

# The Youth Garden Project

## Summer Camp FAQ's

2023

### **When is Summer Camp held?**

The Youth Garden Project (YGP) Summer Camp is a full day camp (9am-4pm) and is held Mondays through Fridays for nine weeks during summer vacation. The first week will begin June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Who are the Youth Garden Project camp instructors?**

Erin Vick is the Youth Programs Director. She handles all camp registrations, manages the youth camps, and supports the Youth Programs Instructors who will be planning and facilitating the majority of camp. Some instructors are at YGP just for the summer, while others are here for 9 months, leading field trips and after school clubs. Our instructors have prior experience working with groups of elementary-aged children, have an interest in connecting them to various aspects of garden-based education & the outdoors, and will receive multiple trainings related to working with youth. Each instructor has received certification in First-Aid & CPR, training on effective teaching strategies and restorative practices, and has undergone an extensive background check.

### **What is the child to instructor ratio?**

We maintain a camper/instructor ratio of 8:1. There will be no more than 24 campers registered for camp. The Youth Programs Director over-sees camp and the instructors facilitate activities. Additional YGP staff will also be on site for the majority of the camp day, supporting programming as needed.

### **Can I sign my child up for more than one camp session?**

Yes! Each week has new and creative activities planned that connect to the weekly theme. Some camp elements repeat, such as helping in the garden in the morning, hanging at Rotary Park, swimming on Fridays, and the rest time each afternoon—but with new campers each week the excitement never stops!

### **How will I know if my child is signed up?**

After you submit registration materials you will receive a registration confirmation e-mail within 1-2 business days or as soon as possible. This e-mail will indicate which weeks of camp your child is enrolled in, which weeks of camp they may be on the waiting list for, and your balance amount due along with the due date.

### **What happens if I sign my child up for a week that is full?**

Registration is organized on a first come first served basis, so there is a possibility that your child may be placed on the waiting list for a certain week(s). As noted above, you will be notified via e-mail if this is the case. The Youth Programs Director will contact you as soon as possible should an opening in the week become available. Sometimes this doesn't happen until the very first day of the camp session, so we appreciate your patience and flexibility!

If we *are* able to sign your child up via the wait list, the summer camp payment will be due either two weeks before the start of camp *or* at the time of registration (depending on how close to the start date it is). If your child does not receive a spot in the summer camp week, your deposit will be returned. Our online registration form will be updated and will reflect which weeks of summer camp are full already if you are getting a late start on registration. Please note, we do fill up quickly!

### **What does my child need for camp?**

#### CLOTHING:

- Send your camper to YGP in comfortable clothes and shoes that can get wet and dirty. Shoes should be able to be worn into the creek. We *DO NOT* allow kids into the creek without shoes on for their own safety. Your camper will also need a swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen packed every day in a bag or backpack.

#### FOOD:

- YGP provides a morning and afternoon snack each day. Your camper should always bring a full water bottle with their name on it and a sack lunch. If your camper has any food allergies, please make sure to note that on the parental release section of the registration form.

#### PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

- Electronics, personal toys, etc. They are a distraction and often get lost! Cell phones should remain in campers' bags/backpacks until pick-up time. If you need to contact your camper, please call the YGP

office. If there is an emergency, you can reach Erin Vick (Youth Programs Director) on her cell phone at 612-269-4683, or Emily Roberson (Executive Director) at 605-464-0331. Cell phones are very disruptive; please support us by affirming our policy with your child.

### **Are there any additional materials fees?**

No! The cost of camp includes all materials, take-home projects, snacks, etc.

### **What is your payment and cancellation policy?**

Tuition is \$175 per child per session. Our Expedition Day Camp in partnership with Canyonlands Field Institute is also \$175 per child per session. Scholarships are available for both camps and all families are encouraged to apply! A \$45 good faith deposit per child per session is due with registration to hold the space. The deposit is only refundable if you cancel 30 days prior to the camp start date. The remaining balance is due two weeks prior to each session. Payment must be received at this time. If you have paid in full—a refund will only be possible if we fill your campers spot. You will be e-mailed balance due reminders, as well as a complete list of balance due dates in the registration confirmation e-mail.

### **Can someone else other than the listed authorized individuals pick up my camper? Can my camper bike/walk to camp?**

Yes! If your child will be regularly picked up by someone other than yourself or another parent/guardian please list them on the registration in the section titled: "Individuals OTHER than Parents/Guardians Authorized to Pick Up My Child." If your child is going to be picked up by someone other than those you have listed on the registration form, let us know as soon as possible. You may send the child to camp with a written note of permission, or if it is last minute, call the YGP office. If you plan to have your child walk and/or bike to camp each day, please provide written permission on the first day so they can sign themselves in/out and thus are properly accounted for at the end of the day.

### **What are camp's Core Values?**

The activities, expectations, and decisions at camp are intentional and driven by our core values of Community, Attitude, Respect, Empathy, and Safety (or C.A.R.E.S., as we like to call it). These values are connected to everything we do at camp, and we expect campers and staff to uphold these values each day in their words and actions.

YGP is also guided by our [Inclusive Practices](#), which were implemented by staff in 2021. Using community building circles, a restorative practice, instructors will teach campers these inclusive practices and connect them to our camp's Core Values.

### **What is your approach to camper conflict?**

There is a lot of fun that happens at camp, but as with any part of life, camp comes with conflict. YGP staff are trained in restorative practices, and conflict will be met with conversation, not punishment. Campers in conflict will learn how to talk it out, how to express what they feel and what they need to move forward at camp. Click here to learn more about our restorative approach to community and conflict.

Ultimately, camp needs to be a safe and inclusive space for everyone. If a conflict ever becomes a safety concern, the Youth Programs Director will work with the families involved to determine the best course of action to keep everyone in our camp community safe. We reserve the right to require an adult to come pick up a camper whose behavior is posing risks to the safety and wellbeing of themselves or others, or is interfering with camp operations.

If a camper is barred from camp due to a safety concern, camp tuition will not be refunded for the remainder of the day or week. Deposits and payments made toward future weeks will only be refunded if the decision to bar the child from camp is made 30 days prior to the camp start date or if we are able to fill the child's spot.

## **STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**

**E-mail [erin.v@youthgardenproject.org](mailto:erin.v@youthgardenproject.org) or call us at 435-259-BEAN (2326)!**

