



Sherman Lake YMCA Day Camp Parent Information Packet - 2012

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Sherman Lake YMCA's 2012 Day Camp program. Your child is about to embark on a fun-filled week of new friends and skills, challenges and rewards, and the experience of being a part of a community built on a foundation of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility. Carefully screened, selected, trained and supervised by a year-round staff of camping professionals, counselors will guide your child through a week of adventures and help to build positive memories that will last a lifetime. Now it is time for you to get to know one of our newest additions to the full-time program staff of the Sherman Lake YMCA. As Director of Camping, I take very seriously the job of hiring the right people to represent our programs and I am very excited about introducing our new Day Camp Director. He has worked in our summer resident camp program for the past 6 years and has made a tremendous impact on the many campers he served. I know he will bring a positive attitude and purposeful spirit to our Day Camp program as the new Day Camp Director.

I am Tromondae M. Beck, Sherman Lakes new Day Camp Director. When I was introduced to Sherman Lake YMCA the summer of 2006, I did not know that I would one day be a director. Returning consecutively year after year, I found Sherman Lake to be irresistible. I did not want to miss out on the magic that was happening!

I strive to endow individuals with a good and true experience of school, camp, and life by introducing and/or reinforcing principles, such as honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility, which are essential for life. Such principles should exist within one's self and be distributed through displaying.

As the Day Camp Director I will continue to move forward with the amazing work of Tim Simpson. In the words of Tim, "We make a difference. We love during their time of hate, we give them friendship in a life of bullies, we give them open arms when all they seem to be getting is a clenched fist. This is the same for every camper, parent, staff and volunteer." And that's why I'm here.

Let's have an amazing future. Starting with the summer of 2012!

Thank you for choosing Sherman Lake for your child's camping experience. If you have any questions, please call or email us anytime. It is truly a privilege for us to have your child attend camp at Sherman Lake!

Sincerely,

Lorrie Syverson
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Introduction

This packet is designed to answer your questions about Day Camp. Please read the information carefully and share it with your child. In this packet, you will find:

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Please remember that the *Camper Health Form*, and *Payment in full* are all **due one month prior** to your child's camp session. Please also know that whether you've been registered for camp since January or are still just thinking about it, you are invited to our **SUMMER 2012 CAMP KICK-OFF OPEN HOUSE!** This Camp Open House is a great time to tour the facilities, try some activities with your campers, and meet the summer staff. It takes place on **Friday, June 15th from 5:45 to 8:00pm**, and begins at 5:45 with an opening presentation featuring this summer's staff. We hope to see everyone there! **It's Free.**

Parent Pre-Camp Checklist

- _____ Final **payment** of fees due at least one month prior to your child's camp session.
- _____ **Complete and return Camper Health Form** at least one month prior to your child's camp session. Your child's camp admission is not guaranteed until the form arrives.
- _____ **Complete, if camper will be given medications while at camp, Permission to Administer Medication Form** and give form & medication to staff at bus site.
- _____ **Pack** clothes and equipment according to enclosed **packing list**.
- _____ **Label** all clothing, lunch bags, towels, water bottles, etc. with your child's name.

- _____ **Talk** with your camper about the exciting week they will be spending at Sherman Lake!
- _____ **Visit** during one of our open house dates: Sunday, March 18 – 2-4pm, Saturday, April 28 – 1-4pm, or Sunday, May 20, 2-4pm before camp begins so your camper feels comfortable, especially if they are apprehensive

Payments and Refund Policy

At the time of registration a \$50, nonrefundable deposit, must be made to hold your camper's spot. This \$50 is then applied to the balance of the camp payment. The camp must be paid in full 30 days prior to the start of your camp session. You may pay your balance online at www.shermanlakeymca.org, or mail a check to: Sherman Lake YMCA Camp, 6225 N. 39th St, Augusta, MI 49012. Note: Balances not paid prior to the start of the camp session may result in the loss of your spot in that camp. Refund requests must be made in writing and received no later than 2 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 non-refundable deposit. All cancellations made less than two weeks prior to the start of a camp session are non-refundable. **There is no camper fee refund for any child who leaves camp because of illness, homesickness, or disciplinary reasons.**

Camp Location and Directions

*Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center
6225 N. 39th Street
Augusta, Michigan 49012
269-731-3000*

Camp office hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm. The main camp office phone is answered between 7am and 6pm, the number is 269-731-3000. If you have an emergency and need to reach a camp staff person outside of these hours please call the Director of Camping at 269-731-3022 and obtain further instructions. Please call if your child is ill and won't be attending camp.

Directions to Camp

From Richland:

Go east on M-43 to Richland. At stoplight, 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 Kalamazoo:

Go east on M-43 (Gull Road) to "G" Ave. At stoplight turn right (east) onto "G" Ave. Turn left (north) onto 39th Street. The camp entrance is located on 39th Street.

From Battle Creek:

1. Go west on M-89 to 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.
2. Go west on M-96 - Dickman Rd – through the Village of Augusta. Turn right onto "G" Ave then right onto 39th Street. The camp entrance is on the left.

From Portage:

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

Camp Check-in - Transportation Sites

You may drive your camper to the Sherman Lake YMCA each day for the Day Camp program or we offer bussing from the transportation sites listed below. For working parents we offer before (7am-7:55am) and after (5pm – 6pm) camp care at the sites listed below. You will need to see the Sherman Lake YMCA staff member at the site you've chosen who will have you sign-in your camper in the morning and sign-out your camper in the afternoon. Please use the same transportation site for morning and evening.

Site Pick-up & Drop-off Locations –The bus departs the site at 8am.

Available from 7-8am and 5-6 pm. Please have your camper to the site by 7:55. See special notes below about times for Quick Stop Transportation Sites.

- **Sherman Lake YMCA**-If you are transporting your child directly to camp, please follow the driveway past the administration building to the Day Camp Drop-off Area. You may park in the drive by the Flag Area from 7:00am-8:30am and 4:30pm-6:00pm. **For the safety of the children, please keep the drive clear from 8:30am-9:15am and 3:30pm-4:30pm.** This is when buses are loading and unloading campers. If you arrive during this time, please park in designated lots past the flagpole area.
- **Battle Creek Family Y Center** – use the Lemon Tree Nursery entrance on the parking lot side of the building – before and after camp care is available.
- **Kalamazoo YMCA – Maple Street** – use the circle drive entrance on Maple Street, across from the middle school. Proceed to the upstairs gym, take the stairway to the right when entering from the Maple Street entrance (opposite the YMCA parking lot).
- **Portage Center Street YMCA** – Enter through the main entrance and tell the desk staff that you are there for Sherman Lake YMCA Day Camp. The camp room is located in the gym. Go down the hall to a second doorway, down the stairs, and turn right down the corridor. Signs will be posted.

The sites listed below are a **"quick-stop" only – no before or after camp care.** You must be at the site at the bus times noted. If you are not there when the bus arrives in the afternoon your child will be transported to the Maple Street YMCA in Kalamazoo and you can pick them up there, or the Battle Creek Family Y Center in Battle Creek.

- **Gull Road Elementary** – the bus from Kalamazoo YMCA will stop here at 8:25am, your child will wait in the car with you until the bus arrives, then you will be able to sign them in with the Sherman Lake YMCA staff on the bus – in the afternoon the bus will arrive between 4:35 – 4:45pm, please wait in the car for your child to arrive.
- **Riverside Elementary – Battle Creek** – the bus will stop at 8:00am, please have your children wait in the car, you will sign-in your children with the staff on the bus. The bus will return between 4:50-5:00pm, again please wait in your car till the bus arrives and the staff person will then have you sign-out your camper.

Daily Day Camp Schedule

- 7- 7:55 am-** Campers may be signed-in at transportation sites. If you are transporting your child directly to Sherman Lake YMCA camp, please be sure to arrive no later than 8:30 am.
- 8:00 am -** Buses depart from the various sites for Sherman Lake YMCA Camp. **We will leave at 8 am.** Please don't be late.
- 8:25 am -** **Gull Road Elementary only** – please be at the sites by 8:25am. Your children should wait in the car until the bus arrives between 8:25 and 8:35am. Do not leave them until you have signed them onto the bus.

- 9 am -4 pm-** Main camp activities will run at the Sherman Lake YMCA Camp. Campers will rotate through cool camp activities such as swimming, arts & crafts, sports, games, nature, climbing, boating, archery, theme activities, specialty activities, and more!
- 4:00 pm-** We begin loading the buses. During the first few days of the week, this procedure takes longer than at the end of the week.
- 4:30 pm-** If you are picking up your child directly from Sherman Lake please do not arrive until after 4:30 pm. By then, all the buses will have departed. If you must pick up your child earlier than 4:30pm, please see below for early transportation pickup directions.
- 4:35-4:45 pm *Gull Road Site only*** – Please be at the site to pick up your child.
- 4:50-5:00 pm *Riverside Site only***- Please be at the site to pick up your child.
- 5-6 pm** Campers may be picked up at all sites. Please remember, you will need to sign-out your child and have your picture ID with you.
- 6 pm -** All campers should be picked up no later than 6:00 pm. If an emergency arises and you are unable to pick up your child by 6:00 pm, please call the camp office at (269)-731-3000, and we will relay the message to the appropriate transportation site. Do not call the transportation sites directly.

General Arrival and Departure Information:

- **Absence** - If your child is too ill to attend camp or will be absent for any reason, please notify us as soon as possible at (269)-731-3000. You may leave a message on our voicemail at any time. We are concerned when your child is not at camp
- **Late arrivals at Sherman Lake YMCA Camp-** please go to the Administration Building to sign in. A staff member will transport your camper to meet their group.
- **Early Pick-ups-** Tell your transportation Coordinator of the early departure time in the morning. Staff will have your child to the Administration Building at that time. Thank you for your patience, it can take 15-30 minutes to get campers from activities to the administration building.
- **Late Pick up fees-** Please schedule so that you can pick up your child no later than 6pm. Failure to arrive by 6pm to pick up your camper will result in an additional fee of \$25 for first 10 minutes and \$10 for each 5 minutes thereafter.
- If your transportation plans change, you must notify the camp directly at (269)-731-3000. Please direct all questions, comments, and concerns to the Sherman Lake YMCA staff and please do not contact the other YMCA locations for information about camp. ***If you miss the bus, you will be responsible for transporting your child directly to camp!***

Signing out your child – necessary releases:

Please remember that we will only release your child to parents/guardians or to those people you have listed on the registration form. We will be following strict sign-in and sign-out procedures at all of our sites. Please be sure to accompany your child to the designated place at the transportation site and sign them in. **PLEASE HAVE I.D. EVERY DAY INCLUDING FAMILY NIGHT.** If your plans change and you need to have someone else authorized to pick up your child, make a written note and present it to the camp staff at the transportation site when you drop off your child. Our #1 priority is to keep your children safe. Your patience throughout the sign-in/sign-out process is appreciated.

Kindercamp Check-in Procedures

Because of the age of our youngest campers, 4 & 5, we do not provide bussing for Kindercamp participants. Parents should bring their Kindercampers to Sherman Lake YMCA Camp at 9am and pick them up at 11:30am. The Kindercamp program will be held at the Sherman Lake YMCA Camp farm. Follow the signs to the rear of the property. The program coordinator will meet you and the camper in the barn!

Riding the Bus – Behavior Expectations

Sherman Lake YMCA staff will accompany the campers on the bus ride to camp. Buses are leased from local schools and driven by licensed school bus drivers. All rules and regulations in force by the school district providing the bus will be followed by staff and campers. In addition all campers are asked to remain seated at all times while on the bus, follow behavior rules set forth by the staff, do not eat on the bus and follow strict loading and unloading rules that staff will explain. In general younger campers sit toward the front of the bus and older campers towards the rear. Boys and girls sit on opposite sides of the bus with staff distributed equally throughout the bus. Staff/camper ratios are in effect during bus transportation. If a camper has a behavioral issue on the bus, the camp behavioral policies will be followed. Riding the bus is a privilege.

Checklist of What to Bring to Camp

Day Camp Packing List (*Have your child's name on everything you send to camp*)

- A backpack is recommended, since your child will be carrying all belongings including their lunch and snacks from activity to activity.
- Dress in comfortable clothes and closed-toed shoes. Please dress appropriately for the weather, we will be outside. **Because of the rough terrain, please do not allow your child to wear sandals or open-toed shoes, except for water activities. Crocs are not acceptable footwear for climbing or horseback riding activities.**
- A healthy, well balanced lunch and snack. Lunches will not be refrigerated, so please do not send perishable items.
- Water bottle – Help us conserve paper cups.
- Swimsuit and towel
- Sunscreen
- Lightweight jacket or poncho if rain is forecast
- Small bottle of non-aerosol bug spray.

*******PLEASE DO NOT BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS*******

No cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, or video games please. (These items will be given to director and sent home at the end of the day.) Any alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, knives or guns will result in immediate removal from camp.

Specialty Day Camp Information and Packing List:

Horse Camp-Participants must bring long pants or jeans and hard-soled closed-toe shoes with a heel, for safety reasons, boots are preferred (No Crocs, Clogs or sandals). This should be a boot or shoe that would protect the foot if stepped on by a 1,000 lb. horse. Participants may also bring their own helmet if it is ASTM or SEI approved. **Note: Family Night features an informal horse program.**

Dance Camp-Participants must bring clothes to move around in and jazz shoes. **Note: Family night features a performance.**

Piano Camp-Participants must bring current music projects. Application required, call The Gilmore at (269) 342-1166 or visit www.thegilmore.com. **Note: recital program on Friday, talk with Gilmore Director for the time.**

Zoo Camp-No additional equipment is required. (Optional-money for the Binder Park Gift Shop may be brought in on Thursday). We visit the Binder Park Zoo on Tuesday and Thursday, all day.

Weird Science- Participants should bring their curiosity.

Introduction to Sports- Participants should wear comfortable, athletic clothes. No special equipment is needed.

Creative Arts: Note: Family Night will feature an exhibit at the art studio.

Ensemble Theatre: Note: Family Night will feature an informance.

Splash Camp & Climbers Camp:

There will be an **overnight on Tuesday Night** for each of these camps. Campers will be sleeping in tents or in cabins, if space is available. Please bring an overnight bag to camp on Tuesday morning, if your child is riding the bus, it will need to fit on their lap. Dinner on Tuesday, breakfast and lunch on Wednesday will be provided.

Overnight Packing List

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Bathroom items (toothbrush, shampoo, etc)
- Clothes for Wednesday
- Pajamas
- Extra towel and bathing suit
- Long sleeve shirt and pants
- Headlamp or flashlight

Family Night – every Thursday, 5-7pm!

Plan to join in the fun on Thursday evening. Every Thursday each camper becomes the counselor for the parents. The evening starts with a quick opening ceremony where you'll learn a fun camp game or new song. Then you'll sign out your camper and experience the fun of Sherman Lake YMCA until 7pm. Bring the whole family and your picnic dinner! There will be light dinner items available for purchase. (Sorry, but dogs are not allowed on the property.)

Thursday evening – Family Night Schedule

- 4:30 pm-** Buses depart from camp for those not staying for Family Night
4:55 pm - Parents arrive and sign out campers
5:00 pm- Opening ceremony begins at the Performance Shell
5:15 pm - Activity areas (swimming, archery, climbing, arts & crafts and more) open for family fun
5:15pm - Performances for Dance Camp, Ensemble Theatre, exhibit for Creative Arts
7:00 pm- Camp Closes

Please park in the parking lots past the flag area (signs will be posted) and then have a seat at the Performance Shell for the Family Night Ceremony. **We require picture ID in order to sign out your campers.** We appreciate your patience and support in making this process as safe as possible. We believe in the broad definition of family, so don't hesitate to bring anyone who you consider part of the family. Once the opening is completed, the Gull Lake Community Volunteers will provide a variety of food items such as brats, hot dogs, chips, soda and snow cones for sale. Items range in price from about \$0.25-\$2.50 per item. You may also choose to bring a picnic dinner. The Camp Store will also be open during this time to purchase shirts, sweatshirts, water bottles, stuffed animals, and more. Please remember that the Camp Store operates on a cash-only basis. Almost all of our camp activities will be open for the entire family, so be sure to bring your swimming suits and closed-toed shoes for climbing! At 6:55 pm the activity areas will close and camp will close at 7:00 pm.

If you are planning on attending Family Night, please let your Transportation Site Coordinator know on the Thursday morning of the camp session. More information will be sent home on Wednesday nights. If you have questions, please talk with the camp staff at the transportation sites or call the camp staff directly at (269)-731-3000.

Family Nights - Please have ID with you to sign out your camper

Emergency Procedures

In the event of a severe storm that produces damage rendering our facilities unusable, or other natural disaster, you will be contacted immediately. Staff will first issue a mass email to parents regarding the emergency. Telephone calls to parents, those listed on the registration form as emergency contacts, will be placed. We will also post information on local television (WWMT, WOOD, WOTV) and radio stations. Become a "friend" on Facebook – Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center – we will also post information on facebook. Thunderstorms are a normal occurrence at camp during the summer. Rest assured that we watch the weather radar and monitor warning systems very closely and move the children to storm shelter locations to ensure their safety. In the event of a short-term power outage camp does have emergency generators that keep our food cold and our

wells running. We will only notify you if we need to close camp. If you try to call camp during a weather emergency and receive a recording, please leave a message and a staff person will get back to you as soon as possible. Our first concern during an emergency is the safety of our campers and staff. We may not be available to answer the telephone. Thanks for your help in keeping everyone safe.

Health & Medication

General Health Information:

Campers with temperatures of 100 or above or with head lice must stay home. Throughout the campers' stay, counselors and other staff watch for signs of fatigue, dehydration, improper eating, etc... that may indicate illness. If a counselor or camper expresses a health concern, they are escorted to a camp Health Officer. The Health staff and Directors will contact parents or emergency services when necessary. Parents will be notified immediately if a child has a fever in excess of 100F, has been vomiting, or has evidence of lice. The parent will be asked to pick up the child immediately in any of these instances. Should a child have a communicable disease, they will be taken to the health center and isolated from other campers until the parents pickup the child. In the case of a communicable disease parents of all campers from that cabin group will be notified. Please notify us if a communicable disease occurs shortly after returning home from camp. In the event of an injury that requires medical attention, the parent will be notified immediately. Arrangements will be made to meet the parent at the hospital, or for the parent to pick up the child, depending upon the severity. Please be assured that we will always contact parents when there is concern about a person's health and/or when a situation is not progressing as expected.

If your child is not feeling well on the first day of camp, please keep them home an extra day and bring them to camp when they no longer exhibit signs of illness. Please call the Director of Camping to institute a plan to safeguard the health of all campers and staff.

Camper Health Forms:

Campers will not be allowed to participate in any camp program unless a completed Health Form is on file. This is to ensure the safety and well-being of your child at camp. The American Camping Association (ACA) recommends that all health forms be updated on a yearly basis.

- If registering online, it is necessary to download and complete the **Camper Health Form** and return it to our office one month prior to your child's camp session.
- If the health form is not received before check-in, you will have to complete the form at check-in.
- When filling out the health form, be sure that all shaded fields are filled in. It is imperative to provide at least 2 emergency telephone numbers. If you are out of town during the camp week, be sure to notify us of this at check-in. Be sure to sign the authorization for emergency treatment.
- Since Sherman Lake 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.

Medication:

- You do not need to bring over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen; camp has a supply of these. If you check the box on the health form to give us permission to administer over-the-counter medication for aches and pains, our Camp Health Officers can do so if needed.

- Any medications, including vitamins, inhalers, and non-prescription medications must be checked in by completing the Permission to Administer Medication form and giving the form and the medication to the transportation site director.
- If you are sending any medications at all with your camper, you must complete the **Permission to Administer Medication** form and bring it with you to check-in.
- **All medications must be in their original pharmacy containers.** You should only send the amount of medication that will be given during the week of camp.
- Please label medications with child's name, name of medication, dosage, and time to dispense (breakfast, lunch, dinner, bedtime, or as needed).
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that "Elective interruption of medications (drug holiday) should be avoided by campers on long-term psychotropic therapy or those on maintenance therapy required for a chronic medical condition." (*Pediatrics*. 2011; 127(4): 795)

Homesickness

Anxiety about coming to camp is normal and common. The best thing you can do to set your child up for success at camp is to talk with them about the experience beforehand. Our staff is trained to support homesick campers, and rest assured that a Director will call you if we need your assistance or input as a parent. If you are concerned about homesickness being an issue with your camper, go to summercamphandbook.com and scroll down the page to "Top Ten Summer Camp Prep Tips." This is an incredible and free resource.

Camp Behavior

Camp is designed to encourage success-building skills in children. All camp activities are designed to reinforce the four character principles of **Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility**. Please remind your child to be on his or her best behavior while at camp. **Safety is our #1 priority.** If a camper's behavior is disruptive to the experience of others, appropriate action will be taken by the counselor and program staff. Most incidents are handled effectively by the staff. If behavior problems continue, we will always call parents to enlist your help. Campers who are continuously disruptive will be sent home from camp. **There is no camper fee refund for any child sent home for disciplinary reasons.** Any questions or concerns about your child's behavior at camp should be directed to Tromondae Beck, Day Camp Director or Lorrie Syverson, Director of Camping, Education and Retreat Services.

Behavior Policy

- **3 Strike Behavior Policy:**
If there is an issue that cannot be resolved by the camper or counselor, appropriate action is taken.
 - **Strike 1-** Verbal warning and positive redirection.
 - **Strike 2-** Parents will be notified and child will be given last warning.
 - **Strike 3-** Parents will be called to take child home from camp.
- **2 Strike Bullying Policy:**
 - **Strike 1-** When a child chooses to threaten, intimidate, ostracize, or ridicule another child, they will be warned 1 time and a camp director will call the parents.
 - **Strike 2-** Parents will be called to take child home from camp.
- **Zero Violence Policy:**
Any act of violence or aggression towards participants, staff, or camp property will result in a child's immediate dismissal from camp. Violence and aggressive acts do include forms of emotional abuse.

Please note: Any action that jeopardizes the safety of the camp or any participants will result in immediate dismissal.

Group Assignments

The great majority of our campers come here eager to make new friends. In some circumstances, we accommodate requests to group campers together in the same group. Please indicate any cabin mate requests in the Friend Request Box on the registration form, and *we will do our best to honor these requests. Please limit your request to no more than 2 campers grouped together.*

It is not possible to group campers together that are different ages. If this is very important to you, please call to make arrangements, but note the older camper will be put in the group with the younger camper.

Lost & Found

Please write your camper's name on all items brought to camp! Lost and Found items will be kept at the Flagpole closet until Friday afternoon. They will be displayed on Family Night to give you the opportunity to reclaim your lost items. On Friday, the items will be brought to the Program Offices. The items will be kept for one week and then all unclaimed items will be donated to charity. Please call with any Lost and Found concerns at (269)-731-3000. ***The YMCA is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please do not bring anything of value to camp. Please no cell phones, video games or electronic equipment.***

e-camp

Once again we will be partnering with e-camp, a camp-based technology firm. We will post pictures of daily camp happenings on the e-camp site as regularly as we can. At check-in parents will receive instructions on how to register with e-camp and a password to access the Sherman Lake YMCA Camp file.

Camper/Staff Communication Policy

We strive for effective, positive, and open communication with our campers and parents. As such, we have policies that protect your child and our counselor's safety. While the internet is an amazing and convenient communication tool, we recognize the inherent dangers involved with children and the internet. We have instructed our counselors not to share their email address with campers. If your camper would like to email their counselor, we ask that this be done in an open forum – through our logistics@ymcasl.org address. Campers or parents are welcome to contact a counselor by sending an email to this address. We will forward the message on to the counselor, who will respond from that same email address.

The best way to reach a counselor after camp has ended is still the old-fashioned way: The US Postal Service! Send letters to the Sherman Lake mailing address (see above) c/o your counselor. The Director of Camping will forward the letter to the counselor and ask the counselor to forward any communication back to the camper through our office. This is to ensure the safety and privacy of our campers and staff.

Our staff is trained that we have a “no-outside contact” policy for staff and campers. This is to ensure the safety of the campers away from Sherman Lake YMCA programs, as well as keep a safe environment for the staff. If you are aware of a violation of this no-outside contact policy, please notify the Director of Camping, lorries@ymcasl.org.

Facebook: We have instructed our counselors not to be Facebook “friends” with either campers or parents of campers. In the spirit of healthy and open communication, we thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We do, however, invite you to *become a Fan of Sherman Lake YMCA*

Waterfront

Every camper's swimming ability will be tested and their ability level marked with a bracelet on the opening day of camp. This is called our "Swim Quest". Please be sure the camper leaves this important bracelet on throughout the week. Campers will be assigned to the appropriate swimming area to ensure their safety. If they feel they can do better on the swim test, they may ask to be retested on a subsequent day. All campers will:

- Use personal flotation devices (PFD'S) at all times when in boats, or on the deep-water play equipment.
- Use the buddy board when engaged in any waterfront activity.
- Have a buddy while swimming.
- Obey all rules for swimming and boating areas

Friday Theme Days

Each Friday we celebrate the week with "all-camp" theme activities. Bring a costume to share in the excitement of the week! See website for descriptions of theme days.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • Session 1: June 18-22 | Once Upon A Time |
| • Session 2: June 25-29 | Grab Your Passport |
| • Session 3: July 2-3, 5-6 | Soldiers & Princesses (Family & Friends Camp) |
| • Session 4: July 9-13 | Go Green (recycle, reduce, reuse) |
| • Session 5: July 16-20 | Wild, Wild, West 2 |
| • Session 6: 23-27 | Jingle Bells |
| • Session 7: July 30-August 3 | Dr. Seuss |
| • Session 8: August 6-10 | Rock Out |
| • Session 9: August 13-17 | Birthday at the Carnival |
| • Session 10: August 20-24 | Put Me In, Coach |

Visit Camp Prior to Summer for a Tour and Family Fun!

Meet the camp directors and tour our facilities, while participating in an afternoon of fun camp activities! Join us on the following **Sundays from 2-4pm: March 18th and May 20th.**

Celebrate Healthy Kids Day with us – Saturday, April 28th – 1-4pm – participate in the Kids Fun Run! Watch the website for more information! www.shermanlakeymca.org.

Summer Camp Kick-off Celebration – Friday, June 15th – 5:45-8:00pm

Bring the family and join in our opening counselor parade and skit, followed by an evening of camp activities. Be sure to pack your swim suit, towel and closed-toed shoes for climbing!

Returning is easy!

Did you enjoy the week spent at Sherman Lake Y Camp? **Signing up for a second week** is as easy as making a phone call. Call (269) 731-3000 and we can get your camper into another week. Hurry space in going to be limited!!!

Sherman Lake YMCA Family and Friends Camp

Want to enjoy camp as a family? Planning a family reunion? Let Sherman Lake take care of all the cooking, cleaning and fantastic activities!!!. **This is your premier all-inclusive family vacation for all ages.**

Two Choices!

Week-long – spend the 4th of July at camp – July 2-6 (Monday –Friday)

Labor Day Weekend: Friday, August 31 – Monday, September 3. 2012, call (269)731-3030 for more details.

Bring a New Friend to Camp

Here's a great way to make your camp experience a bit more affordable. If your child brings a "first-timer" to any camp program, you will receive a \$25.00 Sherman Lake YMCA gift certificate good for any camp session or redeemable at the camp store for merchandise. (The certificates carry no cash value.) Your friend must attend the same camp session as you. Please complete the form found on the website (in the Downloadable Forms section) and return it with your registration form. What a great way to lower the cost of camp! Bring *lots* of Sherman Lake YMCA Camp First-Timers and you could come to camp at little cost to yourself.

Questions??

We are here to partner with parents to provide the best experience possible for you and your child. Please do not hesitate to call us. We appreciate your active involvement in the Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center. Together we build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

Your Director of Camping Services is Lorrie Syverson. LorrieS@ymcasl.org (269) 731-3022

Your Day Camp Director is Tromondae Beck. TromondaeB@ymcasl.org (269) 731-3046

For Registration inquiries - Registrar. Registrar@ymcasl.org (269) 731-3000

For general questions - Camp Administrative Assistant logistics@ymcasl.org (269) 731-3030

