



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA DAY CAMP KITCHIGAMI PARENT AND GUARDIAN HANDBOOK 2019

Below is important information for both new & returning campers. Please read this entire packet.

Day Camp Office: Downtown YMCA, 302 W. 1st St. Duluth, MN 55802

(Drop-Off and Pick-Up at this location, unless participating in extended care)

Camp Director Office Phone: (218) 722-4745 ext. 133

Direct Contact at Camp: (218) 348-4422

Youth Room at the YMCA: (218) 722-4745 ext. 198

Camp Kitchigami Location

Camp is located at the beautiful Chester Bowl Park. The address for Chester bowl is 1801 East Skyline Parkway with the main area of operations being at the end of the park near the soccer fields. Days begin and end at the downtown YMCA (302 W. 1st St.) and we will take trips to various city parks in Duluth throughout the summer.

Payment and Fees

ALL camp fees are to be paid in full **ONE WEEK** prior to the day your child begins camp. Automatic payments will be charged to the credit card used for your deposit at time of registration. If you need another form of payment please contact Shelley MacLean at (218) 722-4745 ext.103.

Cancellations

Refund of the camp fee (minus the \$50 deposit) will be returned in the case of cancellation **only if** cancellation is made **ONE WEEK** prior to the start of the camp session. If it is past the refund deadline and your child will not be attending their scheduled week, please contact us; we can usually move the camper into another open week of camp.

Program Structure

KINDER CAMP: (Ages 4-5) Our youngest campers will get introduced to the wonders of the natural world through exploration, sensory awareness activities, and nature play. Chester Bowl Park is the perfect place for Kinder Campers to connect with nature and make new friends in this half-day experience. Drop off and pick up at Chester Bowl Park only. Monday – Friday 9am-12pm.

EXPLORERS (Ages 6-8) Being away from home for an entire day at camp is an exciting experience! Camp opening ceremonies begin at Chester Bowl at 9:30am. Campers rotate to different activities such as team building activities, archery, stream ecology and exploration, and other exciting, engaging activities. Explorers will swim and rock climb at the YMCA on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons.

PATHFINDERS (Ages 9-12) The program format will keep your child active and engaged, and give them the tools to sharpen their skills! Pathfinders are often separated from Explorers for advanced lessons and more choice in activities. Every week provides new opportunities for adventure, fun, and friendship. Pathfinders will swim and rock climb at the YMCA on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons.

CAMP ALL WEEK: Last year we tried something new with having camp at the YMCA all day on Friday. Though it was fun to explore the downtown area, we missed playing outside at Chester, putting on skits and hanging out by the creek. **This year, we are back at Chester Bowl for the full week.**



As a part of registration, you are filling out a required health history form. Be sure to include all pertinent information regarding your child’s health, medications and insurance during registration. As a camp accredited by the American Camp Association, please be prepared to enter immunization dates and information as part of your camper’s health history form.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

We strive to provide convenient drop-off locations for Camp Kitchigami. Please note that **Kindercamp** drop-off/pick-ups are at Chester Bowl **ONLY**.

Location	Drop-Off Hours	Pick-Up Hours
Downtown YMCA	7:30AM-8:55AM Note: Extended care offered 7:30-8:30am Extra fees apply	4:00PM-5:30PM Note: Extended care offered 4:30-5:30 Extra fees apply
Chester Bowl (near the soccer fields of Chester Bowl Park)	9:00AM-9:30AM	Not available at this site. Pick-up is at YMCA (Questions? Contact camp office)

*Please note the drop-off times and try to have your camper at camp within those time frames.

Camp Kitchigami works hard to ensure the safe drop-off and pick-up of every camper. Camper’s parents/guardians will be asked to “sign-in or out” their camper. Continuous late pick-ups will result in a late pick-up fee of \$10 for every 15 minutes.

Transportation

Voyageur Bus Company will provide the transportation from the downtown YMCA to Chester Park, to other parks and field trips, then back to the Y for swimming and/or pick-up. Camp counselors will be on the bus to ensure safe and secure transportation for all. Please discuss with your camper typical bus rules prior to the first day of camp. (Listen to staff & bus driver, hands/feet/objects inside bus, no throwing objects, no yelling, stay seated, no eating, etc.)

Swimming

A favorite part of the camp program is swimming. Campers will travel by bus from Chester Bowl to the YMCA to swim from 2:30-3:30 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Campers will be tested and grouped by ability during swim time. Campers should bring a swimsuit, towel, and lock (optional) with them each of those days.

Weekly Themes

As outlined in our 2019 Brochure, each week of Day Camp Kitchigami this year will have a different theme. Each week will have activities based on different subjects. Not all activities each week will coincide with the theme, but the majority of programming will be theme based. Campers are welcome to dress up on Fridays!

Weather Emergencies

Camp is held even on the rainiest of days. If the weather looks wet, please be sure to pack rain gear and extra dry clothes. On cold and rain days, or in case of storms, we will plan fun "rainy-day" indoor activities. However, please pack so that your child can be outside!

Emergency Notification

In the event of an illness, accident, or injury, camp administration or the director will notify parents/guardians as soon as the camper's safety or care is assured. Please make sure we have home, cell, work, and emergency contact telephone numbers in the event that you cannot be reached.

Lunch

Please pack a lunch, drink, and two snacks each day. A refillable, labeled water bottle is also encouraged. We can provide water, but we do not have bottles. If sending perishable items, please pack ice pack with lunch as we do not have a means to refrigerate camper lunches.

Family Night Program

Family night programs give parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends the opportunity to experience day camp for themselves. Family programs include dinner, songs, games, art, archery, and a chance to meet camp staff. All family programs are held at Chester Bowl Park.

Mark your calendar, the 2019 Family Night dates are:

Thursday June 27th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Thursday August 8th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Personal Property

Personal sports equipment is generally not allowed at camp. Please check with a staff person before bringing personal sports/camping equipment to camp. Camp provides all kinds of games and exciting activities! Campers **may not** bring toys, valuables, money, tablets, music players, weapons, alcohol, animals, video games, or any other distracting items. Cell phones are not allowed at camp; if they are seen out they will be taken away and given to the parents/guardians at the end of the day.



Monday Morning Newsletter

Each Monday morning, we provide a newsletter that will explain the week's events. Newsletters are available at check-in spots. Make sure to take a new one each week because our activities may change!

Behavior Management

Camp needs to be safe and fun, both physically and emotionally for everyone. The camp staff will make every effort to program in a way that sets every child up for success. Here are the behavior expectations for each camper:

1. We will CARE for ourselves and for those around us
2. HONESTY will be the basis for all relationships and interactions
3. People are RESPONSIBLE for their actions
4. We RESPECT each other, the environment, and camp equipment



If a camper is disrespectful, the following actions will be taken:

1. Camp counselor will talk with the camper about his/her behavior. The camper will be encouraged to make a better choice and be redirected. The camper will continue to be involved in his/her group and program.
2. If not resolved, the camp director and/or site coordinator will talk with the camper about his/her behavior. Again, the camper will be encouraged to make better choices. The camper will be given time to think about how they are going to make better choices. This generally results in temporary removal from an activity.
3. If problem still persists, the camp director will contact parents/guardians to develop a plan to ensure an improvement in the level of respect the camper is showing. Creative solutions will be discussed. If the plan is not followed through, staff will talk with the parents/guardians about the camper's privilege to attend camp. If behavior persists and all other solutions have been explored, the camper loses the privilege of attending camp. Refunds are not given for camper removal in this situation.



ATTENTION CAMPERS!

Grab your backpack! It's time to pack for camp!

A List of Things to Bring EVERYDAY:

Please make sure to mark your camper's name on EVERYTHING so lost items can be returned. Thanks!

- Lunch and drink
- Two snacks
- Closed-toed shoes
- A filled, labeled water bottle
- Rain gear
- Your imagination and creativity
- Sun-block, hat and sunglasses
- A way to carry everything!
- Positive attitude
- Loud singing voice
- Swimsuit and towel (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
- A BIG Smile 😊

Put this sheet on your fridge or some place you will see every morning!