



YMCA CAMP SLOPER

A PROGRAM CENTER OF THE SOUTHTONINGTON-CHESHIRE COMMUNITY YMCAs

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YMCA CAMP SLOPER'S OFFICIAL DICTIONARY – 1ST EDITION

Boom-Chika-Boom (bum-chika-bum) n. one of many popular camp songs that have been a part of Sloper's traditions for many years.

Character Values (kar-ik-tur val-yus) n. 1. caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and fun. 2. the basis of the YMCA Mission and values we instill in our campers and staff through our day camp program at Sloper.

Check (chek) n. what we do periodically throughout the day to ensure that all campers are accounted for; some camp groups find very creative ways to let us know that they are present by yelling out crazy things.

Crystal Mine (kris-til min) n. a natural formation in the ground where quartz crystals form, located on the Orange Trail; beyond popular belief, we do not put the crystals there for campers to find.

Dupa (dew-pah) n. 1. a person's backside, which is what they should use to properly slide down our 80' Superslide. 2. part of the body we ask you to stick out in the camp song, "Singing in the Rain".

East Coast (est kost) n. 1. the side of camp dedicated to campers in pre-K – 5th grade. 2. home of our McLeod Family Pavilion, Superslide, 50th Anniversary Amphitheater and more.

Foursquare (for-skwar) n. a very popular camp game in which campers and staff hit a kickball from square to square following various rules in hopes to attain control of the #4 square.

Funyak (fun-yak) n. a smaller and open-faced version of a kayak, in which campers can put on a lifejacket, grab a paddle and explore Sloper Pond and it's surroundings.

Gator (ga-tor) n. our very cool and very green maintenance vehicle that everybody wants to ride, but is only accessible to our maintenance gurus and very privileged camp staff.

Jiggy (jig-ge) n. 1. nickname of our YMCA's first member, Anthony Egidio. 2. saying 'Jiggy' is a substitute for 'cheese' when campers are getting their picture taken on picture day at Sloper.

Joke Day (jok da) n. 1. a popular weekly L.O.G.S. performance in which our Camp Director goes head-to-head with campers to see who has the better jokes. 2. the only day at camp where campers can 'boo' somebody on the stage, and it's not their fellow campers.

Killdeer (kil-deer) n. our official camp bird, which is known to make a nest and lay eggs near our gravel parking lot or the front field; you can spot one by looking for a red cone and railroad ties protecting it from foot or vehicle traffic.

Liquid Sunshine/Heavy Dew (li-kwid sun-shin/he-ve du) n. a camp phenomenon that a camper might mistake as rain or a downpour; as we all know, it never rains at YMCA Camp Sloper.

L.O.G.S. (el-oh-gee-es) abbr. Lot's Of Great Stuff n. our daily camp-wide assembly that is filled with skits, songs and activities based on our session theme. 2. a chance for the entire camp to get together and enjoy some good old fashion entertainment.

Mama Cass (mah-ma kas) n. our camp's official mascot, a seldom seen friendly giant turtle that lives in the middle of Sloper Pond; Mama Cass is known to catch some sun at Turtle's Paradise, which is located off of the Green Trail at the north end of the pond.

National Popsicle Day (na-shu-nol pap-si-kol da) n. a camp tradition that takes place on every Friday throughout the summer when all campers and staff get to enjoy a Popsicle and take part in the world-famous Super Sloper Slurp.

Orange (or-inj) adj. 1. our official camp color, as seen on our staff shirts. 2. our adopted fifth character value color, which represents FUN and is the basis of our staff philosophy: "Be Fun, Have Fun, Give Fun, Everyday!"

Red Barn (red barn) n. home of our Wanderers program, which includes our youngest campers (pre-K), who are frequently seen 'wandering' around the entire camp.

Sam Hoover (sam hu-ver) n. according to folklore, he is a legendary former camp director from the 1950's who some say still walks the trails of Sloper throughout the summer nights to make sure campers are behaving.

Shake 'n' Bake (shak en bak) n. a popular swimming activity where campers and counselors run out of the water, roll themselves in sand and run back into the water to clean the sand off.

Sloper Store (slo-per stor) n. our camp's trading post, which has Sloper items (t-shirts, lunch bags, bandanas, etc) and snacks for campers; it is open throughout lunch time and during the East Coast Family Nights each session.

Trails and Tales (trails and tails) n. our camp's quarterly newsletter that is used to keep campers and parents up-to-date on all of the happenings throughout the year at YMCA Camp Sloper.

Unit (yu-nit) n. a grouping of campers in a specific grade range; Explorers (2nd-3rd graders) and Rangers (6th-7th graders) are just two examples of our different units.

West Coast (west kost) n. the side of the camp dedicated to campers in 6th-10th grade. 2. home of our Jacob Family Pavilion, Wiffle Ball Stadium, West Coast Water Park and more.

Woodrow (wud-ro) n. a popular wooden addition to our camp in the past couple of years. 2. the funny log that took the lead as joke day King over Pooler.

Did you know...?

The numbers on the back of all of our orange staff shirts (52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60) represent how many years YMCA Camp Sloper has been serving the local communities. In the summer of 2009, we will be celebrating 60 years!

As stated in the definition above, the crystal mine is all natural. We never put rocks, minerals or crystals there for the campers to find. It has been said that another quartz crystal mine exists somewhere on our Yellow Trail.

Every summer, we have at least one international counselor. In the past, some of the international counselors who have worked at Sloper were from Spain, Australia, Russia, England, Egypt, Turkey and The Gambia.

YMCA volunteers and staff have just finished a book based on the history of YMCA Camp Sloper. The title of this book is Cow Paths to Climbing Walls.