



YMCA DAY CAMP SELDON SHANNON

2009 Parent Information Packet

Welcome to YMCA Camp Shannon. We're excited that your child will be joining us this summer for a safe and fun-filled experience. This information packet is designed to share important and helpful information with you, and to help make this experience as worry-free as possible. If you have any additional questions we encourage you to contact the office: 908-362-8217.

OUR STORY

Day Camp Seldon Shannon was founded in 1972 after Mr. Shannon donated land to YMCA Camp Mason for the purpose of establishing a day camp for local children. Camp Mason is an independent YMCA organization in operation since 1900 and has been located at its Hardwick location since 1956. Camp Shannon operates under the auspices of the Ralph S Mason YMCA, Inc. and both camps share the mission and support of the national YMCA in providing programs and opportunities that develop healthy mind, body, and spirit for all.

OUR MISSION

'Through the transforming experience of outdoor camping – rich in bonding friendships, physical activity, and fun – YMCA Camp Mason will lead youth, families, and communities to an awareness of our core traditions of environmental stewardship, spirituality, and respect for our fellow man.'

GENERAL RULES AND POLICIES

Our utmost concern is the safety and welfare of our campers. Please be sure that your child is aware of the camp rules and abides by them. Violation of these rules may result in a camper being dismissed. If a camper willfully and repeatedly disregards the behavioral expectations at camp, or endangers the safety of him/herself or others, the Camp Director may see fit to dismiss the child. All dismissals are without refund.

1. Campers may not bring fireworks, firearms, matches, or knives into camp.
2. Campers are not permitted to leave the camp property except on organized trips as part of the camp program.
3. Campers are not permitted to smoke or chew tobacco.
4. All medications and drugs brought into camp must be turned over to, and administered by our camp nurse. All medications must be in their original containers which bear the pharmaceutical directions and name of the contents.
5. Campers are expected to refrain from being physically or verbally abusive towards other campers and staff. Hitting, throwing rocks, repeated name calling or bullying will not be tolerated.
6. Inappropriate behavior towards other campers in a sexual manner is also grounds for immediate dismissal.
7. No markers or pens should be brought into camp in order to control graffiti. Aerosol products are also prohibited.
8. Chewing gum is not permitted.
9. Cell Phones and other electronic devices are not permitted.

TRANSPORTATION: DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

All transportation to and from Camp is the responsibility of the parents or guardians. Campers should be dropped off at Day Camp, located at the entrance to YMCA Camp Mason, by 9:00AM. Pick-up time is from 4:00 - 4:15PM. **Parents who routinely arrive after 4:15PM will be charged for weekly extended care or may be asked to remove their child from the program.**

Extended care children in the AM must be dropped off between 7:30 and 7:45. There may be no one available to receive your child after 7:45AM as staff and campers will go to the dining hall for breakfast. PM children are picked up by 6:00PM. Pick-up will be from the pool area unless otherwise communicated to you during morning drop-off. **Parents who routinely arrive after 6:00PM may be asked to remove their child from the program without refund.**

Campers will not be released to any person other than the parent/guardian who signs the enrollment form, unless it is submitted in writing to the Day Camp Director at least 24 hours in advance. If you anticipate any other person picking up your child, (other parent, relative, neighbor, babysitter, etc.), please plan accordingly and submit the changes in writing to the Day Camp Director at least 24 hours prior in advance. **No exceptions!**

ADDITIONAL FORMS

Medical and confidential forms must be completed and filed with the camp before a camper can be accepted. These must be mailed to camp no less than 7 days prior to arrival. **Absolutely no child will be permitted to participate in camp without the completed forms! No exceptions!**

SICK DAYS AND ILLNESSES

If your child is not coming to camp on a given day, please phone our office at (908)362-8217. This way we will not keep the other children waiting unnecessarily. If a child becomes ill while at camp, he or she will be examined by our camp nurse. If it is determined that the child should be sent home or seen by a doctor, we will notify you to come pick them up. If we are unable to reach you, we will contact the emergency numbers listed on the medical form. Please be sure that your emergency contact people are aware of this.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Valuable or easily broken items should not be sent to camp. **All personal items should be clearly marked with the child's name.** The camp is not responsible for damages or loss of personal items. We make every effort to see that the camper returns home with all of his or her clothing. Please make an effort to look through the Lost and Found at the end of each day, particularly the last day of your child's camp session. All unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of the summer.

SUGGESTED CLOTHING

Campers should be dressed according to the weather. Footwear should be sneakers or other closed shoes. We discourage sandals and flip flops as the campers feet may get cut while walking through the forest and over rocks. Swim suit and towel are necessary as the campers have a daily swim time. If it is raining, please send rainwear (poncho or raincoat) and not umbrellas.

LUNCHES

Day campers must bring a lunch with them each day, which will be stored and refrigerated upon their arrival. Your child's name should be clearly written on the outside of their lunch box or bag. The camp will supply beverages for lunch.

Hot Lunch Option: Children registered to take advantage of our hot lunch program will be escorted and assisted through our buffet style dining hall. **The hot lunch option must be paid for in advance!** All of day camp will be eating together in a supervised setting.

TRADING POST

Every day, campers who wish - and have set up an account with the Day Camp Director - may visit the camp Trading Post to purchase snacks, ice cream, and juice boxes. If you would like your child to make a larger purchase, such as a T-shirt, please put the money in an envelope with the camper's name, and hand it to the Day Camp Director. These purchases will be made on the last day of each session.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The well being of our campers is our top priority. All staff are carefully screened and professionally trained prior to working with the campers. Our specialty instructors are trained by nationally recognized organizations. We have licensed advanced medical personnel on site at all times. We rely on positive reinforcement and redirection for behavior issues and will involve parents if behavior becomes a detriment to others or the program as a whole. During our programs and activities all campers are divided up into age appropriate groups. We recognize that 5 year old campers do not play the same as 10 year old campers so we separate them. All 5 and 6 year olds are grouped together, then 7 and 8 year olds and then 9, 10, and 11 year olds.

REFUNDS

The camper deposit fee is not refundable or transferable after June 6. Transfers within the immediate family, such as a brother or sister, will be allowed however. Refunds of tuition payments are made only for absences that are in excess of three days, and only in the event of serious injury or illness certified by a doctor.

RISK

Many activities at camp involve a known and reasonable risk. We do everything possible to minimize them and provide a safe environment for our campers. However, as with any type of high energy physical activity, there is always risk involved and the possibility of the unforeseen. This is to notify parents and campers that they have the responsibility as a voluntary participant to abide by all rules, and to listen to and follow all instructions given by activity leaders as well as using their own common sense. In the event of an unforeseen or reasonably unpredictable circumstance, or an athletic type injury, it should be known that by you and your child's voluntary participation in an activity, you are aware of and have acknowledged the existence of a risk and that you clearly share in its assumption. Camp activities with a known risk factor include all sports, hiking, biking, horseback riding, skating, adventure and camp craft activities, swimming, aquatics, rafting and canoeing. Also included are physically active games, archery, nature exploration, riflery, boating, and fishing.

PHOTO RELEASE

Camp Mason takes photos throughout the summer of campers involved in every aspect of the camp program. Some of these photos will be put on our web sites and/or used in an array of marketing material. Be aware that by registering your camper you grant permission for their image to be used by Camp Mason.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information such as: special program days, staff bio's, reminders, and any other pertinent information will be supplied to you as needed. Also, there is a Day Camp section of our web site (www.campmason.org). Visit daily during the summer to see updates and photos.

A Note To Our Campers

(Please read this section to your child before coming to camp.)

We are excited that you are coming to camp! You will be having a lot of fun, meeting new friends, and trying new things. We want you, and everyone else, to feel comfortable and safe while here at camp. Our rules are intended for that purpose and we expect you to follow them. We will tell you what they are when you arrive on the first day of camp. **As members of the Camp Mason summer camp community, here is our # 1 rule:**

“Our words, gestures, and actions are intended to care for and strengthen each other’s, body, property, and self-esteem.”

Have fun, make friends, and try new things – that’s what camp is all about!

Camp Shannon operates under the auspices of:



YMCA Camp Mason
23 Birch Ridge Rd
Hardwick, NJ 07825
(908)362-8217
www.campmason.org

Please contact the office with any additional questions.