

## CHECK-IN / CHECK OUT

### **Partners Camp**

Check -in: Sunday, Aug 7<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m.- noon.

Checkout: Sunday, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m.-Immediately after closing ceremonies

### **Special Days Camp**

Check-in: Sunday, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (after closing ceremonies for partners camp)

Checkout: Saturday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.- Immediately after closing ceremonies

**A Message From Our Medical Staff:** Please bring with you a copy of your insurance card so that we may have it on file while your child is at camp.

## ADDRESS AT CAMP

All mail to campers should be addressed as follows:

Camper's Name  
SPECIAL DAYS Camps  
YMCA Camp Pentalouan  
1243 East Fruitvale Rd.  
Montague, MI 49437

- Only use this address for mail. For directions please see ones provided.
- Allow at least four days for mail to arrive at camp.
- Care packages are welcomed. If you send a care package please do not send food or candy items as snacks in sleeping areas create trash, and attract insects. (We suggest books, stickers, notepads, games, or playing cards.)
- Young campers should come to camp with pre-addressed, stamped envelopes to family and friends.

## PHONE CALLS

At camp, we *do not allow campers to receive or to make phone calls* except in emergencies. If you need to get a phone message to your camper please call us at (866) 448-4710. Cell phone coverage is limited so you may also call Camp Director, Tammy Willis at 517-281-1308 or in case of an emergency call the camp land line directly at 231-894-4538.

**Please do not encourage your camper to call home.** It takes time for campers to get settled into camp and contacts home tend to contribute to a camper's homesickness.

**\*We request that you do not allow your child to bring a cell phone to camp.** Not only can they be easily lost or broken but they are disruptive to the program. If a camper comes with a cell phone it will be collected and held in the camp office until check-out at the end of the week.

If your child needs to call home accommodations can be made with the Camp

## CAMP BANK AND STORE

The SPECIAL DAYS CAMPS store sells T-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and accessories with the SPECIAL DAYS CAMPS logo. (Not all items are available in all sizes and colors.) The store will also sell "village" T-shirts and our "canteen" sells food items such as candy bars, popcorn, ice cream, and soft drinks.

It is suggested that \$20.00 - \$30.00 per camper be deposited in the camp bank at check-in. Campers should not keep money in their cabins.

Campers will not be allowed to overdraw their camp bank account.

Money not spent will be returned by check after camp or you may donate it to camp at checkout. The camp bank and store provides an excellent opportunity for your camper to learn money management skills. Please discuss the amount of deposit with your camper.

## LOST AND FOUND

All lost and found items are brought to the dining hall and shown to the campers on a daily basis. It is each camper's responsibility to keep track of personal belongings. Parents will have the opportunity to see all lost and found items on checkout day. Please make sure you pick up ALL luggage and belongings before departing from camp, campers might have an extra plastic bag with wet or dirty clothes.

## CAMPER EXPECTATIONS (Please review with your camper)

### **All campers are expected to:**

1. Follow staff members' instructions at all times. This includes the instructions of cabin leaders, directors, medical staff, arts and crafts staff, and YMCA Pentalouan Camp staff.
2. Use the buddy system and let their cabin leaders know their whereabouts at all times.
3. Be respectful of another's feelings and person (no hitting, kicking, name-calling).
4. Refrain from using foul, abusive or inappropriate language.
5. Respect one another's privacy. STAY OUT of others' personal belongings.
6. Wear shoes at all times to prevent injuries.
7. Stay out of others sleeping areas.
8. Be ready and on time for meals, activities, and flag ceremony.
9. Try new activities and try to become a part of their cabin group.
10. Abide by all listed and stated camp rules.

## BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT POLICY

We believe that every child has the right to experience camp and all it has to offer. We believe in setting limits and explaining the boundaries for all participants. When these boundaries are tested, we use specific procedures to help the camper to continue his/her experience at camp. All of our staff receives training in these procedures.

On the first day of camp our staff will go over cabin expectations and ground rules of camp life. Campers have the opportunity to ask questions about policies and rules, so everyone is clear about expectations.

### DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES WE FOLLOW:

SPECIAL DAYS Camps fully supports the Michigan Law that states “a camper will not be deprived of food or sleep, or be placed alone without staff supervision, observation, and interaction, or be subjected to ridicule, threat, corporal punishment, or excessive physical exercise or excessive restraint.”

If a behavior problem arises, the camper’s cabin leader will speak with the camper and make sure the camper understands why the behavior is unacceptable and knows what the consequences are. The cabin leader will restate the desired behavior, with clear consequences given for not following the desired behavior. If the behavior is repeated, the cabin leader will let the camper know that this is still unacceptable and will then involve the Village Director, Associate Camp Director and/or Camp Director. At this stage the parent or guardian may be contacted. The purpose of contacting the parents is to make them aware of the situation and to ask for cooperation and insight.

If the behavior persists, the Associate Camp Director and/or Camp Director will determine if the camper should remain at camp or be sent home. Parents will need to make transportation arrangements for a camper who is to be sent home no matter what time of day or night the incident occurs. There are some actions that may warrant immediate removal from camp. These actions include, but are not limited to: smoking or tobacco product use, alcohol or illegal drug use, or behavior which endangers the safety of the camper, staff, or other campers.

*This discipline policy attempts to let campers know that while they are cared for, certain behaviors are not acceptable in a camp setting. This policy also involves the parents whenever possible before the problems escalate, and invites them to be a part of the solution.*

## PACKING FOR CAMP

- Have your child “live out of a suitcase or bag” for a few days before camp so he/she can learn to keep personal belongings somewhat organized.
- Please pack for camp **WITH** your child, not **FOR** them. They need to know where everything is and they will also need to know how to pack again at the end of the week.
- **TABLE EVERYTHING!** Please use first and last names on all belongings, many children have similar possessions and names. Please use masking tape to label the outside of suitcases, bags and pillows with the camper’s full name.
- Please do not pack belongings loose in a sleeping bag or pillow. If you are not using a suitcase or duffel bag, please use a plastic garbage bag tied securely shut and labeled on the outside with masking tape.
- Due to the nature of camp activities, send old clothes to camp with the camper. Please avoid purchasing new clothes for camp, due to the fact that campers may be unfamiliar with those new articles of clothing. Campers play hard and are more comfortable in clothing they can get dirty or wet. **EXPECT CLOTHES TO COME HOME DIRTY.**

## BUS INFORMATION

Please arrive with your camper(s) at the drop off location **at least 15 minutes BEFORE** scheduled departure and arrival times. A responsible adult must check in each camper with the camp chaperone. Please do not leave until you have made sure your camper has been checked in!

All medications will be collected by the camp chaperone, please have your child’s medications in a plastic zip lock bag with his/her name on it. Include any medical updates for the camp nurse with the medications.

The bus will leave promptly at the following scheduled times and will not wait for campers who are not present. If your child is not pre-registered for the bus they may not be allowed to ride depending upon space. Any changes that are made to the bus are subject to a \$5.00 fee per change/per camper.

Location	Sun. Aug 7th	Sun. Aug 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sun Aug 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sat. Aug 20 <sup>th</sup>
	(to camp)	(to camp)	(from camp)	(from camp)
Detroit	7:30 am	7:30 am	5:30 pm	3:30 pm
Ann Arbor	8:30 am	8:30 am	4:30 pm	2:30 pm
Lansing	10:00 am	10:00 am	3:00 pm	1:00 pm
Camp	12:00 pm	12:00 pm	12:30 pm	10:30 am

**Note: Lunch will be provided to campers once they arrive at camp and a sack lunch will be provided to campers returning home on the bus**

## Summer Camp Suggested Clothing and Equipment List

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of labeling *all* belongings with a permanent laundry marker (available at most discount stores). Please do not pack belongings loose in a sleeping bag or pillowcase, if you do not have a suitcase please use a plastic garbage bag labeled with masking tape.

### Linen

- Wash cloth and towels (remember to bring extra for the beach)
- Sleeping bag with single bed sheet (or sheets and a warm blanket)
- Pillow

### Clothing

- Canvas shoes for Arts & Crafts and items you would like to tie-dye.
- 7 pairs of underwear
- 8 - 10 pairs of socks
- 2 pairs of pajamas
- 2 pairs of tennis shoes (Wet shoes need time to dry out.)
- 1 pair of beach shoes (sandals or water shoes)
- 3 pairs of jeans
- 2 sweatshirts
- 1 warm jacket
- 4 pairs of shorts
- 6 T-shirts
- 1-2 bathing suits
- 1-2 sweat pants
- rain gear (poncho or rain coat)

### Miscellaneous

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Toilet articles: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.
- Sunglasses
- Bug repellent
- Sunscreen
- Plastic garbage bag for dirty clothes
- Plastic bag for wet clothes

### Other suggestions (not required)

- Pajamas to wear to breakfast on "Sleep-In Day"
- Camera with extra film
- Favorite toys and books for rest period
- Paper, pens, envelopes, and stamps
- Coloring books and crayons
- Sports equipment
- Tote bag or backpack to carry towel, sunscreen, etc. to the waterfront
- Water bottle
- Money for camp store

Item for Village Color Day  
All Star (5-7) – Red  
Explorer (8-9) – Green  
Adventurer (10-11) – Yellow  
3Voyager (12-13) – Orange  
Trailblazer (14-15) – Royal Blue  
Outback (16-17) - Purple

### DO NOT BRING:

- Tobacco products
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Knives
- Firearms or weapons
- Possession of any of these items will result in dismissal from camp

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

YMCA Camp Pentalouan  
1243 E. Fruitvale Rd.  
Montague, MI 49437

**PLEASE NOTE: For GPS (and Mapquest) directions, type in E Fruitvale Rd & Blue Lake Rd, 49425 If you type in the camp address then most mapping programs will not take you to the correct address.**

#### **From the South**

- Take **U.S. 31 North**.
- Take the **RUSSELL ROAD** exit. (Approx. 6 miles North of the Apple Ave. exit).
- Turn Right onto Russell Road.
- Follow Russell all the way until it ends. About 10 miles. (Russell Road twists and turns, be sure to follow the signs for **Muskegon County B-23**).
- Russell Road will end at **FRUITVALE ROAD**.
- Take a right onto Fruitvale Road. Go 1/2 mile, Camp Pentalouan is on the right.
- Staff will be near the entrance to greet you and show you to the parking area.

#### **From the North**

- Take **U.S. 31 South**.
- Take the **COLBY ROAD** - Whitehall - Exit.
- Take a left onto Colby Road. Go exactly 1/2 mile to **SILVER CREEK ROAD**.
- Take a left onto Silver Creek Road. Go 5.1 miles. Silver Creek will end at **RUSSELL ROAD**.
- Take a left onto Russell Road. Go 2.4 miles. Russell Road will end at **FRUITVALE ROAD**.
- Take a right onto Fruitvale Road. Go 1/2 mile, Camp Pentalouan is on the right.
- Staff will be near the entrance to greet you and show you to the parking area.

**DO NOT BRING VALUABLE ITEMS, they could be lost or broken! We also ask that campers do not bring cell phones with them to camp.**

SPECIAL DAYS CAMPS  
P.O. Box 436  
Dimondale, MI 48821

TO THE PARENTS OF:

We are excited this summer to be celebrating not only our 38<sup>th</sup> year we are excited to be spending the summer at YMCA Camp Pentalouan located on Big Blue Lake just north of Muskegon.

This summer our camp theme will be "Special Days Cover to Cover" and We are going to dive into all of your favorite books and stories! Whether you like fantasy, Sci-Fi, Anime, fairy tales, mysteries, humor or romance (just kidding! That would be inappropriate!), we will have an awesome time telling stories and choosing our own adventures! From the first day to the last, we have plotted out a spectacular week of page turning fun! What's that? Reading isn't your thing? No problem! The best stories are the ones we act out or hear around a campfire! CAN'T WAIT to see you at Special Days: Cover to Cover!

Also, we will be tie dying, so don't forget a white t-shirt or other item...

Enclosed in the confirmation materials here include a detailed packing list, driving directions to camp and check in information. We have also included information on camper expectations and our behavior management policy and ask that you review this with your child(ren) prior to camp.

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

**INSIDE CHECK IN TIMES AND BUS TIMES ARE LISTED FOR PARTNERS & SPECIAL DAYS WEEK. PLEASE BE AWARE OF THEM AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. BECAUSE OF MULTIPLE STOPS THE BUS MUST REMAIN ON TIME AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WAIT IF YOU ARE LATE.**

**CONFIRMATION ENCLOSED: PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION**