



YMCA CAMP KERN PARENT PLANNER 2025





WELCOME TO SUMMER 2025!

It's finally here! It's time to start thinking about summer camp! **This Parent Planner will include all the information you will need to prepare your camper** for their summer experience with us. Please look over it carefully; the information is important to both you and your camper.

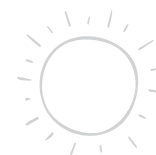
We are beyond excited for this summer and all the adventures we have planned for your camper! We cannot wait for them to come grow with us!



THE PRE-CAMP CHECKLIST



- ☐ Register at CampKern.org
- ☐ Submit Payment
- ☐ Complete forms 1 month before arrival



- ☐ Health History Form (including dietary restrictions)
- ☐ Parent Camper Confidentiality Form
- ☐ Permission to Treat and Health Notification
- ☐ Publicity Waiver
- ☐ Sunscreen and Bug Repellent Application Consent
- ☐ Camper Code of Conduct
- ☐ Any Program Specific Waivers

- ☐ Review Important Information (Pages 10-13)

- ☐ Pack (Page 7)

- ☐ Prepare Mail (Page 9)

- ☐ Load up the car for the BEST SUMMER EVER!

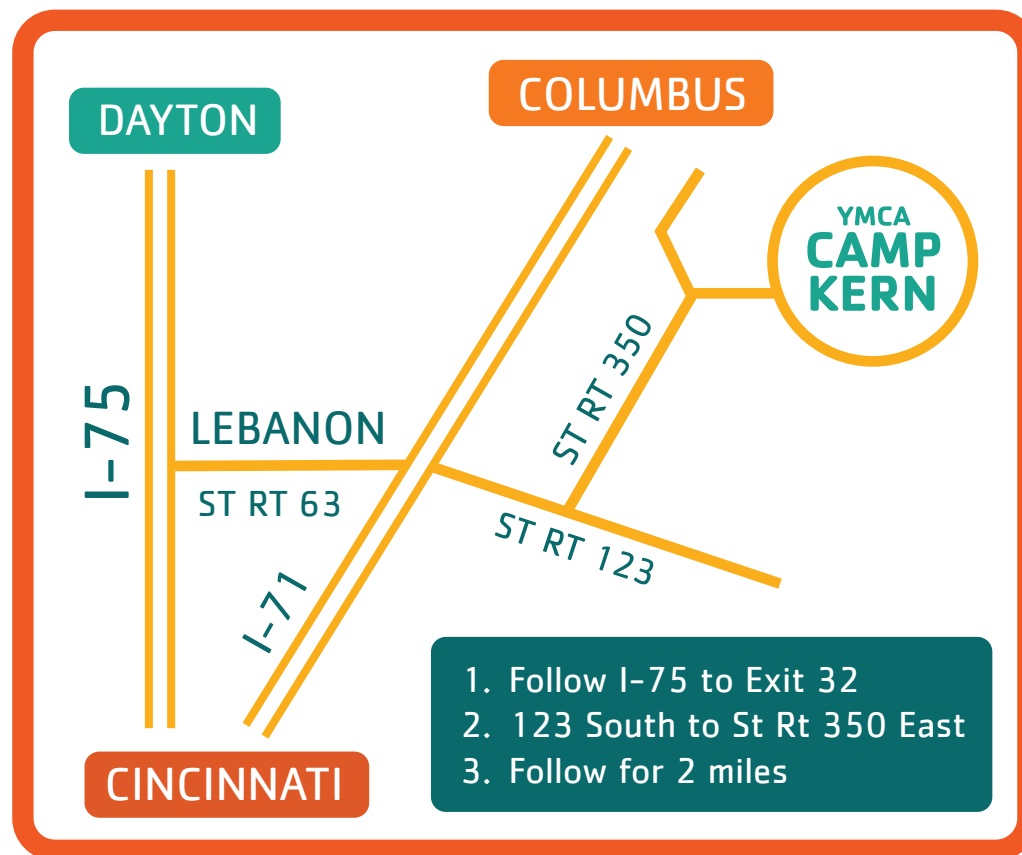


DIRECTIONS

YMCA Camp Kern is located approximately 10 miles North of Kings Island off of I-71. Exit 1-71 at exit #32, head South on State Route 123, make a left onto State Route 350, travel 2 miles, YMCA Camp Kern will be on the right hand side.

DISTANCE

30 miles from Cincinnati
35 miles from Dayton
80 miles from Columbus



EMERGENCY CONTACT



To contact camp: There will be someone available in our office from 8:30 am - 5 pm from Monday to Friday at (513) 932-3756.

After business hours: You can call the emergency number provided to you during check in. This number will also be on the recording when calling our office after hours. Please follow the prompts to our On-Duty Director.

In the event of an emergency: You will be contacted via phone. Updates on weather emergencies will be communicated via E-mail and our Facebook page.

GENERAL CONTACT

Phone: 513-932-3756
Fax: 513-932-8607

Address:
5291 St. Rt. 350
Oregonia, OH 45054

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT LOCATIONS

FULL WEEK CAMPS

DROP OFF: Parents will be able to walk campers to their cabins but will not be allowed in the cabin.
PICK UP: Parents will park and head over to their camper's cabin to check out with their counselor.



TRADITIONAL	DROP OFF SUNDAY	PICK-UP FRIDAY	LOCATION
FRONTIER (7-9)	3:00PM-3:30PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
EXPLORER (9-11)	3:30PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
ADVENTURE (11-13)	4:00PM-4:30PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
PIONEER (13-14)	4:30PM-5:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
COUNSELOR IN TRAINING	3:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
FULLY THEMED CAMP	3:00PM-4:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	DROP OFF: WILDERNESS PAVILION PICK UP: SINGERMAN LOT
TEEN CAMPS	4:00PM-5:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
LEADERS IN TRAINING	4:00PM-5:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	SINGERMAN LOT
HORSE CAMPS	3:00PM-5:00PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	ELK LODGE

TASTE OF KERN

DROP OFF SUNDAY

3:00PM-5:00PM

PICK-UP WEDNESDAY

5:00PM-6:00PM

LOCATION

SUGARWOOD CABINS

CHECK-OUT ACTIVITIES



PARENTS ARE INVITED!

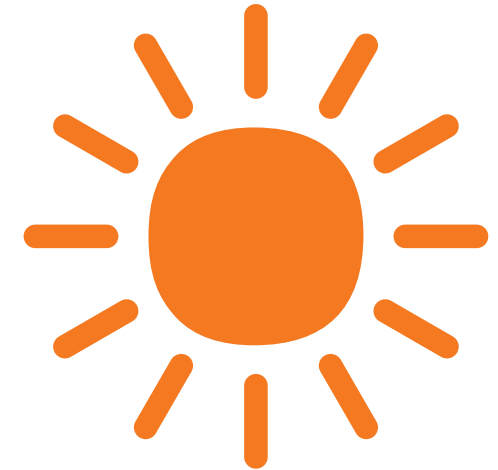


Check-out Programing for Leadership, Fully Immersed, and Traditional Camp will begin at 5:30pm with a village cheer-off followed by check-out. Your camper can give you a tour of Camp Kern and see all the fun that has happened during their week at camp! We will also be serving hot dogs and chips at this time.



Ranch check-out programing will start at the Ranch with a horse show at 4:30pm followed by check-out. Campers are free to walk their parents/guardians around the ranch and show where all the fun happened that week at camp.

SEMI-RESIDENTIAL & DAY CAMPS



FIRST CAMP

MONDAY–WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY

DROP OFF TIME

8:00AM–9:00AM
8:00AM–9:00AM
NONE

PICK-UP TIME

5:00PM–6:00PM
NONE
5:00PM–6:00PM

LOCATION

ELK LODGE
SUGAR WOODS
SUGAR WOODS

SUNRISE CAMP

MONDAY–FRIDAY

8:00AM–9:00AM

5:00PM–6:00PM

ELK LODGE

BOOTS & BITS

MONDAY–FRIDAY

8:00AM–9:00AM

5:00PM–6:00PM

ELK LODGE

TRADITIONAL CAMP

MONDAY–FRIDAY

8:00AM–9:00AM

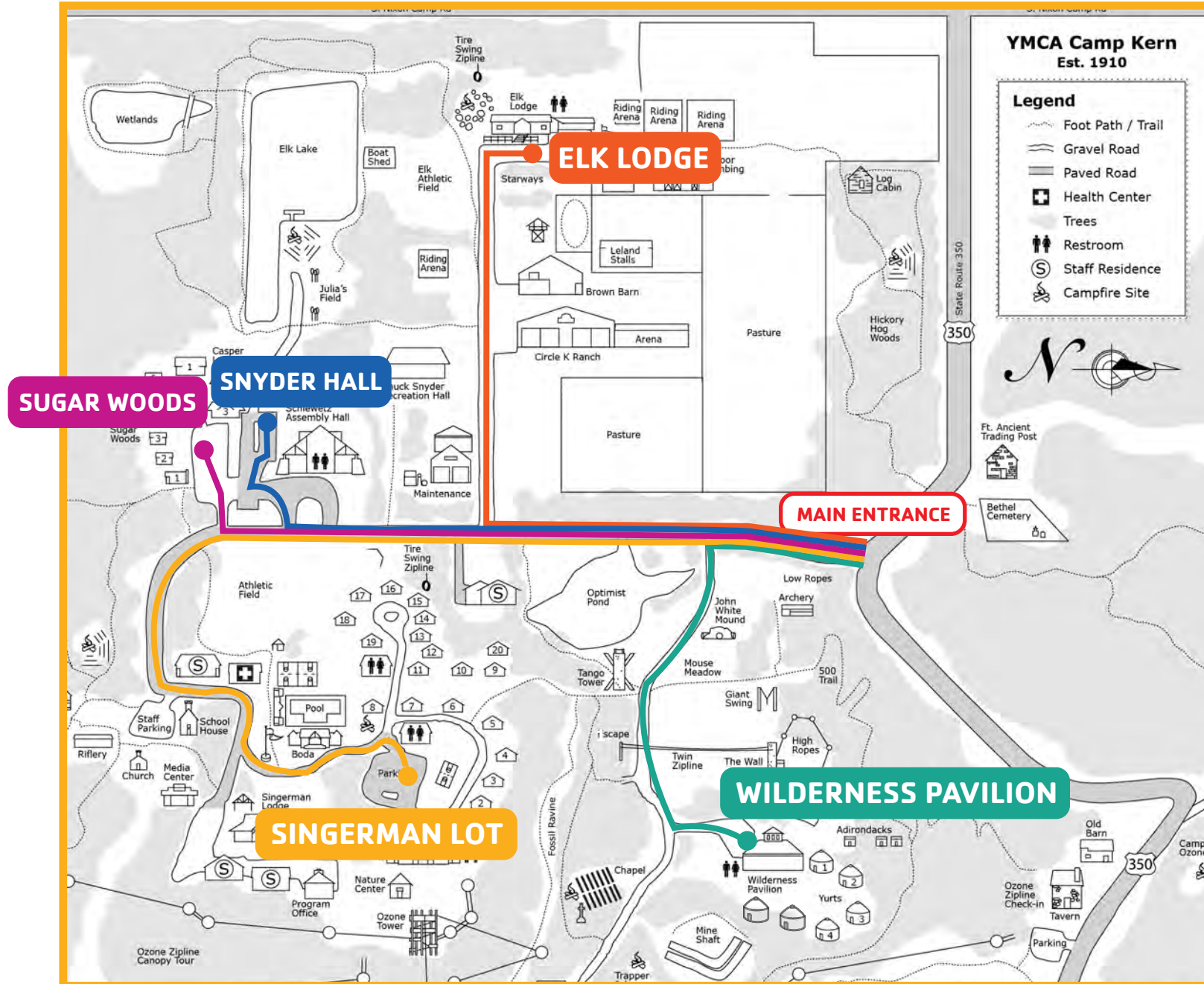
5:00PM–6:00PM

ELK LODGE

MEALS

We provide a morning snack and lunch! Nut-free packed lunches and snacks are welcomed. If you want your camper to have dinner, please pick-up after 5:30PM.

DROP OFF & PICK UP LOCATIONS



PACKING LIST

- Sleeping bag*
- Pillow
- Summer clothes that can get messy!
- Underwear and socks (6-7 sets)
- 2 pairs of shoes

Closed toe required for climbing

- 1 pair of flip flops (for the shower)
- Bath towel & wash cloth
- Beach towel
- 1 pair of long pants
- 1 sweatshirt or jacket
- 2 swim suits
- Rain gear
- White shirt (for vespers)
- Laundry bag
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Shampoo/conditioner & soap
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Water bottle
- Small backpack (for day use)
- Flashlight
- Disposable camera
- For Ranch Campers: a pair of pants for each day. And boots!



*Campers will participate in an outdoor camp-out one night during the week and will need a sleeping bag. For everyday use, you can also pack twin sheets, a pillow, and a blanket to put on their bunk or they can use their sleeping bag in place of bedding.

ADDITIONAL HORSE CAMP ITEMS

- Jeans, breeches or long pants required daily for riding
- Boots with a heel

FIRST CAMP & DAY CAMP SHOULD ALSO BRING:

Swim Suit, Water Bottle, Change of Clothes, Backpack, Sunscreen & Bug Spray

ALL ITEMS BROUGHT TO CAMP SHOULD BE LABELED

If your camper forgets or is in need of a required item, alert a camp staff member at check-in, we'll be glad to help.



WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Cell Phones which includes smart watches, tablets, etc.
- Cash
- Electronics
- Jewelry and other irreplaceable items
- Pets
- Personal Sporting Equipment, camp will provide everything
- YMCA Camp Kern is nut-free. All food will be provided by camp.
- YMCA Camp Kern is a drug and weapon free zone. Any camper found in possession of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, weapons of any kind, or fireworks will be immediately dismissed without a refund.
- Any cell phone found will be confiscated and held in a locked cabinet until check-out.

CAMP SCHEDULES

TRADITIONAL CAMP SCHEDULE

7:00AM Rise and Shine
7:30AM Flag Raising
7:45AM Breakfast
8:50AM Morning Assembly
9:25AM Morning Activities*
12:00PM Lunch
1:10PM Rest Hour
2:15 PM Cabin Activity
3:30PM Snack
3:45PM Cabin Activity
4:45PM Flag Lowering
5:00PM Dinner
6:15PM Village Time
7:15PM All Camp Activity
8:50PM Evening Program
9:00PM Snack
10:00PM Lights Out

RANCH CAMP SCHEDULE

7:00AM Rise and Shine
8:45AM Breakfast
9:00AM Riding Lessons*
12:45PM Lunch
1:10PM Rest Hour
2:15PM Trail Rides/Cabin Activities*
3:30PM Snack
4:00PM Swimming
5:15PM Flag Lowering
5:30PM Dinner
6:15PM Evening Activity
7:15PM All Camp Activity
8:50PM Round Up
9:00PM Snack
10:00PM Lights Out

These are only example schedules. Activities and times will vary based on program and weather.

SENDING MAIL TO YOUR CAMPER



Receiving mail at camp can be a fun addition to your child's week. If you would like to send something please check out the following guidelines:



No care packages. Not everyone gets packages and this can become a negative experience for some of our campers who feel left out.



Prevent homesickness by using upbeat camper focused language:
"We can't wait to hear about what you've done this week!" VS "We miss you so much."



Mail can be from anyone! Feel free to share the address with extended family just be sure to remind everyone we are only accepting letters. No packages.



You can also send letter through Bunk1. Here is the information you need to send you camper a letter. Letters are delivered every day by snack time.

*Please use this format for addressing all mail sent to YMCA Camp Kern: YMCA Camp Kern
Camper Name Session # Cabin #
5291 St. Rt. 350
Oregonia, Ohio 45054

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REFUND/PAYMENTS

Full payment is due by May 1st or with your registration if registering on or after May 1st.

If you elect to register your child for additional sessions during the summer payment is due at registration. There is a \$20 charge for any returned checks.

Campers who leave early due to a medical condition will receive a prorated refund. Dismissal due to unsatisfactory conduct is not refundable. The Executive Director has the final decision in incidents of behavioral dismissal. The \$100 deposit becomes non-refundable after March 1st.

HOMESICKNESS/VISITING

Homesickness is a natural feeling experienced by many campers, counselors, and parents too! For most it passes in a day or two and our counselors receive special training on identifying and caring for homesick campers. It is the policy of YMCA Camp Kern to keep campers involved in constant activities to reduce the feeling of homesickness. In the case of severe homesickness, a member of the leadership team will contact you for advice in assisting your camper. To prevent homesickness, visiting is strongly discouraged during the camp week. If you have an extenuating circumstance please call the camp office to discuss your options. No refunds are granted for campers leaving early.

MEDICAL CARE

Camper mental, physical, and emotional safety is our number one priority. We aim to accommodate a wide range of health needs and encourage camper parents to contact us to discuss their needs prior to camp. It is important for campers to take their normal medication. All campers are given health screenings by our staff during check-in this includes a temperature and lice check. At this time medications, prescription and non-prescription drugs in their ORIGINAL CONTAINERS must be given to the camp nurse. Medication will be distributed at meal times and before lights out. Tylenol, Antacids, and other incidental over the counter medications are available from the nurse during the week on an as needed basis at no charge.

Medical expenses incurred during a campers stay are the responsibility of the camper's guardian.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MEDICAL CARE (CONT)

You and your insurance company will be billed directly for Doctor, pharmacy, urgent care or emergency room visits. In the event off site care is needed every attempt will be made to contact you prior to transporting your child for care. A registered nurse is on call and health coordinators live on-site throughout the summer.

FOOD SERVICE

Three balanced meals are planned and served by the food service team. Snacks are also provided twice a day, between lunch and dinner and before bedtime.

Note: If your child is vegetarian or has special dietary needs please include this on the Health History Form.

DISCIPLINE

Campers are expected to treat each other and staff with respect and to abide by camp rules at all times. It is our policy to use a three step procedure when disciplining campers:

1. Verbal Warning
 2. Behavior Agreement made between camper, counselors, and leadership staff
 3. Conference with Program Director
- Severe behavioral incidents require a phone call to the parent or guardian and may result in bypassing the three steps directly to a conference with the Executive Director.

PHOTOS

There will be updates on Facebook and Instagram throughout the week. All photos will be uploaded to **Bunk1**. Photos will be available to view and purchase. The password to access the galleries will be given to you at check-in. Our focus is always on the camper experience, we cannot guarantee photos of every camper. All proceeds from photo sales will go towards our Annual Campaign which helps ensure all children can enjoy a week of Camp.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of YMCA Camp Kern that no behavior that would be classified as sexual harassment will be tolerated by staff or campers. Such behavior will result in dismissal or termination.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

We reserve the right to search all campers personal belongings if we have reason to believe prohibited items are on camp property.

AQUATIC SAFETY

All campers are screened for swimming ability at their first swim and identified with wristbands to determine the portions of the pool available to them. Wristbands also aid our lifeguards in ensuring safety at the pool for all swimmers. Non-swimmers are still able to participate in aquatic activities, however, there will be portions of the pool that are off limits to them. **Any camper unable to pass a swim test will be required to wear a life jacket.** Life jackets are available to any camper who would feel more comfortable using one. Life jackets are required for all campers and staff members taking part in Lakefront Activities.

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

We reserve the right to seize any drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or drug paraphernalia found in camper possession. Possession of any of the aforementioned items will result in immediate contact with the camper's guardians and dismissal with no refund.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LOST & FOUND/PERSONAL ITEMS

Lost and Found items are displayed prominently at meal locations throughout the week Monday until check-out on Friday. Please check your child's belongings before leaving camp. Unclaimed articles will be held at YMCA Camp Kern for one week past the session end date and then donated to a local charity. Please label all items your child brings to camp.

HEAD LICE

When your child arrives at camp they will be screened for head lice and nits. If it is discovered that a camper has head lice or nits they will not be permitted to remain at camp. It is Camp Kern's policy not to treat head lice or nits at camp. The campers will only be readmitted when lice and nits have been treated and removed.

BED WETTING

Our staff are trained to handle bed wetting confidentially. Please notify your child's counselor at check-in and note on the camper information form any history of bed wetting. We are happy to follow preventative measures you use at home (bedtime voiding, reduced liquid intake in the evening, using GoodNites, etc.) Please instruct your camper to inform their counselor right away if they wet the bed, or need help. While we do have washing facilities at camp, sending an extra sleeping bag or sheets can help ensure everyone gets back to sleep quickly and discreetly.

CHANGING AT CAMP

All campers will be changing in private areas like the pool house and bathroom partitions. At no point in time will a cabin change together in an open area.

CONTACT INFORMATION

YMCA CAMP KERN OFFICE (513) 932-3756

Traditional and Semi-Residential Camps

Jesús Castaño

Summer Camp Director

jcastano@daytonymca.org
(513) 932-3756 ext 1528

Registration and Financial Assistance

Loretta Deters Bailey

Director of Administration

ldeters@daytonymca.org
(513) 932-3756 ext 1513

Horse Camps

Jessica Mullins

Equestrian Director

jmullins@daytonymca.org
(513) 932-3756 ext 1531

Meals

Dawn Preston

Kitchen Director

dpreston@daytonymca.org
(513) 932-3756 ext 1516

Teen and Theme Camps

MacKallie Householder

Teen and Family Director

Mhouseholder@daytonymca.org
(513) 932-3756 ext 1530



