



# WINTER HOMESCHOOL WEEK 2026

JANUARY 31ST – FEBRUARY 6TH

\*Please note that outdoor activities may be unavailable due to weather. Any changes to the schedule will be posted on the door to the Welcome Center. Thank you!

## Saturday, January 31st

<b>4:00PM</b>	<b>Check-In - Your Cabin</b> We are so happy you're here! Your cabin key and program schedule have been dropped off at your cabin! Unpack, relax, and join us later tonight for a hot cocoa social!
<b>7:00-8:00PM</b>	<b>Hot Cocoa Social/ Winter Coloring Activity/ S'more Making - Welcome Center</b> Catch up with your camp friends (and meet some new ones) at the hot cocoa social! Plan out your week, solve a puzzle, color, play a game, make a s'more, and sip hot cocoa by the fire! To reduce waste, you're encouraged to bring your own mug!
<b>ALL WEEK!</b>	<b>NEW! Toy Donation Opportunity - Welcome Center</b> This week we are collecting toys for families in need. While packing for camp, pack an extra bag of old toys! Share the fun of a board game you no longer play, consolidate your Pokémon card collection, or have another child enjoy the doll that your child outgrew. Donations can be left in the designated bin in the Welcome Center. All donations go to the Salvation Army to support their mission!
<b>ALL WEEK!</b>	<b>NEW! Woodland Creature Scavenger Hunt - Nature Trail</b> Follow our nature trail to find all five woodland creatures; a bear, deer, fox, snowy owl, and coyote. These adorable displays (and great photo ops) will be hidden in various spots on the nature trail! Keep your eyes peeled; these animals are exceptional at camouflage!
<b>ALL WEEKEND DURING SUNLIGHT HOURS</b>	<b>Open Activities - Equipment in Winter Pavilion</b> Spend your free time choosing which activities to enjoy with your family. All equipment is located in the North Camp Pavilion across from the Welcome Center. <b>Please return all equipment to the pavilion when you are finished.</b> Open activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tubing</li><li>• Cross country skiing</li><li>• Snowshoeing</li><li>• Ice skating</li><li>• Broomball equipment</li></ul> <b>*Please consult the ice safety updates provided by camp. Thin ice should be avoided for your safety.</b>

## Sunday, February 1st

<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Paper Clay Making (Part One) – Welcome Center</b> Get elbows deep in creativity to start off the week! Join us in making paper clay with recycled materials. Examples will be in the Welcome Center to spark inspiration!
<b>1:00PM</b>	<b>Quidditch - Parking Lot</b> Whether you're a Harry Potter fan or not, you'll love this captivating game! Meet in the parking lot to go over rules, make teams, and play the magical game of Quidditch! Curious how the game is played? Watch the YouTube video <i>How to play Quidditch</i> by Tufts Quidditch University!
<b>3:00PM</b>	<b>Melting Snowman Craft – Welcome Center</b> Create a silly memento to remember your time at winter camp! All supplies are provided, so come get creative!
<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>Team Building Games – Welcome Center</b> Show your teamwork skills with several challenges that will test you and your team physically and mentally!

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**Monday, February 2nd**

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- 10:00AM**      **Cross Country Ski Trip - Winter Pavilion**  
Come learn the basics of cross-country skiing. Learn about ice safety at camp and take a nice stroll on our winter trails!
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- 12:00PM**      **Pinecone Animal Craft – Welcome Center**  
Let’s see how creative you can get with a simple pinecone! Using provided supplies, what animal will you make? Examples will be in the Welcome Center for inspiration!
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- 2:00PM**      **Snowman Building – Volleyball Court**  
Let’s see who can build the tallest, widest, and silliest snowman! Work as a team or on your own. Carrot noses will be provided!
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- 4:00PM**      **DIY Fire Starter Craft – Welcome Center**  
This is a super easy craft that will come in handy during this cold winter! Combine recycled materials to make a fire starter/ fire feeder, and use it for your next campfire!
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- 7:00PM**      **Movie Night – Welcome Center**  
Wear your favorite pajamas and help yourself to popcorn and s’mores! We will have a movie voting sheet on the Welcome Center door upon your arrival for you to vote on a movie to watch!

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**Tuesday, February 3rd**

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- 10:00AM**      **Snowshoe Hike - Meet at Winter Pavilion**  
Come take a snowshoe hike on the winter trail! This will be about a 2-mile hike and a great way to get some exercise!
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- 1:00PM**      **Broomball – Ice Rink**  
Try some friendly competition with a broomball game! Like hockey, but with a ball instead of a puck, and broom paddles instead of hockey sticks! Team up and hit the ice, just make sure to warm up with some hot cocoa after! **Please do not wear ice skates during broomball.**
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- 3:00PM**      **Winter Science Exploration – Welcome Center**  
Come learn about interesting science that happens all around you during the winter! We have 5 experiments to try, you won't want to miss them!
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- 7:00PM**      **Game Night and S’more Making - Welcome Center**  
Come sit by the fire, make a s’more, and play games! We have charades, card games, and spoons! If you have a game you’d like to share, please bring it to game night!

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**Wednesday, February 4th**

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- 10:00AM**      **Paper Clay Making (Part Two) – Welcome Center**  
Now that your homemade paper is dry, take it to the next level! We have paint, pom poms, pipe cleaners, and googly eyes to decorate your creation!
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- 12:00PM**      **Snow Soccer – Volleyball Court**  
Join us for a colder version of soccer! Set up teams and defend your goal, because you’ll be playing to win the first table to eat at potluck!
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- 2:00PM**      **Ice Fishing – Meet at Little Sugarbush Lake**  
Come try your hand at ice fishing! We have brand new equipment that’s begging to be used!
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- 6:00PM**      **Potluck - Welcome Center**  
Share your favorite winter recipe with fellow campers! Prepare a dinner and dessert plate to feed about 6-8 people. We will have a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center to coordinate dishes. Paper will be provided to list your ingredients/ recipe in case another camper wants to make it! Please bring your own plates, utensils, and most importantly- appetite!
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**Thursday, February 5th**

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**10:00-10:30AM Family Photo Opportunity! - Welcome Center**

If you didn't take a photo, it didn't happen! Capture this week with a family/ group photo. Find us in the Welcome Center and we will take a photo wherever you'd like!

**12:00PM Winter Triathlon – Meet in Welcome Center**

Find a team of three (or try to ironman) and bundle up for a winter triathlon! There will be a snowshoe, running, and tubing leg! Ready, set, SNOW!

**2:00PM Time Capsule Letters – Welcome Center**

Create a fun way to look back on yourself! With a time capsule letter you can document your life, set a date to open the letter, and test your patience! Templates will be available for your convenience!

**3:00PM Group Tubing - Meet at Winter Pavilion to help bring tubes over**

Join us for an afternoon tubing session! Smile for the picture- we will take some action shots on your way down the hill!

**6:00PM Nawakwa's Got Talent – Welcome Center**

Show off your talent to a live audience! Prepare a song, skit, poem, or joke to share with your fellow campers!

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**Friday, February 6th**

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**10:00AM Check-Out—Welcome Center**

This week was a blast! Please review cabin check out procedures listed in your cabin to ensure nothing gets left behind! Please leave your keys and packets in your cabin upon your departure.

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**We want to see how you spent your week! Send your photos to  
gpaul@ymcachicago.org or ecwood@ymcachicago.org.**

**Or tag us on social media @ymcafamilycampnawakwa!**

**Thank you for choosing YMCA Family Camp Nawakwa. Please drive safe and hurry  
back here!**