



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**SHERMAN LAKE YMCA
High School Leadership
Parent Packet**

Dear Parents:

We are very excited to have your teen leader join us this summer in the High School Leadership Program here at Sherman Lake YMCA. We thoroughly enjoy working with Sherman Lake YMCA's young leaders during the summers and each year has been inspirational thanks to their contributions.

The goal of the program is to develop leadership skills in an environment that will allow your young leader to grow personally and build strong, healthy relationships with other teens. Those of you who have sent your child to camp in previous years already know of our focus on the four principles of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility. In this program, we will dive deeper into those four principles as well as explore many other aspects of building character and leadership. You can help in this process by discussing with your child what character and leadership means to them.

Please take some time to review the attached packet. In it, you will find information regarding arrival and departure procedures, trips, behavior policies, medical information and packing lists. We hope it will answer any questions you have regarding your teen leader's stay at camp this summer.

Thank you for giving your child the opportunity to participate in this program. We know it will be worthwhile. We are humbled by the opportunity to work with such incredible young people and we look forward to it every day.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions or if you have any information that would help us to make your teen leader's experience this summer more fun, safe or fulfilling.

Sincerely,

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Program Philosophy and Developmental Goals

1. Sherman Lake Philosophy

The Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center is an inclusive organization that puts Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. We take a holistic approach to building capacity in young people by nurturing principles of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Camp Values:

Honesty - Truthfulness and genuineness with self and others

Caring - To show loving kindness, compassion, and empathy for others

Respect - Honor toward others, humility

Responsibility - Trustworthiness; the ability to be depended on

Our Voice:

Nurturing – to care for, support and help develop through encouragement.

Genuine – to be honest and open in relationships with others.

Hopeful – to take an optimistic or positive view of future outcomes.

Determined – to devote full strength and concentration to the cause.

Welcoming – to accept neighbors eagerly, warmly, hospitably and as equals.

2. Developmental Goals

Teens in the High School Leadership Programs will develop their character and leadership skills through adventure-based experiential activities. These activities have been developed to focus on the following developmental needs:

- Decision making – leaders will see the cause and effects of their decisions and learn how to make good choices through moral reasoning.
- Goal setting – leaders will learn how to set, and attain, tactical and strategic goals.
- Group building – leaders will learn about positive group dynamics and how to be a positive, functioning contributor to a group.
- Healthy relationships – leaders will come to understand what a healthy relationship is, how to create one, and how to maintain it.
- Leadership – leaders will study the qualities of a good leader and take steps to be one.
- Safety and well-being – Leaders will engage in a wide variety of adventure activities. These will reinforce practices for health, safety, and well-being.
- Service learning – leaders will learn how to give back the blessings they have received. This process will emphasize elevating others above one's self.
- Teamwork – leaders will learn to work together for a common cause.
- Independence – leaders will learn life skills that will help them to be self-sufficient.
- Cultural awareness and diversity – leaders will gain awareness of others and learn how an appreciation of these differences can contribute positively to the group as a whole.

Behavior and Expectations

The Sherman Lake YMCA High School Leadership Program is a place for Honest, Caring, Respectful, and Responsible Teens. We expect participants in this program to have a desire to be better leaders and great people. They should be self-motivated, upbeat, and care about forming positive relationships with others. The leadership village is a safe place where teens can feel comfortable being themselves. Your teen needs to be committed to creating that environment – free from the drama and stress typically associated with teenagers.

Upon arrival teens will be given the task of helping develop their living community. Our YMCA camp works hard to create an environment for everyone to succeed within the boundaries of safety and our four principles. When that set of boundaries is broken, it is essential to provide some form of understanding and consequences. High School Leadership staff will follow these procedures:

1. *Planning and Preventative*

- Counselor establishes clear boundaries and works with campers to establish behavior expectations through the community commitment.
- Campers agree to boundaries and are aware of positive behavior expectations.
- Counselors and staff continually communicate and encourage camper behavior within boundaries. The focus will be on positive behavior of the group.

2. When issues arrive: *questioning and refocus* (What is the campers reality?).

- Counselor looks at his/her behavior first, or behavior of those involved.
 - Were the boundaries clear? How did the actions relate to HCRR? Did my actions escalate or encourage negative response?
- Camper looks at his/her behavior.
 - Can the campers identify boundaries in their own words? Can they understand how others were affected by their actions?

3. *Action: Undesired behaviors.*

- If there is an issue that cannot be resolved by the camper or the counselor, appropriate action is taken. Safety of all campers and staff is central to the HCRR philosophy. Sherman Lake YMCA will work within a restorative practices framework when resolving conflicts. The actions involved will include:
 - Verbal warning and positive redirection
 - Parents will be notified by the camp director and the camper will be given last warning
 - If the issue is so serious that it cannot be resolved to ensure the safety of the campers and staff, the camper will be removed from camp (*Parent/Guardian is responsible for picking the camper up. There will be no refund for a camper who leaves camp due to a behavior issue.*)

Questions to Discuss With Your Teen Before Coming to Camp

The High School Leadership Program is a great experience for those who are prepared for the challenges. The most successful teens will be those ready to gain the skills necessary to build positive relationships within their schools, sports teams, and community. However, some teens do struggle with our high expectations and the

intensity of the programs. Please consider the following questions before sending your child to camp:

- Does my teen struggle to make positive choices or do they have a history of poor decision making in school?
- Does my teen engage in at-risk activities that may endanger themselves or others in the program (e.g. drinking, smoking, cutting, violence)?
- Does my teen have trouble forming healthy relationships with their peers? Do they hang out with a crowd that makes positive behaviors difficult?
- Does my teen have trouble using disrespectful language or making inappropriate comments or gestures?
- Is my teen able to control their behavior and exhibit proper impulse control?

If your teen struggles with any of these issues, your child may have a difficult time being successful at camp. Please note that any actions that endanger the physical or emotional safety of any camper or staff member or cause damage to Sherman Lake YMCA property may result in immediate dismissal. Full behavior policies are outlined below. Remember that this policy is intended to make Sherman Lake YMCA Camp a safe place for all young people. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy please contact the High School Leadership Director or the Summer Camp Director.

This program is for those who have exhibited leadership in school or outside activities and are positive role models. If this is not what your child is used to, please speak with them about the challenges this may present.

Sexual Activity

Our goal is to promote healthy relationships within the Leadership Development Program. Learning about healthy romantic relationships is an important part of a teen's development. However, at camp romantic relationships can lead to exclusion, uncomfortable group situations and unsafe situations for individuals. Because of these and other reasons, sexual contact is not permitted between campers and/or anyone else at camp. For these purposes, sexual activity will include kissing, inappropriate touching, sexual comments and couples isolating themselves from the group. These activities, as well as more serious ones, are grounds for dismissal.

Pranks

Pranks do not promote the principles of Honesty, Caring, Respect, or Responsibility nor do they help build strong relationships and trust. For these reasons, pranks are not permitted at camp. Caring gestures such as writing encouraging anonymous notes or secretly doing another group's chores are enthusiastically encouraged. A camper engaging in or planning a prank may be removed from camp.

Prohibited Items

Cell phones are wonderful for keeping in touch but they become a distraction here at camp. Part of what makes the High School leadership program such a powerful experience is isolation from one's daily life. This allows for deeper reflection and more self-awareness. We are interested in reducing daily distractions! Please have your teen leave their cell phones at home. Should they need to call home, a phone is always available and will be provided. You will have contact information for camp and for offsite trips should you need to contact your child. Cell phones that are brought to camp will be collected and kept in a locked cabinet and returned at check out.

Other electronics are also wonderful for communication and entertainment. Unfortunately, they also tend to isolate us from those around us and they can be a target for theft. Since we are in the business of building strong relationships and an appreciation for nature, we ask that your child also leave other electronics at home with the following exceptions:

Digital cameras are ok as long as they are not a part of an iPod or phone. Please be aware that Sherman Lake YMCA Camp assumes no responsibility for any loss, theft or damage of these devices. They are solely your teen's responsibility. Please talk this through with your child before letting them bring these items to camp.

DO NOT BRING electronics (cell phones, apple watches, kindles, etc.), fireworks, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, knives (even small camping knives), guns or other illegal items. These items are prohibited and possession of these items may be grounds for dismissal from camp.

Bad attitudes are discouraged. Please be aware if your teen brings one to camp, they may lose it.

Payments and Refund Policy

At the time of registration, a \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit must be made to hold your camper's spot. This \$100 is then applied to the balance of the camp payment. The camp must be paid in full 30 days prior to the start of your camp session. Note: A change this year, all campers in your family will be listed on a family financial statement. If you have multiple campers attending different sessions, be sure you are paying the balance due for each camp 30 days prior to that start date. You may pay your balance online through your [CampInTouch](#) account, or mail a check to: Sherman Lake YMCA Camp, 6225 N. 39th St, Augusta, MI 49012. Note: Balances not paid prior to the start of the camp session may result in the loss of your spot in that camp.

Refund requests must be made in writing and received no later than 2 weeks before the start of a camp session. This will ensure that you will receive a refund on your camp fees, minus the \$100.00 non-refundable deposit. All cancellations made less than two weeks prior to the start of a camp session are non-refundable. **There is no camper fee refund for any child who leaves camp because of illness, homesickness, or disciplinary reasons.**

Early Dismissal from Program

In the event a camper must leave the program early due to illness, behavioral incident, or homesickness, the parents will be notified by telephone and arrangements will be made for pick-up at camp. If the illness or behavioral incident occurs during an off-site trip, the trip leader will notify the Summer Camp Director and a determination will be made on the best way to relocate the camper with their parent. The Summer Camp Director will notify the parent of the decision.

Parent's To-Do List Before Camp

- Complete Health Form and Physician's Statement (physical form) and return four weeks prior to camp (physical is required within last 24 months).
- Final payment of fees due at least four weeks prior to arrival.
- Off-site waivers (if someone else is transporting your child to camp, be sure you have signed the necessary off-site waivers).
- At check-in, deposit money at the Camp Store. Leaders may also have additional money to be used while stopping at off-site locations. Most campers have about \$20 for the camp store, and \$20 for off-site trips.
- Pack clothes and equipment according to the enclosed packing list.
- Mark all clothing and baggage with your child's name.
- Have your child's medication (in original labeled container) to check in with camp nurse at check-in time on Sunday.
- Talk with your teen about the exciting two weeks they will be spending at the Sherman Lake YMCA Leadership Development Program!

Clothing and Equipment Guidelines

Teenagers in the Leadership Development Program will be housed in Yurt Tents. The Yurts have carpeted floors and are 24 feet in diameter. Approximately 8 to 10 individuals and a counselor will be housed in the Yurt for the two-week camp. A pillow, sheet and blankets and/or a sleeping bag are required.

A mummy style sleeping bag is recommended for off-site trips. Mummy bags are usually the most convenient and versatile bags but any bag that can be compressed for packing in a backpack will work. Laundry service is not provided except for emergencies.

The following is a list of clothing and equipment your teen may need for the Leadership Development Program experience at the Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center. If you have any questions about the items listed, please give us a call. This is a suggested guideline for two weeks of camp. The items listed are not required, but highly recommended. Older clothes are generally best. We tend to get dirty.

Three pairs of (preferably older) shoes are required. One pair of closed-toe athletic shoes that will be worn on rivers and in caves. One pair of closed-toe athletic shoes; which will be required at a majority of our land based activities. One pair may be sandals with solid soles and straps on the top and back are acceptable for activities not requiring closed-toe shoes. Flip flops and slides may only be worn in the showers.

Instructions for Marking & Packing Equipment

Sherman Lake YMCA Camp requires no specific uniform for teens. We urge teens to dress for comfort at camp using your school's dress code guidelines for modesty. If the outfit would not be appropriate at school, it does not fit at camp. Please review the suggested "Clothing and Equipment List" provided in this information packet to guide you as you prepare for camp.

- Mark each article to be taken to camp, including the clothing worn to camp, with full name. The best methods are sew-on or iron-on name tags. Use indelible ink to mark all items.
- Inventory – mark every article taken to camp and write down the quantities on the Clothing and Equipment List as a guide.
- Tape the inventory list inside the bag for teen's use when repacking at the end of camp.
- Tag or mark baggage clearly with the teen's name. If your teen uses a garbage bag to pack, be sure the name is clearly labeled on the bag.

As part of their leadership development, teens will have the primary responsibility for taking care of their personal items. The camp will not be responsible for the loss of articles. Teen are encouraged not to bring valuable items to camp.

Regardless of how careful we try to be, it is inevitable that some clothing and articles will be misplaced. Proper identifying marks will greatly assist us in returning the articles to their proper owners. Lost and found will be promptly displayed on Fridays for parents to look through prior to departing with their teen. All items left at camp will be held for one week. Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Suggested Packing List

Clothing

- Socks (a pair for each day)
- Underwear (pair for each day)
- T-shirts and long sleeve shirts
- Sweater, sweatshirt or jacket
- Jeans/long pants
- Shorts (longer shorts needed for ropes courses)
- Pajamas, bedtime clothes
- Raincoat or poncho
- Hat and sunglasses
- One piece swimsuits (2)
- **Old, dirty clothes for LDP caving trip – these are usually discarded (long sleeves and pants required)**
- **Long underwear or warm undergarments (easily cleaned) for caving**
- Knee pads and gloves (optional for caving)

Miscellaneous

- Small day/backpack
- Larger overnight backpack (only if owned)
- Flashlight and/or headlamp
- Plastic bag for dirty/wet laundry
- Pencils and a journal or notebook (required)
- Stamps and postcards
- Camera (separate from phone)

Footwear

- Closed-toe athletic shoes - preferably older (two pairs required; they may get wet)
- Sandals (solid soles and straps on the top and back for activities not requiring closed-toe shoes)
- Water shoes (optional)
- Old shoes for caving (able to secure on feet)
- Watch

Bedding

- Sleeping bag (mummy style best, 15°-40° temp rated)
- Sheet and blanket (if preferred for the yurt)
- Small pillow (optional for bus)

Toiletries, etc.

- Towels and wash cloths
- Extra beach towels for swimming
- Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, comb, brush)
- Insect repellent (required)
- Sunblock - SPF 15 or higher (required)
- Water bottle (required)
- Cards, books, small games for trips

Off-site Trips

Off-site trips are an integral part of the High School Leadership Development Program experience. Teens are given the opportunity to experience new challenges in a supervised environment.

Leadership Development Program

Two off-site trips will be scheduled, one of which will be a trip to Southern Indiana to experience a caving program. The other trip will be an overnight adventure in Northern Michigan. Camp off-site trips will appear on the schedule at camp check-in. An off-site orientation occurs prior to each excursion, which covers safety issues and expectations.

Counselor in Training Program

One off-site adventure to West Virginia is scheduled where campers will participate in white water rafting and zip line adventures. The group will stay at an adventure resort where they will be tent camping. An off-site orientation occurs prior to this excursion, which covers safety issues and expectations. The second week of the CIT program will feature opportunities for the campers to shadow Sherman Lake YMCA counselors and get a taste of serving as a camp counselor. If involved in the Wrangler in Training or Lifeguard in Training track, campers will be paired with staff in the horse program or waterfront program for their experience.

Guidelines for Leaving Sherman Lake YMCA Property

Behavior off-camp should complement and reinforce behavior at Sherman Lake YMCA Camp. During service learning projects off Sherman Lake YMCA property, the Leadership Development campers will be perceived as the great leaders that they are and their behavior will reflect their values and desires.

Teens will be trained in offsite safety before embarking on trips. Topics covered include safety in public places, bus rules and water safety rules. It is very important for the safety of all group members that teens remain together in pairs and within the supervision of their counselors and program staff off site. Several on-camp scenarios will be used as a test for the group to demonstrate its great leadership abilities off camp.

Check-in and Check-out Procedures

Session 1: LDP (June 16) *Check in time is 1:00–1:30pm* at the Leadership Lodge, watch for signs. Please bring all completed forms, medications, and camp store money. You may leave your luggage in the car at this point. From check-in, you will drive to the Leadership Village where you will unload your luggage.

Session 2: LDP (July 21) *Check in time is 1:00–1:30pm* at the Leadership Lodge, watch for signs. Please bring all completed forms, medications, and camp store money. You may leave your luggage in the car at this point. From check-in, you will drive to the Leadership Village where you will unload your luggage.

CIT Session (July 7) *Check in time is 1:00–1:30pm* at the Leadership Lodge, watch for signs. Please bring all completed forms, medications, and camp store money. You may leave your luggage in the car at this point. From check-in, you will drive to the Leadership Village where you will unload your luggage.

Check out time for all sessions is Friday 5:00pm at the Leadership Lodge. You are invited to participate in a closing ceremony beginning at 5:00pm.

At 5:00pm, we will open the doors of the Leadership Lodge for friends and family to see what we have been up to for the past two weeks. We will present a slideshow and several teens will speak about their experiences. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you are going to be delayed in dropping off or picking up your teen, please notify us at 269-731-3030. Teens will be permitted to leave only with parents or persons designated by their parents. All teens will need to be signed out by parents/guardians. If a teen is to be picked up by anyone other than their parent(s), we require written permission. Please assist us in assuring the safety of all teens.

Important Check-in Notes

Make sure these items are completed. It will speed up the check-in process.

- Please be sure the Health Form is received 4 weeks prior to session.
 - Sign authorization for emergency treatment.
 - Fill out insurance information completely. Since camp does not have a camper insurance policy, you must accept responsibility for medical/surgical treatment charges, which may be incurred on your child's behalf. It is extremely important for you to complete the insurance information and the emergency contact portions of the Health Form and sign the Health Form.
 - Two emergency phone numbers should be included for people who can give permission for medical treatment in the event you cannot be reached.
 - Please fill in the date of the last tetanus shot - very important!
 - For medication dosage purposes, please be sure to fill in height and weight on the Health Form.
 - Note any medication, food or environmental allergies. If your camper is bringing medication to camp, you will need to complete the "Permission to Administer Medication" form and turn it into the nurse at Kellogg Hall during the check-in process. Over the counter medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and hydrocortisone should be left at home. Camp has a supply of these medications.
 - The Physician's Statement (camper physical) must be on file four weeks prior to the start of camp.
 - Unfortunately, teens will not be allowed to participate in any camp programs unless completed health forms are on file. This is to ensure the safety and well-being of your child and the camp.

Medication

- You do not need to bring over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen; camp has a supply of these. If you indicate on the health form and give permission to administer over-the-counter medication for aches and pains, our Camp Health Officers can do so if needed.
- Any medications, including vitamins, inhalers, melatonin and non-prescription medications must be checked in with the Camp Nurse at Sunday check-in and need to be in their original containers please.

- If you are sending any medications including vitamins, supplements, non-prescription medications at all with your camper, you must complete the **Permission to Administer Medication** form and bring it with you to check-in. These medications will be kept with the Health Officers.
- All medications must be in their original pharmacy containers. Containers will be returned at check-out.
- Please label medications with child's name, name of medication, dosage, and time to dispense (breakfast, lunch, dinner, bedtime, or as needed).
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that "Elective interruption of medications (drug holiday) should be avoided by campers on long-term psychotropic therapy or those on maintenance therapy required for a chronic medical condition" (*Pediatrics*. 2011; 127(4): 795)

Mosquito Shield - Partner



Camp is taking an aggressive approach this summer towards the eradication and control of mosquitoes and ticks on our camp grounds. Beginning long before the summer camp season begins we will be spraying and partnering with Mosquito Shield. The spraying is a safe and effective means of controlling the mosquito and tick population. Mosquito Shield uses a blend of natural oils so the product is environmentally responsible as well as kid friendly. We will spray at times when children are not present at the areas being treated. Once the technician is done spraying the area it can be used immediately.

Health Concerns

Along with our four character principles of honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility, the health and safety of all our participants are the primary concern in all camp activities. Our staff is trained in Red Cross First Aid and CPR. Camp staff who accompany teens on off-site trips hold Red Cross Responding to Emergencies certification. All teens have routine health checks on opening day.

During their two weeks together, counselors and other staff watch for signs of fatigue, improper eating, etc. that may indicate illness. If a staff member or teen expresses a health concern, the teen is escorted to the Health Officer. The Health Staff and/or Leadership Development Director will determine if the illness merits contacting parents or emergency services to come immediately for the child. Should a child have a communicable disease, other program parents will be notified. Please notify us if a communicable disease occurs shortly after returning from camp.

Please communicate any health concerns that you may have with our Health Services Staff. If your teen is feeling ill on camp check-in day, please keep them home and bring them to camp when they are well. Safety is our #1 priority. It is camp policy for a camper to be fever free or vomit free for 24 hours prior to attending camp.

Health Enhancement Policy

Our Leadership teens will lead a very active lifestyle at camp. We try to encourage a healthy lifestyle at home. Please prepare your child for two weeks without junk food and increased activity. Care packages should be intended to be shared with your teen's entire yurt.

Transportation

Overnight campers will be dropped off by their parents or guardians. This is a great time for parents/guardians to meet his/her counselor, walk around, and see our wonderful Leadership Development facility. Sherman Lake YMCA Camp is approximately 20 minutes from Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. When campers travel off-site for a program, they will travel in the Sherman Lake YMCA camp bus, driven by the Leadership Development Director who holds a CDL endorsement and has received proper training. If a camper must drive themselves to camp, we must have prior written approval from the parent. When the camper arrives at camp, they will turn in their car keys, which will be kept in a locked location until the end of camp. When the camper leaves camp property at checkout, the parent will be notified.

Camper Daily Schedule

8:00am	WOW Inspiration	WOW Inspiration	Day Trip – leave at 7:00am
8:30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Canoeing
9:00	Yurt Clean Up	Yurt Clean Up	Hiking
10:00	Team Initiatives	Defining Motivation	Caving
12:00pm	Lunch at Leadership	Lunch at Leadership	Lunch – off site
1:15	Rest Time	Rest Time	
2:00	Trust Activities/Low Ropes	Leadership Lesson	
3:30	Leadership	Outdoor	
6:00	Dinner	Dinner	
7:00	Profile of a Leader	Trip Preparation	
8:30	Capture the Pig	Pack Out Trip	Free Choice
10:00	Group	Group	All Camp Games
11:00	Lights Out	Lights Out	Debrief Trip

Camp adventure based experiential activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Rock Climbing – here at camp on our multiple rock walls.
- Canoeing – learning the basic skills on Sherman Lake, and applying those skills on one of our overnight trips
- Horseback Riding – campers will have opportunities to ride horses at camp
- Service Learning – projects at camp that leave a permanent legacy, as well as assisting community organizations with small projects.
- Tree Climbing – a great compliment to our high ropes elements with climbing to a platform in the tree canopy.
- High and Low Ropes – courses that offer a challenge for any comfort level. One of the safest activities at camp.
- Backpacking – hiking on trails, learning the techniques and carrying your own gear. Pack out what you pack in.

- Tent Camping – learn the basics on Sherman Lake YMCA grounds and apply those skills on our extended overnight trip.
- Back Country Camping – low impact camping, experiencing nature in its purest state.
- Caving – learning spelunking from the experts as we visit Marengo Caves in Southern Indiana.

Camper Information

Correspondence – mail be sent to the camp address:

Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center
 Leadership Development Program
 c/o (Camper's Name)
 6225 N. 39th Street
 Augusta, MI 49012

We strive for effective, positive, and open communication with our campers and parents. As such, we have policies that protect your child and our counselor's safety. While the internet is an amazing and convenient communication tool, we recognize the inherent dangers involved with children and the internet. We have instructed our counselors not to share their email address with campers. If your camper would like to email their counselor, we ask that this be done in an open forum – through our logistics@ymcasl.org address. Campers or parents are welcome to contact a counselor by sending an email to this address. We will forward the message on to the counselor, who will respond from that same email address.

Yurt Assignments

The main focus of our High School Leadership Development experience is for teens to build life-long, healthy relationships. A great majority of our teens come to camp eager to make new friends. Because of the size of our Yurts, we ask the teens to focus on making great new friendships at camp and ask them to **limit the request of yurt mates to one other teen**. We ask this first for smaller yurt sizes so your teen receives more individual attention. Secondly, our teens will spend the majority of their time in the large group and use their yurt as a place of rest. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE NEW LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS and this camp is a great place for these skills to be developed and put to great use.

Camp Store

For your convenience, there is a camp store on the premises where your teen may purchase personal items such as toiletries, postcards, envelopes, stamps, T-shirts, snacks, drinks, etc. To avoid problems, all money will be kept in the teen's store account during their stay. We recommend a minimum \$10-20 per week in the store account. As your child purchases items, the amount spent is deducted from the individual store account. Any remaining balance will be refunded at checkout. We also suggest that the camper brings \$10-20 to spend on off-site excursions.

Waterfront Rules

Campers will be tested for swimming ability on the opening day of camp. Teens will be assigned to the appropriate swimming area to ensure their safety. We also enforce the following:

- Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) must be worn at all times when in boats.
- Buddy boards will be in use at the swimming area.
- All swimmers will have a "buddy" while in the swim area.

- Swimming and boating are only allowed during designated times when lifeguards are present.

World Service

Our camp conducts activities each session to support YMCA World Service and promote international understanding. Our International staff and campers provide exciting programs that give the campers a chance to see how other cultures live around the world. The International YMCA operates in over 85 countries. Each year we try to have international campers enrolled in the Leadership Development Program. During Session 1, our LDP campers will interact with a Leadership Program from Colombia. This is a special experience.

Birthdays

If your teen has a birthday while at camp, please let us know so we can celebrate it with him/her!

Information Sessions

You and your family are invited to our Open Houses. Please join us for a great day and bring your friends! Activity areas will be open. This is an excellent opportunity to view the Leadership Development facilities, meet our staff, and hang out with your family. Join the fun - we hope to see you there!

Summer Camp Extravaganza & Community Open House

Sunday - April 28 - 1-4pm

Kids ROAR (Rogue Obstacle Adventure Race)

Sunday, May 19 - Noon - 2pm

Bring Your Friends!

We love introducing teen leaders to our Leadership programs. We appreciate your efforts to help spread the word. We will personally meet with you and your friends to give you a tour. Simply call our camp office to register!

Questions

Our staff is here to answer your questions. Call us at 269.731.3030. The Leadership Development program is a very special experience for every teen. We are here to support you and provide the best experience possible for your child. Please do not ever hesitate to call us. We appreciate your active involvement in the Sherman Lake YCMA Camp programs. Together, we build confidence, courage and character.

Camp Location

Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center
6225 N. 39th Street
Augusta, MI 49012
269.731.3000

From Kalamazoo and Richland:

Go east on M-43 to Richland. At the stop light, continue straight through the light on M-89 to 38th Street. Turn right (south) on 38th Street. 38th Street becomes 39th Street. The camp entrance is about one mile south of M-89 on 39th Street.

From Battle Creek:

Go west on M-89 on 38th Street. Turn left (south) on 38th Street. 38th Street becomes 39th Street. The camp entrance is about one mile south of M-89 on 39th Street.

From Portage:

Go east on I-94. Take Exit #85 at 35th Street. Follow 35th Street north until G Avenue. Turn right (east) on G Avenue. Turn left on 39th Street. The camp entrance is located on 39th Street.