



# YMCA CAMP MACLEAN

## 2026 PROGRAM SESSIONS



**SESSION 1**  
6/21-6/26

**SESSION 2**  
6/28-7/2

**SESSION 3**  
7/5-7/10

**SESSION 4**  
7/12-7/17

**SESSION 5**  
7/19-7/24

**SESSION 6**  
7/26-8/7

**SESSION 7**  
8/9-8/14



# THE SUMMER OF A LIFETIME STARTS HERE!

Since 1941, children and teens have spent their summers at YMCA Camp MacLean learning new skills, building lasting friendships, and having the summer of their lives in a safe and caring environment. We are committed to ensuring campers have the best camping experience possible. Through small-group living experiences and an active schedule, our goal is to provide campers the opportunity to learn self-esteem and life skills, all while having fun. Words alone can't fully capture the positive impact overnight summer camp experiences have on kids and teens!

Our staff are dedicated to working with youth, and each of our counselors is carefully selected based on their commitment to youth mentorship and positive development. Nearly three-quarters of our staff attended Camp MacLean when they were younger. They are passionate about camp and hope to provide the same quality experience they had as campers.

The emotional and physical wellbeing of our campers is the single most important thing we consider when it comes to our actions and decision making processes. We provide a staff-to-camper ratio of 1:5 and operate under strict policies and procedures. All staff are trained in health and safety procedures, including First Aid and CPR certifications. Certified Lifeguards are on duty during all waterfront activities and a registered nurse lives on site for the entire summer.

Our location and facilities are just 20 minutes northeast of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Nestled along the shores of Rockland Lake, camp is easily accessible yet a world unto its own. Here you will find a peaceful pine forest, 40-acre lake, and open fields. Among the scenery are 21 cabins, the William L. Rust Lodge, campfire areas, an outdoor chapel, and two multi-purpose lodges. Camp MacLean is accredited by the American Camp Association.

## A DAY AT CAMP\*\*

- > 7:15 a.m. Rise and Shine
- > 8 a.m. Breakfast
- > 8:50 a.m. Password\*
- > 9 a.m. Cabin Fun
- > 10 a.m. First Activity
- > 11 a.m. Second Activity
- > 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- > 1 p.m. Rest Time
- > 2:15 p.m. Waterfront Swim
- > 3:15 p.m. Third Activity
- > 4:15 p.m. Fourth Activity
- > 5:45 p.m. Supper
- > 7 p.m. Early Evening Program
- > 8 p.m. Late Evening Program
- > 9:15 p.m. Lights Out

\*We start each day with an inspirational thought of the day.

\*\*Teens' schedules may vary.

"My daughter attended Camp MacLean for the first time at 8 years old. Her first words upon pickup at the end of the week were "why didn't you sign me up for two weeks?!". She's since been back 3 more summers and loves it more with each visit."

# LEGACY CAMPING OPTIONS



## EXPLORER PROGRAM

AGES 7-12

FIVE-DAY, ONE-WEEK, OR TWO-WEEK SESSIONS ALL SUMMER

Our popular Explorer program is the classic camp option, providing campers the chance to gain new skills and create unforgettable memories! Children are placed in cabins by age and gender, with a counselor, junior counselor, and up to nine other campers.\* On a typical day, Explorers spend the day participating in activities such as archery, arts and crafts, team building, sports, and time in nature, with an hour swimming in Rockland Lake during camp's General Swim. Evenings are spent enjoying games, campfires, sing-alongs, campouts, or the Mt. MacLean Skyway.

Explorer campers tailor their camp experience by choosing various skills-based activities to participate in throughout the session. These activities give camp staff the opportunity to coach new skills such as independence, goal-setting, responsibility, and sportsmanship. We strive to help each camper reach his or her own potential.

- > Archery
- > Arts and crafts
- > Athletics
- > Drama
- > Discover nature
- > Group games
- > Kayaking
- > Mask, fin, snorkel
- > Sailing
- > Soccer
- > Swimming
- > Team building
- > Windsurfing

## PIONEER PROGRAM

AGES 13-16

FIVE-DAY, ONE-WEEK, OR TWO-WEEK SESSIONS ALL SUMMER

Our Pioneer Program provides our teen campers with a more challenging & age-appropriate camp experience as compared to our explorer program. Activities encourage self-esteem and strong peer relationships. Highlights include a camping trip to the Kettle Moraine State Forest, in which campers participate in hiking, exploring, and outdoor living skills. Pioneers signed up for our two-week Pioneer program also take part in a canoe trip on the Fox River.

Pioneers participate in a range of activities to gain team building skills such as the adventure course, Mt. MacLean Skyway, water sports on Camp MacLean's waterfront, and recreational games. Pioneers will attend a teen social where they'll get the chance to relax, have fun, and form a bond with their peers. It is highly recommended to enroll your Pioneer for the two-week session. By enrolling in the two-week session, campers develop stronger relationships, skills, and experiences beyond a one-week session. During these two weeks, your camper will have an opportunity to participate in either an overnight camping trip or an afternoon canoe outing.\*

\*Campers must pass our blue level swim test to participate in the canoe outing. Campers who are at different swim levels will be assigned to an alternate activity.

\*\*Camp MacLean reserves the right to lower cabin capacities in accordance with public health protocols

“Camp MacLean is a place where all kids are welcome, and kids can be outdoors and active in a safe & supportive environment. We love Camp MacLean!”



## SPECIALTY CAMPING OPTIONS

### HIGH ADVENTURE CAMP

AGES 12-16

AVAILABLE SESSIONS: #1, #2, #3, #4, AND #7

High Adventure Camp is designed specifically for teens ready to push themselves beyond their comfort zone. Through a combination of high ropes courses, team adventure programs, problem solving, camping, and recreation, teens will develop confidence and self-esteem while learning to build trust with their peers and counselors. The week-long experience challenges campers with 15+ unique activities including our forest ropes courses, climbing up Mt. MacLean Skyway, and both our zip lines. The highlight of our high adventure camp week is a trip to the Boundless Adventures high ropes course in Kenosha County.

All of our high ropes activities are operated under strict guidelines and include state-of-the-art safety systems. Our well trained staff provide an environment of “challenge by choice,” meaning your camper may choose how far and how much they would like to be challenged.

### AQUATICS CAMP

AGES 11-13

AVAILABLE SESSION #6: JULY 26 – AUGUST 7

Does your camper love the water? Our Aquatics Camp program provides all the fun and excitement Camp MacLean’s beautiful lakefront has to offer. Aquatics camp is a two-week program designed to immerse campers in a variety of water related skills and activities, while also developing character, confidence, and teamwork. Aquatics campers will share a cabin and have meals with others in the program. They will spend more than five hours each day enjoying our waterfront, while also having the chance to participate in traditional camp activities like archery, the Mt. MacLean Skyway, and a campout. Throughout this two-week experience, your camper will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of aquatic activities such as snorkeling, sailing, kayaking, windsurfing, canoeing, distance swimming, and more! Due to the advanced nature of these activities, your camper must pass the blue level swim test. The blue level swim test requires campers to demonstrate and be skilled in front crawl, breaststroke, elementary backstroke, sidestroke, and display endurance in the water.





“My son is 13 and was not happy that I was sending him to camp, and I regretted my decision to send him. But, when I picked him up from the bus after camp, he was so happy and chatting about all the fun he had, thank you Camp MacLean for giving my son the best time ever!”

## SPECIALTY CAMPING OPTIONS (CONTINUED)

### BACKPACKING I “ICE AGE TRAIL”

AGES 11-14, AVAILABLE  
SESSIONS: SESSION #4 (JULY 12-17)  
AND SESSION #5 (JULY 19-24)

Join us on a backpacking trip to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail running through the Kettle Moraine State Forest – North Unit! This program is designed for those who want to learn basic back-country camping skills. Campers will learn the basics of backpacking, trail camping, cooking, and outdoor living. Experienced staff will accompany the campers during this journey, providing an encouraging environment for campers to learn all the necessary techniques needed on the trip. The days are packed with adventure throughout the trail and end with peacefulness among the trees, wildlife, and night sky. Previous backpacking or camp experience is not required for this trip! The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is part of the U.S. National Park Service and is a real gem in our own backyard.

### LEADER IN TRAINING AND COUNSELOR IN TRAINING

We take great pride in our two-year youth program, designed for teens going into high school. Youth are invited to join the first year Leader in Training program. The following year, youth are invited back for the Counselor in Training program. These campers focus on developing leadership and life skills important for their success in their future education and employment opportunities. Many Camp MacLean counselors have graduated from our Leader in Training and Counselor in Training programs. Each one of these counselors will say it was one of their most impactful summers at camp. Camp MacLean camper experience is required for these programs. Please contact the Camp Office at 262-763-7742 for more information.

### HORSEBACK ELECTIVE

Enjoy the beauty of Wisconsin’s rolling hillside while gaining the love of horses on a trail ride. Campers ages 9 and up can enjoy this wonderful experience at the stables of Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, WI. Under the supervision of our staff, campers are transported to the ranch for a horseback riding experience.

Campers who select the horseback elective attend one trip per session with an extra fee of \$65 per session. This is not a horsemanship camp but rather a fun, general trail ride experience! This elective is not available for Teen Specialty Camps participants.



# YMCA CAMP MACLEAN

## 2026 SUMMER SESSION DATES

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<b>LEGACY CAMPING OPTIONS</b>							
<b>EXPLORER PROGRAM</b> 1 Week (7-12yrs) <b>PIONEER PROGRAM</b> 1 Week (13-16yrs)	\$1,060	\$830 (5 DAYS)	\$1,060	\$1,060	\$1,060		\$1,060
<b>EXPLORER PROGRAM</b> 2 Weeks (7-12yrs) <b>PIONEER PROGRAM</b> 2 Weeks (13-16yrs)						\$1,995	
<b>HORSEBACK RIDING ELECTIVE</b> (9-16yrs)	\$65		\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65

<b>TEEN SPECIALTY CAMPING OPTIONS</b>							
<b>AQUATICS CAMP</b> 2 Weeks (11-13yrs)						\$2,045	
<b>HIGH ADVENTURE CAMP</b> 1 Week (12-16yrs)	\$1,135	\$900 (5 DAYS)	\$1,135	\$1,135			\$1,135
<b>BACKPACKING I "ICE AGE TRAIL"</b> 1 Week (11-14yrs)				\$1,135	\$1,135		

## VISIT CAMP MACLEAN

### SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, April 19, 2026 | 1-5 p.m. CT

Join us to meet the staff, learn about summer programs, and enjoy fun camp activities and snacks. No RSVP is required.

Please call the Camp Office at 262-763-7742 if you have any questions!

### PERSONAL CAMP TOURS

We welcome you to visit camp for a tour. We are available Monday through Friday and reservations are required for these tours. Please contact the Camp Office at 262-763-7742 for more details.

### WEBINARS

In these webinars you will learn more about the YMCA Camp MacLean experience, hear our staff talk about the benefits of a resident camp experience, and have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. To register for a webinar [visit our website](#).

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION

To enroll your child, simply select the camp session on the registration form, fill it in, mail, or fax it with an administrative fee of \$160 (included in total camp fee) for each session selected. Online registration is available at [ymcachicago.org/maclean](http://ymcachicago.org/maclean).

## OUR PARENT GUIDE

Our [2026 Parent Guide](#) contains essential information to prepare you and your child for camp. The guide includes detailed information regarding our facilities, camp procedures, health & safety policies, packing lists, etc.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Camp is for all. Our goal is to ensure that no camper ever misses a camp experience due to financial limitations. Financial assistance is available, subject to program capacity and demonstrated need, without regard to gender, income, faith, ability, sexual orientation or cultural background. For more information, contact 262-763-7742.

## FOOD SERVICE

Nutritious meals are an important part of camp. Our food is always rated very highly by our campers. Our dedicated kitchen staff provides meals that are kid-friendly and offer a wide range of options. Menus are available upon request. All meals are included in the fee.

## TRANSPORTATION

Supervised chartered bus services are available at no extra charge. Please see the registration form for the bus schedule. Buses pick-up and drop-off in Chicago, Elmhurst, LaGrange, Naperville, and Palatine, IL.

## INCLUSION

Camp MacLean and the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago believe that everyone, regardless of gender, income, faith, ability, sexual orientation or cultural background, has the right to live life to its fullest and enjoy the Y's programs and facilities. Moreover, the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion inform every aspect of our Camp and Association—including staff hiring and training, strategic planning, program offerings, and more. We are committed to deepening our work in this area to ensure that every segment of society feels welcome and supported by the Y.

If you require a modification due to a differing ability to participate in any of our programs, please contact our Inclusion Team at the time of enrollment, and make sure to select the request on your enrollment paperwork so that a member of our Inclusion team can reach out to you. Keep in mind that **ALL ARE WELCOME**—we just want to be prepared and ensure we can accommodate needs.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT CAMP MACLEAN OR OUR PROGRAMS, PLEASE CONTACT US. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

YMCA Camp MacLean

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262-763-7742

[ymcacampmaclean.org](http://ymcacampmaclean.org)

