

Camp Manito-wish YMCA Camper FAQ

Q: Where is Camp Manito-wish YMCA located?

A: We are located on the shores of Boulder Lake in Boulder Junction Wisconsin. Our campus stretches along the shores of beautiful Boulder Lake. Here under the pines, you'll find buildings for every program and activity, from historic cornerstones like Nash Lodge to the specialized facilities of the Manito-wish Leadership Center. And while they perform many functions, they also stand as a constant reminder of the people whose work, dedication and belief in the ideals of Manito-wish made it all possible. These places don't just serve a purpose; they also preserve our heritage.

Q: How do I contact camp in the summer?

A: You can reach up by phone 715-385-2312 or email us at camp@manito-wish.org

Q: Can we visit camp before signing up?

A: Yes, feel free to call the office to set up a tour with us. We have tours available all seasons. However, it may be hard in the winter to get the full feel for Camp but set up a tour and bring your winter boots!

Q: Can we visit our camper during the session?

A: Summer 2022 visits are still being reviewed. Please check our [COVID-19 playbook](#) for current policies.

Q: How can I communicate with my camper while they are at Camp?

A: We encourage you to send a letter to your camper. Campers love to get mail and hear what is going on back at home. You can also use our Camp-o-gram system – found on our website. It is a one way email system. You send the camp-o-gram; we print and deliver them after lunch. Due to the number of camp-o-grams received on a daily basis (over 1,000 each day), we ask that you limit your emails so that we can deliver them in a timely fashion.

Here are some tips on what to put in your letter or camp-o-gram:

- A positive update on the family
- Ask a specific question about their experience– maybe they will write you back!
 - What lake did you go to on trail?, what has been your favorite food so far?, tell me about your cabin mates and counselor
- Include a picture(s)
- Share something you learned while your camper was at Camp
- Make a small puzzle or word search for them to complete

Q: Can we send a care package to our camper?

A: Yes, however care packages that contain food are prohibited. We have campers and staff that have allergies to certain ingredients and food can attract unwanted insects and animals in the cabin. If there is food or candy sent to your camper, we will keep it safe and you can pick it up at the end of the session. Sending fun activities, games, toys, books, stickers or tattoos are great care package ideas.

Q: How does my camper stay in touch with me?

A: Campers are encouraged to write letters back. It may be helpful to send paper and pre-addressed and stamped envelopes with your camper. We guarantee one postcard home from your camper to you while they are here.

Q: Can I see photos of my child while they are at camp?

A: Each day we take several hundred photos of camp in action. We then post some to our social media accounts as well as use Smug Mug, where we post the bulk of the photos. We will post to Smug Mug every other day throughout the session. *Please note that we take many photos each day and while we try our best to get a variety of shots not every camper will necessarily be in a photo each day.*

Q: Is Chapel mandatory?

Chapel is one of Camp Manito-wish's great traditions and a crucial part of our programming. At Camp we instill Christian values however our doors are open to all. We use this time to for campers to reflect on their experiences while at camp and how they will transfer what they learned here back home. We do this in a manner where all can feel comfortable, no matter their religious views. If you have questions about Chapel, please give us a call!

Food

Q: What are my options for food at Camp?

A: At Camp, we eat family style in cabin groups. Our kitchen staff works hard to make delicious meals to fit. Whole fruit is always available; Banana, apples, pears, peaches, plums, apricot and nectarines. Here are few meals that we serve:

Breakfast:

- served with milk, juice, water
- Yogurt, fresh berries and granola, fresh sliced fruit.
- Eggs, bacon, sausage links and patties, biscuits, pancakes, waffles, French toast, omelets, French toast bake
- Hash brown, seasoned Obrien's, cheesy hash browns,

Lunch: this is typically a bigger meal

- served with milk and water
- Vegetables or salad and fruit.

- dessert is served at lunch only
- tacos, baked chicken, stroganoff, beef and broccoli, Pork loin, sloppy joes, BBQ chicken sandwiches, Complete with all the fixings Roasted Turkey Dinner, Complete with all the fixings meat loaf

Dinner: this is typically a lighter fare meal

- served with juice and water
- vegetables or salad and fruit
- Spaghetti and meatballs – tradition of a first meal at camp!
- Pizza and chicken, corn dogs, brats and fries, sub sandwiches and chips, chicken Caesar salads and baked potato, Chicken strips mac n cheese, Pulled pork sandwiches and onion ring and fries

Q: My child has a food allergy – how does your kitchen handle dietary needs?

A: We work hard to accommodate most dietary needs. If your camper has special dietary needs, such as vegetarian, vegan, food allergy, or food intolerance; a special dietary form will need to be completed prior to opening day.

Q: My child has a severe peanut allergy – how do you handle this?

A: Our dining hall is nut free. If there is a camper that has a nut allergy, the cabin is nut free and the trail trip is also nut free. They take out new pack liners and are put into our nut free bin that we use for each nut free group.

Q: What will my camper eat on trail?

A: The campers and staff will make their own food while out on trail.

Some traditional breakfasts:

- Eggs, hash browns and bacon
- Oatmeal
- Pancakes
- Granola

Lunch is usually always the same:

- Peanut butter (or Sunbutter) and jelly sandwiches
- Cheese and sausage
- Fruit – fresh or canned

Some traditional dinners:

- Chili mac
- Calzones
- Personal pizzas
- Beans and rice

Trail

Q: What if my camper has never canoed, backpacked or kayaked before?

A: Great! Being at Manito-wish is a learning experience for everyone. Our staff is trained on how to facilitate these skills. Before you go on your trip you will learn all about your gear and what trail is all about. You could encourage your camper to go to the Boat House during Program Areas to learn paddling skills and techniques for both canoeing and kayaking. They could also go to Outdoor Skills to learn more trail skills.

Q: What should we pack for trail?

A: Group gear like tents, cooking gear, paddles, and PFDs are provided. We have a packing list available on our website, and a YouTube video that follows along with that packing list. Feel free to call camp if you need help figuring out what the best gear to bring is.

Q: How long will my child be on trail?

A: If your camper is in Near South they will go out for two nights – three days, Far South is a three night- four day trip, Near North is a four night – five day trip, Far North is a six night – seven day trip. Our 4 week campers go out for seven nights – eight day trip.

In-Camp

Q: What should I pack for camp?

A: We have a packing list available on our website, and a YouTube video that follows along with that packing list. Feel free to call camp if you need help figuring out what the best gear to bring is.

Q: What is a daily schedule like?

A: A daily schedule:

7:30 A.M. Breakfast
9:00 A.M. Paddle In
9:15 A.M. 1st coaching period
10:30 A.M. 2nd coaching period
11:30 A.M. Free swim
12:30 P.M. Lunch
1:30 P.M. Rest hour
2:15 P.M. First cabin activity
3:30 P.M. Second cabin activity
4:30 P.M. Free swim
5:30 P.M. Dinner
6:30 P.M. Detail
7:00 P.M. Section Games
9:30 P.M. South End Taps
10:00 P.M. North End Taps

Q: How do I do my laundry while I'm at Camp?

A: We have laundry sent out periodically throughout each session. The camper will need to make sure they have everything labeled – even their bag so that we can get it back to them in a timely manner. We send the laundry out and it will come back 1-2 days after it is sent, washed and wrapped together.

Q: What if my child gets sick?

A: Our nursing staff is in the Health Center 24/7. They will treat your camper's health symptoms and call you if the camper stays the night in the Health Center, medical concerns that require additional care will be transported to the local clinic for further evaluation. Please refer to our [COVID-19 playbook](#) for more details.

Q: What if my camper gets homesick?

A: It is perfectly normal for a camper to get homesick at Camp. It is a new environment with new people. Our staff (some of whom were once homesick themselves), are trained on how to handle homesickness and taught techniques on how to help a camper.

Q: My child's birthday is while they are at camp, do you do anything special?

A: When someone has a birthday at Camp we will celebrate on that day at lunch. One of our traditions is to bring campers with birthdays to the front of Nash Dining Hall where they have the opportunity to blow out our birthday candle and have Happy Birthday sung to them by the whole camp!

Registration

Q: Is Financial Assistance available for camp?

A: Yes Financial assistance is available for all programs of camp. Fill out an application found on our [website](#).

Q: Can we make a cabin request?

A: We understand that some campers come to camp with a friend that they want to be in the same cabin with. We strongly believe that Camp is an opportunity for campers to meet new people and have unique experience. With that being said we limit camper request to one per camper. This cabin request must be mutual between campers and reflected on their CampDoc profile. We have 200 campers that need to be placed into cabins and we do our best to honor those requests, however due to number of campers, tripping discipline and session we may not be able to accommodate your cabin request.