



You Belong Here
EDWARDS YMCA CAMP



We've Been Waiting For You!



Since 1929, Edwards YMCA Camp has provided an exceptional summer camp experience for kids of all ages. Promoting character development through our 87 year-old Honors tradition, our top-notch staff, rustic environment, a safe, yet fun approach to every aspect of camp, and commitment to helping every camper become more independent and confident makes us truly unique. We're glad you have decided to give us a look; there are plenty of friendships to be forged, and countless memories to be made this summer- all we need now, is you!

A Little Crazy... A Lot of Fun!



Skills

Your skill choices will make up four hours of each day at camp. Skills introduce you to new things, and help to sharpen your skills at some things you might already enjoy.

Camp is all about fun and friendships, and we encourage you to learn something while you're here too! Skill choices include Archery, Sailing, High Ropes, Canoeing, Swimming, Snorkeling, Fishing, Arts and Crafts, Kayaking and Kayak Polo, Wilderness Survival, Nature, H2Awesome, Land Sports, and more.

Cabin Activities

You will spend time with your cabin mates and counselors each day engaging in "Cabin Activity Time." This time is designed to help your small group create and strengthen friendships, build community, and just be a little crazy! These activities might include Jungle Joe or Banana Boating, Cabbage Baseball, High Ropes, Watermelon Polo, GaGa, Spartan Training, or something that is yet to be created.

Evening Programs

We don't slow down when the sun starts to set; we're just ramping up! Each night after dinner, campers participate in "Camper's Choice" time, our version of "Choose-Your-Own-Adventure." To wrap up the day, Evening Activity might consist of Capture the Flag, Dutch Auction, Lip Sync Extravaganza, Counselor Hunt, Campfires, Pack-Outs, or everyone's favorite, the Waterfront Dance Party.



Where Will You Fit In?



Mini-Camp (ages 7-9)

3 night/ 4 day experience

Mini Camp is a great introduction to camp for those a little unsure about being away for a whole week. The campers get to experience a wide range of activities camp offers, adapted to their age-appropriate interests, facilitating a well-rounded idea of what a typical full-week session would entail.

Activities include: archery, nature, swimming, land sports, boating, special activities, arts and crafts, camp fires and more.



Youth Camp (ages 7-13) **Traditional One Week Session**

Youth Camp is our traditional camp experience that makes up the majority of our summer offerings. Campers enjoy a week with friends learning skills and hobbies in a more structured environment to help them progress in the skills chosen.

Campers choose 3 to 4 skills they will work on daily throughout the week, such as sailing, archery, wilderness survival, kayaking, nature, land sports, fishing, canoeing and a host of other activities.

Trekker Camp (ages 13-16) Traditional One Week Teen Camp

We know they have to “grow up”, but might as well enjoy every bit of youth while they can. In our Trekker Camp, the campers experience much of the same traditional camp offerings, but are allowed some special time to be teenagers. Don’t worry; we watch very carefully.

Trekkers have a little more free play as well as structured activities for the entire teen population to enjoy. A teen dance, Trekker bonfire, and Trekker time (structured activities for the group) are some of the opportunities to allow our campers more social interaction and camaraderie.



Wisconsin Adventure (ages 12-17) Off-Site Tripping Program



We do not offer a lot of trips, but they sure are a good way of ditching the technology and reconnecting with camping of the past. Our Wisconsin Adventure Trip offers a variety of outdoor pursuits. Whether climbing at Devil’s Lake or canoeing down the Lower Wisconsin River, your campers are led by experienced trip staff and outfitters to make sure they have a blast and are kept safe. Tent camping, cooking over fire, and learning some cool skills in God’s country is waiting the adventurous soul.

We highly recommend this program for the camper who wants a little something different than our traditional program. Or why not do both?



7:00 7:15 7:45 8:00 8:40 9:00 10:00 11:00 11:50 12:00 12:40 2:00 3:00 4:00 5:15 5:30 6:15 7:15 8:30 9:30 10:00

Wake up!	Road Runners/ Morning Dip	Flag Raising	Breakfast	Cabin Clean Up	1st Skill	2nd Skill	Cabin Activity/ Character Study	Cabin Roll Call	Lunch	Siesta	3rd Skill	4th Skill	G-Swim/ Camper's Choice	Flag Lowering	Dinner	Camper's Choice	Evening Program	Vespers/ Shower Time	Devotions	Lights Out
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The Next Step: Leadership Programs



Camp Edwards was founded with a focus on strong leadership, and we continue to pass these qualities on to our campers. To this day, we intend to instill those qualities into all of our campers, but have programs specifically designed with leadership in mind. Space is very limited. These programs fill fast and usually have a waiting list.

Leaders In Training

Two-week experience
(Age 15 by start of program)

LIT inspires and promotes leadership qualities in our older campers, so they can translate them the following year into the Junior Leader Program, and sets firm foundation for good leadership qualities in society. This program includes an off-site, overnight camping trip.



Junior Leaders

Three-week commitment
(Age 16 by the start of program)

JL is primarily focused on continuing the camper's personal leadership experience, and helping to develop strong leaders for the future of Camp Edwards. This program offers our older campers a unique view at the summer camp world, giving them a taste of what a summer on staff entails. Campers are strongly encouraged to complete the LIT program the summer before enrolling in JL. This program includes an off-site, two night camping experience, as well as a one-week "immersion" period with a youth or trekker cabin.

Please Note: Before registering for either Leadership Program, campers and parents need to be aware that these programs are designed to develop leadership abilities. Although there is plenty of fun camp stuff integrated in the programs, they differ greatly from Trekker and Youth Camp. Many campers participate with the strong desire to become leaders at Camp Edwards. If your desire is to be at camp for "one last year," keep in mind our Trekker Program serves campers through age 16.



Safety

There's a saying at camp; "Safety First, Fun 1A." We are fully prepared, and continually train staff in the unlikely event an emergency arises. Lost campers/ swimmers, weather emergencies, and unannounced visitors are just a few of the things our staff prepares for. All staff are American Red Cross certified in First Aid, CPR, and AED administration, and swim bands are worn by all campers and seasonal staff for safety. A Red Cross Lifeguard supervises all waterfront activities, and all campers participating in boating activities must wear US Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices. Camp is staffed with a 24-hour Medical Coordinator to administer medication, tend to bumps and bruises, and provide care when your child isn't feeling 100%.



Important Stuff

Camp Staff

We are proud of the fact that nearly 75% of our staff have grown up at Camp Edwards and completed the Junior Leader program. All staff are required to submit to two background checks, random drug testing, 10 days of intense staff training, and the standard application and interview process. A high staff return rate ensures great connections with the campers year after year.



Camp Policies

All of our policies are found in the parent handbook. However, the one that is typically called in to question is the cell phone and phone call policy. We think there is a place for a simpler, more natural life without the added frustrations of always being connected. This is the campers chance to be a kid without the distraction of a phone updating them that their friend just ate an omelet for breakfast. This is their time to be independent and be here in the moment. Phones are a major distraction at camp and therefore we ask that they be left at home. Why can't you speak to them? Nothing personal, but if the need arises you will be notified.

Talking to parents reinforces homesickness and can actually embarrass your camper. So if we need your help with an issue or we need to relay information, we will call you.



Here's What The Parents Say



No one is unhappy at camp!

There's no other place I feel safe sending them away from mom where they can make their own decisions and do things on their own.

My boys look so forward to going. They absolutely love going and I love hearing all of their adventures and new friends.

As a parent, there are certain, yet very important, decisions you have to make: You find a good pediatrician, enroll your children in a great school, you find the right sports and activities for them to participate, and you send them to Camp Edwards!

The staff supports the positive view that children need. I feel the "be who you are" theme is strong at camp and encourages growth. The director is awesome and the counselors promote a safe atmosphere.

My son always comes home a little more mature, a little more independent after camp.

They help kids become the best they can by providing an amazing platform for them to be independent. They have made Noah grow up a little more each year in ways I cannot as his parent.

There is not necessarily one "right way" of learning things, camp provides (my daughters) the opportunity to learn about different people, explore their faith, and learn about nature in a way they couldn't at home or in school.

I attended as a camper and have great memories and received the opportunity to participate in activities that I would not have otherwise.

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