



YMCA CAMP TIMBERS PARENT GUIDE SUMMER 2026



EXPERIENCE, CONNECT, GROW

YMCA OF SAGINAW
1915 FORDNEY STREET
SAGINAW, MI 48601

YMCA CAMP TIMBERS
3269 HORSESHOE LAKE ROAD
WEST BRANCH, MI 48661

CAMPTIMBERS.ORG
TIMBERS@SAGINAWYMCA.ORG
(989)345-2630

DEAR PARENTS,

Thank you for choosing YMCA Camp Timbers for your child's camp experience. Camp Timbers is an incredible place where youth flourish in a positive, caring, and supportive environment. Camp is a place to build confidence, make new friends, learn new skills, and have fun!

Our camp program is built on YMCA values of honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility. The Camp Timbers' staff team provides opportunities for children to grow as leaders and experience a wide variety of adventures and activities. Our goals at Camp Timbers are for all campers to have remarkable experiences, create lasting connections, and have meaningful growth. I hope this is evident in your experience with us this summer!

Please contact me directly at (989)345-2630 or via email at rwright@saginawymca.org with any questions you have about camp. I look forward to working together with you to make this summer a magical one for your camper.

Sincerely,
Ricky
Executive Director

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION



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HISTORY OF CAMP TIMBERS

Camp Timbers is owned and operated by the YMCA of Saginaw. For over fifty years, the YMCA of Saginaw has been challenging and supporting youth to develop spiritually, mentally, and physically at Camp Timbers.

Camp Timbers was established on the site of the former lumber town of Piper. The town was built around the lumber mill and Beaver Lake branch of the Michigan Central railroad. It was founded by Encall Thompson in 1880 and proved to be a successful operation until the lumber market failed in 1892. From 1929 to 1964, the Saginaw YMCA operated Camp O- Ge- Maw- Kee on a site just north of Rose City. In 1965, the YMCA was given the opportunity to purchase part of the Piper property. As the new site would offer the opportunity to expand the camp program, the property was purchased and developed in 1966. Our first camping season as Camp Timbers began in the summer of 1967.

OUR PURPOSE

Camp Timbers' purpose is to provide each camper with:

- Fun and adventure through appropriate challenges
- Better understanding and respect for self and others through group living and shared experiences
- Appreciation and concern for the environment
- Greater self-reliance, self-respect, self-confidence, and self-esteem
- Opportunities to strengthen and promote the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility

OUR VALUES

The YMCA emphasizes four core values: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. At YMCA Camp Timbers, we incorporate these values into daily Morning Watch messages at our Chapel. This is a time to share an inspiring story or lesson and help us all focus on being the best versions of ourselves we can during the day. In the evenings, individual cabin groups end the day with a cabin reflection. This is an interactive activity or prompt that encourages campers to reflect on the day and the experiences, connections, and growth thus far at camp.

ACCREDITATION

Camp Timbers is inspected and licensed annually by the State of Michigan and is also accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). In addition, we comply with annual standards from the Ogemaw County Health Department and State Fire Marshall.



CAMP FEES

All camp fees are due one month prior to the start of your camper's session. Payments may be made online using the family's online account at <https://ymcatimbers.campintouch.com/v2/login.aspx>, or by phone at 989-345-2630.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available for campers who are in need. If additional financial assistance is needed, please visit our website at www.CampTimbers.org to view our income-based scholarships, under the Summer Camps tab, or call us at 989-345-2630.

REFUNDS

The \$100 deposit paid at registration is required to hold a camper's space in their cabin and is non-refundable. Any amount paid in addition to the deposit will be refunded only for cancelations at least one month prior to the start of the session. Campers are able to transfer sessions as space allows at no penalty.

Exceptions are only made for documented medical reasons that require the camper to return home early or prevent them from attending. In these cases, the refund will be pro-rated based on the time remaining in the session. Refunds will not be made if YMCA Camp Timbers sends a camper home due to behavior issues at camp.

If a specific session is canceled by camp or if camp is unable to operate all payments will be 100% refunded.



ONLINE FORMS

Camp Timbers staff use the information provided to make sure that your camper's experience is as safe, positive, and fun as possible. All forms **MUST** be completed and submitted at least one month prior to the start of your camper's session. Our staff needs adequate time to review and prepare for any unique camper needs.

We use an online system called Camp In Touch to allow you to complete your camper's forms electronically. Such a system will allow camp staff to more quickly access important information, such as allergies, medications, cabinmate requests, and more.

Required forms include:

- Additional Adult Pickup
- Audio/Visual Release
- Family/Parent Agreement
- Permission to Treat
- Release of Liability
- Health History
- Bunk Request (Optional)
- Camper Narrative (Optional)

Due to our licensing and accreditation requirements, campers with missing or incomplete forms may not participate in YMCA Camp Timbers programs.

MEDICATION

While at camp, only the Health Officer may administer prescription and non-prescription medications. Campers are **NOT** allowed to keep any medication or medicine with them in their cabins. Parents must turn all medications and over-the-counter medicines into the Camp Health Officer during check-in.

Please put all medication – in their original labeled container – into a Ziploc bag labeled with the camper's name. A medication log will be maintained in the Health Center noting the time administered and by whom.

Note: Campers will not be given their first dose of medication until their first meal at camp unless otherwise discussed with the Camp Health Officer at check-in.



CAMP PACKING LIST

We recommend the following items for a 6-day, 5-night experience. We are active at camp, so comfort and durability are important! Clothing with questionable language/logos or clothing offering minimal coverage will not be allowed. Please write your child's name on everything.

REQUIRED

- 1 pair of closed-toe athletic shoes (for high adventure activities)

SUGGESTED CLOTHING

- 1 jacket or sweater
- 1 sweatshirt
- 2 long sleeve shirts
- 2 pairs of jeans or pants
- 6 t-shirts or tank tops (no camisole or strapless tops)
- 4 pairs of shorts
- 2 swimsuits
- 5 pair of pajamas
- 7 pairs of socks
- 7 pairs of underwear
- 1 pair of hiking/athletic shoes
- 1 pair of sandals (must have backstrap)
- Rain jacket or poncho

BEDDING AND TOILETRIES

- Sleeping bag or 2 blankets
- Twin sheet to cover mattress
- Pillow and cover
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb/brush
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Washcloths and towels
- Deodorant
- Lip balm

SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Bag for dirty laundry
- Insect repellent (non- aerosol preferred)
- Sunscreen
- Flashlight
- Hat/sunglasses
- Water bottle

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Toiletry bag (sling bags work great!)
- Shower shoes or flip-flops (for shower use only)
- Camera
- Fishing equipment
- Writing and reading materials
- Envelopes with stamps

HERTER BAND CAMP ITEMS

- Instrument
- Music
- Additional reeds if applicable



THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT PERMITTED AT CAMP:

Cell phones, iPods, video games, fireworks, food, candy, gum alcohol, vapes, tobacco/nicotine products, illegal substances, or weapons of any kind.

MINI CAMP PACKING LIST

We recommend the following items for a 4-day, 3-night experience. We are active at camp, so comfort and durability are important! Clothing with questionable language/logos or clothing offering minimal coverage will not be allowed. Please write your child's name on everything.

REQUIRED

- 1 pair of closed-toe athletic shoes (for high adventure activities)

SUGGESTED CLOTHING

- 1 sweatshirt
- 1 pairs of jeans or pants
- 4 t-shirts or tank tops (no camisole or strapless tops)
- 3 pairs of shorts
- swimsuit
- pajamas
- 4 pairs of socks
- 4 pairs of underwear
- 1 pair of hiking/athletic shoes
- 1 pair of sandals (must have backstrap)
- Rain jacket or poncho

BEDDING AND TOILETRIES

- Sleeping bag or 2 blankets
- Twin sheet to cover mattress
- Pillow and cover
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb/brush
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Washcloths and towels
- Lip balm

SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Bag for dirty laundry
- Insect repellant (non- aerosol preferred)
- Sunscreen
- Flashlight
- Hat/sunglasses
- Water bottle

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Toiletry bag (sling bags work great!)
- Shower shoes or flip-flops (for shower use only)
- Camera
- Fishing equipment
- Writing and reading materials
- Envelopes with stamps

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT PERMITTED AT CAMP:

Cell phones, iPods, video games, fireworks, food, candy, gum alcohol, vapes, tobacco/nicotine products, illegal substances, or weapons of any kind.



ADVENTURE TRIP PACKING LIST

We recommend the following items for an adventure trip experience. We are active at camp, so comfort and durability are important! Clothing with questionable language/logos or clothing offering minimal coverage will not be allowed. Please write your child's name on everything. While packing, keep in mind that we will be carrying the following items on our backs for the week in addition to shared group gear and food that will be provided by camp. In addition, campers should not bring any extra food, as it increases the chances that wildlife will get into their packs.

See Adventure Trips guide for anything additional for your campers specific trip.

SUGGESTED PACKING

- Sleeping bag
- Headlamp/Flashlight
- 2 water bottles (32 oz. or larger)
- Toothpaste/ toothbrush
- Deodorant
- 3 pairs of socks- hiking socks
- Underwear
- 2-3 Wicking t-shirts (No Cotton)
- 1-2 Shorts
- Fleece/sweatshirt
- 1 pair of long pants (No Cotton)
- Hat
- Rain gear (rain pants and rain coat)
- Swimsuit
- Journal
- Bandana

TO WEAR FIRST DAY HIKING

- Hiking boots or tennis shoes
- Lightweight pants or shorts
- Short sleeve shirt or tank top

OPTIONAL ITEMS

All backpacking gear is provided by camp, but participants are welcome to use their own (backpacking pack, lightweight sleeping bag, sleeping pad, dry bags, water filter, etc.)

AT-CAMP ITEMS

All trip programs include at least one day spent in camp. Please use the packing list on the previous page to pack an at-camp overnight bag.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT PERMITTED AT CAMP:

Cell phones, iPods, video games, fireworks, alcohol, vapes, tobacco/nicotine products, illegal substances, or weapons of any kind.

CAMPSITES

Participants will be camping overnight at rustic campsites. Tents will be available and organized with 2-3 campers per tent based on gender. Campsites provide drinkable water, but no electricity, showers, or flush toilets. Meals will be prepared by participants and camp staff using camp stoves and a campfire.

Note: Participants will be responsible for carrying backpacking packs with all necessary gear, including their clothing, sleeping bag, and a portion of tents, food, and other group supplies.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Please note, that check-in will be in the parking lot area with access to restroom facilities during the drop-off. In our experience, a quick goodbye makes it easier for your camper to transition to their new environment. Our counselors are trained to quickly engage campers to make this transition as smooth as possible for you and your camper. If you'd like to see camp before their session, feel free to visit during our Spring Open House.

Step 1: Initial Health Screening

To include temperature, common symptoms, and lice check per the recommendation of the State of Michigan Licensing and the American Camping Association. If any additional screening precautions are necessary per CDC and American Camping Association guidelines all registered camper families will be notified via email.

Step 2: Forms and Balances

Check-in to confirm completed forms and balance, add funds to their camp store account via cash or check, and confirm adults authorized to pick up the camper.

Step 3: Camper Drop-off

Receive cabin assignments, meet the counselor, unload luggage from the car, and share "goodbyes." The entire cabin will move to their cabin following check-in together. Counselors and additional staff will be around to assist with luggage.

Step 4: Health Questions and Medication Drop-off (Optional)

Review health forms and communicate any health concerns with Camp Health Officer. If your child takes any medication, please put all medication bottles/containers (All medication must be in original bottle/packaging) into a Ziploc bag labeled with the camper's name. Prescribed medications must be in a labeled prescription bottle/container and marked with.

Step 5: Camp Library Donations and Camper Mail Drop-off

If your family has any new or gently used books to donate to our library they can be dropped here. Letters and packages can also be dropped for campers to save postage costs. Please label mail with the camper's name and date to be delivered.

CHECK-IN TIMES

TRADITIONAL OVERNIGHT CAMP, MINI CAMP AND TRIPS

2:00-4:00 PM on Sunday

HERTER BAND CAMP

RED BAND: 12:30 PM, WHITE BAND 1:15 PM, BLUE BAND 2:00 PM

Note: If you have campers in multiple bands they are welcome to arrive with the band of your first camper

CHECK-OUT: TRADITIONAL OVERNIGHT CAMP, MINI CAMP, AND TRIPS

For all programs other than Herter Band Camp, Check-Out procedures will take place in the parking lot. The process will replicate the Check-In sequence and similarly, access for non-campers will be limited to the parking lot area and front restroom. Any adult picking up a camper MUST be authorized on the adult pick-up form and have the photo ID ready to show to camp staff.

Campers will have their luggage located near the parking lot for easy pick-up. Once the adult is verified to be authorized for pick-up, our staff will escort the camper to the car, share “goodbyes,” and assist in getting luggage to the vehicle. Additional stations will return unused camp store balances and return camper medicines/medications

We expect the Check-Out process to be approximately 15-20 minutes or less for most families. You’re welcome to pick-up your camper anytime in the timeframe.

CHECK OUT - TRADITIONAL OVERNIGHT & TRIPS

4:00-5:30 PM on Friday

CHECK OUT - MINI CAMP

1:00-2:00 on Wednesday



CHECK OUT AND CONCERT: HERTER BAND CAMP AT STANDISH- STERLING CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

The final concert will be held at Standish-Sterling Central High School on. The address for Standish-Sterling Central High School is 2401 Grove Street Rd, Standish, MI 48658. Campers will be transported by bus with their luggage from Camp Timbers to Standish-Sterling Central High School on Saturday morning. The concert will begin at 11:00 am.

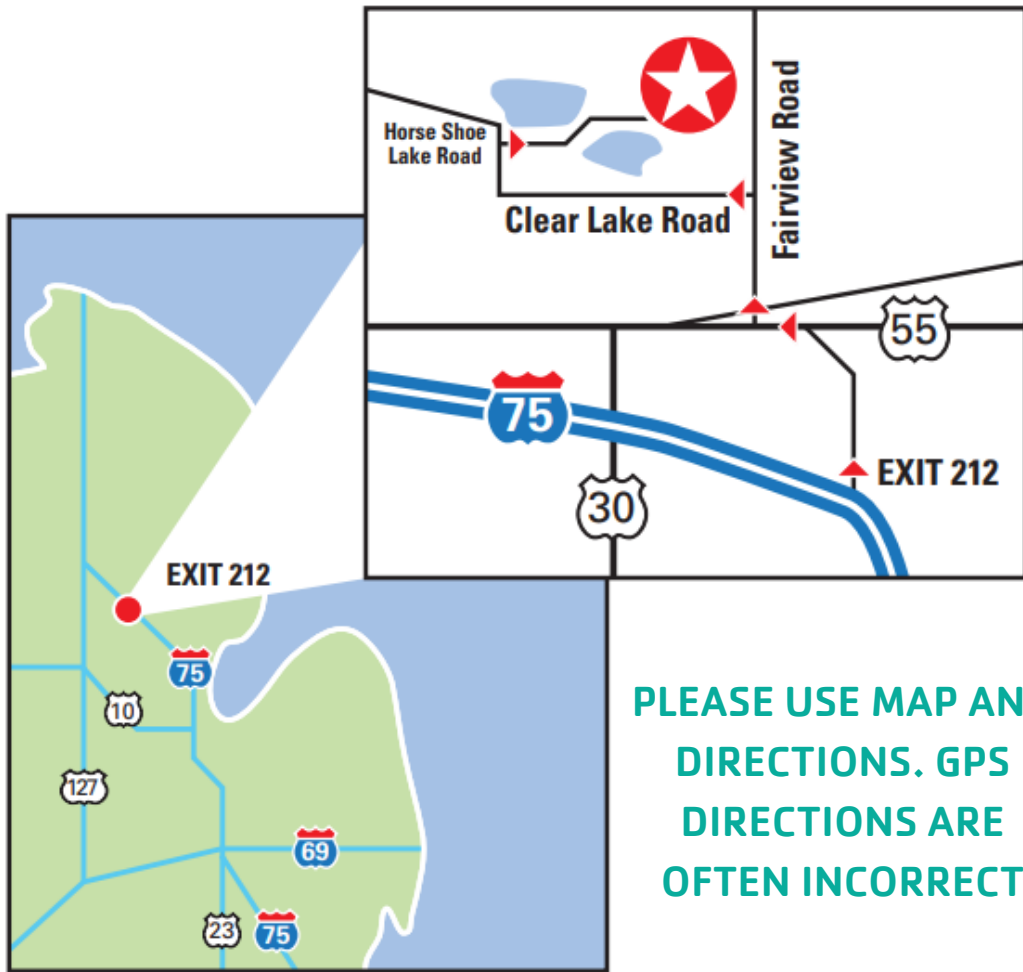
Check-out will begin at 9:30 am at Standish-Sterling Central High School. Parents and/or guardians must provide photo ID. Luggage and campers will be available for pick-up following the concert performance.

CHECK OUT

10:00 - 11:00 AM on Saturday



MAP AND DIRECTIONS TO CAMP



PLEASE USE MAP AND
DIRECTIONS. GPS
DIRECTIONS ARE
OFTEN INCORRECT

From I- 75: Exit freeway at exit 212, turn right to follow Business Loop 75/Cook Rd into West Branch. At the fourth traffic signal (Walgreen pharmacy), turn right onto Fairview Road. (A common mistake is to turn onto East M- 55, be sure to turn onto Fairview Road, which passes the West Branch Country Club.) Follow Fairview Road north, out of West Branch. At the intersection of Fairview Road and Clear Lake Road, turn left onto Clear Lake Road. Follow Clear Lake Road to the community of Clear Lake. At the intersection of Clear Lake and Horseshoe Lake Road (adjacent to Clear Lake Party store), turn right onto Horseshoe Lake Rd approximately 1 mile. The Camp Timbers entrance is located on the right side of Horseshoe Lake Road.

From M33 in Rose City: Head west onto County Highway F 28/W Main Street (past Shell gas station). Continue to follow County Hwy F 28 for approximately 8 miles. Turn left onto Horseshoe Lake Road. (A common mistake is to turn left onto Piper Lake Road, be sure to turn onto Horseshoe Lake Road, which is a paved road past Piper Lake Road.) Follow Horseshoe Lake Road for approximately 1.5 miles. The Camp Timbers entrance is located on the left side of Horseshoe Lake Road.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Camp Timbers program is designed to meet the individual needs of the camper within the goals and objectives of the camp by providing small group experiences each day. The program directors plan activities for each age group prior to the beginning of camp. With the help of the activity specialists, they implement this planning during the course of the session. Cabin activities allow campers and their counselors to build strong relationships as a group. Instruction during camp activities provides time for concentrated learning, while group activities allow for relaxed competition and fun.

CABIN ACTIVITIES AND SCHEDULE

Campers participate in a wide variety of activities during their time at camp. Throughout the week, campers experience the adventures of camp with their cabin groups through elective activities. Elective activities are scheduled for each cabin by the Camp Timbers staff. High adventure activities (climbing tower, giant swing, high ropes, and zip line) have age and weight requirements.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

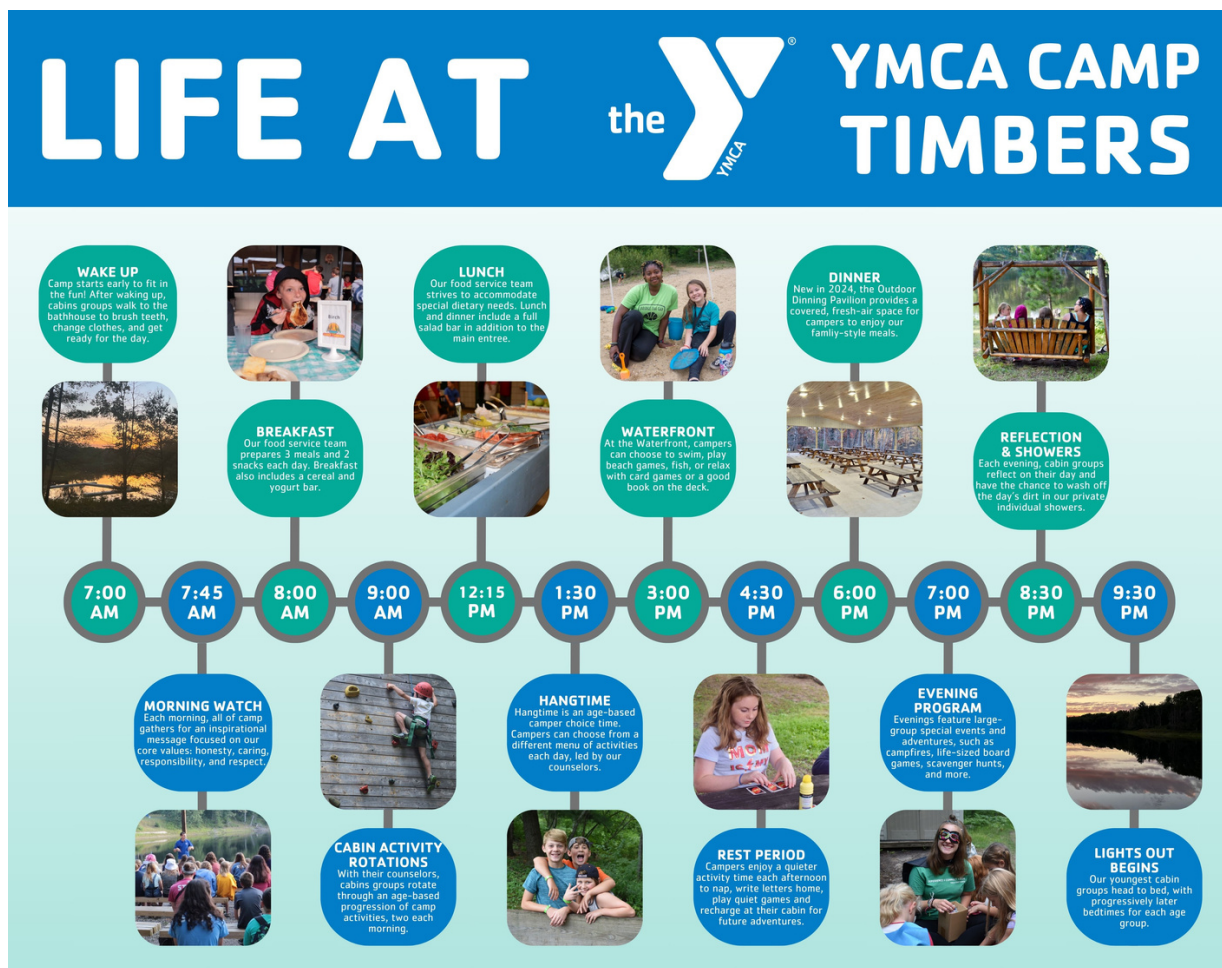
One of our goals at camp is to model and teach the YMCA core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. We will work to help all campers overcome any behaviors not consistent with or conducive to the success of the small group. We appreciate a supportive relationship with parents when we do determine that a camper's behavior is such that it requires our attention and shared commitment to accountability.

All camp staff receive training specific to managing a positive peer culture in a small group setting. While camp staff are also trained to recognize and react to specific and individual needs of a camper, it is impractical for a counselor to fully commit time and mental resources to address an individual camper at a cost to the whole group of campers. Therefore, behavior that is not conducive to positive peer group culture, or campers that do not integrate well into the group, will be subject to our progressive behavior management plan:

1. First Incident: An individual counseling session between camper and counselor that will address a specific behavior or action and state clear expectations for resolution or corrective action.
2. Second Incident: A counseling session including camper, counselor, and Village Coordinator. The Program/Executive Director reviews incidents. Parent(s) are called and put on alert depending on the severity of the incident.
3. Third Incident: The camper will be removed from the group setting. Parent(s) will be called and expected to pick up their child from camp immediately.

Note: Acts of violence or aggression, (physical or verbal), are not tolerated and may be subject to immediate termination without regard to the above progressive behavior plan and will not be refunded their camp fee.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE: TRADITIONAL CAMP



SAMPLE SCHEDULE: HERTER BAND CAMP

The daily sequence of music and activity rotations will differ based on the band level.

- 7:00 AM Wake-Up
- 7:45 AM Morning Watch: Camp gathers for a message focused on our core values.
- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 8:45 AM Camp Activity: Campers rotate with their cabin group through camp activities
- 10:15 AM Full Band Rehearsal
- 11:45 AM Camp Activity: Campers rotate with their cabin group through camp activities
- 1:15 PM Lunch
- 2:00 PM Sectional (Instrument-Based) Practice
- 3:30 PM Waterfront: Campers can swim, play at the beach, fish, or relax on the deck.
- 5:00 PM Full Band Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Dinner
- 7:30 PM Concert/Evening Entertainment
- 8:30 PM Showers
- 9:00 PM Cabin Reflection
- 10:30 PM Lights Out

WHILE AT CAMP

CONTACTING YOUR CAMPER

Below are a few ways to keep in contact with your campers:

EMAILS

Parents can send emails to their camper via the YMCA Camp Timbers App. Purchased credits can be used for camper responses as well. More information will be shared with registered families via email.

CARE PACKAGES

Make sure to send the package out early enough in the mail or discretely drop it off with us at check-in so that your camper receives it during the week. Please do not include food in care packages. Ideas for packages could be a favorite book, puzzles, cards or games, glow sticks, or coloring pages.

LETTERS

We suggest you send a letter one or two days prior to camp so that your camper will be sure to receive it during his/her stay. Letters can also be dropped off during Check-In.

MAILING ADDRESS

YMCA Camp Timbers
Camper's Name and Session Attending
3269 Horseshoe Lake Road
West Branch, MI 48661

CAMPER PHONES & PHONE CALLS

While we do understand a parent's concern about the safety and well-being of their child, campers are not allowed to bring their cell phone or anything with internet capability, unless medically necessary and coordinated with camp directors in advance. Having such devices tends to make it more difficult for campers to connect with their fellow campers and often takes away some of the opportunities for independence and growth that camp can provide.

Rest assured, in an emergency if your child needs to talk to you, we will get them to a phone and they will call you. Any phones or electronics such as smart watches, iPods, tablets, or video games that are brought to camp will be held by the Camp Director and returned to the parent at the end of the session at check-out.

Campers are encouraged to write letters home in lieu of phone calls. In our experience, phone calls tend to increase campers' feelings of homesickness. For this reason, camper phone calls are allowed only in emergency situations.

Your assistance with this policy is appreciated. The camp phone number is (989) 345-2630.

CAMPER RELEASE FORM

Camper forms will only be used by camp staff. All camper forms are strictly confidential. Information on our camp forms will only be disclosed to the parent/adult noted on the camper release form. Under no circumstance will we disclose camper forms or information from the forms to anyone not listed on the camper release form.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Like schools, we have a variety of emergency procedures and protocols in place. During your camper's session, practice drills of these emergency procedures may occur as part of our license and ACA accreditation requirements.

Our priorities in any emergency situation are 1) camper and staff safety and 2) timely communication with families.

MISSING HOME VS. HOMESICKNESS

Going away to camp can be a challenging experience for a child of any age. Missing those you love when you are away from them is completely normal. Short-term separation from parents and learning independence are important parts of growing up. Talking with your camper before camp lets them know you have confidence in their ability to cope with the new camp lifestyle. Focus on the positive aspects of camp: making new friends, exciting activities, and how proud you will be when they succeed.

Once at camp, our staff apply the best cure to missing home: we keep campers so busy and having so much fun with their new friends, that they have little time to miss home.

Occasionally missing home turns into homesickness. We consider it homesickness when missing home is prolonged and takes away from the camper experience. In cases that we consider homesickness, a Village Coordinator will attempt to coach and support the camper. If homesickness persists a Village Coordinator or Director will reach out to you without your camper to discuss strategies to best support them. Sometimes homesickness does result in a camper heading home early. Camp Staff will work with you to help decide what is the best approach for you and your camper.



MEALS & SNACKS

Our kitchen staff provides three delicious family-style meals and two snacks for campers each day. All meals are served in the Main Lodge or Outdoor Dining Pavillion. Snacks are provided in the afternoon and evening. All breakfasts are served with juice, milk, cereal, yogurt, and fresh fruit. All lunches and dinners are served with water and/or juice, fresh fruit, salad bar, and appropriate sides and condiments for each meal.

Camp Timbers meals are all nut-free and special meals are prepared for individuals with food allergies and special dietary needs. To give our kitchen team extra time to plan please call the camp office at 989-345-2630, to discuss your camper's dietary restrictions.

LOST & FOUND

While staff will be helping your child, it is considered the responsibility of the child to keep his/her belongings together. We recommend labeling all clothing and items brought to camp. YMCA Camp Timbers will not be responsible for clothing and personal property brought from home.

We do our best to make sure lost items are returned. We check for labels or names on all items. Any items left are held for 2 weeks after the session ends and then donated.



SWIMMING AND WATERFRONT

The waterfront is one of the most popular program areas at Camp Timbers. Campers will receive a swimming evaluation during their first scheduled swim session. Depending on their ability and desire they will be designated as a Red Swimmer (beginner), Yellow Swimmer (intermediate), or a Green Swimmer (advanced). We utilize the "buddy" system, which is a known best practice for supervising groups on the waterfront. All Camp Timbers lifeguards are certified by the YMCA or the American Red Cross.

PRANKS & PRACTICAL JOKES

We do not teach, model, encourage or practice pranks or practical jokes. When these things happen people get hurt, feelings get hurt, or property gets destroyed. Camp staff will strive to replace pranks and practical jokes with positive activities.

TRADING POST (CAMP STORE)

The Trading Post is the Camp Timbers store. Typical items for purchase are t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, water bottles, bags, lanyards, stickers, etc., which are priced between \$1 - \$40.

Campers will have the opportunity to purchase items in the Trading Post with their cabin groups at least once during their camp session. Additionally, all campers with a remaining camp store balance on Thursday will have one final opportunity to go to the Trading Post.

Money may be deposited in your camper's Trading Post account during check-in. You may either use cash or check. The Camp Office Manager will keep a log of camper accounts throughout the week. Refund options (card, mailed check, or camper scholarship donations) can be selected during check-out. Remaining balances can be refunded or donated to the Saginaw YMCA Annual Campaign to support camper scholarships.

PHOTOS AT CAMP

Camp staff take photos of activities throughout the day to give a glimpse of the camp experience. Photos will be shared using our YMCA Camp Timbers App. Parents may not see a photo of their camper every day but can expect to see several throughout the week. Each camper will receive a cabin photo at the end of the week. Note: we are only able to share photos of campers who have completed and accepted the Audio/Visual Release forms.



INJURIES

Camp Timbers is supported by 24- hour, on-site health care by our Camp Health Officer. If your child is involved in a minor accident at camp, the Camp Health Officer will take necessary steps that may include but are not limited to:

- Administering first aid or contacting appropriate medical personnel;
- Contacting the parents/guardians; or
- Contacting emergency contact number supplied by parents/guardians.

CAMP DRESS CODE

The purpose of our dress code is to ensure safe participation in all camp activities. At camp, we strive to create an inclusive community that is physically and emotionally safe for all campers, staff, and families. Sturdy, comfortable clothes are recommended. Laundry service is not provided except in emergencies.

The camp dress code mirrors the policies of most schools. Clothing with questionable language/logos or clothing offering minimal coverage will not be allowed. Camp is very active, so we ask that clothes be ready for active play.

For all High Adventure Activities close-toed shoes are required. Long shorts or pants are recommended. Flip flips and sandals without a backstrap are only permitted for showers or at the waterfront.



CAMP STAFF

Camp Timbers' staff is chosen based on their maturity, character, and camp-related experience. Most counselors are college students from the surrounding colleges and universities, and many are former campers themselves. As campers are quick to imitate their adult role models, we strive for excellence in the staff selection process.

- Approximately 60 individuals make up the summer team at camp
- Camp Timbers maintains a 1:8 Staff to Camper ratio
- All camp staff are CPR and First Aid Certified
- Staff are trained and certified in their program areas
- An intense, continually reviewed staff training and orientation period precedes camp each year. All staff are required to attend a minimum of 100 training hours.

POLICY REGARDING STAFF CONTACT

To maintain a professional relationship with your camper, camp staff will only be permitted to correspond with their campers through Camp Timbers. Campers who wish to write a note of appreciation to a counselor are asked to send it to Camp Timbers. Camp staff are not permitted to communicate with campers through social media (Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, etc.).

SEASONAL STAFF OPPORTUNITIES

YMCA Camp Timbers can be an impactful and rewarding summer job for something that loves working with youth! Would you or someone you know make a great role model? Apply at CampTimbers.org



YMCA OF SAGINAW CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents, for your information this form is signed by all of our camp staff. It is included with the Parent's Manual for your reference. Please contact the Executive Director immediately if you have reason to suspect a breach of conduct by any camp staff member.

CAMP STAFF

1. In order to protect YMCA staff, volunteers, and program participants – at no time during a YMCA program may a staff person be alone with a single child where they cannot be observed by others. As staff supervises children, they should space themselves in a way that other staff can see them.
2. Staff shall never leave a child unsupervised.
3. Restroom supervision: Staff will make sure the restroom is not occupied by suspicious or unknown individuals before allowing children to use the facilities. Staff will stand in the doorway while children are using the restroom. This policy allows privacy for the children and protection for the staff (not being alone with a child). If staff are assisting younger children, doors to the facility must remain open. No child regardless of age should ever enter a bathroom alone on a field trip. Always send children in pairs, and whenever possible, with staff.
4. Staff should conduct or supervise private activities in pairs – diapering, putting on bathing suits, taking showers, etc. When this is not feasible, staff should be positioned so that they are visible to others.
5. Staff shall not abuse children including:
 - physical abuse – strike, spank, shake, slap;
 - verbal abuse – humiliate, degrade, threaten;
 - sexual abuse – inappropriate touch or verbal exchange;
 - mental abuse – shaming, withholding love, cruelty;
 - neglect – withholding food, water, basic care, etc. Any type of abuse will not be tolerated and may be cause for immediate dismissal.
6. Staff must use positive techniques of guidance, including redirection, positive reinforcement and encouragement rather than competition, comparison and criticism. Staff will have age-appropriate expectations and set up guidelines and environments that minimize the need for discipline. Physical restraint is used only in pre-determined situations (necessary to protect the child or other children from harm), is only administered in a prescribed manner, and must be documented in writing.
7. Staff will conduct a health check of each child, each day, as they enter the program, noting any fever, bumps, bruises, burns, etc. Questions or comments will be addressed to the parent or child in a non-threatening way. Any questionable marks or responses will be documented.
8. Staff respond to children with respect and consideration and treat all children equally regardless of sex, race, religion, culture.
9. Staff will respect children's rights to not be touched in ways that make them feel uncomfortable, and their right to say no. Other than diapering, children are not to be touched in areas of their bodies that would be covered by a bathing suit.
10. Staff will refrain from intimate displays of affection towards others in the presence of children, parents, and staff.
11. While the YMCA does not discriminate against an individual's lifestyle, it does require that in the performance of their job they will abide by the standards of conduct set forth by the YMCA.
12. Staff must appear clean, neat, and appropriately attired.
13. Using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during working hours is prohibited.
14. Smoking or use of tobacco in the presence of children or parents during working hours is prohibited.
15. Profanity, inappropriate jokes, sharing intimate details of one's personal life, and any kind of harassment in the presence of children or parents is prohibited.
16. Staff must be free of physical or psychological conditions that might adversely affect children's physical or mental health. If in doubt, an expert should be consulted.
17. Staff will portray a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of respect, loyalty, patience, courtesy, tact, and maturity.
18. Staff may not be alone with children they meet in YMCA programs outside of the YMCA. This includes babysitting, sleepovers, and inviting children to your home. Any exceptions require a written explanation before the fact and are subject to administrator approval.
19. Staff are not to transport children in their own vehicles.
20. Staff may not date program participants under the age of 18 years of age.
21. Under no circumstance should staff release children to anyone other than the authorized parent, guardian, or other adult authorized by the parent or guardian (written parent authorization on file with the YMCA).

SEE YOU SOON!

For any additional questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to reach out to us. We are excited to welcome your camper into our camp family.



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