathered by counselor group and placed in the refrigerator at camp.

### **How does the bus transportation work? Where can I find the bus transportation schedule?**

The Soundview Family YMCA Camp Hays does not have transportation for camp.



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### **What happens on rainy days at camp?**

Camp is held rain or shine! On rainy days, activities will be held in sheltered structures. Children will travel to and from activity areas and should be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. We recommend packing rain gear, towels, umbrella and additional footwear and clothing. We also swim, rain or shine, weather permitting!

### **Who should I contact if I have any questions about camp?**

We strongly believe that parent involvement is a key ingredient in a quality camp program. We have an open door policy and you are welcomed and encouraged to visit the program at any time your child is enrolled. Parents and visitors are required to sign-in at the office prior to visiting their child. In order to understand each child better, the staff welcomes any opportunity to talk with parents about their children. It is critical that the lines of communication stay open. If communication is frequent, together we can provide security and continuity for your children. Any time during a child's participation in the program a parent may request a meeting with the staff to discuss the child's needs. The meeting will be set at a time that is convenient for both the parent and staff. Others can be invited to attend the meeting at the request of the parent or staff.

- Registration/enrollment questions can emailed to [Soundviewymcacamp@cccymca.org](mailto:Soundviewymcacamp@cccymca.org)
- Care 4 Kids and financial aid questions can be directed to MiNa Wheeler, [mwheeler@cccymca.org](mailto:mwheeler@cccymca.org)
- Aquatic and swim camp inquires can best be answered by Alexandra Hunter, [Ahunter@cccymca.org](mailto:Ahunter@cccymca.org)
- Individualized Care Plans, medication authorization forms, and medications, please contact MiNa Wheeler, [mwheeler@cccymca.org](mailto:mwheeler@cccymca.org)
- Day to day questions about camp happenings, Lynn Wheeler, [lwheeler@cccymca.org](mailto:lwheeler@cccymca.org)
- Social/Emotional coaches that help support campers. The Y works with children of all abilities. If your child requires special accommodations (social, behavioral, medical). Please reach out to Lynn Wheeler, [lwheeler@cccymca.org](mailto:lwheeler@cccymca.org) and/or MiNa Wheeler, [mwheeler@cccymca.org](mailto:mwheeler@cccymca.org)

### **Where do I sign my child up for camp?**

Camp registration can be completed via email, mail, or in-person. Camp registrations can be:

- Emailed to Camp Hays, [Soundviewymcacamp@cccymca.org](mailto:Soundviewymcacamp@cccymca.org)
- Dropped-off at the Soundview Family YMCA, located at 628 E. Main Street, Branford CT.
- Mailed to Soundview Family YMCA, 628 E. Main Street, Branford, CT 06405

### **Are there specific requirements for registration?**

At time of registration, the following items will need to be submitted:

- Summer camp registration packet
  - Registration and Release Form
  - Camp Payment Authorization Form
  - Current Medical Health Assessment Form
  - Camper Behavior Contract



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- Transportation/Swimming Permission Slip
- Additional forms specific to your child and/or the camp your child attends may be required such as:
  - Field Trip permission form
  - Medication Administration Form (if needed) with an Individual Plan of Care for a Child
  - Individual Plan of Care for a Child
  - Third party organizations must complete and return the Third Party Agreement Form one week prior to the camper's start date.
- Health Forms: State of Connecticut regulations require that a fully completed and signed health form must be on file in the Camp Office one week before the first day of camp. No camper will be allowed to attend camp without a current, complete form. A physical within the past two years is required with this year's date and signature from the physician. Health forms can be requested from the school nurse prior to the end of the school year. Families must submit a health form annually at time of registration. A signed CT Department of Public Health Medical Exemption Certification Statement is required for children without proof of immunization.
- Care 4 Kids paperwork (Initial application, Parent Provider Agreement, and supporting documentation), if applying for financial assistance
- Financial assistance application materials, along with the completed application, if applying for financial assistance

### **What is the process for medication authorization forms and medications be handed in for camp?**

State regulation requires compliance with the following guidelines with any medications: A completed Individual Plan of Care for a Child and a Medical Authorization Form must be signed by a physician stating name of medication, time to be administered, and prescribed dose to be given. The parent must bring the proper prescription bottle (with exact amount needed for the time the child will be in camp.) No controlled medication is allowed to be sent in with a camper. Medication may be dropped off before the child's camp session. All medication needs to be picked up at end of camp session. Any medication not picked up within one week of last day of camp session will be properly disposed of. • Parents must bring in an Individual Plan of Care for a Child and Authorization for the Administration of Medication by Day Care/Camp Personnel Form completed by a Connecticut licensed physician/dentist and by the parent • The medication must be in a safety cap container with the original prescription label • The device for measuring and administering the medication must accompany the medication Children must be given the first dose of medication by a parent before the YMCA may administer subsequent doses. Parents must pick up all unused medication within one week following the termination of the order or the medication will be destroyed. Please see the Camp Director or Nurse for a copy of the entire Medication Administration Policy if your child is in need of medication to be administered while at the camp.

### **Do you accept Care 4 Kids?**

The Y's Financial Assistance program deadline is May 1st. Financial Aid is limited, please apply early. Families applying for Care 4 Kids, both current recipients and new applicants, may be required to pay up to 100% of the total cost of the first session of camp upon registration. Once Care 4 Kids makes a determination of acceptance or denial of funds and provides the Y with reimbursement, the Y will provide families with the total remaining fees that they will be responsible for per session.



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### **What are your fees & refund policies?**

Camp fees are due, in full, the Monday two weeks prior to the session start date. Deposit fees and registration fees are nonrefundable and non-transferrable. Session refund requests must be done in writing on a Refund Request Form. Refunds will not be granted less than 2 weeks before the start of a session. Refunds may be issued for medical emergencies. Physician notes will be required. There is a \$10 administration fee for all refunds.

### **What is the Counselor in Training Program?**

At the Y, we build leaders. Camp Hays camper alumni interested in this program are encouraged to apply. CIT's will be mentored by YMCA staff who will help foster independence and self-confidence in a secure environment. Hands-on experience working with young campers gives CIT's the opportunity to cultivate their skills in a camp setting. A CIT Application, Reference Forms, and Registration Packet must be submitted and completed to the Y to be considered for this program. Applicants must complete a practice interview to be chosen to participate in our CIT Program.

### **What is the camp motto?**

The CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COAST YMCA believes all kids have great potential and deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. At CAMP HAYS day camp kids and teens can develop skills, self-confidence, new friendships and a sense of belonging – all while having tons of fun.

### **Camp HAYS is licensed through the State of CT OEC. What does that mean?**

Camp Hays follows the guidelines set by the OEC Camp Licensing. We follow staff to camper ratios, safety precautions along with OEC state inspections.

### **When will information be shared with families about each week of camp?**

The Friday before the week of camp your child is attending, you will receive an email about the upcoming week.

### **Is there a lost and found at camp?**

Our Lost and found is located in the nurses office. Please ask the staff to check for your missing items. It is helpful to put your name on everything you send to camp. We do our best to get all items with names on it back to the correct person.

### **Should I send my child in their camp shirt every day?**

You are welcome to wear your camp shirt whenever you want! Campers do not have to wear them daily. You will receive your camper shirt upon registration or during their first week of camp. If your camper is going on a field trip we ask that they wear their camp t-shirt that day.

### **What should I do if my child is sick and not going to attend camp?**

Please email us at [Soundviewymcacamp@cccymca.org](mailto:Soundviewymcacamp@cccymca.org) stating which camp your child attends and that they will be absent due to illness.

### **Who should I call if my child will be late for camp?**

Please call the Soundview Family YMCA at 203-481-9622 ext. 3206 and leave a detailed message.