Welcome Parents and Campers!

Thank you for choosing Camp Sage for your child’s summer camp experience! We know you have a lot of choices, and we are glad that you chose the YMCA. We are looking forward to a safe and fun summer. Here at Camp Sage, we are dedicated to helping your camper have the best summer that they can.

The mission of the YMCA is to develop strong children, families and communities across Metropolitan Chicago through academic readiness, character development, violence prevention, fitness and healthy living.

**Academic Readiness**
- Early childhood education
- Out-of-school time
- Summer camps
- College and career readiness programs

**Character Development**
- Mentoring
- Peace Circles
- Youth sports
- Diversity training
- Out-of-school time
- College and career readiness

**Violence Prevention**
- Healing children exposed to violence
- Preventing future cycles of trauma
- Enhancing family relationships
- Lower violent behaviors
- Nurturing peaceful leaders
- Positive outlook and hope for the future

**Fitness & Healthy Living**
- Youth sports
- Water safety
- Nutrition
- Obesity prevention
- Fitness classes
- Active play
- Aerobic and strength training

The Camp Sage Parent Handbook is a resource for policies and procedures for summer day camp. We encourage you to take the time to read through this with your camper. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us!

See you this summer!

Nikki Laster
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Basic Information

Staff Goals
As day camp staff, our goals are:

1. To help each camper reach their fullest potential in social growth, physical well-being and mental development.
2. To support and strengthen children and families through a safe, caring and fun environment.
3. To act as role models by maintaining a positive attitude and to teach leadership through the use of the Character Development program.
4. To have a fun and memorable day camp experience.

Traditional and Discovery Preschool Camp Session Dates and Themes
Activities run from 9AM to 4PM. Extended care hours run from 6:30-9AM and 4-6PM.

Registration

Registration opens for Members on February 3, 2020 and Non Members on February 17, 2020

You may register for additional sessions at any time during the summer season. Additional session registration will be based on availability. Please visit the Sage YMCA front desk to register.

Please make sure to review and sign the payment agreement on the back of the registration form.

Please make sure to fill out the participant emergency information packet in its entirety. Please double check that all signatures and initials are complete.

Please review the refund and cancellation policy which begins on page 5 of this handbook.
# 2020 Payment Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Camp Dates 2020</th>
<th>Traditional Payment Due</th>
<th>Discovery Payment Due</th>
<th>Draft Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>June 1 – June 5</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 27</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 26</td>
<td>May 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>June 8 – June 12</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 3</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 2</td>
<td>June 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>June 15 – June 19</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 10</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 9</td>
<td>June 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>June 22 – June 26</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 17</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 16</td>
<td>June 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>June 29 – July 3</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 24</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 23</td>
<td>June 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>July 6 – July 10</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 1</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 30</td>
<td>July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>July 13 – July 17</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 8</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 7</td>
<td>July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>July 20 – July 24</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 15</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 14</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>July 27 – July 31</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 22</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 21</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>August 3 – August 7</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 29</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 28</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>August 10 – August 14</td>
<td>Wednesday, August 5</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 4</td>
<td>August 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your child will not be allowed to participate in camp if payment is not received BEFORE the session begins. If you attempt to drop off your camper without paying your current bill, you will be asked to visit the front desk to make your payment. If you are unable to do so, your camper will not be allowed to attend camp until the payment is made.

Payments may be made in person at the Sage YMCA Front Desk or over the phone for your convenience at 815.459.4455.

Please make sure to include your camper’s name on the check with each payment. In person payments can be made by check, money order, cash or charge to a Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. A $30 NSF fee will be applied to all returned checks and drafts. This fee and weekly payment must be paid before the child may attend camp.

Payments may also be made by automatic bank draft. A draft agreement must me signed prior to registering.

**Registering Parent is responsible for all payments.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your Camp Sage bill, please contact our front desk at 815.459.4455.
YMCA Membership
In order to receive member rates on day camp, you must hold a valid membership from the date of registration through September 1, 2020. If you do not intend to keep your membership beyond that date, a membership cancellation form must be filled out and turned in to the Sage YMCA front desk at least 5 business days prior to your membership draft date. *We cannot refund any membership costs due to failure to turn the cancellation form in.*

Financial Assistance
Financial assistance is available to pay for camp through Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C). If you qualify, 4-C assistance can be applied to all eleven (11) weeks of camp.

Applications for financial assistance and instructions for completing the application may be picked up at the Sage YMCA Front Desk. You may also contact them directly at 800-848-8727 or 815-758-8149. You must submit all forms to 4-C directly 30 days prior to attending camp. You do not need to be a member of the Sage YMCA to receive assistance from 4-C.

If you do not qualify to receive funds through 4-C, you may apply for a scholarship through the Sage YMCA. The Sage YMCA has scholarships available through our Annual Fund which was generated through donations and gifts from staff, members, and the community. Sage YMCA scholarships are reserved for Sage YMCA members only. These scholarships cannot be applied to any Specialty Camps. Assistance is based on annual income, family size and supporting documentation.

A $30 deposit per week is required to hold your child’s spot in camp, even if you have applied for DHS or Financial Assistant. This deposit will be applied to your co-pay.

Refund and Cancellation Policy
All refund requests must be made in writing and addressed to the Billing and Collections Coordinator. It is the parents’ responsibility to inform the YMCA in writing of their child’s withdrawal from camp sessions. *If the YMCA is not informed of termination, the parent is still responsible for payment.* After a voluntary termination by the parent, the ability to enroll again during the same camp session will be based on availability. Refunds are not given for campers dismissed for disciplinary reasons.

Camp Sage fees will not be prorated for days that are periodically missed through a session/week. A refund will be given if a camper has missed three (3) or more days due to illness. A doctor’s note is required for a medical refund.

Weekly camp fee is due, in full, no later than Wednesday prior to the first day of registered camp week. A $15 late fee will be applied to your account starting on Thursday.

- Camp Deposit is non-refundable but transferable within same membership unit, up to 14-days prior to the start of your registered camp week.
- Within 14-day of the start of registered camp week, Camp Deposit becomes non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Refunds requested prior to 14-day of the start of registered camp week, total camp fee will be refunded less the deposit.
• Refunds requested within 14-day of the start of registered camp week, total camp fee will be refunded less the deposit and 20% administrative fee.
• No refunds will be given after 3 p.m. on the Friday prior to the start of registered camp week.
• All refund requests must be in writing and received prior to this deadline.
• Refunds required due to 3rd party approval will be processed two weeks after Child Care Assistance Program approval letter arrival in center.
The refund/payment policies stated above are strictly enforced to allow completion of camp preparations ranging from staff hiring, camper groupings, supply purchasing, and informational mailings. Your understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**Federal Child Care ID**
The federal tax ID number for the Sage YMCA is 36-2179782.

**Inclusion**
The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago invites persons with disabilities to enjoy Y programs and facilities. If you require a modification due to a disability to enjoy any of our programs, please select “yes” to the request option on the registration materials. A member of our Inclusion Team will then contact you. Any questions that you may have can be sent to inclusion@ymcachicago.org.

**Staff-to-Camper Ratios**
To ensure the safety of both campers and staff, Camp Sage follows strict staffing requirements. Camp Sage ratios are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in Years</th>
<th>Ratio (# of Staff: # of Campers)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>1:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>1:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-14</td>
<td>1:10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff members will never be alone with a single child or group of children where he or she cannot be observed by others. When supervising a group of mixed-age children, the ratio must correspond to the age of the youngest child. For example, if a four-year-old and a six-year-old are in a group together, a 1:6 ratio will be followed.

**Absences and Camper Health**
If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, he or she may NOT attend camp that day:
• Body temperature over 100.4-degrees
• Diarrhea
• Vomiting
• Rash
• Nasal discharge
• Discharge from the eyes or ears

All contagious conditions must be immediately reported to the Camp Director. Campers who have been diagnosed with a contagious disease may not return to camp without a doctor’s written permission. Contagious diseases include, but are not limited to:
• Strep throat
• Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
• Head lice
- Pinworms
- Measles
- Mumps
- Chicken pox
- Any other condition categorized as contagious

If a camper becomes ill while at camp, parents will be notified via telephone by a staff member. Campers too ill to participate in camp activities will remain in the camp office until a parent can pick them up from camp. All incidents requiring first aid will be recorded and then verbally reported to parents at pick-up.

If your camper is going to be absent from camp, please contact the Sage YMCA front desk at 815.459.4455 to report the absence. If a camper is absent from camp and this absence is not reported, a staff member may contact you regarding the status of your child.

**Medication Distribution**
- Please list all medications taken by your camper on the Health History form. If medication is to be distributed while at camp, a *Permission to Dispense Medication* form must be completed before the YMCA will take possession of the medication.
- All medication must be in the original container with a label designating the following: camper’s name, type of medication, dosage and frequency to be given. Additional bottles for medication are available from your pharmacist. If there is a change in dosage or additional medications are added, you must complete a new form.
- Medication must be delivered to the camp staff by the parent/guardian. Medication will not be accepted if delivered by the camper. Medication will be returned on the last day of camp or at the end of the distribution cycle.
- All medication will be placed in secure storage and distributed and documented only by the Camp Health Officer(s). Inhalers and Epi-Pens are an exception to this rule due to the nature of their purpose. All inhalers and Epi-Pens will be kept in the first aid kit assigned to your child’s camp group for quick access, unless indicated otherwise by a physician. If a physician authorizes your child to carry his or her inhaler or Epi-Pen, we suggest purchasing a fanny pack so your camper can store his or her medication around the waist. Please remember to include any allergies your child has on their emergency information packet. An additional *Severe Allergy and Anaphylaxis Plan* form must also be filled out.

**Medical Emergencies**
In the event of a medical emergency, your camper will receive emergency first aid treatment by staff until Emergency Medical Services arrive to continue treatment. In the event that your child needs to be transported for hospitalization, he/she will be taken, via ambulance, to the nearest medical facility for treatment. A staff member will accompany your child in the ambulance to the hospital, until you are able to arrive.

**Insurance**
The Sage YMCA does not carry individual camper medical insurance. Medical insurance is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Proof of insurance or medical coverage must be provided on your child’s emergency information packet.

**Communication**
Communication is the key to making our camp run effectively. We are available by phone or email for the duration of the camp day. We will inform parents of any special activities via weekly newsletters or notes home. In addition, we will have a Facebook page for Sage YMCA Day Camp parents, as well as an account on Remind.com. The sign-up information for Remind.com is at the end of this handbook. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the camp staff.

Inclement Weather
Camp Sage operates rain or shine. We have indoor programs designed to keep your camper engaged in the case of inclement weather. In the case of severe weather we will follow our emergency weather action plan and escort all campers to the appropriate locations. These locations are all within the YMCA building. We will remain in the building until the National Weather Service has indicated on the weather radio that the danger has passed. Regular programming will resume at the discretion of the camp director.

Sign-In/Sign-Out Procedures
There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to the sign-in or sign-out procedures. These procedures are for the safety of your child. Please keep the YMCA informed of any changes.

1. All campers must be signed in and out by their parents or other authorized adult.
2. Valid identification must be shown daily at pick-up. There are no exceptions.
3. Children of any age can only be signed in or out by legal guardian or persons 18 and older that are authorized on the enrollment form.
4. Children registered in the Teen Leader program can be signed in and out by our staff after 4:00PM if there is a written consent form prior to the first day of camp.
5. If the need arises for someone else to drop off or pick up your child (other than the individuals on your authorized drop-off/pick-up form), you will need to notify the camp director in writing with a signed note.
6. If a child is not properly signed in, parents will be contacted and the child will not be allowed to participate until the situation is corrected. If a child is not properly signed out, they will be reported to the police as lost or missing, and the parents will be notified.
7. In divorce or separation cases, it is the responsibility of the enrolling parent to complete and/or update all the enrollment forms. If the situation arises where there are parental visitation restrictions, the YMCA requires that official copies of the divorce decree or court order are on file at the YMCA.
8. The sign in/out area is located in the circular drive west of the Sage YMCA building. We ask that parents and guardians remain in their vehicle, as drop off/pick up is drive-thru style.

Late Drop-Off and Early Pick-Up
Sometimes it may be necessary to drop off your camper after the start of camp or pick them up before camp officially ends. If you need to drop off late (after 9:00AM), please notify the camp staff in advance, so that they may expect your arrival. During the late drop off, please bring your child to the front desk. The front desk staff will contact the camp staff to bring your child to their camp group. Similarly, if you need to pick your child up early (before 4:00PM), please send a note or call in advance, so that we can have your camper ready upon your arrival. Please do not enter the camp area without first reporting to the front desk to alert camp staff.
Late Pick-Ups
Camp ends at 6:00PM. Any pick-ups beyond this time will result in a late pick up fee of $15 for the first 15 minutes, and $1 per minute after 6:15pm. We do understand that there are emergencies, but chronic late pick-ups will not be allowed.

Traditional Camp/Discovery Preschool Camp Friday Field Trips and Transportation
Field trips will be taken on Friday of each week. Campers need a sack lunch and a drink with containers that can be thrown away. All campers need to wear their camp t-shirt on field trip days. Parents will be made aware if campers may bring money on field trip days for snacks, souvenirs or extra activities. Field trips are subject to change due to weather and other unforeseeable circumstances. Refunds and/or session changes are not given based on field trip changes. Campers must be at camp by 9AM on field trip days in order to attend the trip. The campers will return no later than 4PM unless otherwise specified in writing by the camp director.

Field trips that are not within walking distance of the Sage YMCA will require transportation via bus. Children who are transported for field trips and special events must follow the written rules for their safety and the safety of all involved. The written rules can be found on the next page.

Bus Rules
1. All passengers must wear a securely fastened seat belt if available.
2. Children must be seated and facing forward at all times.
3. No food or drinks are to be consumed on the bus/van.
4. Children must keep their hands and feet to themselves and inside the bus at all times.
5. Destruction of seats or any other property on the bus is not allowed.
6. No yelling, screaming, or distracting the bus driver.
7. No throwing objects inside the bus, or out of the bus windows.
8. Staff will be dispersed throughout the bus for maximum supervision.

Swimming
Traditional Campers and Discovery Preschool Campers swim daily. Every member of the Sage YMCA day camp staff goes through basic water safety training. Experienced and certified lifeguards are always present during campers’ open swim and on water park field trips. Campers must go through a deep water test before entering the deep end of the pool. The ratio of guards to campers is 1:25.

Camper Behavior Expectations

Character Development
Campers will take part in daily activities that demonstrate, reflect and encourage the YMCA’s four core values:

- **Caring:** We treat each other with true care and concern, and encourage others to follow our example.
- **Honesty:** We are honest in our words and actions. We teach others to do the same.
• **Respect:** We respect our camp environment by creating a place that is safe, fun, friendly and hard-working. We respect those around us by using positive words and positive actions.

• **Responsibility:** We take responsibility for ourselves, our words and our actions.

**Behavior Expectations and Consequences**

At Camp Sage, staff and campers interact as a team to promote the development of self-esteem, creativity and fun. Because of the outdoor setting and types of activities offered, children are expected to behave in a manner that maintains positive camper-to-staff and camper-to-camper relationships. Behavior that will not be tolerated includes: swearing, fighting, hitting, kicking, biting, being disrespectful to anyone, possession or knives or weapons, and/or destruction of Sage YMCA equipment or personal property.

Consequences for infractions of these expectations are outlined in the *Character Pledge* at the end of this handbook.

Coordinators and Unit Leaders are encouraged to discuss behavior issues with parents early to be proactive and keep severe consequences to a minimum.

**Bullying**

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt them. It happens when one person or group wants to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through electronic means such as email, text messaging, and social media sites. This is known as cyber bullying. At the Sage YMCA, any type of bullying is inexcusable and will not be tolerated. Each camper is expected to treat all other campers with respect to help achieve the best possible experience for all. If a camper is found to be bullying, parents will be called upon to assist in addressing the issue. The YMCA addresses all incidents of bullying very seriously and trains staff to promote communication about bullying with their staff and campers.

**Appropriate and Inappropriate Actions**

The YMCA prohibits employees from engaging in unacceptable behaviors with children. Please help the staff and your child stay safe by discussing the following appropriate actions that are allowed while at camp:

- Side hugs or A-frame hugs
- Shaking hands
- High fives
- Appropriate hand signs and other greetings
- Appropriate conversations/language

Please help encourage your camper to refrain from the following actions while at camp:

- Frontal hugs
- Kissing
- Holding hands with staff and other campers (age appropriate hand holding is allowed)
- Roughhousing with or climbing on staff or other campers
- Swearing—obscene, profane, or vulgar language that is written, oral, or expressed by hand gestures will not be tolerated.
Any violation of these policies will result in the camper being sent home early or possible suspension.

**Vandalism**
Campers involved in vandalism or malicious mischief either against camp property or against another camper or staff member will be disciplined accordingly. Payment to repair any damage accrued as a result of the vandalism is the responsibility of the camper’s parent or guardian. Violation of any of these policies may result in the camper being suspended from the Sage YMCA Day Camp program.

Please understand that the safety of our campers is our first priority. We follow the below written violation system when addressing serious negative camper behavior and safety concerns:

- First written violation: warning
- Second written violation: requires a parent conference
- Third written violation: termination from the camp program

**What to Bring to Camp**

**Please label all items sent to camp with your camper’s full name.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bring</th>
<th>Leave at Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bag or backpack</td>
<td>Electronic equipment, MP3 players, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimsuit and Towel</td>
<td>Sporting equipment, games or toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonperishable lunch with a drink</td>
<td>Water guns or toy guns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonperishable snack for afternoon</td>
<td>Pets or wild animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunglasses/Hat</td>
<td>Inappropriate behavior, language or clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light jacket or sweatshirt, if weather requires</td>
<td>Trading cards of any kind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poncho or raincoat, if weather requires</td>
<td>Knives (pocket, Swiss Army, etc.)/other weapons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bug repellent (no aerosol cans)</td>
<td>Cell phone, digital cameras, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunscreen (minimum of SPF 30 is recommended)</td>
<td>Money (except on field trip days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refillable water bottle</td>
<td>Alcohol/Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values, Morals, Good Listening Ears, Smiles</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discovery Preschool Camp** will need the following additional items for camp daily:

- Small blanket, pillow, stuffed animal to rest with (to stay at the Y all week)
- Complete change of clothes including socks and underwear.

As a DCFS licensed program, lunch and snack will be provided to our Discovery Preschool Camp!

Any uninvited items brought to camp will be confiscated for the day and returned ONLY to the child’s parent. The Sage YMCA is strict on this policy to ensure the protection of your property.

Campers who are found to have brought any weapon or item to camp that is designed to cause bodily harm, or that is deemed to be potentially harmful, will first have it confiscated, and then the parents or guardians will be contacted. Bringing such items to camp will result in campers being suspended. The confiscated item will only be returned to the parent or guardian.
Lunch, Snack, and Water
Refrigeration is not available. Please pack your campers lunch/snack in a soft-sided, insulated lunch bag. It is also recommended that you pack a small ice pack to help keep food chilled if necessary. Please label your camper’s lunch bag with his or her full name. Please do not send glass bottles or containers to camp.

Campers who forget their lunches will be provided a lunch if parents are unable to be reached, or are unable to drop off a lunch. Parents will be charged a $5.00 fee per child if a lunch is provided by the YMCA. This fee must be paid at the front desk by drop-off the next morning.

Each camper is required to bring a water bottle to camp every day. Please label your camper’s water bottle with his or her full name. Camp Sage staff will encourage campers to drink water frequently. Please stress to your child the importance of drinking water in order to stay hydrated.

As a DCFS licensed program, lunch and snack will be provided to our Discovery Preschool Camp!

What to Wear to Camp
- **Closed-toe shoes are required.** No “Heely’s” or wheeled shoes, please. No flip flops.
- All clothing should be appropriate for the camp environment. Bare midriffs, shirts advertising drugs or alcohol, or clothing containing vulgar or offensive language will not be allowed. If these types of items are worn to camp, the parent will be called to bring a change of clothing for the camper.
- Please pack your camper’s swimsuit separately; it is not necessary or recommended to wear it underneath clothing or in replacement of clothing.
- All 5 day campers at the YMCA will receive a t-shirt during the first session that they attend. **The camp t-shirt must be worn on field trip days.**

Cell Phone Policy
Cell phones may not be brought to camp by campers, regardless of their age. There are several areas within the YMCA in which cell phones or other recording/picture taking devices are not permitted. Please monitor your children’s phones to assure appropriate conduct between campers is observed inside and outside of camp time. If you need to contact your camper for any reason, you may call the front desk at 815.459.4455 and ask to speak to a member of the camp staff.

Sunscreen and Bug Repellent Policy
The YMCA does not provide sunscreen or bug repellent. Each camper should be sent to camp with his or her own bottle of sunscreen and bug repellent. Please label these bottles with your camper’s full name. We recommend sending your camper with a spray/no-rub sunscreen for ease of application.

Sunscreen and bug spray should be applied before your child arrives at camp. Please remember to cover all exposed skin, including ears, shoulders, and hard to reach places such as their back and the backs of their knees and legs, when necessary.

Staff will apply sunscreen or bug repellent to only the youngest campers who are not able to apply it themselves. This form will be included in your camp registration packet. Staff will supervise and ensure that older campers apply sunscreen. Staff will call for a reapplication of sunscreen as
frequently as needed if campers are remaining outside, and also after swimming. Documentation of daily sunscreen applications will be kept. In accordance with the policy RISK 001 – Prevention of Child Abuse, sunscreen application will always occur in groups, in an open, observable area, with at least two staff present. In order for staff to apply sunscreen to a camper, parents/guardians must sign an Authorization for Sunscreen Form.

Lost and Found
In the case that your child does lose something, there will be a lost and found area. Sweatshirts/jackets, sunscreen/bug spray and water bottles are the most frequently misplaced items. Once again, please label all of your child’s clothing and other belongings! The YMCA is not responsible for lost or stolen items. The lost and found will be cleaned out every week, and unclaimed items will be donated.
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago Youth Programs Character Pledge

This form may be used for youth 5–15 who may draw or write their perception of the situation. This form must be filled out with the assistance and supervision of a YMCA staff person. A separate piece of paper may be attached to this form to answer questions. The staff may write what the child explains to them. This can be used to lead discussions in groups or individually with children.

Purpose: To help you explain the situation that happened and to set actions in place to make sure it will not happen again.

Directions: Fill out this form completely before turning it in to a YMCA staff person in your program.

Your Name: ___________________________          Date:___________

1. What happened?

2. How did the situation make you feel?

3. How do you think this situation makes others feel?

4. Circle the value(s) you did not show:
   Caring          Respect           Responsibility           Honesty

5. Give 2 examples of what you could have done instead.

6. What should be the consequence(s)?

7. How can we make sure this will not happen again?

8. Why is it important to follow rules/learning standards?

Child’s Signature: _______________   Staff Signature: _______________
If this pledge is broken or if there is a conflict/interaction that involves strong feelings or serious negative behaviors, the following steps will be taken.

Step 1: YMCA staff will talk with campers in order to acknowledge feelings, gather information and create a plan to repair any harm that has been caused. This will be documented in the behavior log and shared with parents. (first written violation)

Step 2: If negative behavior persists or the plan to repair harm is not followed, parents will be asked to come to the program as a partner to discuss the issues and work toward a solution together with their child and YMCA staff. A written plan will be created and signed by parent, youth and staff. (second written violation)

Step 3: YMCA staff will monitor behavior closely and provide regular feedback to the camper and his or her parents.

Step 4: If the problem persists or camper does not follow the plan created and agreed upon, the parent may be contacted immediately to pick up their child from camp. The following morning, parents, staff and child will meet to discuss any additional supports that the child might need to be successful in the program. Child will take a break from the program. (third written violation)

Step 5: If the prior interventions are not successful AND youth behavior is impacting the physical or emotional safety of themselves, staff, or other campers an alternative placement will be discussed and the child may be dismissed from the program for the remainder of session.

*We reserve the right to dismiss your child from the program immediately in extreme circumstances where physical, emotional or other harm is occurring or may occur to themselves, other children, staff or members.

I have read and understand the expectations in the character contract to ensure a safe summer for all!

Camper Signature:___________________________________________

Parent Signature:____________________________________________
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If you’re having trouble with 81010, try texting @sagecamp20 to (773) 366-8587.

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