



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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Camp Cherokee Parent's Manual

A guide to assist you with your child's camping experience

Dear Parents & Guardians,

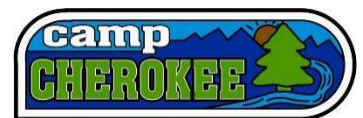
We would like to welcome you to the Cherokee family! Being a part of YMCA Camp Cherokee should be an exciting and enjoyable experience for your child as well as you, the parent and/or guardian! We realize that you are giving us the opportunity to have your most prized possession with us this summer. We do not take this responsibility lightly. Our purpose at YMCA Camp Cherokee is to provide a positive experience where each individual will feel comfortable and loved. We also hope they will gain a sense of independence and self-confidence. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way or answer any questions you may have that will help you get ready for the YMCA Camp Cherokee experience. We look forward to seeing you this summer! If there is any information you need that is not covered in this manual, please let us know!

Sincerely,

Will Gilmore
Resident Camp Director

YMCA Camp Cherokee
1299 Camp Cherokee Road
Blacksburg, SC 29702
Website: www.ymcacampcherokee.org
Email: Willgilmore@upymca.org
Office Phone: (803) 222-2850
Cell Phone: (803) 984-1713

YMCA Camp Cherokee Mission: To provide individuals the opportunities to reach their potential by building self-esteem, friendships, and character through participating in activities that are in accordance with the YMCA Mission.



Location/Directions

YMCA Camp Cherokee is located in Kings Mountain State Park in Blacksburg, South Carolina. Nestled in the 7000-acre State and National Park, YMCA Camp Cherokee has beautiful surrounding woods and a 66-acre private lake. Travelers coming from Atlanta, GA or Greenville, SC should take I-85 North to Exit 8 (Kings Mountain - Hwy 161.) Turn right towards York at the top of the ramp and continue 5 miles to the entrance to Kings Mountain State Park. Turn Right and follow the signs to YMCA Camp Cherokee. Coming from Charlotte, NC travelers should take I-85 South to U.S. 161 Kings Mountain exit. Turn left towards York. The State Park entrance is located 5 miles on right. Follow signs to YMCA Camp Cherokee. Coming from Rock Hill, SC take U.S. 161 to Kings Mountain State Park (entrance on left.) Follow signs to YMCA Camp Cherokee.

Financial Concerns

The balance for registration fees is due by August 13th, 2021. We DO NOT plan to take payment at check-in on opening day. The fee includes all special programs and trips, t-shirt, camp photo, and canteen. Campers will not need additional money, unless the parents/guardians prefer they bring some or if they would like to purchase YMCA Camp Cherokee merchandise. YMCA Camp Cherokee is not responsible for money brought by campers.

Refund Policy

A \$100 deposit is required to hold your Camper's spot and is non-refundable. Deposits are non-transferable from camper to camper or toward an outstanding balance. Any cancellations received prior to August 13, 2021, will be refunded minus the deposit. After August 13, no payments will be refunded. Cancellations due to illness or accident will be refunded in full and must be accompanied by a written statement from the child's physician. No refunds will be granted for children who are sent home during their session for misbehavior, homesickness, or other reasons beyond the Camp's control. Since camp sessions cannot be filled mid-week, no prorated fee is available for late arrival or early departure.

Medical Forms

Each camper is required to have a medical examination by a licensed physician 12 months prior to the camper's session. You will need to log into your account to fill out all necessary documents before your child's arrival to camp!

Medical Policy

Minor medical issues are handled by the Health Directors that are present during the sessions. Any camper requiring additional attention will be taken to Piedmont Urgent Care on Highway 321 in York. If a child is taken to the doctor, experiences a fever of 101 or above, or other discretionary situations, the parents/guardians of the camper will be notified. In case of emergency, campers will be taken to one of the following: Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill, SC; Kings Mountain Hospital in Kings Mountain, NC; or Gaston Memorial Hospital in Gaston, NC.

Arrival / Departure Times

YMCA Camp Cherokee utilizes a staggered check-in schedule on the first day of each session. Parents/Guardians will be notified of a check-in time for their camper and will be expected to arrive within 30 minutes of that assigned time. Check-in will begin at 5:30 PM and will last until 6:30 PM – Accommodations can be made for late arrivals at the discretion of the Camp Director so long as YMCA Camp Cherokee has been made aware in advance. **YMCA CAMP CHEROKEE CANNOT ALLOW CAMPERS OR PARENTS/GUARDIANS INSIDE THE GATE UNTIL 5:30 FOR ANY REASON.** Should you arrive at the gate prior to 5:30 and need to use the bathroom, please plan on using the bathroom facilities at the Kings Mountain State Park Camping Area. Parents/Guardians and campers will be directed to their appropriate check-in tables upon arrival. Medical forms and medication should be checked in at this time with the Health Directors. Similar to drop-off, pick-up will operate on a staggered schedule. Parents will be notified of their specific pick-up times ahead of time. Pick-up will last from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM on Sunday. Campers will not be ready before 3:00 PM unless prior arrangements are made. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to check for all of their camper belongings before they leave camp.

Staff

Staff at YMCA Camp Cherokee is comprised of individuals who have a love for kids and a dedication to our Camp! Approximately 95% of each year's staff are return staff members. Each cabin has one counselor (Head, Double-Senior, Senior, or Junior) and either one C.I.T. (counselor in training) or (another) Junior Counselor. Head Counselors are rising Sophomores in college. Double-Senior Counselors are rising freshman in College. Senior Counselors are rising seniors in high school. Junior counselors are rising juniors in High School. Upper Staff members (Area Supervisors) are minimum rising juniors in College. All staff participate in an application, interview, and drug test process before being hired. Once hired, all staff members complete an extensive training session prior to the camping season. YMCA Camp Cherokee maintains a staff to camper ratio of 1:4.

Behavior/Discipline

Campers are expected to act in accordance to the YMCA's Mission and in compliance to the four core YMCA values: responsibility, respect, honesty, and caring. Any misbehavior or disrespect to YMCA Camp Cherokee, the staff, the property, or other campers will result in the following actions:

- 1st offense: Camper behavior handled by a staff member, and conduct report will be filed.
- 2nd offense: Camper will report to the Camp Director, second conduct report will be filed, and parents/guardians will be called.
- 3rd offense: Camper will be dismissed without a refund. Parents/Guardians are responsible for picking up their child.

Communication Procedures

If you need to get a message to someone at YMCA Camp Cherokee, the following procedures may be followed: Call YMCA Camp Cherokee (803-222-2850) and leave a message with the front desk or leave a message via voice mail. In case of an emergency, you can call the Resident Camp Director on his cell phone (803-984-1713.) Campers may not receive or make calls while at Camp. It is imperative that no camper bring a cellphone to camp. Please do not allow or encourage your camper to pack their phones. They will be confiscated!

Mail/Food Packages

Campers enjoy getting mail so feel free to write while they are at Camp. Please remember that the kids are away from home for a short period, so we encourage you to limit all packages. Food packages are highly discouraged as they will add to the cabin trash, bug problems, health issues, and cabin jealousy. This includes candy, drinks, and food. No packages/letters will be delivered to YMCA Camp Cherokee from the Rock Hill area YMCAs. If you choose to send a letter/package, please use US Postal Service or UPS. The Director may confiscate any food packages sent via mail and hold until last day of session. Campers receive plenty of food/drink through three "all you can eat" meals and a candy snack with drink daily. YMCA Camp Cherokee and the Upper Palmetto YMCA are not responsible for any lost or damaged mail, or mail received after your camper's session has completed.

What to Bring

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| • 1 Set of Single Sheets | • 1 Pillow | • 1 Blanket or Sleeping Bag |
| • 1 Laundry Bag | • 3 Changes of Underwear | • 3 Pairs of Shorts |
| • 3 Shirts | • 3 Pairs of Socks | • 1 Pair of Long Pants |
| • 2 Pairs of shoes | • 1 Pair of Flip-Flops | • 1 Swimsuit |
| • 1 Pair of Pajamas | • 1 Towel | • 2 Wash Cloths |
| • 1 Flashlight | • Insect Repellent | • Fan w/ Extension Cord |
| • Soap/Soap Dish | • Toothbrush/Toothpaste | • Comb/Shampoo |
| • Deodorant | • Sunscreen | |

****Optional items: Devotion Book, Camouflage attire, One outfit for a closing banquet (collared shirt/sundress), wacky costumes for activities, and Eno hammocks. ****

DO NOT BRING: alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, firearms, lighters, knives, fireworks, shaving cream, water guns, and expensive items such as cell phones, nice clothes, iPods, iPads, CD player/radio, portable gaming systems, A/C units, etc. YMCA Camp Cherokee is an alcohol, drug, and tobacco free environment. Possession of any of these items could be grounds for immediate dismissal. PLEASE DO NOT BRING CELL PHONES!

Activities

Campers have the opportunity to participate in various kinds of class and evening activities. Activities may include swimming, canoeing, sailing, rock climbing, nature hikes, archery, arts and crafts, athletics, cooking, carnivals, crafts, fishing, campfires, Olympics, dances, indoor hockey, ceramics, Rambo, talent shows, singing, vespers, and many more. All activities are dependent upon availability and class period choices.