



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CAMP SOKKIA

PARENT

HANDBOOK

Decatur Family YMCA

Inspiration. Recreation. Education



220 W. McKinley Avenue
Decatur, IL 62526
217 872 9922
www.decaturymca.org

Camp Sokkia Goals

- Provide campers with new and progressive opportunities through physically and mentally challenging activities.
- Encourage campers to develop skills that will allow them to build positive relationships with peers.
- Provide opportunities to accept responsibility, develop leadership skills and a good self-image to serve others.
- Help campers appreciate and respect the earth while understanding their responsibility for the stewardship of the global community.

Camp Rules – Camp rules are based on the four core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. We want each child to have an amazing experience this summer and that requires them to follow the policies and procedures put in place. Please go over the rules with your child/ren at home to ensure they understand them.

Camp Hours - Camp Sokkia runs from 9:00a.m. - 3:30p.m. To serve the needs of working parents we offer extended hours at no additional cost. Pre-Camp Program hours are 6:30a.m. - 9:00a.m. Post Camp Program hours are 3:30p.m. - 6:00p.m.

Camp Location – Camp Sokkia’s home base is at the Decatur Family YMCA (220 W. McKinley Ave. – one block north of DMH). Camp visits other parks in Macon County and the surrounding areas. (Please refer to your schedule for a detailed description of your camper’s location each day.)

Arrival & Departure Procedures- Drop off is at the Decatur Family YMCA Pavilion located on the North side of the YMCA. Upon arrival, each child must be signed in by an adult and in and of the Decatur Family YMCA. Drive into St. The Pre-Camp Staff will be clearly identifiable with Y Shirts and nametags. Campers cannot be dropped off before 6:30a.m.

Only persons authorized in writing, by the parents may pick up a camper(s). This is for the camper’s protection. Staff will check for a picture I.D. and written authorization on all persons unfamiliar to them. Anyone without proper authorization IS NOT PERMITTED to take a camper(s) from the site.

Payment - All camp fees must be paid on the Friday prior to the week of participation. To insure a space for your camper(s), early registration is advised. Payments can be made at the Decatur Family YMCA Child Care Desk. Parents with monthly co-pays must stay current. No camper(s) will be permitted to participate until proof of payment is validated*.

Medicine Policy - If your camper(s) requires medication, it is vital you inform Pre-Camp Supervisor or Camp Counselor of the medical need. **ALL MEDICATIONS MUST BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO CAMP STAFF IN THE ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTION CONTAINER.** You **MUST** also complete a Request for Dispensing Medicine form. Camp may also only administer medication as it prescribed. Camp will not be able to give a camper medication in any other way other than how the directions dictate on the side of the medicine bottle.

Injuries - If your camper is injured during camp, the staff will take steps necessary to obtain emergency medical care. These steps may include but are not limited to the following:

- Attempts to contact parent or guardian.
- Attempts to contact any person listed as emergency contacts.
- Contact of ambulance or paramedic.
- Transportation of camper to the nearest emergency room in the company of a counselor.

Illness – DO NOT SEND your camper(s) to camp if he or she has any of the following symptoms 24 hours prior to arrival:

FEVER: If over 100 degrees or any other symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, etc.

RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS: Severe congestion or unexplained wheezing.

VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHEA: Occurs more than once or is accompanied by other flu-like symptoms.

RASH: If the cause of the rash is unknown; or if the rash is not being treated; or if rash is known to be contagious.

CHICKEN POX: Or other communicable diseases.

LICE: Campers must be nit free.

Campers must be symptom free without medication for 24 hours before returning to camp. A camper who is unable to participate in activities due to an injury should not be sent to camp.

If a camper becomes ill at camp, he or she will be isolated with adult supervision and a parent will be called to pick him or her up.

Items From Home - All games and any electronic devices such as tablets, phones etc, should be left at home. Staff will take away any items that are brought to camp and deemed inappropriate. Campers are not allowed to bring card games.

THE DECATUR FAMILY YMCA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR DAMAGED PERSONAL ITEMS.

Clothing - Campers should wear comfortable, appropriate clothing, e.g., shorts, jeans, sweat pants, t-shirts, sweatshirts, raincoat or jacket when weather dictates it.

Shoes should be sturdy and comfortable for walking. Campers are not **allowed to wear flimsy sandals or "flip-flops"**. **Tennis shoes are required. Campers are required to wear Camp Sokkia Shirts on field trips (usually Thursdays).**

Lost & Found - The Decatur Family YMCA is not responsible for lost articles. Do not permit your camper to bring valuable or treasured items to camp. The YMCA recommends bringing a book bag to carry any small items. A Lost & Found area is maintained for two weeks before the YMCA donates all lost and found items to charity. Please place your camper's first and last name on all personal items.

Rainy Days – Rain or shine Camp Sokkia goes on! Weather is not a deterrent of camp, therefore dress accordingly! During severe weather warnings, campers may return to the Decatur Family YMCA or to another indoor location for fun activities. The camp staff are aware of all weather conditions prior to leaving the YMCA. Selected staff carry cell phones in case of emergencies. The Decatur Family YMCA Courtesy Desk is notified of any changes in the schedule. You may reach the **Courtesy Desk at 872-9622.**

Heat- Camp does its best to stay outside and play. On days that the heat index reaches 110 degrees or above Camp will not be able to use buses or go on trips. On days that have a heat index around 100 degrees Camp will minimize the time they spend outside especially during the heat of the day. During these overly hot days Camp may spend short periods of time outside playing water games.

Safety - The health and safety of each camper is the number one priority of the Decatur Family YMCA Camp Sokkia. Camp Staff is trained in Safety, First Aid and CPR/AED. The Camp Staff places an emphasis on preventative safety and supervises ALL activities closely. The Camp Director or Designated Coordinator is present during all field trips and outings away from the Decatur Family YMCA.

Lunch – Camp will supply a lunch each day for your camper(s) or your child many bring their own lunch to camp. **Camper(s) are not permitted to use vending machines during Camp.**

Bug repellent and sun screen – YMCA staff will apply sunscreen and or bug repellent. Permission needs to be given on the camp application under the camper(s) health history.

Camp Pictures - Pictures of campers participating in activities are taken throughout the summer. The Decatur Family YMCA uses the pictures for promotional purposes, e.g., brochures, website, billboards, etc. If you have any questions regarding camp pictures please contact the Camp Director.

Discipline Policy – The Decatur Family YMCA Camp Sokkia has been developed to provide activities that are safe, creative and fun for campers. No child's behavior will be allowed to interfere with his or her right to enjoy camp. Praise and recognition of good behavior is built into Camp Sokkia. The Decatur Family YMCA believes that a camper who is kept busy, i.e., focusing on positive behavior, is less likely to stumble "off the trail" into negative behavior.

Consequences have been developed in order to help each camper choose to behave appropriately. In order to guarantee children in Camp Sokkia a safe, positive and enjoyable environment, the Decatur Family YMCA utilizes the following discipline policies:

CONSEQUENCES

- Warning
- Counselor Conference with camper
- Camp Director Conference with camper
- Removal from Field Trip(s) for that week and/or following week(s)
- Parent called and child removed from Camp for the day
- Child suspended from Camp for 3 days
- Child suspended for up to the remainder of the summer

The Camp Director reserves the right to circumvent early consequences if the behavior of the camper(s) is/are severe enough to pose a risk to either the misbehaving camper(s) or others in Camp Sokkia. The goal of Camp Sokkia is to give the camper(s) every opportunity to correct his or her own behavior without involving the parent. However, the goal includes keeping the parent(s) informed of any situation that occurs at camp.

REFUNDS AND CREDITS – Refunds and credits are ***NOT*** given for days suspended because of disciplinary reasons. Parents may request a refund for medical reasons if they have a doctor's note stating that the camper may not participate in camp because of a medical reason.

SWIMMING – Camp Sokkia swims on scheduled days at the Decatur Family YMCA and during other times at local outdoor aquatic centers. **Campers should bring swimsuits and towels on noted swim days.**

Field Trips & Special Events - Special activities and trips are planned each week. Registration in Camp Sokkia automatically grants permission for attendance on field trips. Weekly schedules are provided to inform families of upcoming activities and additional fees. Bus departure times for the fieldtrips are a vital part of staying on schedule. If your child misses the bus you will not be able to transport them to the fieldtrip and we do not provide alternate care. **Campers are required to wear a**

Decatur Family YMCA Camp Sokkia t-shirt on field trip days. If the child forgets his or her t-shirt at home a \$10 fee will be added to their account to pay for a new t-shirt.

Arts & Imagination – Arts and Crafts activities are included several times each week. They include small and large group work and projects.

WATER BOTTLE - All Camp Staff and campers are required to have a water bottle with them AT ALL TIMES. Juice boxes or drinks that are brought in their lunches DO NOT count. YMCA water bottles can be purchased.

CELL PHONES - Campers **ARE NOT** permitted to have cell phones at camp. For emergency purposes, you may contact the YMCA Child Care/Preschool Center to speak with a director. Campers who bring cell phones will have their phone taken and given to the parents upon pick up.

E-MAIL/TEXT LIST – The Decatur Family YMCA will use Text Caster (text notifications) to send reminders, notifications and/or updates pertaining to Camp Sokkia. Please make sure we have a working number at all times.

FACEBOOK

LIKE US (DECATUR FAMILY YMCA) ON FACEBOOK AND SEE PHOTOS, VIDEOS, AND GET UPDATES ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON AT CAMP.

REVISED-MAY 2018