



**CAMP
GRADY
SPRUCE**



OUTDOOR EDUCATION PARENT HANDBOOK

The YMCA Camp Grady Spruce Mission is to deliver exceptional outdoor programs that inspire, build, and strengthen relationships with God, His creation and each other.

Hello, Parents!

We are so excited to have you join us at YMCA Camp Grady Spruce for our Outdoor Education program! This handbook will address everything you need to know before your child's school visit. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Cassandra at cmarlatt@ymcadallas.org.

YMCA Camp Grady Spruce

RESPECT CARING RESPONSIBILITY HONESTY

YMCA Camp Grady Spruce is located about 90 miles west of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in Graford, TX on Possum Kingdom Lake.



What is Outdoor Education?

Our camp program is more than a field trip. Designed as an extension to the classroom experience, we have developed hands-on curriculum that follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for the students' grade level in all disciplines; science, math, language arts and social studies. In addition, students form stronger relationships with each other and adults, gain self confidence and connect with nature.

Who supervises the students?

Each school sends teachers of the students, whose role is to oversee the entire program. The school also selects parents to chaperone students. Chaperones are responsible for supervising students during programs during the day and in cabins at night. One or two chaperones are assigned to each cabin. YMCA staff teach classes and facilitate the overall program. YMCA staff members are carefully selected, have background checks and are trained in all areas of camp operation.



What is the role of a cabin leader?

Cabin leaders are expected to provide leadership and supervision for the students in their cabin. Specifically, they are expected to:

- Know where every child assigned to their cabin is at all times.
- Provide a safe and healthy living environment in the cabin.
- Make sure the children get to meals, activities and duties on time.
- Supervise the children during cabin times, hopper duties, and free-time activities.
- Sit at a dining hall table with children and supervise meals.
- Help to remind children to follow rules when in large groups.
- Assist teachers during activities.
- You must always be with students when they are near the water.



What about food allergies, or diet concerns?

The food service staff can plan the menu around many needs. If your child has any dietary concerns, please give us a call and we will be happy to help! Should someone need to bring along special foods, they can be stored in our kitchen. The camp menu is planned with variety in mind, there is a breakfast and salad bar, several side dishes and an entree each meal. Soy butter and jelly is available (in a separate area of the dining hall) as an additional choice, as well.

Where do students sleep?

Our cabins are heated, air conditioned and serve as storm shelters. Restrooms and showers are located in the cabins. Cabins have bunk beds and electrical outlets.

What about medication and health care?

The safety of your child and everyone at camp is our top priority. School personnel are responsible for medication oversight and student health care. All YMCA staff members have first aid, AED and CPR training. Emergency services are located nearby.



What about extreme weather?

Safety is our first concern. Thunderstorms and lightning will result in alternate programming (for which camp is prepared). In light rain, cold and sun, scheduled programs continue. The "Bring Along" list includes: a water bottle, sun block, a hat and rain gear. Emergency procedures are posted inside each cabin.

Will there be opportunities for recreation?

The program is designed to be both educational and fun and to keep students occupied and interacting all the time. Many short breaks are planned throughout the program. Recreation equipment such as playground balls and basketballs are provided.

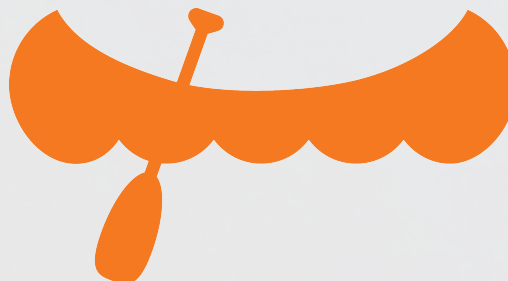


Safety Rules

- No child is allowed near the lake or on the docks without adult supervision.
- Swimming is allowed only in the swimming area and only with a YMCA lifeguard during a scheduled activity time.
- No wading unless wearing a PFD (life jacket) during a supervised activity.
- The cabin leaders must know where all of their children are at all times.
- No rough games in the cabins.
- No throwing stones.
- No one is allowed in the horse corral.
- Row boating and canoeing are allowed only with a YMCA lifeguard during a scheduled activity time.
- No running.

Consideration Rules

- Participants are not to enter cabins that are not their own.
- Respect each other's privacy.
- Lights Out at 10:00PM.
- Please respect all living things; do not disturb or collect any plants or animals.



Policies

- Outdoor Education rates are set by the YMCA Camp Grady Spruce Board of Managers. Rates for Outdoor Education include lodging, meals and program services. These rates are applicable during the school calendar year and on weekdays only. Rates do not include transportation to and from YMCA Camp Grady Spruce and school. Rates are subject to change.
- No firearms, fireworks, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are allowed on the premises.
- No pets or animals of any kinds are allowed at Camp. Anyone bringing them will be asked to leave.
- Motor homes, mobile homes, camping trailers, tent camping, motorcycles, mini-bikes and hunting are not permitted at Camp.
- No disturbing or collecting of any living things from the natural environment. Dead things may be collected for special projects and any material not used must be returned to the environment.
- Fires may be built only in designated fireplaces. Please obtain permission from camp staff first.
- Do not remove road posts. Drive only on designated roads.
- Please leave your cabin cleaner than when you found it. Notify the director if any of the equipment or facilities need repair.
- Smoking is not allowed inside any buildings or in front of the children. (Designated smoking area is within the dumpster fence behind the dining halls).



SEE YOU SOON!

