

# YMCA R.C. Durr – Camp Outback

**Camp Location:** 5874 Veterans Way, Burlington, KY 41005

## **Type of Camp:**

- Day Camp- ages 5 (completed Kindergarten) to 13
- Leaders in Training Program- ages 14 and 15
- Camp Outback is a fully outdoor program. Campers are outside from 8:30am until pick-up each day, including in light rain. Campers are rotated through areas of shade like the park shelters in times of heat. This may include the chance to be sunburned or become tired more quickly. In the event of severe weather (including storms or heat emergencies) we will utilize the YMCA building.

**Camper Requirements:** Fully toilet trained and Communication of necessities (food, water, bathroom, injury, etc.)

## **Staffing Ratios:**

- 12-15 campers to one counselor
- 2-3 counselors per group
- Two on-site directors additional
- We are unfortunately not able to offer one-on-one services and instead ask that an aid is provided

## **Staff Training Process:**

- 40 hours of pre-camp training
- Additional training on specific needs of special needs campers

**Discipline Policy:** Discipline: In youth programs, we strive to meet the needs of all children without ignoring the demands of any individual. It is necessary in organizing and maintaining a large group of children to set limits and guidelines. When those limits and guidelines are broken, it is essential to enforce established disciplinary actions. The YMCA Discipline Policy: Each child is treated with respect and concern for his/her developmental needs. Guidance and discipline are positive, non-punitive, appropriate to the situation, and to each child's individual development. Verbalization of feelings, redirection, and problem-solving techniques are the methods used by the staff to guide children's behavior. Below are other discipline guidelines we follow:

No cruel, harsh, corporal or unusual punishment (including, but not limited to, punching, pinching, shaking, spanking, or biting) is ever permitted. Physical exercise is never used as a punishment or discipline method.

No child is ever isolated from the program, placed in a locked room, or confined in an enclosed area as a form of discipline. o In case of physical fighting among children, restraint by the staff may be used for the safety of the children involved, but no form of physical restraint is ever used as a punishment.

Discipline is never imposed for failure to eat or toileting accidents, nor is food, drink, rest, or bathroom breaks ever withheld as a means of discipline.

No child is ever humiliated, subjected to profane language or other verbal abuse, neglected, or abused while in the care of the YMCA. No child is ever shamed, humiliated, or frightened by any form of discipline.

Children are never permitted to discipline one another. An entire group will not be disciplined due to the unacceptable behavior of an individual.

“No” is used only if followed by an explanation. We utilize redirection and time-out as

methods of dealing with negative behaviors.

Suspension/Expulsion Policies: Unfortunately, there are times when usual guidance techniques are not effective and despite working with parents/guardians, inappropriate behaviors may continue. When this happens, the YMCA supervisors can exercise the option to suspend a child from the program. If problems continue despite the suspension and no progress is demonstrated, the child will be subject to expulsion from the program. Examples of inappropriate behaviors that are grounds for suspension and/or expulsion from the program include, but are not limited to:

- o Verbal or physical aggression or incidents toward staff or other children.
- o Exhibiting behavior that endangers the safety of oneself, other children, or staff.
- o Racism and/or any type of discrimination.
- o Attempting to leave the program or intentionally going to unauthorized areas without staff permission.
- o Consistently disregarding the rules and authority of the staff.
- o Possession or pretending to possess weapons of any kind or verbally threatening staff/peers.
- o Defacing YMCA or other children's property.

### **Safety / Security:**

- Camp is located at Boone Woods Park. We do not have fenced boundaries, and Boone Woods Park is open to the public as well as camp use.
- Boone Woods Park contains areas of fields, forests, and a creek.
- There is a road directly adjacent to Boone Woods Park (Veterans Way), as well as streets leading through the park
- Boone Woods Park is a public park, and families are always welcome to walk through the park before registering for programs to ensure that we have an environment conducive to their child's needs.
- We will also regularly utilize the YMCA facility and outdoor pool as needed. water.

### **Willingness to allow an aide (to be provided by the family or county) to support a specific camper:**

- We are 100% willing to allow an aid, whether provided by the family or the county, to support camper's needs—in fact, we encourage it!
- Due to being a State licensed camp, we may require additional information from the aid (including but not limited to an FBI fingerprint background check and a TB test)

### **Camp Layout:**

- Camp Outback is quite spread out, utilizing most of Boone Woods Park each day as well as regular access to the YMCA.
- We ask that campers be prepared to walk, get dirty, and get sweaty! Each morning, campers will walk from the YMCA pool to Boone Woods Park, and will return up the YMCA at the end of the day. Throughout the day, campers will regularly move locations, utilizing Boone Woods Park's bathrooms, Shelter 1, stage, playgrounds, and fields!
- Occasionally we will take off-site field trips requiring bus transportation as well.

### **Communication Style with Parents:**

- We will utilize a BelXCell or Remind text messaging communication system to communicate regularly with parents. Daily notes are available if requested.
- Counselors may not be available for daily conversations depending on schedules and drop-off/pick-up times, but a director will be on-site at all times to relay information and answer questions.
- Directors have a "Camp Hotline" phone number which is always accessible to a camp staff member.
- Injuries, behavior concerns, and other items of note are communicated through

Parent Communication forms, as well as text messages and phone calls depending on severity.

**Field Trips / Off Site Trips:**

- Camp Outback utilizes on-site and off-site field trips.
- Staff to camper ratios on off-site field trips are 10 campers to 1 staff member.
- Directors are present for all field trips
- We currently do not offer a stay-back option on field trips, and campers that choose not to attend field trips are required to find other childcare.
- Field trips may include Northern Kentucky and the Greater Cincinnati Area.
- We will utilize an outside bus service for all off-site transportation.

**Dietary / Allergy Needs:**

- Camp can accommodate any dietary/allergy needs!
- Campers are asked to pack their own lunches each day. Due to eating outside, we are able to distance campers with allergens to help prevent cross-contamination.
- All snacks provided by camp are nut-free, but may contain gluten or dairy.
- Campers with allergies are welcome and encouraged to provide snacks from home that can be eaten in place of camp snack if necessary.