



BLAIR REGIONAL YMCA
**2024 CAMP
HANDBOOK**



Dear Summer Camp Families,

Welcome to Summer Camp at The Blair Regional YMCA! Our goal is to nurture the potential of every child to help them grow and develop into the best person they can be through the YMCA's core values of honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility. Campers will experience new activities, develop new skills and make new friends in a safe and fun environment.

The camp experience at the BRY provides opportunities that encourage campers to:

1. Develop a Sense of Belonging

- Be a part of something bigger than them – the camp community
- Experience opportunities to share and express their ideas with a group
- Experience opportunities to make choices for themselves and the group
- Experience the camp spirit within them and enjoy sharing it with others
- Respect themselves, others and surroundings.

2. Develop a Sense of Achievement – Campers learn and develop important skills resulting in increased confidence and self-esteem.

- Experience new things
- Experience a variety of activities- outdoor, physical and creative
- Use their imagination
- Experience a sense of pride in their actions, choices and projects
- Learn swimming skills and water safety

3. Build Relationships - Campers will make friends and be supported by positive adult role models.

- Make friends new friends while maintaining existing friendships
- Develop relationships with counselors who encourage, challenge, and support them
- Learn to collaborate and work as part of a group

We are excited about the addition of two new camp rooms at the Hollidaysburg Jr. High this summer. We were able to accommodate many new campers! Please watch for more information regarding the processes specific to the Jr. High after camp assignments are made.

Communication and parental involvement are essential for a positive camp experience. Please make every effort to read this handbook and the information posted in the BAND group or in the camp rooms. Your understanding and cooperation with camp policies will ensure a successful summer for all the campers and counselors. This handbook provides useful and necessary camp information. If you need additional information, have questions or would like to discuss your child's camp experience, please contact the camp director. Thank you for trusting the Blair Regional YMCA with the chance to make core memories for your child! We look forward to serving your family this summer!



Lauren McCrum

Youth Development | Summer Camp Director

(814)695-4467 EXT 212

Lmccrum@blairregionalyymca.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ages	Times	Dates	Cost
Completed K-5th	7:00AM-5:30PM	June 3-August 16	\$155/week

- Camp enrollment is FULL TIME for the 11-week program. No daily or drop-in rates.
- Attendance is not required but tuition will be charged for ALL 11 weeks, regardless of attendance.
- A non-refundable \$45 registration fee per child must be paid at the time of registration.
- Weekly tuition is prepaid and will be auto-drafted every Monday for the following week.
- If payment arrangements are not met, a \$15.00 fee per child will be added to tuition bill. Failure to keep camp accounts current will forfeit non-refundable deposit and may result in termination from the camp program.
- The program closes at 5:30pm. Late fees will be assessed for any late pick-ups. A breakdown of late fees is stated under LATE PICK-UP FEES.
- There will be a \$35.00 fee for returned checks, no exceptions.
- 15% sibling discount (youngest sibling pays full price; additional older siblings receive discount).
- Children previously dismissed from any YMCA programs are not eligible to enroll in summer camp.

COMMUNICATION

A private group for summer camp parents will be on the BAND app. Joining the group is mandatory. BAND will be the main form of communication for schedule changes, reminders about upcoming events, and other important information. The group can be accessed via the app on a smartphone or the website on a computer. BAND allows us to reduce paper use and ensure every family has access to the most up-to-date information at all times.

Join by typing the link into your web browser or by scanning the QR code with your mobile device:

<https://band.us/n/a5ae0b50R8AfB>



WEEKLY THEMES

6/3-6/7	BLASTOFF TO CAMP	7/8-7/12	HEROES
6/10-6/14	MYSTERIOUS MAGIC	7/15-7/19	WALK ON THE WILD SIDE
6/17-6/21	COLOR CRAZE	7/22-7/26	H2O
6/24-6/28	ROCK THE SUMMER	7/29-8/2	Y-LYMPICS
7/1-7/5	EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY (No Camp 7/4)	8/5-8/9	Y'S GOT TALENT
		8/12-8/16	WEEK OF EPICNESS

All camp groups participate follow the same weekly themes, but activities may vary between age groups. Activities range in the following categories: art, crafts, STEM, performing arts, sports, outdoor recreation, teambuilding and more. We encourage all campers to participate in activities and to challenge them to step outside their comfort zone and experience new things. Detailed weekly schedules will be posted in the BAND group and hung in each camp room.

FIELD TRIPS

6/19	DELGROSSO'S AMUSEMENT PARK
7/16	BELLWOOD POOL
7/31	MORRISON'S COVE MEMORIAL PARK
8/7	LAKEMONT PARK

- Field trip dates/locations are subject to change.
- Transportation and entrance fees are included in weekly tuition (no additional cost).
- Spending money is optional and at the discretion of families.
 - Must be in an envelope labeled with your child's name
 - Counselors cannot guarantee your child will return with change, so only send what you're comfortable with them spending.
- Packed lunches are required unless otherwise noted
- All camp staff attend the trips, there is not an option for campers to stay at the Y
- Trips can be rescheduled or changed to an indoor location such as the movie theater.
- Typically, the buses leave the Y around 10:00AM and return around 3:00PM.
- Specific details for each trip and any updates will be communicated via the BAND app.
- Campers must wear camp t-shirts on field trips. (Shirts will be distributed prior to the first trip)

PAYMENT

Payments must be made via debit or credit card. Completion of the Auto-Pay Form included in your registration packet is required.

We reserve the right to discontinue service if your account becomes 5 days delinquent. We understand that occasional financial situations arise; please keep the YMCA informed as to your family's situation in advance of delinquency so we can help.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

At the Y, we believe in making a positive impact on individuals and families in need and that everyone should be able to participate regardless of their ability to pay. We accept As a charitable nonprofit organization, we offer financial assistance to make camp accessible to all. Awarded scholarships are based on availability of scholarship funds, proof of income, and denial of ELRC funding. Please reach out to the camp director for a scholarship application.

Note: Before submitting a scholarship application to the YMCA, families must first apply to ELRC (Early Resource Center) for subsidized childcare funding. You can obtain an application directly from ELRC by calling 814-515-1223. If you are denied ELRC assistance, you may then apply to the YMCA for financial assistance. You must attach your denial letter from the county to your YMCA scholarship application.

STAFFING

Recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting staff is essential to the success of camp. Many of the counselors have already earned or are working toward a degree in Education or a similar field. All staff are required to be obtain the following certifications, clearances, and background checks: Pediatric First Aid & CPR, Mandated Child Abuse Reporting, State Police Criminal History, PA Child Abuse History, FBI Criminal History, & National Sex Offender Registry. Some of the topics in camp counselor orientation include: water safety, behavior management, de-escalation techniques, and supervision. A counselor to camper ratio of 1:12 is maintained. Before camp, pictures and bios of all the camp counselors will be provided.

CAMP ASSIGNMENTS

Campers will be assigned to groups based on several factors including age, needs, and room capacity. Special requests cannot be guaranteed. One of the goals of camp is to develop and grow social skills, making new friends is part of that experience. All camp groups will have the opportunity to mingle and do activities together throughout the summer.

SIGN IN/SIGN OUT

All parents/guardians are expected to sign campers in upon arrival in the morning and sign them out before leaving in the afternoon. You must be at least 18 years of age to sign a camper in/out. There must be an exchange of responsibility between an adult and counselor.

A driver's license must be presented to the staff before the child can be released. Once camp staff become familiar with families on the pick-up list, staff may not ask for I.D. However, if at any time, camp staff is not familiar with a person picking up, we reserve the right to ask for identification. Under no circumstances should a parent/guardian approach another child other than their own. Any adult who behaves in this manner will be asked to leave the facility and risks dismissal from the program.

AUTHORIZATION TO PICK UP

No child will be released to a person not authorized by the custodial guardian on the emergency contact form. For changes, written authorization by the guardian who signed the enrollment form is required. Children will not be released to siblings or anyone under the age of 18. Staff will require proof of identification from any person they are unfamiliar with before releasing the child. Legally, **staff cannot refuse to release a child to a verified biological parent unless there is a court order in the child's file** stating that parent does not have custodial rights.

LATE PICK UP FEES

If your child is not picked up by the 5:30 P.M. a late fee will be charged.

5:31-5:45PM	\$10.00 overtime charge per child
5:46 pm-6:00PM	\$25.00 overtime charge per child
After 6:00PM	\$35.00 overtime charge per child

If your child has not been picked up by 5:45PM and we cannot reach you by phone, your emergency contact number will be called and asked to pick up. We understand that things come up and a late pick up may occur on a rare occasion. If you know you are going to be late, please call us so your children and camp staff are not worried about your safety.

KEY FOB

Key fobs that allow access to the entrance on Hewit Street will be issued to each camp family. These doors will always remain locked for the safety of the campers. A deposit of \$10 per key fob (limit 2 per family) will be collected at the time of distribution. The deposit will be refunded the last week of camp when key fobs are returned. You may also choose to donate your deposit to the YMCA's mission to help support families in need.

CAMPER FILES

Campers' files must be filled out legibly and completely. All information must include complete addresses (Street Number, City, State, Zip code), phone numbers, health insurance (policy numbers), etc.

All lines must be signed by a parent/guardian Signatures are required (but often missed) at the bottom of the page under permission to obtain emergency medical care, admin of first aid, trips, swimming, transportation, and wading.

- Emergency Contact/Parental Consent Form
- Health Assessment/Immunizations signed and dated by physician. Due to licensing requirements, we can **only** accept the health form provided in the camp registration packet.
- Immunization Record
- Signed Sunscreen Waiver
- Camper Questionnaire

Any pertinent information regarding your child will be added to their file throughout the summer (i.e. injury reports, behavior documentation, medical information, additional information from parents, and additional pick up information).

All paperwork must be completed BEFORE the first day your camper attends

CONFIDENTIALITY

All records concerning children at our program are confidential. Unless we receive your written consent, or a court order, information regarding your child will not be released; except for that required by our licensing agencies. This excludes the responsibility held by all YMCA staff to act as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect as outlined by PA law.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The YMCA is committed to the policy that all children should have equal access to its programs and facilities. The Y adheres to all ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) provisions and will accommodate special needs to the extent that financial and physical resources permit. With the goal of being prepared to provide a positive camp experience, we ask that families contact the camp director prior to camp enrollment if their child has any special needs or accommodations. These should also be listed on the enrollment forms.

The following questions will be asked by camp staff and should be considered by families when deciding whether to enroll children in camp:

- Can the child safely participate in 1:12 ratios? (State regulated staff to children ratio)
- Does the child require 1:1 supervision (in school, camp or other programs)?
- Can the child withstand heat, the outdoors and environmental change?
- Can the child perform daily living tasks independently (eating, changing clothes, toileting)?
- Does the child frequently hide or run from adults?
- Does the child become overstimulated/overwhelmed in large groups/noisy environments?
- Can your child successfully transition between preferred activities and nonpreferred activities?
- Does the child exhibit aggressive tendencies?

HEALTH INFORMATION

The health of the child enrolled in our program is important to us. Make sure the staff are aware of any special needs or considerations your child may have. The childcare health assessment form must be completed before a child attends camp.

Our camp is not equipped to care for sick children (or contagious diseases). This includes measles, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough, pneumonia, pink eye, fever, vomiting, ear infection, diarrhea, skin rashes, severe coughing, strep throat, lice, or yellow mucus discharge from nose. If your child becomes ill in our program, we will call you and you must plan to pick up your child immediately. Our camp is not equipped to care for sick children.

Children who are identified as having lice will not be allowed to return until they are 100% nit free. Our staff will be required to do a head check at drop off the first day the child returns.

Camp staff should also be made aware of children who have allergies such as bee stings. This should be noted on the health history, supervision form, and reported to the camp director and camp counselors. **Any child with an inhaler or EpiPen must have the proper medicine on site and a completed medication log on file.**

CHILD INJURY

If your child has an injury that may require more than basic first aid skills, we will make an immediate attempt to contact you and/or the person you have designated in case of such emergencies. If necessary, we will call an ambulance and a staff person will remain with the child until a guardian or designated person arrives. It is important that the YMCA maintains a signed consent form agreeing to this provision otherwise the hospital may not treat your child until you arrive. Please make every effort to keep the YMCA up to date on phone numbers, emergency numbers, and other pertinent information.

Parents will be notified immediately of any allergic reaction or any kind of injury to the head. In the event of minor injuries (cuts, scrapes, bruises), parents will be notified at the time of pick-up.

DRESS CODE

Campers should wear comfortable and appropriate clothing for indoor and outdoor activities that can get dirty. We do not reimburse for clothing rips, stains or wear and tear. Campers should wear sneakers every day of camp. Open toed or backless shoes are not safe for some camp activities.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

Label all belongings with first and last name.

- Change of clothes (in a labeled ziploc bag to remain at camp or in backpack)
- Hat
- Reusable Water Bottle
- Packed Lunch
- Backpack

All belongings must be labeled with first and last name. The YMCA is not responsible for lost or damaged items.

Note: Cell phones are permitted to be kept in bookbags. They must be turned off and used only in an emergency.

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Electronics or video games
- Toys
- Personal items from home
- Valuables
- Weapons

Campers found with weapons or other inappropriate items or found engaging in activity deemed unsafe or negligent will be expelled immediately from camp. No refund will be issued in these circumstances.

SWIMMING

Campers will have an opportunity to swim weekly at the YMCA. A swim schedule will be provided prior to camp.

Lifeguards will conduct a swim test to assess campers' ability and which of the following categories they fit in:

Shallow Swimmer Only (life vest required)

Shallow Swimmer Only (life vest optional)

Shallow or Deep Swimmer (no life vest)

The swim test consists of swimming the length of the pool followed by floating on back and treading water. These skills are imperative to water safety and will be worked on throughout the summer. Swim tests will be offered weekly for campers who desire to move to a different level. Typically, older campers progress through the levels as they spend more time in the pool. Many younger campers remain shallow swimmers through the summer. If you prefer your child to remain a shallow swimmer with a life vest, inform their camp counselor.

A rubber bracelet will be worn by shallow swimmers so lifeguards and counselors can ensure everyone is in the correct zones. The YMCA provides life vests for on-site swimming. Campers must bring their US Coastguard approved floatation device (no arm floaties or back-pack style floaties). Look for the stamp below on the label:



Campers are expected to independently change out of their clothing into a swimsuit and back. Please practice changing out of a wet swimsuit and placing it in a plastic bag or reusable wet bag and putting that bag into their backpack. Please try to refrain from swimsuits that require assistance (i.e. tying). Pack all swim gear in a backpack or bag; sometimes counselors may ask that their group arrive wearing their swimsuits with their extra clothes in their backpack.

SUNSCREEN

Our policy is to do everything possible to protect our campers from excessive exposure to the sun, while still allowing them to get the most out of our outdoor games and activities. **Parents are responsible for applying sunscreen prior to dropping off at camp.**

We will provide sunscreen for reapplication throughout the day (Banana Boat Sport Ultra 50+ Lotion). Camp staff are only able to assist in application if the sunscreen waiver (provided in the enrollment packet) has been signed and returned.

Counselors will take all reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure each child reapplies sunscreen to exposed skin prior to outdoor activities. Counselors will assist younger campers. With counselor instruction, campers 8 years and up are expected to apply their own sunscreen.

Counselors will not apply sunscreen when skin is broken, or an adverse reaction has been observed. This may result in campers being unable to participate in outdoor activities. Families will be notified in these instances.

The YMCA reserves the right to send any camper home who may endanger themselves or make injuries worse due to sun exposure while attending camp, this includes refusing to apply sunscreen. Parents who feel that their child does not need sunscreen must provide a note to be kept on file. A medication log must be completed if a parent chooses to provide their own sunscreen. Please see a camp counselor for more information.

CAMP RULES

Follow the YMCA core values: Caring, Respect, Responsibility, Honesty.

Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Do not leave counselors' supervision for any reason.

Be kind and respectful to fellow campers and counselors.

DISCIPLINE

The Blair Regional YMCA Summer Camp Program is centered on the children for whom we care. Our goal is for every camper to succeed in our program. We work to incorporate our values of caring, respect, responsibility, and honesty into our daily activities. Campers are responsible for following YMCA camp rules, which are designed to provide the best possible experience and a safe environment for all campers and staff.

Camp staff will use positive reinforcement, redirection, and planning to prevent negative behaviors. They will encourage appropriate behavior using consistent, clear expectations and involving children in problem solving to foster the child's own skills. Additionally, staff will encourage children to respect other people, to be fair, respect property, and learn to be responsible for their actions. Camp staff will use discipline that is consistent, clear and understandable to the child. They will help children to learn to persist when frustrated, play cooperatively with other children, use language to communicate needs, and learn turn taking.

The YMCA sees a solid partnership with our families as a basis for their children's success within our program. Because the YMCA Summer Camp Programs' child-centered/family approach seeks to accommodate a wide range of individual differences, it is only on rare occasions that a child's (or family's) behavior may warrant the need to find a more suitable setting for either a short term or permanent basis. We will do everything possible to work with you to avoid a child's disenrollment from the program.

- Families will be kept informed of any minor behavioral incidents at pick-up/drop-off or through BAND
- Behavioral/Safety concerns can result in removal from field trips at the discretion of the camp director prior to a camper success plan being implemented.

CAMPER SUCCESS PLAN

In ALL cases, the YMCA's goal is to act quickly, thoughtfully, and thoroughly to communicate, address, and resolve concerns relating to the children in our care. If a camper's behavior is frequent or increasing in severity, staff will attempt to work with a family to take constructive steps to find a solution.

When staff have concerns about a child's behavior or needs, they will document them as soon as they arise. Staff will inform and involve the child's family via conversations via emails, phone calls, and meetings as necessary, to establish a collaborative approach to review strategies implemented to resolve concerns. If the child's behavior presents concern for the safety of themselves, peers, or counselors; or is disruptive to the daily activities, a camper success plan will be created. This plan will include input from the family, camp director, and counselors.

The following should be considered when forming a Camper Success Plan:

- Changes to the physical environment
- Daily structure of activities
- Counselor training (intervention strategies)
- Transitions
- Safety strategies
- Aggression (is there a threat to self or peers?)

Camp staffs' strategies and intervention techniques will be assessed and adapted to the needs of a camper, whenever possible and appropriate (within a 1:12 ratio). If necessary, efforts may be made to help a family understand how they can support the plan at home or encourage a resolution by evaluating their strategies or expectations. Literature and other support resources regarding improving behavior can be provided to the family and the counselors as needed.

The counselor to camper supervision ratio is 1:12. If a camper demonstrates that they are unable to safely participate with that level of supervision, we welcome staff from outside agencies to provide 1:1 supervision (i.e. BSC, TSS, Nurse). In some cases, we may suggest an evaluation by a professional consultant to come in and observe the child in the school and/or home base environment. The Blair Regional YMCA can offer families a list of behavioral health organizations and Early Intervention Programs to contact. Families can contact 1-800-692-CONNECT. OCDEL also offers help through this Survey Monkey link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/PAExpulsionHelp

The family is responsible for initiating this process, and there is often a long wait for services.

DISENROLLMENT

The decision to disenroll a child from the YMCA Summer Camp Program is a difficult one for both the YMCA and the family. Should the camper require more support than we can provide, or a situation escalate to a level where we can no longer safely offer care, a camper success plan may determine the need to remove the child from the program. The following are some reasons why we would have to disenroll a child or family from our program. Some examples of such instances include:

CHILD'S ACTIONS:

- Child is unable to adjust to the program after a reasonable time
- Ongoing physical or verbal abuse to staff or other children
- Ongoing uncontrollable tantrums/angry outbursts
- Concern for the safety of your child and/or other children

FAMILY'S ACTIONS:

The YMCA understands the family's desire that their child is entitled to a pleasant experience at any YMCA Youth Programs. Respect for every child, family and staff will be demonstrated always. Families are always expected to behave in a reasonable manner while participating in YMCA Youth Programs. If it is found that families are exhibiting inappropriate behavior, disciplinary action will be taken. CHILDREN CAN AND WILL BE DISMISSED FROM ANY YMCA PROGRAM BECAUSE OF THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR FAMILY.

- A parent/guardian fails to abide by program policies or requirements imposed by appropriate licensing agency.
- Non-payment of tuition
- A parent/guardian demands special services that are not provided to other children and cannot be reasonably delivered by the program. This includes requests that depart from the mission of the Blair Regional YMCA.
- A parent/guardian approaches another camper or family regarding behavioral concerns

It is the YMCA's goal to provide the parents enough time to take the necessary corrective action to allow the child to remain at the YMCA and to provide them with sufficient notice of the potential for disenrollment, so they can secure alternative care.

IMMEDIATE DISENROLLMENT

- A parent is physically or verbally abusive or intimidating to the staff, children, or anyone else in the program.
- Potentially dangerous behavior by a parent or child

If the behavior has not been resolved after all actions have been exhausted, a conference will be held with the child's parent/guardian to communicate the YMCA decision to disenroll. A follow-up letter will be provided which will include, if applicable:

- reasons for the disenrollment or suspension
- date of the disenrollment or length of the suspension
- expected behavior changes required for the child or parent to return after suspension

If the YMCA Summer Camp Program has no other recourse but to disenroll a child, the YMCA will maintain on file a record of the circumstances, parental notification, and corrective actions taken. Children who have been dismissed from YMCA childcare or camp programs are not eligible to reenroll.

BULLYING

The YMCA Summer Day Camp has a zero-tolerance policy for any sort of bullying (this may include but is not limited to name calling, singling out, hitting, shoving, and aggressive behavior). Zero Tolerance means that your camper may have to be picked up immediately if any sort of bullying occurs. This zero-tolerance policy includes parental behavior towards staff. The camper may not be allowed at camp if there is poor behavior from anyone (including parents/guardians).

MEALS/SNACKS

Your child will need to pack a healthy lunch and drink each day. Ice packs for bag lunches are recommended- refrigerators and microwaves are not available. An afternoon snack will be provided, but you may also send a snack with your child if you prefer. An insulated, reusable water bottle with a leak-proof lid is recommended.

BABY-SITTING

All staff are not to fraternize, babysit, or have contact with children outside of the program hours. This restriction extends to transporting of family members to and from the YMCA, or any other function that is not YMCA program related.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Program evaluations happen a minimum of once per summer. We are committed to providing a child-centered program, please consider providing any positive or constructive feedback at any time to help us better improve program.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items will be by the camp entrance. Please check this basket at the end of each day for child's belongings. Following the last week of camp, we will donate items left in the baskets to local charities. The YMCA is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

At the Blair Regional YMCA equal opportunities are available for all children, without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, ethnicity, religion, disability, or parent/provider political beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation or special needs, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state or local laws.