



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA CAMP TIMBERS

WEST BRANCH, MICHIGAN

2023

SUMMER CAMPS & TRIPS



CAMPTIMBERS.ORG
989-345-2630



Greetings from YMCA Camp Timbers!



Thank you for considering a camp experience with us for your child. I am confident our Summer 2023 season will be one of our best yet and I am thrilled to be returning for my 8th year as the director and my 3rd year as a parent of campers. I hope your family will find YMCA Camp Timbers to be as much of a “home away from home” for your kids as it is for mine.

Within this brochure, you will find details on our goals - **EXPERIENCE, CONNECT,** and **GROW** - and information to help you better understand all that camp has to offer your family this summer.

I believe all kids need a place like camp in their lives. A place for:

- Laughing and smiling with new friends
- Disconnecting from screens and reconnecting with each other
- Experiencing the fresh air, wonder, and adventure of nature
- Growing in confidence and self-esteem as they set and achieve goals
- Finding acceptance, self-worth, and a sense of belonging
- Enjoying the care-free joy of being a kid

As a parent of campers myself, I understand and appreciate how challenging it can be to entrust someone else with the care of your child. At YMCA Camp Timbers, our campers’ safety has always been our top priority. As a camp that is accredited by the American Camp Association, we are committed to the highest levels of quality, care, and safety in all that we do.

I would be happy to speak with you more about camp and to help answer your questions. You are welcome to contact me directly at 989-345-2630 or BAMiller@SaginawYMCA.org. It would be a privilege to partner with you to make this summer a fun, meaningful, and memorable one for your camper.

Sincerely,

Brian

Brian Miller
Executive Director

We strive to be a camp community that is for all, where all campers are welcomed, valued, respected, and inspired. If you have questions about whether YMCA Camp Timbers is the right fit for your child due to any special consideration, please contact us.

EXPERIENCE

SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE VIDEO



We create remarkable experiences for campers. Camp is full of new activities, adventures, and lifelong memories for your child. These are the adventures and achievements they'll remember long after camp.

- **The Perfect Size** – Large enough for extensive activity options and small enough (capacity of 188 campers) to feel like family
- **An “Up North” Feel** - Located on 300 acres of beautiful Northern Michigan forest, with Piper Lake – our private, spring-fed lake
- **The Highest Standards** - Accredited by the American Camp Association and licensed by the State of Michigan



CONNECT



We help to build quality connections with our campers. Our counselors set out to make sure every camper knows camp is a place they belong, feel accepted, and can be themselves.

Camp connects campers with face-to-face friends, the inspiration of nature, and our supportive and encouraging counselors. These are the friends and role models they will remember long after camp.

Small Group Communities

Up to 12 campers and 2 counselors per cabin, grouped by age and gender

High-Caliber Staff

Selected for their character, experience, and ability to be role models for campers, with over 80 hours of training prior to camp, including First Aid and CPR certification



“It’s a beautiful camp with quality staff who are creative at ensuring that all campers are included and make connections with other children.”

GROW

We facilitate meaningful individual growth for campers. Camp is fun. We also want a camp experience to make a lasting positive impact.

This growth is fostered by inspirational, value-based morning messages, small group reflections through the day, intentional evening cabin reflections, and opportunities to practice 21st-century skills – collaboration, teamwork, conflict resolution, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, and stewardship.



**Camp
Helped My
Child...**

98%
Build confidence

98%
Feel a sense of
belonging at camp

97%
Build independence

97%
Make new friends

95%
Discover what he/
she can achieve

97%
Gain new skills

Camp Timbers family surveys

"My 7-year-old absolutely loved the experience. She came home slightly braver and 100% more confident. This will be a yearly thing!"

SAMPLE CAMP ACTIVITIES:

Archery
Arts/Crafts
Backyard Games
Campfire Skits/Songs
Canoes
Climbing Tower
Cooperative Games
Fishing
GaGa Ball
Giant Swing
Hammocking
High Ropes Course
Kayaks
Nature Hikes
Paddle Boards
Sled Tube
Sports/Games
STEM Challenges
Swimming
Team-building Course
Vertical Playpen
Zip Lines

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

7:45 am	Morning Watch
8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Activity 1*
10:45 am	Activity 2*
12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Mindful Moment
1:30 pm	Hang Time (Free Choice)
2:30 pm	Snack
3:00 pm	Rest Period
4:30 pm	Waterfront
5:45 pm	Dinner
7:15 pm	Evening Program
8:30 pm	Showers
9:00 pm	Evening Cabin Reflections
9:30 pm	Lights Out Begins

*Activities are cabin-based, with cabin groups rotating through all age-based activities during a session.

AGE-BASED VILLAGES



CRUISERS
Ages 6-8



SAWYERS
Ages 9-11



TOPPERS
Ages 12-14

CAMP FEATURES



LODGING

Equipped with built-in bunks, heat, and electricity, each cabin is a welcoming community for campers. Cabins are centrally located and have easy access to one of our recently renovated bathhouse facilities. The small-group cabin community becomes your child's "home away from home," with 8-12 campers and their counselors in each cabin.

DINING

Our Woodland Lodge features healthy, family-style meals for campers to enjoy. Not only is there great food, but also enough space to eat outdoors in the fresh air (under canopies) for the 2023 camp season. Our cooks can accommodate most special dietary needs, please contact us to discuss any special considerations.

MEDICAL

A trained health officer lives on site during each of our camp sessions. They are available 24/7 to assist with any medical care that may be required and medication management. A physician specializing in family medicine reviews our health policy and provides as-needed virtual consultations.

MORNING WATCH and EVENING REFLECTION

Each morning before breakfast campers gather for Morning Watch, an inspirational, value-based message. Campers end the day with a cabin-based reflection facilitated by their counselors. We focus on our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility and encourage stewardship, resiliency, gratitude, and empathy in our stories and skits.

SAFETY AND SUPERVISION

Camper safety is our top priority, and campers are always under the supervision of our caring staff. Our "Rule of 3" ensures campers are never alone or in 1:1 situations, and the counselors are present during all parts of the day to facilitate friendship making and safe, fun, teachable moments.

"So impressed with the activities, organization, and safety protocols... while providing such a FUN experience."

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Mini Camp: Ages 6-9

For three days and two nights, our youngest campers explore the adventures of overnight camp and get used to the experience of being away from home. This session offers both a shorter program duration and a higher level of staff support to help make these new campers' first adventure with us as successful as possible.

Traditional Overnight Camp: Ages 7-14

MOST POPULAR

This is our classic overnight camp experience, and the most popular program we offer! For 6 days and 5 nights, campers gain remarkable experiences, quality connections, and meaningful growth as part of our small-group, cabin-based communities.

Herter Band Camp: Grades 6th-10th

This program, a partnership with the Herter Music Center, offers campers the unique opportunity to advance their musical ability, prepare a concert performance, and experience many of the activities and adventures YMCA Camp Timbers has to offer. Campers must have completed at least one year of school band to participate.



Leader-in-Training (LIT): Ages 14-16

This is the first step in our progressive teen leadership program. Campers experience a combination of daily leadership-based lessons and traditional camp activities. Lessons focus on small-group facilitation skills, leadership styles, communication skills, and the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Counselor-in-Training (CIT): Ages 16-17

The capstone of our camper experience and the second stage of our progressive teen leadership program is the CIT program. Campers have an immersive leadership experience, including lessons in child development, coaching and encouraging others, and small-group leadership skills. CITs spend the week shadowing counselors, mentoring younger campers, and meeting to further learn and reflect on their experience. This program includes a day trip to canoe the AuSable River, a CIT-tradition. Campers who successfully complete the CIT program are invited to return to volunteer for any of the remaining camp sessions as space allows.

REGISTER ONLINE at www.CampTimbers.org or contact us at 989-345-2630 to learn more.

ADVENTURE TRIPS

Adventure trips are the perfect option for older campers interested in exploring some of Michigan's most scenic locations. Trips utilize rustic backcountry campsites with limited access to restrooms and spend each night in shared backpacking tents. All trips begin and end at camp, are led by camp staff with backpacking experience, and include all backpacking-related gear.

Backpacking South Manitou Island: Ages 12–13

Participants spend 4 days and 3 nights on South Manitou Island in Lake Michigan, using the same rustic campsite each night. Day hike destinations include towering sand dunes, old-growth forests, remnants of a ghost town, and a lighthouse. Includes all meals, equipment, ferry, and bus transportation from camp.

Backpacking North Manitou Island: Ages 13–14

The larger and wilder of the Manitou Islands, North Manitou Island gives participants the opportunity to expand their backpacking skills. Participants will carry all gear each day, setting up different campsites each night as they circle the island. Includes all meals, equipment, ferry, and bus transportation from camp.

Backpacking the Pictured Rocks: Ages 14–15

Participants hike the famous Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, building confidence, friendships, and lifelong memories along the way. Experienced trip leaders will guide participants as they hike approximately 30 miles along Lake Superior, gaining the sense of empowerment that comes from carrying all they need on their backs.

Backpacking the Porcupine Mountains: Ages 15–17

Our capstone backpacking trip destination for 2023, the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is Michigan's largest state park and one of the state's few remaining large tracts of wilderness. This trip features rugged trails, miles of remote Lake Superior shoreline, numerous waterfalls, stream crossings, and high rocky bluffs. Prior backpacking trip experience is recommended, and participants must be able to hike up to 10 miles per day.



Frequently Asked Questions

How do we register?

Visit www.CampTimbers.org for our online registration – the quickest way to reserve a spot for your camper.

Can my child bring a friend?

Many campers attend camp with a friend or two from home, and all campers make new friends too. Friends of the same gender and within 2 years of age can request the same cabin during registration.

What is your refund policy?

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due at registration to hold a camper's space in a cabin. The balance is due two weeks prior to the start of your camp session.

The deposit is refundable only in the event of a physician-documented illness or injury, including cancellations due to COVID-19 symptoms or quarantine. Cancellations for other reasons less than two weeks in advance are non-refundable. If a specific session is canceled by camp or if camp is unable to operate all payments will be 100% refunded.

What if camp doesn't fit in our budget? Are there scholarships?

All families are invited to select the pricing tier that best fits their needs. Please refer to "Why 3 Prices?" on the next page for details.

Additional income-based scholarships are available to ensure no child misses out on camp for financial reasons. Please visit www.CampTimbers.org or contact us at 989-345-2630 to learn more about levels of support and to access a scholarship application.

Can we tour camp before my child attends this summer?

Yes! We'd love to help your family become more familiar with camp. You're invited to attend one of two Open House events to meet our staff, tour the facilities, and help you and your child feel more prepared and comfortable before camp starts.

**VIRTUAL
OPEN HOUSE
TUESDAY, APRIL 18
6-7 PM**



**IN-PERSON
OPEN HOUSE at CAMP
SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023
1-4 PM**

Camp sounds GREAT! Can I come to camp too?

Yes! We'd love to have your entire family join us for one of our **Family Camp Weekends**. Reserve a private cabin for your family and enjoy quality time together. We'll take care of meals, activity offerings, and cleaning so you can focus on what's most important – making meaningful memories together.

Two options are available for families in 2023: **August 18-20** and **September 22-24**. Learn more and register at www.CampTimbers.org.

YMCA CAMP TIMBERS

3269 Horseshoe Lake Rd, West Branch, MI 48661
P 989-345-2630 www.CampTimbers.org



SUMMER 2023

WHY 3 PRICES?

We offer a voluntary three-tier pricing program. Choose the tier most suitable for your family. Your choice is confidential and does not impact the program or experience. This allows us to provide quality experiences to as many campers as possible and ensure no child misses out for financial reasons.

TIER A - Reflects the **true cost** of camp. If able to pay this amount, please do so.

TIER B - A **partially subsidized** rate representing \$75 of scholarship assistance needed.

TIER C - A **subsidized** rate to allow camp to be possible for as many as possible with \$150 scholarship assistance.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - Income-based scholarships are available in addition to TIER C pricing. Please visit our website or call 989-345-2630 for details.

Dates	Session
June 11-16	1
June 18-24	2 - WAITLIST ONLY
June 25 - July 1	3 (Herter Band Camp)
July 5-7	4 (Mini Camp)
July 9-14	5
July 16-21	6
July 23-28	7
July 30 - August 4	8

SUMMER PROGRAMS	SESSION PRICING				
CAMPS	TIER A TRUE COST	TIER B	TIER C		
Herter Band Camp: grades 6-10 with school band experience Sessions 2, 3 (Sunday-Saturday)	\$699	\$75 SCHOLARSHIP	\$150 SCHOLARSHIP		
Traditional Overnight Camp: ages 7-14 Sessions 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 (Sunday-Friday)	\$685				
Mini Overnight Camp: ages 6-9 Session 4, (Wednesday, July 5 - Friday, July 7)	\$435				
Leader in Training (LIT): ages 14-16 Sessions 6, 7 (Sunday-Friday)	\$685				
Counselor in Training (CIT): ages 16-17 Session 5 (Sunday-Friday)	\$685				
TRIPS					
Backpacking South Manitou Island: ages 12-13 Session 8	\$735				
Backpacking North Manitou Island: ages 13-14 Session 6	\$735				
Backpacking the Pictured Rocks Lakeshore: ages 14-15 Session 5	\$785				
Backpacking the Porcupine Mountains ages 15-17 Session 7	\$785				

REGISTER ONLINE and LEARN MORE at CAMPTIMBERS.ORG



PROJECT 192

GIVE THE GIFT OF CAMP

No child should miss out on a camp experience for financial reasons. Project 192 is our annual campaign to ensure scholarships are available for at least 192 campers each year, equal to the number of camper beds at YMCA Camp Timbers.

To join us in supporting these camper scholarships, visit www.SaginawYMCA.org/give. To learn about business sponsorship opportunities, contact Brian at Timbers@SaginawYMCA.org or 989-345-2630.



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