



» Camp Silver Creek
Program Guide
Summer 2026

A SUMMER
THEY'LL NEVER
FORGET



Welcome to Camp Silver Creek!

2026 is a big year for me, as it marks twenty years since I first set foot on the grounds of a YMCA overnight camp.

I still vividly remember my own first year at camp - I was so nervous to spend a week away from home, to live in a cabin with other girls I had never met, and for everything to be new and different from anything I had ever experienced. What I didn't know was how that first week at camp would change my life.

Camp is a place where every child belongs and is celebrated for who they are rather than what they can do. Camp is a place that thrives off of silliness and laughter; where joy can be found in all the little moments. And during that week in 2006, I really got to feel that camp spirit. I stepped out of my comfort zone and became part of a community where I could be myself.

Since then I have firmly believed that camp is a little bit magic and that every child deserves to have the experiences that I had as a camper. At Camp Silver Creek your child will grow and learn in a place where they matter; not for their skills or what they're good at, but because they're part of our camp family. We hope that your child experiences a little bit of magic with us this summer.



In the spirit of camping,

Adrienne "Fraggle" Chodnowsky
Camping Services Director



Summer 2026 Calendar

Session 1 June 21-June 27

Session 2 June 28 - July 1

Fam. Camp 1 July 1 - July 4

Session 3 July 5 - July 11

Session 4 July 12 - July 18

Session 5 July 19 - July 25

Fam. Camp 2 July 26 - July 29

Session 7 August 2 - August 8

Session 8 August 9 - August 15

Session 9 August 16 - August 22

Register Online At
theyonline.org

Financial Aid
Contact us at
ffisher@theyonline.org
or call 503-399-2788

Registration Deadlines

Registration for the week of June 21st closes on Sunday, June 7th to allow for adequate preparation time for the first week of camp. All other registrations close two Sundays prior to that camp's start date.

OUR PROGRAMS



Traditional Camp Ages 7-12

When you think of summer camp, this is what you imagine! Spend a week at our beautiful campsite exploring the great outdoors & trying new activities like archery, boating, arts & crafts, swimming, campfire skits, and more! All of our week-long campers also get the opportunity to enjoy an overnight out in the woods.

Sessions offered:

- 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9

Your camper MUST be the indicated age by the first day of their session.

Teen Camp Ages 13-15

Our traditional camp, but more grown-up! Teens enjoy their own separate community on-site, where they can participate in classic camp activities and dive into extended, age-appropriate adventures tailored just for them.

Sessions offered:

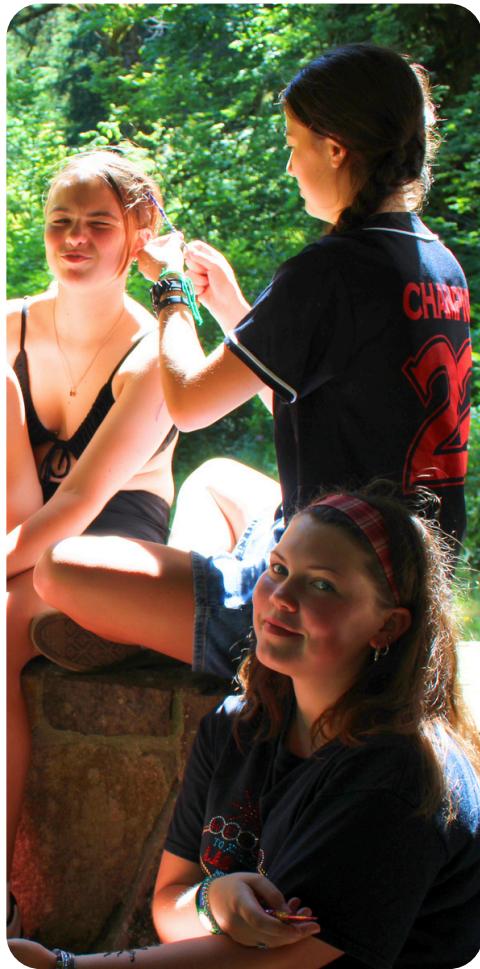
- 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9

Short Session Ages 6-12

Not sure if your child is ready for a full week away? Our Short Session offers a 4-day/3-night introduction to overnight camp, designed to ease kids into the traditional camp experience with fun, exciting, and confidence-building activities.

Sessions offered:

- Session 2 (Sun - Wed)



Leaders-In-Training* Ages 15-16

Our L.I.T. program is designed for teens who are interested in growing their leadership skills, and take on a meaningful role in our camp community. This two-week program focuses on growth: the first week is dedicated to skill development, while the second offers hands-on experience to put their new skills to the test.

Sessions offered:

- **LIT A (Sessions 3 & 4)**
- **LIT B (Sessions 3 & 5)**

BOLD & GOLD* Ages 13-16

Our BRAND-NEW Teen Adventure Excursion Program. This tripping program combines leadership development with outdoor exploration, inspiring teens to step out of their comfort zones, tackle exciting new challenges, build confidence, learn new skills, and form lifelong friendships in stunning natural settings.

Sessions offered:

- **5, 7, 8**

Family Camp (All ages welcome)

Fun for the whole family! At family camp, each family gets to stay in their own individual cabin (each sleeps up to 8). During the day, participate in camp activities run by our experienced staff, eat meals in our dining hall, and spend time together with your loved ones.

Sessions offered:

- **Family Camp 1 (Wed - Sat)**
- **Family Camp 2 (Sun - Wed)**

About Us



Our Facilities

Nestled in the stunning Silver Falls State Park, our camp is a one-of-a-kind experience as the only YMCA summer camp in the country on the National Historic Registry. Virtually unchanged since its founding in 1938, Silver Creek offers endless opportunities for fun, exploration, and adventure. From sleeping in rustic cabins to boating on the lake, playing on the field, or building forts in the woods, every corner of our camp invites campers to create lasting memories.

Our Staff

While most of our staff hail from Oregon, we're proud to welcome team members from across the country — including Washington, Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Utah, and California! Our staff are chosen for their childcare expertise, leadership abilities, and passion for creating an unforgettable camp experience.

Before camp begins, every staff member completes an intensive week of training focused on child development, behavior management, and camp activities. Plus, all staff are certified in CPR and First Aid, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for every camper.

Please note that for the 2026 camp season, our pool will remain non-functional, with plans for future replacement.



Camp Life

Each day at Camp Silver Creek is an opportunity for new experiences. We not only live by the YMCA's four C.H.o.R.R. values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility, we even have time specifically set aside in our day to help instill those in our campers.

Each week, campers spend four days doing activities of their choice, spending time with their cabin group, and participating in exciting twilight games. We end each day of camp with a campfire where we sing songs, do skits, and tell stories.

On Thursday of each week, every camper gets to go on an overnight, taking a short hike to camp out under the stars. On Friday, campers will return to the main camp to enjoy a carnival, a game of capture the flag, a final campfire, and a heartfelt candlelight closing ceremony—an unforgettable evening to soak in the magic of camp.



Sample Schedule

- 7:30** Polar Bears!
- 8:15** Announcements
- 8:30** Breakfast
- 9:30** Values
- 10:00** Activity 1
- 11:15** Activity 2
- 12:30** Lunch
- 1:30** Rest Period
- 2:30** Cabin Group Time
- 4:00** Free Choice Time
- 5:00** Return to Units
- 6:15** Announcements
- 6:30** Dinner
- 7:15** Twilight Games
- 8:30** Campfire
- 9:45** Lights Out



Camp Life

CABIN LIFE

When campers arrive at camp, they will be assigned a unit and cabin based on age and gender. Each cabin has six campers, one counselor, and one aide. At camp, each cabin is like a family: they eat meals together, do activities together, and get to know and support each other. The cabin group model ensures that each camper feels like they belong as soon as they set foot on camp.

FOOD AT CAMP

We eat meals all together in our dining hall, right at the heart of our camp. Meals are served buffet style, so each camper gets a choice of what they want. Our kitchen does a great job of accommodating for food allergies or dietary restrictions! Some of our favorite camp meals are burritos, french toast sticks, cook-out, and grilled cheese and tomato soup.



WHAT ACTIVITIES COULD YOUR CAMPER GET TO TRY?

TEEN LEADERSHIP CAMPS



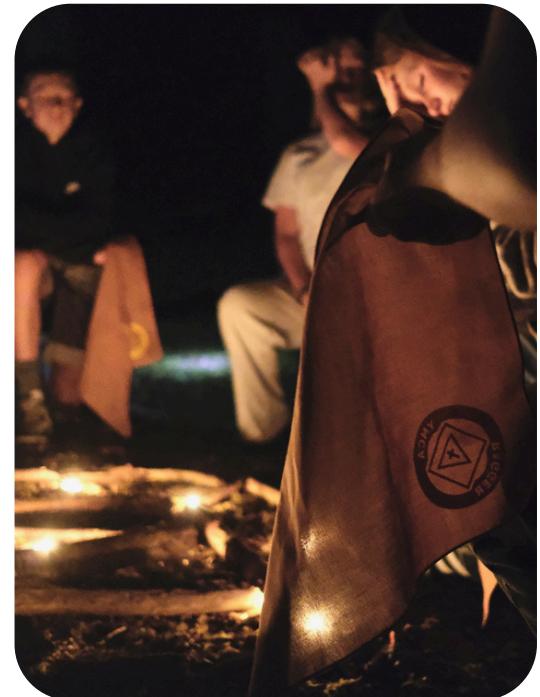
Leaders-In-Training

Our two-week L.I.T. program is designed for teens passionate about developing their leadership skills and stepping into meaningful roles within our camp community. During the first week, L.I.T.s live together as a group and participate in focused training and development sessions led by a specially trained Director and experienced counselors who serve as mentors. In the second week, they gain hands-on experience by assisting in cabins and supporting younger campers, applying their new skills and building confidence in their ability to lead. This program is perfect for teens interested in leadership, working with youth, or taking on roles that require responsibility and teamwork.

BOLD & GOLD

Bold & Gold is a national YMCA program started in 2011 with the aim of pairing outdoor wilderness adventures with intentional leadership training to help teens be challenged and grow both mentally and physically. We are so excited to be starting the first BOLD & GOLD program in the state of Oregon!

Campers will arrive at Silver Creek on Sunday, where they'll spend two nights preparing for their exciting excursion. They'll then embark on a three-night tent camping adventure through Oregon State Parks. Each day is packed with activities designed to challenge them, build leadership skills, and encourage personal growth, all while hiking, exploring, and overcoming physical challenges. On Friday, the group returns to Silver Creek to join in the final camp activities before pick-up on Saturday.



**Questions about Bold & Gold or
L.I.T.s?**

Email achodnowsky@theyonline.org

**Looking for a teen leadership program that doesn't fit with the ones above?
Check out the L.I.T. program at our sister day camp, YMCA Camp Greider!**



2026 Pricing

Traditional / Teen Camp

- Members \$634
- Non-Members \$684

Short Session

- Members \$389
- Non-Members \$414

Leaders-In-Training

- Members \$1,247
- Non-Members \$1,334

Family Camp

- Members
 - First Adult \$279
 - Each Add'l Adult \$249
 - Each kid age 5+ \$199
 - Kids 4 and under Free!

BOLD & GOLD

- Members \$899
- Non-Members \$949

Non-Members

- First Adult \$304
- Each Add'l Adult \$274
- Each kid age 5+ \$224
- Kids 4 and under Free!

Financial assistance
is available!

HOW TO REGISTER

All registrations must be completed online at TheYonline.org to ensure release waivers are signed—telephone registrations cannot be accepted. More information, including policies and program details, can be found on our website and in the Parent Handbook.

Spaces fill quickly, so don't miss your chance to join in on the fun, exploration, and adventure we have planned!

PARENT GUIDELINES

All parents/guardians are expected to read and follow the information in the Parent Handbook, as well as program information that is provided to you prior to the start of participation. The Handbook is available for viewing online on our website. Important details regarding camp operations, policies & procedures, contact information, and more will be included in a pre-camp email. If you do not receive this information via email approximately one week prior to your camp start date (at the latest), email us at youth@theyonline.org. Also, check your registration account to ensure you have opted in to receive emails from us and have not unsubscribed.

FINANCIAL AID

The support of our community makes it possible for many deserving children to experience the joy, growth, and adventure of camp. Families facing financial hardship can apply by completing the Financial Assistance Application. For more details, visit our website or check the Parent/Guardian Handbook.

GIVE THE GIFT OF CAMP

Your gift will help support unforgettable experiences for children who deserve the opportunity to thrive, regardless of financial circumstances. Visit theyonline.org to learn how to give your tax-deductible donation and make a lasting impact today!

Ready for the best summer ever?



Register today!

theyonline.org/camps/camp-silver-creek

The Family YMCA of
Marion and Polk Counties
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Salem, OR 97301



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The YMCA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit social services organization dedicated to Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility.