

RESOURCE SECTION FOR PARENTS & CHAPERONES

NOTES TO TEACHERS

Forms for Parents

Please provide parents/guardians with a copy of the Parent Information letter and student waiver.

Forms for Chaperones and Teachers

Please have all volunteer chaperones and teachers review the Chaperone Guide, which will explain their role and expectations while at YMCA Camp Surf.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ORGANIZERS

The information contained in this Resource Guide should be distributed to the parents, chaperones, and other school personnel as appropriate.

PARENT INFORMATION

Dear Parent,

YMCA Camp Surf welcomes your child to our Outdoor Education Program at YMCA Camp Surf in San Diego, California. We offer a comprehensive outdoor and educational program. Please help us provide a happy and healthy experience by following these guidelines:

Medications - Do not pack medication in your child's luggage (state law). Give medication to school staff in original container with clear instructions and also write instructions on the Health Form.

Emergency Contact - In case of EMERGENCY ONLY, the camp cell number is 619.316.7637. For all other inquiries and messages, the camp office number is 619.423.5850. YMCA Camp Surf staff are equipped to respond to emergency first aid incidents, but medical care and dispensing medication is the responsibility of the school. (Locked either in a vehicle, locked bag/box in your cabin or our Health Center)

What to Bring - Refer to the Equipment List. Please do not allow your child to bring cell phones, MP3 players, expensive cameras, food, or anything that could be considered a weapon. YMCA Camp Surf is not responsible for the damage or loss of items brought to the camp. Please leave expensive belongings at home.

Our staff is committed to providing the very best experience possible for your child. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email us, or visit our website. We thank you for the privilege of helping your child grow!

Sincerely,
The YMCA Camp Surf Staff

Campers MUST bring:

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Towels (beach & shower)
- Soap & shampoo
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Brush or comb
- Deodorant
- Hat with brim or visor
- Sunscreen & lip screen
- Warm jacket or coat
- 2 Sweatshirts or sweaters
- Reusable water bottle

- Warm shirts
- Long pants (2-3 pair)
- Pajamas/sleepwear
- Short sleeve t-shirts
- Shorts
- Undergarments
- Socks
- 1 pair of sneakers
- 1 pair of sandals
- Rain gear (or poncho)
- Swim wear (if water time)

Optional:

- Inexpensive camera
- Stationary & stamps
- Gloves, mittens, scarves
- Waist pack or back pack
- Appropriate reading material
- Wetsuit

CHAPERONE GUIDE

Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for volunteering as a cabin chaperone! Your commitment to the students at your school will help make their stay at camp a safe and memorable experience. This letter will help you understand the expectations of the school and camp. In other words...what you are volunteering to do!

Who We Are

YMCA Camp Surf is a year-round facility located in Imperial Beach on 40 acres of beachfront property. Our programs include retreats, summer camp, outdoor education, leadership development, day camp, and family programs. Our four core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility, are emphasized throughout all programs.

Cabin Assignments

Chaperones will be required to sleep in cabins with campers, provided they are the same gender as the children in that cabin. Each cabin should have at least one adult chaperone.

What to Bring

Please refer to the list on this page get an idea of what you might want to bring (and not bring!) to camp. Keep in mind that coastal weather can change a great deal throughout the day and there is not a lot of shade at camp. We encourage you to bring both clothing that will protect you from the sun, as well as colder weather clothing that will keep you warm in the evenings or in inclement weather. Remember that this is "outdoor education", so dressing in layers and bringing some kind of raingear will insure that you are comfortable during your stay.

It is OK for you to bring a cell phone, but please use them privately when you are not involved in direct supervision of children. Outlets for chargers are limited, and plugging cell phone chargers into bathroom outlets is unsafe and not allowed. Campers are allowed to use a phone only with permission from school staff and under the supervision of an adult chaperone. If you need to bring medication please make sure that it is locked either in a vehicle, locked bag/box in your cabin or our Health Center. Also, food in the cabin area must be sealed and ant-proof. We do not allow open food to be eaten or stored in the cabins and you will appreciate this rule being followed!

EQUIPMENT LIST

Recommended for adults:

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Short sleeve/t-shirts
- Long pants and shorts
- Toiletries & towels
- Warm shirts
- Underclothing
- Socks
- Sweatshirts or sweaters
- Swim wear (if water time)
- 1 pair of sneakers
- 1 pair of sandals
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen & a hat
- Warm jacket or coat
- Reusable water bottle

Optional:

- Inexpensive camera
- Travel coffee mug
- Stationary & stamps
- Sunglasses
- Beach bag or backpack
- Appropriate reading material
- Notebook and pen
- Cell phone
- Guitar
- Quiet bedtime stories
- Gloves, mittens, scarves



YOUR ROLE AS A CHAPERONE . . .

You and your group leader are responsible for providing supervision for a cabin group of boys or girls and also for co-ed activity groups during the day. Upon arrival at camp, staff will meet with you to answer any questions you may have.

Students must always be with an adult and a buddy — at meals, during activities, free time, while sleeping — in other words,

NO CAMPERS SHOULD EVER BE UNSUPERVISED.

Waterfront - No one is allowed in the water unless it is during a time when the YMCA Camp Surf Lifeguard Service is On-Duty. Please make sure your students stay COMPLETELY out of the water unless they have scheduled water time. During beach time we need help from all adults to keep campers inside the flag zones (swim areas), follow life guard signals, and manage equipment.

Meals - We ask that there be at least one adult at each table. Please sit at one of the tables assigned to your school and take responsibility for running the same table at each meal.

Classes - We need at least one adult in each activity group. Participation in classes and activities is encouraged, let the instructor know so they may include you. If there are "extra" adults you may work it out among yourselves to take breaks. This is a good time to relax, read, or take a shower as long as there is enough coverage for each activity group.

Evening Programs - We will have activities planned such as a campfire or skit night in the evening. Please sit among the students and ensure skits and songs are appropriate for all ages. (We sometimes have younger children at campfire with older students...campfire is always "G" rated!) If your group cannot come up with a skit, YMCA Camp Surf staff would be happy to help. Campfires require Camp Surf staff supervision/approval to ensure site and San Diego County polices are being adhered to.

Shower Time - Please make your presence known in the bathrooms, but always respect student privacy. Unsupervised shower times can cause problems...please be present to make sure the students are respectful of others and safe! In order for everyone to wash up, showers should take less than 5 minutes per person.

Free Time - Students need to remain in the center of camp. Plan with the other adults to make sure there is someone at the bouldering wall and gaming areas, volleyball, or wherever children are playing. No students are allowed in the cabins or on the beach unless there is an adult with them.

All Other Times - to ensure their safety, as well as your own...please make sure campers are always properly supervised and use the buddy system to make sure you are NEVER alone with a student.

Thank you again for your time, energy and willingness to provide a fun and educational experience for the students from your school.

Fast Facts

Size: 45 acres

Location: Where Coronado, CA

meets Imperial Beach, CA

meets the Pacific Ocean

Address: 560 Silver Strand Blvd.

Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Accommodations

Overall Camp Surf capacity is 300 campers.

Total Bunks = 280

13 Cabins w/ 16 Bunks each

2 Platform tents w/ 12 Bunks

4 Cabin tents w/ 12 Bunks

Camping Capacity = 300

10 Tent Campsites

30 People Per Campsite

Local Attractions

(Approx. distance from camp)

Tijuana Estuary 1 mi

Sea World 20 mi

San Diego Zoo 15 mi

Wild Animal Park 43 mi

Tijuana 5 mi

Balboa Park 15 mi

Old Town San Diego 17 mi

Disneyland 108 mi