



YMCA of Greater Monmouth County **Summer Camp Frequently Asked Questions**

What ages do your camps accept?

- Our campers start at age 3 (fully toilet trained) and go up to age 15. The ages are dependent on the camp. Camp Zehnder: ages 3-15, Red Bank: ages 4-15, Freehold: ages 3-15 and Old Bridge: ages 6-12. Our school age campers are children who have completed kindergarten.
- We organize our groups by the grade your child will complete in June (not by age)
- All campers must be fully toilet trained and able to change into and out of their bathing suits. Practicing this at home can help.

Are your groups coed?

- Yes, all our groups are coed.
- We hire male and female camp counselors and lifeguards.

Do you accept payment from a third-party vendor?

- Our school age camps do not accept Child Care Resources or Children's Home Society at this time.
- Our Freehold Outreach Camp provides subsidies for Freehold Borough residents.
- Our My Y Preschool Camp in Freehold offers financial assistance.
- We can accept direct payments from DCP&P.

Do you offer any financial assistance?

- Yes, applications are available on our website and are reviewed in the order they are received. Assistance is available based on qualifications and availability of funding.
- A \$50 registration fee for each week is required at registration. A paid deposit will hold a spot.
- Financial aid scholarships based on need are the primary source of support. No other discount types are available for camp.

Do you offer a sibling discount?

- Not currently.
- There is no membership or registration fee to attend our YMCA summer camps.
- Our prices are kept as low as possible to help meet families' needs.
- Financial aid is available.

Can You extend the camp hours?

- Yes, our camps offer the following programs for an additional fee:
 - AM Care 7:30am-9:00am
 - PM Care 4:00pm-6:00pm
 - Freehold Outreach camp offers extended care 7:30am-5:30pm
 - See the online registration for your camp for more details



Do you provide a half-day program?

- Morning half day sports & specialty camps are available at all camps.

Can I pick up my child early?

- Yes, in most cases. We ask that you come into the office or welcome center with your ID no later than 3:15pm to pick up. If you call the office prior, we can have the camper ready for you.

Can You enroll anytime?

- Yes, however, the earlier you register the earlier you can start making payments. Camp enrollment is on a first come first served basis. Our camp weeks will fill, and registration will be closed, so register as soon as you can. If we have an opening, we will accept enrollment throughout the camp season.
- Registration is available online only with a non-refundable \$50/week deposit.
- Payment balances are due 30 days prior to each week of camp.
- Required paperwork must be completed by June 1st, or two weeks prior to attending camp if registering after June 1st.

Do you provide lunch?

- Campers will need to bring their own lunch each day. Lunch boxes will be kept by group in an air-conditioned space. A lunch program is available for purchase at Camp Zehnder only.
- Practicing how to open and close containers and packages will help younger campers have a pleasant lunch experience. Remind campers to eat their “main course” before eating any of their desserts.

Is camp peanut free?

- Only the Freehold campsites are peanut free. All other camp locations are peanut aware. We do allow campers to bring foods that contain peanuts for lunch. A peanut free table is available, if the camper does not have a severe allergy, and parents approve, we allow the campers to sit at the end of the table with their friends.

Can campers buy snacks?

- Please pack additional snacks and ice packs for your camper. A Snack Shack will be open at Camp Zehnder only. Snacks may or may not be available at other camps.

Can I send my child to camp with birthday treats for their group?

- We ask you to please refrain from sending children with treats for their groups, due to allergies and parental dietary preferences. We suggest a pack of water balloons for the group to share. Feel free to contact your camp coordinator for other suggestions.



Can I ask to have my camper placed with their friends?

- We accept group requests and do our best to accommodate. Staffing, behavior, and group size may limit our choices some days.
- Requests can be made in the follow up paperwork in the CampDoc system

What about ticks, bugs, and other nature friends?

- We have an aggressive, professional tick spraying program, done off-hours on a regular basis.
- We teach campers to ID ticks and do tick checks each day.
- We use cleared and treated trails.
- Most days the heat keeps bugs away but packing bug repellent can help on those cooler, rainy days.
- Remind your campers to move away from others when applying bug repellent.

Are there trained medical personnel on site?

- Yes, we have a Registered Nurse or Health & Safety Supervisor on duty during regular camp hours.
- All staff are CPR and First Aid certified.
- First aid supplies are carried with all groups and in kits throughout camp.

What if my child needs to take medication at camp, or has an epi-pen?

- Medication must be dropped off by the parent or guardian and a signed doctor's note and stamp must be submitted through CampDoc.
- Medication is administered by and stored with Camp Nurse, Health & Safety Supervisor, or Camp Coordinators.

What do the campers do if it's raining or excessively hot?

- Our camps have indoor and covered space to accommodate campers on rainy days. If there is NO thunder and lightning, they can still swim if it is raining lightly.
- In excessive heat, we modify the schedule to give more time with water activities and shade, and we limit high exertion activities.

What about refunds or credits?

- A \$50/week deposit is due upon registration. Deposits are NON-REFUNDABLE.
- Online changes and final balances are due 30 days before each camp week start date (e.g., 5/23/25 for 6/23/25 start date).
Cancellations must be made in writing to the branch's Camp Coordinator 30 days prior to the beginning of the cancelled camp session. Cancellations later than 30 days prior may not be refunded (refunds are less the deposit). *The only exception will be if a medical professional provides a reason, in writing, stating the child cannot attend for the entire week.



- If a camper is absent for three or more days due to illness, a tuition refund or credit toward future camp weeks will be provided. ***Doctors note required within 2 weeks of absence.**
- If camp is closed due to facility emergency, a refund or credit toward future camp weeks will be provided at the family's written request. Written request must be submitted within 30 days of the facility closure. No refunds are provided for issued state of emergencies or unnatural events.

What is the swim program like?

- Campers will participate in two swim sessions each day in small groups (weather permitting). Water safety activities and basic swim instruction will be taught by camp staff during the morning session. Afternoon swim sessions will be organized as recreational swim. We will encourage your child to participate in both. Campers need the opportunity to cool off. Please let your camper know that swimming is an expected part of our YMCA camp program.
- All campers are swim tested and marked with a colored band, non-swimmers are required to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket or "puddle jumper" provided by the camp. Do not send arm swimmies or other devices with your camper.
- All lifeguards are certified in life guarding, first aid, and CPR. Swim instructors are trained in YMCA swim instruction and certified in first aid and CPR.

What are the ages and experience of your staff?

- Many of the camp staff are preschool and school age teachers or assistants who work with children year-round.
- Our camp counselors are a minimum of 18 years old, while our junior camp counselors are a minimum of 16 years old before the summer starts. Each camp is supervised by a Camp Coordinator trained in behavior management supervision and has experience with children.
- All staff and volunteers complete a background check, national sex offender registry check, and attend extensive training prior to start of camp.

What is the staff/camper ratio?

- Pre-K (3-5 yrs. old) 1 staff to 6 campers (1:6)
- Grades K-2 are 1:8
- Grades 3 to 9 are 1:10.
- Our specialty areas may have an additional staff person who is involved with each group during those activities, in addition to the group's regular counselors.

Are there any special events over the summer?

- Throughout the summer various camps offer special programming such as Theme Days, Wacky Wednesday, Carnival, Open Swim, Talent Show, and Family Nights.



Do you have a special program for teens?

- Teen campers (at Camp Zehnder) will have additional, age-appropriate activities such as leadership and job training, pottery, wood working, jewelry making, photography, journalist activities, comic book creation, community service projects, and more as they develop their own curriculum.

Do you have a camp counselor training program?

- The Role Model in Training (RMIT) program will be offered this summer at Camp Zehnder, Red Bank Y Camp, and Freehold Y Camp.
- Zehnder Campers must be 14 years old by June 1st
- Red Bank and Freehold Campers must be 13 years old by June 1st
- The program requires formal registration, an application, and an interview. Please email Summerfun@ymcanj.org for an application.
- Registration is completed after being accepted into the program.

Are special needs campers allowed at camp?

- The YMCA believes that all children should have the opportunity to attend camp. We work to include all campers in our programs.

Do you allow a shadow or support person to attend camp with special needs campers?

- Yes, behavioral support staff may accompany campers requiring additional assistance.
- Parents must provide support and compensation. The Y will conduct a background check, Child Sex Offender Registry check and this person will be required to complete our Child Sexual Abuse Prevention online training.

What will my camper need for camp?

- Check out our "What to bring to camp" flier on our website.
- A sturdy backpack with lunch, snacks, water bottle, sunblock, bathing suit, towel, hand sanitizer.
- Dress for the weather and wear sneakers and socks.
- LABEL EVERYTHING, Lost & Found is donated or discarded every two weeks.

Is there anything that my child should NOT bring to camp?

- We are an unplugged camp. Phones and other connected devices are not allowed.
- Please leave toys, games, and stuffed animals at home.
- Only wear or bring things to camp that you won't mind getting dirty or wet.
- YMCA summer camp staff will hold any item that is unsafe or distracting to the group. (Behavior adaptive tools can be cleared with the camp coordinator prior to camp.)



What if my child misbehaves?

- Our camp staff is trained in group management and will work to redirect behavior.
- Campers who have recurring issues will be spoken to and, if necessary, parents will be notified.
- In extreme cases, campers may be suspended or expelled from camp. Please read our parent handbook for more details on acceptable behavior at camp.

How do I stay connected to what's going on at camp?

- For more information about camp, please contact: 732.671.5505.
- You will receive an email/newsletter on average weekly
- Download the Remind App and join the class (codes will be posted on our web pages)
- Freehold's My Y Class Dojo invite will be sent to each family individually
- Website: www.ymcanj.org
- Like and follow us on Social Media: @YMCACampZehnder, @YYMCAGMC
- Once camp is in session in June, please reach out to each camp directly:
 - Camp Zehnder 732-836-9177
 - Old Bridge Y Camp 732-727-0704
 - Red Bank Y Camp 732-741-2504
 - Freehold Y Camp & Outreach Camp 732-462-0464
 - Freehold My Y Preschool Camp 732-462-0464 ext. 109
- Camp Supervisors:
 - Camp Zehnder, Coordinator, Karen Little
 - Old Bridge Y Camp Coordinator, Braeden Harper
 - Red Bank Y Camp Coordinator, Barrett Johnson
 - Freehold Y Camp Coordinator, Frank Napolitano
 - Freehold My Y Camp Coordinator, Kim Murphy
 - Freehold Outreach Camp Coordinator, Stacey Harris

How do I get a receipt for tax purposes or child care reimbursement?

- Click on the button below to take you to the Online Account Portal.
- Search for your account using your Phone Number or Email on file.
- Click the Forgot Password link to create a password.
- Complete your Account set up.
- Click My Account in the top right-hand corner to update your account information including your authorized pickups, print your childcare tax statements and receipts, register for additional programs, and more!

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