

Cheshire Community YMCA

Camp Quinnipiac



Parent Information

Cheshire Community YMCA (203) 272-3150

YMCA Camp Quinnipiac (475) 316-7460

(after the start of camp)

www.sccymca.org

Camp Director: Nick Deschino

YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Financial Assistance is available for qualifying individuals and families.

The YMCA is a non-profit 501c (3) charitable organization.

Thank you for choosing YMCA Camp Quinnipiac. We hope that your child enjoys being a part of our Cheshire Community YMCA Day Camp!

The YMCA Mission

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

YMCA Camp Quinnipiac Motto

Fun, Friends, and Memories. It is our goal to provide each camper with a positive camp experience with lots of fun in a warm and friendly environment.

The YMCA Camp Quinnipiac Mission

To provide a healthy and safe growing environment for all children who participate in our day camp. To provide a memorable experience that will last a lifetime. To promote physical and intellectual skills and a positive value system through participation in our Day Camp. To encourage the development of social skills in each child through interaction with other children and staff members.

Character Development

YMCA Camp Quinnipiac promotes the four character values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. These four values are the basis for many of our camp activities. Staff and campers follow and promote these values throughout camp.

Hours of Operation

Program	Days	Hours
YMCA Camp Quinnipiac	Monday - Friday	8:45 AM-3:00 PM
Before Camp Care	Monday - Friday	6:30 AM-8:45 AM
After Camp Care	Monday - Friday	3:00 PM-6:00 PM

Drop off and Pick Up

At the start of the day, parents are asked to park in the front parking lot of camp and walk their campers to the sign in/out area where they will personally sign in their child using the sheets on the table. At the end of the day, parents should also park in the front parking lot of camp and walk to the sign in/out to meet their campers. In order to ensure safety of all campers, we ask parents to sign their campers both in and then out each camp day. Campers will not be permitted to leave the sign in/out area unless escorted by their parent/guardian.

Daily Activities

The below schedule is a typical day for Rascals, Mountaineers, Wranglers, and Pathfinders.

6:30-8:45AM	Before Camp Care
8:45-9:00AM	Arrival
9:00-9:15AM	Opening Ceremonies
9:15-9:30AM	Group Meetings
9:30-10:30AM	Activity Period/Swimming
10:30-11:30AM	Activity Period/Swimming
11:30AM-12:15PM	Lunch
12:15-1:00PM	Activity Period
1:00-1:45PM	L.O.G.S. (Lots Of Great Stuff!)
1:45-2:45 PM	This or That
2:45-3:00 PM	Closing Ceremonies
3:00-6:00 PM	After Camp Care

Activity Periods include: arts and crafts, swimming, field games, nature, slip'n'slide, water games, court games, gladiator dodgeball, teambuilding, and other unit-wide activities. These scheduled activities will have a direct correlation to the session's theme. A more detailed calendar of activities will be emailed at the start of each session in the Group Newsletters.

Swimming

Rascals, Mountaineers, Wranglers, and Pathfinders will all have the opportunity to swim at the Cheshire Academy Pool. Every camper will have a swim test to identify what area of the pool they can use (Shallow or Deep end). Children entering grades K-2 are required to bring and wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket. Children entering grades 3-5 may choose to swim test out of their life jacket, but should be prepared with a life jacket just in case. We will provide Coast Guard-approved lifejackets to all campers that need them; lifejackets that are clearly noted as Coast Guard-approved.

Rainy Days and Extremely Hot Days

Camp operates on rainy days. The campers will have access to school building and tents. Unless there are extreme weather conditions, campers will swim on rainy days.

Camp also operates on extremely hot days. On these days, we take special care to make sure that all campers stay cool. We will have access to the school and shaded areas on these days and are sure to give campers plenty of opportunities to get drinks and participate in water games. Please note that there is no air-conditioning at YMCA Camp Quinnipiac. We recommend sending campers with an extra water bottle or drink on extremely hot days. We also recommend sending a bathing suit with campers on these days, even if it is not a scheduled pool day, as we offer opportunities for extra outdoor water play on extremely hot days.

Field Trips/Special Guests

Mountaineers, Wranglers, Pathfinders, and CIT's go on field trips on Thursdays. Trips may include: museums, hiking trips, bowling, mini golf, etc. Information pertaining to each week's field trip will be emailed out at the start of each week in the Weekly Newsletter. Please make sure to drop your camper off on time on field trip days, as some trips may leave as early as 9:15am. **Camp T-shirts for field trip days can be purchased at YMCA Camp Quinnipiac's Office for \$10.00. A permission slip must also be filled out for your camper to go on the trip.**

Rascals will have a Special Guest visit them at camp every Thursday. Special Guests may include: musicians, the Cheshire Police Department, the Cheshire Public Library, and traveling science programs.

Family Night

YMCA Camp Quinnipiac invites all families to its Family Night hosted each summer. Family Night is a great way for YMCA Camp Quinnipiac families to meet one another and also to meet with their camper's counselor and enjoy an evening at YMCA Camp Quinnipiac. Family Night begins at 6 PM and ends at 8 PM. Bring a picnic-style dinner. All campers are invited to Family Night, even if they are not attending the session that Family Night falls in; we look forward to seeing you there!

Our Staff

YMCA Camp Quinnipiac prides itself in hiring the most qualified and professional staff to provide the best day camping experience for your child. YMCA Camp Quinnipiac has a camper to staff ratio ranging from 8:1 (8 campers to 1 counselor) to 12:1 (12 campers to 1 counselor). All camp staff goes through an in-depth training program in June prior to the start of camp. At any time, please feel free to ask our staff if you have any questions. We also appreciate any feedback you might have.

Insurance

Please take note that YMCA Camp Quinnipiac does not provide accident insurance for campers. This is the responsibility of each camper's family.

Medical Forms

Medical Forms, which include: physicals and all medication paperwork, must be completed and returned to the Cheshire Community YMCA at least **1 week prior to the session** for which your child is registered. The State of Connecticut requires a current medical form (within 3 years) for every camper. **No child will be allowed to attend camp without a completed health form. There will be scheduled hours to drop off forms and paperwork to be checked before camp begins to ensure that your camper is all set prior to the beginning of the summer.**

Medication and First Aid

If your camper needs to take medication (either over the counter or prescription) during the camp day, our Camp Director, Camp First Aider, or certified staff member can dispense the medication as long as the following are complete:

- A physician has filled out and signed an Administration of Medication Form and an Individual Care Plan, and the forms are on file in the camp office.
- The medication is in its original container with prescription label and has the child's name on it.
- The medication has not expired.
- Child's parent/guardian has signed the Administration of Medication and ICP forms.

*All First Aid is done by our **Camp First Aider** or by Camp Staff who are certified in Red Cross First Aid and CPR, not by a Registered Nurse (RN)

**Please notify the Camp Director, if your child has any special medical considerations, such as allergies or medicine. **

What to Wear to Camp

Please have your child wear comfortable clothes each day to camp; which may include shorts, T-shirt, sweatshirt and sneakers. We ask that all campers come to camp wearing there bathing suit under there dry clothes. **Open toed sandals or shoes are not allowed for the activities that your child will be involved in.**

What to Bring to Camp

We recommend that campers bring a backpack to camp each day. Campers need to bring a bagged lunch, water bottle, towel and bathing suit to camp each day. Please make sure that all your child's belongings are marked with your child's name. Lunches are refrigerated each day except on field trip days. It is recommended that on those days you pack non-perishable items.

What to Keep at Home

In order to allow your child to have the best day camping experience possible and to avoid loss or damage to personal belongings we ask that campers leave the following items at home: cell phones, iPods, gaming devices, trading cards, and other personal toys. YMCA Camp Quinnipiac and the Cheshire Community YMCA are not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items.

Sunscreen

It is strongly recommended that campers wear sunscreen to camp everyday. We recommend that you apply it in the morning before your camper comes to camp in the morning. If your camper needs to reapply throughout the day, **you will need to fill out one of our Sunscreen Forms and return to the Cheshire Community YMCA or Camp.** Please label your campers sunscreen with First and Last name. We have the

space to hold sunscreen at camp for your camper and will typically ask campers to keep their sunscreens at camp to ensure that it is always available if they need it. Counselors will do their best to remind campers to re-apply sunscreen during the day. The label must match the sunscreen provided. Wranglers, Pathfinders, and CITs are asked to self-apply sunscreen. Counselors can help Rascals and Mountaineers re-apply sunscreen if needed.

Camp Phone

The YMCA Camp Quinnipiac phone number is (475) 316-7460. If someone is not available to take your call please leave a message and a staff member will return your call as soon as possible. In case of an emergency contact the Cheshire Community YMCA at (203) 272-3150. The Cheshire Community YMCA will then be able to contact the Camp Director directly.

Absenteeism

If your child is going to be absent from camp on a specific day, please contact YMCA Camp Quinnipiac at (475) 316-7460. If you don't call to let camp know your child will not be attending, we will call you to confirm their absence.

Payment Policy

- A \$25.00 non-refundable deposit per session is required upon registration for camp.
- After April 21, 2025 deposits are transferable between sessions but NOT refundable if a camp session is cancelled.
- The remaining balance is due in full, two weeks prior to the start of each session. A \$10.00 late fee will be assessed on all payments made after the deadline.
- All campers must be registered by 4:00PM on the Friday prior to the session starting. Registration will be put on hold from 4:00PM on the Friday prior to the start of a new session through the Monday morning of that session. A \$25 late fee will be charged if you sign up the Monday morning of the session.
- Payments must be made at the Cheshire Community YMCA or via the online registration system. Payments will not be accepted at YMCA Camp Quinnipiac.
- There will be a \$7.00 change fee applied to any session changed.
- Please address all questions or concerns regarding camp payments to our accounting department, (860) 426-9515.

Camp Scholarships

Our YMCA is committed to providing a quality camping experience for all. Camp scholarships are available for qualified families. Scholarship information is available by contacting the accounting department at (860) 426-9515.

Behavior Management Policy

At YMCA Camp Quinnipiac, we believe that one of the best ways to deal with behavior issues is to provide a quality camp program. By keeping activities moving and well organized, we believe that many potential problems can be avoided or prevented.

Disrespect toward staff members or property, injuring other children or staff, disruptive behavior, stealing, leaving camp property and profanity will not be tolerated. If such a problem occurs, the following steps will be taken:

1. Verbal discussions with the child.
2. If inappropriate behavior continues, the child will be removed from the group for a specified time frame or privileges will be taken away.
3. Whenever there is a serious concern about a behavior or discipline problem, the staff will share their concerns with the parents/guardians to resolve the problem.
4. If the problem persists, or a serious infraction has been made, the camper will be put on suspension or asked to leave the program.

YMCA Camp Quinnipiac is determined to provide a safe and fun environment for all campers, free from bullying and other possible negative behaviors that disrupt a positive day camp experience. We feel that the best way to prevent any negative behaviors from occurring is to provide a quality day camp program with well trained staff. In the event that a camper exhibits any negative behavior(s), it may result in referral to the camp office, time out of an activity and/or dismissal from the program. See below for details.

The following negative behaviors will be dealt with by the camp counselor. If the offense is repeated or the camper is continuously disrupting the group's activities, the camper will miss time out of an activity and/or be sent to the Camp Director. The Camp Director will evaluate the negative behavior and may notify the parents (depending on severity/frequency), fill out a behavior log and put it in the camper's file and require that the camper miss more time from an activity (depending on severity or frequency).

- Minor hitting, shoving or pushing
- Inappropriate language or subject matter
- Not following directions
- Straying from the group
- Distracting counselor/group
- Throwing objects

The following negative behaviors will result in the camper(s) being sent immediately to the Camp Director. The Camp Director will work with the Counselor to evaluate the negative behavior. Parent(s) will be notified, behavior log will be filled out and put into the camper's file and camper may be dismissed from camp (temporarily or permanently).

- Aggressive physical contact (hitting, shoving or pushing)
- Verbal threats to campers or staff
- Destruction of camp/school property or property of others
- Stealing
- Possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol or cigarettes
- Possession of weapons, including knives or other dangerous items
- Endangerment to self or others

Lost and Found

While camp staff do their best to make sure your camper has all of his/her belongings, items are still lost. Please label all of your camper's belongings including clothing, lunch boxes and backpacks. Lost and found will be located in the camp office unless otherwise noted.

Special Concerns

If your child has any special considerations or accommodations which need to be made, please let us know prior to your child's first day at camp. An Individual Care Plan may be required.

A. Statement on Accommodations for Participants with disabilities in YMCA Programs

The Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs are committed to making its programs and activities available on a non-discriminatory basis as required by the Americans with disabilities Act (ADA).

The Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of disability with regard to the full and equal enjoyment of its services, programs or activities. The Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs will make reasonable modifications to its programs for children with disabilities, both new applicants and those already enrolled, on a case by case basis to permit them to participate in our programs in the most integrated setting possible, unless the Southington-Cheshire YMCA can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of its services, programs or activities.

When a request for a modification is made, the YMCA will assess the needs of the child for whom the request has been made on a case by case basis. Parents/guardians should make the request in writing to the appropriate Program Director. The YMCA will work with families to provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with YMCA policy and applicable laws. The YMCA may request documentation concerning the child's needs. Absent extenuating circumstances, parents/guardians will be notified of the YMCAs decision on the request for accommodations within 5 business days.

If the YMCA determines that they will not be able to provide the requested reasonable accommodations, the YMCA will notify the parents in writing which modification it will provide (if any) and which ones it will not provide. Pursuant to the ADA, the YMCA may choose to not provide an accommodation if that modification would fundamentally alter the nature of its services, programs or activities.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact Nick Deschino at (203) 272-3150 ext. 515 or ndeschino@sccymca.org