



2026 Summer Camps Guide

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There are a ton of summer camps in the greater Milwaukee area—too many for just one handout! Here is a curated list of camps broken down by category (overnight, day, etc.), as well as links to several local camp directories. On the last page, we highlight an awesome scholarship opportunity for Milwaukee children. Please note that many of the camps have their own scholarship programs to make these experiences accessible to all youth.

Overnight Camps: Camps Specializing in Foster & Kinship Youth

Belong Wisconsin's Sibling Camp

Appleton, WI | August 16–21, 2026

Sibling Camp is a special place where youth in foster care regain a sense of permanency and connection by strengthening their sibling relationships. This camp creates a nurturing and loving place for all campers. Find out more information at <https://www.belongwisconsin.org/sibling-camp> or contact@belongwisconsin.org.

Camp Erin Chicago (*grief*)

Chicago, IL | No specific date (Link below to fill out an interest form)

Camp Erin is the largest national bereavement program for youth **ages 6–17** who are grieving the death of a significant person in their lives. They get to attend a fun camp and participate in grief education and emotional support—at no cost to families. Led by grief professionals and trained volunteers, Camp Erin helps children to increase levels of hope, enhance self-esteem, and learn that they are not alone. Learn more at <https://www.northwesternsettlement.org/eluna-network>. <https://www.northwesternsettlement.org/camp-interest-form>.

Camp Mariposa Chicago (*substance use disorder in family*)

Chicago, IL | Various Dates

Camp Mariposa is a free year-round addiction prevention and youth mentoring program for kids **ages 9–17** who are affected by the substance use of a family member. Children attend weekend camps up to six times a year (not just in the summertime) and participate in fun, traditional camp activities, as well as education and support sessions led by mental health professionals and trained adult members. Campers build knowledge and confidence, learn life skills, and connect with peers. Learn more at <https://www.northwesternsettlement.org/eluna-network>.



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Camp Reunite (*incarcerated parent*)

Grafton, WI

Camp Reunite is a weeklong summer camp serving youth **ages 8–17** who have a parent currently incarcerated in the Wisconsin Correctional System. Using trauma-informed care practices in a supportive camp setting, Camp Reunite provides children with coping skills, conflict resolution strategies, and increased resiliency. Through extended and meaningful visits to correctional institutions, children can reconnect with their parents. As all children are in the same situation, Camp Reunite is a place of unparalleled acceptance and understanding. Visit

<https://www.campreunite.org/> or call (262) 421-5675 to learn more.

Holiday Home Camp

Williams Bay, WI

Holiday Home Camp provides one-week sessions that serve more than 700 children in **grades 2–8** who are from economically disadvantaged communities. The camp provides traditional summer camp activities, including swimming, tubing, archery, arts and crafts, dance, outdoor education, recreational sports, campfires, campouts, and much more. Scholarships are available and will be determined by the registrar's office. Find out more online at

<https://lakegenevafreshair.org/holiday-home-camp/> or by phone at (262) 245-5161. Contact Kenzie Gonzalez kgonzalez@hometownheroes.org

Royal Family KIDS (RFK) Camp

Racine, WI | No specific date yet

The Royal Family KIDS Camp specializes in children with a history of kinship or foster care, or abuse or neglect. RFK is an overnight camp for children **ages 7–11** who are currently in the foster care system or who have been in foster care in the past. If you have a child who needs more attention and care during a summer camp experience, this may be a good option! More information is available by visiting <https://www.forthethechildrenmilwaukee.org/about-1> or emailing

milwrfkc@gmail.com. Registration will begin in Spring, send an email to register your child at Rchildplacement@mercyhill.org

Teen Reach Adventure Camp (T.R.A.C.) Milwaukee

Cudahy, WI | Boys Camp: August 14–16, 2026 | Girls Camp: August 28–30, 2026

Teen Reach Adventure Camp offers three-day, single-sex camps designed for youth **ages 12–15** who are at-risk and often reside in foster care. The camp allows participants to experience the outdoors, while also learning teamwork and participating in activities that build trust and self-worth. Activities include fishing, horseback riding, hiking, and more! Get more information online at <https://www.teenreach.org/camp-list/milwaukee> or by phone at (503) 625-1299.

Overnight Camps: Camp for All Kids (Campership Program)

Camp for All Kids provides diverse elementary and middle school children with the opportunity to attend 4- and 8-week overnight camp experiences at 6 partner camps in northern Wisconsin. Camperships are renewable, so campers are guaranteed a spot to return to camp each summer through their CIT (counselor-in-training) year. This



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pathway provides up to 7 summers of camp experience for participants! The only cost to participate is an annual \$200 family commitment payment, which is flexible depending on ability to pay. Learn more about the Campership Program at <https://campforallkids.org/programs-partners/campership-program/>.

FOR BOYS

Camp Menominee

Eagle River, WI | June 17–July 13, 2026, OR July 14–August 9, 2026

Camp Menominee fosters an environment of unconditional acceptance, where campers accomplish goals—large and small—and grow into impactful members of the community at camp as well as home. Learn more:

<https://campmenominee.com/>

Camp Timberlane

Woodruff, WI | June 15–August 7, 2026, OR June 15 14–July 11, 2026 OR July 12 – August 7, 2026

Camp Timberlane is a non-competitive camp offering new friends, great activities, tons of wilderness opportunities, a phenomenal staff, and the best summers of a boy's life. Learn more: <https://camptimberlane.com/>

North Star Camp

Hayward, WI | June 15–July 11, OR July 11 – August 7, OR June 15–August 7, 2026

North Star Camp develops values by providing opportunities to practice decision-making, self-expression, teamwork, and group-living skills through a variety of activities. Learn more: <https://northstarcamp.com/> +17154623254 or email: Office@NorthStarCamp.com

FOR GIRLS

Birch Trail Camp

Minong, WI | June 15–July 11, OR July 12 – August 7, OR June 15–August 7, 2026

The philosophy of the program at Birch Trail Camp is that all children need success, and each individual achievement is rewarded. Recognition is based on effort and performance, not on winning. Learn more: <https://birchtrail.com/> 715-466-2216

Camp Marimeta

Eagle River, WI | June 15–July 10, OR July 12 -August 5, OR June 15–August 5, 2026

Camp Marimeta creates a safe, caring, and welcoming family atmosphere to help campers flourish and become strong, independent, vibrant, and empowered women of the future. Learn more: <https://marimeta.com/> 715-479-9990

Chippewa Ranch Camp

Eagle River, WI | June 15–August 5, OR June 15-July 10, OR July 12–August 6, 2026



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Chippewa Ranch Camp is located on a large lake and offers a wide variety of activities, including horseback riding, water skiing, a 50-foot climbing wall with a zipline, a high ropes course, archery, land sports, and the arts. The camp is focused on building friendships, independence, and kindness. Through its wide offering of activities and incredible staff, Chippewa Ranch Camp helps campers grow into strong, confident, and compassionate young women. Learn more: <https://chippewaranchcamp.com/> Phone: 866-209-9322

Other Overnight Camps

Camp Alice Chester (*Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast*)

East Troy, WI June 15- August 14, 2026 (Various dates)

Camp Alice Chester is an overnight camping experience for girls in grades 2–12. Your girl will discover her summer self as she reaches the top of the rock wall, explores nature trails, splashes in the lake, and sings around the campfire, all while learning leadership skills and gaining independence. Find out more at

<https://www.gswise.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/camp-and-outdoors/resident-camp.html>. 800-565-4475

Camp Whitcomb/Mason (*Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee*)

Hartland, WI | June 22–August 12, 2026

Since 1911, young people have gone to Camp Whitcomb/Mason for outdoor adventures, camaraderie, and the chance to learn in a fun, safe environment. Participants experience a variety of outdoor activities such as canoeing, swimming, stargazing, nature hikes and activities, arts and crafts, a nutrition challenge, a high ropes course, and more. Learn more at <https://www.bgcmilwaukee.org/overnight-camp/>. (262) 538-1190

COA Camp Helen Brachman

Almond, WI | More information about the 2026 program soon!

Camp Helen Brachman strives to provide youth with fun and structured opportunities for personal growth in a safe and natural environment while upholding four core values: kindness, strength, respect, and responsibility. In addition, the camp offers scholarships for 300 youth to spend 13 days on their 206 acres in central Wisconsin—including transportation, all meals, lodging, and a wide range of programming, such as swimming and arts and crafts. Visit <https://www.coa-yfc.org/camp-helen-brachman> for more information. If you have questions or want to request forms and documents, please contact COA at (414) 263-8383 or questions@coa-yf.org.

YMCA Camp Minikani

Hubertus, WI | June 14-August 15, 2026 (Various dates)

Between two natural lakes on 150 pristine acres, YMCA Camp Minikani is a place where campers canoe and swim, build fires and friendships, try archery, and explore the arts, age 8-13. But this camp is much more than a series of activities or a plot of beautiful land—Minikani is a community that is dedicated to inspiring your child's best self. For



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more information, visit <https://www.minikani.org/the-minikani-experience/>, minikani@ymcamke.org or 262.251.9080

In-Person Day Camps

Badger Precollege

Madison, WI July 19 – July 31 2026

What can young learners do at UW–Madison this summer? Just about anything! Badger Precollege offers an array of academic programs for students **ages 7–18**—from advanced learning programs and STEM classes to music clinics and college readiness conferences. Learn more about what programs are available at <https://precollege.wisc.edu/>.

COA Youth & Family Centers

Milwaukee, WI (info coming soon)

COA Youth & Family Centers offer summer youth programs Monday through Friday at the Goldin Center and the Riverwest Center. At both locations, there are programs for children **ages 7–18**. To register, call COA at (414) 263-8383 and ask for the registrar for the location you're interested in. More information can be found on the COA website at <https://www.coa-yfc.org/>.

Milwaukee Jewish Community Center (JCC) Rainbow Day Camp

Milwaukee, WI | June 15–August 14, 2026 (Various sessions)

The Rainbow Day Camp is an inclusive summer day camp that is guided by Jewish values and aims to foster personal development and community. The camp takes place every weekday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and scholarships are available. Find out more information by visiting <https://www.jccmilwaukee.org/programs/camps/day-camp/> or calling (414) 964-4444.

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS): Summer Academy

Milwaukee, WI July 6- July 30, 2026

Milwaukee Public Schools is pleased to offer summer learning opportunities that strengthen academic skills and offer exciting new experiences for students in **grades K5–12**. For more information on MPS camp offerings, visit <https://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/Programs/Summer-Academy.htm>. For additional questions or information, contact Extended Learning Opportunities at (414) 475-8238 or elo@milwaukee.k12.wi.us. General email: comm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Neighborhood House of Milwaukee

Milwaukee, WI

Neighborhood House of Milwaukee offers a wide range of programs and services for youth (**ages 6–12**) and teens (**ages 13–19**). This includes an 11-week summer camp that is filled with fun field trips, outside activities, dance, art, and music. Scholarships are also available! For more information about programming and enrollment, visit <https://neighborhoodhousemke.org/youthprograms> or call (414) 933-6161. Or send an email: info@nh-milw.org



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Twilight Centers

Milwaukee, WI

The Twilight Centers program is free for students **ages 10–18** and is available at select school locations. Twilight is open to MPS and non-MPS students alike, and the program offers activities like roller skating, games, open gym, and movie nights. Learn more at <https://milwaukeeerecreation.net/en/Programs/Twilight-Centers.htm> or (414) 475-8937.

Virtual Camps and Opportunities

Camp Wonderopolis

Camp Wonderopolis is a free online summer learning destination that is full of fun, interactive STEM and literacy-building topics boosted by Maker experiments! Learn more at <https://camp.wonderopolis.org/> (link cannot be found)

PBS Kids for Parents

If you are looking for some new activities for kids, PBS Kids for Parents is a great resource. They offer free activities with a wide range of topics for **ages 2–8**. Learn more at <https://www.pbs.org/parents>.

Virtual 4-H Camp

Virtual 4-H Camp helps families experience the typical summer camp experience indoors. You can find all sorts of the usual camp activities like arts and crafts, cooking projects, STEM learning programs, and more. They even include camp songs to play in the background to get into the camp spirit! Learn more at <https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/camp/>.

Camps for Kids with Special Circumstances or Health Needs

Do any of your children have a particular health or mental health issue? If so, there is likely a special camp just for them, such as camps for children with juvenile arthritis or Type 1 diabetes. If you are having trouble finding a camp for your child's particular needs, please reach out to us at adam@kidsmatterinc.org. Here are just a few examples of what is available:

Camp Kesem

Fredonia, WI

Camp Kesem is a free, week-long overnight summer camp experience designed for children **ages 6–18** who have a parent with cancer. Find out more at <https://www.kesem.org/programs-services/camp-kesem>, or reach out to Ariana Chavarria (Wisconsin's contact) at ariana.chavarria@kesem.org.

Camp Odayin

Elkhorn, WI | June 22–26, 2026



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Camp Odayin is for children with heart disease in **grades 1–11** who would benefit from connecting with other young people with similar health, emotional, and social concerns. There is a \$50 registration fee per camper, but they have a pay-what-you-can option to make their program accessible to everyone in the community; there is always an option to pay \$0. The deadline to register is **April 8, 2026**, so learn more at <https://campodayin.org/event/summer-camp-wi/> or reach out to info@campodayin.org to see if your child is eligible to attend.

Additional Camp Directories

- [Best Special Needs Camps](https://bestspecialneedsamps.com/best-wisconsin-special-needs-camps.html) (<https://bestspecialneedsamps.com/best-wisconsin-special-needs-camps.html>)
- [Milwaukee Family: Summer Camp Guide](https://milwaukeeemom.com/summer/milwaukee-area-summer-camp-guide/) (<https://milwaukeeemom.com/summer/milwaukee-area-summer-camp-guide/>)
- [MKE with Kids: Summer Camp Directory](https://www.mkewithkids.com/directory-directory/categories/summer-camp-milwaukee/) (<https://www.mkewithkids.com/directory-directory/categories/summer-camp-milwaukee/>)

Scholarship Opportunity: Camps for Kids

Camps for Kids provides a one-time scholarship to qualifying youth so that they may attend an overnight, residential camp in Wisconsin. All foster children qualify, and kinship children generally qualify due to receiving either subsidized childcare or participating in BadgerCare+. If you aren't sure if your children qualify, just give us a call.

Students must be **ages 8–15** at the time of the camp session and must also meet the following criteria:

1. First-time participant in the Camps for Kids program
2. Full-time resident of Milwaukee County OR children in foster care through the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS)
3. Family that qualifies for Foodshare/SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and/or Wisconsin Share Childcare Subsidies
4. All foster care children, Medicaid, and W-2 recipients are eligible. Proof of enrollment/eligibility must be submitted with the camp application.

Check the camp list for information on how to connect to the camp of your choice. For more information, visit <http://campsforkidsmke.org/> or email campsforkidskidsmilwaukee@gmail.com.