



YMCA CAMP WABANSI
HANDBOOK 2026



CARING - HONESTY - RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY





WELCOME TO CAMP WABANSI

We are so excited that you have chosen Camp Wabansi for your child's summer camp experience. Teaching the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility to our youth is a partnership that we share with you. As we do our very best to prepare for your child's arrival, please help us by reading this information carefully and preparing your camper for their week at camp. Most importantly, if you still have any questions beyond what you find in this handbook, please contact us anytime.

Thank you,

McKenna Arnoldi
Camp Director
Greater Green Bay YMCA - Camp Wabansi

CAMP CONTACT INFO

Mailing Address: 1242 Bayshore Rd, Brussels, WI 54204

Camp Office Phone: (920) 825-7830

Camp Office Email: camp.wabansi@greenbayymca.org

Social: Facebook @ YMCA Camp Wabansi

Website: www.greenbayymca.org/camp

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Please inform us of any expected absences at least one day in advance if possible. If your child will be unexpectedly absent from camp, please report it by calling or emailing the camp office by 7:30am. Please leave a message if necessary.

A two-week written notice is required to receive any refund. If appropriate written notice is provided, you will receive a refund minus a \$25/cancellation fee (per child/per week). No refunds will be given with less than a two-week notice. There is no fee if you need to simply transfer to another session; please call camp to make those arrangements.

DAILY PACKING LIST

What to bring

- Positive mental attitude
- Bag lunch (lunches will not be refrigerated or microwaved)
- Closed-toe water shoes (required for swimming and boating)
- Full water bottle (32oz recommended)
- Raincoat/poncho if rain is forecasted (we play outside as long as it's safe)
- Sweatshirt/jacket if needed
- Swimsuit and towel (we swim almost every day)
- Sunscreen and bug spray (recommended SPF 30+ and non-DEET)
- TUESDAY ONLY – an item to tie-dye
- WEDNESDAY ONLY – a hotdog and bun to roast over the fire (optional)
- THURSDAY – your camper is welcome to dress for the weekly theme every day, but Thursday is when we do our all-camp themed events!
 - THURSDAY OVERNIGHT PACKING LIST
 - Sleeping bag
 - Pillow
 - Pajamas
 - Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, etc.)
 - Flashlight/headlamp
 - Extra clothes for the next day
 - Any dinner/bedtime or breakfast medications (must be checked in with counselors at the bus stop, not just packed into your camper's bag)
 - Books and/or stuffed animals

IMPORTANT Please label all of your camper's belongings. Unclaimed items will be available for parents to look through at each Friday Finale and kept for at least two weeks. Any unclaimed items will be donated to local charities. Camp Wabansi is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. If you believe that your camper has a lost item at camp, please call us and give a description of the item and where it was last used.

What NOT to bring

- Cell phones (if brought to camp, they must be put away or be confiscated and secured in the office for the remainder of the day)
- iPods, iPads, MP3 players, laptops, gaming devices, or other expensive electronics
- Unnecessary valuables or collectibles
- Pocket knives or weapons of any kind (real or fake)*
- Alcohol, tobacco, or drugs of any kind

*Water guns may be allowed on a case-by-case basis during a water-themed week during the weekly themed event, parent or guardian **MUST** obtain prior authorization from the Camp Director.

BUS PICKUP/DROPOFF

YMCA Camp Wabansi staff CANNOT release your camper to anyone who cannot prove they are listed as an “approved pickup person.” Approved pickup persons MUST have a valid photo ID. Anyone not listed on your camper’s forms as an approved pickup person will NOT be allowed to take your child. Please call camp to review your camper’s approved pickup persons list and/or make changes. This is very important for every child’s safety and we make no exceptions to this policy.

Parents must check campers and teens in directly with the camp staff each day. The camp staff will make sure that you have completed all necessary forms, collect medications, and supervise campers until the bus arrives. Campers and teens must also be checked out from camp staff at the end of each day – they will NOT be permitted to go to your car directly from the bus. Children are supervised by camp staff as soon as they check in and until they are checked out, outside of those times it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide supervision for their camper(s). If Camp Wabansi needs to change the transportation schedule, a new plan will be communicated to the parent or guardian via email and phone call. Please be sure to check your email and phone messages each day while your camper is at camp. Each day we will review safety procedures for campers before departure.

*If your camper has their driver’s license and will be transporting themselves or a younger sibling to and from camp or their bus site, please provide written consent via email or in-person at drop-off which indicates the full names of each camper as well as the effective dates that this permission is given.

PICKUP/DROPOFF TIMES AND LOCATIONS

- Aldo Leopold School – 7:40am / 4:40pm
- East Side YMCA – 8:15am / 4:15pm
- Meadowbrook School – 7:45am / 4:45pm (Meadowbrook bus site is only available for campers registered for Before or After Camp Care at that location).
- West Side YMCA – 8:00am / 4:30pm

The bus will wait for 5 minutes for any late-minute arrivals. If a camper misses the bus, families are welcome to bring their child directly to camp so they can join in on the fun that day.

BEFORE & AFTER CAMP CARE

Before and After Camp care is available at 2 locations, with care starting at 7:00am and ending at 5:30pm. You may choose this option when you register for camp. The cost is \$20 per child, per week.

- Aldo Leopold School & Meadowbrook School

Before and After Camp care is NOT available at East Side YMCA, West Side YMCA, or Camp Wabansi.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday

Bring any medications, medication authorization forms, or camp store money to your bus stop and take a moment to meet the counselors. Your camper will be sent home with a newsletter which contains a portion that must be returned by Tuesday evening, stating whether or not your camper will be staying the night on Thursday and how many people will be attending the Friday Finale for your camper.

Tuesday

It's Tie-Dye Tuesday! Campers should bring an item to tie-dye. White Camp Wabansi t-shirts will be available for purchase. RSVP portion of newsletter due by pickup Tuesday evening.

Approved items: white t-shirt, pillowcase, or bandana.

Unapproved items: sweatshirt, pants, hat, towel, and socks.

Wednesday

It's Weenie Roast Wednesday! Campers should bring their own hot dog and bun for lunch to roast over a campfire if they want to participate (camp will supply ketchup and mustard). Campers may bring additional lunch foods or a regular bag lunch instead.

Thursday

It's Theme Day! Campers are encouraged to dress up for the week's theme and will participate in an all-camp game extravaganza. If your camper is signed up for the overnighter, please be sure to send them to camp with their overnight stuff.

Friday

It's the Friday Finale! Family and friends are welcome to join us in our amphitheater for a performance of songs and skits put together by each cabin group, camper recognition, a free frozen treat, a trip through our camp store, and the opportunity to socialize with camp staff and other camper families. Feel free to bring a camera and a bag chair.

Approved pickup persons attending the Friday Finale can check-in with the Camp Director when they arrive to show their valid ID and express that they will be taking their camper(s) home after the event. Medications will be released to the pickup person(s) at this time as well. If your camper's approved pickup persons do not attend or do not take your camper home, your camper will be sent home on the bus as usual at their normal bus site location and time.

*Natural, non-dairy frozen treats available upon request for those with dietary restrictions.

CAMP STORE

The camp store is fully open every Friday during the Friday Finale. Campers also have the opportunity to visit the camp store once per day to purchase ice cream, t-shirts, and other fun novelty items. You can send cash with your camper to purchase items with or bring cash or checks to the counselors at drop-off in the mornings and it will be added to your camper's camp store account. Credit card slips can be filled out to purchase items during the Friday Finale.

*Any unused funds in your camper's camp store account will be transferred to the next week they are registered for. Any unused funds leftover in your camper's camp store account at the end of their last registered week are not able to be refunded.

MEDICATIONS

Medications

All camper medications must be checked in daily at our bus site and will be administered by authorized camp staff members. All camper medications must be accompanied by a completed Medication Authorization Form which can be downloaded and printed from our website ahead of time or blank copies will be available at our bus sites to fill out in-person.

Campers may NOT carry medications, even over-the-counter medications and creams, in their backpacks or on their person. Inhalers and epipens will be near your camper at all times and held by your camper's counselor. Medications will be returned to authorized pickup persons each day, accompanied by a copy of the updated Medication Authorization Form on your camper's last day of camp.

All Camp Wabansi staff are Red Cross certified in First Aid and CPR, but we do not have a registered nurse on site. For this reason, we are unable to administer medications which require injection (such as insulin). If your child has a need for this type of care, please contact the Camp Director. If your child has a special medical need or condition, please contact the Camp Director in advance so that the camp staff can be fully prepared to provide appropriate care.

All medications **MUST** be in their original container and labeled with the following:

- Camper's name
- Name of medication
- Dosage instructions
- Date of issue/expiry
- Physician's name (if applicable)

BEHAVIOR POLICY

Behavior Policy

YMCA Camp Wabansi welcomes campers from all backgrounds to participate in our program. At Camp, we focus on empowering youth with the Four Core Values of the YMCA; Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. We know that each child is on their own developmental journey and we are honored to be a part of your camper's path to maturity. Our staff are specifically trained to come alongside each camper and help them develop their character and self-worth. You'll find that each camper will be showered with unconditional love, patience, kindness, respect, and gentleness from our staff. Our staff are fully trained in positive behavior management techniques and youth development.

That being said, our primary goal at camp is to create a place that is safe and welcoming for all who attend. That is our promise and commitment to each family. Likewise, it is the responsibility of all who attend to be equally invested into that commitment. Every child deserves camp and every child deserves to feel safe at camp.

We do not tolerate the following behaviors at YMCA Camp Wabansi and they are grounds for immediate dismissal from the camp program at our discretion. It is very important that you review these expectations with your camper prior to coming to camp:

- Physical violence - hitting, pushing, kicking, biting, scratching, etc.
- Bullying or repeated harassment
- Explicit/offensive language - curse words, sexually explicit language, derogatory language, racial slurs, etc.
- Running away from camp/camp staff therefore endangering self or others
- Excessively unresponsive to correction/coaching/positive behavior management techniques
- Inappropriate sexual conduct of any kind
- Bringing drugs or alcohol to camp
- Bringing weapons to camp

These behavioral expectations exist to keep all campers and staff emotionally and physically safe at all times. Should your camper have difficulty adhering to our expectations we will contact you to discuss a plan for improving their behavior. It is our goal to work with you and your camper so that they may participate positively in our program. However, should your camper be unable to follow our behavior policy and/or not respond to positive behavioral management, we reserve the right to dismiss them from the program and you will be required to immediately pick up your camper. YMCA Camp Wabansi does not offer full or prorated refunds for behavioral dismissal.

EMERGENCIES

Emergencies

In the case of minor injury, campers will be treated in Camp Wabansi's air-conditioned medical room. In the event of serious injury, camp staff will contact the camper's parents or their designated emergency contact. In the event of life-threatening injury, camp staff will immediately notify emergency medical personnel. Any required ambulance service will be the financial responsibility of the camper's parents/guardians. The Greater Green Bay YMCA does not carry medical insurance for camp participants.

In the case of severe weather, campers will be moved into the Jim Aumann Activity Center (JAAC) at camp for shelter and any bus delays will be communicated via our website and Greater Green Bay YMCA front desks whenever possible.

Our entire staff is familiar with our camp Emergency Action Plans, designed to address a multitude of possible emergencies.

All campers are required to travel via the "truddy system" in which they travel in a group of three if they have to split away from the group to go to the bathroom, the cabin, the office, etc. so they are never alone or alone with an adult as part of our Child Abuse Prevention policy.

POST CAMP EVALUATIONS

Tell us about your camp experience! Please complete an online evaluation that will be emailed to you. We would love to hear about your child's experience as a camper and your experience as a parent or guardian. This will help us in our endeavors to make Camp Wabansi the best camp ever.