



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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CAN I SEE THE CAMP AND/OR MEET THE DIRECTOR?

Yes! We host in-person Open Houses at Camp Chickami and virtual information tables. These are great opportunities to ask questions and learn about camp. The Camping Services Office is also open to drop-in visits from all families, and the Director is available for informational virtual visits and tours of camp with your family. To schedule, contact **Benjamink@wsymca.org**.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR CAMP?

Paper applications are available at the West Suburban Y, and online registrations are accepted through our website:
<https://www.wsymca.org/camps/chickami>.

DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING AFTER I REGISTER?

After you register, you will receive an invitation to CampSite, our camp web app. There you will need to complete the required forms. You will also have access to "Camp Today," the unique blogs for each of our three camps. You can use this to stay up-to-date on the latest news during your camper's session!



COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR CAMP IN 2021:

Face Coverings: Staff will be required to wear face coverings any time they are indoors and any time maintaining 6 feet of distance between them and another person is not possible. We will ask the same of campers. We believe that this is the best way to keep our campers and staff and their families safe. Campers and staff will not be required to wear face coverings during outdoor activities, unless 6 feet of distance between them and others cannot be maintained.

Social Distancing: As much as is possible at camp, we will be asking our campers and staff to remain 6 feet apart from others. If necessary, staff will move closer than the 6-foot distance in order to address camper needs.

Increased Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures: We will be continuing the increased cleaning and sanitizing procedures at camp that we used in Summer 2020. All activity areas and equipment will be cleaned between uses with the help of our group counselors and cleaning staff. Whenever possible, we will have individual equipment for campers that is only theirs to reduce the possibility of spreading germs.

Increased Handwashing and Sanitizing Stations: We have added 9 new hand sanitizing stations around camp. We will also be renting additional handwashing stations. This is to promote a culture of healthy hand hygiene at camp this summer. Campers and staff will be required to wash or sanitize their hands between activities, and there will be mandatory hand washing breaks before and after lunch.

Daily Screenings: Every day you will be asked to complete and sign a questionnaire regarding your camper's health and possible exposure to COVID-19. We ask that you please bring your own writing utensil (ideally a pen) in order to do so, or fill out the form prior to your arrival.

HOW DO CAMPERS GET TO CAMP?

Campers are driven directly to camp at your selected drop off/Pick up time. You will be sent instructions on how to sign up for drop off and pick-up times one week prior to the session start date.

Staggered Drop-Off & Pick-Up Times: This summer, drop off at camp will be staggered in order to reduce traffic and the number of people on camp at any given time. You will need to select your drop off time each week, and you will be required to drop your camper(s) off at that time each day that week. The drop off window will be from 8:00AM to 9:00AM. As with drop off times, pick up times will also be

staggered this summer. The pick-up window will be from 3:30PM to 4:30PM. You will need to select a pick-up time that you are able to commit to each week that your camper is at camp. At pick up, you will need to sign your camper(s) out by using your secure PIN Number or showing a photo ID.

HOW DOES CHICKAMI WELCOME NEW CAMPERS?

Before a camper arrives, families must fill out a "Camper Confidential" form on CampSite. The responses are reviewed by the Camp Administrative Staff who notifies select staff of the needs, interests, and expectations of new (and returning) campers. When campers first arrive at camp, counselors facilitate "get-to-know-you" and "Welcome-to-Camp" activities to help campers acclimate to the pace of camp-life and integrate into the community.



WHAT ARE THE CAMPER GROUPS LIKE?

Camper Groups: Most groups are mixed gender. This includes campers and staff. As much as possible, campers are grouped with peers of the same age/grade cohort.

Assembly: This summer, assemblies will occur within groups, running like a mini morning assembly for campers and their staff every day. We will do everything we can to ensure that these group assemblies look as similar as possible to the all-camp assemblies of which so many campers and staff have grown so fond.

CAN MY CAMPER REQUEST A FRIEND IN THEIR GROUP?

Yes! We do our best to accommodate one friend request for each camper. Requests can be made on your camper's "Camper Confidential" form, found in your camper's Campsite profile.

WHAT ARE YOUR MEDICAL AND FIRST AID ARRANGEMENTS?

Camp Chickami has a certified nurse on staff for the summer who is dedicated to working with families to serve the health needs of each individual camper. We also boast a 100% First Aid, CPR, and AED certified staff. To help ensure the best medical and first aid care for campers, families must complete their camper(s) CampSite medical forms before attending camp.

WHAT IS YOUR STAFF LIKE?

We seek to hire caring, responsible, and positive servant-leaders. We set the highest expectations for our staff to be the best role-models and nurture a culture of inclusion and youth development at camp. Most of our staff members were campers and L.I.T.s (Leaders-in-Training) at Camp Chickami themselves, and all of our staff undergo a thorough screening, interview process and training.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP LIKE?

Activities: While there are restrictions in terms of the activities we can run at camp, we also know that we have an incredibly creative staff who will find ways to safely run some of our camp-favorite games. Some of the activities we will be running include: Arts & crafts; kickball, tennis baseball, and other sports-type games and skill drills that allow for social distancing; archery; free swim; improvisational games; and word games such as Chowderhead (sometimes called "Mafia"). Other activities will use modifications to ensure camper and staff safety. For example, our Arts and Crafts programming will include, whenever possible, individual materials (markers, crayons, pencils, etc.) for each camper. Finally, campers will stay with their group cohort for the entirety of the camp day, meaning there will be no afternoon elective periods this summer.

Swimming: All swimming at Chickami this summer will be done as free swim. We will still use the Test, Mark, Protect system to ensure the safety of all of our campers and staff in the water. Because we will have fewer campers in the pool at one time, camper groups will have swim 2-3 times per week. Campers will be swim tested on the first day that their group is scheduled for swim, and they will be marked with a colored bracelet depending on their swim level. Campers who are designated as "non-swimmers" based on their swimming assessment will need to wear a life jacket in order to swim.

Water Fountains: This summer, water fountains will not be used. Please ensure that your camper comes to camp with their water bottle everyday so that they can stay hydrated.



WHAT SHOULD MY CAMPER BRING EACH DAY?



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT RAINS?

Our goal is to spend as much time outdoors as possible this summer. We have purchased carport tents so that groups can remain outside and stay dry in the event of rain. On days when there is additional inclement weather (i.e. thunderstorms), we will move campers indoors, keeping them socially distanced with masks on.

DO I NEED TO PROVIDE A LUNCH?

Yes! All campers must bring their own lunch. We will have small snacks and sandwich supplies that can be given to campers who forget their lunch on a given day.

ARE CELL PHONES ALLOWED AT CAMP?

Cell phone use, including calls, texting, internet, and apps (along with other electronic devices) are not permitted at camp. There are phones in the camp office for camper use at the Director's discretion (508-358-7000). In the event that a cell phone is needed, prior approval must be obtained from the Camp Director. Any staff member who sees a cell phone in use without approval may hold on to the phone until dismissal at end of day.

HOW DO I KNOW IF CAMP IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Camp Chickami is an enthusiastic and energetic camp with something for everyone. We pride ourselves on making sure that every camper, regardless of personality or interest, finds their place at camp. We hope you will join us at camp this summer!

