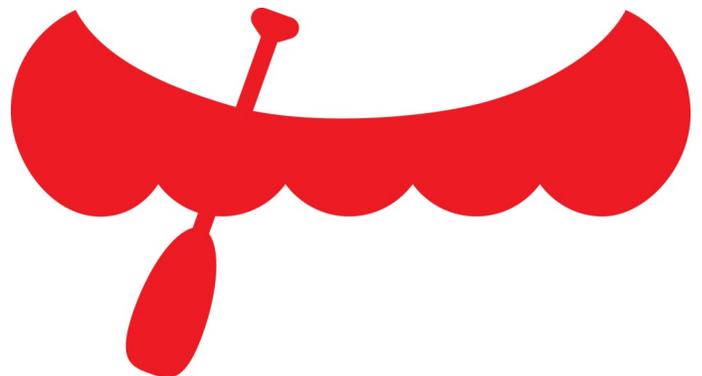




FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

PLAN PREPARE ENJOY!

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
YMCA CAMP CHEROKEE
1299 CAMP CHEROKEE ROAD
BLACKSBURG, SC 29702



WELCOME!

We look forward to seeing you soon

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Education Program at YMCA Camp Cherokee. We are located in the middle of Kings Mountain State Park, which means we have incredibly diverse ecosystems to explore—from a creek, to a wetland, to a lake! We take advantage of the natural habitats and resources to provide students the most authentic environmental education and outdoor science experience possible.

EXAMPLE DAY TRIP SCHEDULE

9:00am-9:15am	Arrive at YMCA Camp Cherokee
9:15am-9:30am	Introduction and Welcome
9:35am-11:05am	Class A
11:05am-11:35am	Bagged Lunch Outside or in Mess Hall
11:40am-1:10pm	Class B
1:10pm-1:15pm	Thank You!
1:20pm	Load the Bus & Depart YMCA Camp Cherokee

Please contact Savannah Anderson at sanderson@upymca.org or 803.222.2850 if you have any questions!

TRIP LEADER CHECKLIST

4-6 Months Before Trip

- Schedule and confirm trip date (s)
- Submit contract and deposit to Camp Cherokee
- Inform parents and students of trip
- Arrange for transportation or contact Camp Cherokee if transportation is needed
- Emergency transportation: your school is responsible for providing emergency transportation if necessary
- Consult school administration regarding the need for a chaperone background check, policies related to student safety and abuse prevention, etc.

1-2 Months Before Trip

- Send a Chaperone Letter, What to Bring List, and parent-packet home with students
- Submit schedule and information form to YMCA Camp Cherokee
- Discuss trip goals and expected behavior with students
- Collect final payment from students to have turned into Camp Cherokee staff

2-4 Weeks Before Trip

- Finalize number of students & chaperones attending and update this information with Camp Cherokee
- Hold chaperone meeting to review roles and responsibilities
- Collect permission forms from students
- Send final payment to YMCA Camp Cherokee

1 Week Before Trip

- Make nametags for every student; this helps the instructors make each class personal
- Ensure all students are prepared with a lunch, as we cannot provide lunches for day trip students
- Review with students your expectations, goals, and what to bring for the trip
- Review schedule sent from Cherokee; contact Director with any questions, concerns or changes that need to be made.
- Make final contact with Camp Cherokee for confirmation and to ask any questions you may have.

Day of Trip

- Head count and collect lunches
- Give every student a name tag
- Call Camp Cherokee staff to verify number of students and time of departure



Please contact Savannah Anderson at sanderson@upymca.org or 803.222.2850 if you have any questions!

GUIDELINES

CANCELLATION AND WEATHER POLICY

We have a "Rain or Shine" policy at Camp. There are some indoor activities that we can facilitate, but will try to get out for at least a portion of the day. Visitors should bring rain gear as necessary.

If severe weather conditions exist or are predicted, the UPYMCA will cancel programs and notify the teacher and school immediately. We will work with groups to re-schedule as our schedule allows.

Cancellation by a School If an unforeseen emergency arises and you must cancel, please call Nell Pears at 540.272.2260 or Savannah Anderson at 803.818.8763. Failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of payment or fees that have been collected.

WHAT SHOULD WE WEAR?

Students should wear closed-toed shoes. (No flip-flops or sandals). Long pants or shorts are appropriate, depending on the temperature. Please encourage and remind your students to dress warmly if your visit is scheduled during cool/cold weather.

EXTRA VEHICLE

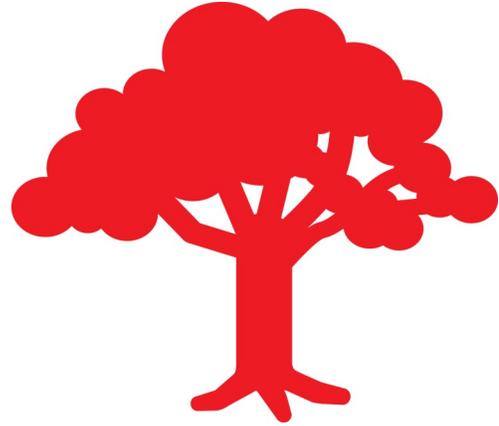
We ask each group provides an additional vehicle in case an emergency should arise while at camp.

WHAT'S MY ROLE AS A TEACHER?

YMCA Camp Cherokee wants you to enjoy your field trip to Camp as much as your students will! When you arrive at Camp Cherokee, you can relax and enjoy the lesson with the students. We just ask that you, as well as your chaperones, help us keep everyone focused on the instructor and making safe choices.

FIRST AID AND MEDICATIONS

Bring any necessary medications with you on the bus to Camp Cherokee. Please inform camp staff, as necessary, of any medical conditions. We recommend groups have a first aid kit, as well. In the case of a serious emergency, please have parent contact information easily accessible.



NAME TAGS

We like to be able to call students by their name when they are participating in our program. Your help in providing name tags will be appreciated!

WAIVERS

Our insurance carrier requires us to have signed waivers by each student's parent or guardian in order to participate in our programs. Please help us keep Camp Cherokee injury-free! We will need one from each adult, as well.

LUNCH TIME

There is no food available on-site except what groups bring with them. Please be sure everyone has a lunch. Collect lunches in boxes/containers according to their field groups and collect them prior to boarding so we can load/unload them quickly.

TRANSPORTATION

The Upper Palmetto YMCA will be able to provide transportation from your school*. The fees include mileage and hourly driver wages. If you choose this option, these costs will be included in an invoice. Please contact the Director of Environmental Education as soon as possible if you will require transportation.

*YMCA can only provide limited transportation; be sure to contact Savannah if you plan on utilizing this option.

Please contact Savannah Anderson at sanderson@upymca.org or 803.222.2850 if you have any questions!

CHECK LIST

Check it once, check it twice!

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- Signed Waiver Forms – one from each student and one from each adult
- First aid kit
- Student medications & parent/emergency contact info
- Lunches/drinks *
- Trash bag (s)
- Student name tags – placed where we can see and read them easily
- Appropriate attire: closed-toed shoes, rain jacket or poncho
- Sunscreen and an extra cooler and bottled water (as necessary)

PARK ETIQUETTE AND STUDENT SAFETY

To ensure a memorable day for the students, please relay the following information to your students and chaperones.

- Each living and non-living part of the park must be treated respectfully and remain in the park.
- Please stay with the group and stay on the trails. This also decreases chances of poison ivy.
- Please refrain from running – large roots and rocks have been known to cause falls!
- To avoid injuries leave rocks and sticks on the ground. This also helps avoid injuries and prevents disruption to wildlife.
- Please refrain from having physical contact with living creatures, such as turtles, frogs, lizards, etc. Besides health issues, *we* are visitors in *their* environment.
- Food and trash should be kept in the mess hall where lunch is consumed. Please help us ensure all trash is picked up prior to departure.

LUNCHES & OTHER ITEMS

- Please collect lunches at school and pack them in field group specific large cardboard boxes so they can be moved & stored easily.
- We encourage visitors to bring only what they are willing to carry with them all day. Students do not need a lot of “extras” to keep up with.

Please contact Savannah Anderson at sanderson@upymca.org or 803.222.2850 if you have any questions!