



# YMCA CAMP KERN PARENT PLANNER 2026





# WELCOME TO SUMMER 2026!

It's finally here! It's time to start thinking about summer camp! **This Parent Planner will include all the information you will need to prepare your camper** for their summer experience with us. Please look over it carefully; the information is important to both you and your camper.

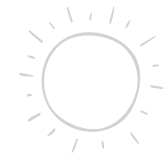
**We are beyond excited for this summer and all the adventures we have planned for your camper!** We cannot wait for them to come grow with us!



## THE PRE-CAMP CHECKLIST



- Register at CampKern.org
- Submit Payment
- Complete forms 1 month before arrival
  - Health History Form (including dietary restrictions)
  - Parent Camper Confidentiality Form
  - Permission to Treat and Health Notification
  - Publicity Waiver
  - Sunscreen and Bug Repellent Application Consent
  - Camper Code of Conduct
  - Any Program Specific Waivers
- Review Important Information (Pages 10-13)
- Pack (Page 7)
- Prepare Mail (Page 9)
- Load up the car for the BEST SUMMER EVER!



# DIRECTIONS

YMCA Camp Kern is located approximately 10 miles North of Kings Island off of I-71. Exit 1-71 at exit #32, head South on State Route 123, make a left onto State Route 350, travel 2 miles, YMCA Camp Kern will be on the right hand side.

## DISTANCE

30 miles from Cincinnati  
35 miles from Dayton  
80 miles from Columbus



1. Follow I-75 to Exit 32
2. 123 South to St Rt 350 East
3. Follow for 2 miles

## EMERGENCY CONTACT



**To contact camp:** There will be someone available in our office from 8:30 am - 5 pm from Monday to Friday at (513) 932-3756.

**After business hours:** You can call the emergency number provided to you during check in. This number will also be on the recording when calling our office after hours. Please follow the prompts to our On-Duty Director.

**In the event of an emergency:** You will be contacted via phone. Updates on weather emergencies will be communicated via E-mail and the Companion App.

## GENERAL CONTACT

Phone: 513-932-3756  
Fax: 513-932-8607

Address:  
5291 St. Rt. 350  
Oregonia, OH 45054

# CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT LOCATIONS

## FULL WEEK CAMPS

**DROP OFF:** Parents will be able to walk campers to their cabins.

**PICK UP:** Parents will park and head over to their camper's cabin to check out with their counselor.



	<b>DROP OFF</b>	<b>PICK-UP</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>TRADITIONAL</b>			
FRONTIER (7-9)	2:30PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
EXPLORER (9-11)	2:30PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
ADVENTURE (11-13)	2:30PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
PIONEER (13-14)	2:30PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
<b>COUNSELOR IN TRAINING</b>	1:30PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
<b>FULLY THEMED CAMP</b>	3:00PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	WILDERNESS PAVILION
<b>TEEN CAMPS</b>	3:00PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
<b>LEADERS IN TRAINING</b>	3:00PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
<b>HORSE CAMPS</b>	2:30PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	ELK LODGE
<b>TASTE OF KERN - A</b>	<b>DROP OFF SUNDAY</b> 3:00PM-4:00PM	<b>PICK-UP TUESDAY</b> 6:00PM	<b>LOCATION</b> SUGARWOOD CABINS
<b>TASTE OF KERN - B</b>	<b>DROP OFF WEDNESDAY</b> 8:00AM-9:00AM	<b>PICK-UP FRIDAY</b> 6:00PM	<b>LOCATION</b> SUGARWOOD CABINS

# CHECK-OUT ACTIVITIES



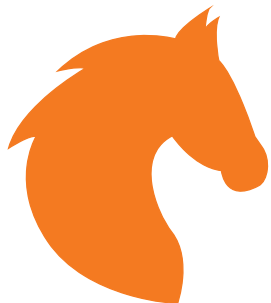
PARENTS ARE INVITED!



**Check-out Programing for Leadership and Traditional Camp** will begin at 5:30pm with a village cheer-off followed by check-out. Your camper can give you a tour of Camp Kern and see all the fun that has happened during their week at camp! We will also be serving hot dogs and chips at this time.

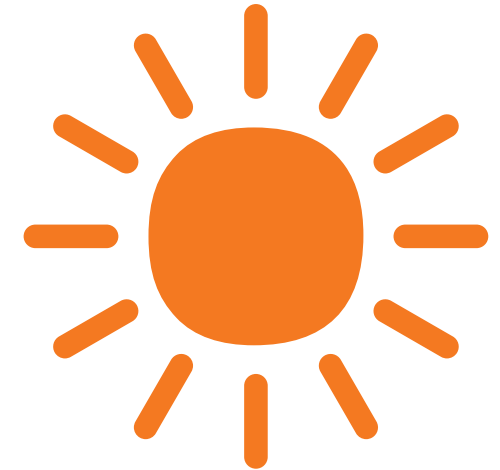


**Check-out Programming for Theme Camp will begin at 5:30pm.** Join our Theme Campers for a Parent Show that reflects on a week of adventure! Hear tales of their epic quests and see some of the incredible creations they've made along the way. Your camper can give you a tour of the Wilderness Pavilion and Camp Kern. Head down to Singerman Lodge, where we will be serving hot dogs and



**Ranch check-out programing will start at the Ranch** with a horse show at 4:30pm followed by check-out. Campers are free to walk their parents/guardians around the ranch and show where all the fun happened that week at camp.

# SEMI-RESIDENTIAL & DAY CAMPS

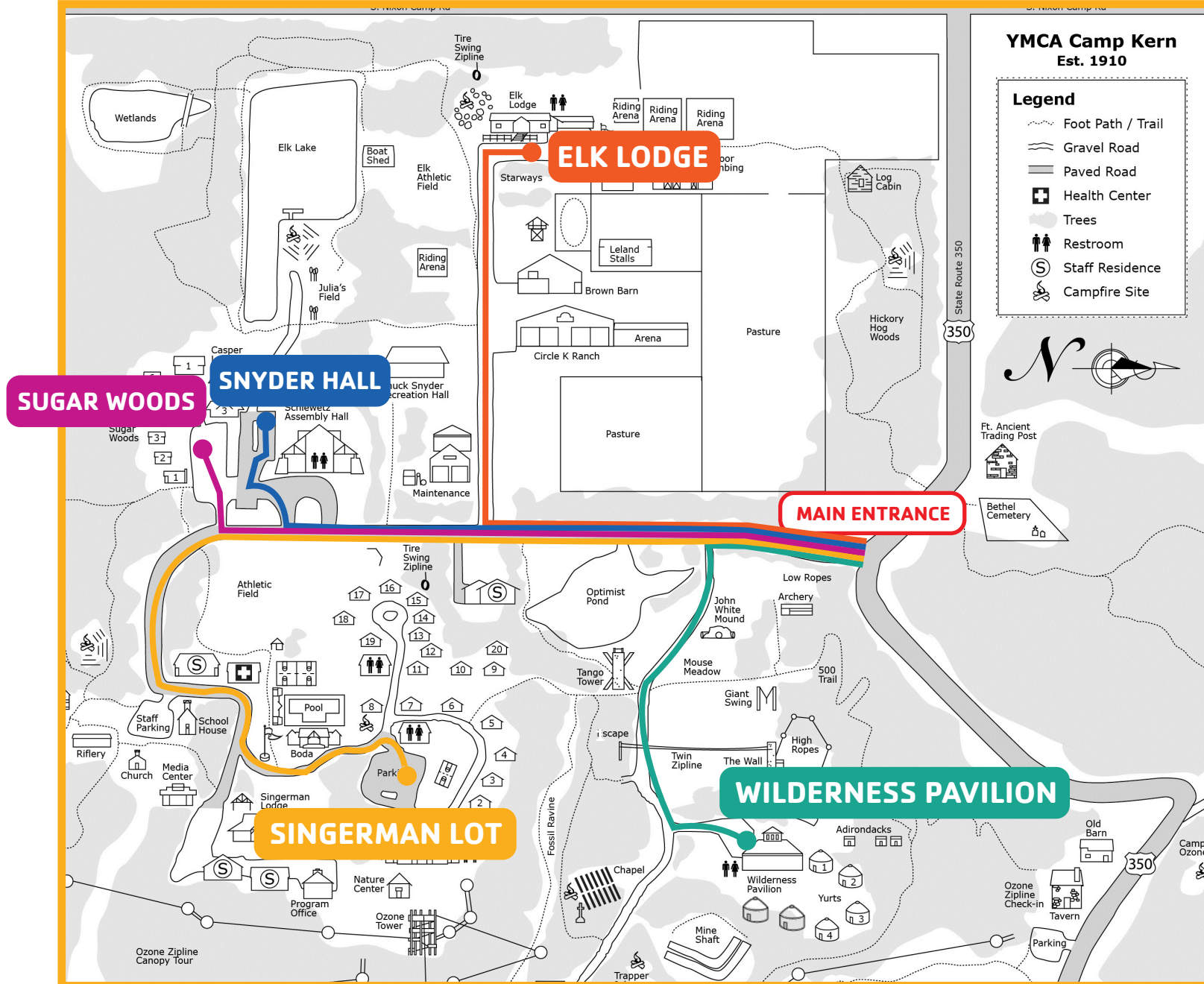


	<b>DROP OFF TIME</b>	<b>PICK-UP TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>SUNRISE CAMP</b> MONDAY-FRIDAY	8:00AM-9:00AM	5:00PM-6:00PM	ELK LODGE
<b>BOOTS &amp; BITS</b> MONDAY-FRIDAY	8:00AM-9:00AM	5:00PM-6:00PM	ELK LODGE
<b>CAMP BLAZE, HTTYD, RANCH</b> MONDAY-FRIDAY	8:00AM-9:00AM	5:00PM-6:00PM	ELK LODGE

## MEALS

We provide a morning snack, lunch, and an afternoon snack.  
Nut-free packed lunches and snacks are welcomed.

# DROP OFF & PICK UP LOCATIONS



# PACKING LIST

- Sleeping bag\*
- Pillow
- Summer clothes that can get messy!
- Underwear and socks (6-7 sets)
- 2 pairs of shoes
  - Closed toe required for climbing
- 1 pair of flip flops (for the shower)
- Bath towel & wash cloth
- Beach towel
- 1 pair of long pants
- 1 sweatshirt or jacket
- 2 swim suits
- Rain gear
- White shirt (for vespers)
- Laundry bag
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Shampoo/conditioner & soap
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Water bottle
- Small backpack (for day use)
- Flashlight
- Disposable camera
- For Ranch Campers: a pair of pants for each day. And boots!



\*Campers will participate in an outdoor camp-out one night during the week and will need a sleeping bag. For everyday use, you can also pack twin sheets, a pillow, and a blanket to put on their bunk or they can use their sleeping bag in place of bedding.

## ADDITIONAL HORSE CAMP ITEMS

- Jeans, breeches or long pants required daily for riding
- Boots with a heel

## DAY CAMP SHOULD ALSO BRING:

Swim Suit, Water Bottle, Change of Clothes, Backpack, Sunscreen & Bug Spray

## ALL ITEMS BROUGHT TO CAMP SHOULD BE LABELED

If your camper forgets or is in need of a required item, alert a camp staff member at check-in, we'll be glad to help.



## WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Cell Phones which includes smart watches, tablets, etc.
- Cash
- Electronics
- Jewelry and other irreplaceable items
- Pets
- Personal Sporting Equipment, camp will provide everything
- YMCA Camp Kern is nut-free. All food will be provided by camp.
- YMCA Camp Kern is a drug and weapon free zone. Any camper found in possession of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, weapons of any kind, or fireworks will be immediately dismissed without a refund.
- Any cell phone found will be confiscated and held in a locked cabinet until check-out.

# CAMP SCHEDULES

## TRADITIONAL CAMP SCHEDULE

**7:00AM** Rise and Shine  
**7:30AM** Flag Raising  
**7:45AM** Breakfast  
**8:50AM** Morning Assembly  
**9:25AM** Morning Activities\*  
**12:00PM** Lunch  
**1:10PM** Rest Hour  
**2:15 PM** Cabin Activity  
**3:30PM** Snack  
**3:45PM** Cabin Activity  
**4:45PM** Flag Lowering  
**5:00PM** Dinner  
**6:15PM** Village Time  
**7:15PM** All Camp Activity  
**8:50PM** Evening Program  
**9:00PM** Snack  
**10:00PM** Lights Out

## RANCH CAMP SCHEDULE





**7:00AM** Rise and Shine  
**8:45AM** Breakfast  
**9:00AM** Riding Lessons\*  
**12:45PM** Lunch  
**1:10PM** Rest Hour  
**2:15PM** Trail Rides/Cabin Activities\*  
**3:30PM** Snack  
**4:00PM** Swimming  
**5:15PM** Flag Lowering  
**5:30PM** Dinner  
**6:15PM** Evening Activity  
**7:15PM** All Camp Activity  
**8:50PM** Round Up  
**9:00PM** Snack  
**10:00PM** Lights Out

\*\*\*These are only example schedules. Activities and times will vary based on program and weather.\*\*\*

# SENDING MAIL TO YOUR CAMPER



**Receiving mail at camp can be a fun addition to your child's week.** If you would like to send something please check out the following guidelines:

-  No care packages. Not everyone gets packages and this can become a negative experience for some of our campers who feel left out.
-  Prevent homesickness by using upbeat camper focused language: "We can't wait to hear about what you've done this week!" VS "We miss you so much."
-  Mail can be from anyone! Feel free to share the address with extended family just be sure to remind everyone we are only accepting letters. No packages.
-  You can also send letter through the Campanion App (Learn more on page 14). Here is the information you need to send you camper a letter. Letters are delivered every day by snack time.

\*Please use this format for addressing all mail sent to YMCA Camp Kern: YMCA Camp Kern  
Camper Name Session # Cabin #  
5291 St. Rt. 350  
Oregonia, Ohio 45054

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## REFUND/PAYMENTS

**Full payment is due by May 1st or with your registration if registering on or after May 1st.**

If you elect to register your child for additional sessions during the summer payment is due at registration. There is a \$20 charge for any returned checks.

Campers who leave early due to a medical condition will receive a prorated refund. Dismissal due to unsatisfactory conduct is not refundable. The Executive Director has the final decision in incidents of behavioral dismissal. The \$100 deposit becomes non-refundable after March 1st.

## MEDICAL CARE

**Your camper's mental, physical, and emotional safety is our highest priority.** YMCA Camp Kern strives to accommodate a wide range of health needs, and we encourage parents and guardians to contact us prior to camp to discuss any medical, emotional, or wellness considerations so we can best support your camper's experience. We kindly ask all parents and guardians to ensure the most up-to-date health history and medication information is completed in your CamplnTouch account prior to arrival. All campers will receive a brief health screening at check-in, including a temperature and lice check, and at that time all prescription and over-the-counter medications must be turned in to the camp nurse in their original containers. It is important that campers continue taking their regular medications as prescribed while at camp. To avoid disruption to program flow, medications will be distributed by the nurse at designated times—during meals (8am, 12pm, and 5pm) and before lights out (9:30–10pm). Tylenol, antacids, and other incidental over-the-counter medications are available from the nurse during the week on an as-needed basis at no charge. Any medical expenses incurred during a camper's stay are the responsibility of the camper's parent or guardian.

## HOMESICKNESS/VISITING

**Homesickness is a natural feeling experienced by many campers, counselors, and parents too!** For most it passes in a day or two and our counselors receive special training on identifying and caring for homesick campers. It is the policy of YMCA Camp Kern to keep campers involved in constant activities to reduce the feeling of homesickness. In the case of severe homesickness, a member of the leadership team will contact you for advice in assisting your camper. To prevent homesickness, visiting is strongly discouraged during the camp week. If you have an extenuating circumstance please call the camp office to discuss your options. No refunds are granted for campers leaving early.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## MEDICAL CARE (CONT)

**You and your insurance company will be billed directly for Doctor, pharmacy, urgent care or emergency room visits.** In the event off site care is needed every attempt will be made to contact you prior to transporting your child for care. A registered nurse is on call and health coordinators live on-site throughout the summer.

## DISCIPLINE

**Campers are expected to treat each other and staff with respect and to abide by camp rules at all times.** It is our policy to use a three step procedure when disciplining campers:

1. Verbal Warning
  2. Behavior Agreement made between camper, counselors, and leadership staff
  3. Conference with Program Director
- Severe behavioral incidents require a phone call to the parent or guardian and may result in bypassing the three steps directly to a conference with the Executive Director.

## FOOD SERVICE

**Three balanced meals are planned and served by the food service team.** Snacks are also provided twice a day, between lunch and dinner and before bedtime.

Note: If your child is vegetarian or has special dietary needs please include this on the Health History Form.

## PHOTOS

**There will be updates on Facebook and Instagram throughout the week.** All photos will be uploaded to the **Companion App**. Photos will be available to view and purchase. The password to access the galleries will be given to you at check-in. Our focus is always on the camper experience, we cannot guarantee photos of every camper. All proceeds from photo sales will go towards our Annual Campaign which helps ensure all children can enjoy a week of Camp.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of YMCA Camp Kern that no behavior that would be classified as sexual harassment will be tolerated by staff or campers. Such behavior will result in dismissal or termination.

## AQUATIC SAFETY

All campers are screened for swimming ability at their first swim and identified with wristbands to determine the portions of the pool available to them. Wristbands also aid our lifeguards in ensuring safety at the pool for all swimmers. Non-swimmers are still able to participate in aquatic activities, however, there will be portions of the pool that are off limits to them. **Any camper unable to pass a swim test will be required to wear a life jacket.** Life jackets are available to any camper who would feel more comfortable using one. Life jackets are required for all campers and staff members taking part in Lakefront Activities.

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

We reserve the right to search all campers personal belongings if we have reason to believe prohibited items are on camp property.

## DRUGS & ALCOHOL

We reserve the right to seize any drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or drug paraphernalia found in camper possession. Possession of any of the aforementioned items will result in immediate contact with the camper's guardians and dismissal with no refund.

## HEAD LICE

**When your child arrives at camp they will be screened for head lice and nits.** If it is discovered that a camper has head lice or nits they will not be permitted to remain at camp. It is Camp Kern's policy not to treat head lice or nits at camp. The campers will only be readmitted when lice and nits have been treated and removed.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## LOST & FOUND/PERSONAL ITEMS

**Lost and Found items are displayed prominently at meal locations throughout the week Monday until check-out on Friday.** Please check your child's belongings before leaving camp. Unclaimed articles will be held at YMCA Camp Kern for one week past the session end date and then donated to a local charity. Please label all items your child brings to camp.

## BED WETTING

**Our staff are trained to handle bed wetting confidentially.** Please notify your child's counselor at check-in and note on the camper information form any history of bed wetting. We are happy to follow preventative measures you use at home (bedtime voiding, reduced liquid intake in the evening, using GoodNites, etc.) Please instruct your camper to inform their counselor right away if they wet the bed, or need help. While we do have washing facilities at camp, sending an extra sleeping bag or sheets can help ensure everyone gets back to sleep quickly and discreetly.

## CHANGING AT CAMP

**All campers will be changing in private areas like the pool house and bathroom partitions.** At no point in time will a cabin change together in an open area.

## CAMPANION APP FOR PARENTS

We're striving to bring parents closer to their camper's experience, and **this summer we're using an amazing new app called Companion** to do just that.

The best things about it? **Companion helps you stay connected to your camper while they're at Camp Kern.** Send one-way "bunk notes" (emails) that we'll print and deliver to your camper's cabin mailbox, and receive important text updates from camp, including daily photos, weather alerts, and quick messages letting you know your camper is safe and having a great week. It's an easy way to stay informed and share a little love from home while they're away.

**To get started, follow these simple steps:**

- Download the Companion app in your app store
- Use your CampInTouch Account email address and password to log in
- Complete forms online and upload completed paperwork right in the app
- Upload a training photo of your child, which enables the app to send you photos of your camper over the summer



**Ensure you have push notification enabled** within your phone settings so you can receive important updates from camp all year long!

# CONTACT INFORMATION

YMCA CAMP KERN OFFICE (513) 932-3756

## Traditional and Semi-Residential Camps

**Jesús Castaño**

**Summer Camp Director**

jcastano@daytonymca.org  
(513) 932-3756 ext 1528

## Registration and Financial Assistance

**Loretta Deters Bailey**

**Director of Administration**

ldeters@daytonymca.org  
(513) 932-3756 ext 1513

## Horse Camps

**Jessica Mullins**

**Equestrian Director**

jmullins@daytonymca.org  
(513) 932-3756 ext 1531

## Meals

**Dawn Preston**

**Kitchen Director**

dpreston@daytonymca.org  
(513) 932-3756 ext 1516

## Teen and Theme Camps

**MacKallie Householder**

**Teen and Family Director**

Mhouseholder@daytonymca.org  
(513) 932-3756 ext 1530



