



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

2026 Resident Camp Parent and Camper Handbook

Hello Resident Camp Families!

There is no place like Camp Jorn – a home away from home where kids laugh, learn, explore, and grow in the outdoors, while creating memories and friendships that last a lifetime. We are honored to have your trust in providing a safe and supportive environment for your child. Our mission is building character, confidence, and community through enriching outdoor experiences.

At Camp Jorn, caring and professional role models are committed to helping your child build confidence and character. Our Resident Camp program offers exciting and challenging activities that spark creativity, embrace adventure, connect with nature, promote independence and build new skills.

Resident Campers get the unique experience of being part of a cabin community where they will live, learn and grow together. The bonds formed through cabin life, evening reflections and wilderness tripping have a depth like no other. Our trained staff members teach campers to love who they are, work as a team and grow beyond their comfort zones.

Parents look to Camp Jorn YMCA as a safe and secure place where children can learn practical social skills and develop positive values. To ensure the well-being of each child, we review our health and safety policies on an ongoing basis. Our staff-to-child ratio also allows our staff to give each camper the attention and guidance necessary to create a positive and safe environment.

This handbook will help both families and campers prepare for your experience at Camp Jorn. Please read through this handbook as your camp resource guide.

We are beyond excited to share the joy of Camp Jorn with your family this summer. Please do not hesitate to send an email or call our camp office if you have any unanswered questions. See you soon for another life-changing summer!

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Our Mission

Building character, confidence, and community through enriching outdoor experiences.

Camp Jorn YMCA Goals & Objectives

The goal of our summer camp experience is for campers to experience personal growth through engaging in challenging activities, while experiencing a sense of supportive community. This experience is rooted in our core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and personal growth. At Camp Jorn, you will develop growth in our core values, build new and lasting friendships, develop skills in our activity areas, and grow socially within our camp community.

Camp Jorn YMCA's goals, objectives & indicators are:

1. Campers will develop personal growth and higher sense of self while engaging in challenging activities that promote positive risk taking, independence, and opportunity for success
 - a. Campers select own activities for elective times
 - b. Each camper will participate in at least two activities during the week that will personally challenge the camper – such as a chosen class, hiking, outdoor living skills, backpacking, canoeing, or other activity.
 - c. Campers will learn one new skill while at camp while being given the resources & tools to become successful.
2. Campers will learn to make & maintain positive relationships with their peers and friends while building a sense of community
 - a. Each camper will live in a group with other campers either in cabins, platform tents, or yurts. Within these groups, campers will be part of a community-making decisions and keeping the area clean.
 - b. Each camper will participate in a democratic decision-making process in his or her cabin through cabin activity choices.
 - c. Each camper will have the opportunity to create life lasting friendships and positive relationships with others through group living.
3. Campers will learn the YMCA core values to help them become positive well-rounded individuals
 - a. Honesty: Campers will be taught the value of honesty while at camp, to speak and act with sincerity, truthfulness, fairness, and integrity.
 - b. Respect: Campers will be taught the meaning of respect, to show consideration for self, others and the environment
 - c. Caring: Campers will be shown how to care for themselves and others, to provide compassion and understanding and to recognize the goodness in others
 - d. Responsibility: Campers will experience responsibility for themselves, their actions, their belongs, and camp property. They will be taught to do what is right, to be accountable for your behavior and obligations, to persevere to completion

- e. Personal Growth: Campers will learn to develop in the four personal competencies – compassion, contribution, commitment, and character – in order to discover and to be our best selves

We advance our personal growth goals by providing progression opportunities for all campers based on child growth and development stages. Campers have the opportunity to pick 3 elective classes that interest them based on their age. Within each elective there are stages of progression for campers to build up their skills to mastery level.

Camper Eligibility

Camp Jorn strives to create programming to be enjoyed by as many children as possible. In everything we do, health and safety are our top priorities. As such we need to recognize the limitations of our facility, programs and staff.

All campers must meet the minimum age requirement for their program and must be able to do the following at a developmentally appropriate level for their age:

- Communicate needs and concerns with others at a conversational level of English
- Understand and comply with directions given by staff
- Refrain from unsafe/harmful behaviors towards themselves and others, including self-harm
- Identify and avoid safety risks
- Feel comfortable living in a rustic environment (no air conditioning, presence of insects/animals, etc.)
- Able to maneuver rough terrain and distances
- Manage the sensory stimulation of a frequently large, loud, and energetic group environment (especially during dining hall mealtime)
- Assume responsibility of personal hygiene, including the ability to use the bathroom, shower, and change clothes independently
- Demonstrate age-appropriate social and emotional skills in managing personal boundaries, relationships, communication, stress, and conflict.
- Ability to participate safely and respectfully within a typical group size of 6-10 peers within the camper to staff ratios listed below:
 - Overnight Campers Ages 8-16, 8:1
 - Leadership Campers Ages 13-17, 10:1

Important Health & Safety Note:

If your child has any conditions requiring special care — such as **anaphylaxis, severe asthma, seizures, Type 1 diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, motor disorders, ADHD, autism, cognitive disorders, or other exceptional health conditions** — please contact our Operations Director, Lauren Heger at Lauren@campjornymca.org or our CEO, Katy Bost, at Katy@campjornymca.org as soon as possible to discuss. This will allow us to review your camper's health history and treatment to determine if Camp Jorn can safely meet their needs.

Forms & Deadlines

All forms are due by May 18. Most are completed in your online account; some may be downloaded and uploaded. Please let us know if you have any questions or problems with the online forms or your Camp InTouch account. You can call the office at 715-543-8808 or email jenn@campjornymca.org for additional assistance.

Required items include:

☐ **HEALTH HISTORY & IMMUNIZATION RECORD**

(Parents/guardians must complete and sign the Health History & Immunization form for campers under 18. All campers and staff must meet Wisconsin school vaccine requirements. Exemptions may be allowed for medical, religious, or personal reasons, but may be restricted during outbreaks. Fax immunization record to 608-901-0593)

☐ **RESIDENT CAMP LETTER TO THE COUNSELOR**

(share camper's needs, challenges, and camper's own thoughts.)

☐ **AUTHORIZED GROWN-UPS**

(who can pick up at bus/camp; valid photo ID; no release under age 18 or under the influence)

☐ **TRANSPORTATION FORM**

(choose arrival/departure method (car or bus); bus spots limited.)

☐ **FRONT/BACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE CARD**

(for clinic/hospital billing; campers without insurance must have a waiver on file)

☐ **CAMPER PHOTO**

(for identification/emergency use)

☐ **ANTI BULLYING & BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT**

(The camper and parent/guardian must sign Camp Jorn Anti-Bullying and Behavior agreement prior to attending a session. Please go over the details of this agreement carefully with your camper.)

Payment Information

Please note that you will choose payment preference at the time of registration

Deposit: \$150 non-refundable per week due at registration. (Please note that If you choose to pay your deposit by check; your spot will not be reserved until your payment is received.)

Final balance: Due June 5th

Credit Card (auto-charge): Default Card on file will automatically be charged the balance due on **June 5th**. To help support Camp Jorn as a nonprofit, a small 3% fee is added to credit card payments.

Installment Plan by Credit Card (auto charge) Automatic charges on 1/29, 2/27, 3/27, 4/30, with the final payment on **June 5**. To help support Camp Jorn as a nonprofit, a small 3% fee is added to credit card payments.

Check/Other: By selecting this payment method, you are responsible for submitting your payment in full by **June 5**. Please note, campers will not be able to attend until the balance has been paid in full.

- Please make checks payable to Camp Jorn YMCA. (There is a \$25 fee for all returned checks.)
- Or mail payments to: Camp Jorn YMCA 13591 Zenner Lane Manitowish Waters, WI 54545 Attn: Camp Registrar

Refunds/Cancellation Policy

We understand that things change in your life. Any changes that need to be made to your camp schedule need to be made in writing to our camp office. We will try to accommodate these changes based on availability.

- The \$150 deposit is non-refundable.
- The balance is refundable if cancelled at least 4 weeks before your camper's session start date, exceptions may be made for medical reasons
- In the event of cancellation due to misconduct or homesickness, Camp Jorn YMCA will retain 100% of the session fee.

Scholarships & Fundraising Opportunities

At Camp Jorn, we believe every child should have the opportunity to experience camp. Scholarships and fundraising options are available to support families of all sizes and income levels.

Scholarships

Typical Awards: Campers typically receive between 10-50% off their camp fees.

How to Apply:

1. Complete the online camper application
2. Submit a Scholarship Application with a \$50 refundable deposit per camper.
 - The deposit is charged to the default card on file after submission.
 - It is applied toward the camper balance and is refundable if canceled at least 2 weeks before the session.

Scholarships are made possible thanks to the generosity of donors, alumni, community members, and volunteers.

Fundraising Opportunities

Camp Jorn offers optional fundraising opportunities to help offset camper costs:

- Partner programs with Meadow Farms, Flower Power, and other vendors allow families to earn funds toward their camper balance.
- Participation is optional, and all proceeds go directly toward your child's camp experience.

Camper Arrival/Departure by Car

Opening Day (Arrival by Car):

- Campers may arrive between 1:30–2:30 PM on the first day of the session. Please do not arrive before 1:30 PM, as staff will still be preparing for camper arrivals.
- Lunch should be eaten prior to arrival, as dinner will not be served until 5:30 PM.
- If you are unable to arrive during the scheduled check-in window, please contact the camp office to arrange an alternate time. If your camper does not arrive as scheduled, we will call to confirm attendance.
- Upon arrival, families will be greeted by staff and guided through the check-in process.
- All medications must be in their **original container** with a **current prescription label**. Place medications in a **zip-top bag labeled with your camper's full name** and turn them in at check-in.

Closing Day (Departure by Car):

- Campers may be picked up between 9:30–10:30 AM.
- Check-out will take place with camp staff at the dining hall.
- Please be prepared to show a photo ID and sign out your camper.
- Complete the Authorized Adults form in your CampInTouch account to indicate who is permitted to pick up your camper. Campers will not be released to underage or unverified adults.
- If you need to pick up your child early, please contact the camp office at 715-434-8808 or email jenn@campjornymca.org in advance to make arrangements.
- Medications: Don't forget to collect your camper's medications at checkout.

Camper Arrival/Departure by Bus

Bus Information

Bus service is available from 3 locations between Illinois and Wisconsin. Please use the transportation form during the registration process to select the best location for you and your family. There is a fee of \$110 one way per camper. Campers will be supervised by camp staff during their travel to and from camp.

****Please note that no refunds will be given for cancellation of scheduled bus transport fees. Buses have been reserved based on the currently registered campers.**

Opening Day (Arrival by Bus):

Arrival by Bus

- **Lunch & Water:** Pack a lunch and a full water bottle for your camper's trip to camp. Camp Jorn YMCA is a peanut/tree nut aware facility, so please avoid sending peanuts or tree nuts, including on the bus.
- **Medications:** All medications must be in their **original container** with a **current prescription label**. Place medications in a **zip-top bag labeled with your camper's full name** and turn in any medications to the staff member or volunteer at your bus stop. For campers with asthma or who require an EpiPen, send one prescribed inhaler or EpiPen on the bus and turn in an extra inhaler or EpiPen at check-in.
- **Electronics:** **No electronics of any kind are allowed on the bus or at camp.** Any devices found will be held in the office until the end of the session. Camp Jorn YMCA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

Bus Check-In

- All Camp Jorn YMCA staff will wear a staff shirt for easy identification.
- Campers will load their luggage onto the bus. Clearly label all luggage with first and last names. Do not pack medications in luggage.
- Once luggage is loaded, campers may be checked in and board the bus.
- A PG-rated movie may be shown during the trip.

Closing Day (Departure by Bus):

- All campers must be signed out by an authorized adult at the bus drop-off location. Authorized adults must be listed in writing prior to check-out day. Complete the Authorized Adults form in your CampInTouch account to indicate who is permitted to pick up your camper. Campers will not be released to underage or unverified adults.
- Campers returning by bus will be provided lunch by Camp Jorn YMCA. Check the bus schedule for departure and arrival times.
- A cell phone number must be provided on the release waiver for the adult responsible for transporting the camper to/from the bus location.

Bus Locations & Schedule To Camp

Bus Stop Location	Check-In	Departure	Arrival at Camp
Gurnee, IL: Warren Township High School, 500 North O'Plaine Rd.	7:30 AM	8:00 AM	2:30 PM
Kenosha, WI: Kenosha YMCA, 7101 53rd St.	8:30 AM	8:45 AM	2:30 PM
DeForest, WI: DeForest Park & Ride, 5012 Elephant Trail	10:30 AM	10:45 AM	2:30 PM

Bus Locations & Schedule From Camp

Bus Stop Location	Departure	Arrival at Camp
Gurnee, IL: Warren Township High School, 500 North O'Plaine Rd.	9:30 AM	4:00 PM
Kenosha, WI: Kenosha YMCA, 7101 53rd St.	9:30 AM	3:15 PM
DeForest, WI: DeForest Park & Ride, 5012 Elephant Trail	9:30 AM	1:15 PM

Luggage Tips

- Use a large duffel or soft-sided bag; no trunks.
- Ensure luggage fits under the bunk (16" high) and is clearly labeled.
- Pack one small backpack with lunch, water, and snacks for the day.
- Do not pack medications in luggage; turn them in at check-in.
- Leave new, expensive, or irreplaceable items at home.

****All personal gear is brought at your own risk. Camp Jörn YMCA is not responsible for lost or broken items. Please do not send them with new, expensive items or items that are irreplaceable!**

Expectations for Bus Service

Staff Expectations:

- Buses will always have staff on board to supervise campers. Supervisors go through orientation during staff training regarding bus transportation and assisting parents and campers at stops.
- Bus staff will assist campers during the bus ride (getting seated, roll call, playing a movie, answer questions, help with lunches, etc.) Let your camper know staff is there to help!

Parent Expectations:

- Parents are responsible for supervising their camper until fully checked onto the bus.
- Bring a **photo ID** for smooth check-out

Camper Expectations:

While riding the bus campers are advised of the following safety policy. Please share with your camper:

1. Have fun on the bus while staying safe
2. Always listen closely to staff/driver instructions
3. Stay seated unless using the bathroom
4. Always respect the driver
5. Respect those around you
6. Take care of your own garbage
7. Think of the great times you're going to have/just had at camp!!

Camp Life

At Camp Jorn YMCA we create a safe space for acceptance and participation for everyone regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religious affiliation, immigration status, ability, or national origin. We believe that all kids deserve a camp experience and will make every reasonable effort to meet the individual needs of all our campers.

Cabin Groups & Housing:

Campers are assigned to cabin groups of 8-10 campers with two staff members serving as their counselors. Campers are grouped by age, gender identity, and the program they are registered for. In the case of non-binary gender identity, families will be asked to select a cabin gender in which their camper will feel most comfortable for that session. We have a variety of lodging used by our campers that includes cabins, yurts, and platform tents. Camper groups are assigned to them based on program, session length, and age of campers. All campers have their own bunk and storage area to call their own while at camp.

Cabin Mate Request

Making new friends is an essential goal of the camp experience and cabin assignments are carefully put together to create a positive camping environment for all. You may request one cabin mate for your camper through your registration form. The request must be mutual from both families, and campers must be within 1 year of age/grade and have the same or compatible gender identity. No requests are guaranteed. Please submit your request in writing at time of registration. Campers must be in the same program and session to be housed together.

Bathrooms & Showers

Our “KYBO” is a modern bathroom facility with bathrooms and showers for campers to use. Many cabins for our younger campers, have bathrooms with showers located inside the cabin. Some housing requires an outdoor walk to the nearest location—remember to pack a flashlight. We will let campers know the nearest bathroom and shower locations once you are at camp. All showers and bathroom stalls have doors or curtains. It is a good idea to pack a shower caddy that is carried from the cabin to the bathhouse/showers, as well as shower shoes.

Bedwetting

If your camper periodically experiences bedwetting, please tell us about it in the Letter to the Counselor so we can discuss it with the bunk counselors ahead of time. We can accommodate children that wet the bed on occasion. Your child should provide their own pull-ups, and they can change into that at night however they are comfortable. Some children keep them in their suitcases and change into them in the bathroom when brushing their teeth. Other children can keep their pull-ups in the health lodge and change into their pull-ups in their private bathroom. We often urge children to wake up a staff member and a buddy in case of a late- night bathroom visit. If they have an accident, our staff follow a specific protocol for the child’s privacy and wash their bedding in the health lodge. You can assure your camper that their counselors will be supportive, understanding and kind around these situations, and it is something we deal with all the time! There’s nothing to be embarrassed about — the more open you are with your counselor, the more they can help in getting clean sheets & clothes, or anything else you need.

Meals

Campers eat most of their meals in our dining hall family style as a cabin group. Cabin groups take turns being “hoppers” where they help set up and clean up the tables. Our menu is nutritionally balanced and designed to appeal to most appetites. Along with entrees, we have a full oatmeal/cereal and fruit bar for every breakfast and a full salad bar for lunch and dinner. If your camper has specific dietary needs (dairy free, gluten free, food allergies, etc.) while at camp, please make sure this information is included in your campers health history form.

Swimming

All campers will be asked to take part in our swim evaluation on their first afternoon at camp. Campers come down to the waterfront area with their cabin group and are asked to jump in the lake, swim 2-4 lengths and tread water. If campers know that is unattainable for them, they are

asked to jump in the shallow section and blow bubbles. Our staff is very well trained to help children who are uncomfortable or afraid in the water, and we have excess lifeguards on duty for evaluations. We will not force anyone to take the swim evaluation.

Campers are designated as non-swimmer, beginner, intermediate, or advanced swimmers, and are restricted to how deep they may swim based on that level. We have a shallow swim section where most campers can touch, and life-jackets available at the swim docks, so all levels can enjoy the water.

Trading Post

During their time at camp, your camper will be able to visit the Trading Post, our camp store. Trading post has many items such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, **snacks, ice cream bars, drinks**, water bottles, stickers, hats, mugs, flashlights, and more. Please note that a set limit is made on how many snacks can be purchased daily. A store deposit of \$40-\$60 is recommended for every week your camper is here. Refunds are issued to campers with \$10.00 or more remaining in their account and are made in the fall. Please let your camper know how much you have put in their account and discuss with your camper how to "make it last" for the whole week. You can log into your camp in touch account and add funds throughout their stay at camp if you would like.

There is no need for campers to bring cash to camp.

Add funds via **Camp InTouch account → View Camp Store → Fund Account** If you have more than one camper and enter the same amount in each account within a few minutes you may get a "declined" transaction because your credit card company thinks it is a duplicate transaction. Try entering a different amount for example, if you entered \$20 on Julia's enter \$20.50 in on Sara's!

Activities

When campers arrive at Camp Jorn, they will have the chance to sign up individually for the class activities they will participate in during the week. Here they will develop new skills and make new friends outside of their cabin. Most campers will rotate through 3 class activities each morning. Campers enrolled in a specialty class or camp will take part in that activity during this scheduled time. Below is a list of potential choices for your camper, but our staff members also develop new classes throughout the summer based on campers' interests.

The program staff make strong efforts to place campers in their top choices for classes. Please encourage your camper to be open to trying new things in case one or two of their top choices are not available.

Please note that some activities are restricted based on swimming ability and age.

Activities include but are not limited to:

- Swimming
- Archery & Hatchet Throwing
- Crafts
- Canoeing/Kayaking

- Sailing
- Nature & Ecology
- Drama & Dance
- Sports & Field Games
- Fishing
- Biking
- Air riflery/slingshots
- Waterskiing (Requires registration prior to attending CJ)

Cabin groups collectively decide which activities they do in the afternoons at camp.

Each night, all camper groups gather in the amphitheater for our evening campfire where we sing songs, share performances, and play an all-camp game or activity. Next, campers retreat to their cabins and counselors lead campers to reflect on their day, their week, and their lives through discussion about our core values like caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and personal growth.

Overnight Campouts and Trips

All campers will participate in a tent-camping experience with their cabin group. During overnight and trip programs, campers sleep outdoors in tents for one or more nights. Camper safety is always our priority: trips are planned carefully, safety precautions are followed consistently, and all groups are led by well-trained trip leaders. The type, duration, and destination of each trip are determined by the cabin group's age, ability, and the weather forecast.

- Youngest campers typically stay at on-property sites such as Club CJ and Fox Island.
- Older campers may canoe to nearby DNR sites for their overnight experience.
- Two-week campers often embark on a 2–3 day trip on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes

Leadership programs (TEVA, LIT, CIT) participate in extended trips ranging from 3 to 6 nights, with trip length increasing by program level. These groups may travel several hours from camp to backpack or canoe in locations such as the Turtle Flambeau Flowage, Porcupine Mountains, Namekagon River, Northern Highland Forest, Manitowish River, Superior Hiking Trail, and other regional destinations.

Trips offer exceptional educational and developmental value. They help campers build confidence, connect with nature, overcome challenges, and strengthen group cooperation—growth that few other experiences can match.

Parent Communication, Mail & More

Mail: Letters & Packages

We love it when campers receive mail! If you would like to send letters or packages to your camper, you are encouraged to do so. A few guidelines help make this a positive experience for everyone:

- **Sharing Treats:** If you send treats, please include enough for the entire cabin (typically 10 campers and 2 counselors). Campers enjoy sharing with their cabin mates!
- **Nut-Free:** Do not send products containing nuts. Camp Jörn is a peanut/tree-nut aware facility.
- **Limit Packages:** Care packages are a great way to send activities and games the cabin can do together (card games, board games, books, stickers, tattoos, puzzles, etc.). To avoid overwhelming campers, please send no more than one package per camper per week.
- **Letters from Campers:** Encourage your child to write home by including a self-addressed, stamped envelope in their luggage.
- **Mail Early:** Mail delivery to the Northwoods can be very slow. Please send packages and letters at least one week in advance to ensure timely delivery.
- ~~**Before They Go:** Discuss with your camper how much or little they would like to communicate while at camp. Help them stamp and address envelopes if they plan to write home.~~

Tips for Writing Letters to Campers:

- Be positive and encouraging.
- Ask specific questions about their experience, such as:
 - "What's your favorite activity?"
 - "Tell me about your counselor."
 - "What's your favorite camp meal?"
- Focus on what your camper is doing at camp, not how much you miss them—knowing you are proud of their experience helps alleviate homesickness.
- Include a picture or share something you learned while your camper is away.
- Campers do not have access to phones or computers, so encourage journaling or writing letters while at camp.
- Mail arriving after your camper leaves will not be forwarded or returned. There is no mail delivery on weekends or closing day.

Mailing Address:

CAMP JORN YMCA

ATTN: [Camper's Name & Session]

13591 Zenner Lane

Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

Email: CampStamps

CampStamps are credits that allow you to send a **one-way email** to your camper using your CampInTouch account.

Important Notes:

- CampStamps must be purchased through CampInTouch. Fees are paid directly to CampInTouch, not Camp Jorn.
- Traditional letters are always an option for just the cost of postage.
- Contact CampMinder for support: **303-444-2267**.

How to Send a CampStamp Email:

1. Log into your **CampInTouch** account.
2. Register a credit card in the **"Credit Card for Email & Photos"** section.
 - Note: If your card is already on file for tuition, it does not automatically apply to this section. Re-enter info if needed.
3. Scroll to "Your Account – Camp Stamps". If your balance is 0, click Buy More.
4. Purchase CampStamps in packages of 10, 15, 20, or 30.
 - 1 CampStamp = 1 email.
 - Unused stamps carry over between seasons and can be shared.
5. Go to the Email section, type your message, and submit.
 - Each camper requires a separate email.
 - Messages submitted after 10:00 AM will be delivered the next day.
 - Messages are printed and folded; sealed letters should be sent via regular mail.
6. This is a one-way system—campers cannot respond to your e-letters.
7. Note: CampStamps are non-refundable, but unused stamps are available for future use.

Phone Calls

In this time of instant communication, we know it is difficult as a parent to not be in touch directly with your camper while they are here with us. We know that the camp experience is enhanced when children can unplug from their devices and truly enjoy every moment of their time here and not experience the "FOMO" or fear of missing out syndrome. For this reason, cell phones are not allowed at Camp Jorn YMCA for our campers. Please do not tell your camper they will be able to call you while they are here. Promises like this can increase and worsen feelings of homesickness and cause problems for your camper. If a problem arises here at camp, we will be sure to phone you right away.

Visitors at Camp

Family visits to Camp Jorn **during the off-season** are always appreciated; however, visits are not permitted during your camper's session. To arrange a tour before your camper's session begins, please contact our registrar, Jenn Davis, at 715-543-8808 or jenn@campjornymca.org.

Photos

Access to camp photos is free at campjornymca.smugmug.com for all galleries. Please note that galleries are password protected. You will receive the password for the 2026 season in an email approximately one week prior to each registered session.

Our waiver on our camper application states, "By checking YES in this box I give my permission to Camp Jorn YMCA to use, without limitation or obligation, photographs, film footage, or tape recordings that may include my child's image(s) or voice(s) for purposes of promoting or interpreting YMCA programs." If you're not OK with the previous statement, please send us a written note that states otherwise at jenn@campjornymca.org

Please note that we do our best to take pictures of all children while they are at camp. Here are a couple of FAQ's regarding pictures.

- "My child isn't smiling. Are they having a good time?" Well, most people aren't smiling 24/7! If you're truly concerned, give us a call, and we'll be sure to check in with their counselors to give you a quick update on your camper.
- "I don't see a photo of my camper!!!" During our busy camp days, we strive to capture as many moments as possible, but we cannot capture everything. Some campers also are fantastic at spotting our camp photographer and hiding. If you do not see a photo of your child after day three and have concerns please email us at: jenn@campjornymca.org to check in on your camper.

Lost & Found

Lost and found items will be displayed on picnic tables in front of the Program Center. When you check your camper out, please feel free to check here for any items lost. All lost and found items not claimed within 5 days from the session's ending will be donated to a local charity. You will be charged for the return shipping for lost and found return requests unless you can arrange a local pick-up. To help avoid unclaimed items, please mark your camper's belongings with their first and last names. If items found are labeled, we will not typically contact families directly to claim – you are responsible for contacting us if you would like the item returned.

Health & Safety

Health Care at Camp

We have volunteer nurses and doctors at Camp Jorn-during all camp sessions and several staff with advanced Wilderness First Aid are on site all summer. They oversee our healthcare operations on camp including general care and medications. Our goal is to keep your camper healthy so they can experience all camp has to offer. If your camper becomes ill or injured, our health care staff will evaluate and treat your child within our treatment procedures. Our health care team will contact a parent if your camper experiences any of the following:

- Remains in the health center for 6 hours or longer or overnight
- Needs to be evaluated by a physician, dentist, or outside health professional

- Is going to the emergency room (Campers will always be escorted by Camp Jorn staff even when transported by ambulance)
- Obtains an injury to the head, back, eye, mouth, or cut that may leave a scar
- Has a temperature greater than 100 (degrees Fahrenheit)

Please note, If your child has any conditions requiring special care — such as anaphylaxis, severe asthma, seizures, Type 1 diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, motor disorders, ADHD, autism, cognitive disorders, or other exceptional health conditions — please contact our Operations Director, Lauren Heger at Lauren@campjornymca.org or our CEO, Katy Bost, at Katy@campjornymca.org as soon as possible to discuss. This will allow us to review your camper's health history and treatment to determine if Camp Jorn can safely meet their needs.

Medications

1. Prescriptions: Only those prescription medications prescribed by a physician will be administered. All medications must be in the original pharmacy container.
2. The correct name, date, and instructions must be on the bottle. Expired medications will not be accepted.
3. We will NOT administer medication that is improperly labeled or not prescribed by a physician.
4. We have over-the-counter medications which will be provided to campers and staff as needed under our procedures for health care provided by our consulting physician.
5. Only send over-the-counter (OTC) medications with your camper if they take them regularly. OTC meds will only be administered per package instructions and the medication must be FDA approved.
6. All medications will be turned in at check-in and will remain in the nurses in our health center and will be administered by one of our wonderful camp nurses.
7. If your camper has medication make sure to ask for it at check out! Medications will only be released to individuals listed on the Authorized Grown Ups Form.
8. All medications should be listed on your online health history form

Insurance

Health and accident insurance coverage for each camper is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. You will be billed by the medical facility or camp for any medical/prescription charges incurred on your camper's behalf for reimbursement to camp. We require a copy of your health insurance card to accompany the health history form. If your camper does not have health insurance please contact the camp office to fill out a waiver.

EpiPens

If your child requires an epi pen, please provide two non-expired epi pens- one for your child to carry with them and one for the nurse to keep in the health center.

Inhalers

If your child requires an inhaler, please provide two non-expired inhalers- one for your child to carry with them and one for the nurse to keep in the health center.

Homesickness

Homesickness is a perfectly normal and understandable feeling for campers to have while they are at camp. It is a normal reaction for any of us to feel as a result of being separated from our normal comforts of home and family. Homesickness varies in intensity for all of our campers and even our staff. Many campers feel the symptoms of homesickness for the first day or two of being here at resident camp. For most these feelings subside with only a few campers experiencing prolonged, more intense feelings of missing home.

Homesickness usually presents itself as sadness, crying, and mild anxiety about being away from family members. Our staff are well trained to help your camper through homesickness and quickly recognize the symptoms and implement strategies to alleviate these negative feelings. Campers may express their homesickness to you in a letter early in the session as they transition to their new experience. This is nothing to be overly concerned about. If we continue to notice your camper struggling through homesickness, we will call immediately to have you assist us in resolving the issue for your camper.

The last element of homesickness is your own response as a parent to your camper coming to camp. We know you will miss them as much as they will be missing you. It's important to recognize your own feelings and ensure you do not pass on your own anxieties to your camper when they come to camp. For example, instead of saying, "I'm going to miss you so much" say, "I can't wait for you to get home and tell me all the awesome things you do at camp this week."

Camper Behavior & Discipline

Behavior Management Policy

The safety and well-being of all campers is our top priority. Camp Jorn is designed to provide fun, meaningful, and safe summer experiences for every child. To make this possible, all campers are expected to work together and practice our camp motto: **"I AM THIRD."**

Our staff guide campers through normal behavior challenges using supportive and positive techniques, including:

- Redirecting campers
- Rewarding positive behavior
- Encouraging campers to talk about their feelings
- Allowing time for personal reflection after misbehavior
- Role modeling positive ways to speak and interact with others

Behavior management at Camp Jorn focuses on the action, not the camper's personality, and will always be handled in a timely, respectful manner. No physical punishment, humiliation, scare tactics, or controlling measures are used by our staff.

If a camper's behavior continues to be disruptive despite these strategies, the Operations Director or CEO will contact parents ~~and determine if the camper can continue at camp~~. Our staff aim to develop a cooperative plan to help the camper succeed. However, if behavior continues to be disruptive, it may be determined that the camper and the program are not a good fit ~~at this time~~.

Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Not listening to staff
- Running away from activities
- Hitting or physical aggression
- Inappropriate language or conversations
- Bringing prohibited items to camp
- Not following safety rules at activity areas

Behavior Management Steps

If inappropriate or disruptive behavior continues, Camp Jorn staff will follow these steps:

First Phone Call

Behavior: Repeated unacceptable or serious behavior

Action: Counselor notifies the Operations Director who then contacts the parent/guardian. Parents are informed that further behavior may result in dismissal.

Second Phone Call

Behavior: Continued unacceptable behavior

Action: Camper is dismissed from the camp program

Immediate Dismissal

Camp Jorn staff reserve the right to send a camper home immediately in cases of chronic, extreme, or illegal behavior.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying of any kind is not tolerated at Camp Jorn. Any bullying behavior may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Every camper has the right to enjoy the best possible camp experience, and we encourage:

- Campers to be positive influences on others
- Campers to report bullying or conflicts to a staff member

All Camp Jorn staff are trained to recognize, intervene in, and resolve bullying situations to ensure a safe and supportive environment for every camper.

The camper and parent/guardian must sign Camp Jorn Anti-Bullying and Behavior agreement prior to attending a session. Please go over the details of this agreement carefully with your camper.

Camp fees are non-refundable and will not be prorated for early dismissal due to behavior issues.

How to Find Us

Camp Jorn YMCA is located at: 13591 Zenner Lane, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545. Camp is situated on a 70+ acre peninsula of mature pine forest in Wisconsin's Northern Highland State Forest. Located on the shores of Rest Lake, part of the Manitowish Chain of Lakes.

Questions & Who to Contact

For questions about our Resident Camp programs, registration, or payment questions, please contact Jenn Davis, Office Manager/Registrar at 715-543-8808 or email

jenn@campjornymca.org.

Camp Jorn Packing List

Important:

- Label all items with your camper's first and last name (name tag, laundry pen, or permanent marker).
- Pack enough clothing for two weeks. Only 3-week campers will have laundry.
- Laundry during camp is handled via Trading Post—no money or detergent needed.
- Pack clothes for fun & adventure—things will get dirty or lost.

Parent Tip: Pack with your camper to help them know what they have and where it's packed.

Clothing

- ☐ Raincoat or poncho
- ☐ 2 Swimsuits
- ☐ 3 Pajamas per week
- ☐ Light jacket
- ☐ T-shirts (one per day)
- ☐ 3–4 Shorts per week
- ☐ Underwear (one per day)
- ☐ Socks (one per day)
- ☐ 3 Long-sleeved shirts/sweatshirts per week
- ☐ 1 Pair of tennis/closed-toed shoes (required)
- ☐ 1 Pair of athletic sandals (heel strap preferred)
- ☐ 2 Jeans or long pants per week

Equipment

- ☐ Warm sleeping bag with stuff sack
- ☐ Fitted sheet & flat sheet (twin)
- ☐ Pillow & pillowcase
- ☐ Laundry bag
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Flashlight + extra batteries
- ☐ Luggage: large duffel or soft-sided bag (fits under 16" bunk; no trunks)
- ☐ Small backpack or day bag

Personal Items

- ☐ 2 Bath towels & 2 washcloths
- ☐ 1 Swim towel
- ☐ Soap/body wash
- ☐ Toothbrush & toothpaste
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Sunscreen & sunglasses
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Shampoo & conditioner
- ☐ Comb/brush
- ☐ Feminine hygiene products
- ☐ Tissues
- ☐ Lip balm
- ☐ Shower shoes
- ☐ Hair ties
- ☐ Other personal toiletries

Optional Items

- ☐ White clothing for tie-dying
- ☐ Stationery, postcards, stamps, address book
- ☐ Quiet games or books
- ☐ Notebook, journal, pens/pencils
- ☐ Disposable camera
- ☐ Hat or bandana
- ☐ Favorite stuffed animal
- ☐ Pictures from home
- ☐ Friendship bracelet string, hair tinsel, beads, etc.

Do Not Bring

- ✗ Electronic devices (phones, tablets, smartwatches, games)
 - ✗ Food containing nuts
 - ✗ Expensive clothing & jewelry
 - ✗ Pets & vehicles
 - ✗ Nicotine, vapes, drugs, alcohol
 - ✗ Clothing with alcohol, drug, sexual content, or inappropriate language
 - ✗ Weapons (knives, firecrackers, slingshots, etc.)
- Parents are responsible for picking up campers immediately if prohibited items are brought.**

Water-skiers

- ☐ Extra swimsuit
- ☐ Rash guard shirt
- ☐ Extra beach towel

TEVA, LIT, CIT Trip-Specific Items

- ☐ Sleeping bag with stuff sack
- ☐ Rain gear—pants & jacket (no ponchos)
- ☐ Quick-dry microfiber towel
- ☐ Light hiking boots (good ankle support; may get wet)
- ☐ 3 Pairs of wool or polypro socks (no cotton)
- ☐ hat/bandana