

# YMCA of Orange Camp Oakes '10 PARENT'S GUIDE

## **CAMP ACTIVITIES**

The activities your child will engage in at Camp include:

### **The Program Areas:**

#### **Lakefront**

Supervised by certified Red Cross lifeguards, your child can canoe or paddle into adventure on Camp Oakes's private lake.

#### **Horses**

Each camper will have the opportunity to ride the horses that are maintained by the private camp Oakes riding stable.

#### **Climbing Wall**

This is a state of the art climbing wall. It soars 40 feet into the air between two giant pine trees.

#### **High Ropes Adventure Course**

Your child boost their self-esteem and courage as they are challenged by a program that brings them to new heights above the trees. Camp Oakes' expert staff will lead them through this exciting program.

#### **Low Ropes Adventure Course**

Our leaders will guide your child and their cabin group in a series of problem-solving skills and team work in our Low Ropes Challenge Courses.

#### **Archery**

Our archery instructor will teach your child how to safely use a bow-and-arrow.

#### **Arts and Crafts**

Your child will learn to make wonderful keepsakes, which will remind him or her of their camping experience for years to come.

#### **Nature Center**

Our counselors will lead your child on a nature walk that will teach them about everything from the biggest trees to the smallest flowers in the world.

#### **Observatory**

Your child will stargaze with one of the two high power telescopes that Camp Oakes has in their private observatory.

#### **Pool**

One of the highlights of Camp Oakes. Swimming and games

will be some of the activities enjoyed at the pool.

#### **Twilight Games**

Your child's cabin will compete against the other cabins in various friendly competitions (such as a scavenger hunt, bingo, piñatas and balloon stomp).

#### **Riflery**

A Certified Riflery instructor can teach your son or daughter to shoot b.b. guns or .22 caliber rifles in a safe, well-monitored environment.

#### **Carnival**

On Wednesday, your child's cabin will get to design and run a booth at our camp carnival, where the only limits to the fun are the children's imagination.

#### **Hike**

Your child will get to explore the woods surrounding camp as we lead them on a short hike to one of the more scenic locations near the camp.

#### **Chapel**

Each day, your child will be inspired as we give thanks and energized for the day at nondenominational morning chapel.

#### **Campfire**

Each night, your child's cabin will entertain the camp with skits, songs, and silliness at our infamous campfire program.

#### **Group-Building Games**

Your child's cabin will be challenged to learn to work together and to share through our various group games.

#### **Devotions**

Your child's cabin will talk about the day's events and what they learned each day in evening cabin discussions with their leaders.

#### **The Ragger's (& Leather) Program**

Your child will have an opportunity to challenge themselves to make specific changes in their life by joining a fellowship with nearly a century of YMCA tradition and excellence to its credit.

#### **Vespers**

Your child will be reminded of the lessons of the week and of the values and challenges of camp, in this final evening ceremony.

## **WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO BRING TO CAMP**

Your child will be engaging in many exciting activities while at Camp.

During the day at Camp, the average temperature is about 80°; at night, the average temperature is about 40°. Your child will sleep on a wooden frame bunk bed inside an insulated cabin. Two high-capacity shower restroom facilities (with individual private shower booths and private stalls) are available for your child's convenience.

With this in mind, your child will need the following items for their stay at Camp:

### **A Brown Bag Lunch**

(For the trip up on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day. Don't forget!)

\_\_\_ Sleeping Bag (Clearly labeled with your child's name.)

\_\_\_ 7 to 10 pairs of underwear

\_\_\_ 7 to 10 pairs of socks

\_\_\_ 2 pairs of durable jeans

\_\_\_ 5 T-shirts

\_\_\_ 2 Sweatshirts

\_\_\_ 3 pairs of durable shorts

\_\_\_ 2 pairs of shoes

Do not bring flip-flops. Shoes (or similar outdoor wear) with a raised, separated heel (so that your child can use the stirrups on the horses).

\_\_\_ 1 warm winter jacket

\_\_\_ Sleepwear

\_\_\_ 1 bathing suit

\_\_\_ 1 bath towel

\_\_\_ 1 beach towel for the pool

\_\_\_ Toiletries

(Including soap, toothpaste & toothbrush, a comb/brush, shampoo, tissue, & deodorant – all in a toiletry bag).

\_\_\_ Sunscreen, Lotion & Chapstick

(It's very dry up there!)

\_\_\_ A water bottle/canteen

\_\_\_ Sunglasses

\_\_\_ Flashlight

\*Any prescription medication must be turned into the Camp Staff in a Zip-Loc type bag, labeled with the child's name before the child leaves on the bus.

\_\_\_ 1 sleeping bag

\_\_\_ 1 pillow

\_\_\_ 1 bag for dirty laundry

(There is no laundry service at Camp, so your child will have to bring his or her dirty clothes home).

\_\_\_ 1 duffel bag

(We suggest that you pack all of your

child's belongings in army-type duffel bag with his or her name clearly marked on it. **Please label all of your child's belongings with his/her name on it;** it'll make things easier for the child and for us if any difficulty arises.

No trunks are permitted! Your child is permitted only two large bags of luggage. **No trash bags, please!**

### **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROHIBITED:**

- \*Money
- \*Weapons
- \*Fireworks or other dangerous substances
- \*Alcohol or controlled substances
- \*Toys (except stuffed animals or night-time friends)
- \* Cell Phones
- \*Any portable video games (such as a Game Boy or PSP)
- \*iPod's/Radios/CD Players
- \*Matches or a lighter
- \*Any tobacco or similarly harmful products
- \*Anything valuable
- \*Animals/pets
- \*Personal Sports Equipment – bats, balls etc.

The YMCA holds medication and lost & found articles for 10 days only. (The camp staff and all YMCA employees are not held responsible for any item lost or stolen during the course of the week).

Please, prevent any problems before they start. Make sure your child doesn't bring any of the prohibited items to Camp.

Thanks for your support!

### **CAMPERSHIPS FINANCIAL AID**

The YMCA of Orange makes every attempt to try not to turn people away based on the inability to pay. Therefore, if the price of attending a week at Camp beyond your means, you may apply for the financial aid camp scholarships that we call "Camperships."

"Rules for acceptance and participation in the camp program are the same for everyone without regard to race, sex, age, color, religion or national origin".

In order to be considered for a Campership, your child must be between the ages of 9 to 16 years of age and you must:

1. Completely fill out the Campership Application and Camp registration forms;
2. **Provide proof of eligibility through a paycheck stub or your recent tax return**
3. Be able to pay at least a portion of the camp cost.

Limited funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

As an option, you can help defray the cost of camp by selling peanuts to cover the cost of your camp experience. Please inquire at the Y about when you can buy your "PeNuttles."

### **HOW TO BECOME A CIT OR LEADER**

If you or someone you know is interested in being a Leader or CIT next year, please contact the YMCA office.

#### **What's involved?**

CIT's are person's 16-18 years of age who pay a substantially reduced fee (usually half price) to attend Camp as part of the volunteer staff. While at Camp, CIT's assist their Leader to unite the cabin's campers into a close and proud unit, to inspire each of the campers to grow and improve, and to help them to have safe, clean fun. In exchange for this service, CIT's get to participate in regular training seminars which increase their knowledge of the skills involved in a successful and quality camp program. CIT's are chosen in early April.

Leader or cabin leaders are those who are at least 18 years of age who are primarily responsible for the execution of the camp program by unifying their campers into a strong cabin Unit, inspiring their campers to grow and improve in the spirit of camp, and to help them to have safe, clean fun. In exchange for this volunteer service, Leaders pay none of the primary per-person costs incurred at camp. Leaders are also treated to leaders' feed (a special barbecue) near the end of the

camp week as an expression of the YMCA's gratitude for their selfless and devoted service to the improved welfare of our youth.

Both Leaders and CIT's receive extensive pre-camp training in the methods of the camp program. This training includes extensive technical and procedural reviews, extensive group-building instruction, and the extended Camp rehearsal. All staff engages in various promotional and preparatory measures, which ensure a full-scale Camp of superior quality.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the YMCA family next year, please have them contact the YMCA office at 714-633-9622.

### **VISITATION POLICY**

Since camp is only a week-long experience, it is necessary to maintain a certain frame of mind with the campers. Therefore, parents are strongly discouraged from visiting their children at Camp or during the camp week.

Our experience shows that if a child is visited at camp they have a difficult time remaining in the program, because homesickness sets in. Please respect our policy and your child's camp experience.

### **MAIL**

Your child will be homesick at some point. It is a fact of camp. No amount of fun or inspiration will change this reality. **Please send your child mail.**

This little detail will relieve and free their hearts and minds so that their camp experience will be the best that it can possible by. Remember: your child will be away from home for seven days! Because we do so much at Camp seven days seems like seven weeks. They will have plenty to tell you when they return, but give them a little sunshine in their day by sending your child mail.

#### **How to send mail to your child:**

On the Thursday or Friday BEFORE YOUR CHILD LEAVES FOR CAMP, write a letter or prepare a package of goodies. Send your package or letter to:

**Your child's full Name  
Camp Oakes  
(C/O Dates in Camp)  
P.O. Box 452  
Big Bear, CA 92314**

Your parcel should arrive before Thursday (and hopefully before Tuesday). Your child can also send mail to you, so you may want to provide them with a pad and pen, pre-addressed envelopes, and a couple of stamps. Remind your child to send the letter before Tuesday's lunch or you may not receive it before they return from Camp.

### **CAMPER DISCIPLINE**

Children misbehave. When they do, it is necessary to impose corrections so that they will not repeat actions which are not in the spirit of Y values. Therefore, it is important that parents know what kind of disciplinary actions we will take with your child.

The first step we take when we see that a child is misbehaving is to separate the child from the group and try to determine the root of the problem. Once we have done that, we then try to remedy it while simultaneously making the child aware of his or her misdeeds. Once we have remedied the problem and feel that the child understands the nature of his or her wrongdoing, we secure a promise from the child not to repeat the wrong doing.

Once this promise is made, we assign an appropriate discipline for the child, as a reminder that all negative acts have negative consequences. Our standard discipline practice is to not allow a child to participate in a program activity.

If a child continues to misbehave, we will call you for help. Perhaps the threat of leaving camp will correct any problems.

If we determine with you that your child's behavior is detrimental to the camp program, we will ask that you pickup your child at your expense. No refund of camp fees is available in this case.

### **DROP OFF PROCEDURE**

Sending your child off to Camp on that first Saturday can be a stressful experience. In order to alleviate some of the chaos, we have created this procedure to establish a sense of order on drop off day. **All forms and payments must be turned in on July 23rd, before drop-off day.** Please be prepared to spend

most of your morning in the following way:

First, you must arrive with your child, your child's belongings and a brown bag lunch by 8:00 a.m. (**no earlier than 7:45 a.m.**) in the parking lot at the Youth Center on Palmyra. Please do not park in or block any area that we have closed off for bus traffic. The buses do not arrive until an hour later.

Once you arrive, please proceed directly to the Check-In Table. We will then tell you your child's assigned cabin group and where to locate that group.

We will have a clearly defined area for luggage. Please drop your child's luggage in this area and any medicine must be checked in at the Med Table. (Please place medication in a Zip-Loc bag with your child's full name and an emergency contact number labeled on the outside of the bag.)

Once you have found your child's cabin, your child's leader will introduce him or herself to you and your child. Once you have met your child's counselor, please say your good-byes. This will allow the leader to begin the first group-building exercises unimpeded.

Your child will then be off to Camp to make memories that will last for a lifetime. See you in a week! Don't forget to send your mail!

Once again, you must:

1. Arrive at 8:00 a.m. (please no earlier) at the Youth Center on Palmyra.
2. Park outside the parking lot (do not block the lot or pass the tape line).
3. Proceed to the Check-In Table & Check-In
4. Place your child's luggage in the luggage pile.
5. Lead your child to his/her Cabin group.
6. Meet your child's Leader (discuss any special care issues at this time).
7. Say good-bye to your child.
8. Leave the area as soon as possible.

### **PICK UP PROCEDURE**

Pick-Up Day can be as hectic as Drop-Off Day. However,

we have streamlined the process to make it easier.

The busses will depart from Camp around 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. This means that your child's bus will return from camp between 3:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. (We cannot control traffic, there might be delays). Therefore, we ask that you call the YMCA after 2:00pm to get an estimated time of arrival. Once we receive word from our Directors, we will update our voicemail with arrival times as the children make their way down the mountain. **Please do not leave a message asking when the busses will arrive, as there is no staff in the office at that time. As soon as we are informed of estimated arrival times, we will update our voice mail to keep you informed.**

Once the Directors arrive, a small area will be cordoned off with tape again. Please vacate this area so that the checkout process can go smoothly. It is imperative that you remain patient so that we can verify that every child in our care has been returned to his or her legal guardian.

Once the busses arrive, the luggage will be loaded off. At the same time, Cabins will be dismissed from the busses by group and will head to a specific area. Once you see your child's Leader, move to a position near him or her. Your child's Leader will then call off the name of his or her campers. When you hear your child's name called, please indicate that you are present. The child's name will then be checked-off and you may claim your child. Once your child is checked-out, you may leave. **Please don't forget to pick up your child's medications.**

Once again, you must:

1. Call the YMCA main office after 2:00pm to verify estimated arrival time. The YMCA voicemail will have current est. arrival times, but please note phone lines will not be answered directly by staff.
2. When you do arrive, please do not block parking lot or bus parking area.
3. Look for your child's leader and **sign your son or daughter out.**
4. Collect your child's luggage.
5. **Don't forget to pick up your child's medications.**

See you next year!

## **Parent's Night**

Parents' Night is a strongly recommended event that parents and campers should attend **Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the YMCA of Orange Youth Center on Palmyra**. Parent's night is a short meeting where parents can ask questions about the Camp, meet camp staff, and can share their excitement about their child's upcoming camp experience.

In an effort to reduce the long lines at Parent's Night, the deadline for paperwork and payments is before the meeting. July 23<sup>rd</sup> is the DEADLINE for returning paperwork and making the final payment before camp. Of course, paperwork and payments can be made before June 23<sup>rd</sup> but not after. Be advised: **We will not admit your child to camp on the bus if you have an outstanding balance or provide late or incomplete paperwork.**

Cabin assignments will be made after the meeting. If we do not have the paperwork, we do not guarantee that your child will be placed with their friends.

Legally, we cannot accept children at camp without complete paperwork. Please provide all of the necessary forms even if you have provided medical records in years past.

If you have not paid your balance in full before camp, unfortunately, your child will not be allowed on the bus to Oakes.

We have never had to turn anyone away because a parent did not either complete the appropriate paperwork or pay for camp, so please be mindful of the deadlines.

## **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY**

If you have a family emergency and need to get a hold of your child while they are at camp, please call the YMCA main office at (714) 633-9622 and we will contact camp for you.

Please remember that Camp Oakes is 230 acres and we have over 200 people in camp at any time. It may take some time to get to your child and have them return your call. We appreciate your patience.

## **MEDICAL PROBLEMS**

Sometimes campers get ill while they are at camp. We have an excellent relationship with two emergency health centers in Big Bear.

Our infirmary will determine with our on call physician whether a camper needs to be transported to those centers.

Part of your fee provides for secondary health coverage for all visits to these centers. However, if your primary health insurance covers the visit that will be the first insurance charged.

## **HOW TO GET MORE INVOLVED**

The YMCA could always use another pair of hands and another kind heart. If you want to get more involved in your Child's camping experience, or the YMCA family in general, there are a number of ways you can do it! You can: post posters; distribute promotional fliers; help with registration or check-in (on Drop-Off Day); Help with fund-raising; Coach, or referee; Golf with us at the Annual Executive of the Year Golf Tournament. Donate to the Annual Support Campaign Fund or to the YMCA Campership program; And much more!

Our support from the community is growing every year. That support takes many forms, from direct service to monetary donations. We want your help! If you're willing, we can certainly find a mutually rewarding way for you to donate your time!

For more information, contact Liz Martinez at (714) 633-9622.

## **PAYMENT & REFUNDS POLICY**

Payment of the Camp deposit and fees can be made in cash, by check, or with a credit card (in person or over the phone) at the front desk of the Orange YMCA at

the administrative offices on **Grand Street**. Please be sure that you have completed your registration forms when you make your final payment and that you receive a receipt for your payment.

**Parents who are applying for a Campership must still pay the \$45 membership fee.**

If you cancel at anytime prior to your child's scheduled departure for camp, you will receive a full refund **except for your deposit**. This includes all Campership awardees. A written explanation must be given to the YMCA office in order to receive a refund. We will not refund any portion of your camp fee if you do not contact us prior to your child's scheduled day to leave for camp.

## **Important Deadlines:**

**Final deadline for payment and paperwork is Monday, Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Parent's Night is Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> .**

## **YMCA Mailing Address & Administrative Office locations:**

### **Mailing Address:**

YMCA Youth Center  
Re: Resident Camp  
2241 E. Palmyra  
Orange, CA 92869

(You can mail in your paperwork but it must be complete and received by July 23<sup>rd</sup>.)

\*Parent's Night will be located at the address above, at the Palmyra location.

### **Administrative Office**

Grand Street Center Building  
146 N. Grand St.  
Old Towne Orange, CA 92866  
(714) 633-9622

(Cross Streets: Chapman & Grand St.)  
Between The Well's Fargo Parking Lot & the First Presbyterian Church

\*You can make your payment(s) at this location or call us to make payments by phone.

**We appreciate your cooperation and on behalf of our entire Y staff, we look forward to seeing your child at camp this year!**

