



Parent Handbook

YMCA CAMP EDWARDS SUMMER 2023

Camp Edwards
YMCA OF THE EAST VALLEY | SUMMER 2023

Where do I drop off and pick up my child for camp?

All campers get shuttled from our Highland YMCA branch and will be dropped off there as well. The Highland YMCA is located at 7793 Central Ave, Highland, CA 92346.

You cannot just drop your camper off and then leave. Please be present to sign your child in at the registration table, meet with the Camp Nurse to turn in any medications, and to assure each campers health status before 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 allowed in cabins.**

Check-In Procedure:

- Arrive at the Highland YMCA at the predetermined time for your camp session. There may be a line so be prepared to wait a short time before your child is totally checked in.
- Place **labeled** luggage in luggage pile.
- Check in your camper at the check-in table. They will receive a name tag to wear.
- Visit the Nurses Station – all campers and parent/guardians must check with the Camp Nurse. Head lice checks will be done on all campers before they join their cabin mates.
- Say goodbye to your camper. They will join camps staff and other campers in the gymnasium for games and fun before the bus ride to camp!

Please note: If you are not going to be the adult who picks your camper up on pick up day, please let the staff member know so we have the information of the person picking your child up from camp. Campers are not released to anyone unless we have the person's name from you. Phone calls to give us names are not acceptable.

Check-Out Procedure:

- Arrive at the Highland YMCA at the predetermined pick-up time for your camp session. There is a charge for late pick-up, please be on time.
- Visit 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 from camp.
- Be sure to check with the Camp 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 and adventures from camp!

Counselors

A counselor is a person at least 18 years old and a member of our Summer Camp Staff. They are interviewed by our Camp Director and invited to join staff for the summer season. Counselors are trained to work as youth leaders and 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 Camp Staff members are required to attend a week-long Staff Training Program prior to campers arriving.

What is our Payment and Refund Policy?

Payment: The camp deposit and camp fees can be made online when registering for camp or in cash, by check or with a credit card at the front desk at any of our YMCA of the East Valley 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. The YMCA must receive full payment before your child leaves for Camp Edwards. No exceptions will be made. Any campers with a balance will not be allowed on the bus. Those applying for a Campership or Financial Assistance must still place a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit of their own.

Refunds: A written explanation must be given to the Camp Director in order to receive a refund. If you cancel in writing (email is appropriate) with the Camp Director up to one week before your child is scheduled to attend camp, you will receive a full refund excluding the \$50.00 deposit. We will not refund any portion of your camp fee if you do not contact us before one (1) week prior to your camp session.

Please remember that to participate, all campers must be a member 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 defined as a child or parent who is a member of the YMCA.

Activities at Camp Edwards

Climbing Tower and

This is a 35 ft. three sided climbing tower with a rock climbing surface 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 certified lifeguards, campers experience the joy of canoeing on Jenks Lake. This activity may not happen in the 2022 summer as a fire damaged the lake. We are working hard to make the lake safe again.

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.

Nature Program

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

Pool

Under the supervision of a certified Lifeguard, campers enjoy swimming and playing in the Camp Edwards pool.

Hiking

Campers hike to scenic locations with trained staff on camp trails in the San Gorgonio Mountains.

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.

Morning Inspiration

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.**

Twilight Games

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

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. We observe the stars and nature around us while we fellowship and reflect on the day.

Meals

Campers eat family style with their cabins while at Camp Edwards. We are able to accommodate dietary needs with prior notice in the camper's registration information.

Rag and Leather Program

The Rags and Leather Programs at Camp Edwards are outward symbols of inner personal challenges campers have the choice to take. Each camper, 9 years or older, has the opportunity to make changes in their life by setting personal goals. A tradition bound ceremony occurs for campers during their camper session for those who choose to participate in the program.

Communication with your Camper

Sending your child mail will make their day! Being away from home can be a challenge and receiving notes or pieces of home can lessen the degree of homesickness that some campers experience. Based on our several years of dealing with mail for a short week at camp, here is how to best send mail to your camper 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. Mailing an item on this day will allow enough time for the item to arrive before your child returns home. Please do not send packages that require signatures to be obtained from the camp staff. Send your mail (US Postal or UPS) to:

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

Please make sure that your return address is clearly written in case it arrives late and we need to return the letter/package. So that your child can send mail to you, provide them with paper, pen, and a couple of stamped, pre-addressed envelopes.

Please note: 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.

E-MAIL

We have set up an e-mail account for campers so they can receive notes while at camp. **This email is for receiving only, not sending.** E-mail will not be available for campers to return messages. The Camp Director will print out the e-mail for campers and hand them out before lunch or dinner each day.

You may send messages to: campedwards@ymcaeastvalley.org please put your child's name and session title in the Subject line.

Camper Buddy Request

If your child has a friend coming to camp, it is possible that they can be assigned to be in the same cabin group with their friend. On the Buddy request section of the application form, please have your child request their friend as a buddy. Their 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. We will make every effort to assign your child to the best cabin for them. Typically siblings are not placed together. With this in mind, we will pre-assign campers based on their registration information. Turning in your registration form in early helps in receiving your buddy request.

Please note: Camper Buddy Requests must be made in the registration form.

Camp Store

We offer a variety of items campers may purchase during their stay at camp. Every camper receives a \$5.00 credit to the camp store. If you would like your camper to have additional money you may add it during the registration process or during check-in.

Please note: Campers may not bring money with them to camp. Please do not send money in your child's luggage. Any money your child does not use at camp will not be returned but will be donated to our campership fund to help other campers attend camp next summer.

In-Camp Packing List

Clothing:

- Long Pants
- Shorts
- Shirts
- Underclothes
- Socks
- Warm Jacket
- Sweater, sweatshirt
- Tennis Shoes
- Hiking Boots
- Pajamas
- Swimming Suit
- Flip flops/sandals

Toiletries:

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Soap/Body Wash
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Towels – Shower and Swim
- Chap Stick
- Sunscreen
- Hair brush/Hair Accessories

Other items:

- Water Bottle
- Bedding: Sleeping Bag / Pillow / Pillow Case / Fitted sheet
- Flashlight (and batteries)
- Warm hats, gloves, mittens, etc. for campfire
- Playing cards or games (non-electronic)
- Journal/Pen/Coloring Books
- Books to read