



YMCA CAMP PIOMINGO

Summer Overnight Camp
Parent Information Packet

YMCA Camp Piomingo
1950 Otter Creek Park Road
Brandenburg, KY 40108
502-942-2616
www.ymcacamppiomingo.org



YMCA Camp Piomingo



camppiomingo



@CampPiomingo

2019 OVERNIGHT DATES

Frontier Sessions:

Session 1: June 9th – 12th
Session 2: June 23rd – 26th
Session 3: July 7th – 10th
Session 4: July 21st – 24th

1 Week Programs:

Week 1: June 9th – 15th
Week 2: June 16th – 22nd
Week 3: June 23rd – 29th
Week 4: June 30th – July 6th
Week 5: July 7th – 13th
Week 6: July 14th – 20th
Week 7: July 21st – 27th
Week 8: July 28th – August 3rd

2 Week Programs:

Session 1: June 9th – 22nd
Session 2: June 23rd – July 6th
Session 3: July 7th – 20th
Session 4: July 21st – August 3rd

Counselor in Training Program:

Session 1: June 9th – 29th
Session 2: June 30th – July 20th

Seasonal Mini-Camps

Winter Camp: December 14 – 16, 2018
Spring Break Camp: March 29 - 31, 2019
Derby Camp: May 3 – 5, 2019
Spring Family Camp: May 18 - 19, 2019

Table of Contents

▲ About YMCA Camp Piomingo	4
▲ YMCA Camp Piomingo Staff	5
▲ Preparing for Camp	6-7
▲ Packing List	8
▲ Arrival and Departure at Camp	9-10
▲ Health Information	11
▲ Camper Behavior Policies	12
▲ Camp Life: What to Expect	13-15

YMCA of Greater Louisville Mission Statement:

The mission of the YMCA of Greater Louisville is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. The YMCA is about...

Youth Development: Children need caring adults to provide support, guidance, and encouragement as they grow. All children deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve.

Healthy Living: Wellness in spirit, mind, and body strengthens our very being and enhances our interactions with others.

Social Responsibility: We truly are in this together and together we can harness our individual strengths and bring about positive change around us. The Y is dedicated to building healthy, confident, secure, and connected children, families, and communities.

YMCA Camp Piomingo Program Philosophy:

Since 1938, YMCA Camp Piomingo has been providing inspiring, engaging and educational co-ed camp programs for children ages 6-16. Camp uses a variety of activities to instill core values and life lessons in our future leaders. Through these activities, campers learn the YMCA's core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility. Here at camp, we add on a fifth core value of faith, referring to faith in yourself and others. Camp also enables growth in character, confidence, and courage. Leadership development is also a core component of camp, designed to prepare teens for future counselor positions.

ACA Accredited

ACA Accreditation means we follow the health, safety, and program standards put in place by the American Camp Association. ACA collaborated with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, The American Red Cross, and other youth service agencies to assure that camp practices reflect up to date research based standards in camp operation.



Director’s Welcome

Welcome to YMCA Camp Piomingo! At this time please let me be the first to share how excited we are that your family has chosen to join us this summer for our 2019 camp season! Camp Piomingo is deeply rooted in traditions, a rustic style cabin life, and is truly committed to creating a magical camp experience for all of our campers and families. We certainly hope throughout your camper’s stay with us this summer they will learn to challenge their comfort zones, tap into their creativity, seek independence, and, most importantly, role model our core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and faith. Our amazing staff are here to make everyone feel right at home, which is exactly what Piomingo will become for so many, if it has not already become home to you and your family. Summer overnight camp is an experience all children should get to experience and we thank you again for allowing us here at YMCA Camp Piomingo to be the ones to provide this experience for your camper. As you join us this summer and take the initial drive through the cedar trees in Otter Creek, we hope you feel the warmth and welcome from our home to yours! We look forward to meeting or reconnecting with so many of our families and campers – if you should ever need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Noonway,
Bridget Anderson
Executive Director



YMCA Camp Piomingo Seasonal Staff

More than 70% of our summer staff was campers at YMCA Camp Piomingo. The summer staff is recruited from past campers and staff, local and national colleges & universities, staff contacts, and international counselor programs. Our staff range in age from 17 to 24 years and must complete an application and an interview. All staff must pass a criminal record check and drug screen. YMCA Camp Piomingo staff receives First Aid/CPR, Child Protection, Lifeguard certification, and ropes certification training during a mandatory week-long training. During this week, staff also learn and practice safety, risk-management, social and skill development, and community building. Staff to camper ratio is usually 1:4.

Year-Round Administrative Staff

Bridget Anderson - Executive Director
Molly Staley - Senior Program Director
Sharon Acuna – Office Manager/Registrar
Theresa Banks - Food Service Director
Michelle Banks – Groups Coordinator

Summer Staff Structure

Executive Director
Senior Program Director
Program Coordinator

Unit Leaders
Support Staff
Senior Cabin Counselors
Junior II Cabin Counselors
Junior I Cabin Counselors

OFFICE HOURS

Our office is open Monday – Friday
from 8:30am – 5:00pm. Give us a
call at 502-942-2616.
For **summer** after hours or weekend
emergency, call Bridget’s cell phone,
502-639-3522

Camper Paperwork

The following must be completed and submitted before your camper's arrival at camp. These forms need to be completed online or over the phone with a Piomingo staff member.

1. Registration: All campers should be registered via Camp Brain, our online registration system
2. Camper Forms: Can be found by logging in to your Camp Brain account and include: t-shirt size form, camp attendance form, policy & procedure form, and medical form.
3. Any Final Payments: Received by June 1st, unless you have registered after this date, in which case it is due before their arrival.

Preparing to Be Away from Home

Being away from home can be a challenge for first time, or even experienced, campers. Homesickness is common at overnight camp. Our policy on homesickness is that counselors will work individually with campers to work through their homesickness. The most common time for homesickness is right before bed or during rest hour. Counselors will call home if the homesickness is severe and they need some additional support. We rarely have campers call home or talk to their parents on the phone because it typically makes the homesickness worse. Each camper's homesickness is unique and the counselors are trained to help each camper make an independent plan for a successful and fun week. If it appears that the camper is not doing well adjusting to their time here at camp, the Program Director may determine to have the camper sent home after discussions with the parents. Please know if a camper is sent home due to homesickness a refund will be at the discretion of the camp administrative team.

Changes and Cancellations

If you are registered for camp and need to change weeks/sessions or cancel altogether, please call the office. Please note that your deposit is non-refundable and any additional payments may or may not be refunded.

Absences

We are concerned when your camper is registered, but does not show up for check-in. If you are not able to inform us prior to Sunday check-in, please call the Camp Office at 502-942-2616 or the Executive Director at 502-639-3522 on Sunday and leave a message if your camper will be late or not able to attend. Please be specific, stating your camper's full name and the reason they will not be attending. If necessary, our office staff will return your call to confirm the details.

Care Packages, Letters, and Email

Parents, friends and family are encouraged to write letters to their campers to help them feel more comfortable while at camp. It is a good idea to send letters in advance to camp so they are here on the first day. Parents can even bring letters and packages to drop off during check in on Sundays. We do ask that if a care package is sent, please be mindful of our cabin sizes as well as food allergies and do not send anything containing nuts or peanut butter.

Please mail camper letters and packages to:

YMCA Camp Piomingo
Camper's Name
Camper's Cabin # /Unit
1950 Otter Creek Park Road
Brandenburg, KY 40108

Camp does offer a one-way email form on the homepage of our website. Emails that arrive before 5:00pm will be printed and handed out, unless there are technology issues in the office, which will be shared via social media or a personal email from camp administration. Please note that your camper will not be able to email you back.

Please note that Tuesday night is cookout night, which means we are not always able to deliver mail Tuesday evening. We always do our best to deliver mail the day it arrives, but depending on the mail delivery, we may push it back to the next day.

Telephone

Campers do not have phone access during their stay at camp. Campers may not bring cell phones to camp. If a camper brings a cell phone and it is seen by a camp staff, it will be confiscated and stored in the office and returned to the parent at checkout. A YMCA Camp Piomingo staff member will contact you in the event of an emergency or other situation. Please know that in the event of an emergency, parents can call the camp office to make arrangements to speak to their camper. Please help us get back to the root of camping by respecting our no cell phone policy.

This is a basic suggested list of items to bring to a one week session of camp. Please use your own judgment regarding quantities and necessities for your camper. We suggest packing items in a Rubbermaid-type tote, which makes it easier for campers to keep their items together. Please make sure you label your camper's luggage/tote/bin for easy identification.

Clearly labeling all items with the camper's first initial and last name will help in finding lost items throughout the week.

- ▽ **T-shirts**
- ▽ **Shorts**
- ▽ **Long pants** – for cooler times of day and any horseback riding
- ▽ **Sleepwear**
- ▽ **Underwear and socks**
- ▽ **Raincoat**
- ▽ **Sweatshirt/Jacket**
- ▽ **Laundry bag**
- ▽ **Bedding** – sleeping bag, sheet(s), blanket, pillow
- ▽ **Water bottle**
- ▽ **Shower items** – bath towel, wash cloth, soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrush & toothpaste, and shower shoes
- ▽ **Shoes** – must be close toed (i.e. sneakers, boots, Keens, etc.) and *at least* one pair of sneakers for the ropes course
- ▽ **Bathing suit and beach towels**
- ▽ **Sunscreen**
- ▽ **Medication** – in the original labeled container
- ▽ **Commonly brought items:** stationary, pre-stamped & addressed envelopes, flashlight, small battery-operated fan, backpack, disposable camera

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ⊗ Cell phones
- ⊗ iPods/MP3 players
- ⊗ iPads/Kindle/other tablets
- ⊗ Hand-held video games
- ⊗ Video camera
- ⊗ Digital camera
- ⊗ Cash
- ⊗ Pocket knives
- ⊗ Matches/Lighter
- ⊗ Fireworks
- ⊗ Expensive items

Here are some frequently seen items campers bring to camp:

- ▽ Battery Operated Fans (click on links below)
 - Walmart
 - Amazon 1
 - Amazon 2
- ▽ Bins/Totes (click on links below)
 - Walmart
 - Walmart 2

Please note that YMCA Camp Piomingo is not responsible for lost or stolen items, however, we will work hard to connect all campers with their lost items.

Laundry service will be provided for an additional \$15.00 per camper, which can be paid for online through your Camp Brain account or by calling the office. We ask that this service, if necessary, is **ONLY used for campers staying for two weeks or longer.

Check-In Day:

Check-in Time: Sundays from 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Any special arrangements for check-in should be made in advance by calling the camp office.

1. **Arriving at Camp:** Please enter the main gates of Otter Creek Recreational Park where a camp staff member will ask the driver of the vehicle to put their hazards on for the stretch of road to camp. Once through the main gate of camp, please follow the parking directions and leave all belongings inside your vehicle. ***NOTE: The main gate at YMCA Camp Piomingo will not open on check-in Sundays until 3:00pm, please do not arrive earlier, as we will not be able to check in your camper(s)***
2. **Sign-in:** In the Dining Hall, a parent, guardian, or other authorized adult must check the camper in with our camp staff. Please note that we will be checking in a lot of campers, we ask that you are patient and realize that there may be a line.
3. **Health Care and Medications:** All medications must be turned in to the camp nurse, who will also be located in the Dining Hall during check-in. This includes vitamins and herbal remedies. All campers will also participate in a head check for lice.
4. **Family Gong Photo and Mail:** You and your family will have the chance to take a family gong photo before heading back to your camper's cabin. Also, if you would like to drop off any mail for your camper, please do so at the check-in table.

After your camper is checked in on Sunday, all campers will attend an orientation at 5pm. Here they will receive an orientation on our bullying policy and behavior expectations, introduction to the leadership staff, and other expectations during their stay at camp. Your camper's cabin will also take a cabin photo, which will be posted on our SmugMug website.

Check-out Day:

Check out time: Saturdays 8:45am – 9:45am

Frontier Check out: Wednesdays 9:00am

Any special arrangements for check-out should be made in advance by calling the camp office.

1. **Arriving at Camp:** Please enter the main gates of Otter Creek Recreational Park where a camp staff member will ask the driver of the vehicle to put their hazards on for the stretch of road to camp. Once through the magical gates of camp, please follow the parking directions and join us under the pavilion. ***NOTE: The main gate at YMCA Camp Piomingo will not open on check-out Saturdays until 8:45am, please do not arrive earlier, as we will not be able to check out your camper(s)***
2. **Sign-out:** Only an authorized person will be allowed to pick up a camper. A person is authorized if their name is listed in the authorization section of your camper's registration, which can be updated via your Camp Brain account. All persons authorized to pick up a camper must show photo ID at the time of pick up. **Campers will not be released to anyone failing to show photo ID.**
3. **Medications:** Please make sure to collect any medications from the nurse, who is located next to the check-out table under the pavilion.

4. Lost and Found: Please make sure to check the lost and found before leaving camp. Lost and Found items are kept in the health center for 2 weeks and then donated to charity. Please call the camp office to inquire about missing items and if/when items are found, YMCA Camp Piomingo will call families to make arrangements for getting those items back. Please understand that any expense in doing so will be up to the family to cover. YMCA Camp Piomingo is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or broken items.
5. Merchandise, Early Bird, and Annual Campaign: Our camp store will be open on check-out day for you to purchase any camp merchandise. We will also have a table set up with more information regarding Early Bird registration for next summer (yes, next summer!) and our Annual Campaign, which helps send campers to camp.

Please note that your camper(s) will be back in their units on check out day. We ask that you walk to their unit to pick them up. However, we will make exceptions to driving depending on the circumstance. Please speak to a staff member at the check out table to arrange this.

Camper Health Policies:

Pertinent information regarding any special medical issues, special needs, and allergies must be clearly noted on your camper's health form. Please call our office prior to your camper's arrival if he or she has any special needs, which may include diabetes, sleep issues, recent trauma, or anything requiring extra staff attention. You can also contact our Food Service Director, Theresa Bank, regarding any food allergies or dietary restrictions at tbanks@ymcacamppiomingo.org.

Camper Medication:

Administration of medications (over the counter or prescription) will be performed by one of the two health care professionals that we have on site. You are required to note any medications on your camper's health form and bring all medications in their original bottles or packages. We encourage families to include only enough medications for the week(s) the camper attends.

Accidents, Illness or Injury:

YMCA Camp Piomingo staff are trained in first aid and risk management, but the nurse or health care professional will handle all medications, minor illnesses, and injuries. In the event that a child may become ill or injured in a manner requiring a prolonged stay in the infirmary, or needs further attention by the health care provider, the camper's parents will be contacted by phone.

Head Check:

During check-in, camp staff will perform a head lice check. It is our policy that if lice or nits/eggs are found, the camper will be sent home for treatment and cleared by their doctor. Campers will not be able to return to the cabin until at least 24 hours and after they have been checked and cleared by the camp nurse.

Camp Hygiene Standards

Cleanliness is a key component to keeping campers healthy. Campers will be encouraged to wash their hands prior to every meal. Bathrooms are inspected and sanitized each day. Camp clean up takes place each morning when campers assume the responsibility of cleaning their cabin areas. Campers go to the bathhouse each morning and evening to brush their teeth. Showers are scheduled on a cabin basis.

Discipline:

The YMCA staff have been trained to deal with inappropriate behavior in a constructive, safe and non-degrading fashion. Campers will be held responsible for their actions in a positive manner. Our policy when disciplining is a three step process:

1. Verbal warning
2. A conference with their counselor and unit leader
3. Phone call home

A camper will immediately be sent home for incidences concerning violence or threats of violence. YMCA Camp Piomingo reserves the right to send a camper home at the parent's expense, if the camper's behavior consistently takes away from the experience of others or endangers the safety of him/her or others. Parents are responsible for transporting campers from camp, and are expected to respond in a timely fashion.

Bullying / Zero Tolerance Policy:

YMCA Camp Piomingo has a zero tolerance regarding bullying. Any type of bullying that occurs at camp (physical, verbal, social, or otherwise) is quickly addressed and results in a discussion with the counselor. If any camper chooses to tease or physically confront another camper with the intent to cause harm or take away from another camper's experience, the camper will be sent home from camp at the discretion of the camp leadership team. Refunds will not be awarded to camp families for campers sent home for discipline reasons. Parents are responsible for transporting campers from camp, and are expected to respond in a timely fashion. Please take the time to discuss bullying and camp's policies with your child prior to camp.

Frontiers (ages 6-7)

The Frontier program is an excellent introduction to overnight camp for your 6 - 7 year old. With patient and caring counselors who understand the needs of younger children, your camper will experience all the fun of a week of camp in half the time. Frontiers will spend their half week living in either Mingo (Boys) or Shawnee (Girls) in cabins with screen windows. Bathrooms and showers are located in a separate building.

Pioneers (ages 8-12)

The Pioneer program is a traditional one-week camp experience for campers aged 8-12 years old. The Pioneer program allows the campers to have input on their clinic options in the morning and participate in a mix of structured group activities with their cabin in the afternoon. Pioneers will spend their week living in either Mingo (Boys) or Shawnee (Girls) in cabins with screen windows. Bathrooms and showers are located in a separate building.

Explorers (ages 10-13)

The Explorer Program is a two week program for campers ages 10-13. Explorer campers have input on their clinic options in the morning and participate in a mix of structured group activities with their cabin in the afternoon. The first week is spent exploring the traditional camp activities and spending the weekend challenging each other and growing as a team. The second week is spent kicking activities up a notch, while also experiencing new activities. Explorers will spend their two weeks living in Cherokee in cabins with screen windows. Bathrooms and showers are located in a separate building.

Equestrians (ages 10-16)

The Equestrian program is offered in one week sessions for ages 10-15 and two week sessions for ages 11-16. Our Equestrian program is open to new and beginning riders who will get to learn the basics of horse care and stable management through daily ground lessons. Riders then get placed in group lessons with campers of similar abilities. Each rider is assigned his/her own horse and given daily mounted instruction on the basics of riding, including (but not limited to) basic control at the walk, trot and canter. The course also covers an introduction to jumping and trail riding. In addition to riding and lessons, Equestrian campers also participate in traditional camp activities with campers from the other programs. Equestrians will spend their time living in Cherokee in cabins with screen windows. Bathrooms and showers are located in a separate building.

Camp Crafters (ages 13-15)

The Camp Crafter program is designed for 13-15 year olds and is offered as one and two week sessions. Campers have the opportunity to take part in intermediate-level activities that emphasize group problem solving and teamwork, and will be encouraged and challenged to develop their leadership skills. Camp Crafters will spend their time living in Creek in cabins with screen windows. Bathrooms and showers are located in a separate building.

Counselor in Training (age 16)

The Counselor in Training program (C.I.T.) is for 16 year old campers who wish to eventually become a camp counselor at YMCA Camp Piomingo. A C.I.T. spends three weeks at camp developing leadership skills and gaining experience as a camp leader. Through the C.I.T. program, your teen will identify and achieve goals, improve communication and decision-making skills, and contribute to the overall improvement of camp. C.I.T.s will spend the majority of their session living in Creek in cabins with screen windows. Bathrooms and showers are located in a separate building.

Daily Schedule

Below is an example of the daily schedule for your camper. Times and activities will vary depending on the program your camper is in.

7:50am	Flag Raising
8:00am	Breakfast
9:30 – 11:45 am	Clinics; riding classes; cabin activities
12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Rest Hour
2:00 – 5:45pm	Cabin activities/pool time
5:45pm	Flag Lowering
6:00pm	Dinner
7:00pm	Unit Time
8:00pm	Evening Activity
10:00pm	Bed Prep
11:00pm	Lights Out

Clinics:

For our Pioneer and Explorer campers, clinics are progressive areas that, throughout the week (Tuesday through Thursday), will build on the previous day’s skills to build skills in specialty areas. The clinic options for the week are presented on Monday morning and campers will get the chance to rank the options. Friday’s are reserved for “Fantastic Fridays”, where counselors create fun clinics not offered the rest of the week. Please note that this is a general list of clinics and has potential to change based on the skills of staff. Often there are new clinics that may be added.

Team Games
Adventure Climbing
Media – Newspaper & Podcast
Outdoor Living Skills
Archery
Ecology

Arts and Crafts
Canoeing & Kayaking
Swim Lessons & Water Aerobics
Marksmanship
Mountain Biking
Drama & Dance

Evening Activities:

Each evening has a special time for campers to either come together as a unit or the whole camp and participate in different activities until the sun goes down. We have a rotating schedule so that each week the activities change. Please note that this is a general list of evening programs and has potential to change.

Opening Fire *
World Service Carnival
Clue
Camp Dance

Lip Sync
Cook Out/ Camp Out
Closing Fire*
Unit Specific Activity

*Marked activities are offered each week

Pathfinder Program:

Our Pathfinder program is achievement based and completely voluntary. Campers choose a program area that they are interested in developing skills in and work to accomplish the five levels of that area each time they return to camp. The awards for this program are arrow heads that are color coordinated with the level the camper has accomplished and are handed out each week before Final fire. Program areas in our Pathfinder Program include:

Archery	Horseback Riding
Marksmanship	Rock Climbing / Ropes
Canoe / Kayaking	Pottery
Arts and Crafts	Mountain Biking
Camp Craft & Outdoor Cooking (CCOC)	

Traditions:

YMCA Camp Piomingo is deeply rooted and takes pride in our traditions. We work to share and instill these traditions with our campers every summer. We also love sharing our traditions with parents in order to facilitate conversations after camp is over.

Arrow head – Awarded in front of camp on Friday before final campfire. It represents the level achieved in the Pathfinder program

Certificate – Included in your camper's check out packet and will list all of the activities they did during their stay at camp

Feathers – Given to campers on Friday at final campfire and symbolize...

Red – Brave (stayed the whole week/session)

Blue – Warrior (showed distinct leadership in their cabin)

2 Blue – Double Feather Warrior (All the things a warrior is, represented the core values, and was a positive role model in their cabin)

White – Scout (All the things a warrior and double feather warrior are and provided service to camp)

Eagle Feather – Little Chief (C.I.T.s only)

Ribbon – Number of years your camper has been at camp

Spirit Spear – Awarded to the cabin/group that showed the most spirit

Spirit Shield – Awarded to the unit that showed the most spirit

Unit Cheers – Each unit is different – ask to hear some!

Thank you again for choosing YMCA Camp Piomingo. Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

See you this summer!

