



CAMP SHIAWASSEE

2026 PARENT HANDBOOK

THE

Building *Memories*

PLACE

No Place Like *This Place*[™]

CAMP SHIAWASSEE
SHIAWASSEE FAMILY YMCA
989-725-8136
info@shiawasseeymca.org
5721 Exchange Rd., Bancroft, MI 48414
515 W. Main St., Owosso, MI 48867



WELCOME

Thank you for choosing Camp Shiawassee for your camper this summer! We are excited for all the possibilities that await. As we get ready for camp, it is time to think about the necessary information you will need to make this summer a fantastic experience for your camper. Please read this handbook carefully as it contains important content in relation to your Y camping experience.

Should you find after reading this booklet that you need more information, please contact us at camp@shiawasseeymca.org.

Let the fun begin!

Camp Shiawassee Leadership Staff

MEET THE LEADS

TARA HERMES (YaYa)

Camp Director

thermes@shiawasseeymca.org

MEGAN DODAK

Child Care Director

mdodak@shiawasseeymca.org

JEN LINTNER

Senior Program Director

jlintner@shiawasseeymca.org

OUR MISSION

To put our core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility into action through facilities and programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

OUR PURPOSE

The Y is the leading non-profit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other.

OUR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Shiawassee Family YMCA is made up of people of all ages and from every walk of life, working side by side to strengthen communities. Together we strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, race, gender, gender expression, gender identity, income, faith, sexual orientation or cultural background has the opportunity to live life to its fullest.

GOALS OF YMCA DAY CAMPS

At the Y, we inspire kids to work together, learn together and play together, creating friendships that can last a lifetime. Our highly-trained staff welcomes campers and helps them realize that the Y is a place where they belong and can be themselves while trying new things, building new skills and making new friends. Our staff use evidence-based character development strategies to help campers:

- Create new friendships and experience a sense of belonging
- Engage in a wide variety of activities that inspire creativity, critical thinking and a lifelong commitment to learning
- Develop meaningful relationships with caring adults
- Become a part of a team
- Set and achieve personal goals

OUR STAFF

Each year we seek the best possible role models to spend time with your camper. We select our staff members through a competitive application and interview process. Staff members undergo state and national screenings and are certified in CPR and First Aid. In addition, each staff member participates in a week-long training program that covers safety, supervision, counseling and camp procedures. We take the supervision of your child very seriously and want only the best staff.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Shiawassee Family YMCA is a non-profit organization. In addition to program fees, we solicit funds annually to support our financial assistance program. It is our policy that no child is denied the opportunity to attend camp based on their inability to pay. In recent years, financial assistance requests have far outweighed the funds available. Therefore, we are making updates to our financial assistance program. Each family interested in receiving assistance will complete a Camp Shiawassee Financial Assistance Application. This is separate from any financial application you may already have on file with us. Applications will be kept confidential between the YMCA and the applicant. Applicants who qualify will be emailed an award letter with the details of the discounted rate and number of weeks it can be applied. If applicants are looking for additional discounted opportunities for their child(ren) this summer, we encourage them to look at our Learning Zone and Boxcar programs. These programs are considered child care, and state assistance is available to most people who qualify for our discounted rates.

CAMPER FORMS

All forms must be completed and returned to us **BEFORE** your child can attend camp. If you have not turned in the paperwork by the first day they will attend, your child may be turned away.

REGISTRATION, PAYMENT & CANCELLATION POLICY

A \$25 per week deposit is required to complete your registration. Registration and payment are due in full on the Monday before each week your child is registered. Late registrations may be accepted through the Tuesday before if there is space. Payments not made by the Monday before camp starts may be assessed a \$20 late fee. If you are interested in setting up automatic payments, please let us know.

Cancellations: Up to 1 week before camp begins = 50% of deposit credited to account; Less than 1 week before camp begins = 0% deposit returned, remainder of camp payment credited to account; No show once camp begins = forfeit of full amount paid.

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP PROCEDURES

We require a parent/guardian to sign-in their camper with Y staff each day. Absolutely no one will be able to pick up a child without showing proper identification. Anyone picking up a child must be listed on their forms. Please make sure you complete the list of approved pick-up persons for your child.

Each day, campers should be dropped off at Emerson Elementary School. Most days, they will ride a school bus to Camp Shiawassee in Bancroft. At the end of the camp day, the campers will return to Emerson school via school bus, to be picked up. There will be some days when the camp group will be at Emerson School until they go on their field trip or to the lake. The weekly schedule will be sent to all parents by Sunday evening.

Emerson Elementary
Camp Shiawassee

515 E. Oliver St., Owosso, MI 48867
5721 Exchange St., Bancroft, MI 48414

DROP-OFF is from 8:00–8:30 AM. We have a drive-up/drop-off line, located on Dewey Street, at the east side of the building. Children should not get out of the car until the parent has spoken with staff to officially check them in. The bus departs between 8:30 and 9:00 AM so please notify us if you plan to be late..

If, for any reason, you need to drop your child off at Camp Shiawassee, please make arrangements with the camp director at least one day in advance. Campers can be dropped off in Bancroft between 9:30am and picked up before 3:15pm on days that we will be traveling to camp at our usual times. Please check with the camp director and consult the travel schedule for the week before making final arrangements.

PICK-UP is from 4:00–4:30pm. Again, we have a drive-up/pick-up line, located on Dewey Street. The bus will return at approximately 4:00pm. When you arrive to pick up your child, PLEASE HAVE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE OUT AND READY TO SHOW CAMP STAFF EVERY DAY.

LATE PICK-UP POLICY

Should you arrive more than 10 minutes late to pick your camper up from camp, a \$10 fee will be charged and \$1.00 per minute thereafter. After three offenses, the parent will be required to meet with the Camp Director to discuss possible solutions to the problem.

We will have early (6:30am–8:00am) and late (4:30pm–6:00pm) care available for an additional fee. There is a separate form that will need to be filled out if you choose to take advantage of this option. Our Learning Zone staff will provide the early and late care at Emerson each day.

WHAT TO WEAR

Your child will be outdoors for the entire day at camp. Please check the weather daily and dress them accordingly. Also, remember that mornings can be cool and several areas of camp are in the woods or heavily shaded areas and, therefore, temps are much cooler.

Campers should always wear

- Closed-toe shoes (preferably tennis shoes)
- Play clothing (that can get dirty)
- Layers (sweatshirts or light jackets for cool mornings).

WHAT TO BRING

Please label all of your child's belongings.

- Backpack - large enough to carry camper belongings
- Water bottle - refillable with name on it
- Change of clothes - some activities can be messy and cause dirty or wet clothing/socks. (Pro Tip: Put extra clothes/socks in a Ziploc bag inside your child's backpack.)
- Sandals/Water Shoes - campers should come to camp in tennis shoes but may change into sandals for water activities
- Sunscreen & Bug Spray - If using suntan lotion, please make sure your child can apply it independently. Staff can only assist with spray applications. We reapply during the day, as needed.

DO NOT BRING:

- Electronic devices – cell phones, tablets, hand-held video games, etc. If brought to camp, they will be collected and returned at the end of the day.
- Special items or any items that your child wouldn't want to lose. Camp staff is not responsible for lost items (example: toys, trading cards, etc.)

MEDICATIONS

All camper medications are to be turned in to YMCA camp staff at check-in on the first day of camp. Medications should be clearly labeled and in the original prescription bottle from the pharmacy. The medication section of CampDoc should be filled out completely before you bring any medications to camp. Campers should NEVER carry medications on their person including, but not limited to, over the counter medications such as Tylenol and aspirin. Failure to abide by this policy could result in dismissal. Emergency medications such as inhalers and EpiPens should be reported to the Camp Director upon arrival. If you or your camper feel more comfortable with having an EpiPen on your camper at all times, this should be discussed with the Camp Director.

MEALS & SNACKS

Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are provided by Camp Shiawassee in partnership with Owosso Public Schools, Durand Area Schools, Monroe Family YMCA and the Meet Up and Eat Up program. We make every effort to communicate the preferences of the majority of our campers with our partners to provide items they will enjoy. If your child will not eat the food provided, please be sure to send food with them. We will share the weekly menu with you as soon as we receive it from the schools.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00am at Emerson School. Lunch will be at 11:15pm at Camp Shiawassee. Snacks will be available between 3:00 and 3:30 as children prepare to leave camp for the day.

If your child has any allergies, please make sure those are noted on their paperwork. If they are food allergies or need further description, please email our Camp Director at thermes@shiawasseeymca.org.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

The Shiawassee Family YMCA and Camp Shiawassee focus on providing great experiences for our campers. Participants who display the following behaviors including, but not limited to, will be dismissed without refund:

- Disruption, consistently failing to follow instructions
- Angry or vulgar language including name calling, swearing
- Physical contact with another child in an angry or threatening way
- Any demonstration of sexual activity or inappropriate touching
- Fighting, harassment, or intimidation with words, pictures or gestures
- Theft, destruction of property or equipment
- Carrying or concealing any materials that may be used as weapons
- Possession of drugs, alcohol, controlled medications or substances

Camp Shiawassee utilizes GLOW Reports for outstanding campers and GROW Reports for campers having a difficult day. Please keep an eye out, as they will come home in backpacks. If a GROW Report is sent home, the Camp Director may also send an email with more information, the address provided.

PARENT NOTIFICATION POLICY

In cases of injury, illness and/or behavioral challenges that go beyond what would be mentioned in a GROW Report, parents will be contacted immediately by camp staff. Each situation will be handled individually and with the parents input. In cases of serious injury, illness and/or behavioral challenges, campers may be excused for the remainder of the camp day, session, or season.

CAMP SCHEDULE

Camp Shiawassee fills each day with outdoor learning, reducing the summer slide, and lots of fun. Each week of camp is themed (see the registration form) and will offer activities geared toward that theme, as well as traditional pursuits such as canoeing, field games, arts & crafts, fort building, and more.

PHOTOS/FACEBOOK

This summer, we will create a Facebook Group for each week of camp. Parents will be invited to join this group and this is where we will share photos of your child's time at Camp Shiawassee. If, for any reason, you object to your child being in the photos, you must let us know before your child attends. We do have a photo waiver with the camp forms. If the form is signed, your child will be included in pictures.

LAKE DAYS/FIELD TRIPS

As we have in the past, we will be taking a bus to Campgrounds R Us or another lake location every Thursday (weather permitting) to spend the afternoon swimming. Campers will still go to Bancroft in the morning and stay through lunch. Please see the special "Lake Days" info page in this handbook for additional details.

This year, we will again offer Field Trips which will be on Fridays when possible. It is our goal to take a trip each week but we will keep you posted if anything changes. Additional Field Trip information will be available late spring.

CAMP WISHLIST

Camp Shiawassee has an Amazon Wish List containing items that will allow us to expand our offerings for your children. If you would like to purchase something from our wish list, we would appreciate any assistance you can give. The link to our wish list is: <https://a.co/2b2ZpRg>, or you can scan the QR code below. Monetary donations are always welcome and can be made in person or over the phone at the YMCA.

GIVE THE GIFT OF CAMP

Every day, the Y supports kids, adults and families who need us most with programs that protect, teach, connect, heal, nourish and encourage. We are striving every day to empower communities and help everyone in our community to realize their full potential. We can't do this work alone. We count on the generosity of our donors to make a better us possible. If you would like to sponsor a week of camp for a child who cannot afford it, or if you would like to make a donation toward our scholarship fund, please see the front desk or email info@shiawasseeymca.org for more information.

