



Simi Valley Family Summer Camp FAQ

Here's a list of possible questions parents might have about their child's summer camp program:

General Information

1. What are the camp's dates and hours of operation?
 - Camp will run between June 9th to August 7th
 - Camp will be open between 7am and 6pm
 - Camp rotations will be between 9am-4pm
 - Extended Care (no additional cost) will be between 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm
2. Where is the camp located?
 - Atherwood Elementary School-230 Greensward Street, Simi Valley
3. What is the camp's daily schedule like?
 - Campers will be on a rotation schedule with about 7 to 9 different activities daily
 - Campers will have indoor and outdoor activities
 - Activities will include – specialist classes led by qualified instructors that *could* include: cooking, performing arts, visual arts, drawing, science, engineering, sports, dance and foreign language as well as counselor led activities such as group games, team builders, water play, water games, group game, camp crafts and more
4. Is the camp day structured or more flexible?
 - The camp day is structured with their rotations; however, extended care is the camper's flexible choice time to be with siblings and other friends
5. What is the camper-to-staff ratio?
 - Our camp prides itself on our 1-14 camper to staff ratios, most groups will fluctuate between 25-28 campers and 2 staff

Safety & Supervision

1. What are the camp's safety protocols?
 - Our camp is very cautious about our safety protocols. All of our staff will go through an extensive safety and risk training to be prepared for any situation
 - We will always have a camp director or assistant onsite and available at all times
 - The school site is secure and constantly monitored – only certified personal allowed
2. Are staff members background-checked and trained in first aid/CPR?
 - All of our staff are either background-checked or have a valid work permit from the school district
 - All of our staff are first aid and CPR certified with infant-adult certifications
 - We also have our staff attend 16 hours of pre-summer training that goes over; safety and supervision, positive discipline and behavior management, water safety, inclusion and diversity, camp fun and a walk-through orientation of all procedures
3. What is the procedure in case of an emergency?

- Depending on the emergency our first step would be to secure the scene and get campers to the safest location
 - Once to a safe place, we will immediately begin notifying guardians by email and then by phone
 - If an evacuation is in order we will evacuate to the nearest evacuation center, Royal High School or Simi High School are the main two in Simi Valley, or to the Simi YMCA Family YMCA Branch 3200 Cochran Street
4. How do you handle allergies or medical conditions?
- In the registration process guardians are able to list camper allergies, we then prepare each group counselor with those campers and list of modifications needed
 - We also are a camp that supports all medical conditions – we just ask that guardians give us a detailed account of their camper’s action plan that we can follow
 - We are over joyed to accommodate any camper with all abilities
5. What is the policy on sunscreen application?
- We recommend all campers coming to camp with their first layer of sunscreen on
 - We ask that all campers come with their own spray sunscreen, CLEARLY LABELED with their name
 - Spray sunscreen will help staff be able to assist campers best
 - All guardians are prompted with a screen waiver that gives the staff permission to help apply sunscreen and if a camper does not have some, the Y will provide some

Activities & Programs

1. What kind of activities will my child participate in?
- Campers will participate in rotations a day
 - The rotations switch between counselor led explanatory that will focus on the weekly theme, camp favorites – camp craft, game arena and field games, water play and also our specialty classes led by our instructors
 - Past specialty classes have consisted of art, cooking, science, dance, yoga, sports, and more
 - Specialty classes are dependent on who the instructors are and what their specialties are
2. Are there field trips? If so, where and how often?
- Yes, for our base camp each group will go to the Simi Valley Family YMCA by bus to swim in the pool
 - All campers will have a park day
 - We also have a travel camp for 3rd -6th graders, where they will go on field trip three to four days a week
3. Is swimming included? If so, what are the supervision and safety measures?
- Yes, each group will get a chance to swim
 - Each camper will have the option to take the swim test
 - The swim test is to swim across the pool one time and tread water for 30 seconds
 - We are looking for the campers to have stamina to swim for their whole 60 to 75-minute swim session without needing a flotation device
 - If a camper wants to wear a life jacket or puddle jumper we have them, they are coast guard approved and checked daily
 - If a camper does not pass their swim test, they will be required to wear a life jacket or puddle jumper and can retake the swim test the following week

- Swim test decisions are made by the lifeguard who has been trained in our safety requirements
4. Can my child choose their activities, or are they assigned?
 - All activities are assigned with a schedule for each campers' specific group
 5. Are there any educational or skill-building components?
 - Yes, all of our activities are created with the purpose of providing campers with new opportunities. Our goal is to be able to have a lot of options of high interest that campers can get experience trying.
 - Our directing team and specialists put a lot of thought into each activity and try to make them both fun and have a skill-building component

Meals & Snacks

1. Is lunch provided, or do campers need to bring their own?
 - Campers are required to bring their own ready to eat lunch to camp, please pack their lunch in a lunch box with ice packs
 - When campers arrive to camp they will place their lunches in their lunch wagons which will be brought inside one of our air-conditioned classrooms for the day
 - During lunch time, staff will retrieve campers' lunches which should have remained slightly cool
2. Are snacks included?
 - Please pack your camper a morning and afternoon snack
 - Its best to have them well labeled so the campers know when to eat each of their snacks and lunch
 - We will have assigned morning and afternoon snack rotations
3. How do you accommodate dietary restrictions or food allergies?
 - In the registration form, there is a section that talks about allergies which we follow closely
 - If there is a camper who is has any accommodations that need to be made we will make those as necessary
 - Our cooking class instructor will be creating food project options for each camper with any dietary restriction

Communication & Updates

1. How will I be updated about my child's day?
 - During check out, staff and directors will do our best to update as many families as we can
 - If a parent has questions they can email the camp directors and the director will do their best to respond as quickly as they can
2. Can I contact my child during camp hours if needed?
 - We pride ourselves on being technology free, of course if there is an emergency, our directors will be available by phone or email
 - We ask that guardians allow their campers to be fully present in the day of camp, if there is anything that needs to be shared, a director will reach out right away
 - We want the campers to have best and fullest camp experience, sometimes parent calls in the middle of the day distract the campers from getting a chance to experience camp to its fullest potential

3. What should I do if I have concerns or need to speak with a staff member?
 - If you have concerns about camp or a staff, you can reach out to the Site director or Program Director Valerie Ross by email or phone at vrross@sevymca.org or 805.583.5338 ext. 4005
4. Do you send photos or daily?
 - We are working on setting up a secured dropbox where we can share weekly photos take throughout camp

Behavior & Inclusion

1. What is your policy on bullying or behavioral issues?
 - We will always attempt a behavior intervention using positive discipline techniques, however we understand that some situations are more severe than others
 - We will always consult the guardians about escalated behavior challenges and will work with our staff to resolve them peacefully
 - The Y does not allow physical violence and or vulgar speech and will speak with families when needed
2. How do you handle conflicts between campers?
 - Most often we can assist campers in working out challenges with some staff guidance and parent support, however if campers would like to change groups we will do so as needed
3. Do you have accommodations for children with special needs?
 - Yes, we are working on incorporating more special needs training with our entire Y team and our trained directors will work with all staff to support any camper with any ability
 - All are welcome here!
4. What if my child has separation anxiety?
 - That happens, parents are an incredible force in a child's life and we fully understand that campers will miss parents on occasion
 - We train our staff in support techniques and also mild redirection, depending on the need of each camper
 - We are happy to work together with parents on the best approach for their child and will update parents during the morning if there are still any challenges

Packing & Preparation

1. What should my child bring to camp each day?
 - Campers should bring with them a reusable water bottle (we will have refill stations for campers to refill), packed lunch, morning and afternoon snack, spray sunscreen, a towel for sitting on grass, change of clothes on water play or swim days, hat, wear closed toed shoes and a positive attitude
 - I always recommend to have a bag to put wet swim clothes in as well as flip flops or water shoes for water play days
 - Another helpful reminder, limit the number of clothing pieces your child wears, we end up with a lot of lost and found each summer
 - Active clothes are the camper's preferred camp clothes, anything breathable, easy to dry and something that if it gets messy won't be too big of a deal (we do A LOT of things during the day)
2. Are there any items that are not allowed at camp?

- Please do not allow campers to bring any weapons or technology, we have plenty of activities at camp, they do not need to bring toys of any kind
 - The less they bring the less they lose
3. What is the policy on electronics and cell phones?
 - We are technology free – no phones, apple watches or tablets
 - If a camper has technology, they might be asked to put it away or it will be taken to the office for safe keeping and handed back to an adult at pick up
 4. Should I label my child's belongings?
 - YES! This is the most important thing as a camp guardian you can do. Label everything! EVERYTHING! 😊

Registration & Costs

1. How much does camp cost?
 - Camp is broken down to either 2-3 day or 4-5 day
 - We have a Y member discount of \$10 per week
 - 2-3 day is \$235
 - 4-5 days is \$\$285
 - Travel camp \$360
 - LIT Camp \$245
2. Is financial assistance available?
 - Yes, please check our website for Financial Assistance information
 - At the Y we want to strengthen our community and ensure no camper is denied because of the inability to pay
3. What is the refund or cancellation policy?
 - We require 2 weeks notice for all cancellations or changes
 - If you cancel your whole summer within 2 weeks, we will refund the deposit
 - Your deposit outside of that will be applied to your first session
4. Are there sibling discounts?
 - We do not offer sibling discounts, just our membership discount! Become a member today at www.sevymca.org

Transportation & Drop-Off/Pick-Up

1. What is the drop-off and pick-up times?
 - Guardians can drop off between 7am-9am and pick up between 4pm and 6pm
 - Anytime during 9am-4pm, campers will be in activities and guardians might have to wait or call us for drop-off or pick-up
2. What happens if I'm late for pick-up?
 - If a guardian is late after 6pm, we will call all authorized pick ups until we find someone to pick up the camper
 - If staff are required to staff after 6pm, we begin to charge late families \$1 per minute of being late
3. Can someone else pick up my child?
 - Yes, guardians can have other individuals pick-up campers
 - All authorized pick-up adults have to be over the age of 18
 - Guardians can go on their daxko account to update their authorized camper pick ups

- If you have a 1 time pick-up, you can call or text the camp phone or email your camp director