

YMCA Camp Oakasha - Frequently Asked Questions

Additional questions? Please contact the Camp Director at lmurphy@waterburymca.org or by phone (860)274-4820 *winter* or (203)264-2817 *summer*

1. **Session Dates and Times** - Camp starts at 9AM and ends at 3PM. We offer extended care for additional fees, from 7-9 AM and 3-5:30 PM.

Session 1 – June 24 - June 28

Session 2 – July 1 - 5*

Session 3 - July 8 - 12

Session 4 – July 15 - 19

Session 5 – July 22 - 26

Session 6 – July 29 - August 2

Session 7 – August 5 - 9

Session 8 – August 12 - 16

Session 9 - August 19 - 23

*There will be camp on July 4th

2. **How much does camp cost?**

That depends on the session you wish to sign up for. Sessions 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 do not include a field trip and are \$215. Sessions with field trips: 2, 4, 6, and 8 are \$225. Before care is \$40 per week, after care is \$45 per week, and if you do both it is \$85 per week.

3. **How long is my camper's physical valid?**

Camper Physical Exams are valid for 3 years from the date of the examination. Camp keeps valid physical forms from previous summers. If you are unsure when your last physical was, please contact your doctor. *Yearly Camper Health Form* – This form, completed by parents/guardians, must be updated each year with any changes to your child's health.

4. **What if my camper needs medication while at camp?**

Camp Oakasha provides staff certified in Medication Administration. If your camper needs any medication (over the counter or prescription) during the day, our staff will dispense medication if it is in an original bottle with the child's name printed on the prescription and a physician has filled out the *Authorization of Administration of Medication Form AND the Individual Care Plan Form*.

If your child is riding the bus, you must decide whether their medication will accompany them on the bus everyday or if it will remain at camp for the week. You will need to complete and sign the *Bus Medication Option Form*. All medication must be given to the bus monitor or delivered to camp. No medication can stay with a camper, unless a medical release allows for it.

5. **What about bug spray and sun screen?**

Please help your child apply these items before they come to camp. If you would like them to re-apply those items during camp, then you need to fill out a *Non-Prescription Medication Form*.

6. **How do I apply for financial aid?**

United Way Campership packets will be available early April for those wishing to apply for a 2-week camp scholarship. Additionally, a Waterbury Y youth membership provides a discount on camp, swim lessons, and more. Further financial aid is available through the State of CT Care4Kids program and the YMCA Open Doors Program, please contact the camp registrar for more information. A \$75 deposit is needed to reserve your camper's spot until financial aid awards for those programs are given.

7. Does camp provide a lunch?

No, but we do have refrigeration. Please do not send anything that requires heat. Because of storage constraints, we ask that you not send a small cooler or large lunch box. Brown paper bags or reusable bags of a similar size work best.

8. What is the staff to camper ratio?

Per state licensing requirements, the youngest groups have ratios of 1 counselor to 8 campers, while older groups can be at 1 to 12. Waterfront is staffed by certified Lifeguards with a ratio of 1 to 25.

9. What happens on rainy days?

Campers should always dress appropriately for the weather and pack a raincoat, rain boots, and other warm layers so we can more easily continue the fun! We'll play indoor games, do crafts, and sing songs until the rain... or liquid sunshine passes.

10. Can I pick my child up early?

Campers can be picked up early from camp if a note or an email is sent to make prior arrangements. Please do not plan for pick up between 2:30-3:00 pm. During that time the entire camp is going through closing ceremonies and removing children is very challenging. Children will only be released to individuals that are listed on the camper's authorized pick-up list and can produce a valid photo ID.

11. What should my child bring to camp each day?

Each child should bring a backpack with their lunch, bathing suit, towel, hat and reusable water bottle, as well as closed toed shoes. A change of clothes is appreciated, especially for our younger campers. Water shoes and flip flops can be used at the pool.

12. What should stay at home?

Children will be actively participating in outdoor activities so they should not bring electronics, phones, video games, music players, toys or games, cards, or any other valuables. If these items become detrimental to camp, we may keep them in the camp office for the day.

13. Can I talk to my child's counselor?

Absolutely. We encourage you to share your input with our staff. Each session, counselors call every child's family. You can contact the office, 203-264-2817, and leave a message for your child's counselor to contact you at the end of the day. Attend a family night and meet your child's counselor in person.

14. What if my child loses something while at camp?

We have a lost and found in the office and feel free to call for inquiry about specific items. Please place your child's name on their items. Items are kept for the summer and then donated to a local charity.

15. What if my camper gets sick or injured while at camp?

We have a certified First Aider on duty at all times. Furthermore, staff are CPR certified and most have First Aid Certification. Parents will be contacted to remove ill children from camp. In case of emergency, the local EMS responders will transport campers to Waterbury Hospital.

16. In case of a late bus or other schedule changes, how will parents be notified?

We do our best to contact parents and guardians as quickly and efficiently as possible by phone, email, and on our Facebook Page.