YMCA CAMP MOUNTAIN LAUREL
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Where is Camp Mountain Laurel located?
2705 Downes Road, Hamden, CT 06518

What is the contact number to reach someone?
203-248-1792 or 203-535-2569

Is there an office location where I can talk to a person face to face?
During the camp season, the office is located directly at Camp Mountain Laurel, 2705 Downes Road in Hamden. In the off-season, appointments can be made to setup a visit at either the Keefe Community Center, 11 Pine Street in Hamden, or at the New Haven YMCA Youth Center, 50 Howe Street in New Haven.

What are the operating hours for this location?
Monday through Friday. Camp day runs 9:00am-4:00pm, extended day 7:30am-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.

What should my child bring to camp?
Backpack, non-perishable bag lunch, nut-free snack, refillable water bottle, spray-on sunscreen and bug spray, swimsuit and towel with bag for wet gear, change of clothing, and rain gear.

What should I leave at home?
All electronics, cellphones, 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 to camp daily. 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?

Bus Transportation is offered on a first come, first serve basis each week. There will be a $15.00 fee per way (AM & PM) per week for bus transportation this summer. As a new session begins, changes to the bus rosters will not be made. Parents/guardians must sign their child in and out from the program daily with the Bus staff with picture identification. If a parent/ guardian is late picking up their child from the bus stop, the camper will remain on the bus until the final stop on the route. Late fees apply. Bus routes, pickup/drop-off times, and registration options are included in the summer camp enrollment packet.

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 campmtlaurel@cccymca.org
- Care 4 Kids and financial aid questions can be directed to Melissa DePino, mdepino@cccymca.org
- Aquatic and swim camp inquires can best be answered by Kathryn Forsyth, kforsyth@cccymca.org
- Individualized Care Plans, medication authorization forms, and medications, please contact Melissa DePino, mdepino@cccymca.org
- Day to day questions about camp happenings, Jessica Skolozdra, jskolozdra@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 Claire DiAdamo, cdiadamo@cccymca.org and/or Jessica Skolozdra, jskolozdra@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 Mountain Laurel, campmtlaurel@cccymca.org
- Dropped-off at Keefe Community Center, located at 11 Pine Street in Hamden
- Mailed to Hamden/North Haven YMCA, PO Box 6555, Hamden, CT 06517

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
  - 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.

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 Mountain Laurel 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 MOUNTAIN LAUREL day camp kids and teens can develop skills, self-confidence, new friendships and a sense of belonging – all while having tons of fun.

Camp Mountain Laurel is an accredited summer camp through the American Camp Association. What does that mean?
The American Camp Association sets standards that, when followed by a camping program, help to ensure the program is at its best.

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

At the beginning of each session, campers will receive a calendar of events for the week on Mondays at dismissal. We will also be sending out an email communication with the weekly schedule each week. Copies of the calendars will be available to download from our website in June as we approach the summer season. More information about this will be shared in the Welcome Letter that will be shared with camp families prior to the start of the camp season.

Is there a lost and found at camp?

Our Lost and found is located near the camp office. Please feel free to check it regularly, and please 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.

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

The Y staff wants your child to enjoy his/her time at camp. It is in the best interest of your child and the other campers that everyone at camp be healthy. If your child does not feel well the night before or the morning of camp, or has an injury or fever, we suggest that your child stay home from camp that day. Having your child come to camp while ill can prolong the illness, as well as, spread the illness to other campers. This is very important if your child is exhibiting symptoms of chicken pox, the flu, strep throat or any other contagious illness. If your child becomes ill or is injured during camp, the camp nurse will decide if it is severe enough to contact you. If your child is going to be absent from camp, please email campmtlaurel@cccymca.org or call 203-535-2569 to let us know.

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

Late arrivals at camp happen for a variety of reason. If your child is going to be arriving late to camp, please call 203-535-2569 to let us know. All campers must be walked to the camp office and signed in with a supervisor prior to the parent/guardian leaving the child at camp.

Who should I call if I need to pick my child up early from camp?

Early pick-up requests made after 12:00 p.m. will not be honored unless it is an extreme emergency. The number of campers we serve makes it difficult to honor last minute requests. Early pick-up time cannot be after 3:00pm as we begin moving to end of day activities at 3:00pm. If your child is going to be picked up early from camp, please call 203-535-2569 to let us know. All campers must be dismissed and signed out from the camp office daily when parents are picking up prior to the afternoon dismissal. All parents/guardians and authorized individuals picking children up from camp must have valid photo ID. The Y staff will check each individual's photo ID to verify that he/she has permission to leave the camp property with the camper based on the information provided by the parent/guardian of the child on their Camp Registration and Release Form.