

Parent Information Packet
Sherman Lake YMCA Camps
High School Leadership Development Program
Packet also available @ www.shermlakeymca.org

Dear Parents:

I am very excited to have your teen leader join us this summer in the Leadership Development Program here at Sherman Lake YMCA. I've thoroughly enjoyed working with young leaders during my years here at camp and each year has been inspirational thanks to their contributions.

The goal of the program is to develop leadership skills in an environment that will allow your young leader to grow personally and build strong, healthy relationships with other teens. Those of you who have sent your child to camp in previous years already know of our focus on the four principles: Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility. In this program we will delve deeper into those four principles as well as explore many other aspects of building character and leadership. You can help in this process by discussing with your child what character and leadership means to them.

Please take some time to review the attached packet. In it you will find information regarding arrival and departure procedures, trips, behavior policies, medical information and packing lists. Hopefully it will answer any questions you have regarding your teen leader's stay at camp this summer.

Thank you for giving your child the opportunity to participate in this program. I know it will be worthwhile. I have spoken with your teen leader and many others during the application process and I am so impressed with how driven they are. I am humbled by the opportunity to work with such incredible young people and I look forward to it every day.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions or if you have any information that would help us to make your teen leader's experience this summer more fun, safe or fulfilling. You can reach me via email at josiahs@ymcasl.org or by phone at (269) 731-3007.

Sincerely,

Josiah Swartz
Leadership Development Program Director

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I. Program Philosophy and Developmental Goals

A. Sherman Lake Philosophy

The Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center is an inclusive organization that strengthens the spirit, mind, and body while instilling an appreciation of our natural environment. We take a holistic approach to building capacity in young people by nurturing principles of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Camp Values:

Honesty – Truthfulness and genuineness with self and others

Caring – To show loving kindness, compassion, and empathy for others

Respect – Honor toward others, humility

Responsibility – Trustworthiness; the ability to be depended on

Our Voice:

Nurturing – To care for, support and help develop through encouragement

Genuine – To be honest and open in relationships with others

Hopeful – To take an optimistic or positive view of future outcomes

Determined – To devote full strength and concentration attention to the cause

Welcoming – To accept neighbors eagerly, warmly, hospitality and as equals

B. Developmental Goals

Teens in the High School Leadership Programs will develop their character and leadership skills through adventure-based experiential activities. These activities have been developed to focus on the following developmental needs:

1. **Decision making** – Leaders will see the cause and effects of their choices and learn how to make good choices through moral reasoning.
2. **Goal setting** – Leaders will learn how to set, and attain, tactical and strategic goals.
3. **Group building** – Leaders will learn about positive group dynamics and how to be a positive, functioning, contributor to a group.
4. **Healthy relationships** – Leaders will come to understand what a healthy relationship is, how to create one, and how to maintain it.
5. **Leadership** – Leaders will study the qualities of a good leader and take steps to be one.
6. **Safety and well-being** – Leaders will engage in a wide variety of adventure activities. These will reinforce practices for health, safety, and well-being.
7. **Service learning** – Leaders will learn how to give back the blessings they've received. This process will emphasize elevating others above one's self.
8. **Teamwork** – Leaders will learn to work together for a common cause.
9. **Independence** – Leaders will learn life skills that will help them to be self-sufficient.
10. **Cultural awareness and diversity** – Leaders will gain awareness of others and learn how an appreciation of these differences can contribute positively to the group as a whole.

II. Behavior and Expectations

A. High Expectations

SLYMCA High School Leadership Development Program is a place for the most honest, caring, respectful and responsible teens. We expect participants in this program to have a desire to be better leaders and great people. They should be self-motivated, upbeat and positive and care about forming positive relationships with others. The leadership village is a safe place where teens can feel comfortable being themselves. Your teen needs to be committed to creating that environment – free from the drama and stress typically associated with teenagers. If this is not what your child is used to please speak with them about the challenges this may present.

B. Questions to Discuss With Your Teen Before Coming to Camp

The Leadership Development Program is a great experience for those who are prepared for the challenges. The most successful teens will be those ready to gain the skills necessary to build positive relationships within their schools, sports teams, and community. However, some teens do struggle with our high expectations and the intensity of the programs. Please consider the following questions before sending your child to camp:

- Does my teen struggle to make positive choices or do they have a history of poor decision making in school?
- Does my teen engage in at-risk activity that may endanger themselves or others in the program? (e.g. drinking, smoking, cutting, violence)
- Does my teen have trouble forming healthy relationships with their peers? Do they hang out with a crowd that makes positive behaviors difficult?
- Does my teen have trouble using disrespectful language or making inappropriate comments or gestures?

If your teen struggles with any of these issues, your child may have a difficult time being successful at camp. Please note that any actions that endanger the physical or emotional safety of any camper or staff member or cause damage to Sherman Lake YMCA property may result in immediate dismissal. Full behavior policies are outlined below. Remember that this policy is intended to make Sherman Lake YMCA Camp a safe place for all young people. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy please contact the Leadership Development Program Director or the Director of Camping.

C. Behavior Policy

Sherman Lake YMCA Camps promote great decision making and strive to support positive choices by all our participants. We expect every teen in the program to live by the principles of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility. All of our program activities are tailored to support and reinforce those principles. We believe in focusing on the positive. Great behavior will be praised and supported.

A few of the behaviors that we actively support are putting others first, helping each other, dedication to a healthy lifestyle (exercise, good nutrition, etc), being a positive role model, making positive choices, good moral reasoning and decision making, positive problem solving and teamwork, keeping ourselves and each other safe (***Safety is our #1 Priority***), following rules and directions and using the Y's four principles: Honesty, Caring, Respect, Responsibility.

At the beginning of each camp session the group will come together to create a framework for living and working together as a group called the "Community Commitment." Each participant, staff and director will have input as to how they would like our community to look. We will focus on positive behavior – things we *want* – rather than long lists of behaviors we don't want to see.

Campers who strive to follow the Community Commitment and the behaviors listed above will be successful at camp. The Leadership Development program is designed to encourage success-building skills in campers. When camp staff feels a camper is behaving opposite these behaviors the behavioral action plan will take effect. Most incidents are minor and handled effectively by the staff. Staff will call parents to enlist your help if behavior problems persist.

3-Strike Behavior Policy:

- 1) For minor incidents and behaviors that do not threaten the emotional or physical safety of any participant, staff will work directly with the camper to redirect behavior and focus on what they are doing well and what they can do to improve. A parent may or may not be called at this point. ***A verbal first warning may be given. In the case of a bullying incident, (threatening, intimidating, ostracizing or ridiculing another camper), the parent will be called and a 1st warning will be given.***
- 2) ***If the behavior continues we will seek help from the parents to redirect the behavior and a verbal 2nd warning will be given.*** Camp staff will continue to positively redirect the camper and focus on the campers' positive behaviors. For more serious incidents, parents will be notified immediately. This may include bullying, exclusion, rule breaking or continuous use of inappropriate language. If the behavior continues after speaking with a parent, the camper may be asked to leave the session of camp. ***If the behavior involves bullying the child will be removed from camp at the 2nd warning stage of the policy.***
- 3) ***If the behavior continues after the parent phone call and the 3rd warning is given, the parents will be called and the camper will be removed from camp.*** Any behavior choice that jeopardizes the emotional or physical safety of any camper or staff member will result in ***immediate*** removal from the session of camp. Violence, threatening language, sexual contact with other campers and actions that put campers at significant risk of harm are included in this category. Any camper who is consistently disruptive to the positive functioning of the group will be asked to leave. Please see below for more information on serious behavior issues. ***There is no camp refund for removal from camp because of poor behavior choices. Please note if this behavior occurs during an off-site trip, the parent will be required to travel to pickup their child.***

D. Zero Tolerance Policy for Violence

Sherman Lake YMCA has a *zero tolerance policy for violence*. Any act of violence or aggression toward any person, animal, equipment, property or facilities by an employee, participant/camper, member, volunteer, visitor or guest will result in the immediate dismissal from camp. Any action that jeopardizes the safety of the camp or any participant will result in immediate dismissal from the camp program with further legal ramifications to follow if necessary.

E. Sexual Activity

Our goal is to promote healthy relationships within the Leadership Development Program. Learning about healthy romantic relationships is an important part of a teen's development. However, at camp romantic relationships can lead to exclusion, uncomfortable group situations and unsafe situations for individuals. Because of these and other reasons sexual contact is not permitted between campers and/or anyone else at camp. For these purposes sexual activity will include kissing, inappropriate touching, sexual comments and couples isolating themselves from the group. These activities as well as more serious ones are grounds for dismissal.

F. Pranks

Pranks do not promote the principles of Honesty, Caring, Respect, or Responsibility nor do they help build strong relationships and trust. For these reasons pranks are not permitted at camp. Caring gestures such as writing encouraging anonymous notes or secretly doing another group's chores are enthusiastically encouraged. A camper engaging in or planning a prank may be removed from camp.

G. Prohibited Items

Certain items will make it difficult to create a safe environment for your child. Please review the list of prohibited items under the packing list. Bringing these to camp may result in the item being held for safe keeping until the end of the camp session, or your child being sent home. ***CELL PHONES ARE PROHIBITED – PLEASE DO NOT BRING THEM!***

H. Refunds, Questions and Concerns

It is imperative that the teen leader takes the application process seriously, and completes the application requirements on their own. Sherman Lake YMCA staff will determine the level of commitment the teen leader has to the program during the phone interview process. At this time, it may be determined that the teen is not ready to participate in this powerful and dynamic program. It is relatively rare for campers to be sent home from the Leadership Development Program. However, our top priorities are safety of all participants and creating positive group dynamics. If a camper is consistently disruptive to either of these goals they will be sent home. ***There is no refund for campers dismissed for disciplinary reasons.*** If you have questions or concerns about your child's behavior, or behavior expectations, please contact Josiah Swartz, Leadership Development Program Director at 269-731-3007 as early

as possible before your child comes to camp so you can determine if the program is the best place for your child. If you have any questions about the camp's overall Behavior Policies, please contact Lorrie Syverson, Director of Camping at 269-731-3022.

I. Early Dismissal from Program

In the event a camper must leave the program early due to illness, behavioral incident, or homesickness, the parents will be notified by telephone immediately and arrangements will be made for pick-up at the camp. If the illness or behavioral incident occurs during an off-site trip the trip leader will notify the Director of Camping and a determination will be made on the best way to relocate the camper with their parent. The Director of Camping will notify the parent of the decision.

III. Parent's To-Do List Before Camp

- Complete Health Form and the Physician's Statement (physical form) and return four (4) weeks prior to camp. (Physical is required within last 24 months)
- Final payment of fees due at least four (4) weeks prior to arrival.
- At check-in, deposit money at the Camp Store. Leaders may also have additional separate money to be used while stopping at off-site locations. Most campers have about \$20 for the camp store, and \$20 for off-site trips. *They may access money from the camp store for off-site trips prior to leaving for the trips.*
- Mark all clothing and baggage with your child's name.
- Pack clothes and equipment according to the enclosed recommended list.
- Have your child's medication in original labeled container to check in with camp nurse at check-in time on Sunday.
- Talk with your teen about the exciting 2 weeks they will be spending at the Sherman Lake YMCA Leadership Development Program!

IV. Clothing and Equipment Guidelines

Teenagers in the Leadership Development Program will be housed in Yurt Tents. The Yurts have carpeted floors and are 24 feet in diameter. Approximately 8 to 10 individuals and a counselor will be housed in the Yurt for the 2-week duration. A pillow, sheet and blankets or a sleeping bag are required.

A mummy style sleeping bag is recommended for off-site trips. Mummy bags are usually the most convenient and versatile bags but any bag that can be compressed for packing in a back pack will work. Laundry service is not provided except for emergencies.

Following is a list of clothing and equipment your teen may need for the Leadership Development Program experience at the Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center. If you have any questions about the items listed, please give us a call. This is a suggested guideline for 2 weeks of camp. The items listed are not required, but highly recommended. Older clothes are generally best. We tend to get dirty.

Suggested Packing List

Clothing

- Socks (a pair for each day)
- Underwear (pair for each day)
- T-shirts and long sleeve shirts
- Sweater, sweat shirt, or jacket
- Jeans/long pants
- Shorts (longer shorts needed for ropes courses)
- Pajamas, bedtime clothes
- Raincoat or poncho
- Hat and sunglasses
- One piece swim suits (2)
- Old, dirty clothes for caving – these are usually discarded - (long sleeves and pants required)
- Long underwear or warm undergarments (easily cleaned) for caving
- Knee pads and gloves (optional for caving)

Miscellaneous

- Small day pack/backpack
- Larger overnight backpack (only if owned)
- Flashlight and/or headlamp
- Plastic bag for dirty/wet laundry
- Pencils and a journal or notebook (required)
- Stamps and postcards
- Camera

Footwear

All footwear needs to be able to fit securely and protect the feet. As such, we ask that all footwear have a back for the heel and covers the toes. Please do not send flip flops except as a shower accessory. Footwear must include a pair of athletic shoes for climbing and ropes activities.

Prohibited Items

Cell phones are wonderful for keeping in touch but they become a distraction here at camp. Part of what makes the Leadership Development Program such a powerful experience is isolation from one's daily life. This allows for deeper reflection and more self-awareness. We're interested in

- Shoes – must have closed-toed shoes for ropes (2 pairs recommended – may get wet)
- Sturdy shoes for hiking (hiking boots recommended)
- Sandals (closed back and closed-toed needed for activities)
- Water shoes (optional)
- Old shoes for caving (able to secure on feet)

Bedding

- Sleeping bag (mummy style best 15°- 40° temp rated)
- Sheet and blanket (if preferred for the yurt)
- Small pillow (optional for bus)

Toiletries, etc

- Towels and wash cloths
- Extra beach towels for swimming
- Toiletries(toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, comb, brush)
- Insect repellent (please send lots of it!!!)
required
- Sun block (spf 15 or higher) **required**
- Water bottle **required**

Any specialty camp equipment (ex: skateboard, rollerblades, etc) – Please call and ask first

reducing daily distractions! Please have your teen leave their cell phones at home. Should they need to call home, a phone is always available and will be provided. You will always have contact information for camp and for offsite trips should you need to contact your child. Cell phones which are brought to camp will be collected and kept in a locked cabinet and returned at check-out.

Other electronics are also wonderful for communication and entertainment. Unfortunately they also tend to isolate us from those around us and they can be a target for theft. Since we are in the business of building strong relationships and an appreciation for nature, we ask that your child also leaves other electronics at home with the following exceptions:

iPods and other MP3 players may be used during bus rides for offsite trips and occasionally during rest times at the discretion of camp staff. If they are used during other times they may be taken by camp staff and returned at the end of the camp session.

Digital cameras are okay as well. Please be aware that Sherman Lake YMCA Camp assumes no responsibility for any loss, theft or damage of these devices. They are solely your teen's responsibility. Please talk this through with your child before letting them bring these items to camp.

DO NOT BRING: fireworks, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, knives (even small camping knives), guns or other illegal items. These items are prohibited and possession of these items is grounds for dismissal.

Bad attitudes are discouraged. Please be aware if your teen brings one to camp they may lose it 😊.

V. Check-in and Check-out Procedures

Check-in time is 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Kellogg Hall. Leadership check-in coincides with Resident Camp check-in. Please bring all completed forms, medications, and camp store money. You may leave your luggage in the car at this point. From check-in you will drive to the Leadership Village where you will unload your luggage.

Check out time is Friday 3:00 p.m. at the *Leadership Lodge*. You are invited to participate in a closing ceremony beginning at 2:30 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m. we will open the doors of the Leadership Lodge for friends and family to see what we have been up to for two weeks. We will present a slideshow and several teens will speak about their experiences. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you are going to be delayed in dropping off or picking up your teen, please notify us at 269-731-3030. Teens will be permitted to leave only with parents or persons designated by the parents. All teens will need to be signed out by parents/guardians. If teen is to be picked up by anyone other than their parent(s), we require written permission. Please assist us in assuring the safety of all teens.

A. Opening Day Check-in

Make sure these items are completed, it will speed up the opening day health check process.

1. **Please be sure the Health Form is received 4 weeks prior to session.**
 - a. Sign authorization for emergency treatment.
 - b. Fill out insurance information completely. Since camp does not have a camper insurance policy, you must accept responsibility for medical/surgical treatment charges, which may be incurred on your child's behalf. It is extremely important for you to complete the insurance information and the emergency contact portions of the Health Form and sign the Health Form.
 - c. Two emergency phone numbers should be included for people who could give permission for medical treatment in the event you cannot be reached.
 - d. Please fill in the date of the last tetanus – **Very Important!**
 - e. For medication dosage purposes, please be sure to fill in height and weight on the Health Form.
 - f. Note any medication, food or environmental allergies. If your camper is bringing medication to camp, you will need to complete the "Permission to Administer Medication" form and turn it into the nurse at Kellogg Hall during the check-in process. Over the counter medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, hydrocortisone, should be left at home. Camp has a supply of these medications.
 - g. The Physician's Statement (camper physical) must be on file 4 weeks prior to the start of camp.
 - h. Unfortunately, teens **will not** be allowed to participate in any camp programs unless completed health forms are on file. This is to ensure the safety and well being of your child and the camp.

B. Medication.

You may download the form "Permission to Administer Medication" from our web page. Please give this completed form and the medication in the original containers to the nurse at Kellogg Hall at check-in. This will speed up the check-in process. If you have medication concerns, please call the camp directly at 269-731-3030 prior to your camp session.

Medication must be in its original container with the child's name, the type and name of the medication, and the dosage clearly marked. We recommend asking your pharmacist to issue the medication in two separate containers. One container should have the medication that your child will need at camp. The other container should have the remaining medication for use at home.

Please look through this checklist:

- All medication must be in original containers, labeled with name, dosage and time to dispense. Teens may not keep medication while at camp. All medication must be turned in to the camp nurse.
- Prescribed emergency inhalers and Epi pens may be kept by the teen after they are checked-in with the camp nurse.
- Over the counter medicines must be in their original container and a Medication Administration Form will need to be filled out by parent/guardian. All medications will be stored with the Camp Health Officer. Camp will provide Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, Tums, Pepto Bismol, Benadryl, hydrocortisone cream with permission by the parent/guardian.
- Send only necessary vitamins, they must be checked-in with the nurse.
- The day your child comes to camp they may have a little anxiety about their upcoming camp experience. Some physical symptoms may be a result of these feelings. We suggest that you talk to your teen about what they are experiencing. Any Earache? Sore throat? Headache? Stomach ache? Our Health Officers will check to see if any physical complaints warrant concern.

Camp medical staff is available to assist the teens and staff. If you have safety or medication concerns, please feel free to call camp directly at 269-731-3000.

VI. Sample Daily Schedule & Activities

7:30 a.m.	Early riser jog/swim	Early riser Jog/Swim	Day Trip Leave at 7 a.m. <i>Canoeing</i> <i>Hiking</i> <i>Caving</i>
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Breakfast	
9:00 a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	
9:15 a.m.	Camp Clean-up	Camp Clean-Up	
9:45 a.m.	Team Time Activity time Climbing/choice	Community Service Project	
12:00p.m.	Lunch at Kellogg Hall	Lunch at Kellogg Hall	
1:15 p.m.	Rest time	Rest Time	
2:00 p.m.	Leadership lesson	Leadership lesson	
3:30 p.m.	Leadership activities	Outdoor Camping Instructional Camp Set Up	
6:00 p.m.	Dinner	Dinner	
7:00 p.m.	Horse/Skate Choice	Trip Preparation Set up	Free Choice Time
8:30 p.m.	Campfire	Pack out trip	All Camp Games
10:00 p.m.	Group Discussion Showers/yurt time	Group Discussion Showers/yurt time	Debrief Trip
11:00 p.m.	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out

Camp **adventure based experiential activities** may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. **Rock Climbing**- Here at camp on our multiple rock walls.
2. **Canoeing**- Learning the basic skills on Sherman Lake, and then applying those skills on one of our overnight trips.
3. **Horseback Riding**- Campers will have opportunities to ride horses on camp
4. **Service Learning**- Projects at our camp that leave a permanent legacy, as well as assisting community organizations with small projects.
5. **Tree Climbing**- A great compliment to our high ropes elements with climbing to a platform in the tree canopy.
6. **High and Low Ropes**- Courses that offers a challenge for any comfort level. One of the safest activities at camp.
7. **Backpacking**- Hiking on trails, learning the techniques and carrying your own gear. Pack out what you pack in.
8. **Tent Camping**- Learn the basics on Sherman Lake grounds and apply those skills on our extended stay overnight trip.
9. **Back Country Camping**- Low impact camping, experiencing nature in its purest state.

VII. Camper Information

A. Correspondence *mail may be sent to the camp address:*

Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center
Leadership Development Program
C/O (Camper's Name)
6225 N. 39th Street
Augusta, MI 49012
(269) 731-3000

B. Communication

MAIL IS VERY IMPORTANT to teens—even just postcards. In writing, please do not mention the things he/she is missing. You might send along a self-addressed stamped envelope to encourage his/her writing. Don't worry at all if you do not receive mail, it means your teen is active and happy. Some teens may be homesick but don't expect it. It is not frequent. Active, constructive programs and concerned staff keep this from happening.

C. Instructions for Marking and Packing Equipment

1. Sherman Lake YMCA Camp requires no special uniform for teens. We urge teens to dress for comfort at camp using your school's dress code guidelines for modesty. *If the outfit wouldn't be appropriate at school, it doesn't fit at camp.* Please review the suggested "Clothing and Equipment List" provided in this information packet to guide you as you prepare for camp.

2. Mark each article to be taken to camp, including the clothing worn to camp, with full name. The best methods are sew-on or iron-on name tags. Use indelible ink to mark all items.
3. Inventory – mark every article taken to camp and write down the quantities on the Clothing and Equipment List as a guide.
4. Tape the inventory list inside the bag for teen’s use when repacking at end of camp.
5. Tag or mark baggage clearly with teen’s name. If your teen uses a garbage bag to pack, be sure the name is clearly labeled on the bag.

As part of their leadership development teens will have the primary responsibility for taking care of their personal items.

The camp will not be responsible for the loss of articles. Teens are encouraged not to bring valuable items to camp.

Regardless of how careful we try to be, it is inevitable that some clothing and articles will be misplaced. Proper identifying marks will greatly assist us in returning the articles to their proper owners. Lost and found will be promptly displayed on Fridays for parents to look through prior to departing with their teen. All items left at camp will be held for one week. Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

D. Health Concerns

Along with our four character principles of **honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility**, the health and safety of all our participants are the primary concern in all camp activities. Staff is trained in Red Cross First Aid and CPR. Camp staff who accompany teens on off-site trips, hold Red Cross Responding to Emergencies certification. All teens have routine health checks on opening day.

During the two weeks, counselors and other staff watch for signs of fatigue, improper eating, etc. that may indicate illness. If a staff member or teen expresses a health concern, the teen is escorted to the Health Officer. The Health Staff and/or Leadership Development Director will determine if the illness merits contacting parents or emergency services to come immediately for the child. Should a child have a communicable disease, other program parents will be notified. Please notify us if a communicable disease occurs shortly after returning from camp. Please communicate any health concerns that you may have with our Health Services Staff.

If your teen is feeling ill on camp check-in day, please keep them home and bring them to camp when they are well. Safety is our #1 priority.

E. Health Enhancement Philosophy

Our Leadership teens will lead a very active lifestyle at camp. We try to encourage a healthy lifestyle at home. Please prepare your child for a week without junk food and increased activity. Care packages should be intended to be shared with your teen's entire yurt.

F. Yurt Assignments

The main focus of our High School Leadership Development experience is for teens to build life-long, healthy relationships. A great majority of our teens come to camp eager to make new friends. Because of the size of our Yurts and our limit to the number of teens per Yurt we ask the teens focus on making great new friendships at camp. We ask them to **limit the request of yurt mates to one other teen**. We ask this firstly for smaller yurt sizes so your teen receives more individual attention. Secondly, our teens will spend the majority of their time in the large group and use their yurt as a place of rest. **WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE NEW LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS** and this camp is a great place for these skills to be developed and put to great use.

G. Camp Store

For your convenience, there is a camp store on the premises where your teen may purchase personal items such as toiletries, postcards, envelopes, stamps, T-shirts, snacks, drinks, etc. To avoid problems, all money will be kept in the teen's store account during their stay. We recommend a minimum \$10-20 per week in the store account. As your child purchases items, the amount spent is deducted from the individual store account. Any remaining balance of \$5.00 or more will be refunded at check-out. **Any unused money under \$5.00 at the end of the camp session will be deposited in the Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center Camper Scholarship Fund.**

H. Waterfront Rules

Campers will be tested for swimming ability on the opening day of camp. Teens will be assigned to the appropriate swimming area to ensure their safety. We also enforce the following:

1. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) must be worn at all times when in boats.
2. Buddy boards will be in use at the swimming area.
3. All swimmers will have a "buddy" while in the swim area.
4. Swimming and boating are only allowed during designated times when lifeguards are present.

I. World Service

Our camp conducts activities each session to support YMCA World Service and promote international understanding. Our International staff provides exciting programs that give the campers a chance to see how other cultures live around the

world. The International YMCA operates in over 85 countries. Each year we have international campers enrolled in the Leadership Development Program.

J. Birthdays

If your teen has a birthday while at camp, please let us know so we can celebrate it with him/her!

K. Guidelines for Trips Leaving Sherman Lake Property

Behavior off camp should compliment and reinforce behavior at Sherman Lake. During service learning projects off of Sherman Lake property, the Leadership Development campers will be perceived as the great leaders that they are and their behavior will reflect their values and desires.

Teens will be trained in offsite safety before embarking on trips. Topics covered include safety in public places, bus rules and water safety rules. It is very important for the safety of all group members that teens remain together in pairs and within the supervision of their counselors and program staff off site. Several on-camp scenarios will be used as a test for the group to demonstrate its great leadership abilities off camp.

L. Refund Policy

Refund requests must be made in writing and received **no later than 4 weeks before the start of a camp session**. This will ensure that you will receive a refund on your camp fees minus the \$50.00 nonrefundable deposit.

All cancellations made less than four weeks prior to the start of a camp session are nonrefundable. There is no camper fee refund for any child who leaves camp because of homesickness, illness, or sent home for any disciplinary reasons.

VIII. Information Sessions

You and your family are invited to our Open Houses. Please join us for a great day and bring your friends! Activity areas will be open. This is an excellent opportunity to view the Leadership Development facilities, meet the staff, and play with your families. Join the fun! We hope to see you there!

Sunday, March 18th, 2-4pm

Saturday, April 28th, 1-4pm

Sunday, May 20th, 2-4pm

IX. Camp Location

**Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center
6225 N. 39th St.
Augusta, MI 49012**

From Kalamazoo and Richland:

Go East on M-43 to Richland. At stop light, continue straight through the light on M-89 to 38th Street. Turn right (south) on 38th Street. 38th Street becomes 39th Street. The camp entrance is about one mile south of M-89 on 39th Street.

From Battle Creek:

Go West on M-89 on 38th Street. Turn left (south) on 38th Street. 38th Street becomes 39th Street. The camp entrance is about one mile south of M-89 on 39th Street.

From Portage:

Go East on Highway I-94. Exit #85 at 35th Street north. Follow 35th Street north until G Avenue. Turn right (east) on G Avenue. Turn left on 39th Street. The camp entrance is located on 39th Street.

Transportation

Overnight campers will be dropped off by their parents or guardians. This is a great time for parents/guardians to meet his/her counselor, walk around, and see our wonderful Leadership Development facility. Camp is approximately 20 minutes from Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.

Bring Your Friends!

We have plenty of openings for our Leadership Village. We appreciate your efforts to help spread the word about our Leadership Development Program. We will personally meet with you and your friends to give you a tour. Simply call our camp office to register! We are going to have a great summer!

Questions???

The staff is here to answer your questions. **Call us at 269-731-3030.** The Leadership Development Program is a very special experience for every teen. We are here to support you and provide the best experience possible for your child. Please do not ever hesitate to call us. We appreciate your active involvement at the Sherman Lake YMCA Camp programs. Together, we build confidence, courage, and character!