



Summer 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians and Children,

Welcome and thank you for choosing Camp Ma-Kee-Ya for your child's summer camp experience!

We are looking forward to another terrific summer with lots of fun and exciting activities and special events. Preparing for camp is very important which is why we try to make it easier for you. Below you will find all of the information you will need to prepare for camp.

Camp Directors: **Kevin Harney & Nikaela Calero**
Land Line: **201-327-2079 (available M-F between 8am and 5pm)**
Tel: **201-327-3137 (available 24/7 for messages)**
Email: **campmakeeyastaff@ywcabergencounty.org**

Address: Camp Ma-Kee-Ya
(at Camp Glen Gray)
200 Midvale Mountain Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Here are a few things you should know:

Camp Philosophy – In keeping with spirit of the YWCA mission, we are dedicated to creating an environment of friendship and acceptance. We aim to engage children in fun activities that promote team work, self-esteem, personal responsibility, and appreciation of others view points and opinions while providing a safe and enriching camp experience.

Our well trained staff help create an atmosphere that encourages tolerance, respect and consideration for others differences regardless of looks, race, religion, gender, age, abilities, etc.

Camp Ma-Kee-Ya respects the rights and dignity of all campers and staff, including individuals with varying abilities, cultures, genders, races and religions. Camp Ma-Kee-Ya is inclusive to all and our staff is trained to set the highest examples of behavior for campers.

We will not tolerate physical or verbal bullying, acts of hatred or intolerance or anything that would cause harm to another individual. No weapons, drugs or alcohol are permitted on camp transportation or camp property.

Absence/Illness – Please email us at **campmakeeyastaff@ywcabergencounty.org** or call the camp land line **201-327-2079** or **201-327-3137** if your child will be out of camp for any reason. For the welfare of your child and the other children in the group, your child must be kept home if they appear ill or has been ill during the night. If your child is injured, becomes ill (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) or has symptoms of a communicable disease (pink eye, lice, strep throat, etc.), the EMT or Camp Directors will contact you to pick them up. A child must be free of all symptoms for a 24-hour period before re-admission to camp. If a child sees a doctor for an infection/illness, they must bring a note from that doctor stating they may return to camp.

Pick-up Procedures – Parents/guardians must inform the Camp Directors in writing, in advance, if someone other than the parent/guardian will be picking up. If the pick-up person is not listed on the child’s emergency data form and we have not been notified by the parent/guardian, the Camp Directors will not release the child and a telephone call will be made to the parent/guardian.

YWCA Bergen County Camp Ma-Kee-Ya will not assume responsibility for a child after the child has been signed out of camp. Children signed out of camp by someone other than the parent/guardian may not return to the camp.

Furthermore, YWCA Bergen County Camp Ma-Kee-Ya has no responsibility or involvement with any arrangements for transporting a child home from camp or for babysitting a child. YWCA staff members are prohibited from signing a child out of program.

Morning Bus Procedure – Children and parents/guardians must be at the bus stop at the time indicated on the bus schedule. You must sign in your child with the bus counselor and stay with your child until the bus leaves. The bus counselor will stand at the entrance to the bus and take attendance as children enter.

Afternoon Bus Procedure – Parents/guardians must be at the bus stop on time. The bus counselor will exit the bus and stand at the bus entrance. Children will be released to parents as they exit the bus. Parents/guardians must sign the children out and ID must be shown. It is our policy that the person picking up your child is at least 18 years of age and is designated on your release form.

Bus Rules – Children must obey the bus rules. Failure to comply with said rules may result in termination of enrollment.

- Children enter the bus and take a seat
- Seatbelts must be worn at all times
- Everyone must be seated until the bus comes to a full stop
- Food or drink is not permitted on the bus
- Fighting, pushing, shoving, yelling or any negative behavior is not acceptable
- Hands (and all other body parts) stay in the bus at all times – no hanging out the window
- Rude, obscene, or intolerant language or gestures are not acceptable
- Defacing any part of the bus is not acceptable

Transportation Emergencies – In case of changes or emergencies that would affect campers’ pick-up or drop-off times or locations, the Camp Directors or designee will contact the main office at the YWCA Bergen County. The School Age Program Managers and Camp Directors will place phone calls/send emails to every camper’s parent affected by the emergency or change. The bus camp counselors will remain with the campers until picked up by parents/guardians or emergency pick-up person or until the situation is resolved (i.e. another bus is provided if a bus breaks down or does not show up). In the event that this occurs, Camp Ma-Kee-Ya Directors and the main office of the YWCA Bergen County will be notified.

Bus Drop off times/Pick-up times:

<u>Bus Stop</u>	<u>Drop Off Time</u>	<u>Pick-Up Time</u>
Bethany Community Center (Washington Twp.)	8:30am	5:15pm
Christian Reform Church (Ridgewood)	8:25am	5:45pm
Doug Parcels Athletic Complex (Oradell)	8:15am	5:30pm
Honiss School (Dumont)	8:00am	6:00pm
Mahwah High School (Mahwah)	8:45am	5:15pm
Mackay Park (Englewood)	7:45am	5:45pm

We ask for your patience during the first few days of camp as bus drivers acclimate to our schedule. Please make sure to review our bus rules with your child

Late Fee Policy – If a child is left at the camp/post camp designated bus stop beyond the designated pick up time, a \$25.00 late fee per child will be charged for the 1st and 2nd occurrence. If we are unable to contact a parent or the emergency contact persons 15 minutes after said pick up time, the Police Department will be called to assist in locating a parent or guardian. If the child is left for over an hour without notification from a parent, DCP&P will be called. A 3rd late incurs a \$50.00 late fee per child. More than 3 late pick-ups may result in removal from camp. Please understand your child’s safety is our first priority.

Anti-Bullying Policy – In keeping with our mission to promote acceptance and tolerance for all people and in order to keep all the children in our programs safe, YWCA Bergen County in accordance with its discipline policy, cannot allow any child in our program to hurt or be hurt by others. This can include physical, emotional or verbal actions. The YWCA Bergen County has instituted the following policy:

- Any incidents of the above behaviors will be brought to the attention of the Directors. Each incident will be handled on a case-by-case basis. All disciplinary actions will be in accordance with the YWCA Bergen County Discipline Policy and be done so in an age appropriate fashion.

The local police department and the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) will be notified if any child is found to be in possession of a weapon or anything identified as or used as a weapon. Further action will be under the advisement of the above agencies and the YWCA Bergen County administration.

Camp Safety/Personal Property Policy – Weapons, drugs, alcohol, animals, personal sports equipment and vehicles are strictly prohibited during transportation and at our camp. The use of/or possession of alcohol, drugs or weapons by staff or campers is strictly prohibited. Staff and campers are prohibited from using personal sports equipment and must use equipment furnished by the camp. Staff are prohibited from using their personal vehicles to transport campers. Animals are prohibited from camp grounds with the exception of service animals for campers with disabilities and petting animals that may be brought in by a company for a special event. Campers or staff found with any of the above could result in immediate termination of enrollment or employment.

Discipline Policy and Removal from Program Policies – One of many goals for the YWCA Bergen County summer camp season is to educate camp participants and instill in them the ability to self-discipline. Misbehavior is seen as a chance to educate a student about appropriate behavior. It is understood that all children require firm and consistent limits and that no child will be permitted to endanger them self, others, or to damage property. Clear and consistent guidelines are presented to children so that they are aware of their responsibilities and can be held accountable for their behavior. Children whose needs, abilities and values vary are treated in such a way that recognizes these differences. Occasionally there may be times and reasons we must expel/suspend a child from our program.

Before we would reach such a situation, we will do everything possible to work with the family of the child(ren) in order to prevent this policy from being enforced.

Some examples of unacceptable behavior include but are not limited to:

Disrespectful/Intolerant words or actions
Consistently ignoring program rules
Failure to complete required forms
Bringing a gun, knife, etc. to the program
Failure to pay tuition and/or late pick up fees
Physical aggression on part of a child or parent/guardian

Use of foul language by child or parents/guardians
Habitual tardiness when picking up child
Disrespect to staff or other children by a child or parent/guardian
Leaving program area without permission
Parent/guardian or child exhibiting verbal abuse to staff in front of enrolled children

Discipline will be administered as soon as possible and will be consistent with the severity of the problem. Should there be an infraction of the rules, the following consequences will occur:

1. Verbal Warning - We remind children of appropriate behavior.
2. Five Minute Time Out - This gives a child a break to cool off.
3. Ten Minute Time Out - Again a cooling off period and chance for re-direction. Staff will inform parents at pickup.
4. Written Note - Student writes a note to parent explaining behavior. This allows the student a chance to separate from the problem and cool down. It also forces the child to review the situation from start to end. Child will give the written note to the parent in the presence of staff.
5. Removal - Parents are called and asked to pick up the child immediately. This happens in rare cases where a child's actions are detracting from the safety of the group. If this removal is permanent the parents will have the opportunity to meet with the Manager of School Age Programs to discuss.

Fighting or intentional physical aggression for any reason will result in an immediate jump to #5. In order to return to camp, the parent and child must meet with the Camp Directors and/or Manager of School Age Programs.

A child will not be expelled if the parent/guardian:

- Made a complaint to the Office of Licensing regarding the program's alleged violations of the licensing requirements.
- Reported abuse or neglect occurring at camp.
- Questioned the Camp Directors regarding policies and procedures.

YWCA Bergen County will not tolerate any parent/guardian reprimanding, punishing or verbally threatening any child on our premises. If there is a problem, you will be asked to leave immediately. The safety of all children in our care is our first priority.

What to Bring Each Day

Parents are encouraged to **LABEL all children's belongings.**

- 1 bathing suit (1 piece only for girls) and a towel in a bag. ****PLEASE SEND A PLASTIC BAG TO PUT YOUR CHILD'S WET BATHING SUIT IN AFTER SWIM****
- Good sneakers are a must, we ask that children do not wear open toed shoes, sandals, flip flops or crocs. Children will be walking/ hiking to the different activities/locations daily.
- Water shoes are **required** for all children to swim in the lake
- A refillable/reusable water bottle
- Lunch in an insulated bag
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Extra change of clothes

Below is a list of recommended items. They are not required, however they are highly suggested:

- Hand Sanitizer
- Lip Balm/Chap Stick

- Tissues/ Wipes

Swimming – Campers will participate in American Red Cross Swim lessons daily, where campers will be instructed by YWCA Lifeguards/Instructors. Water shoes must be worn when swimming in the lake, and please be sure to pack the appropriate swim attire.

Lunch/Snacks – Campers bring their own lunch from home and the YWCA Bergen County will provide an afternoon snack.

- **We are a NUT FREE environment.** Please avoid sending food containing nuts.
- Please send lunch in an insulated bag; refrigerators & microwaves are **NOT** available.

Medications – As stated on the application, the Camp EMT must dispense all medications. Parents/guardians must provide any medication (epi-pens/inhalers/Auvi-Q's/etc.), along with the prescription and written instructions/action plan provided by a doctor to the bus counselor on the child's first day of camp. Medications must be in original package with prescription label attached.

Cell Phone Policy – Parents are highly encouraged not to let their children bring a cell phone to camp. Please understand the camp staff will call you if there is ever need to do so with any serious situation relating to your child's health or well-being. However, if you insist your child possess a cell phone, please be advised the phone will be turned off and placed in the possession of the Camp Directors. The camper may only use the cell phone for emergency purposes. To insure the camp is a safe, controlled environment, phones will not be allowed for social contact/entertainment reasons or to take/send pictures. Parents are also urged not to call their campers with non-emergency topics during the camp week. For emergencies, call the camp land line at 201-327-2079. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

Camp Shirts – Shirts are given to campers on their first day of camp. We encourage campers to wear their camp shirts each Monday, unless noted on the calendar. Of course, your child may wear their camp shirt any other day of the week as well!

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Camp Ma-Kee-Ya will not be responsible for items such as cell phones, iPods, iPads, and other personal electronic devices. We strongly recommend that these items be left at home and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.
- Camp is closed Thursday, July 4th in celebration of the holiday.
- Every Friday is "Pink Friday" at Camp Ma-Kee-Ya. Campers are encouraged to wear pink.
- On Fridays, campers will be able to order pizza through the camp. The cost is \$5.00 for two slices and a beverage. Money is due by **Thursday morning** during bus drop off in order for your child to have pizza for lunch on Friday, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Your bus counselor will have a sheet to add your child's name, your signature, and amount paid. Please inform your bus counselor if you would like your child to have pizza on Friday of that week and please give your money to the bus counselor no later than **Thursday morning.**

If you have any further questions, please call us **M-F between 8am and 5pm at 201-327-2079 or 201-327-3137** or send us an email at campmakeeyastaff@ywcabergencounty.org. We look forward to seeing you on the first day of camp!

Regards,

Kevin Harney & Nikaela Calero

Kevin Harney & Nikaela Calero
Directors, Camp Ma-Kee-Ya



When you participate in YWCA Bergen County programs, you invest in yourself and your community. Want to go further in your support? Visit ywcabergencounty.org/donategive.