

STRATFORD YMCA

CAMP PARROT PERCH

2026 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Where is Camp Parrot Perch located?

Stratford YMCA, 3045 Main Street, Stratford, CT

What is the contact number to reach someone?

You can reach the Y at 203-375-5844.

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

Yes, located at the Stratford YMCA is the membership service desk, along with the child care/camp director, member service, aquatics, and executive director offices.

What are the operating hours for this location?

Camp runs Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Pre Care runs from 7:15 – 9:00 am, and Post Care runs from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

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

Ages 3 -15

What should my child bring to camp?

Campers should bring a backpack, non-perishable bag lunch, nut-free snack, refillable water bottle, spray-on sunscreen, bug spray, swim suit and towel with a bag for wet gear, change of clothes, rain gear, and a smile. It is important to put your child's name on everything.

What should I leave at home?

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

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 age group and placed in the camp refrigerators.

How are campers broken up into groups?

Campers are divided into the following groups depending on their grade ***they will complete in June:***

- Discovery: 3 yrs to 5yrs (entering Kindergarten)
- Greenhorns: Complete Grades K-1
- Explorers: Complete Grades 2-3
- Pioneers: Complete Grades 4-6
- Adventurers: Complete Grades 7-8
- CIT's: Ages 14 & 15 year olds

What happens on rainy days at camp?

Camp is held rain or shine! On rainy days, activities will be held inside the Stratford YMCA. Children will participate in regularly scheduled activities. We swim, rain or shine, weather permitting!

Where do I sign my child up for camp?

Camp registration can be done either in-person at the Stratford Y or online at StratfordYMCA.org.

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 front desk 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, Care 4 Kids and financial aid, and day to day questions, can be emailed to Melissa Bernardo at mbernardo@cccymca.org.
- Aquatic and swim camp inquires can best be answered by Ignacio Sanchez.
- Individualized Care Plans, medication authorization forms, and medications, please contact Melissa Bernardo at mbernardo@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 Melissa Bernardo at mbernardo@cccymca.org

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 (will be provided prior to camp)
 - Medication Administration Form (if needed) with a Medical Action Plan from the doctor.
 - Individual Plan of Care for a Child
 - Health Forms: State of Connecticut regulations require that a fully completed and signed health form must be on file in the Camp Office **by May 1**. 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 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. All fees are done via Automatic Draft. There must be a payment method on file at the time of registration. 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 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 the name of the medication, time to be administered, and prescribed dose to be given. The parent must bring the proper prescription bottle (with the 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.

- Parents must bring in an Individual Plan of Care for a Child, Authorization for the Administration of Medication by Day Care/Camp Personnel Form completed by a Connecticut licensed physician/dentist, and by the parent, and a Medical Action Plan signed by a doctor.
- 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 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. **All forms are due by May 1, 2026.**

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 financial assistance must also apply to care 4 Kids. 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 is the Counselor in Training Program?

At the Y, we build leaders. Camp Parrot Perch 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.

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

Campers will receive a calendar of events for the week on the Thursday prior to each week. 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. Camp shirts must be worn on ALL field trips.

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

If your child is sick and cannot attend camp that day, please send an email to mbernardo@cccymca.org. We will make sure the counselor knows that your child will be out that day. Your child must be fever free without medications for 24 hours to return to camp.

Who should I call if my child will be late for camp or need to be picked up early?

For late arrivals, please come to the YMCA front desk. We will collect your child's lunch to put in the refrigerator and find your group. For early pick-ups, please email mbernardo@cccymca.org or call the YMCA at 203-375-5844 so we can have your child ready. Come to the front desk. We ask that early pick-ups to be done by 2:50 pm so that it doesn't overlap with the end of the day.