



*Experience*  
**MANITO·WISH®**  
CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA



# FAMILY GUIDEBOOK



— ACCREDITED BY —  
**PRAESIDIUM**  
— 2025-2028 —



## WELCOME TO CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA

We are honored that you have made the intentional choice to partner with Camp Manito wish YMCA for your camper's Overnight Camp Experience this summer. We are truly looking forward to your arrival at Camp and feel grateful that you are joining us for our 108th year.

As you prepare for Camp this summer, please review the following information fully because some procedures may have changed. Your careful attention to the required paperwork helps us create a supportive and successful camp experience for your camper. If any questions come up along the way, we are here to help. We are excited to see you this summer.

Sincerely,



[Judy Tegtmeier](#)

Chief Executive Officer



[Karen Christopherson](#)

Director of Operations



[Sean Diamond](#)

Camp Director



[Luke Wade](#)

Wilderness Risk Director

## CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA'S MISSION

### **Mission**

To enrich the character and leadership development of each person who has a Manito-wish experience by challenging them to grow in wisdom, in stature, in favor with God, and with one another.

### **Vision**

The Manito-wish experience develops confident, responsible, and enlightened leaders who will improve the world in which they live.

### **Commitment**

Camp Manito-wish YMCA strives to create an inclusive environment by upholding human dignity, valuing diversity, and acknowledging unique experiences.

## **Program Philosophy and Goals**

At Camp Manito-wish YMCA, we believe every camper arrives with the capacity to grow. Our Camp experience creates a community where campers feel seen, supported, and included. Safety is the foundation of this environment. We take great care to provide clear structure, attentive supervision, and practices that protect all elements of wellbeing for each camper. Families partner with us with intention and we honor that trust.

Our program encourages growth through meaningful relationships, age-appropriate challenges, and wilderness exploration. We guide campers with compassion and clarity so they can practice independence, confidence, and responsibility within a safe and caring community.

### **Our Goals**

- Create a welcoming and safe community where each camper feels valued and supported.
- Support each element of well-being through purposeful experiences.
- Encourage confidence, independence, and responsible decision making.
- Foster curiosity, teamwork, and leadership in group and outdoor settings.
- Partner with families to ensure shared understanding and consistent support for each camper.

### **Character at Camp**

Character at Camp is foundational and woven throughout our culture and program design. It guides how we live, learn, and grow together in community.

Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility form the shared expectations for everyone who enters Camp. These values create a safe and supportive environment where each person's actions have a meaningful impact on the group.

As campers engage in their Manito-wish experience, they are encouraged and supported as they explore our HEAR the ROAR characteristics. These qualities deepen personal growth and strengthen our community.

HEAR the ROAR includes:

**H**umility, **E**mpathy, **A**wareness of Self and Others, **R**esourcefulness, **R**esilience, **O**ptimism, **A**daptability, **R**esponsibility

### **Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the lands along the shores of Boulder Lake on which Camp Manito-wish YMCA sits and have been occupied and stewarded by the Anishinaabe peoples of the Lake Superior Band of the Chippewa, who have made their homes and encampments to harvest and use the plentiful resources of the area. We take this opportunity to acknowledge and learn from the historical displacement of the Anishinaabe peoples. We thank the caretakers of this land and the lands in which we travel, the Anishinaabe peoples - past, present, and future. Camp accepts the responsibility to build positive relationships that will lead to increased cultural understanding as we continue to educate ourselves and others.

# CONTENTS OF CAMP GUIDEBOOK

WELCOME TO CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA.....	2
CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA’S MISSION .....	2
Mission.....	2
Vision.....	2
Our Commitment .....	2
Program Philosophy and Goals .....	3
Character at Camp .....	3
Land Acknowledgement .....	3
CONTENTS OF CAMP GUIDEBOOK .....	4
COMMUNITY STANDARDS .....	6
Our Community .....	6
Staff Commitment.....	6
Behavior.....	6
Camper Commitment.....	7
Prevention and Response to Undesired Behavior .....	8
Bullying.....	8
Camper’s Voice.....	8
CAMP LIFE.....	9
Overview of Camp Life .....	9
Swim Challenge .....	9
Meals at Camp & Special Diets .....	9
Birthdays at Camp .....	9
YOUTH PROTECTION .....	10
GENDER & INCLUSION AT CAMP .....	10
Names and Pronouns.....	10
REQUIRED PAPERWORK & PACKING LISTS .....	11
CampDoc Forms .....	11
Waiver .....	11
Additional Forms Available.....	11
CAMPER CABIN PLACEMENTS .....	11
Summer Camp Cabin Requests ONLY .....	12
Outpost Tripmate Requests.....	12
INSURANCE .....	12
HEALTHCARE .....	12
Physical Exam Policy.....	12
Medical Forms .....	13
Immunizations .....	13
Medical Care .....	13

Over-the-Counter Medications .....	13
Prescription Medications .....	13
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE.....	14
Vaccines.....	14
Return to Activity.....	14
COMMUNICATION – PARENTS TO CAMPERS .....	14
Letters .....	14
Camp-O-Grams (emails) .....	14
Helpful Communication Tips.....	14
Care packages.....	15
COMMUNICATION – CAMPERS TO PARENTS .....	15
Letters .....	15
RISK MANAGEMENT .....	15
In-Camp Emergency Plan .....	15
Wilderness Trail Experience Communication .....	15
Wilderness Trip Evacuations.....	16
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.....	16
CAMPER PHOTOS - SMUGMUG .....	16
SPENDING MONEY .....	17
Summer Camp .....	17
Outpost.....	17
INVOICE CONTRIBUTIONS (OPTIONAL).....	17
Campership .....	17
World Service.....	17
Camp Treats .....	17
Camp-O-Grams .....	17
OPENING & CLOSING DAYS.....	17
Opening Days.....	17
Visitor Days .....	18
Closing Days .....	18
Picking up your camper.....	18
LUGGAGE .....	18
LOST & FOUND.....	19
TRAVEL.....	19
Driving Directions .....	19
Bus Service.....	19
Air Arrival .....	20

# COMMUNITY STANDARDS

## Our Community

The Manito-wish Camp experience is uniquely designed for young people to live in community, both in a cabin and while on their wilderness trip to grow in leadership, character, confidence and independence. Creating a caring and healthy environment is essential for this growth.

We are committed to building a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment where every person is treated with dignity. At the start of each session, campers and staff gather in their cabin to review the Camper Commitment and create their Full Value Contract. This set of shared expectations guides how the group will live and grow together. The contract is built around four core values: Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility. These values form the foundation of our Manito-wish community. Together, campers and staff define how each value will be practiced and upheld within their cabin and across Camp. Signing the Full Value Contract is a way for campers to commit to doing what is right during their time at Camp.

Regardless of your child's circumstances, all campers are expected to follow the Camper Commitment. This includes living respectfully with others and following counselor directions. We are dedicated to fostering a culture and facilitating programs that align with our MISSION, VISION, AND COMMITMENT.

## Staff Commitment

Camp Manito-wish YMCA believes that a secure and positive environment creates the best conditions for growth, for every camper. This begins with thoughtful staff selection and comprehensive training. Staff training includes youth protection, child abuse prevention, emergency procedures, and guidance on setting healthy boundaries with campers.

Staff are expected to model the core values of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility. They follow all Camp policies, including the prohibition of tobacco, alcohol, and drug use. Each team member is committed to providing a safe, fun, and enriching experience for every camper. These expectations are clearly communicated and understood from the moment a staff member is hired.

In addition to these responsibilities, our staff are trained to recognize harmful behavior, stay attuned to campers' needs, and respond with care. Everyone at Camp Manito-wish contributes to creating a respectful and supportive space, whether navigating interactions between staff and campers or among campers themselves.

## Behavior

At Camp, we view behavioral challenges as opportunities for learning and growth. Our staff guide behavior by fostering a positive environment, establishing clear structure and limits, promoting social and emotional learning, reinforcing core values, and addressing challenges with care.

We encourage parents and guardians to share information that will help us support their camper by contacting one of our directors and completing all required forms in CampDoc. When challenges arise, staff will work with the camper to redirect or problem-solve. If additional support is needed, we may partner with parents or guardians to create a plan that promotes the camper's success.

Most concerns are resolved through staff efforts and parental input. However, in some cases, dismissal from Camp may be necessary. **Campers may be asked to leave if their behavior violates the Camper Commitment, requires disproportionate staff attention, or consistently demands one-on-one support that limits attention to others in the cabin or trail group.**

## Camper Commitment

When completing your pre-camp paperwork, you will be invited to take a moment to read through the Camper Commitment with your camper. This is an opportunity to connect, talk through expectations, and support your camper in feeling grounded and prepared for Camp. After you review it together, you are both asked to sign it. Signing simply means you understand what is included and are ready to do your best to honor it within our community at Camp Manito-wish YMCA.

At Camp, we are committed to building a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. As a camper, you play a vital role in creating a space where people feel valued. You are expected to demonstrate Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility and you will review this expectation with your cabin/trip group on the first day of Camp.

At Camp, I understand that I will be challenged to set goals, build new skills, and form lasting friendships through both in-camp and wilderness experiences. I will act with integrity by treating others with dignity, respect, and compassion, and by representing Camp, my cabin, and myself in a positive way. I will not commit unsafe acts or use language that demeans others or encourage unsafe or unkind behavior. I understand that violating this Camper Commitment may result in dismissal from Camp.

I will be honest and truthful with my cabinmates, counselors, and all Camp staff.

- I understand that behaviors that compromise the health, safety, or well-being of any individual, may also lead to my dismissal.
- I understand that I will take part in a wilderness trip and will contribute to group responsibilities while following all safety policies that support a safe and respectful trail experience at Camp Manitowish YMCA.
- I understand that being respectful of our shared space is important and stealing and vandalism are not tolerated.
- I understand that sexual language or behavior is not tolerated.
- I understand that language or behavior that diminishes others based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or religion is prohibited.
- I will respect others' beliefs, even when they differ from my own.
- I understand that drugs, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, and firearms are not allowed at Camp. If I have questions or need support, I will seek guidance from a counselor or staff member.
- I understand that pranks are not part of Camp culture and are not acceptable.
- I will follow all safety rules and help others do the same. This includes being where I am supposed to be at the right time.
- I will respect the privacy, personal space, and physical boundaries of my cabinmates and counselors.
- I will not bully or exclude others, and I will report any such behavior if I witness it.
- I will ask for help and speak to an adult if something makes me or someone else feel upset or unsafe.
- I understand that fighting is never acceptable.
- I understand that if I witness a rule being broken and choose not to walk away, I am also responsible for that behavior.

## **Prevention and Response to Undesired Behavior**

1. Planning and Prevention
  - Staff establish clear boundaries and work with campers to establish behavior expectations through the group's Full Value Contract.
  - Campers agree to boundaries and are aware of positive behavior expectations.
  - Staff continually communicate and encourage camper behavior within boundaries. The focus will be on the positive behavior of the group.
2. Understanding and Refocus
  - If issues arise, the counselors look at the camper's behavior first or the behaviors of those involved.
    - Were the boundaries clear? How did the actions relate to being honest, caring, respectful or responsible? Did the actions escalate or encourage a negative response?
  - Campers will look at their own behavior.
    - Can the camper(s) identify boundaries in their own words? Can they understand how others were affected by their actions?
3. Action and Consequence
  - If there is an issue that cannot be resolved by the camper or the staff, appropriate action is taken. The safety of all campers and staff is central to our mission and philosophy. Camp Manito-wish will work within a restorative framework when resolving conflicts. Actions may include:
    - Verbal warning and positive redirection.
    - Parents will be notified by the camp director, and the camper will be given a final warning.
    - If the issue is so serious that it cannot be resolved to ensure the safety of the camper and staff, the camper will be removed from camp. A parent/guardian is responsible for picking the camper up. There will be no refund for a camper who leaves camp due to a behavioral issue.

## **Bullying**

Camp leadership takes allegations of bullying seriously and trains our staff to prevent bullying from occurring. Bullying of any type is not acceptable and will result in disciplinary action and possible dismissal from Camp. Each camper is expected to treat all other campers with respect and to help each other achieve the best possible Camp experience. Camp leadership also trains staff to promote communication with staff and their campers so that both will be comfortable in alerting us to any problems during their experience. We ask that you encourage your camper to be a positive influence on other campers and advocate for your camper to talk with a staff member if there are ever any issues. Campers can contribute to their own safety if they know what is acceptable and what to expect from staff, volunteers, and other campers to be empowered to let employees know.

## **Camper's Voice**

At Camp we encourage all campers and staff to use their voice! When they have an idea, new perspective and when they see something or experience something that causes concern. We encourage parents and guardians to do the same prior to the camp session. Counselors and Sectionals are great adults to share concerns with; however, all staff are trained to support campers when they share concerns. Additionally, campers can use the Buddy Box (located in the Connor Council Ring (CCR)) to write down and share a concern. The Buddy Box is only accessed by the Camp Director and the Director of Operations. Confidentiality will be maintained and when names are shared (this is optional) the Camp Director or Director of Operations may better be able to address the concern more accurately.

# CAMP LIFE

## Overview of Camp Life

### Swim Challenge

During the first 24 hours of Camp, campers will be invited to take part in the Swim Challenge in the designated swim area on Boulder Lake. This challenge allows campers to demonstrate their swimming ability so that we can ensure they have appropriate access to water activities that match their demonstrated skills.

Campers and staff will wear long pants, a long sleeve shirt, and closed-toed shoes. A helpful tip is that many campers and staff choose to wear their base layer or long underwear for trail because it creates minimal drag in the water. A pair of closed-toed water shoes is also a good choice.

For the Swim Challenge, campers and staff will swim two lengths between our pier, which is about forty yards, and then tread water or float for ten minutes.

### Meals at Camp & Special Diets

Summer camp life requires plenty of energy. At Camp Manito-wish YMCA, that energy is supported through a delicious and diverse menu. Most days, campers gather in historic Nash Lodge for hearty breakfasts, lunches, and dinners prepared under the expert care of our dining service Chefs. Dessert is always served with lunch. Taste, nutrition, and food allergies are thoughtfully considered in every meal.

On the Camper Health History form, you will be able to choose one of the meal plans that best fits your camper. The selected meal plan will remain in place for the entire session. Campers and staff are not permitted to switch meal plans from day to day based on preference.

- Standard
- Vegetarian
- Vegetarian, Gluten Free
- Vegetarian, Dairy Free
- Vegan
- Vegan, Gluten Free
- Gluten Free
- Gluten Free, Dairy Free
- Dairy Free

### Birthdays at Camp

Many campers celebrate their birthdays while at Camp, and we love making the day feel special. During lunch, the whole Nash community joins in a **LONG-STANDING** tradition. The birthday camper blows out a candle, and everyone sings our Manito wish version of the Happy Birthday song. It is joyful, lively, and filled with Camp spirit.

Cabins may also celebrate as a smaller group while on trail. They might bake a cake, make scrambled brownies, or sing together around a campfire. These simple moments often become favorite memories.

If families would like to send something extra for their camper, we encourage items that include the whole cabin and that follow our guidelines for sending packages. This helps every camper feel included and keeps our community connected.

# YOUTH PROTECTION

## Child Abuse Prevention Practices

Whether you attend Summer Camp, an Outpost Trip, a school trip, Family Camp, or other programming, we work hard to ensure your children have a safe and fun-filled camp experience. Our staff have been selected to work at camp following a rigorous screening process that includes interviews, reference checks, background checks, and motor vehicle reports.

Our team is trained in comprehensive practices around child safety and held accountable for modeling the values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility to help your children stay safe in our care. The trust that you, as parents and guardians, place in us to care for your children is important to us and we do not take that trust for granted.

You can help your Camper contribute to their own safety by helping them to understand a few basic expectations prior to coming to Camp. Some examples include:

- Campers will be asked to stay in groups of at least 3 while at Camp – never 1 on 1 with another participant or staff
- Campers should expect staff to be in cabins while campers are present
- Staff are expected to provide adequate supervision throughout the camp experience while allowing campers privacy (bathrooms, showers, changing clothes).
- If at any time your camper feels uncomfortable, they should reach out to the Program Director, Camp Director, or any staff member.

We urge you to talk to your children regularly about their experiences at the Camp. Ask them about their counselors, trip leaders, and other staff. If, as a result, there is ever a concern regarding the safety and protection of your child, please notify us immediately. If you would like to report a concern anonymously, you can use the Camp Manito-wish YMCA [reporting form](#). Otherwise, you can reach out to our [Director of Operations](#), Camp Director or Wilderness Risk Director.

## GENDER & INCLUSION AT CAMP

Consistent with our mission, vision, and commitment, Camp Manito-wish YMCA welcomes all participants and staff. Camp is committed to ensuring access, inclusion, engagement, and affirmation for all who participate. We strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race, or sexual orientation, feel welcomed, affirmed, supported, and has the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity and respect. To further this pursuit, Camp Manito-wish YMCA hires staff of all gender identities and trains all our staff in gender-inclusive practices.

Our programs will continue to express their single-gender nature, language, and defined characteristics. Members of our community who are non-binary, LGBTQ+, transgender, in transition or questioning their gender identity or expression, will be included, respected, and supported in such programs as all members of our community.

## Names and Pronouns

We believe that campers have the right to be addressed by their preferred names and pronouns. Staff and volunteers will respect the confidentiality of a camper's gender identity, biological sex, and sexual orientation and campers may choose to share information about themselves at their own discretion.

If a camper expresses that their gender, pronouns, or name is different from what was listed on their registration forms, we will honor, support, and validate the camper. If an individual chooses to be their authentic self at Camp Manito-wish, this means they feel safe and brave enough to share a part of themselves that others may not see, understand or accept. Similarly, in the event that your child comes out as LGBTQ+ while at camp, we will inform you only if your child gives us their express consent.

While camp encourages campers to share their camp stories with their families upon their return home, we respect a camper's right to determine what they share or don't share with their parents/guardians provided it doesn't interfere with the health or welfare of the camper or the camp community. We will support all campers and will not coerce, force, or compel a camper to identify in any way.

## REQUIRED PAPERWORK & PACKING LISTS

### CampDoc Forms

Camp Manito-wish YMCA utilizes the services of [CampDoc](#), an online forms completion software. You should have received an email directly from them with more details. CampDoc will collect all information related to camper history, health history and physical examination. CampDocs profiles are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. If there are any outstanding questions or clarifications, you will receive a call from our Health Services team.

You will be required to upload Camp's physical examination record (completed at most, 18 months prior to the start of their Camp session), signed by your physician, and an immunization record directly into your CampDoc profile. Please only upload each page once - page 1 for the immunizations and page 2 for the physical exam. We recommend making a copy of all uploaded documents for your records.

### Waiver

In addition to your CampDoc forms, we also need you to sign your waiver for each camper or Outpost participant. Please do so now by using one of the following links:

[Summer Camp](#) (Boys and Girls 3 week and Emerging Leaders)  
[Outpost](#)

### Additional Forms Available

All can be found in the [REGISTERED CAMPERS](#) pages on our website

- [Transportation Schedule](#)
- Transportation Registration - please access your [camper account](#) to register  
**(must register 4 weeks prior to session start)**
- [Equipment order forms](#) (if you would like to order from Camp, this form must be returned by April 30<sup>th</sup> to ensure availability)
- [Packing Lists](#) (Summer Camp, ELE and Outpost)

## CAMPER CABIN PLACEMENTS

Campers are assigned to cabins and trip groups based on session registration, age/grade, gender, and trip discipline (canoe, kayak or backpacking). Other factors that influence cabin assignments are cabin mate requests, staffing capacity, accommodation of medical needs, etc. The cabin and trip group assignment process undergoes several reviews prior to your camper's arrival to best accommodate specific requests and the whole camp community. See details regarding requests below.

Counselors are hired for specific sessions based on gender, gender identity or gender expression. All girls camp cabin counselors will have female counselors, and all boys camp cabin counselors will have male counselors. While on trail, a tripping co-counselor (2<sup>nd</sup> adult with a summer camp trip group) may be assigned to a trip of a different gender.

## **Summer Camp Cabin Requests ONLY**

**Please submit Camper Requests on the Camper Information section in CampDoc only.**

Should you want to make a camper request to be in the same cabin as a friend:

1. Each camper can only make **ONE** other camper request - if you put down more than one name, we will honor the first name on the line.
2. We prioritize requests that are made by **BOTH** families.
3. Both campers must be the same age and/or grade.
4. Both campers must be attending the same session.
5. Both requests need to be completed in the camper's CampDoc profile.
6. Camper requests must be made no later than June 1st (boys) or July 1st (girls).
7. If we are unable to accommodate your request, Camp will notify you prior to your session.

Should you make a request to **NOT** be in the same cabin as another camper:

1. The "No" request must note the full name of the camper.
2. If the "No" request refers to a school or town - please be as specific as possible.

We cannot guarantee all requests (though we do try our best!)

## **Outpost Tripmate Requests**

Small group wilderness travel is essential to the Manito-wish experience. We put thoughtful intention into assembling each trip group to support the success of all campers. Because of this process, we are not able to guarantee tripmate requests.

## **INSURANCE**

**Health and accident insurance coverage for each camper is the responsibility of the parents/guardians.** We highly recommend trip insurance. Common trip insurance packages are available through [CampDoc](#). You will be billed by the medical facility or Camp for any medical/prescription charges incurred on your camper's behalf for immediate reimbursement to Camp Manito-wish YMCA. Any questions about your insurance policy or your coverage should be directed to the insurance provider. Any documentation should be submitted directly to the insurance provider as requested. Camp will work with you to provide support as needed following your request.

## **HEALTHCARE**

### **Physical Exam Policy**

- ALL Summer Camp and Outpost participants must have a physical exam within 18 months of their session start date**
- If your child has a history of **Anaphylaxis, Asthma, History of Seizures** or has been diagnosed with **Diabetes**, or other conditions that may require prior planning and accommodations, please contact Camp upon registration to discuss camper's history and treatment.
- If your Physician recommends/prescribes your child to use a **Peak Flow Meter**, please include it with the inhaler for proper monitoring while at Camp.

## Medical Forms

- ALL participants and staff are required to have their current, completed [CampDoc](#) profile and Physical Examination form on file.

## Immunizations

Camp Manito-wish YMCA requires all participants and staff to comply with the [State of Wisconsin's](#) immunization requirements for school entry or to complete an immunization waiver based on religious or philosophical exemption prior to their camp experience. Email the Director of Operations to obtain a copy of this waiver ([karen.christopherson@manito-wish.org](mailto:karen.christopherson@manito-wish.org)).

## Medical Care

Please provide honest, thorough, and complete information regarding your child's medical history so that we can be best prepared to care for them.

Should your child need any additional medical care:

1. Our Health Center is staffed by certified medical staff.
2. A clinic and hospital are located approximately 25 minutes from Camp.
3. Parents will be notified when their camper receives medical treatment through a hospital or clinic, stays overnight in the Health Center, or is evacuated from trail for medical reasons.

## Over-the-Counter Medications

1. **Only send** over the counter (OTC) medications with your participant if they take them regularly (such as daily). OTC meds will only be administered per package instructions, and the medication must be FDA approved.
2. Any medication that **does not meet these requirements** (including herbal supplements, different doses or frequency, etc.) requires a physician's order. An order must include the name of the medication, dose, route, frequency and indication for use.
3. **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.

## Prescription Medications

Only those prescription medications prescribed by a physician will be administered.

1. **All medications must be in the original pharmacy container.**
2. **The correct name, date, and instructions must be on the bottle.**
3. **We will NOT administer medication that is improperly labeled or not prescribed by a physician.**

Campers with a **history of asthma** are encouraged to bring two full inhalers. The higher level of activity at Camp and on the wilderness trip, along with possible exposure to wildfire smoke, may increase the chance of symptoms.

Prescribed **allergy** such as hay fever injections:

1. Must have specific written instructions from the camper's own physician.
2. Because a doctor must give all injections, campers will be taken to the doctor for such treatment.
3. Parents will be responsible for the expense of these injections.

A telephone call will be made to the parent/guardian and/or physician concerning all **medication questions**.

Any **unused prescriptions** will be returned to the camper on the morning of closing day or secured by our staff on the bus.

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Camp Manito-wish YMCA takes the health and safety of its staff and participants seriously. As we head into the 2026 programming season, you can expect the following:

## Vaccines

It is recommended that all participants and staff are up to date on their vaccinations.

## Return to Activity

In consultation with Camp Manito-wish YMCA's consulting physician we will adhere to guidelines from our local health department and the CDC.

# COMMUNICATION – PARENTS TO CAMPERS

## Letters

Please address your letters as follows:

*Camper Name, Camper Cabin Name*

*Camp Manito-wish YMCA*

*PO Box 246 (for UPS and FedEx packages use 5650 Camp Manito-wish Lane)*

*Boulder Junction, WI 54512*

## Camp-O-Grams (emails)

- ❑ Visit [manito-wish.org](http://manito-wish.org) and click on Camp-O-Gram located midway down the homepage or in the drop-down menu under Preparing for Camp. Our email program is one-way from the sender to camper and will be available June 20, 2026.
- ❑ We will print emails daily and deliver them with cabin mail (Monday-Saturday). Camp-O-Grams sent after 10:00am will be delivered the next day.
  - We cannot guarantee delivery of your Camp-O-Grams on closing day.
- ❑ This service is offered free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of printing and distributing the Camp-O-Grams are greatly appreciated and can be noted on your invoice payment.
- ❑ We print and distribute hundreds of Camp-o-grams every day. We encourage a maximum of one Camp-o-gram per sender, per day.
- ❑ Camp-o-grams are printed on standard paper and not placed in sealed envelopes. They are not individually reviewed prior to delivery and they are not considered private messages.
- ❑ For siblings at camp, be sure to send separate emails.

## Helpful Communication Tips

- ❑ Remember that one of the reasons your camper is at Camp Manito-wish YMCA is to build independence and confidence.
- ❑ While on trail, mail will be held and then delivered upon returning from their trip.
- ❑ Letters:
  - Be positive and encouraging.
  - 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.
  - Help alleviate homesickness by focusing on what they are doing here at camp, not on dwelling on how much you miss them. It is much more important for them to know that you are proud of them for going to camp!
  - 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

- Campers will not have access to phone or computers while at Camp, so encourage them to write letters home so you can hear all about their experiences.

## Care packages

- **Do not send food or candy in care packages. If there is food or candy sent to your camper, we will keep it safe until the end of the session.** We have campers and staff that have allergies to certain ingredients and food can attract unwanted insects and animals to the cabin.
- Care packages are a great opportunity to send activities and games the cabin can do together (Card games, games, toys, books, stickers and puzzles are great care package ideas.)

## COMMUNICATION – CAMPERS TO PARENTS

### Letters

- Include stationery, self addressed envelopes and stamps to help encourage your camper write home.
- Stationery and stamps are available for purchase at the [Trading Post](#).
- Campers will not be able to call home or take your calls. If we have a concern about your child, we will contact you.

***\*Electronics including cell phones, music players, smart devices, or tablets are not permitted. Reading tablets are OK as long as reading is its only capability. If you have questions, please call Camp.***

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Camp Manito-wish YMCA is committed to managing the inherent risk associated with in-camp and wilderness trail experiences. We identify, manage, and work to preemptively mitigate these risks through staff training, regular facility and equipment inspections, supervision, and comprehensive emergency protocols in accordance with the American Camp Association, YMCA of the USA, and industry standards across the wilderness risk management community.

### In-Camp Emergency Plan

In the rare event that a natural disaster or serious emergency impacts our facilities, we will be in communication with you. Staff will begin by sending a mass email. When it is applicable, we will call the emergency contacts for all campers. Our goal is to always keep families informed in a calm, timely manner.

Camp has well established emergency procedures that are reviewed and practiced regularly. Our leadership team monitors weather radar and emergency alert systems for our area and the regions where our groups travel. We use a reliable physical bell communication system, siren and radios that reach across our entire Camp property. These tools help us respond quickly to any situation that arises.

### Wilderness Trail Experience Communication

A dedicated phone line for staff to contact Camp Manito-wish YMCA is answered 24 hours a day for emergencies, route changes, and other necessary communications to Camp.

TRIP	Cell Phone	Satellite Phone	*Marine Radio	**Garmin InReach
Summer Camp Canoeing	x			
Summer Camp Backpacking, Outpost Introductory Canoeing and Backpacking		x		x
Summer Camp Sea Kayaking and Outpost Introductory, Advanced and Expeditionary Sea Kayaking		x	X	x
Advanced and Expeditionary Canoeing and Backpacking		x		x

\* Marine radios allow the group to receive weather reports and to speak with the U.S. Coast Guard, pleasure craft, and local marinas.

\*\* Garmin InReach = satellite communicators providing two-way text communication, location sharing, weather updates, navigation, and emergency response coordination service.

### Wilderness Trip Evacuations

We know how invaluable a Manito-wish trail experience is and having to leave a trip part way through can be a difficult situation for both campers and parents/guardians to navigate. There are several reasons an evacuation could occur, but most fall into two categories – medical and behavioral. If a camper needs to leave their Camp session due to the circumstances surrounding their trip evacuation, parents/guardians will be contacted as soon as possible to discuss the process.

### Fight the Bite

Camp participates in the [Fight the Bite](#) program every year, which was created by the [Alliance for Camp Health](#). Fight the Bite is an educational course that provides training for our staff on tick-borne diseases. It brings awareness and knowledge on prevention and early recognition of a tick-borne illness.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In accordance with Federal law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write to the address below or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights Room 326-W, Whit ten Building 1400 Independence Ave. SW Washington, D.C. 20260-9410

## CAMPER PHOTOS - SMUGMUG

Accessible through our website, [SmugMug](#) is a secure online photo gallery where opening day pictures, cabin pictures, and daily in-camp activity photos are posted. You may purchase copies of photos directly from SmugMug or download them at no cost for your personal use. The password needed to enter the album of your camper’s session will be emailed prior to the start date. Photos will be available after the start of the season.

Camp posts pictures on SmugMug approximately every 2-3 days. Campers are constantly in motion, and are off camp property during their wilderness trips, therefore, beyond the cabin pictures, **we cannot guarantee you will see your child through this venue.**

We know most families are accustomed to constant contact via social media, and this will be a transition for both campers and family. We believe that a sense of independence for both family and camper while away at camp is an important tool for growth. We also believe in the value of verbally relaying stories from campers to parents as a part of sharing in their camp experience.

# SPENDING MONEY

## Summer Camp

- ❑ Cash is not necessary at Camp as all purchases are charged against this account. No money should be kept in the cabin. Camp is not responsible for money left with the camper.
- ❑ We recommend approximately \$75-\$150 in your child's account for a 3-week session.
- ❑ We no longer take prepaid deposits for camper bank accounts, please use the camper invoice, or call us at 715-385-2312, to specify your campers Trading Post limit; families will be invoiced at the end of your camper's session.
- ❑ Items available for purchase through the [camp store](#) include items such as: canoe paddles, stamps, stationery, t-shirts, sweatshirts, souvenirs, and personal hygiene products.

## Outpost

The average Outpost participant brings \$100 in cash or debit/credit card. Due to the short amount of time that Outpost participants are in camp, **money is NOT deposited in the Camp Bank**. See your trip specific [What To Bring](#) posted on manito-wish.org to determine the amount of cash needed.

# INVOICE CONTRIBUTIONS (OPTIONAL)

## Campership

Camp Manito-wish YMCA depends on financial contributions from hundreds of individuals to keep our program strong. In 2025, 26% of Summer Camp and Outpost participants were able to attend Manito-wish because of contributions to our Campership program. If you wish, please indicate your tax-deductible contribution on your camper invoice.

## World Service

Camp Manito-wish YMCA is proud to be a part of the worldwide YMCA movement. The YMCA is active in over 130 countries around the world, making it one of the largest human service organizations on the planet. If you would like to participate in this support, please indicate your tax-deductible contribution on your camper invoice.

## Camp Treats

Occasional special events are celebrated with treats such as candy, soda and snacks. These all-camp events are fun and part of the tradition at Camp Manito-wish. If you wish to donate \$3-\$7 dollars to the Camp Treat Fund, please do so on your camper invoice.

## Camp-O-Grams

We print and distribute over 10,000 Camp-o-grams every summer. There is no charge for this service. Contributions to help offset this cost are greatly appreciated and can be indicated on your camper invoice.

# OPENING & CLOSING DAYS (INCLUDING OUTPOST ADVANCED/EXPO HIKE & PADDLE-IN)

## Opening Days

Campers may arrive between 1:00pm and 4:00pm on the opening day of each session. You will receive detailed information via email prior to Opening Day.

## Visitor Days

Camp Manito-wish does not offer formal Visitor Days throughout our summer camp sessions. Our experience has shown us that maintaining consistent programming and scheduling is best for our camp community. We carefully design each session to be able to accommodate all that the trail and in-camp experience can offer.

## Closing Days

To help strengthen our Manito-wish community and connect families with one another and our staff, we invite all families to join us for a "Camper Family Meet and Greet" the night before each Summer Camp closing day. This event will take place at the Lion's Pavilion, located behind the Boulder Junction Community Center, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Beverages and appetizers will be provided. Please note that campers will not be in attendance at these events.

Pick-up is between 9:00am and 11:00am on the closing day of each session (July 9<sup>th</sup> for Boys Camp and August 9<sup>th</sup> for Girls Camp). You will receive detailed information via email prior to Opening Day. Please note: We **do not** allow dogs on property so please refrain from bringing them to Camp. If they need to travel with you, they will have to remain in your vehicle.

## Picking up your camper

Your camper's safety is important to us. We will be requiring a government-issued photo I.D. to verify your identity prior to picking your camper up.

**Steps you need to know to ensure a smooth pick-up process:** Ensure the names of individuals authorized to pick up your camper are listed in your [CampDoc](#) profile.

**Camp Pick-up:** Upon arrival, head to the pavilion\* with your photo I.D.

1. Verify the camper you are picking up, collect your campers "Brown Bag", check the lost and found, and receive your camper check out card.
  - o The "Brown Bag" mentioned above are items that your camper brought to Camp or received at Camp that are not allowed in the cabins – food, drinks, electronics, etc. – that were placed in a brown bag with their name on it.
2. Head to your camper's cabin.
3. Enjoy exploring camp, hearing about all of the wonderful camp experiences and seeing their favorite places!

**Girls Camper Families:** If you plan to pick up your camper, keep in mind that Boulder Junction's Musky Jamboree is the weekend of the closing of girls' camp. Book your hotel rooms early. Also, note that Hwy M in downtown Boulder Junction will be closed on pickup day. Travel down Highway H to Camp's main entrance to avoid the closure.

**Bus Pick-up:** If picking your camper up from the bus, please note, campers will be released from the bus after their guardian's IDs are verified. Thank you for your patience as we safeguard our pick-up process!

## LUGGAGE

**MAKE SURE ALL OF YOUR CAMPER'S BELONGINGS ARE LABELED WITH FULL FIRST AND LAST NAMES.**

- The more clear the labeling on the outside of luggage and items inside their luggage the better
- Iron-on labels or name stamps are available if you choose. [Refer to order form.](#)

- Don't use initials as there may be other campers with the same initials as your camper.
- A [What To Bring](#) list is available on the Registered Campers pages of manito-wish.org. Please follow it closely. Especially well labeled mesh bags for laundry purposes.

### **Luggage to Camp should:**

- Be a large duffel bag or other type of soft-sided baggage. **No trunks please.**
- Be clearly identifiable with a luggage tag or full name written on the exterior.
- Please consider removing all tags from newly purchased items prior to arrival at Camp.

## **LOST & FOUND**

- As you pack, create a list for your camper to use as they repack their items as they prepare to go home.
- Clearly labeling all belongings will cut down on the volume of lost & found items.
- We will work with campers to help them keep track of their belongings. They will be instructed about where they can check for lost items throughout the session.
- Any items not claimed by the end of the session will be located in the pavilion on closing day. Campers will be asked to check for any personal items before departing Camp.
- If you discover something is missing when you return home, please call us immediately.
- We will ship the found items to you. Families will be responsible for shipping charges.

***Camp Manito-wish YMCA is not responsible  
for LOST, STOLEN, or DAMAGED equipment or clothing.***

## **TRAVEL**

### **Driving Directions**

- We are 4 hours North of Madison off I -39 / U.S Highway 51. Proceed North of Minocqua/Woodruff, WI, on U.S. Highway 51 to County M, turn right, (if traveling from the North turn left) and take M into the town of Boulder Junction. From town, follow West County K (left) to the main entrance of Camp. We are about one mile beyond Boulder Junction on County K. Look for the orange canoe. For GPS mapping use our physical address of [5650 Camp Manitowish Lane, Boulder Junction, WI 54512](#)
- **We suggest making reservations early** if you are going to stay in the area. You may contact the Boulder Junction Chamber of Commerce at 715-385-2400 or [boulderjct.org](http://boulderjct.org) for lodging information.

### **Bus Service**

Transportation registration is available in your account, please log in to your camper account at [Camp Manito-wish YMCA Account Login](#) to register.

- Complete the transportation registration at least *4 weeks prior* to the departure date
- Camp Manito-wish YMCA staff chaperone all buses/ vans.
  - All medications will be collected prior to the campers boarding busses so please keep those medications accessible
- Lunch is provided for most transports to and from Camp.
- Make sure that all information on the transportation form is accurate and complete.
- A bus list will be sent as confirmation, via email, prior to each session's start and end date.
- Campers will be released from the bus **after** their guardian's ID's are verified. Thank you, in advance, as we safeguard our pickup process!

**A 72- hour cancellation notice is required to avoid forfeiture of transportation fees.**

## **Air Arrival**

- Book reservations into either the Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport (**RHI**) in Rhinelander, WI (50 mi. from Camp) or Central Wisconsin Airport (**CWA**) in Mosinee, WI (100 mi. from Camp).
- It is important that Camp is aware of all air travel 4 weeks prior to the session.
- Confirm pick-up arrangements on the transportation reservation form.
- Flights must be scheduled to arrive between **9:00am and 3:00pm on opening days.**
- Flights must be scheduled to depart between **9:00am and 2:00pm on closing days.**

**Flights scheduled outside of these hours require additional trips to the airport and are subject to a \$100 fee.**

**We look forward to having you at Camp this summer!**

**Camp Manito-wish YMCA  
PO Box 246  
5650 Camp Manitowish Lane  
Boulder Junction, WI 54512  
[manito-wish.org](http://manito-wish.org) | 715.385.2312**