



Welcome to Mini YKnots Camp!

Throughout the summer, your child will be engaged in many different activities which will help create lasting friendships, foster independence, promote an affinity for nature, develop social skills and instill our core values of Responsibility, Respect, Caring and Honesty, all while having a fun and exciting day!

Below you will find a variety of items to hopefully make the first days of camp easier for everyone: the staff, the children and you!

How can my child and I get ready for the first day of camp?

- *Talk about camp!* Having plenty of conversations about what will happen at camp, as well as going over the daily schedule will also help your child feel more comfortable and will hopefully excite them for camp!
- *Get an early start!* We have found from experience that having a routine and knowing what to expect allows your child to have less anxiety about his/her camp day, and starts your day off right too!
- *Encourage independence!* During our daily camp routine, we will nurture your child to become more independent. To make this easier at camp, we encourage you to help your child begin to acquire self-help skills at home, such as:
 - putting on their own shoes
 - dressing themselves
 - cleaning up after themselves

Starting camp having been introduced to these skills will help build your child's confidence and self esteem. Of course, our counselors are here to guide them along the way offering any help they may need. 😊

What will my child need for camp?

- *A small backpack!*
Your child's labeled backpack will be where they keep their essentials! We encourage you to purchase a backpack that your child will be able to carry. Please make sure your child has the following:
 - a plastic bag (for wet bathing suits)
 - sunscreen – We will help your child reapply after swimming!
 - small towel (a hand towel is fine!)
 - a labeled, **disposable** water bottle
 - a change of clothes
- *Sneakers!*
Your child will be moving all day long. For their safety, they need to have sneakers or athletic type sandals with a CLOSED toe and a sturdy back strap (no crocs!) to be able to participate in all of these activities. Dressy shoes, non- sporty type sandals, and flip flops will NOT BE PERMITTED.
- *Pull-ups or diapers (if applicable)!*
If your child still wears pull-ups/diapers, please send in extra diapers/pull -ups and wipes. You may choose to send in a pack at the beginning of each session or send in daily. **Also, please supply "Swimmie" diapers for the pool daily.**

What else do I need to know?

Water Play and Swimming

We will be engaging in water activities everyday, weather permitting. **Please dress your child in their bathing suit everyday with sunscreen applied, underneath their street clothes.** Even if the skies look grey, please send them in ready to swim. We will have them change out of their bathing suits if it starts to rain.

Communication

If you have any questions or concerns at any time please feel to contact me: ncruz@metroymcas.org. All of the counselors are available at pick up time to discuss any concerns as well!

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

You may drop your child off as early as **8:50 AM**. On Mondays through Wednesdays, drop off will be in Room 10. On Thursdays and Fridays, drop off will be in Room 11. This allows us easy access to the bus for our swimming lessons!

If you arrive late and our camp group has already left for the Maplewood Country Club pool, you must to drive your child to the pool, wait with them until the group arrives on the bus and sign them in with the Counselor. Please help us enforce this for the safety of your child!

Pick Up will be on the playground, between **11:45AM and 12:05pm**. You must enter through the front doors to access the playground. If the weather is inclement, we will be in the Baby Gym instead. Please be mindful that our counselors must fulfill other duties after 12PM. Therefore, it is important to pick up your child as scheduled. **If parking in the ECLC lot is problematic, the Columbia High School parking lots are available.**

****If you need someone other than yourself to pick up your child at the end of camp, you must fill out an Alternate Pick Up form.** You can obtain one of these forms from one of your child's counselors.

Belongings and Labeling

Please label EVERYTHING with your child's name!!! This helps your child's belongings find their way back to you!

Peanut Safe Facility

A reminder that we are a PEANUT SAFE FACILITY. Please make sure your child comes to camp without any nuts, nut products or peanut butter items.

Please don't hesitate to call with any further questions or comments you may have now or in the future about camp. Our team is always open to your suggestions and ideas!

Yours in Camping,
Nicole and the Mini YKnots team