

Monticello Y-Zone Summer Camp

2026 Parent's Manual

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CAMP CHECKLIST

Lunch

Refillable Water Bottle

Appropriate Clothing / Comfortable Shoes

Bug Spray / Sunscreen

Extra Set of Clothing

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PLEASE READ ENTIRE PACKET.

SAVE THIS GUIDE TO USE AS A REFERENCE THROUGHOUT CAMP.

Dear Parents,

*Welcome to another exciting summer of **Y-Zone Summer Camp 2026!** If this is your first time with us, we are thrilled to have you join our camp family. We are confident your child is in for a summer full of fun, adventure, and unforgettable memories! This summer, we are committed to staying true to the Y-Zone experience by embodying and practicing the core YMCA values: **Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, and Faith.***

We're bringing back many beloved activities from past summers, along with several exciting new ones! Weekly schedules will be provided to keep you informed about the fun and engaging activities planned for each week.

We are incredibly proud of the dedicated team we've assembled for the summer. Every member of our staff is fully committed to making this summer the best one yet. Many of our counselors are current or former staff members from our before and after school program, as well as past Y-Zone camps, with a few new faces joining us this year. Our team is eager to get started and create lasting memories for your children.

*To share a bit about myself, I have been with the YMCA since the Monticello Y-Zone program launched at the beginning of the **2018–2019 school year**, and I am incredibly passionate about working with children. I have many years of experience working with kids, including my current role as an **Aide in the Life Skills and Special Education classrooms at White Heath Elementary School.** I also have an **18-year-old daughter, Makayla**, who many of your children already know. Makayla works at Y-Zone and plays a huge role in the success of our program. Her dedication, energy, and connection with the kids help make Y-Zone the special place that it is.*

*As we begin this new summer, we also want to share that **Josi Miller will not be returning this season.** Josi is relocating, and it will no longer be feasible for her to travel to and from camp each day. Josi has been an important part of Y-Zone since the program began, and her passion for working with children has made a lasting impact on so many of our campers and families. While she will not be working camp this summer, she does plan to **stop by and visit**, and Y-Zone will always hold a special place in her heart.*

On behalf of the entire camp team, we are so excited about what this summer holds and hope you and your child share that excitement! Be sure to pack sunscreen, bring some old clothes that can get dirty, warm up your singing voices, stretch those muscles, and get ready for a summer full of joy and memories!

Sincerely,

Katlyn Myers

Monticello Y-Zone Coordinator

Summer Camp Philosophy:

The philosophy of camp is to instill the greatest personal growth in the life of each individual who participates in the program. By promoting spiritual, mental, and physical challenges, we encourage the development of each individual's self-confidence and self-worth.

Summer Camp Goals:

- To provide children with new and progressive opportunities and activities that are physically and mentally challenging.
- To encourage children to develop skills that will allow them to build positive relationships with peers.
- To give children positive relationships with an adult role model.
- To provide opportunities to accept responsibility, develop leadership and a good self-image.
- To help youth appreciate and respect the earth and understand their responsibility for the stewardship of our global community.

Camp Rules:

All campers will be expected to follow these rules:

- Follow directions
- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- Stay in assigned areas
- Respect yourself, others, and counselors

GENERAL INFORMATION & POLICIES

Summer Camp Hours:

Summer camp runs from 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. If you wish to pick up your child before 3:00 p.m., you must make arrangements with camp staff. To serve the needs of working parents we offer extended hours: Pre-care hours are 7:00a.m. - 9:00a.m. Post care hours are 3:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. There will be a \$5.00 charge for every 5 minutes your child is not picked up after 6:00p.m. Also, please note that children are not allowed to be dropped off before 7:00a.m.

Camp Location:

Camp will be located at the Lincoln Elementary School building. Morning drop-off and evening pick-up will *always* be at Lincoln School. Lincoln School has "No Firearms" signs located on the school entrance doors and we ask all parents /

guardians to abide by the Illinois State of Police posting.

Arrival Procedures:

Morning drop-off is between 7:00a.m. - 9:00 am. The south gym door at the school will be used for morning drop-off. Every child must be signed in with our staff.

Departure Procedures:

Evening pick-up is between 3:00a.m. - 6:00p.m. If you wish to pick up your child(ren) before 3:00p.m, you must make arrangements with camp staff. Every child must be signed out with our staff. Only persons authorized in writing, by the parent/guardian, may pick up a child(ren). This is for the child's protection. Staff will check for a picture I.D. and written authorization on all persons unfamiliar to them. Anyone without proper authorization will not be allowed to take a child from the site. Parents will be called immediately if this occurs.

Locked Door Policy:

The doors will remain locked at ALL times. Please text or call our on-site cell number at 217-308-2713 to reach us.

Payment Information:

The cost is \$40 per day OR \$200 per week. Field trips, pool days, transportation, etc. may require additional costs. Parents will be notified ahead of time when additional money is necessary.

Transportation:

On field trips and pool days we will be using a Monticello bus and/or Sage van for transportation. There is no additional cost for transportation as Monticello Y-Zone will be covering that cost for all campers.

Medicine Policy:

If your child requires medication, it is vital that you complete the medication form provided. All medications must be given directly to the camp staff in the ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTION CONTAINER. Medicines are kept in a locked box during camp. Camp staff are trained in first aid and CPR.

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.

- FEVER: if over 100 degrees or accompanied by other symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, etc.
- 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 or if the rash is not being treated, or if the rash is known to be contagious.
- CHICKEN POX: or other communicative diseases.
- HEAD LICE: must have approval from the Health Department (free of charge) if a 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 form and/or health form. A child who is vomiting will not be kept at camp for any reason.

Injuries:

If your child is injured during camp, the staff will take whatever steps necessary to obtain emergency medical care. These steps may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Attempts to contact parent or guardian.
- Attempts to contact any person listed as emergency contacts.
- Contact of ambulance or paramedic.
- Transportation of the camper to the nearest emergency room in the company of a counselor.

The health and safety of each camper is a prime concern. Camp staff are trained in safety, First Aid, and CPR.

Clothing:

Children should wear comfortable, appropriate clothing. Shorts, jeans, sweat pants, t-shirts, raincoat or jacket (if weather dictates). We may go outside in the rain. **Please bring extra clothing every day.** Shoes should be sturdy and comfortable. Tennis shoes or sport sandals are recommended. Each camper will be assigned a cubby, so they will be able to leave extra clothes/ shoes at camp.

Lunch:

You will need to supply lunch for your camper **EVERY** day. Campers will not have access to a refrigerator. Please pack non-perishable items in a lunchbox with ice packs. All lunch boxes must have your camper's name on it. **Along with their lunch, a refillable water bottle must be brought daily!**

Sunscreen and Bug Repellent:

We request that parents bring four containers of spray sunscreen (spf 50 or higher). We have plenty of leftover bug spray, so we are not requesting it at this time. This will be stored and used daily throughout the summer. The permission line on the health form must be signed allowing camp staff to administer sunscreen and bug spray. Let us know if your camper has special allergies to any sunscreens or bug sprays.

Items from Home:

All games, iPods, electronic toys, etc. should be left at home. Camp staff will put away any items which are brought to camp and deemed inappropriate for use in the program. **Cell phones are not permitted at camp.** If a parent needs to reach a child, please contact camp staff.

Summer Camp Smartwatch Policy:

Purpose:

To ensure campers stay engaged in activities while maintaining safe communication, all smart watches must be in "School Mode" during camp hours. Our goal is to allow campers to fully engage in camp activities and build relationships with peers and camp counselors. Our camp hopes to encourage campers to interact with each other and develop social skills. Electronic devices can be a significant distraction to our camp environment.

Policy:

1. School Mode Requirement:

- All smart watches must be set to "School Mode" or an equivalent, disabling non-essential features like messaging, notifications, and apps.
- Only timekeeping, fitness tracking, and emergency communication are permitted.

2. Camera Use:

- Smartwatches with cameras must have the camera function disabled. Campers are not allowed to use the camera for photos or videos during camp hours.

3. Emergency Communication:

- In emergencies, campers may use their watches to contact parents, guardians, or staff.

4. Communication with Staff:

- If campers experience any issues or need assistance during camp hours, they must speak directly to a staff member for support.

5. Parent Communication:

- Parents must communicate directly with camp staff when picking up their child for the day. Please refrain from communicating through the camper's smart watch.

6. Supervision and Compliance:

- Camp staff will monitor watch usage. Non-compliance may result in temporary confiscation of the device.

7. Parental Responsibility:

- Parents should discuss this policy with their children to ensure understanding.

Conclusion:

This policy ensures a focus on camp activities while allowing safe, limited communication. We appreciate your cooperation!

Camp Experiences:

Games and Activities:

At the heart of our camp lies the thrill of games and activities that foster teamwork and spark excitement. From fun-filled challenges to moments that make kids exclaim, "WOW, this is amazing!" — every day is packed with joy and laughter. By the end of each session, your child will return home a little dirtier, a little more tired, and a lot more happy. After all, camp is where lifelong memories are made!

Crafts and Cooking:

Each week, campers will dive into two exciting crafts, each one inspired by our weekly theme. In addition, our weekly Cooking Club will give them the opportunity to get hands-on in the kitchen, helping to prepare a variety of delicious treats.

Gardening:

Our Y-Zone garden is a special place where campers can dig in, plant, and nurture their very own crops. Not only will they enjoy cooking with the fresh produce, but they'll also learn the art of selling and managing money at our roadside stand. It's a

fun way for campers to see the fruits of their labor, literally and figuratively!

Swimming:

We will swim on scheduled days (2 times a week) at the Monticello Family Aquatic Center. Campers should bring swimsuits, towels, goggles, and swim vests on those days.

Field Trips:

Special field trips are planned each or every other week. Registration in the Summer Camp Program automatically grants permission for attendance on field trips. Weekly schedules will be provided to inform families of upcoming trips and any additional fees. Money will be deducted with your weekly payment to cover any additional fees.

Parent's Financial Agreement:

Parents will be required to have a card on file and payments will be auto-deducted (unless special circumstances apply). Staff will not accept cash except for field trip fees. Children will not be allowed to attend camp without payment. There will be a \$5.00 charge for every 5 minutes a child is not picked up by 6:00 pm.

Parent/guardians are responsible to pay all activity fees for special field trips before the trip. A notice will be posted in advance of trips. **Field trip fees will be applied to the auto deducted payment on file.** A child may not be able to attend the field trip if activity fees are not paid.

The YMCA will actively pursue receipt of any balance left unpaid after a child's withdrawal from the program. In the event an account is past due, it may be turned over to a collection agency. If an account is not paid in full and this account is turned over to a collection agency and/or attorney, then parent/guardian will be responsible for fees necessary for the collection of the delinquent account including, but not limited to, collection agency fees of 50% of the balance due and costs of attorney's fee of 33% of the balance.

Monticello Y-Zone Summer Camp Schedule

Week 1	June 1st - June 5th
Week 2	June 8th - June 9th
Week 3	June 15th - June 19th
Week 4	June 22nd - June 26th
Week 5	June 29th - July 3rd
Week 6	July 6th - July 10th
Week 7	July 13th - July 17th
Week 8	July 20th - July 24th
Week 9	July 27th - July 31st
Week 10	August 3rd - August 7th
Y-Zone Extreme Days	August 11th - August 13th

** For the week of July 4th, we will be open June 30th - July 3rd. We will be closing early on July 3rd at 4:30 P.M so that our staff and Y-zone families can participate in the Monticello 3rd of July Celebrations.

Clinton Community YMCA
Address: 417 S. Alexander St., Clinton, IL 61727
Phone: (217) 935-8307
Email: info@clintoncommymca.org

LICENSE EXEMPT STATUS:

The Clinton Community YMCA's Summer Camp program is not licensed or regulated by the State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Staff Background Check:

The facility which Y-zone uses engages and complies with the background check and clearance procedures through Illinois Department of Human Services CCAP currently available for license exempt CCAP providers. The YMCA does not hire any staff or volunteers 18 or older who do not receive a clearance following the IDHS background check.

