



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# YMCA CAMP SEYMOUR

## TEEN WILDERNESS ADVENTURE INFORMATION PACKET

Dear Parent or Guardian and Teen Participant:

Thank you for enrolling in a teen adventure trip with YMCA Camp Seymour! Reading through this guide with your teen is important and should answer any questions you may have. Please hold onto this guide as it has important information for before and during your teen's camp experience. We are thrilled that you've chosen to join us on an adventure trip, and cannot wait to see you this summer.

### PROGRAM GOALS AND OUTCOMES

- Develop group membership, leadership, and interpersonal skills
- Build a sense of stewardship through practicing leave no trace principles on trail
- Develop independence and gain self confidence
- Cultivate strong bonds and connections with fellow participants and leaders

### PRE-TRIP PREPERATION

Each trip requires attendance at a mandatory orientation meeting before the trip. During this orientation, the Camp Director will present important information regarding safety, equipment, preparation, trip expectations, and trip itineraries.

All trip participants must attend the pre-trip meeting with a parent or guardian.

#### **Thursday, April 25 from 6-7pm**

Virtual- Zoom meeting

This meeting will be recorded for those that cannot attend or for those that register after this date. Please feel free to call or email with additional questions **after** attending the meeting or watching the recording.

### TRIP INFORMATION

Teen Wilderness Adventure (TWA) campers will backpack in the Olympic National Forest for 2 days/1 night and then take sea kayaks along a portion of the Washington Water Trails system for another 2 day/1night. See itinerary for trip details.

### DROP OFF AND PICK UP AT CAMP SEYMOUR

#### CHECK-IN IS FROM 1:30PM-3:00PM ON SUNDAY.

- Please park in the upper parking lot where you will be greeted by Camp Staff.
- Please bring all forms with you to check-in for your child's trip.
- Please be prepared to give the Trip Leaders all medications or supplements to be taken at camp/on the trip.

#### CHECK-OUT IS FROM 1:30PM- 2:30PM ON FRIDAY.

Pull into the upper parking lot off of Thomas Rd., from there staff will direct you through the process to pick up your child.

Adherence to this schedule is greatly appreciated. Remember to bring your **"camper claim check"** with you. If you do not have your claim check, you will be required to stop and show photo ID. A reminder that if the person picking up is not on the Camper Release form and does not have a "camper claim check" you will not be able to pick up your camper.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Teen campers must be dropped off and picked up by a parent, guardian, or an adult who is listed on the Camper Release form. Teens may not park a car at camp for the duration of their camp session.

## **CAMP INCLUSION**

Everything we do at Camp Seymour is put through the lens of our core values: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. If an incident occurs that does not exemplify these core values, we will take time to investigate the situation and deal with it on a case-by-case basis. This may result in your camper being sent home, depending on the severity of the incident.

Camp should be fun, welcoming, and encouraging. A place where campers are able to interact with other campers that come from different backgrounds. We pride ourselves on welcoming individuals and families from diverse communities, identities, faiths, and socio demographics, providing the opportunity where they may learn, grow, and thrive together. We encourage you to take a moment to have an open and honest conversation with your camper to celebrate how great an opportunity this is to make a lasting friendship with someone they might not interact with outside of camp.

## **PARTNERS WITH PARENTS**

YMCA Camp Seymour will make every effort to ensure your teen has a wonderful experience on their trip. Parents or guardians can help us greatly in our efforts to do so, particularly by letting us know in advance about specific behavioral, health-related, emotional, or other issues that affect your child at home. With sufficient notice, trip leaders will contact a parent or guardian prior to your arrival at camp to discuss with you how we can best work with your teen during their trip experience. All conversations will be held in the strictest confidence, and will help our staff provide the best possible environment for your camper.

If there are times when a camper's behavior is affecting others experiences, we will contact the folks at home to create a plan moving forward. Depending on the severity of the incident or if behavior continues we may ask you to come to pick up your camper.

## **PHYSICAL PREPARATION**

All Teen Adventure Trips require physical effort, whether it is hiking with a pack up a hill or paddling a kayak across open water into a headwind. If your teen is in shape, the trip will be much more fun! It is never too late to start getting physically ready – but the earlier, the better. Participants should prepare for their trip by doing some regular (3 days per week, 30 min. a day) cardiovascular conditioning. When training, try to do activities that resemble the trip's main activities. For example, for a hiking trip, using the Stairmaster, treadmill, or going for long walks will build endurance; putting some weight in a pack (20 lbs. or so) and carrying it will also help with backpacking endurance. For paddling, it's helpful to choose activities that emphasize endurance and strength in the upper body and torso.

## **DEVELOP REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS**

Developing realistic expectations about the trip is very important. Folks at home can play a big role in helping their teen prepare for their trip by not over-glamorizing the experience. Obviously, going on the trip will be fun and worthwhile, but it is important to make sure your teen understands it may not be fun every minute. There may be problems to solve, feelings of worry or sadness to overcome, insecurities to work on, these problems and feelings are a normal part of stepping outside one's comfort zone.

Help your teen learn just how much they can and cannot control in their situation on the trip, and effective coping strategies for when the going gets tough. Ensure that your teen understands that once they start on the trip, there is no going back. Strategies for coping could include talking to the trip leader, or offering to help with a project. Teens are quite resourceful in learning to handle their emotions. One of the most successful coping methods used is to do something fun and physical – and trips provide plenty of that.

## **ON TRAIL**

### **MEDICAL CARE**

Our trip leaders are trained in Wilderness First Aid, and carry a group first aid kit at all times. Participants may be several hours away from doctors and/or advanced medical care. All trips have emergency evacuation plans. In case of minor illness, participants will be treated in the field. Should any serious accident or illness occur while on the trip, a parent or guardian will be notified after contact with camp is

established, and a guardian is required to take over care of their camper within 24 hours of notification. We reserve the right to send a teen home if our health care director or a physician so advises. If you plan to be away for any length of time during your teen's time on their trip, please arrange for a relative or neighbor to be able to pick up and care for your teen should he or she become ill. Please notify camp of this situation by putting the name, address and telephone number of the relative or neighbor on the Participant Release Form.

### **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

In case of a medical or family emergency at home or at camp, contact YMCA Camp Seymour at 253-884-3392. In the event of an emergency, visits by a parent or guardian are allowed after contact with the Camp Director has occurred.

### **TELEPHONE CONTACT**

A parent or guardians may contact the Camp Director at any time to discuss their teen's itinerary, at 253-884-3392. Many of our trips take place in remote locations without access to a telephone. We operate our trips on a "no news is good news" philosophy, so daily updates are not available. In those locations where a phone may be available, teens are not permitted to initiate telephone calls home. In the event a teen requests to make a phone call while on a trip, permission to do so is granted at the Trip Leader's discretion, after they make advance contact with the Camp Director and the parent or guardian to discuss the situation.

### **S.A.D.T.V. RULE**

Sexual contact, Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, and Violence, in any form, will not be tolerated at any YMCA Camp Seymour program. A teen who chooses to violate this rule will be sent home at the expense of their family (and will be sadly watching T.V. while the rest of the group finishes the trip). All of our trips have times when participants will be off-site, we expect that everyone acts in a manner representative of the YMCA, Camp Seymour and their family.

### **NON-MEDICAL EVACUATIONS**

If a participant is evacuated early from a trip for non-medical reasons (e.g. refusal to complete the trip) or removed from the trip for other reasons (e.g. refusal to abide by camp rules or trip expectations, or failure to keep themselves or others safe) the participant's family will be charged an evacuation fee of no less than \$100. The actual fee may be higher, to account for staff time, transportation costs, other expenses related to the evacuation. To ensure a safe, quality experience for every participant, please be sure your teen is ready and willing to complete the trip before they arrive at camp. Our trips are not "boot camp"-style experiences. We strongly discourage sending teens if they are unwilling to go. Campers must want to be here!

### **MISSING HOME**

For many teens, this will be the first time they've spent this much time away from home in a remote wilderness setting. For some, this can bring up feelings of missing home. There aren't many comforts of home out on the trail, so please prepare your teen for all the potentials: bad weather, hard work, going to the bathroom outside, camp stove meals, and sharing a tent. Your teen will most likely find that there are enough activities to keep them very busy. In the event of intense feelings of missing home, our Trip Leaders are trained to discuss the situation and set goals with the teen to better their experience. For teens with a history of missing home, we recommend bringing a small keepsake from home (e.g. a family photo) to help with sadness that may occur.

### **Teen Wilderness Adventure is operated under special use permit with the Olympic National Forest.<sup>1</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)*

*Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information is also available in languages other than English.*

*To file a complaint alleging discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at*

*[http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provided in the letter all of the information*

*requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3)*

*email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider."*