



Dear Campers and Parents,

We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of campers at the start of the summer season! Thank you for registering your children for a summer of exciting traditional and specialty camp programs. As the new director of Camp Roberts, I am adamant that camp should be the most fun and exciting place for youth to gain an experience that fosters challenge, growth, and new friendships.

At the Sheridan County YMCA, we are committed to building the very best counselor team that will affirm and positively engage your children in a safe setting. We are excited to share meals, embark on mountainous adventures, and laugh and learn together through the wonderful experience of camp.

This handbook has been designed to give parents and campers the essential information they need in preparation for camp. Please feel free to call us with any questions; we will be happy to provide you with more information.

Sincerely,

Parker Wenos

Resident Camp Director

Sheridan Y: 307-674-7488 | Camp Office: 1-254-240-8807

pwenos@sheridanymca.org

CAMP LOGISTICS

Check-In: Sunday afternoon from 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Camper check in will occur at the table inside the main lodge of Camp Roberts.

Please bring the following items with you:

- Completed Camper Information Sheet
- Camper medications with instructions

Check-Out: Friday afternoon at 1:00 pm

- Campers must check out with Y staff before departing
- Parent/Guardian/Authorized Adult present at check-out will be required to show ID and sign for the camper(s) they are picking up.

TRANSPORTATION:

The YMCA will provide transportation for families who opt to utilize the bus instead of personally dropping off or picking up their camper at Camp Roberts. **These arrangements need to be made by the Wednesday prior to your camper's session. To set up these arrangements, call the Sheridan County YMCA front desk at 307-674-7488.**

Departure

The Y bus will leave the Sheridan County YMCA promptly at 3:00 pm. The Y bus will arrive at the Johnson County YMCA for camper pickups in Buffalo by 3:45.

Return

At the conclusion of each camp session, the Y bus will leave camp promptly at 1:00 pm. Campers will be delivered to the Johnson County YMCA by 1:15 and at the Sheridan County YMCA by 2:00 pm.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Travel through Buffalo, from any exit, onto Main Street until you arrive at Fort Road/HWY 16W. (This will be at a stoplight) Turn west onto Fort Street. Continue to follow Fort Street as it turns into Hwy 16W. Travel approximately 15 miles up the mountain on Hwy 16. YMCA of the Bighorns Camp Roberts will be on your left side.

CAMP STORE

Campers may purchase various items from the camp store. Each camper will have a store account in which money can be deposited during camp check in. We recommend \$10.00 - \$15.00 per week be deposited in your camper's account. Items campers' purchase will be deducted from their account and the remaining balance will be refunded to parents on closing day.

Please do not send your child with loose cash or spare change. Purchases can only be made through a campers account, not with cash. **Camp Roberts is not responsible for any lost or stolen money.**

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Behavioral Issues

In the event of behavioral issues at camp, we will work to consult parents on strategies for dealing with situations that cannot be quickly resolved. When the welfare of the camper, other campers, camp property or equipment is jeopardized, parent(s) will be notified to pick up their camper from camp. **The decision to send a child home under such circumstances is ultimately up to the discretion of the Resident Camp Director.**

Please indicate any behavioral concerns you have for your camper on the Health Information Form.

Illness and Accidents

If a camper becomes sick or has a severe accident, the camper's parents will be notified immediately of the situation and care that is being offered. Parent's discretion will be honored as to the care of their youth.

Special Dietary Accommodations

Please indicate on the Camper Information Sheet if your camper has any **diagnosed** dietary needs. Our kitchen has the ability to accommodate a number of dietary needs with advanced notice.

Medical Specifications

Daily medications should be indicated on the Camper Information Sheet, along with any other specific instructions. Do not hesitate to call the camp office (1-254-240-8807) to discuss important medical and dietary needs with the Camp Director.

Homesickness

Our camp staff will work hard to help campers overcome homesickness. Campers will not be permitted to call home in the event of homesickness but instead, encouraged to write letters to family and engage in the camp experience around them.

MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES

SAFETY FIRST

YMCA of the Bighorns Camp Roberts provides a safe, secure environment for all campers. The entry gate to camp will be locked each night. All vehicles entering camp will be required to sign in with the office.

TELEPHONE USE BY CAMPERS

In general, campers are not permitted use of the camp phone. In addition, **Camp Roberts has a no cell phone policy.** If you need to contact your camper in the

event of an emergency, please do so through the Camp Director. To contact camp directly, dial 1-254-240-8807 or email pwenos@sheridanymca.org

GUEST POLICY

Visits from parents/friends/relatives are prohibited during camp. This is an important opportunity for youth to acquire independence and confidence in a safe environment away from home. We encourage parents to write letters to their campers and explore the grounds during check in/out.

MAIL

Camp is short; mail is slow. To ensure your mail arrives on time, send it in advance. Care packets are welcome, but **do not send** any food/snacks/candy in the mail to your camper.

PETS

Thank you for leaving all pets at home during camp check in/out. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy as we work hard to serve your kids without distractions.

VOLUNTEERS

All program areas benefit from individuals that support the mission of the YMCA through volunteer services. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Camp Director.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS OF FIRST TIME CAMPERS

Sometimes the most difficult decision about a youth attending camp is not whether the youth wants to go, but whether mom and dad can be away from the youth for an extended period of time. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Feel free to visit camp before your youth's session. Please call in advance to arrange this.
2. Contact the YMCA of the Bighorns Camp Roberts office if you have any questions and talk with other camp parents in your area.
3. Send your camper a letter shortly after camp starts to let your camper know that everything is okay. Some parents have sent a letter before their youth leaves home so that it's waiting at camp when they arrive.
4. Parents miss their youth too, but try not to make this the emphasis of your letters to your camper. They will be happy to know how proud you are of them as they set off on this new adventure, but it will sadden them to know how much the dog misses them!

5. Welcome your camper's new friends and have confidence in their judgment. Encourage your camper to pursue interests and skills they have picked up at camp.

Camp Mission:

To emphasize that "CHARACTER COUNTS" through the principles of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

PACKING LIST

Based on a 6 day, 5 night stay

- Weather in the Bighorn Mountains can be cold and is unpredictable even in the summer. Make sure your camper has plenty of layers.
- Label all personal belongings with permanent marker.
- Do not bring new clothing; camp can quickly become muddy and rainy.

CLOTHING

- 7 T-shirts
- 3-4 Shorts
- 3-4 Pants
- 7-8 Pairs Socks
- 6 Underwear
- Jacket or Fleece Top
- 1-2 Sweatshirts or Sweaters
- Swim Suit (modest)
- Rain Coat/Poncho (plan for rain)
- Sturdy Hiking Shoes
- Casual Tennis Shoes
- Water Shoes (closed-toe)

MISCELLANEOUS GEAR

- Cap/Hat
- Reading Material
- Water Bottle
- Journal/letter Material
- Backpack/Day Pack
- Sunglasses
- Flashlight/batteries

TOILETRIES

- Soap and Soap Container
- Toothbrush/Tooth Paste
- Comb/Brush
- Shampoo
- Sunscreen (waterproof SPF 30+)
- 1-2 Wash Cloths
- 1-2 Towels
- Chap stick
- Toiletry bag

BEDDING

- Pillow/Pillowcase
- Warm Sleeping Bag
- Stuff Sack for Sleeping Bag
 - (a pillowcase works well)

If you lack key items from the packing list, please contact us in advance so we can appropriately outfit your camper for the week.

Do not send your camper with the following types of items:

- Cell Phones
- Cash/debit/credit cards

- Ipods/mp3 Players
- Electronic Games
- Toys
- Fireworks
- Food and Candy
- Knives/pocketknives
- Fishing poles/tackle (provided by camp)