



YMCA Camp Sloper Outdoor Center

Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs

Wanderer Program – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What time does the program begin and end?

A: Our Wanderer Program runs Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; we ask that you drop off your child no earlier than 8:55 am.

Q: What is the age range of children in the Wanderer's Program?

A: Children from 2.9 to 5 years old can participate in the Wanderer Program. Your child must be toilet trained prior to enrolling in the program.

Q: Are the kids separated by age or do they all play together?

A: Well the answer to that question is...both! Some parts of our day such as our Activity Periods and Snack are divided by age group. The age divisions are 2.9- 3.5 years old and 4-5 years old. However, when we are swimming or playing outside, the entire Wanderer group plays together.

Q: What is the staff to child ratio for the Wanderer Program?

A: Our ratio is 1:5. No more than 30 children may enroll for a session, so we have at least 6 counselors who are working with our Wanderers.

Q: My child is entering Kindergarten in the Fall; do I have a choice of what unit he/she enrolls in?

A: Good question! Yes you do have a choice of what unit to enroll your child in if they are entering Kindergarten in the Fall. You may enroll them in either our Wanderer Program which is a shortened day (9:00 am – 1:00 pm) or our Sloperian Program which is a full day (9:00 am – 3:00 pm). Our Sloperian Program is for children entering Kindergarten through 1st grade and we encourage families with children entering Kindergarten to take advantage of this program.

Q: What types of activities can I expect my Wanderer to participate in?

A: This is our daily schedule. This should give you an idea of what a typical day is like. We do plan special days in which this schedule would be altered. In this event, you will be notified prior to the special day.

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| 9:00 am | Arrival/Center Play | 11:00 am | Story Time |
| 9:30 am | Circle Time | 11:30 am | Lunch Time |
| 9:45 am | Activity Period #1 Group Games | 12:15 pm | Swimming |
| 10:15 am | Snack! | 12:45 pm | Playscape |
| 10:30 am | Activity Period #2 Arts n' Crafts | 1:00 pm | Departure |

Our Activity Periods are based on our weekly theme. Our total group of children (typically 30) is divided into different groups for our Activity Periods. All other activities are conducted with the entire group. Groups are divided based on age, with the younger kids and older kids being separated for the Activity Periods.

Q: Can you tell me a little about the Swimming Period?

A: We go swimming every day for approximately 30 minutes. The children swim in the shallowest area of the pond, which is about 2.5 feet deep. The children enjoy some free play time in the water while the counselors are keeping a careful, watchful eye on them. Children also have the choice of playing in the sand on the beach as well.

Q: What does my child need to bring to the Wanderers program?

A: Each day your child needs to bring a water bottle, a bagged lunch (refrigeration is available), swim suit (to be worn underneath clothing), towel, sunscreen (applied before camp begins) and closed-toe shoes and a great big SMILE!

Q: I heard Fridays are special days at Wanderers. Can you tell me more about that?

A: Yes, Fridays are special days at the Red Barn! Every Friday, the entire Wanderers group hikes to the big, green Super Slide! Also, we have "Picnic with your Camper" on Fridays. After we swim on Fridays, parents, friends and grandparents meet us at the Red Barn for a picnic lunch on the grass near the barn. It's a great time to socialize and for your camper to show you what they do at camp.

Q: Do Wanderers participate in Family Nights?

A: If your camper attends camp the week that a Family Night falls on, you are invited to attend the program at the Amphitheater on the East Coast of camp. Wanderers do not perform during the program, but this gives families a chance to spend time at camp together and to watch the performance and participate in the theme activities for the session.

Q: Where do I drop-off and pick-up my Wanderer?

A: Drop-off and pick-up is at the Red Barn at YMCA Camp Sloper. There are parking spaces located right near the barn that you may use during these times. You may drop off your child at 9:00 am and pick up your child no later than 1:00 pm.

Q: What qualifications does the staff at your camp have?

A: The Camp Director, Coast Directors and Unit Directors are all CPR, First Aid and Epi-pen Administration Certified. They all have been working at YMCA Camp Sloper for a minimum of 3+ years and most of them are year-round employees of our YMCAs. The Wanderers group consists of Senior Counselors, who go through our camp's hiring process and 30 hours of staff training prior to working at Sloper, and Junior Counselors, who are all entering their junior year of high school and also have gone through our camp's hiring process and 30 hours of staff training prior to working at Sloper. The hiring process includes a background check, verifying certifications, a group and one-on-one interview, reference checks and specific skills verification.

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Program Center of the Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs

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YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Financial assistance available for qualifying individuals and families.

The YMCA is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization.