

**SANTA MONICA FAMILY YMCA**

# **Camp Big Bear**

**2023**

**Parent Survival Guide**



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## PARENT AND CAMPER ORIENTATION NIGHT

Come meet staff, campers, and parents. Get all your questions answered, pay balances, & complete registration.

### Camp Big Bear 2023 Parent & Camper Orientation Night June 27, 2023 at 6:00pm

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. Fill out one registration form per camper
2. Register online or turn in the registration form with deposit or payment in full to the front desk or camp director.
3. Fill out a Camper Information Packet (**CIP**) entirely, with doctor's signature where indicated. Campers with incomplete packets will not be able to attend camp. It is the parent's responsibility to turn in the Camper Information Packet by **June 23<sup>rd</sup>**.  
**Space and deposit may be lost if CIP is not received by June 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

## DEPOSIT, BALANCES, CANCELLATIONS, AND LATE FEES

- Deposits are due at time of registration. All deposits are nontransferable and nonrefundable.
- All balances are due on **July 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- Balances received after July 1<sup>st</sup> will be charged a \$50 late fee.**
- Request the auto-pay option on your registration card to avoid late charges.
- Returned checks are charged a \$35 processing fee.
- All Camper Information Packets must be received by June 23<sup>rd</sup>. All late packets will be accepted with a **\$25 late processing fee.**
- All deposits and balances are non-refundable after camp begins.
- Any cancellations before camp begins will forfeit deposit. Any cancellations after camp begins will forfeit all fees paid.

## CAMPERSHIPS, MEMBERSHIPS, & PROMOTIONS

Members of the Santa Monica Family YMCA receive a discounted rate for Camp Big Bear. In order to receive the member rate, campers must be members at the time of registration. Contact member services for prices and membership registration procedures.

## CAMP SESSIONS AND FEES

Week 1: July 15 – 22, 2023 (Elementary, Teen & CIT)

Week 2: July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Elementary, Teen & CIT)

<b>Camp Category</b>	<b>SM Y MEMBER</b>	<b>NON-MEMBER</b>
Elementary 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Graders	\$ 620	\$ 720
Teen 7 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders	\$ 620	\$ 720
CIT 10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> Graders	\$ 555	\$ 660
Middle School/High School Teen (8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Graders)	\$ 555	\$ 660

**CAMP STAFF**

All counselors are at least 18 and staff are carefully selected based upon previous work experience, background knowledge, & enthusiasm about providing your child a safe & fun environment. Many of our staff return each year assuring the Santa Monica Family YMCA has dedicated staff working with your children. All staff go through extensive background checks including reference checks, background checks, and fingerprinting. All staff hold current CPR & First Aid Certifications, as well as, attend rigorous trainings in guiding children’s behavior, camp procedures, child abuse prevention & reporting procedures, and in-house safety trainings. Staff are supervised daily by camp directors and program administrators, & supported by Counselors in Training.

Camp Staff Ratio: 1 counselor to 6 campers, plus one Counselor-In-Training per sleeping unit (at the least, when able 2 counselors are in every living unit)

**BUNKMATES**

Campers are roomed with other campers their own age and grade. Campers can request cabin mates on their camp registration form. Both cabin buddies must have each other requested. Also cabin buddies must be the same grade or within one grade difference to be considered.

We will do our best to accommodate everyone’s request. However, we cannot guarantee we will be able to fill all requests. There will not be any refunds for unfulfilled request.

**HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND CAMPER SAFETY**

**HEALTH SCREENINGS**

Each camper must pass a health screening at the time of check-in. Health screening will be conducted for infectious illnesses, including COVID-19. The practice is a risk-management strategy to protect the camp community from preventable illness and to obtain up-to-date and complete health information for each person. In general, the process updates the health form, gathers information about medications, assesses current health status and specifically asks about exposure to communicable disease. It is expected that campers and staff arrive for their camp experience in good health. Camp Big Bear reserves the right not to admit an ill person.

**COVID-19**

Participants will need to show a negative **COVID-19** test taken no more the 24 hours prior to departure date. Any person participating in camp activities who experiences COVID-19 symptoms will get a COVID-19 test and will be isolated.

Camp Big Bear is authorized to conduct health screening for incoming campers according to the following procedures:

- Head Lice Check
- Check for fever
- Ask about chicken pox or other communicable disease exposure in the previous 20 days. Ask about changes in health-history information since it was submitted
- COVID-19 Health Screening Questions

### **MEDICATION**

All medications whether they are over-the-counter or prescribed must be turned in at check-in, be in their original containers, and accompany doctor instructions. Medications cannot be expired.

All prescribed medications must be in their original containers with the camper's name on the bottle.

Distribution of over-the-counter medication will only be given according to the medication's label. Any variation from the label's instruction must be accompanied by a doctor's prescription.

If your child takes daily medication please check-in early to ensure plenty of time to review medicating procedures.

## **CAMP DEPARTURE, RETURNS, & TRANSPORTATION**

The Santa Monica Family YMCA provides transportation from the Santa Monica Family YMCA facility located on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, between Santa Monica and Arizona to Camp Big Bear by charter bus.

Check-In begins at **10:00am** on their first day of camp. All campers should arrive on time for check-in and have already eaten lunch. Campers can bring snacks for the bus ride. However, food is not allowed in their sleeping units.

**If parents choose not to utilize bus services they must notify camp Director before July 1<sup>st</sup> in writing and provide their own transportation to camp.** Campers providing their own transportation cannot check-in to camp until **4:00pm** on their first day of camp.

Campers that miss the bus will need to find their own transportation. There is no refund or transfer of fees for late campers.

Returning campers plan on arriving at the Santa Monica Family YMCA on their last day of camp at **2:30pm (depending on traffic)**. Please contact the Santa Monica Family YMCA for estimated time of arrival or unforeseen circumstances that may **delay arrivals**.

**LAYOVERS (multi-week campers) & PARENT VISITATIONS**

The Santa Monica Family YMCA feels that parent visitations take away from the camp experience. Parent visitations are prohibited for one-week campers. Parents may sign up for Family Camp the Memorial Day or Labor Day to experience camp with their kids and family. Parents should also attend Parent Orientation Night June 27th at 6:00pm to see pictures of camp and facilities.

Campers that are signed up for more than one session will stay up at camp through the weekend. Parents are welcome to sign out campers on Saturdays between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

Parents picking up children for the day must make written plans in advance with the Camp Director, please email the Camp Director prior to arrival. Parents and/or guardians must have photo IDs and check in with the Camp Director before taking any child off camp property. All children must also be checked back in by 4pm on Saturday, the same day.

**GENERAL RULES AND CONSEQUENCES**

All parents and campers must understand and abide by the rules and guidelines explained in the Camper Information Packet. We do not foresee any problems associated with the guidelines, however, it is mandatory each parent review the rules and guidelines with their children prior to going to camp. It is also mandatory any children that take regular daily medication stay on their medication regimen while at camp.

Campers are also expected to follow all rules set forth by camp staff when traveling to and from camp. Campers must stay seated while vehicle is in motion. Any child exhibiting behavior jeopardizing the safety of other campers and staff will be safely removed from the vehicle and expelled from camp. Staff will stay with child until parent is able to provide transportation.

All staff use preventive techniques to guide children’s behavior and provide a positive and fun camp experience for all campers. All staff treat children as individuals, fairly, and consistently. However, any camper found in violation of the rules and guidelines will result in child being removed from activity and/or group for “time-out” discussion/counseling with Camp Director. All incidences will be documented. Any further investigation will be conducted as needed. An individualized guidance plan including review of rules and guidelines will be administered at the discretion of the Camp Director. If camp director feels camper is jeopardizing their own safety, the safety of other campers, and/or the safety of staff the camper may be expelled from camp.

There is a no tolerance policy for any camper found in possession of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or paraphernalia. Campers will be reported to local law enforcement agencies when in possession of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol and will be expelled from camp.

Any cost incurred in violation of the rules and guidelines will be the sole responsibility of the parent. Parents must make all transportation arrangements for any child expelled from camp and have them picked up within 12 hours. **No refunds will be given if you child is expelled from camp.**

Again, we do not foresee any problems. For any questions regarding the rules and guidelines or disciplinary procedures please contact Erika Altshule, at (310) 393-2721, ext. 123 & attend the **Parent-Night on June 27th at 6:00pm, at the Santa Monica Family YMCA.**

## COMMUNICATING WITH CAMPERS

Campers love to get mail! Parents are encouraged to please send mail to their campers. Receiving their letters at "Mail Call" is a memorable camp tradition.

### Snail Mail & Care Packages

While campers cherish hand written mail most, please plan ahead. Mailed letters and packages can take 5 to 7 business days to reach camp.

DO NOT send food in packages. Food will be confiscated. Food attracts rodents and animals into living areas and cannot be shared with other campers for health reasons. Make sure letters and packages are sent in advance and using the following address

Camp Big Bear  
Attn: MY CAMPERS NAME HERE  
P.O. Box 2882  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-2882  
(Complete Zip Code must be used)

### Phone Calls & Cell Phones

Camp is a place for children to learn independence. Camp phones are for emergencies only. We understand that parents have a harder time than campers do when their children are away at camp. However, campers are busy all day long in camp activities and we are busy providing the fun. Please limit phone calls to emergencies. Campers will not be permitted to use the phone. Camp staff will, however, call parents if the health administrator has a general question, the child needs to stay overnight in the health center, needs a prescription, needs to see a doctor, or there is a behavioral management issue.

We understand that campers frequently carry cell phones and have become quite dependent on cell phones. However, camp is a **NO CELL PHONE ZONE. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CELL PHONES.** All cell phones will be collected and returned to parents at pick-up.

## HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is very common especially for first-time campers. Staff will help kids deal with being homesick by being caring and empathetic, by keeping them active and facilitating bonding with new friends. Writing letters home is another way campers can deal with homesickness. Homesick campers will usually become comfortable within the first 24 to 36 hours. If a camper is unmanageable parents will be contacted. Campers usually experience homesickness at quiet time or bedtime and are not homesick all-day long.

Parents can help avoid and deal with homesickness by:

- Talking about camp and frequently expressing enthusiasm
- Refrain from expressing anxious or ambivalent feelings about time away from home. Well-intentioned parents have often exacerbated homesickness with comments like, "I sure hope the food there is decent," "I hope you'll be okay," or "Have a wonderful time. I hope I remember to feed your dog." (<http://campspirit.com/top-ten-summer-camp-prep-tips/>)
- Have overnights with friends or grandparents before camp
- Send self-addressed and stamped envelopes and stationary and tell campers to write
- Have campers help prepare and pack for camp
- Attend Parent & Camper Orientation Night and bring your camper to meet staff and other campers

## CAMP ACTIVITIES & DAILY ROUTINE (Elementary & Teen Camps)

<b>7:15am</b>	Rise & Shine
<b>8:00-8:45am</b>	Breakfast
<b>8:45-9:15am</b>	Cabin Clean Up
<b>9:15-10:30am</b>	Activity Period 1
<b>10:45am-12:00pm</b>	Activity Period 2
<b>12:15-12:30pm</b>	Noon News - Mail Call & Golden Broom Award
<b>12:30-1:00pm</b>	Lunch
<b>1:00-2:00pm</b>	Camp Siesta
<b>2:00-3:15pm</b>	Activity Period 3
<b>3:30-4:45pm</b>	Activity Period 4
<b>4:45-5:15pm</b>	Prepare for Theme Night
<b>5:15-5:30pm</b>	Flagpole (Evening Assembly)
<b>5:30-6:15pm</b>	Dinner
<b>6:30-7:30pm</b>	Special Event
<b>7:30-8:30pm</b>	Evening Activity (typically campfire)
<b>9:30-10:00pm</b>	Cabin Time
<b>10:00pm</b>	Bed Time

## WHAT TO PACK AND WHAT NOT TO BRING

### How to Pack

- 1. PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING!**
2. Involve your camper in the packing process. Buying new things for camp is fun but if children do not recognize their clothes they may not want to wear them. **PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING!** Also, packing is not only a fun bonding experience; it gets kids excited about camp. Packing together with older campers and teens is not only a great time to bond, but an easy way to make sure you know exactly what your teen is packing.
3. **Packing Tip:** Pack each outfit for each day (down to the socks) in a separate gallon size zip lock baggie.
4. **PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING (even on their toothbrush)!**
5. Pack all clothes and toiletries in one duffel or suitcase. Sleeping bags and pillows can be packed in a trash bag, however, make sure you pack an extra trash bag so they can pack up for the way home. Also make sure you **PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING (even on their socks)!**



**DO NOT PACK CELL PHONES, FOODS, MEDICATIONS (turn meds in), TOYS, JEWELRY, and EXPENSIVE ITEMS YOU or YOUR CHILD CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT**

**Everyday Essentials**

The following table lists recommended items to pack and quantity. There is no laundry service at camp. Campers staying multi-weeks may have parents visit on Saturdays between sessions and do laundry in town (**if you plan on doing laundry only pack for 2-weeks**). Please see page #5 for policies regarding parent visits.

<b>What to Pack</b>	<b>1-week Campers</b>	<b>2-week Campers</b>
Underwear	10	17
Shirts	10	14
Something White to Tie Dye i.e. shirt, socks, etc.	1	2
Shorts	5	10
Sweatshirt	1	2
Pants/J Jeans	2	3
Socks	10	17
Shoes (closed toed, ex. Tennis shoes)	2	2
Flip Flops	1	1
Swim Suit (one-piece)	2	3
Toothbrush	1	1
Toothpaste	1	1
Hairbrush	1	1
Shampoo/Conditioner	1	1
Deodorant	1	1
Soap	1	1
Towel	2	3
Wash cloth	1	2
Sleeping bag or sheets/blankets	1 <i>(pack extra if child has tendency to wet the bed)</i>	1 <i>(pack extra if child has tendency to wet the bed)</i>
Pillow	1	1
Reusable Water Bottle	1	1
Flash Light	1	1
Extra Batteries	Enough to replace the ones in the flash light	Enough to replace the ones in the flash light 2x
Pajamas	2	3
Chap stick	1	2
Hand Sanitizer	1 Bottle	2 Bottles
Current Rag or Leather	If you have one	If you have one

**AGAIN, PLEASE YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING!!!**

## **Special Events**

Special events are held nightly and campers like to dress the part. Some lunches also have special themes that campers can dress up for. The following are a list of theme nights & lunches for 2021. Campers may pack costumes to wear during themed events and campfire skits. Costumes are not mandatory and dress up items will be available for those who need to borrow items.

### **Week 1**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Saturday  | Campfire and Rag Re-Hooding Ceremony   |
| Sunday    | Around the world (wear something that represents your heritage)              |
| Monday    | Pajama Day<br>Dress your counselor/CIT Lunch                                 |
| Tuesday   | Camouflage Day<br>Mission Impossible Dinner                                  |
| Wednesday | Favorite Sport team Day<br>Survivor Dinner (Dress Sporty w/close toed shoes) |
| Thursday  | Western Day in July<br>Big Bear Ball (Western Theme)                         |
| Friday    | St. Patrick's Day in July (Wear Green)<br>Talent Showcase & Campfire         |

### **Week 2 & 3**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Saturday  | Campfire and Rag Re-Hooding Ceremony                             |
| Sunday    | Twin Day<br>Campfire   |
| Monday    | Camouflage Day<br>Mission Impossible Dinner                      |
| Tuesday   | Pajama Day<br>Dress your counselor/CIT Lunch                     |
| Wednesday | Neon/Wacky Hair Day<br>Color Wars (Wear as many colors possible) |
| Thursday  | Sports Day<br>Big Bear Ball (Decades Theme) Week 2               |
| Friday    | Super Hero Day<br>Talent Showcase & Campfire                     |

If you have a talent you can share with us at the talent showcase please do!! Sing, play an instrument, perform a skit, dance, do some magic, we will take it all!

## **RAGGER'S PROGRAM**

The Ragger's program is a YMCA camp tradition that is completely voluntary. Campers are introduced to the program on the first night of camp. If the camper chooses to participate they will meet with an older camper or counselor and set personal goals they wish to accomplish throughout the year. At some point during their stay, they will attend a special ceremony that hundreds of campers and staff have gone through before, and receive a leather or rag depending on their age and level in the program. The ragers program encourages growth in spirit, mind, and body and is a traditionally Christian based program. However, the Santa Monica Family YMCA, delivers an unbiased program, is accepting of other religions, and encourages individuals to share their beliefs creating a unique camp family promoting tolerance, growth, and everlasting friendships.

## **COUNSELORS IN TRAINING**

Counselors in Training, also known as CITs, are responsible youth with a desire to help out, work hard, and have fun. The CIT camp is a rewarding experience, teaching social responsibility, teamwork, and leadership skills combined with traditional camp fun and special activities.

CITs must be going into 10<sup>th</sup> grade, must attend onsite trainings and have a desire to work with younger youth. CITs must be responsible young adults that need little supervision. CITs must commit to a behavior contract and are expected to be role models for younger campers and their peers.

One CIT will room with a Counselor and other younger campers per cabin. CITs will participate in daily activities with younger campers, assist with camp activities and events, and have CIT only time for programs designed just for them.

**CIT Training dates June 19, 2023 and June 26, 2023 at 6pm. Please meet at the Santa Monica Family YMCA on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.**

Please contact Camp Director with any questions regarding the CIT program.

## **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

YMCA has a zero-tolerance policy for serious behavior infractions. Since the goal of the YMCA is to provide a healthy, safe and fun environment, serious inappropriate behaviors have no place. The behaviors listed below are grounds for immediate removal from the YMCA Camp Programs. Each incident will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the child is capable of functioning in a group setting while at Y Camp.

- Any behavior that endangers the health and safety of children or staff members
- Leaving the camp property without permission, or refusing to remain with assigned group
- Inappropriate touching of other children or sexual misconduct
- Theft, defacing or destruction of property belonging to the YMCA or others
- Verbal abuse or threats; confirmed acts of bullying
- Any kind of physical assault such as hitting, kicking or biting
- Possession of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or paraphernalia

## CREATING A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT AT Y CAMP

The Y takes the following steps to keep children in our programs safe:

- Detailed employment and volunteer application forms.
- Comprehensive reference checks that include standardized questions that assess risk for abuse.
- Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check and Sexual Offender Registry Information (SORI) check.
- All staff and volunteers complete an extensive Child Abuse Prevention Training Program.
- Staff and volunteers are mandated to report any suspected child abuse.
- Staff are prohibited from working 1-on-1 with or contacting youth outside the Y.
- Policies exist to ensure staff and volunteers are not alone with a child. All interactions between a staff member or volunteer and a child must be observable and interruptible.

Employees and volunteers who are trained in abuse prevention are more likely to understand their role as a protector, to recognize the signs that abuse is occurring, and to report suspicious or inappropriate behaviors. Trained volunteers and staff members are also less likely to place themselves in situations where they could be falsely accused.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE?

We want all children to be safe. Unfortunately, child abuse does exist, taking on many forms.

**Emotional:** Threatening a child or using words that can hurt a child's feelings and self-esteem, withholding love and support from a child.

**Physical:** Causing injuries to a child on purpose, such as bruises, burns, scars, broken bones, etc.

**Sexual:** Having sexual contact in any form with a child, including exposing, fondling, intercourse, pornography, or internet solicitation.

**Neglect:** Not providing children with enough food, clothing, shelter, medical care, hygiene, supervision, etc.

## WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE?

1. Unkempt or malnourished appearance.
2. Unexplained bruises, welts, or burns.
3. Disturbed sleeping or eating patterns.
4. Abrupt changes in behavior, anxiety, clinging, aggressiveness, or withdrawal.
5. Sexually transmitted diseases and infections.
6. Discomfort with physical contact.
7. Fear of a certain person or place.
8. Fearfulness or depression

## WHAT CAN PARENTS DO ABOUT ABUSE?

What can you do about abuse?

- **TALK** regularly to your child about his or her experiences in YMCA programs, school, sports, and other activities.
- **DROP IN** on your child's programs.
- **TRUST** your instincts. Don't wait to tell us if something seems 'strange'. Speak up.
- **LISTEN & WATCH** for signs of your child receiving special attention that other children or teens are not receiving.
- Periodically **ASK** your child these questions:
  - Is anyone scaring or threatening you?
  - Is anyone asking you to keep secrets?
  - Has anyone said anything to make you feel bad?
  - Is anyone touching you in a way you do not like?
- **EDUCATE** your child about self-protection, including information about strangers, and good and bad touches.
- **LEARN** to control the stress level of yourself and family members.
- **COMMUNICATE** with your child and really listen to their concerns.
- **RECOGNIZE** the fact that most abuse happens by people that children know and trust.
- **BECOME AWARE** of your community resources.
- **KNOW** where your children are and who their friends are.
- **TEACH** your children it's not okay to keep secrets from you; that they can always tell you the truth.

## 6 KEY QUESTIONS A PARENT SHOULD ASK OF A CAMP

As you are evaluating camps for your children, make sure to ask some specific questions of the camp to ensure the camp takes abuse prevention seriously.

### 1. What are the camps abuse prevention policies and procedures?

Answers to look for:

- They have a Staff Code of Conduct they can share with you that includes
- Limitation of one-on-one interactions
- Policies about electronic communication

*The Santa Monica Family YMCA has a Code of Conduct all employees and volunteers must agree to and abide by. All interactions with youth must be observable and interruptible. One-on-one interactions outside the Y programs is strictly prohibited. Staff are not permitted to have contact with program participants as coaches, babysitters, etc. Employees and volunteers are not permitted to communicate with program participants on social media platforms, via email, or via text. Developing a personal relationship with a program participant outside of the Y program is against Y policy and grounds for termination.*

### 2. How does the camp screen counselors and counselors-in-training?

Background checks are industry standard, so they must be done. However, most offenders don't have a criminal history. For counselors-in-training, most juvenile records are sealed, so a background check will not reveal important information.

Answers to look for:

- Camps should use other screening methods – like interviews and reference checks – designed to assess for abuse risk.

*The Santa Monica Family YMCA screens all employees and volunteers with a criminal offender and sexual offender background check in addition to personal and professional reference checks. Candidates are interviewed with questions that are designed to assess for abuse risk and red-flag behaviors. All candidates for employment must complete a detailed employment application.*

### **3. What abuse prevention training do counselors and counselors-in-training receive?**

Answers to look for:

- Training in how to spot and respond to red flag behaviors and policy violations
- Training in how to prevent and respond to youth-to-youth sexual activity

*The Santa Monica Family YMCA requires all staff and volunteers to complete child abuse prevention training prior to working with youth. Training consists of the organization's policies and procedures, identification of abuse, peer-to-peer abuse prevention, and how to address red-flag behaviors and policy violations. Staff and volunteers are required to update their training annually.*

### **4. How do you ensure consistent camper and counselor supervision?**

Answers to look for:

- Campers are supervised at all times. The camp maintains the rule of three or more – there should never be one counselor alone with one camper. If for some reason this happens, the counselor is trained to report it immediately.
- Counselors are supervised by a lead staff who checks in randomly with the group to make sure counselors are following the correct supervision procedures.
- Specific procedures for monitoring shower times, bathrooms, transition times, free time, and other activities.
- Counselors-in-training are not responsible for the supervision of campers, but instead, assist counselors in group activities.

*Staff and volunteer supervision is a priority for the Santa Monica Family YMCA. Ensuring the youth in our care are supervised at all times and no one-on-one interaction occurs is a priority. Lead staff and volunteers are constantly monitoring and checking in with counselors during the day. Staff and volunteers are trained to follow specific procedures for shower times, bathrooms, transition times, free time and other activities. The purpose of the CIT program is to give older youth an opportunity to work with younger youth as a mentor and to assist the counselor. CITs are not given a supervisory role. Contact between staff/volunteers and youth outside the Y program is strictly prohibited*

### **5. How do counselors and campers report something that makes them feel uncomfortable?**

Answers to look for:

- Counselors and campers are provided with multiple ways, including anonymous ways, to report any concerns.

*The Santa Monica Family YMCA trains staff and volunteers to report red-flag behaviors, warning signs of abuse, or any disclosure of abuse from a youth participant. The Y works closely with local law enforcement and child protective services when a report is made. Staff and volunteers may report concerns to their supervisor, human resources or directly to the reporting agency. All Y employees and volunteers are mandated reporters and must report suspected child abuse to the authorities. The Y is a safe place for youth and families, staff receive training in the event a youth discloses they are a victim of abuse. Staff are in place to help with the confidential reporting of abuse to the proper authorities.*

**6. Is your camp Accredited by Praesidium and ACA (American Camping Association)?**

Answer to look for:

- **Yes**

*The Santa Monica Family YMCA's Camp Big program is in the process of becoming accredited by ACA. The Y has a Certified Praesidium Guardian on staff who is responsible for all the Child Abuse Prevention training.*

**COMMUNICATION & CONTACT INFORMATION**

Due to the nature of how a resident camp program is designed, the camp director is not at a desk at all times as they are running camp and looking after day-to-day activities. The best way to contact the camp director is via email. Messages are checked throughout the day and calls are returned as soon as possible. If there is an emergency and you need to speak to someone right away please contact the Camp Big Bear office and leave a message.

**Santa Monica Family YMCA Camp Big Bear**

**Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 2882  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-2882  
(Complete Zip Code must be used when mailing care packages or letters)

**Physical Address**

38908 North Bay Drive  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

**Phone #: 909-866-3977 (EMERGENCIES ONLY!!!)**

**Santa Monica Family YMCA**

Santa Monica Family YMCA  
1332 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
(310) 393-2721  
Fax: (310) 452-9906  
[www.ymcasm.org](http://www.ymcasm.org)

Erika Altshule  
Youth & Family Department Director  
(310) 393-2721, ext. 123  
[Erika@ymcasm.org](mailto:Erika@ymcasm.org)