



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

***Parent's Guide to
Resident Camp
2012***

**YMCA
CAMP EDWARDS**

SAVE THIS BOOK!

**YMCA of the East Valley
Camp Edwards**

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Welcome to the YMCA of the East Valley Camp Edwards 2012 summer season. We look forward to sharing the best camping experience the YMCA has to offer for your entire family! For over 80 years, our YMCA has offered exciting camping opportunities at Camp Edwards and while we did not invent camping, the YMCA has all but perfected it.

This year we are celebrating our 86th year of camping at Camp Edwards! With our campfires, hiking, canoeing at Jenks Lake, and star filled skies, we continue today the traditions many of you experienced as campers and now send your children and grandchildren to experience. To help make the camping week memorable for your children and easier for you as parents, we have prepared the following Parent's Guide to answer all of your questions.

I look forward to meeting you at check-in or before!

Happy Camping,

Keith Beymer
Camp Director

2012 Dates

Session I (7-14 year olds)

Traditional Activities

Monday, June 18 to Saturday, June 23

CIT (Counselors in Training) Ages: 15-17

Session II (7-14 year olds)

Circus and Traditional Activities

Monday, July 23 to Saturday, July 28

CIT (Counselors in Training) Ages: 15-17

Session III (7-14 year olds)

(Combo) Traditional Activities

Monday, July 30 to Friday, August 3

CIT (Counselors in Training) Ages: 15-17

WHAT IS CAMP?

Camp Edwards is the YMCA of the East Valley's own private retreat located in the San Bernardino Mountains just a few miles above Redlands and San Bernardino. YMCA's from all over Southern California send campers of all ages to our camp to enjoy nature's magic and the awesome beauty of this mountain hideaway.

Camp Edwards is a member of the American Camp Association (ACA) and is accredited by the ACA. Our membership and accreditation by the association assures you, as a parent, that our Camp meets the over 300 standards of operation in camping for both program and site operation.

The best part of our camp program is the FUN every camper experiences. At Camp Edwards, our campers make new friends, enjoy new experiences and learn important lessons all at the same time. Our camp program gives campers opportunities to increase self-esteem through activities like our climbing tower, leap of faith and zip line; increase ability and discipline in archery, express creativity through artistic exploration

at our arts and crafts center and build team skills and self confidence in our low-ropes activities.

Camp helps campers increase social skills that are nurtured in the cabin groups where campers meet other campers and staff from diverse backgrounds, share memories with old friends returning to camp and develop cabin unity under the leadership of trained counselors.

Through the international leather/rag program, campers have the opportunity to challenge themselves to improve their lives at home and school. The rags/leathers are outward symbols of inner, personal challenges the campers 12 and over may choose to take. Each challenge is based on a scripture based value and campers choose their own "challenges" that fit their individual lives.

It is the purpose of camp to have every camper enjoy a week filled with new experiences, fun and friendship. Each day the campers are presented with new lessons, challenges and numerous opportunities to make new friends. Through our focus on honesty, caring, respect and responsibility we improve each campers Spirit, Body and Mind.

No other summer activity can even begin to match what Camp Edwards offers. But don't take our word for it. Just ask any of the thousands of former campers what a wonderful experience Camp Edwards can be. It truly is the experience that will last a lifetime.

WHAT PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED AT CAMP?

Either the five-day, six-day or our traditional seven day program are an exciting way to start the summer. Our five-day program is a great way to build camp time into what may already be a busy summer schedule. It is also a good way to introduce the younger, first time campers to the camp experience. The longer seven-day traditional program is a way to round off a child's summer experiences with hiking, archery, canoeing, swimming and campfire and all the fun and tradition that has been the center of camping for the YMCA of the East Valley. Each special week includes traditional activities and also adds additional aspects as described below:

CIRCUS CAMP

This week provides a special opportunity to combine aspects of the Great Y Circus such as unicycle, teeterboard, and trapeze with camp activities and is a great tradition with the YMCA of the East Valley. **You do not need to be involved in the circus to attend.** Hurry up and register since this camp session fills up fast. Previous participation in past circus programs does not hold or guarantee you a space in this camp session. Please register early if you want to attend this exciting week.

TRADITIONAL CAMP

The traditional program is a way to include summer camp experiences for your child's summer break with a climbing wall and high ropes course, hiking, archery, canoeing, swimming and campfire and all the fun and tradition that has been the center of camping at Camp Edwards. All activities are led by trained and certified program staff.

TRADITIONAL-COMBO WEEK

Another week of traditional activities as listed above, and in conjunction with the Riverside YMCA. This session is a great way for your kids to make new friends with youth from the Inland Empire.

WHAT ARE COUNSELORS AND COUNSELORS IN TRAINING?

A **Counselor** is a person at least 18 years old who has demonstrated exceptional skills in our CIT program. They are interviewed by our Camp Director and invited to participate in one or more weeks of camp. Counselors are trained to work as youth leaders. They are assigned to cabins for the entire week each session. The counselor assumes responsibility for the safety, fun and memorable time the campers have at camp. Each cabin has at least one Counselor assigned to them. **All Staff members are required to attend a 6 day training program prior to campers arriving.**

Counselors-in-training (CIT's) are persons who want to learn to become counselors. They are ready to expand their knowledge and test their leadership skills while working with younger campers. They assist their Cabin Counselors in uniting the cabin's campers into close cabin units, inspire each of the campers to grow and improve, and to help the campers to have safe, clean fun. They are role models for the campers. In exchange for their services the CIT's pay a reduced fee and are provided opportunities to attend regular training sessions to increase their knowledge of the skills involved in being successful counselors. **Those interested in being a CIT must be 15 years of age and/or in high school and no older than 17.**

If your child is interested in becoming a Counselor-In-Training or a Counselor, please contact the camp office. Interested persons, in addition to submitting a completed registration form, must fill out a form telling the Camp Director what they think leadership involves and why they want to be a YMCA counselor. They must provide names of references for the director to contact. Application as a CIT does not automatically mean they will be chosen. The Director will interview and make selections prior to the session your child wishes to attend. Developing young leaders is one of our camp goals and we look forward working with all who are interested in leadership in the camping areas.

WHAT CAMP ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

Climbing Tower and High Ropes Course

This is a 35 ft. three sided climbing tower with a rock climbing surface, vertical play pen, cat-walk, crisscross, leap-of-faith and a zip line. All activities are supervised by fully trained instructors. These activities build self-confidence for campers facing challenging activities.

Lakefront Canoeing

Under the supervision of Red Cross trained lifeguards, campers experience the joy of canoeing on Jenks Lake.

Team Challenge Adventure Course (low ropes)

Cabin groups are led through a series of problem solving activities and individuals learn to work together as a group to achieve success.

Archery

Our N.A.A. Certified Archery instructor teaches each camper how to safely use a bow and arrow. Attention to details and sequencing are emphasized.

Arts and Crafts

Campers make wonderful keepsakes to remind them of their camping experiences for years to come. Old favorites such as lanyards are a part of the crafts learned by the campers.

Nature Program

Nature hikes led by our nature instructor provide opportunities for campers to learn about the largest trees and smallest flowers seen in our mountains.

Pool

Under the supervision of a Red Cross Certified Lifeguard, campers enjoy our cool relaxing pool.

Twilight Games

Each evening, before campfire, cabins of campers compete against each other in a variety of friendly competitions such as scavenger hunts and counselor hunts.

Hiking

The YMCA values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility for themselves and other campers are explored as campers hike to scenic locations around camp.

Mountain Bikes

Under the direction of trained leaders, campers ages 11 and older have the opportunity to discover the trails of the San Gorgonio Wilderness atop a mountain bike. Bikes and helmets are provided for the

campers.

Chapel

Each day begins with thanks and inspiration at our non-denominational outdoor chapel. Campers participate in chapel through stories and songs *based on core values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility.*

Campfire

All campers and cabin leaders gather each night under the stars and around the campfire to end the day together with songs, skits and silliness. Shooting stars and an amazing array of stars in our galaxy are easily observed.

Group-Building Games

Various group-building games and activities provide opportunities for cabin groups to learn to share and work together.

Mealtime

Campers eat family style with the cabins being the camper's family while at Camp Edwards. Most special dietary needs can be accommodated with prior notice to staff in the camper's application.

Devotions

Campers end their day talking about the days events and how they observed the core values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility. Devotions are done in the individual cabins and are led by the Staff.

Rag and Leather Program

The rags and leathers are outward symbols of inner personal challenges campers *may choose to take*. Each camper 9 and older has the opportunity to make changes in their life through the challenges. A tradition bound ceremony occurs for campers who choose to participate in the program.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT WHEN YOUR CHILD RETURNS FROM CAMP?

When your child returns from camp you may notice that they have a new sense of self-confidence and self esteem. You may see increased social skills and a sense of unity in groups. They may demonstrate a greater awareness in applying honesty, caring, respect and responsibility in their daily life. You may see your child show better communication skills and they may seem more comfortable in group settings. They may have an increased ability to get up in front of and lead peer groups in different social settings. You may see that your child has an increased appreciation for diverse groups and cultures. Children may demonstrate a better sense of their role in society and how one person affects the lives of others. Parents may even see their child's study habits improve, they may actually enjoy their siblings, and some may see their child act before they are asked to do a chore or homework. They may see a stronger commitment to church and improving their personal life-style. Camp can foster a strong, positive ongoing change in a child.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BRING TO CAMP?

Your child will be participating in many exciting activities while at camp. During the day the average temperature is about 82 degrees. At night, the average temperature is about 40 degrees. Your child will sleep on a wooden-frame bunk bed inside a heated, insulated cabin. There are two high-capacity shower-restroom facilities (with individual private shower booths and private restroom stalls) available for your child's privacy and convenience.

Depending on the length of the camp week, your child will need the following items. **Please limit luggage to one duffel bag with carrying handles and/or shoulder straps. They need to be able to carry their luggage from the bus to their cabin. There are no paved walkways in camp and rolling luggage is not functional. Soft-sided suitcases may be used, but not recommended.**

PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS--MANY CAMPERS HAVE IDENTICAL ITEMS.

_____ 5 to 7 pairs of underwear

_____ 5 to 7 pairs of socks

_____ 2 pairs of durable jeans- **boys –waist of pants may be no lower than the hips**

_____ 5 t-shirts – **girls- no low cut spaghetti strap tops – bottom of tops must reach waist**

_____ 2 pairs of shorts – **girls- shorts must cover buttocks,**

_____ 1 sweatshirt

_____ 1 pair athletic (sturdy) shoes

(A pair of hiking shoes – comfortable with distinct heel may replace athletic shoes. **NO OPEN TOE SHOES OR SANDALS ARE ALLOWED** (except flip-flops for showers))

_____ 1 warm winter jacket (nights get cold)

_____ 1 set of sleep wear

_____ 1 bathing suit (No Bikinis)

_____ 1 beach towel

_____ Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb/brush, shampoo, tissue, & deodorant – all in a toiletry bag)

_____ 2 bath towels

_____ Sunscreen, lip balm, lotion (it is very dry up here)

_____ Sunglasses

_____ Flashlight (extra batteries)

_____ **Medication-any they need to take at camp (both Prescription & over the counter must be turned in to nurse at registration (in original bottles))**

_____ 1 warm sleeping bag

_____ 1 pillow

_____ 1 bag for dirty laundry – there is no laundry service at camp

_____ 1 duffel bag for all items. We suggest an army-type duffel bag with their name clearly marked. (trunks and plastic bags are not allowed)

THE FOLLOWING ARE OPTIONAL

_____ Disposable Camera

_____ Books/Cards/Games

_____ Costumes/Skit Props

_____ Writing Paper/Pencil

_____ Envelopes/Stamps

WHAT MY CHILD MAY NOT BRING TO CAMP

Money – additional camp store money must be turned in at registration

Weapons – including pocket knives

Fireworks or other dangerous substances

Pets

Alcohol or controlled substances

Toys (except stuffed animals or other night time friends)

Video games (such as Game Boy or Game Gear)

Laptop or any other computers

Walkmans/Radios/CD players, Ipods or Ipads

Matches or lighters

Tobacco or similarly harmful products

Cell phones

Candy or other food (for camper safety food is not allowed in any cabins)

To prevent any problems before they start, check your child's luggage before they get on the bus. Ensure that your child brings only approved items. Items that are brought to camp and not approved to be at camp will be removed from the camper and returned to the camper's parents at the end of the week. Thank you for your support.

The camp staff and all YMCA employees are not held responsible for any item lost or stolen during the course of the week.

WHERE DO I SEND MY CHILD'S MAIL

Sending your child mail will make their day! Some children will experience homesickness. You are encouraged to write to them to lessen the degree of that homesickness. **Please note that there is no regular mail service from the Redlands, San Bernardino or Highland YMCA's. Please do not leave packages at any of the branches.**

Based on our several years of dealing with mail for a short week at camp....Here is how to best send mail to your child so it arrives while they are at camp and not after they leave.

On the Thursday or Friday **BEFORE YOUR CHILD LEAVES FOR CAMP**, mail your letter or package to camp. Mailing an item on this day will allow enough time for the item to arrive before your child leaves camp and returns home. Please do not send packages that need signatures to be obtained from the camp staff.

Send your mail (US Postal or UPS)

Campers name
Camp Edwards
(dates they will be at camp)
42842 Jenks Lake Road East
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

Your parcel should arrive before Thursday (and hopefully before Tuesday). Make sure that your return address is clearly written in case your child has left camp and we need to return the letter/package. So that your child can send mail to you, provide them with paper and a pen, and a couple of stamped, preaddressed envelopes.

E-MAIL

We have set up a special e-mail account for campers so they can receive e-mails while at camp. **THIS IS RECEIVE ONLY-NOT SEND.** E mail will not be available for campers to return messages. The camp staff will print out the e mails for campers and hand them out before lunch or dinner each day.

You may send messages to campers@ymcacampedwards.org

Please put your child's name and session number in the Subject line.

CAMPER BUDDY REQUEST

If your child has a friend coming to camp, it is possible, with some guidelines, to ask to be assigned to the same cabin with the friend. On the Buddy request section of the application form, have your child request the friend as a buddy. The friend should also request your child as a buddy. **They must be the same sex and within one year of age of each other.** We will honor **1 (one)** request per camper if the other camper has also requested them as a buddy. We will make every effort to assign your child to the best cabin for them. Siblings are not usually placed together. With this in mind, we will pre-assign campers based on their registration form. Turning your registration form in early helps in buddy assignment. Buddy requests made on sign-in day usually cannot be accommodated as cabin groupings have already been determined.

WHAT IS THE CAMP STORE?

At the Camp Store, we offer a variety of items the campers may purchase during their stay at camp. **Every camper receives a \$5.00 credit at the store.** If you would like them to have additional money you may turn it in during the registration process or during check-in. **DO NOT SEND MONEY IN YOUR CHILD'S POCKETS OR LUGGAGE. ANY MONEY YOUR CHILD DOES NOT USE AT CAMP WILL NOT BE RETURNED. IT WILL BE DONATED TO OUR CAMPERSHIP FUND TO HELP THOSE WHO MAY NOT HAVE THE SAME FINANCIAL RESOURCES AS YOU.**

CAN I VISIT MY CHILD AT CAMP?

Camp is a 5, 6, or 7 day experience. With such a short time at camp it is best for the campers if we maintain a certain frame of mind with the campers. Our experience shows that if a child is visited by or called by parents/guardians that they will grow homesick and wish to return home even if they were having a wonderful time at camp before your visit. With that in mind parents/guardians are strongly discouraged from visiting their children at camp during Camp Week. It is the same for making phone calls from camp. We pay special attention to homesick campers and phone calls home have been found to not help their homesickness. If you want to be at camp with your child, please sign up for Family Camp. Also, phone calls are difficult to put through to campers as they may be out of camp hiking, canoeing or even on top of the climbing tower. Please do not promise you will call them. If you are especially concerned about your child you may call camp and we will check on them for you and call you back with any message the child wishes to send.

HOW DO WE HANDLE CAMPER DISCIPLINE ?

Your child will soon be participating in a camping program at YMCA Camp Edwards.. The YMCA is an organization that is dedicated to help all individuals realize their fullest potential. Camp rules and policies have been carefully established to meet the emotional and physical needs of our campers.

Orientation:

All campers begin their stay with an orientation. They will gather round the campfire upon arrival at camp and meet the camp staff and will listen to a clear delineation of camp procedures and rules. The rules revolve around the YMCA core values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility. We encourage campers' understanding that they need to make camp a positive experience for everyone and that an individual's behaviors affect everyone.

Getting Back on Track:

Campers and counselors work together to resolve problems and campers are guided to make appropriate choices. If the problem persists, a core staff member will discuss the issue with the camper who may then fill out a behavior contract to make a positive change to resolve the problem. If problems continue, a second contract will be filled out and will involve the core staff member, the cabin counselor and sometimes a phone call to the parent/guardian. Any further issues may result in the camper's dismissal from camp (without a refund). Parents shall be responsible for the camper's immediate transportation home should this occur.

Reasons for the Rules:

Please keep in mind that our program has unique requirements. Our standards are a result of the high expectations we must meet to provide 24-hour care for all of the campers we serve. The natural environment, outdoor activity schedule, and resident setting all require that we take safety very seriously. If a child exhibits defiance, lack of respect, fighting, stealing, or any other behavior that puts either themselves or others in danger, they cannot remain as a participant in our program.

It is not abnormal for some children to misbehave. This is a fact. In addition, when they do misbehave, it is necessary to impose corrections so that they will not repeat actions that are antisocial, wrong, harmful or not in the spirit of Camp.

When we see that a child is misbehaving we individually meet with the child to try to determine the cause of the problem. Once we have done that, we then try to remedy the problem while simultaneously making the child aware of the unacceptable nature of their behavior. They are guided to help them make appropriate positive choices. Once the child understands what they have done, we secure a promise from the child to not repeat the problem behavior. Once this promise is made, we determine an appropriate disciplinary action for the camper. This action is not, under any circumstances any form of corporal punishment. It may be as mild as talking to a leader or apologizing for a behavior. If a camper continues to misbehave, we may call you for your input and assistance. Often a discussion with the parent/guardian will help change the inappropriate behavior in a positive manner.

Failure to resolve the problem:

If we determine that your child's behavior is detrimental to the camp program, we will ask that you come to camp and pick up your child immediately and at your own expense. No refund of camp fees is available in this case.

WHERE DO I DROP OFF AND PICK UP MY CHILD FOR CAMP?

Sending your child off to Camp on that first day can be overwhelming for each of you. Ten days before each program we will send you a reminder letter that includes information about where to bring your child for transportation to camp and where to pick-up your child when camp is over. **You must not just drop them off. You must be present to sign your child in and out on those days as well as to meet with the nurse to turn in any medications and to assure each child's healthy status prior to going to camp.**

Medication information:

If your child has any medication to take while they are at camp you must give it to the nurse at registration. It must be in a pharmacy bottle with child's name, medication dosage and directions on the label. Over the counter medications must be in original bottles and must also be given to the nurse. This is for each child's safety. No medications are to be in cabins.

The check in procedure will be as follows:

- Arrive at the designated YMCA at the predetermined time. There may be a line so be prepared to wait a short time before your child is totally checked in.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Place **labeled** luggage in luggage pile.
- Go to the check in table and sign your child in. They will receive a name tag to wear
If you are not going to be the one to pick your child up please let the staff member know so the name of the person picking your child up is written on the sign in form. Campers are not released to anyone unless we have the person's name from you. Phone calls to give us names are not acceptable.
- Go the nurses station – all campers and parent/guardians must check with nurse.
- Head lice checks will be done on all campers before they join their cabin members.
- Say good bye to your child. Your child will go with a camp staff member to the gymnasium and join their counselor and other cabin members.
- You may wait for the buses to leave or you may leave now. Have a good week!

The check out procedure when camp is over will be as follows:

- Arrive at the designated YMCA at the predetermined time – there is a charge for late pick-up.
- Park in designated areas only
- Go to the check out table, show your picture identification and sign your child out.
- You will receive either a camp picture or ticket to take to camp staff to show you have properly signed your child out of camp.
- Be sure to check with the nurse for any leftover medications.
- Go with your child to pick up their luggage – be sure it is theirs and that you get it all!
- Enjoy listening to your child's stories – ask about their leather or rag

Be sure to check with the nurse for any remaining medications.

Go with your child to pick up their luggage – be sure it is theirs and that you get it all!

Enjoy listening to your child's stories – ask about their leather or rag!

WHAT IS OUR PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICY?

Payment of the camp deposit and fees can be made in cash, by check or with a credit card at the front desk at any of our YMCA branches. Please be sure that you have completed your registration forms when you make your payment and that you have a receipt for your payment.

If you cancel in writing up to 1 week before your child is scheduled for camp, you will receive a full refund except for your \$40.00 deposit. This includes all Campership participants. A written explanation must be given to the Camp office in order to receive a refund. We will not refund any portion of your camp fee if you do not contact us before one (1) week prior to Camp. **The YMCA must receive full payment before your child leaves for Camp. No exceptions will be made.** Any campers with a balance will not be allowed on the bus.

Please remember that to participate, all campers must be members of the YMCA. Membership fees are in addition to the price listed for the week of camp and may be found at your local branch. A member is a child or parent who are members of the YMCA of the East Valley. Parents who are applying for a Campership must still place a \$40.00 non-refundable deposit of their own.

CAN I SELL PEANUTS TO PAY MY WAY?

A long-standing tradition at the YMCA is that campers may sell toffee-covered P-Nuttles® in order to help pay their way to camp. At the YMCA front desk, you and your child can check out up to 2 cases of peanuts at a time to sell. For each case you sell, a \$21.00 credit will be issued to your child's camp session.

WHAT IF I CANNOT AFFORD THE CAMP FEE?

It is the policy of the YMCA to avoid denying participation in any Y program to any person because of their inability to pay for the costs of that program. Therefore, if the price of attending a week at Camp is a bit beyond your means, you may apply for the financial aid camp scholarships that we call Camperships. The cost of camp well exceeds the camp fee we charge. We charge you only the direct cost of camp expenses and therefore we subsidize every camper.

“Rules for acceptance and participation in the camp program are the same for everyone without regard to race, sex, color, religion or national origin.” If you cannot afford the fee for Camp and you qualify for financial assistance, you will pay the standard deposit of \$40.00 and the YMCA will arrange a cost sharing plan with you to include selling YMCA Peanuts. This is available for campers and CIT's between the ages of 7 and 17 years of age. In order to receive our assistance, please fill out the Campership portion of the registration form at the time you fill out the registration form. You will be notified before camp of your eligibility for the Campership.

WHAT IS THE FINAL WORD?

As with any document, changes may occur. The YMCA and its staff reserve the right to make changes with regard to the program. We anticipate this will not be necessary, however life is full of changes and we can never predict what may occur days or months down the line. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and participation.