



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## A CHECKLIST FOR YOUR SUMMER CAMP SEARCH

This list is intended for use as a guide when considering summer camp programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ **What are the qualifications?** Is the program licensed and/or accredited? What experience do staff have in working with children, and what kind of training do they have to work in a camp setting?

\_\_\_\_\_ **When are the operating hours?** Is camp closed for holidays and what happens during inclement weather?

\_\_\_\_\_ **What are the costs?** What is the tuition and how often is it billed? Are there extra fees for early drop-offs or late pick-ups, or for meals? Do they offer financial assistance?

\_\_\_\_\_ **How will my child be supervised?** What are the ratios of staff to campers? Do they have a plan in place if a staff member calls out sick?

\_\_\_\_\_ **How will you keep my child safe?** Is the camp property secure? What are the procedures for drop-offs and pick-ups and how do the staff keep track of kids who are there? Also, are staff trained in CPR and other first-aid? Ask if they've undergone background checks and are trained in spotting and reporting signs of child abuse.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Does my child have opportunities to learn and grow?** What does a daily schedule look like? Do they provide opportunities for outdoor play? Are there day trips and is the cost included in the program? Also, does the program have a policy on technology use?

\_\_\_\_\_ **What are the accommodations?** If it's a sleepaway camp, what are the cabins like, and who will your child be staying with? Where are meals served, and where do other activities take place?

**How are my child's individual needs met?** As a family, it's important to identify what your child's unique needs are and discuss them with the camp director before making a decision. Also, how does the program handle allergies or other dietary restrictions?

**How are cultures and customs honored?** How does the program respect cultures and customs? Also, what is the primary language used by staff and are they able to communicate in other languages?

**How do I know how my child is doing?** How does the camp staff communicate with parents? Also, how do they contact family members in emergencies? Do they offer opportunities for parents to visit their children or join them in activities?

**What is the discipline procedure?** What happens if a child misbehaves? It's good to ask about the specific ways in which good behavior is encouraged and how bad behavior is punished.

**How does my child get to camp?** Some camps offer bus transportation so that children who live further away can still attend camp. Does the camp provide transportation to and from the camp site, and where are the drop-off and pick-up locations?

**How is homesickness handled?** How does the camp staff respond to a child who is having trouble adjusting to camp? Are campers in a sleepaway program able to communicate with family members?

**Do you have references?** Some summer camp programs will keep a list of testimonials or contact information for people who can provide feedback. It's always helpful to hear from other families who've had children in the program.

**For more information about summer camp programs, contact your local YMCA branch:**

**EAST ORANGE YMCA**

100 North Arlington Ave. East Orange, NJ 07017  
973-758-9039  
[metroymcas.org/eoy-summer-camp](http://metroymcas.org/eoy-summer-camp)

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN YMCA**

13 Jefferson Ave. Maplewood, NJ 07040  
973-758-9039  
[metroymcas.org/smycamp](http://metroymcas.org/smycamp)

**FAIRVIEW LAKE YMCA CAMPS**

1035 Fairview Lake Rd. Newton, NJ 07860  
973-383-9282  
[fairviewlakeymca.org](http://fairviewlakeymca.org)

**SUSSEX COUNTY YMCA**

15 Wits End Rd. Hardyston, NJ 07419  
973-758-9039  
[sussexymcacamp.org](http://sussexymcacamp.org)

**NEW MILFORD YMCA PROGRAM CENTER**

1092 Carnation Dr. New Milford, NJ 07464  
973-758-9039  
[metroymcas.org/nmy-summer-camp](http://metroymcas.org/nmy-summer-camp)

**WEST ESSEX YMCA**

321 South Livingston Ave. Livingston, NJ 07039  
973-758-9039  
[livingstonymcacamp.org](http://livingstonymcacamp.org)