

# FAQ about YMCA Summer Camp

## 1. Where is Camp Collins?

YMCA Camp Collins is located on the Sandy River in Oregon, just 30 miles east of downtown Portland. YMCA Camp Collins is adjacent to Oxbow Regional Park, seven miles east of Gresham. Driving directions can be found on our website [www.campcollins.org](http://www.campcollins.org).

## 2. How long does my child stay at camp?

Resident campers arrive on Sunday afternoon and leave on Saturday morning. There are half-week overnight sessions, Sunday-Wednesday or Wednesday-Saturday, available for campers entering 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade. Day campers come each morning and leave each afternoon, Monday through Friday.

## 3. How much does a week of camp cost?

Realizing that families have different abilities to pay, YMCA Camp Collins uses a three-tier rate structure for our summer camp programs. Rates change depending of the summer program selected and the rate that families choose. Generally a week of Resident Camp costs between \$380-520 and a week of Day Camp costs between \$175-240.

## 4. Is financial assistance available?

Financial assistance is available for all of YMCA Camp Collins' programs. We believe that all children should have the opportunity to attend summer camp. Please call Camp Collins at (503) 663-5813 for more information.

## 5. Do YMCA members get a discount?

No, we try to keep our prices affordable for both members and non-members. Year-round YMCA Childcare participants do receive a reduced rate for a specific week of resident camp. Please call Camp Collins at (503) 663-5813 for more information.

## 6. Is there bus service to camp?

Every morning and evening, *Day Campers* will be shuttled in and out of camp from drop-off points in Gresham, Clackamas, and NE Portland. This bus service is included in the Day Camp fee. There is no bus service for resident camp.

## 7. How old does my child need to be to attend camp?

Day Campers must be entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade to participate. Resident Campers must be entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

## 8. How do I know if my child is ready to stay overnight?

Children are ready to attend resident camp at different ages. A great resource for parents is the American Camp Association website [www.campparents.org](http://www.campparents.org). Brooke Chilton, Program Director, is happy to speak with you about whether YMCA Camp Collins' summer programs will be a good fit for your child (503) 663-3190.

## 9. What will my child do at Camp Collins?

YMCA Camp Collins offers horseback riding, swimming, inner tubing, archery, arts & crafts, singing, the challenge course, a 65 foot climbing tower, hiking, morning chapels, evening campfires, and more! Your child's activities will depend on their age and the program they register for.

## 10. Can my teenager attend summer camp?

Yes! Camp Collins has Travel Camps, Teen Camp and a Counselor In Training Program for teens. Our programs for teens focus on personal responsibility, friendship, YMCA values, self-awareness, and fun! Please go to our website [www.campcollins.org](http://www.campcollins.org) or call 503-663-5813 to learn more.

**11. When does summer camp begin and end?**

We have eight one-week sessions of Resident Camp between July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup>. We have nine one-week sessions of Day camp between July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>. We offer Family Camp over Labor Day weekend.

**12. What is the ratio of staff to campers?**

During the day, one counselor is with a group of ten campers and many activities include an additional program staff member. In the cabins we have ten campers and two staff.

**13. Is Camp Collins prepared to give attention to my child who has special needs?**

We strive to be inclusive, however our program may not be right for all campers. Please call Brooke Chilton, Program Director, to speak in depth about whether YMCA Camp Collins' summer programs will be a good fit for your child (503) 663-3190.

**14. What if my child is taking prescription medicine?**

YMCA Camp Collins has a Health Officer who administers medications and provides health care to our campers. Most of our staff members are also first aid and CPR certified.

**15. May I tour the site before sending my child to summer camp?**

Yes, we strongly encourage your family to visit our site before your child's camp session. We are happy to give tours during office hours on the weekdays and often have other times available as well. Please call to set up a tour at (503) 663-5813. We also have Open Houses in the spring so that families can meet camp staff, take a tour, and have a go on our climbing tower.

**16. What does my child need to bring to camp?**

If your child is registered for camp, your family will receive a handbook in May that includes ideas of how to help them be successful, what to pack, and other information. The previous summer's handbook is available at the website [www.campcollins.org](http://www.campcollins.org).

**17. Can my child and their best friend be put in the same cabin?**

Yes. As long as your child's friend is of the same gender and is part of the same age group (Pioneer, Explorer, or Questor). *Please request only one buddy for your child.* Camp is the perfect place to meet new friends! Questor buddy requests also depend on the specialty each camper chooses.

**18. What kind of experience does the summer staff have working with children?**

Many of Camp Collins' staff members return for multiple summers and our new staff members have experience working at outdoor school programs, other camps, or childcare sites. At the beginning of each summer, staff members attend a weeklong intensive training and orientation that helps prepare them to work with your child and his or her cabin group. All of our staff members go through a comprehensive hiring process that includes a multi-state background check.

**19. How do I sign my child up for camp?**

Starting in November, you can register online at [www.campcollins.org](http://www.campcollins.org). You can also download a registration form and mail it in or call our office at 503-663-5813 to have a form sent to you.

**YMCA Camp Collins**

3001 SE Oxbow Parkway; Gresham OR 97080

503-663-5813

[www.campcollins.org](http://www.campcollins.org)