



Outdoor Education Program Guide

YMCA Camp Willson is a year-round not-for-profit program facility established in 1918. It is owned and operated by the YMCA of Central Ohio. The Outdoor Education program began in 1970. Funding for YMCA Camp Willson comes from participant fees, the United Way of Franklin County and individual, corporate and group donations. No government funding is used for YMCA Camp Willson programs.

YMCA Camp Willson is proud to be accredited by the American Camping Association. Developed exclusively for the camping industry, this nationally recognized program focuses on health and safety issues and requires us to review every facet of operation. YMCA Camp Willson has voluntarily submitted to this independent appraisal and has earned this mark of distinction.

PROGRAM GOALS

It is the goal of the Outdoor Education staff to understand and meet the needs of each school attending outdoor education. Some general goals of the Outdoor Education program at YMCA Camp Willson is to:

- Increase the student's awareness of the environment and his/her relationship with that environment
- Strengthen the socialization/teamwork of students with one another, with teachers, and with other adults involved.
- Incorporate a sense of responsibility and cooperation among students through hands-on, discovery-oriented activities.
- To provide knowledge and content as the YMCA curriculum relates to Ohio Academic Testing Standards
- To incorporate the YMCA values of Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility into all aspects of the curriculum and program.

It is our hope that these goals will help teachers and administrators set the groundwork for developing their own program goals.

THINGS A SCHOOL CAN EXPECT FROM YMCA CAMP WILLSON

- A slide show presentation 4-6 weeks before the school arrives.
- A meeting with teachers to determine a customized schedule and curriculum for the school.
- A 1:15 to 1:20 classroom ratio of YMCA Naturalist Instructors to students. All naturalists live on site and can provide 24 hour assistance.
- Naturalist Instructor leadership in all phases of the outdoor education program including classes, afternoon and evening recreation.
- YMCA leadership/assistance with all medical situations except the dispensing of medication.
- Nutritionally balanced meals, providing substitutions for those with food limitations.
- Wonderful winterized facilities that include a dining hall, conference center with aquatic life room, nature room and large group meeting space, the birdhouse with small group meeting space, 40 acre lake with 200' boardwalk through the swamp, 45 horses, outdoor athletic complex, winter toboggan slide and a total of 14 winterized cabins housing 200 participants. Separate housing for teachers is easily arranged.
- A supplemental packet of information that includes forms to be used in preparing a school for the visit. This packet provides step-by-step information to make the Outdoor Education school coordinator's job easier.

CAMP DATE SELECTION FROM YEAR TO YEAR

At Willson, we ask all schools to rotate the seasons that their school attends outdoor education. This allows each school to enjoy a variety of seasons, as well as gives more schools the opportunity to attend Outdoor Education during their preferred season and dates (attend autumn, winter and spring, or a 2 season rotation of autumn and winter or winter and spring). All schools are given equal priority, based on their first, second and third date choices, whether they have attended Willson for one year or 30 years. All date request forms are mailed to schools in January with the forms due in mid to late February. The schedule is finalized by mid April with contracts being mailed before the end of the school year. This timeline is completely dependent upon all schools returning their forms on time!

CABIN LEADERSHIP

The YMCA requires that the school provide at least a 1:10 ratio of adult to student supervision at all times. We believe in this so much that 1 adult to every 10 students attend our Center at no cost. The American Camping Association recommends 1 adult to every 6 (1:6) campers aged 6-8; 1:8 for campers 9-14. Additional adults will be charged the student rate. The cabin leadership can be provided by high school (junior or senior) students, college students, parents and/or teachers; depending on the school's wishes. A separate Cabin Leadership Manual will be provided to each school by Camp Willson to help better orient leaders.

All adults should be carefully screened before coming. This will provide the best possible leadership and role modeling for the students. It is the strong recommendation of Camp Willson that all cabin leaders attend classes with the same study group throughout the experience. This adds continuity for the students and provides additional supervision in each class. A cabin leader orientation to Camp Willson is also extremely important to help acquaint cabin leaders with the program goals and counselor responsibilities (this is usually the responsibility of the teachers). We would encourage cabin leaders to attend the slide show presentations. During afternoon recreation, the YMCA provides time for teachers, cabin leaders and the Outdoor Education Director to meet to discuss concerns, upcoming responsibilities and other general information.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is of utmost importance to all while at YMCA Camp Willson. The Outdoor Education Director, designated staff and/or school personnel are the only individuals authorized to administer first aid to students. All medication must be administered by authorized school personnel. The YMCA keeps a well stocked first-aid kit. In the event of an emergency, school personnel and the YMCA Director will make the decision to transport any participants to Mary Rutan Hospital in Bellefontaine (5 miles from the Camp). A signed (in ink) permission/health form must be on file. Those not having a signed health form cannot attend Camp Willson. Parents will be contacted prior to any emergency treatment. It is the responsibility of the individual and/or school to provide adequate health and accident insurance, as the YMCA does not provide this. For those participants with food allergies or other food related illnesses, the YMCA provides substitutes, given advance notice. Schools are encouraged to bring a nurse, EMT or school personnel trained in first-aid to provide care. All schools are required to use YMCA Camp Willson health form, as it has been approved by our local hospital.

WILLSON POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

All groups using Camp must abide by the policies as set forth by the YMCA. They include:

- Upon arrival, all visitors must identify themselves with the Director or at the Camp office.
- The use of alcohol and/or other illegal substances on Camp property is strictly prohibited.
- Smoking and/or the use of tobacco is prohibited in front of students or in buildings. Smoking will be permitted behind the dining hall at times when students are not present. (See Director for times and places.)
- In order to help preserve the natural environment; littering, collecting of live specimens and/or vandalism to trees, plants and animals is not permitted. Please keep on the trail, as there is much poison ivy in camp.
- Vehicles are permitted only in designated parking areas. The YMCA is not responsible for damage done to personal cars. Trail bikes and snowmobiles are not permitted on the grounds. YMCA vehicles cannot be used by the school.
- No pets are permitted on the grounds.
- The YMCA is not responsible for students or persons who leave Camp during their experience.
- The use of the waterfront is prohibited unless prior arrangements with the Outdoor Education Director have been made. YMCA policies must be met in order for these areas to be used.
- Groups may not bring or use firearms, flammable materials, or hand/power tools to Camp.

- Students are expected to keep their cabins and other facilities clean. They will also assist with table setting and clearing.
- Physical and verbal punishment or any other form of child abuse is not to be used at Camp Willson. Any suspected child abuse will be reported to the appropriate authorities. Alternative forms of discipline need to be chosen. Most often used is "time-out". In cases of extreme student misconduct, the school and YMCA will decide to send the child home. No refunds are made for students sent home for disciplinary reasons.

It is the goal of the YMCA to provide a fun, safe environment for all participants. By abiding by these guidelines, everyone will help meet our goals!

THE SCHEDULE

Outdoor Education staff will meet with teachers at their school to develop a customized schedule of classes and evening programs that best fits the needs of the students. Although each schedule is different, a sample daily and class schedule follows for your convenience. Most classes have 15-20 students. Teachers are encouraged to take an active role in classes, whether it be teaching, assisting our instructors, or observing students and classes.

	1	2	3	4	5
Monday 1:00-2:00	Reps & Amps	Instincts	Amazing Mammals	Mac-O-Chee Mall	Aquatic Studies
2:15-3:15	Horse Sense	Reps & Amps	Instincts	Amazing Mammals	Mac-O-Chee Mall
3:30-4:30	Shake, Rattle, & Write	Horse Sense	Reps & Amps	Instincts	Amazing Mammals
Tuesday 9:15-10:15	Wall	Shake, Rattle, & Write	Horse Sense	Reps & Amps	Instincts
10:30-11:30	Team Challenge	Wall	Shake, Rattle, & Write	Horse Sense	Reps & Amps
11:45-1:15	Cookout				
1:30-2:30	Aquatic Studies	Team Challenge	Wall	Shake, Rattle, & Write	Horse Sense
2:45-3:45	Mac-O-Chee Mall	Aquatic Studies	Team Challenge	Wall	Shake, Rattle, & Write
Wednesday 9:00-10:00	Amazing Mammals	Mac-O-Chee Mall	Aquatic Studies	Team Challenge	Wall
10:15-11:15	Instincts	Amazing Mammals	Mac-O-Chee Mall	Aquatic Studies	Team Challenge

GENERAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

10:00-11:30 Arrive at Center, move into cabins, orientation, sack lunch
 1:00-2:00 Class 1
 2:15-3:15 Class 2
 3:30-4:30 Class 3
 4:30-5:15 Afternoon Recreation
 5:15 Table setters, Flag Ceremony
 5:30-7:15 Dinner, Songs, Announcements and cabin time
 7:15-9:00 Evening Program, snack
 10:00 Lights Out and Quiet

FULL DAYS

6:30 Rise, Cabin Clean-up
 7:45 Table setters, Flag Ceremony
 8:00 Breakfast, Songs, Announcements
 9:15-10:15 Class 4
 10:30-11:30 Class 5
 11:45-1:00 Cookout
 1:30-2:30 Class 6
 2:45-3:45 Class 7
 3:45-5:15 Afternoon Recreation
 5:15 Table setters, Flag Ceremony
 5:30 Dinner Songs, Announcements and cabin time
 7:15-9:00 Evening Program, snack
 10:00 Lights Out and Quiet

DEPARTURE DAY

6:30	Rise, Cabin Clean-up
7:30	Move luggage to Dining Hall
7:45	Table setters, Flag Ceremony
8:00	Breakfast, Songs, Announcements
9:00-10:00	Class 8
10:15-11:15	Class 9
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Depart (Time varies depending on bus schedule)

YMCA Camp Willson Teacher Planning Checklist

The first steps:

- ___ Outdoor Education dates set, contract and deposit sent to Willson. Date completed: _____
- ___ Purchase Order and transportation arranged.
- ___ Inform parents and students of the experience
- ___ Set up the slide show and planning meeting with the Outdoor Education Director (ideally 4-6 weeks prior to the visit.) Class schedule to be determined at the meeting and written by the Outdoor Education Director.
- ___ Send necessary forms home with students (health form, horseback riding release form if applicable, clothing and equipment list etc). (Either the day before or after the slide show)
- ___ Recruit cabin leadership (1:10 ratio)
- ___ Collect money and forms (completed at least 2 weeks before your experience)
- ___ Call with any questions or concerns that you might have.

Note: You will receive a "supplemental packet" of information prior to your visit that will also help walk you through the process and provide you with important forms.

Information to have at the Planning Meeting/Slide Show:

- The approximate number of students (male and female), teachers and chaperones you plan to bring.
- Ideas about which classes and evening programs you would like to have.
- The times buses can leave school (day 1) and need to return to school (departure day)
- Knowledge of any medical/food concerns any participants might have
- Determine the actual cost to the students (if you need to include any additional costs such as buses, additional chaperone costs, crafts fairs, etc.
- Schedule a planning meeting with all chaperones
- Questions/concerns you, other teachers or parents have

One week before your experience:

- ___ Fax the school finalization form that provides the number of participants and other related information.
- ___ Equipment and supplies gathered
- ___ Confirm the buses.
- ___ Finalize cabin and study group assignments (table assignments if applicable). Bring a copy for the Outdoor Education Director
- ___ Watch the weather forecasts and make sure students are preparing for the weather.
- ___ Distribute a copy of the Outdoor Education schedule, map and Cabin Leader Orientation to all chaperones.
- ___ Remind adults to bring flashlights, alarm clocks and extra garbage bags with them.
- ___ Compile a list of major health concerns for the YMCA Staff
- ___ Double check all health history forms (and horse release forms if horseback riding) for completeness and parent signatures. Bring the school emergency cards also.
- ___ Assign chaperones to cabin and study groups.

Come to Willson and enjoy the experience with the Students!

Payment of Fees:

At the end of the outdoor education experience, the Outdoor Education Director and lead teacher will verify the number of students, adults and services provided. The Outdoor Education Director will then give the teacher a copy of the invoice for payment. No additional copies of the invoice will be mailed to the school.

Payment is due net 30 days of service. All parent checks should be made payable to a school fund. The school check should be made payable to "YMCA Willson". The YMCA does not accept individual checks from the parents.

Contact information:

YMCA Camp Willson
Outdoor Education Director
2732 County Road 11
Bellefontaine, OH 43311-9382
1-800-423-0427
Fax: 937-593-6194
Email: oe@ymcacampwillson.org
www.ymcacampwillson.org

**OTHER EXPERIENCES WITH
YMCA CAMP WILLSON**

Day Outdoor Education: We can bring outdoor education to you for the day at your school site or at a local park. In addition YMCA Camp Willson, the YMCA of Central Ohio also owns and operates YMCA Hoover Y-Park, a 60 acre YMCA park in south Columbus. Hoover Y-Park and it's staff is a great day site for outdoor education. In addition, they also have an adventure-based curriculum that includes a high ropes course, zip line and climbing wall. You may contact them directly at 614-491-0980. Their staff can accommodate you! This is an excellent lead-in to resident outdoor education or as a one-time experience.

Summer Camp: The experience that will last a lifetime...YMCA Camp Willson summer camp program has made summer extra special for boys and girls since 1918. Campers become part of our "family" which is made up of caring counselors and children. Programs include traditional camp, specialty camps with an emphasis on horseback riding, arts, fishing, and sports. Teen enjoy Frontier, BarW Ranch, Garage Band, Trips and Leadership Development programs. There are 8 different weeks to choose from. Financial assistance is available to children with need.

Conferences and Retreats: Do you have a church group, organization or business looking for a site for a conference or retreat? Look no further. YMCA Camp Willson has the facilities, programs and rates for a relaxed weekend, conference or week-long retreat.

Family Camp: Special times for families! Spend Memorial and/or Labor day holiday weekends at Family Camp. We provide the food, recreation and relaxation for you and your family. Each family will have their own cabin for the weekend. Cabins fill early so call for your reservation today.

Men's Camp: A week just special for men to forget the worries of life. Come to camp for a day or week of sports, fishing, relaxation, fun and fellowship. (Week before Labor Day)

Women's Weekend: Come to camp and pamper yourself with an unforgettable weekend! Enjoy crafts of all kinds, outdoor activities, cards, massages, amazing food and enough fun to keep you going until next Women's Weekend.

Horselover's Weekends: For boys and girls ages 10-14. Enjoy a full weekend of horseback riding and horse care.

*Visit www.ymcacampwillson.org or call 1-800-423-0427 for dates and times.

YMCA Mission: to serve the whole community through programs expressing Judeo-Christian principles that build a healthy spirit, mind and body.



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

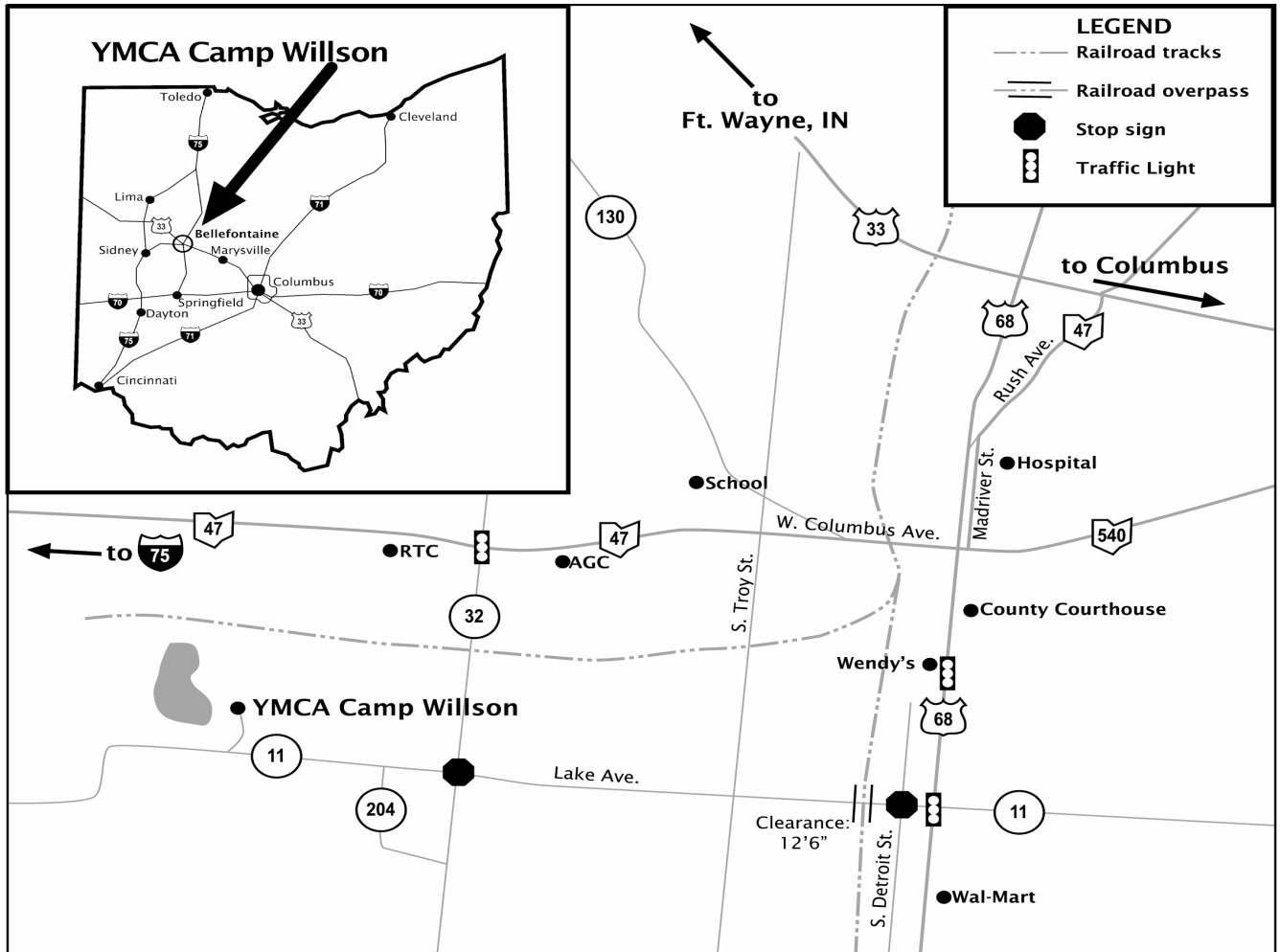
Directions to YMCA Camp Willson

From Columbus: Starting at the northwest corner of I-270 (Dublin area), take SR 33 northwest past Marysville to Bellefontaine. Take SR 68 (3rd Bellefontaine exit) south (left) through downtown Bellefontaine. Follow directions for Bellefontaine listed below. *Time: about 50 minutes from I-270 & SR 33.*

From Toledo: Take I-75 south toward Findlay. Take Exit 156 (SR 15) south to SR 68 (toward Kenton). Follow SR 68 south approximately 50 miles to Bellefontaine. From here, follow directions for Bellefontaine listed below. *Time: about 2 hours.*

From Cincinnati/Dayton: Take I-75 north to Sidney. Exit onto SR 47 East (toward Bellefontaine, exit 92). Follow SR 47 east approximately 25 miles to County Road 32 (traffic light at RTC, but before the sign for AGC (factory)). Turn right onto CR 32 and follow 1 mile to CR 11. At the stop sign turn right and follow CR 11 one mile to Camp Willson entrance (on the right). Follow access road to camp office. Note: if you miss CR 32, go into Bellefontaine, turn right onto SR 68 and follow directions from SR 68 listed below. *Time: about 1 hour 15 minutes from Dayton.*

Once in Bellefontaine: From the north, take SR 68 south through Bellefontaine. Continue to the traffic light at CR 11/Lake Ave. (marked both ways). This is one traffic light south of Wendy's fast food restaurant. Turn right (west) at this light and go 2.7 miles to camp entrance. Camp is on the right. Follow access road to camp office.



YMCA Camp Willson 2732 County Road 11, Bellefontaine OH 43311
(937) 593-9001 (800) 423-0427

Visit our website www.ymcacampwillson.org for Mapquest directions from your location!