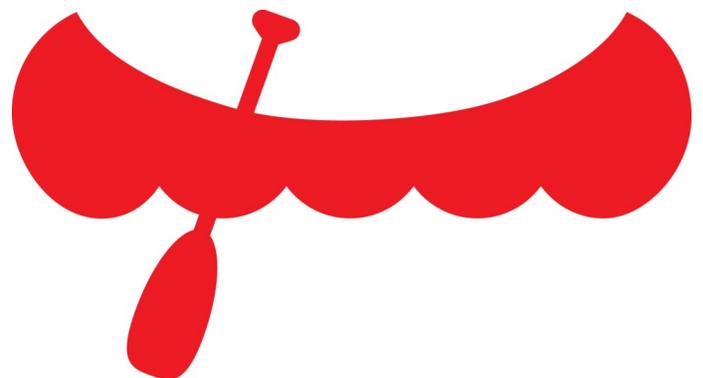




FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# PLAN PREPARE ENJOY!

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
YMCA CAMP CHEROKEE  
1299 CAMP CHEROKEE ROAD  
BLACKSBURG, SC 29702



# WELCOME!

We look forward to seeing you soon

Thank you for your interest in the YMCA Camp Cherokee's Environmental Education Program. Located in the middle of Kings Mountain State Park, we have incredibly diverse ecosystems to explore—from a creek, to a wetland, to a lake, to hardwood forests! Taking advantage of the natural habitats and resources we provide students with the most authentic environmental education and outdoor science experience possible.

## EXAMPLE DAY TRIP SCHEDULE

9:00am-9:15am	Arrive at YMCA Camp Cherokee
9:15am-9:30am	Introduction and Welcome
9:35am-11:05am	Class A
11:05am-11:35pm	Bagged Lunch in the Mess Hall or Outside picnic
11:35pm-1:05pm	Class B
1:05pm-1:15pm	Thank You!
1:15pm-1:20pm	Load the Bus & Depart YMCA Camp Cherokee



# TRIP LEADER CHECKLIST

## 4-6 Months Before Trip

- Schedule and confirm trip date (s)
- Submit contract and deposit to Camp Cherokee
- Inform parents and students of trip
- Arrange for transportation or contact Camp Cherokee if transportation is needed\*
- Emergency transportation: your school is responsible for providing emergency transportation if necessary
- Consult school administration regarding the need for a chaperone background check, policies related to student safety and abuse prevention, etc.

## 1-2 Months Before Trip

- Send a Chaperone Letter, What to Bring List, and parent-packet home with students
- Submit schedule and information form to YMCA Camp Cherokee
- Discuss trip goals and expected behavior with students
- Collect final payment from students

## 2-4 Weeks Before Trip

- Finalize number of students & chaperones attending and update this information with Camp Cherokee
- Hold chaperone meeting to review roles and responsibilities

- Collect permission forms from students
- Send final payment to Camp Cherokee

## 1 Week Before Trip

- Make nametags for every student; this helps the instructors make each class personal
- Ensure all students are prepared with a lunch, as we cannot provide lunches for day trip students
- Review with students your expectations, goals, and what to bring for the trip
- Review schedule sent from Cherokee; contact Director with any questions, concerns or changes that need to be made.
- Make final contact with Camp Cherokee for confirmation and to ask final questions

## Day of Trip

- Head count and collect lunches
- Give every student a name tag
- Call Camp Cherokee staff to verify number of students and time of departure



# GUIDELINES

## CANCELLATION AND WEATHER POLICY

We have a "Rain or Shine" policy at Camp. There are some indoor activities that we can facilitate, but will try to get out for at least a portion of the day. Visitors should bring rain gear as necessary.

If severe weather conditions exist or are predicted, the UPYMCA will cancel programs and notify the teacher and school immediately. We will work with groups to re-schedule as our schedule allows.

Cancellation by a School If an unforeseen emergency arises and you must cancel, please call Will Gilmore at 540.272.2260. Failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of payment or fees that have been collected.

## WHAT SHOULD WE WEAR?

Students should wear closed-toed shoes. (No flip-flops or sandals). Long pants or shorts are appropriate, depending on the temperature. Please encourage and remind your students to dress warmly if your visit is scheduled during cool/cold weather.

## EXTRA VEHICLE

We ask each group provides an additional vehicle in case an emergency should arise while at camp.

## WHAT'S MY ROLE AS A TEACHER?

YMCA Camp Cherokee wants you to enjoy your field trip to Camp as much as your students will! When you arrive at Camp Cherokee, you can relax and enjoy the lesson with the students. We just ask that you, as well as your chaperones, help us keep everyone focused on the instructor and making safe choices.

## FIRST AID AND MEDICATIONS

Bring any necessary medications with you on the bus to Camp Cherokee. Please inform camp staff, as necessary, of any medical conditions. We recommend groups have a first aid kit, as well. In the case of a serious emergency, please have parent contact information easily accessible.

## NAME TAGS

We like to be able to call students by their name when they are participating in our program. Your help in providing name tags will be appreciated!

## WAIVERS

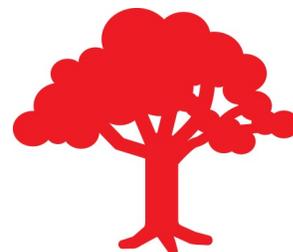
Please note the two waiver forms that are located in the parent-packet. Our insurance carrier requires us to have signed waivers by each student's parent or guardian in order to participate in our programs. Please help us keep Camp Cherokee injury-free! We will need one from each adult, as well.

## LUNCH TIME

There is no food available on-site except what groups bring with them. Please be sure everyone has a lunch. Please collect them prior to boarding so we can load/unload them quickly.

## TRANSPORTATION

If you are in York County, Chester or Lewisville, the Upper Palmetto YMCA will be able to provide transportation from your school. The fees include mileage and hourly driver wages. If you choose this option, these costs will be included in an invoice. Please contact the Director of Environmental Education as soon as possible if you will require transportation.



# CHECK LIST

Check it once, check it twice!

## WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- \_\_\_ Signed Waiver Forms – one from each student and one from each adult
- \_\_\_ First aid kit
- \_\_\_ Student medications & parent/emergency contact info
- \_\_\_ Lunches/drinks \*
- \_\_\_ Trash bag (s)
- \_\_\_ Student name tags – placed where we can see and read them easily
- \_\_\_ Appropriate attire: closed-toed shoes, rain jacket or poncho
- \_\_\_ Sunscreen and an extra cooler and bottled water (as necessary)

## PARK ETIQUETTE AND STUDENT SAFETY

To ensure a memorable day for the students, please relay the following information to your students and chaperones.

Each living and non-living part of the park must be treated respectfully and remain in the park.

- Please stay with the group and stay on the trails. This also decreases chances of poison ivy.
- Please refrain from running – large roots and rocks have been known to cause falls!
- To avoid injuries leave rocks and sticks on the ground. This also helps avoid injuries and prevents disruption to wildlife.
- Please refrain from having physical contact with living creatures, such as turtles, frogs, lizards, etc. Besides health issues, *we* are visitors in *their* environment.
- Food and trash should be kept in the mess hall or picnic area where lunch is consumed. Please help us ensure all trash is picked up prior to departure.

### LUNCHESES & OTHER ITEMS

- Please collect lunches at school and pack them in several large cardboard boxes so they can be moved & stored easily.
- We encourage visitors to bring only what they are willing to carry



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Depending on your length of stay choose 2– 6 classes!

**WATER ECOLOGY** Students will explore what indicates that a lake is healthy or unhealthy. Using a Vernier LabQuest 2, students will measure the water quality to determine the health of Lake York. Taking their exploration a step further, students will dig through mud samples taken from the lake to find macro invertebrates. Through classification and discussion, students will determine the water quality history of Lake York

**FOREST ECOLOGY** Students will use their senses to examine the relationship between plants and animals, as well as learn more about the hardwood forest within YMCA Camp Cherokee. Students will discover explanations for the structural adaptations that allow the plants at camp to thrive. Students will use an increment borer to core a living tree in order to determine age and health.

**BEAVERS AND THEIR DAMS** At Camp Cherokee have the opportunity to study the biggest beaver dam in South Carolina! We will hike the Beaver Dam Trail, where students will learn all about beavers, their habitats, and their exceptional work ethic!

**CLASS CANOE** Take a trip around the lake in a canoe! We will go through the evolving technology of various water vessels and the history the canoe. Then, embark on a voyage requiring leadership and teamwork to get to our final destination!

**FOSSILS** Students will classify, compare, and evaluate the different types of fossils and how they are made. Students will distinguish between inferences and observations when discussing what might have happened to the fossils. Students will dig for fossils in sand samples from the ocean floor, then they will be given the opportunity to classify their findings using a special guide!

**MAP & COMPASS** “X Marks the Spot!” With this excursion, students must use their sense of direction with the trusty compass. We might even solve a riddle or two along the way.

**SOIL ECOLOGY** Student’s get to get their hands dirty in this class! Students will observe, measure, and classify textures of soil. Students will investigate the horizons and study the interactions among soil organisms and biotic and abiotic aspects of soil. Students will have the opportunity to test soil moisture and temperature in different locations using a Vernier LabQuest 2.

**ARCHERY** Let our talented staff teach you the parts of a bow and arrow, range safety, and how to hit a bullseye! This class is fun for all ages.

**FIRE ECOLOGY** This is a FAVORITE among a variety of grade levels! Students will learn about the natural processes involving fire in an ecosystem and the ecological effects, as well as the interactions between fire and the abiotic and biotic factors. Each group will create their own forest fire experiment, and see if their hypothesis is supported by the data collected.

**PREDATOR & PREY** We encourage teachers and chaperones to participate in this class as you are guaranteed to get your heart rate up and feel like a kid again. Students will learn about the relationship between predator animals and their prey. Key vocabulary will be covered, and each student will act as a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore for an activity that will have them running, laughing, and hoping for survival!

**SURVIVAL** Potential life-saving tips will be taught in this class. Do you know what to do if you get lost in the woods while on a hike? Take this course to find out! You will see your students rally together to build a shelter, learn about fire safety, and how to find water.

**CLASS CANOE** Take a trip around the lake in a canoe! Instructors will take students through a water safety lesson to allow for each student to understand the importance of water safety. We will go through the evolving technology of various water vessels and the history the canoe. Then, embark on a voyage requiring leadership and teamwork to get to our final destination!

**HABITATS & ADAPTATIONS** This class is a ton of fun, with a lot of science thrown in. Students will distinguish between learned and innate behaviors while learning about the Kings Mountain environment and the habitats within. Students will use their sense to examine the habitats around them and help them succeed in our specially tailored adaptation activities!

**TEAMBUILDING** This is a great opportunity for students to challenge their decision making skills, while revealing leadership and bonding as a team. Students will go through the low-ropes challenge course, and at each element there will be various challenges to overcome as a team. (Grades 3-12)

**CANOPY TOUR** Students and teachers will get the opportunity to see the forest from another perspective. Enjoy eight zip lines and two sky bridges as you experience a bird’s-eye view of the canopy. Weight Restrictions apply, +\$25/ student. (Grades 6-12)



# YMCA CAMP CHEROKEE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

## Program Registration Form

This registration form must be completed and sent to YMCA Camp Cherokee **six weeks prior** to your confirmed trip date.

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Has your school attended Camp Cherokee before? Yes / No If yes, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to contact \_\_\_\_\_

Will the trip leader be at YMCA Camp Cherokee? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If not, who will be the Trip Leader on the day of the trip?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

School's Suggested Dates: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Classes chosen: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need transportation? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Class #1 Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Class #2 Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Class #3 Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Class #4 Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total # of students attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the goals you have for your students while at YMCA Camp Cherokee's Environmental Education Program.

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**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact Will Gilmore  
willgilmore@ymcaup.org  
803.222.2850