



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

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**YMCA CAMPS ENCOURAGE KIDS TO GET OFF THE COUCH AND
PROVIDES A SAFE PLACE TO PLAY**

YMCA celebrates 125th Anniversary of Camping

Sunshine, blue skies, warm temps and no school can only mean one thing – it's time for summer camp! The YMCA of Greater Indianapolis offers a safe and caring environment where kids and teens have fun, learn new skills, get outdoors, make friends and make memories.

“Spending the summer at camp is not only a valuable and safe experience for youth, it's also important to their personal development,” says Nancy Short, Associate Vice President of Youth and Teen Development. “Camp helps youth develop social skills and decision-making skills, and learn from new experiences.”

Camping experts at the YMCA say that summer camp can have a meaningful impact on youth in several ways:

- Youth experience “unstructured” playtime that they normally don't have at home or school, thus learning how to become independent, make smart choices, solve problems and work with others.
- The experience of trying and learning new things, including adventurous outdoor activities, gives youth confidence and helps them develop healthy life-long habits.
- As fewer youth are spending time outdoors, camp helps them develop an awareness and appreciation for nature.
- At camp youth are cared for and given guidance, and feel a part of a community, allowing them to feel comfortable being themselves.
- Youth learn from other campers and counselors, and make new friends to share it all with.

YMCA camps provide exciting and educational summer camp options that appeal to both parents and kids including specialty camps like Super Hero Training Camp, Crafts and Creations, Hip Hop Dancing, Cooking in addition to traditional camp activities. Parents will be glad to know that **YMCA camps are conveniently located at 39 locations** throughout greater Indianapolis and early drop-off and late pick-up options are available for the working parent. **YMCA Camps are also affordable** to families, with **financial assistance available** to send any child to camp this summer.

This year, the YMCA celebrates the 125th Anniversary of Camping. The YMCA of Greater Indianapolis will join the more than 2,000 day camps and more than 300 resident camps across the country in celebrating this milestone.

To register and for more information about YMCA camp programs, visit www.indymca.org or call 317-266-9622.

About the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis

The YMCA of Greater Indianapolis serves more than 166,000 people in diverse communities throughout greater Indianapolis. The YMCA brings together young and old, men and women, people of all faiths, backgrounds and incomes. Last year the YMCA provided nearly \$6 million in scholarships, subsidies, and under-written programs and community services in low income neighborhoods. Through 13 branches and in collaboration with more than 200 churches, schools, and other community groups and organizations, the YMCA is also able to extend its program opportunities throughout Central Indiana and into the heart of urban neighborhoods. For more information about YMCA programs and services visit www.indymca.org.

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