

# YMCA – Camp Ernst

**Camp Location:** Camp Ernst YMCA – Burlington, KY

**Type of Camp:** Overnight Camp, Day Camp

**Camper Requirements:** General expectations for campers include the following. If a camper isn't able to meet one of these, this does not mean they cannot participate. We just ask the family to call us so we can decide if our camp is the right fit at this time.

- Campers must be ages 6 to 15 (5 for intro programs) to participate in camp programming.
- Must be able to attend the full program and function with a 6 to 1 camper-to-counselor ratio
- Is able to take care of their own personal hygiene with minimal assistance (getting dressed, showering, keeping track of belongings, etc).
- Able to handle the physical demands of camp (walking between activities which may be a long distance up to one mile at a time and include steep hills, being outside for most of the day, etc).
- Willing and able to participate in a group setting (able to transition among activities with group, follow instructions from camp staff, remain with the group, take turns, ask for help).
- Overnight Camp- Able to sleep in a group setting (most cabins are open air and do not have air conditioning).
- Capable of maintaining effective mental, emotional, physical and social interactions with self, campers, and staff.
- Able to interact effectively with individuals and groups respecting social and cultural diversity and maintains appropriate physical and emotional boundaries.

**Staffing Ratios:**

- Campers aged 6-8      1 to 6
- Campers aged 9-14    1 to 8

**Staff Training Process:** All staff attend one week of staff training prior to the camp season with continual in-service training throughout the summer. We partner with a few organizations who help provide training for working with campers with special needs.

**Discipline Policy:** Our discipline plan is designed to help children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their actions and impact. We are guided by our core values of honesty, caring, responsibility, and respect. Clear, age-appropriate rules and limits are established at camp. As in any group activity, inappropriate behavior by one or two children can challenge the experience for the entire group. Staff will approach typical, day-to-day behavior issues using acceptable techniques and approaches, such as: redirecting campers, rewarding positive behavior, encouraging campers to use "I" statements and talk about their feelings, role modeling on how to speak and interact with campers in a positive manner, and implementing time out when appropriate.

**Safety / Security:** Camp Ernst has a lakefront, two creeks, and two pools on it's property. We are located close to several subdivisions, with about a half a mile distance between camper activities and local roads. Campers are always supervised and we follow the rule of three where no camper is to be alone with another camper or staff member.

**Willingness to allow an aide (to be provided by the family or county) to support a specific camper:** We could work with a family if they wish to provide an aide. Our YMCA policies would require some background check and training prior to coming to camp.

**Camp Layout:** Camp Ernst is on 365 acres. Campers will walk to activity areas that are ½ mile away from cabin areas, and parts of that walk may be uphill.

**Communication Style with Parents:** For overnight camp, communication is typically done with parents as needed. However, check in calls can be arranged a head of time if it would benefit the camper/family/staff.

**Field Trips / Off Site Trips:** none

**Dietary / Allergy Needs:** We will accommodate most special food needs, although please note we can never guarantee a completely allergen-free environment.