

YMCA CAMP PEPIN:

PARENT INFORMATION

DAY CAMP - SUMMER 2025



YMCA CAMP PEPIN

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WELCOME TO THE YMCA CAMP PEPIN FAMILY!

As a part of the Red Wing Family YMCA, Camp Pepin is proud to have been serving youth and adults on the shores of Lake Pepin near Stockholm, Wisconsin, since 1935. For years, our staff have been committed to providing fun and safe experiences to campers of all ages in a beautiful outdoor setting.

Attending summer camp is a very exciting time for campers and parents, and it is natural for both to be a bit anxious about the camper leaving the comforts of home, adopting new routines, and meeting many new friends. To ease these feelings, we would like to familiarize you and your camper with our procedures to minimize that "first-day anxiety." This planning guide was designed for you and your camper to use as a reference tool. Please read through it to acquaint yourself with information that you will want to know about summer camp. If you have any further questions, please reach out to the Camp Director, Erik Burton, at eburton@redwingymca.org or call at 651-800-9316.

We feel honored that you have chosen YMCA Camp Pepin for your summer experience and look forward to sharing with you the values and traditions that have been, and continue to be, the foundation of our camp family.



PREPARING FOR CAMP

CAMP FORMS

All camp forms and documents can be accessed, completed, and submitted within your [CampInTouch Dashboard](#). Please have these forms completed at least two weeks before the beginning of your camper's session.

HEALTH FORM:

The Health Form must be completed by a parent or guardian annually, and the information on the form should be as recent as possible. If there are special medical concerns, be sure to indicate them on the form. Under the rare circumstances that medical attention is necessary, you will be billed directly from the medical facility. Accident insurance will not be available to campers through the YMCA. The responsibility for the cost of medical care is assumed entirely by the camper and their parent/guardian. The emergency statement on the form must be signed so that immediate treatment can be given in the event that you cannot be contacted.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY:

To ensure the health and safety of all campers and staff, YMCA Camp Pepin requires that all campers meet the same immunization standards required for Wisconsin public school attendance. This includes documentation of the following vaccines (or signed exemption documentation):

- DTaP/DTP/DT/Td (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
- Adolescent booster (Tdap or Td)
- Polio (IPV)
- Hepatitis B
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)*

***Note:** The chickenpox vaccine is only required if your child has not previously had the disease.

Families must complete the immunization section of our Camper Health History Form, including specific dates of each dose. If your camper is not fully immunized, Wisconsin State Law allows for exemption **only with a signed statement from the parent or guardian** citing health, religious, or personal conviction reasons.

We follow guidance from Wisconsin Administrative Code ATCP 78.27(1)(d)(1)d, which mirrors school immunization requirements and includes an option for a signed waiver when applicable (per WI Statute s. 252.04(3)).

If you have questions about immunization records or exemptions, feel free to reach out—we're happy to help you through the process!

AUTHORIZED ADULT PICK-UP FORM:

The Authorized Adult Pick-Up Form indicates which adults are authorized to pick up your camper(s) at the end of their session. We require all adults picking up campers to show an ID to confirm their identity. For safety reasons,

campers will NOT be released to an adult that is not on this form. If there is an emergency or change in plans, you can either call the camp office, email Erik, or update the form online through the Dashboard.

YMCA LIABILITY WAIVER FORM:

This is the Red Wing Family YMCA's standard liability form required to participate in any activity on property.

PHOTO RELEASE FORM:

This document gives us permission for two different things related to photos:

- Use photos that may contain your camper for promotional purposes.
- Post photos online in an album for parents to access. This album is private and can only be accessed using a password that will be unique to each week's families.

CAMPER EXPECTATIONS AGREEMENT:

This form is meant to be completed with both the parent and camper(s) present and covers the expectations that camp staff have of our campers. Use the form as a conversation starter to review and discuss these expectations so everyone is prepared to have an unforgettable time at Camp Pepin.

CAMPER ACTIVITY PREFERENCES FORM:*

This form asks each camper to provide us with their top 5 choices of potential skill classes they'd be interested in, ranked in order of preference. Please help your camper with reading the options, but please don't guide or influence their selections – let them make their list on their own, free from outside influences.

Day Campers younger than 3rd grade will not participate in skill classes, but instead participate in a variety of activities specifically planned and designed for their age group. Because of this, they do not need to complete this form.

*This document will not be available until June, as we will finalize our activity/class list during staff training.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

DROP OFF/PICK UP:

Campers may be dropped off between 8:45 AM and 9:00 AM at YMCA Camp Pepin each morning, with the program starting at 9 AM. With our program ending at 4:00 PM each day, we ask that parents arrive a few minutes early, so they are ready to pick up their campers as close to 4:00 PM as possible. Under no circumstances will campers be released to anyone not listed on the Authorized Adult Pick Up Form without prior written notification. If a situation changes at the last minute, feel free to reach out to the camp office at 651-800-9316. Please make sure to bring your ID for pick-up, as the name on the ID will be checked to match the Authorized Adult Pick-Up form.

TRANSPORTATION – DAY CAMP ONLY:

A transportation option is available for all Day Camp sessions. Parents can meet the bus or van behind the Red Wing YMCA (across from the depot) each morning and afternoon. The drop off time is 8 AM, with the bus leaving at 8:15 AM. Please arrive on time, as we are running on a tight schedule! If there is a conflict, please contact the camp office right away so we can communicate with our bus chaperones.

The bus may also make short stops in Bay City, Maiden Rock, or Stockholm, as needed. Please let us know if this is something you need as soon as possible so we can communicate with the bus company and driver. The bus will leave Camp Pepin at 4 PM each day and will return to the Red Wing YMCA around 4:45 PM. An authorized adult will still need to check out with a camp staff member before a camper is released. Please be on time to pick up your camper.



PACKING LIST

Day Campers don't need to pack a suitcase for day camp, but there are some essential supplies that will ensure an enjoyable camp experience. Campers will have a place to store their belongings at camp for the week, but please be sure to label anything you'd like returned!

GEAR:

- Hat
- Rain Jacket (as needed)
- Water bottle
- Bug Spray
- Towel
- Water shoes (to protect against sharp Zebra Mussels)
- Close-toed tennis shoes
- Swimsuit
- An extra set of clothes
- Sweatshirt
- Sunscreen
- Anti-itch ointment
- Any prescriptions needed for the week (packed separately, in ORIGINAL packaging, and prepared to turn over to the camp nurse upon arrival.)

Campers need to bring a lunch and a snack from home each day – we do not provide meals for day camp participants!

WHAT NOT TO BRING: Camp is a setting to retreat from the amenities of technology and to build interpersonal skills. Therefore, please refrain from bringing any of the items below.

- Junk food, candy, and/or soda
- Cash
- Cell phones
- Video games or devices
- Knives or firearms
- Fireworks
- Matches or lighters
- Tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs
- Pets

WHEN YOUR CAMPER ARRIVES

OUR STAFF

Upon arrival at Camp or the bus stop, your family will be immediately greeted by our camping professionals who are skilled in making campers feel welcome and at home.

GROUPS

Day Camp groups will be organized by age so that activities and experiences can be tailored to the participants' abilities and interests. In general, we will attempt to maintain these age groups. In the case of siblings, we encourage them to participate in their own individual age groups. There will be times throughout the day where they will be able to see each other and check in. Day campers whose age falls within our Resident Camp age range will participate in the skill class sessions along with those campers. Day Campers who are younger than the Resident Camp participants will remain in a group together.

MEDICATIONS

All medications that your child will need while at camp, including over the counter (vitamins, creams, lotions, etc.) must be handed in to the Camp Nurse upon arrival. The medication's container should be clearly marked with the name of the child, the name of the medication, the dosage, and frequency needed. **We cannot dispense any medication that is not in its original container**, and we can only give the dosage in the manner prescribed. If medications are to be dispensed at times or in dosages other than by what is prescribed on the bottle, you must bring a letter signed by your doctor stating the new dosage and/or times to be given.

SWIM CHALLENGE

All campers have the option of taking a swimming challenge during the opening day to demonstrate their level of ability. This helps to establish the safest areas in which the camper may swim or boat. Campers who are non-swimmers will be encouraged to take swimming instruction as a skill class and should be encouraged to continue to learn at a local YMCA. Campers may retake the swim challenge as their schedule allows.

LIFE AT CAMP

SAMPLE DAY CAMP SCHEDULE NOTE: Day campers in grade 3 and above will join classes with the resident campers. These classes take place during the 3 activity slots (yellow) in the morning.

	Monday	
9:00 AM	Arrival - Littles	Arrival - Bigs
9:15 AM	Animal Finger Painting	The Bigs #1 Skill class
10:00 AM		
	SNACK	
10:15 AM	Animal Games	The Bigs #2 Skill class
11:00 AM		
	Transition time (15 min)	
11:15 AM	Littles Animal Masks	The Bigs #3 Skill class
12:00 PM		
	Transition time (15 min)	
12:15 PM	Littles/The Bigs Peace Pole (Mexico)	
12:30 PM	Littles/The Bigs	
1:00 PM	Littles	The Bigs
	Rest time	Rest time
1:30 PM	Littles/The Bigs Duck Duck/ Do not wake the bear	
2:10 AM	Transition time (5 min)	
2:15 PM	Littles	The Bigs
	Create a critter	Explore time
3:00 PM	Transition time (5 min)	
3:05 PM	Littles Animal Memory	
3:20 PM		Transition time (5 min)
		Sport Field (25 min)
		Clean up
3:50 PM	Littles/The Bigs Flag Pole	
4:00 PM	Bus Leaves	

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

The following information only applies to day campers in 3rd grade and above. One of the incredible things about Camp Pepin is the wide variety of activities and skill classes campers can participate in; between the skills and interests from our staff, the waterfront, and our backwoods area, everyone can find something that appeals to them. In fact, there are so many things to do that it will be impossible to do everything one would like to in a single week of camp. We do everything we can to create a schedule for our campers to be able to participate in the things they are most interested in for their skill classes and cabin activities.

How are Skill Classes assigned?

Prior to their arrival at camp, campers will complete the Activity Preference Form. The form asks each camper to provide us with their top 5 choices of potential skill classes they'd be interested in, ranked in order of preference. Having campers complete these selections at home is a new process we are implementing to be more organized and prepared for the week.

When creating each week's Skill Class schedule, we do everything we can to make sure every camper is placed into their first choice of class. After that, we use their next four choices to fill their remaining two classes. It's important to understand that it's impossible to guarantee that all classes will be available.

Note: For safety reasons, certain activities have an age cut-off of 6th grade and up. This includes our Ropes Course and Zip Line course, which requires a certain height for safe use. The Boating skill class is another activity that has an age cut-off, because of the strength and skill required to participate in some the higher-leveled techniques (such as different strokes, covering longer distances, righting an overturned canoe, etc.) with a watercraft on Lake Pepin. Boats can be used during Explore time and during cabin activities by campers of all ages, as the more difficult skills are not taught at that time, they are contained within the boating area, and there are additional supervisors present to assist campers.

We believe in giving campers a significant voice in the structure and scheduling of their activities here at Camp Pepin. We want the classes to be something they are interested in and passionate about, so we offer a wide range of classes and interests and don't assign activities arbitrarily. However, in reality it is incredibly difficult to get every camper into every activity they want to do during their time at camp. Please help your camper to understand this sentiment if they express disappointment at the end of their time at camp. Instead, focus on all the things they *did* get to do, and help them look forward to all the things to do during their next time at camp.

CAMP STORE

Camp store money may be deposited in your child's account through your [CampInTouch dashboard](#). Campers can purchase healthy snacks and drinks, along with camp merchandise such as T-shirts and sweatshirts, hats, stuffed animals, and miscellaneous Camp Pepin souvenirs to commemorate their time at camp.

There are three general approaches when parents consider the camp store:

1. Load an amount online beforehand or on drop-off day, and that is how much the camper gets for the entire week.
2. Only load a few dollars at a time, so your camper can't blow through their whole fund in a day. Then you can add funds throughout the week as you monitor their accounts.
3. Only load enough for a snack each day and explain to your camper that you can visit the store at the end of the week, at pick-up.

Day Camp families that would like to purchase an item from the store can either load money through the CampInTouch dashboard and send a note to camp with a camper of what items they'd like, or send an envelope with cash or check, along with note.

Parents can track camper purchases throughout the week, as well as add more funds if needed. Your child will be informed of his or her account balance at each visit to the camp store. The camp store will be open at pick-up if you want to purchase a sweatshirt for yourself!

CAMPER EXPECTATIONS

TRYING NEW THINGS

One of the biggest goals of YMCA Camp Pepin is encouraging campers to step outside their comfort zones and try new things. We believe that this is an essential part of personal growth and development, and we encourage all campers to embrace this mindset while they're here.

When your camper arrives at camp, they may feel nervous or uncertain about some of the activities we offer. That's completely normal! However, we ask that all campers approach these new experiences with an open mind and a willingness to give them a try. This could mean trying a new sport, taking a creative arts class, or even just making friends with someone they've never met before. We also understand that sometimes things don't go as planned, and it's easy to get discouraged. That's why we encourage our campers to be persistent and not give up right away. If they don't excel at something the first time they try it, that's okay! We want them to keep trying and practicing until they feel more confident and comfortable.

By trying new things and persisting through challenges, your camper will gain many benefits. They'll develop a growth mindset and a sense of resilience, which will serve them well both in and out of camp. They'll also have the chance to discover new talents and interests they may not have known. Plus, trying new things can be a lot of fun and lead to some truly memorable experiences. We hope you'll encourage your camper to embrace the spirit of trying new things while they're here. We're excited to see all the amazing things they'll accomplish!

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

At Camp Pepin, we believe that every camper has a role to play in making our community a better place. We encourage all our campers to take shared responsibility for the well-being of themselves, their fellow campers, and the environment around us.

We expect campers to work together to maintain a clean and comfortable living space for everyone. We also expect campers to have a positive approach to the activities and events that the cabin might want to do, even if it's not something they're personally interested in. This means being respectful of others' opinions and being willing to compromise and find a solution that works for everyone. Looking out for the safety and well-being of fellow campers is also an important part of shared responsibility. We ask that all campers take an active role in preventing accidents and injuries by being aware of their surroundings, following the rules and instructions from staff, and reporting any potential hazards to staff members. Finally, we encourage our campers to consider the conservation and protection of the natural world around us. This could mean picking up litter, being mindful of water usage, or being respectful of wildlife and their habitats.

By taking shared responsibility for the camp community, campers will gain many benefits. They'll learn the importance of teamwork and collaboration, which are valuable skills in all aspects of life. They'll also develop a sense of ownership and pride in their living space and learn how small actions can have a big impact on the world around them. We hope you'll talk to your camper about the importance of shared responsibility at camp. We're excited to work together to create a safe, positive, and sustainable community!

ACCEPTANCE OF DIFFERENCES

RED WING FAMILY YMCA'S EQUITY STATEMENT:

"The uniqueness of every individual is valued and celebrated at the Red Wing Family YMCA. We are committed to advancing equity for all so that everyone, regardless of age, gender, income, faith, national origin, race, gender-identity, sexual orientation, or diverse abilities, have the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity and live life to its fullest."

It is guaranteed that your camper will meet, interact, and befriend people who are different than themselves, which is one of the most amazing aspects of camp. We want everyone to feel and believe that Camp Pepin is a safe, positive, and encouraging place – a place they can call home. Any behaviors not conducive to this environment will not be tolerated and addressed promptly. We suggest that parents/guardians have a conversation with your camper about the tolerance and acceptance of everyone, with the final goal of building a strong sense of community.

BEHAVIOR ISSUES

In the rare event that a camper exhibits problematic behavior, our staff will document it and address it appropriately. We take any behavioral issues seriously, and if they persist or are serious enough, we will communicate with the camper's parents or guardians. In extreme cases, we may need to ask parents to pick up their camper prematurely. We also want to emphasize that any physical damage to camp property due to inappropriate camper behavior will be the financial responsibility of the camper's family. We hope that everyone at camp will treat our facilities with respect and care, so that everyone can continue to enjoy them.

We understand that it can be difficult to talk to your camper about potential behavioral issues, but we hope you'll emphasize the importance of respect, kindness, and responsible behavior while they're at camp. We're looking forward to creating a fun and safe environment for everyone!

HEALTH AND SAFETY WHILE AT CAMP

SPECIAL EMOTIONAL/PHYSICAL NEEDS

Campers with special emotional or physical needs should be called to the attention of the Camp Director, Erik Burton. We will make every attempt to serve campers who have physical or special emotional needs. We have a policy not to enroll campers beyond our training or capabilities. Our outdoor setting can sometimes make it difficult to host campers with significant physical limitations.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND HEAD LICE*

We will not require COVID testing prior to camp arrival for the Summer 2024 season. However, we kindly ask that parents check in with their campers before camp and refrain from sending them if they are feeling unwell. We will have tests available on-site if a camper begins to show symptoms.

To prevent an epidemic, a camper that has a communicable disease or head lice may not attend camp until the condition has been fully treated (verified by a physician) and can no longer be transmitted to others. If a camper is diagnosed as having a communicable disease or head lice while at camp, the camper will be discreetly removed from camp activities and parents will be asked to pick up their camper as soon as possible. Any camper that leaves camp for such reasons may only return by undergoing a readmission check by our medical staff.

ILLNESS*

It is the policy of Camp Pepin not to keep sick campers for more than 12 hours in our camp Health Center. Therefore, we ask that parents of campers who are ill for more than 12 hours to care for their child at home and see their family doctor. Transportation is not provided for campers returning home due to illness. A child sick before camp begins should be kept at home for his/her own and other campers' sake. Many communicable diseases begin with cold-like symptoms.

EMERGENCIES*

Emergency calls to campers should be made through the Camp Pepin office at (651) 800-9316. Routine scrapes, cuts, and minor illnesses will be treated by our medical staff. In the case of serious illness or accident involving your child, the medical staff will contact you directly. In the event you cannot be reached, your authorization signed on your Health Form allows us to secure prompt treatment.

INSURANCE

Camp Pepin does not carry accident or sickness insurance on summer youth campers. In the event of serious illness or accident, the parents/guardians will be notified at once. Parents/guardians are responsible for prescriptions and charges incurred for outside medical treatment of their child, should services be required while in attendance at camp. Services rendered by the camp medical staff are at no additional charge.

**It is our policy to refund pro-rated fees to any child who becomes sick and returns home for care (see "Refunds").*

AFTER YOUR CAMPER LEAVES

LOST AND FOUND

Items that are lost during each camp session and not clearly labeled with a camper's name are set on a table outside the Lower Dining Hall during check-out. Please check the table before leaving camp. Items remaining at camp after your camper's session will be kept for two weeks after the last day of summer camp; all unclaimed items will be donated to a welfare agency. It is the owner's responsibility to pay for shipping or to make pick-up arrangements for reclaiming lost items. Camp Pepin is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items, clothing, or equipment.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS

The registration deposit fee is not refundable under any circumstances. Cancellations after June 1st cannot be refunded, due to fixed expenditures which will have already been paid for by the camp. Fees for programs will be refunded only when campers are unable to complete that program due to an illness or medical issue requiring the documented attention of a physician. Homesickness and disruptive behavior are not conditions for refunding. Refunds after a camper has arrived will be made prorated for the unexpired portion of the session, or campers will be offered the chance to return to another camp session for the days they missed. Parts of a camp session supported by a grant/scholarship or discounted are ineligible for refunding.

