

Welcome to Pre-K Camp!

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

(drop-off between 8:00-8:30 AM)

(pick-up between 12:15-12:30 PM)



June 8 – August 7

We are so excited that you will be
joining us for Pre-K Camp!
Check out this packet to learn a little
more about the fun summer ahead!

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Meet Our Pre-K Camp Coordinators

Tara Oxier (Mrs. Tara)

Hello friends! I cannot wait to be your Pre-K Camp Coordinator again! I have taught preschool for 15 years for Clinton CUSD #15. I have my bachelor's degree in early childhood education and my master's degree in curriculum and instruction. This is my eighth summer leading Pre-K camp after working for five summers as part of the Camp Osage staff. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and our two children, playing with our 3 cats, completing workout classes at the YMCA, and being outdoors. I'm excited to get to know each and every one of you over the summer!

Scout Savage (Miss Savage)

Hi all! My name is Scout Savage and I am THRILLED to be one of the Pre-K Camp Coordinators again this summer. A little bit about myself: I grew up in Clinton, IL where I attended Clinton CUSD #15 elementary school through high school. In the Spring of 2021, I graduated with my bachelor's degree in early childhood education and recently just graduated with my master's degree in administration. I look forward to meeting you all and growing/learning this summer at camp!

Kelsey Savage (Mrs. Savage)

Hello everyone! My name is Kelsey Savage, and I am so excited to be part of Pre-K Camp this year. I'm really looking forward to meeting all of you and helping create a fun, welcoming, and engaging experience for the children. A little about me—I am a graduate of Clinton High School, and I went on to earn my bachelor's degree from Illinois State University. I currently work as a teacher's assistant at Douglas School, where I enjoy supporting students and helping them learn and grow every day. Working with children is something I am truly passionate about, and I love being a part of their early educational experiences. Outside of work, I stay busy with my family. I have a wonderful husband, three children, two new grandchildren and two dogs who keep life fun and full of energy. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, being outdoors, and making lasting memories together. I am so excited for the opportunity to be part of Pre-K Camp and can't wait to get to know each of you!

Pre-K Camp Weekly Themes

Week 1	6/8, 6/10, & 6/12: <u>I Scream, You Scream</u>
Week 2	6/15, 6/17, & 6/19: <u>Secret Life of Pets</u>
Week 3	6/22, 6/24, & 6/26: <u>Nature Explorers</u>
Week 4	6/29, 7/1, & 7/3: <u>Argh, Matey!</u>
Week 5	7/6, 7/8, & 7/10: <u>Tell Me a Story</u>
Week 6	7/13, 7/15, & 7/17: <u>Little Chefs</u>
Week 7	7/20, 7/22, & 7/24: <u>Gettin' Dirty</u>
Week 8	7/27, 7/29, & 7/31: <u>Play Ball!</u>
Week 9	8/3, 8/5, & 8/7: <u>Splash Attack</u>

Many of our daily activities will focus on our fun theme for the week

***Weekly themes are subject to change

What do I need for Pre-K Camp?

Wear Daily

- *Play clothes
- *Socks/tennis shoes or athletic sandals (covered toes & ankle strap)
- *Sunscreen

Bring (and label)

- *Healthy Lunch
- *Full change of clothes
- *Sunscreen
- *Water Bottle
- *Car seat (on field trip days)

DON'T WEAR

- CLOTHES THAT CAN'T GET MESSY
- FLIP FLOPS/CROCS
- ACCESSORIES THAT COULD GET LOST

DON'T BRING

- SODA, CANDY, OR GUM
- LUNCH THAT NEEDS TO BE HEATED OR REFRIGERATED
- TOYS
- ELECTRONICS



Camp shirts for field trip days will be provided this summer as part of your registration fee. Shirts will remain at camp and be washed weekly by camp staff.

What Will a Day at Pre-K Camp Look Like?

Each day will be a little different, but here are some of the fun things you can look forward to this summer!

Art and other themed projects

Games and free play

Songs and stories

Provided daily snack

Playtime at the park/splash pad

Dress-up days

Guest speakers

Weekly newsletters

Weekly field trips

Making new friends and wonderful memories!

Pre-K Camp Field Trip Days

Field Trip days will be a little different than other days at camp. On our field trip days, campers must be dropped off **no later than 8:15 AM**. Parents must also leave a car seat or booster seat for each child so that we can safely transport them to and from our destination in one of our 15 passenger vans. The YMCA will not be able to provide booster seats this summer. There may be a \$1.00-\$6.00 fee (depending on the trip) that will be charged to your account in addition to the typical daily camp fee. We will no longer take cash before going on the field trip as we did in the past. As always, please do not send your child with any extra spending money as we will not be purchasing anything extra on our trips. We will return to the YMCA before 12:30 PM. All field trip information will be covered in the weekly newsletter the week prior to the trip.

Friday, June 12: **Sweet Mae's (Clinton, IL)**

Friday, June 19: **Monkman Homestead (Clinton, IL)**

Friday, June 26: **Colene Hoose Natural Playground (Normal, IL)**

Friday, July 3: **Heyworth Splash Pad (Heyworth, IL)**

Friday, July 10: **Briggs Republic Doggy Day Care (Forsyth, IL)**

Wednesday, July 15: **Monical's (Clinton, IL)**

Friday, July 24: **Weldon Springs (Clinton, IL)**

Friday, July 31: **Spare Time Lanes (Decatur, IL)**

Friday, August 7: **Anderson Aquatic Center (Normal, IL)**

All field trips are tentative and subject to change

Behavior, Pick-Up, & Health Policies

BEHAVIOR POLICY: We want everyone to have a fantastic summer full of fun! Please help encourage your children to be on their best behavior at camp so that every camper will want to return the next day! During registration, you will sign a behavior policy that we will follow in order to help ensure everyone has a wonderful summer. The behavior policy can be found on the next few pages of this handbook.

PICK-UP POLICY: Campers must be picked up by 12:30 due to our DCFS childcare license guidelines. We do understand that emergencies arise. Please contact the YMCA front desk at 935-8703 in event of an emergency resulting in your child being picked up late. If late pick-ups become a regular occurrence for your family, we will charge an extra \$5 for every 5 minutes that your child is picked up late.

ILLNESS: Children should not be sent to camp if they have any of the following symptoms 24 hours prior to arrival. Children must be symptom free without medication for 24 hours before returning to camp. A child who is unable to participate in activities (due to an injury) should not be sent to camp.

- FEVER: any temperature over 100 degrees
- RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS: severe congestion or unexplained wheezing
- VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHEA: which occurs more than once or is accompanied by other flu-like symptoms
- RASH: if the cause of the rash is unknown, if the rash is not being treated, or if rash is known to be contagious
- CHICKEN POX: or other communicative diseases.
- HEAD LICE: must have approval from Health Department (free of charge) if child has missed camp due to head lice. Random checks may be done at the discretion of Camp Staff for your child's safety.

If a child becomes ill at camp, the camp staff will call the parent of the child based on contact information listed on the registration sheet and/or health history form. A child who is vomiting will not be kept at camp for any reason.

PRE-K CAMP DISCIPLINE STRATEGIES and PROCEDURES:

The Pre-K Camp program has been developed to provide activities that are safe, creative, and fun for the campers. No child's behavior will be allowed to interfere with our right to enjoy being at camp. Praise and recognition of good behavior is built into our program. We believe that a camper who is kept busy focusing on positive behavior is much less likely to stumble "off the trail" into negative behavior. Strategies have been developed to help each child choose to behave appropriately. To guarantee all children in the program a safe, positive, and enjoyable climate, we utilize the following Behavior Guidelines and Discipline Strategies.

Behavior Guidelines

Please read our behavior policy with your camper before camp.

We expect campers to act respectfully at all times when they are on our property or participating in our programs. Campers are to behave in a mature, responsible way and respect the rights and dignity of others.

Actions will reflect the YMCA Four Core Values:

- Campers take **Responsibility** for their actions.
- Campers **Respect** themselves, each other, camp equipment and the environment.
- **Honesty** will be the basis for all relationships and interactions.
- Campers will be **Caring** in their relationships with others.

Campers should talk to a counselor or any camp staff member if they are uncomfortable with any experiences or need assistance while at camp.

Field Trips & Special Program Behavior Requirements

Field trip attendance is a privilege not a right. Campers will earn the right to attend field trips and attend special programming activities. Registration in the Pre-K Camp Program will not automatically grant permission for attendance on field trips. Parents will be notified if your camper will miss a field trip because of behavior consequences.

Conflict resolution

When children are having difficulties with each other, the staff will give the children involved reasonable opportunities to resolve their differences. The staff will mediate with the children and supply them with problem solving techniques that will help them deal with difficult situations.

Discipline Procedures

When a camper does not follow the behavior guidelines, we will take the following action steps as behavior problems progress.

1. Staff will redirect the camper to more appropriate behavior.
2. If inappropriate behavior continues, the camper will be reminded of behavior guidelines and camp rules, and camp staff will decide on action steps to correct his/her behavior.
3. If inappropriate behavior continues, as a final action step the camper may be dismissed from camp. Single day(s), week(s), or full summer dismissals can be applied.

Examples of unacceptable behavior:

- Refusing to follow behavior guidelines or camp rules
- Using profanity, vulgarity or obscenity
- Stealing or damaging property (personal or camp property)
- Refusal to participate in activities or cooperate with staff
- Disrupting a program
- Leaving a program without permission
- Endangering the health and safety of children and/or staff
- Teasing, making fun or bullying of other campers or staff
- Fighting of any kind

Camp Staff will record incidents of behaviors that warrant a 15-minute timeout. The Camp Coordinators reserve the right to skip over early consequences if behavior is severe enough to pose a risk to either the misbehaving camper or others in the group. Our goal at camp is to give the child every opportunity to correct his or her own behavior, without involving the parent.

Camper fees are non-refundable if a camper is sent home for disciplinary reasons. Physical violence or bullying toward another camper or staff member will result in immediate dismissal from the camp program.

Bullying Policy

At Pre-K Camp, 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 to help each other achieve the best possible experience. If a camper has difficulty meeting this expectation, parents may be called upon to assist.

Bullying refers to one or more perpetrators who act aggressively toward their victim by verbal or physical means. This behavior is not a one-off episode; it must be repetitive and habitual to be considered bullying.

Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication with their staff and their campers. We work together as a team to ensure that campers gain self-confidence, make new friends, and go home with their camp experience.