

YMCA CAMP ICAGHOWAN

FAMILY HANDBOOK

SUMMER 2023



New Camper Orientation

Join us for new and prospective parent/camper orientation. We will have two times available. The first on Tuesday, April 23 at 6 pm. The second will be on Thursday, April 25 at 7 pm. Both will be held at 2525 Wabash Ave, St Paul, MN 55414.

We'll also be offering 2 orientations for campers going on trail (TACs, Islanders, Pioneers/Challengers/Chioneers). We will have two times available. The first on Tuesday, April 16 at 6pm and the second on Thursday, April 18 at 7pm. Both will be held at 2525 Wabash Ave, St Paul, MN 55414.

Open House

Join us for our open house at camp on May 20th from 1-4pm. Tours will leave from our welcome center periodically. More information can be found on our website and Facebook page.

Contact Information

YMCA Customer Service Center: 612-230-9622; call them about registration, payments, financial assistance, cancellations, etc.

Fall/Winter/Spring: 612-822-2267; call here for general information about programs, logistics, transportation, etc.

Camp Icaghowan Office (Summer): 612-459-7278; call here for questions, concerns, or needs during the summer months while camp is in session.

Sarah Stephens (Program Director): 651-259-2104 or sarah.stephens@ymcamn.org; call or email if you have specific questions about programs, concerns about a camper, etc.

Georgia Wagner (Executive Director): 612-810-2935 or georgia.ellingson@ymcamn.org; call or email if you have questions about programs, concerns about a camper, donations, etc.

This Document

This document undergoes occasional changes. You can always find the most up-to-date version here: https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/camp_icaghowan/forms_publications

YMCA of the North Mission

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The Y's mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy body, mind, and spirit for all.

Camp Icaghowan Mission

Camp Icaghowan is committed to helping participants achieve their fullest potential in personal development, social growth, and physical wellbeing, with an understanding of their natural environment. Programs and activities at Camp Icaghowan seek to instill the five core values of the YMCA: Caring, Honesty, Equity, Respect, and Responsibility.

Registration and Forms

Registration

Registration can be completed online at campicaghowan.org, by calling the YMCA Customer Service Center, or by downloading a registration form on our website. Camp will send you confirmation within three weeks of receiving your registration and deposit. The balance for your session is due May 1, 2024, unless you have a pre-approved payment plan established with the Customer Service Center.

Changes and Cancellations

Call the Customer Service Center if you need to change or cancel your registration to camp and they can walk you through the process. **No refunds are available for cancellations after the payment-in-full date.** Camp session change requests received one month or more prior to the session start date will be made, pending availability, and assessed a \$25 change fee. Campers who do not show up to a session will not receive a refund. Program deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable. No tuition adjustment will be made for late arrival, early departure, or dismissal from camp. No adjustment to registration cost will be made for campers who are tardy, absent from camper days, restricted due to disciplinary reasons, or inability to manage pre-existing conditions, current illness/injury* or dismissal.

**If your camper is experiencing a physical/mental illness or injury prior to the session and it prevents them from participating, a medical provider will need to provide proof of illness or injury to consider a partial refund. If you pay in full, refunds will only be eligible until May 15.*

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Y Adventure Programs cannot refund payments when sessions are cut short or canceled due to circumstances beyond our control. These may include, but are not limited to, wilderness area closures, forest fires, flooding, or other climate and environmental hazards that would prevent us from providing a safe and meaningful experience for all participants.

Camp Store

If you would like your camper to shop in the camp store, please purchase a gift certificate **prior** to their arrival. These are purchased in your online YMCA account. Gift certificates can be used toward any YMCA program, membership, or camp experience. Certificates can be redeemed at any YMCA of the North locations, are transferrable, and never expire. Gift certificates can be used toward camp store merchandise during your camper's stay at camp. Any remaining balance will remain in your account.

Health Exam Form

Our camp utilizes the platform CampDoc. Prior to your camper's arrival, you will receive information on how to login and complete your camper's health profile. A completed Health Exam profile is required each year to attend camp. If you have trouble getting into your CampDoc account, please contact our Program Director.

First and Last Day

Transportation

YMCA Camp Icaghowan offers transportation to and from Camp. The bus will arrive and depart from the YMCA in Shoreview. The bus to camp will depart at 12 pm on Sunday. It will arrive from camp by 3:30 pm on Friday afternoon. You must register for your transportation choice (bus or pick up/drop off directly at camp) at least 5 days ahead of time to ensure adequate space for participants. If your camper takes the bus, arrive at the Shoreview YMCA between 11:30 am and 12 pm. Be sure to bring any forms that have not been submitted and medications that your child will need for camp.

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Bus Rules:

Sit facing forward while the bus is moving

Do not scream or yell

Inappropriate touching, including pushing and poking, is not allowed

Except for water, do not eat or drink while on the bus

Drop-Off

On Sunday, please arrive at camp during the designated drop-off time. This will be communicated to you in an email from the Program Director before your camp session and will fall between 1 and 3 pm. We cannot accept early arrivals. Please call if you are running late and will be arriving **after** 3 pm.

Pick-Up

On Friday, please pick up your camper during the designated pick-up time. This will be communicated to you in an email from the Program Director prior to your camp session and will fall between 1 pm and 3 pm. Campers can only be picked up by someone listed on their Camper Personal History and carrying their photo ID. **Remember your ID on pick-up day.** If there is any reason your camper needs to be dropped off late or picked up early, or there is a change in who can pick your camper up, please contact us.

Summer Samplers

Transportation for Summer Samplers sessions is somewhat unique. Tuesday Summer Sampler pick-up is from 1 pm to 2 pm. **There are no busses offered for Summer Samplers arriving or departing midweek**, but they are welcome to take the bus either to camp on Sunday if departing Tuesday, or back to Shoreview on Friday if arriving Wednesday.

Life at Camp

Cabins

Campers spend their session with two counselors and a group of other campers in a cabin. Our counselors are well-trained, love their jobs, and can't wait for campers to arrive! Our cabins are campicaghowan.org



split into two units, called the Venture Unit and the Wilderness Unit. Campers are assigned based on age and gender preference.

Friend/Buddy Requests

We try our best to honor at least one friend request. Families can complete a friend request within their registration to be in a cabin with 1 or 2 friends, within a 2-year age range. We cannot guarantee friend requests with more than 2 friends.

Food

Icaghowan campers eat very well; our kitchen takes great pride in providing a tasty, well-balanced diet. If your camper has dietary restrictions or allergies, please make a note of them in your camper's CampDoc profile. If needed, we will follow up with additional questions.

Homesickness

For many campers, a week away at Icaghowan will be the longest they've ever been away from home. This challenge can be understandably significant for both campers and families. Icaghowan counselors and staff are trained in coaching campers through their camp experiences, and we believe that overcoming the challenge can be an opportunity to build resilience and confidence. We encourage camper families to share positive encouragement and acknowledgement about the length of time away from home before your camper comes to camp. We also recommend sending along some stationery, envelopes, and stamps so your camper can write letters home!

Health and Safety

Icaghowan campers are well looked after. All our counselors are certified in First Aid and CPR at minimum and are supported by a health professional (an RN) and supervised by our consulting physician. We are 15 minutes from the Amery Regional Medical Center for emergency care. We will treat bumps, bruises, and scrapes, and will be in touch with you if anything else comes up. We always call come if an injury or illness impedes a camper's enjoyment of camp.

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Medication

All medications must be turned into Icaghowan Health Services upon arrival. Medication must be in the original container and include dosage, frequency, and camper's name. Please place the original container in a Ziploc bag.

Please do not send any over-the-counter medications unless your camper needs something very specific. We have these well stocked and can provide them as needed.

Risks at Camp

Camp Icaghowan is a member of the American Camp Association, meaning we are rigorously held accountable to over 300 pages of standards regarding health and wellness, transportation safety, aquatic safety, and more. These standards ensure that we have the best practices in place regarding ticks/insects, sun exposure, hygiene, water safety, bullying prevention, staff medical training, and much more. Nonetheless, like all experiences in life, camp is not risk-free. We simply cannot guarantee that no harm will befall a camper. Please refer to our waiver here: campicaghowan.org/forms_publications/ if you would like to review our indemnification policies.

Camp Activities

Campers will experience a variety of activities during their camp session. At the beginning of the week, campers will sign up for activities that they'll do at camp. Each camper will choose different activities to do during the afternoons, and one activity that they'll do every morning. We call these morning activities "Progressives," because by doing the same one every day, campers get to progress and grow in their skills and knowledge. In addition to the activities campers choose individually, cabin groups do activities together every day, which gives the cabin group more time to bond!

Overnights

Every cabin group (except our teen programs) will head out on an overnight with their cabin during the week to one of the campsites on our property. Campers either canoe or hike to their campicaghowan.org



overnights and get to stay in a platform tent by the lake, in a treehouse, or in a yurt. Campers learn basic camping skills and find fun in the forest, in addition to having an opportunity to do something new and challenging.

Waterfront

Each camper's swimming ability will be assessed prior to their first waterfront activity and personal floatation devices are always worn by campers and staff during boating. It can be nice to wear water shoes due to rocks and seaweed at our waterfront!

Stay in the loop!

View photos of your camper while they're at camp!

Facebook: facebook.com/campicaghowan

Instagram: @campicaghowan

Communication

Campers may not have cell phones at camp; the ability to contact home tends to feed feelings of homesickness and inhibits cabin integration. Being without their cell phones also offers campers an opportunity to better engage in the natural environment offered at camp. If you want to stay in touch with your camper, you can send a letter or care package; we do ask that you limit food, as it can attract unwanted furry guests to the cabins!

You can mail letters and packages to:

(Camper Name) and (Session Start Date) c/o YMCA Camp Icaghowan 899A 115 th St Amery, WI 54001
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You can also bring mail to Camp or to the bus stop when you drop your camper off. We will deliver it to them during the week and you'll save on shipping!

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Notices

CODE OF COMMUNITY

Y of the North Overnight Camps strive to develop young people's respect for self, others, and the environment by providing opportunities to experience nature and community building in a safe and positive space.

We expect that all members of the camp community will behave maturely, responsibly, inclusively, and respect the rights and dignity of others. All actions at camp should reflect the YMCA Core Values: Caring, Honesty, Equity, Respect, and Responsibility.

For everyone to have a positive experience at camp, you/your camper agree that you will NOT engage in the following behavior while at camp:

- Use of abusive, discriminatory, or vulgar language, name-calling or shouting at others in anger
- Physical contact with another person in an angry or threatening way
- Sexual innuendo or sexual behavior that intimidates or offends others
- Exclusivity towards others
- Harassment or intimidation by words, gestures, body language or any other menacing behavior
- Theft or behavior which results in destruction of property or the natural environment
- Carrying or concealing or using devices or objects as weapons
- Using or possessing illegal chemicals, alcohol or tobacco including nicotine gum, vapes and e-cigarettes on YMCA property and throughout the experience
- Engaging in intentionally risky behavior that endangers the wellbeing of self or others

Behavior Expectations and Accountability

Our staff will work with all campers who demonstrate behavioral challenges while at camp. In the case that we are not able to find a solution, Y of the North Camps reserve the right to dismiss any camper who does not follow the respectful behavior expectations as outlined above. In the event that a camper is asked to leave, there will be no refund of session fees and the parent or guardian of the camper will be held responsible for the camper's early transportation home from camp.

Bullying Policy

At Y of the North Camps, bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying. Each camper is expected to treat all other campers with respect and help each other

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achieve the best possible experience. Failure to meet Y Camp's standards of respectful behavior may result in communication with parents/guardians for assistance and potentially the dismissal of the camper. Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously. We train all camp staff to identify bullying and to promote honest communication between themselves and campers. Our goal is to work together as a team to ensure that campers gain self-confidence, make new friends and go home with fond memories of their camp experience. Campers are strongly encouraged to report bullying to their counselors, unit leaders, or any camp staff, including the camp directors. Our staff are trained to be diligent to mitigate bullying, but we don't see everything. Reporting is key to the prevention and correction of bullying behavior.

Diversity and Inclusion

It is the YMCA of the North's vision to serve relentlessly with our community until all can thrive in each stage of life. At Camp Icaghowan we are committed to ensuring that "all" really does mean all; we gladly welcome campers of all backgrounds, walks of life, identities, and genders. We cherish diversity and want to make sure all feel enthusiastically at home at Camp Icaghowan.

Please contact us if you have any perspective about your camper that may help us support them while at camp.

Packing: Traditional Camps

The following is a suggested packing list for a week of traditional camp; decrease for shorter stays and increase for longer ones. Please do not send your camper's best clothing, as camp activities are outside and rugged. Pack items and clothing that can get wet and dirty. **All items should be clearly labeled with your camper's first and last name.** Camp Icaghowan is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

A more detailed list can be found under the Parents & Guardians section on our website

Bring

- Sleeping bag and a twin sheet
- Pillow
- Set of pajamas
- Tennis shoes that can get dirty
- Sandals with a back strap
- 2-4 pairs of shorts

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- 1-2 pairs of long pants
- One or two long-sleeved shirts
- 3-5 T-shirts
- Five pairs of underwear
- Five pairs of socks
- A sweatshirt
- Swimming suit
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Two towels
- Hat
- Personal toiletries
- Flashlight (headlamps are great)
- Water bottle
- Insect repellent and sunscreen

Horse Camp Only:

Sturdy riding boots and durable pants.

Consider Bringing

- A camera (disposable ones are a good idea)
- Personal hand sanitizer
- Journal and pen
- Paper, envelopes, and stamps for letters (pre-addressed post cards work well)
- Books and small games

Do Not Bring

- Electronics (including cell phones and smart watches)
- Money
- Food/Drinks
- Fireworks
- Knives (including camping/pocketknives)
- Weapons
- Drugs/Alcohol
- Personal sports equipment
- Animals

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- Personal Vehicles

Packing: Adventure Camps, WLCs, and CITs

When packing for programs that are longer than a week, adjust the Traditional Camp packing list as needed. In addition to those items, please bring:

- A compact sleeping bag for trail; consider a mummy-style bag.
- A **durable, breathable** rain jacket that you can be comfortably active in.

When packing for trail, we suggest bringing fabrics and fills made with down (which is lightweight), synthetics, and wool (which are warm when wet). When possible, opt for these materials over cotton for clothing and sleeping bags. We also suggest bringing good **long underwear** and **wool hats** to keep warm without being too bulky on trail.

Kayaking Camps (Islanders, Teen Extreme)

- Gloves (optional, neoprene or waterproof are great)
- Wind shirt (optional)

Canoeing Camps (Pioneers/Challengers/Chioneers, TACs, WLCs, CITs)

- Sturdy portaging boots that can get wet
- Two or three pairs of wool socks

An additional packing list for specialty programs will be on our website and sent out to campers as is relevant.

Don't feel the need to go buy lots of new things if you already have gear that will do! With very few exceptions, high-end gear doesn't improve your camp experience. In fact, most Icacaghowan staff pride themselves on taking care of old gear and using it until it's worn out. Can't find it? Just ask! We have some gear you can borrow!

Lost and Found

We display our lost and found as we accumulate it for campers to see and parents to peruse on pick-up day. If you return home and realize you have left something, email us and we'll work to find it.

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