CAMP SLOANE YMCA DAY CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

THE CAMP SLOANE EXPERIENCE

PRE-CAMP PREPARATION

DROP OFF & PICK UP

CAMPINTOUCH & COMMUNICATION

HEALTH & SAFETY AT CAMP

CODE OF CONDUCT & CAMPER AGREEMENT

ADDITIONAL INFO

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

REFUNDS, CANCELLATIONS & BALANCES

WELCOME TO CAMP SLOANE YMCA 2026

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CAMP SLOANE YMCA

124 Indian Mountain Road
Lakeville, CT 06039
campsloane.org | 860-435-2557

WELCOME TO CAMP!

Dear Parents and Campers,

We know that choosing to come to camp is a big step, so thank you for choosing Camp Sloane YMCA. We provide a REAL camp experience: great outdoor activities, swimming every day, unplugging from technology and building relationships with new friends and great role models. We know that you will enjoy your time at Camp Sloane.

Our goal here is pretty simple - we focus on three core outcomes. **Your child will leave camp having developed their social skills**. This means making new friends, learning how to listen first and how to work through differences. **Your child will leave camp with a better sense of their own self.** This means knowing that they are comfortable facing challenges, that they are more independent, that they have better decision making skills. As a bonus, they'll learn new skills like how to paddle, how to make a candle or even how to help clear a table after a meal. Finally, **your child will develop a stronger, more defined, character.** We will give them the building blocks that they need to become the best version of themselves. We intentionally enrich all of our activities and programs with character development assets that will make them a more competent and caring person.

Whether you are new to camp or a returning face, we want to ensure the best possible summer experience for your camper. This handbook contains important information to help you prepare for the summer.

If you still have questions after reading through the handbook, please don't hesitate to reach out via email or phone.

Rhino

and

KEY INFO

SO MANY ACTIVITIES!

- Day campers follow a set schedule each week, with swim lessons every day and a variety of other activities.

TECH-FREE

- There are no phones at camp! Campers are not able to bring their phone (or any tech) to camp with them, providing real face-to-face connections.

OUR PROGRAMS

- We offer four 2-week sessions of Day Camp, as well as a 1-week session at the end of the summer.

AGE GROUPS

- Campers are divided into 4 different groups, by their rising grade.
- Explorers (K & 1st), Bandits (2nd), Buccaneers (3rd & 4th), & Mountaineers (5ht & 6th).

PRO TIP

- We communicate with families mainly via email, so please make sure you train our emails out of your spam/junk folder so you receive everything we send!

THE CAMP SLOANE EXPERIENCE

Camper Groups

Explorers – Rising K and 1st graders
Bandits – Rising 2nd graders
Buccaneers – Rising 3rd and 4th graders
Mountaineers – Rising 5th and 6th graders

WHERE WILL I HANG OUT?

At Camp Sloane, we are always outside! Each Day Camp Group will have their own large picnic table under our pavilion tent as their 'base'. There is also a gaga pit, sandboxes and a modern bathroom facility.

Groups are split by rising grade and will have one or two counselors. All our Day Camp staff are qualified in a variety of different areas such as lifeguarding, archery, slingshots, belaying and boating.

WHAT WILL I DO?

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Day campers have a set schedule for each week and will travel to their activities with their group. Across their two week session, campers will have the opportunity to try all the activities that are available to their age group. You can see descriptions of our activities here.

SWIMMING

All day campers will have instructional swim lessons and free play at the pool or lake each day. Staff who work at the waterfront are American Red Cross certified lifeguards. We do all of the training at Camp Sloane with ARC Instructors. On the first day of the session, all campers will complete a swim 'quest' to determine their level of swimming ability.

HORSE RIDING

Campers who have signed up for Horse Riding lessons will ride during one of the activity periods each day. For Horse Riding lessons, please make sure your camper brings:

- Boots with a 1/2" to 1" heel
- Long stretchy pants / Breeches

Camp Sloane will provide helmets.

OUR VISION

Camp Sloane YMCA is committed to character and skill development, while providing experiences that are fun and safe in a nurturing environment. With staff as positive role models, we teach and demonstrate values associated with group living.

OUR VALUES & CAMP MOTTO

Our four core values are **Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility.** We use these values in our tent groups, at meals, and throughout each day at camp

Our camp motto is '**OTHERS**'

OUR COMMUNITY

Camp Sloane YMCA is an inclusive organization. We welcome campers & staff from all over the world, creating a safe and comfortable environment for EVERYONE, from across all dimensions of diversity. We believe this culture of acceptance provides a unique opportunity for learning and growth in every member of our Sloane family.

A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP SLOANE

A TWO-WEEK SCHEDULE OUTLINE

- Monday-Friday - First week of activities
- Thursday - Day Camp Overnight (for rising 3rd+)
- Monday-Friday - Second week of activities
- Wednesday - Day Camp Late Night (for rising 4th+)
- Thursday - Day Camp Family BBQ
- Friday - Day Camp Theme Day (Themes TBD)

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

7:30AM	-	Before Care - Drop off at the Blue Chairs (includes breakfast)
8:45AM	-	Drop off (until 9:15AM)
9:30AM	-	First activity period
10:30AM	-	Second activity period
11:45AM	-	Tasty lunch (provided by Camp Sloane)
12:30PM	-	Oval (Recess), Camp Store is open
1:00PM	-	Third Activity period
2:00PM	-	Fourth activity period
3:00PM	-	Fifth activity period
3:50PM	-	Snack
4:15PM	-	Pick up (until 4:45PM)
5:30PM	-	After Care - Pick up at Day Camp

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This schedule is an example of the types of activities campers will do each day. Each group will have their own weekly schedule with activities suitable for their age. A big part of the camp experience is learning that while we can do fun things that we already know we like, trying something new can also be fun and exciting!

Some activities will be done as one group, some will be mixed, and each group's counselor will be with them for every activity. At each activity area, there will also be specialist staff to run classes e.g. Lifeguards at Boating & Waterfront, Archery & Climbing instructors, and even cooking and dance teachers too!

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45-9:15	Drop Off	Drop Off	Drop Off	Drop Off	Drop Off
9:30-10:20	Tour/Photos	Fishing	Slingshots	Paddleboards	Outdoor Cooking
10:30-11:20	Games	Improv	Kickball	Archery	Dance
11:45-12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Recess/Oval	Recess/Oval	Recess/Oval	Recess/Oval	Recess/Oval
1:00-1:50	Swim	Swim	Swim	Swim	Swim
2:00-2:50	Climbing	Nature Art	Canoeing	Shelter Building	Mountain Biking
3:00-3:50	Soccer	Basketball	Arts & Crafts	Tennis	Slip n Slide
3:50-4:15	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
4:15-4:45	**Pick Up**	**Pick Up**	**Pick Up**	**Pick Up**	**Pick Up**

SWIMMING & WATER ACTIVITIES

Water activities are a big part of the Camp Sloane program and all campers will do a 'swim quest' at the start of the session to determine their swim level/where in the pool & lake they can safely swim. Campers wear life jackets for all Boating activities.

Click the links to see more info about our Swim Quest and Swim Levels.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

One of our most exciting programs at Camp Sloane YMCA is **Horseback Riding** lessons. Pre-registration and an additional fee is required. The lessons are scheduled by the week and each fee includes one activity period of group instruction for 5 days. The program has limited enrollment and typically fills long before the start of the summer. The lessons are filled on a first-come, first-served basis ONLY upon receipt of payment.

THEME DAYS

Each of the 2-week sessions has a special theme day during the mid-session weekend. Traditions and rituals grow as campers come back year after year to earn glory and respect for their team during these crazy fun all-camp events!

FAMILY BBQ

Each session we host a Day Camp Family BBQ at the lake. This takes place on the second Thursday of each 2-week session. It is a chance for families to meet the staff (and each other), and to try out many of our Boating activities down at Lake Wononpakook. Families will receive further info about the BBQ at the start of their child's session.

DC OVERNIGHT & LATE NIGHT

Rising 3rd graders and above are invited to our Day Camp Overnight on the first Thursday of the session. Campers will eat dinner in the dining hall, enjoy an awesome evening program and spend the night in one of our platform tents.

We also have our Day Camp 'Late Night' on the second Wednesday of the session. This is open to rising 4th, 5th & 6th graders. Campers will eat dinner in the Dining Hall, then join our youngest overnight campers for an exciting evening program.

PRE-CAMP PREPARATION

FORMS (ALL FORMS ARE DUE BY MAY 1ST)

When you register for camp, you will create a 'Camper Account' through CampInTouch. This account is where you will find access to photos, bunk notes, and all the forms we need for your child to attend camp.

Log in to your CampInTouch account, click on 'Forms & Documents', and you will see the following required forms:

ALL CAMPERS:

- **Authorized Grown Ups** – This is anyone who is allowed to pick up your child from camp.
- **Bunk Requests** – We can guarantee ONE mutual request, as long as the campers are within the same grade grouping. Find out more about our bunk request policy here.
- **Camper Agreement** – Please read through this with your child, then both you and your child must sign it.
- **Camper Photo** – Please upload a current photo of your child.
- **Health History** – Please fill out with as much detail as possible.
- **Immunization** – List your camper's immunization history. We will also accept your doctor's own form.
- **Individual Plan of Care** – Use this form to tell us anything about your child that will help us to ensure they can be successful at camp, or that your think their counselor should know e.g. they sleep walk; they have a speech impediments; they struggle in noisy environments; they need to know the routine ahead of time; they will only eat a certain list of foods etc.
- **Parent Authorization** – Copy the front AND back of your camper's insurance card and sign & date the form at the bottom.
- **Physican Exam** – Download the form and have a doctor fill it out. We will also accept your doctor's own form.
- **Text Message Opt-In** – Complete the online form to indicate whether you allow us to send you text messages (reminders, updates etc).

IF YOUR CHILD TAKES MEDICATION:

- **All Meds (if your child will take ANY medication)** – This form is required for EVERY medication your camper will be taking at camp, **INCLUDING VITAMINS & OTC MEDS**. It must be signed by your child's doctor. **We CANNOT accept any medications without this form... it is a State Law!**

A NOTE ON MEDICATIONS

The Health Lodge stocks over-the-counter medications. **Please remember to bring any prescription medications that you require.**

ALL medications MUST be handed to the Nurse at Check In and stored in the Health Lodge – this is a State Law! Campers may NOT keep ANY medications in their tent or on their person, other than inhalers and epipens that have been authorized for self-administration.

PACKING FOR CAMP

Your camper should have a small backpack/bag that they bring with them to camp each day. Camp can be wet and messy so please note that your campers may need a change of clothes.

Please make sure your camper's name is on everything they bring to camp!

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Campers should not bring any of the following:

- ☐ iPods/music players
- ☐ Hand held video games
- ☐ Cell Phones or computers
- ☐ Bicycles or sports equipment
- ☐ Any weapons of any kind
- ☐ Fireworks
- ☐ Drugs, Tobacco, Vapes, Alcohol
- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Toys

A NOTE ON PHONES AT CAMP

As a tech-free camp, we maintain a 'no cell phone' policy for all campers. Campers may not bring their phones or other tech to camp with them. This includes music players, smart watches and e-readers. Digital cameras are allowed.

PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS - Camp Sloane YMCA is NOT responsible for any items that are lost or stolen.

CLOTHING/SHOES

- ☐ 1 spare tshirt
- ☐ 1 spare pair of shorts/pants
- ☐ Spare underwear & socks
- ☐ Swimsuit (one-piece swimsuit recommended)
- ☐ Light jacket/raincoat
- ☐ 1 sweatshirt
- ☐ 1 pair sandals (with heel strap)/ water shoes
- ☐ 1 pair closed-toe footwear with a back. Crocs are NOT considered appropriate footwear for most activities
- ☐ Horse Riders: Boots appropriate for riding:
  - * 1/2" to 1" heel
  - **Long, comfy pants

GEAR

- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Water bottles
- ☐ Bug spray + Sunscreen
- ☐ Glasses/contact lenses (if needed)
- ☐ A hat

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ A camera. We recommend Camp Snap! (Use code SLOANEYMCA to get $10 off)
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Horse Riders - Riding helmet

PLEASE NOTE: CROCS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO BE WORN AT THE WATERFRONT

BEFORE CAMP BEGINS

Going to summer camp can be both an exciting and anxiety-inducing time for a child, especially if this is the first time. We believe that it is very important to support and encourage your child from the time of registration, to the time they return home to share the experience of camp with you.

Here are some sample topics for discussion that will help mentally prepare your child for camp:

Friends: "Camp is about making new friends. Share what you have. Join in. If you treat everyone with respect and others do the same with you, then you will make some really good friends at camp and that is great!"

Activities: "There are many exciting things to do at camp, many of which are new to you. Try new things and practice what you're good at. The more you put into camp, the more you will get out of it."

Respect: "It is OK to sometimes have angry feelings - it is not OK to do angry things. If you're having trouble with another camper there are many people you can talk to, like your counselors."

Getting Help: "If you are having a problem, your counselor is there to help you. But if you don't tell them what is troubling you, they can't help you. It's OK to ask for help! If a counselor asks "How are you doing?" be honest and ask for what you need."

Talking with your child about these kinds of issues is a great way to support them as they get ready to take this important step on the road to being more resilient and self-reliant. As a parent, talking with your child can give you more peace of mind as you allow your child to participate safely in a broader world – a world introduced in part to them by camp!

You can also take a look at **this video** from our camp Social Worker, about how best to prepare your child for camp.

MISSING HOME

Camp Sloane prides itself on how we handle homesickness or simply "missing home." The staff that will work with your child receive specialty training in separation anxiety and homesickness. Below is a list of talking points that will help you and your child succeed in the camp experience and come home full of stories and pride.

- Homesickness is the result of a loving home and caring adults. It is a natural part of leaving home for an extended time and it is normal.
- A child's independence is gained when parents trust in their success away from home.
- Let your child take ownership of this experience. Make sure they are part of the preparation process.

DROP OFF & PICK UP

DROP OFF – DROP OFF IS BETWEEN 8:45AM & 9:15AM

(BEFORE CARE - Drop off at 7:30AM. Breakfast is included. Extra cost of $150)

If you are delayed, or not attending that day, please call our office at 860-435-2557. An office staff member will call by 10am to verify any absences that haven't already been reported.

DROP OFF PROCESS

On the first day of each session, you will be directed to park your car. and walk into the Day Camp area to drop off your camper. You will be greeted by the Day Camp Directors, who will get your child checked in and let you know which group they are in. You are then invited to get your child settled with their group and meet their counselor.

If your camper has medications, please bring them to the check in table and hand them to the Day Camp Director.

On every other day, drop off will be a drive-thru process. **PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.** Upon arrival at camp, you will be greeted by Day Camp staff and directed to the turning triangle ahead of you.

When you reach the front of the line, a staff member will come to your car and open the door for your child. Your child will then be escorted by staff over to their group at the Day Camp area.
If you are running late, please call the office at 860-435-2557.

PICK UP – PICK UP IS FROM 4:15PM TO 4:45PM

(AFTER CARE - Pick up by 5:30PM. Extra cost of $125)

If you are delayed please call our office at 860-435-2557.

PICK UP PROCESS

Pick up is a drive-thru procedure. **PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.**Upon arrival at camp, you will be greeted by Day Camp staff and directed to the turning triangle ahead of you.

Please have an ID ready for inspection. Our Day Camp Directors will check your ID and sign your child out of camp. Once you reach the front of the line, your camper will be ready and waiting for you. Our staff will bring them to your car and help them in. If your child needs help with their seatbelt, please pull off to the side before exiting your vehicle so the line can keep moving.

If you require early pick up, please call the office at 860-435-2557 to make arrangements.

CAMPINTOUCH & COMMUNICATION

CAMPINTOUCH & CAMPANION

Your 'CampInTouch' account is the hub of information for your camper.

To locate your CampInTouch account, please visit our website at www.campsloane.org and click on 'Parent Login' at the top right hand corner of your screen. You can also access your account through the Campanion app.

Next, simply enter the email and password you created when you registered your camper. This will take you to your homepage, where you can then navigate through the different options. We have listed a few common categories here for you...

What would you like to do?

- Retrieve medical forms? View '**Forms and Documents**'
- Tell us you referred a camper? '**Camper Referral Form**'
- View your statement or make a payment? View '**Financial Management**'
- Add money to your camp store account? View '**Camp Store Account**'. (The camp store sells apparel, water bottles and other sundries)
- Check out our Camper Photos? Scroll to '**Photos**'
- Would like a friend or family member to email or access photos? View '**Guest Accounts**'

If you need assistance with accessing photos' or creating Guest Accounts please click on the help tab on the right hand side of your dashboard.

COMMUNICATION FROM CAMP

Even though your child will only be with us during the day, we understand that you still want to know what they are up to and, more importantly, that we will keep them safe while they are with us.

Our Media team upload photos daily – these will be a mix of overnight and day camp photos. While we cannot guarantee there will be photos of your child each day, our photographers aim to get a wide overview of the Day Camp day.

If your child is having any difficulties during the day, the Day Camp Director will contact you.

If your child gets sick or is injured, the Nurse will contact you.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

HEALTH & SAFETY AT CAMP

HEALTH LODGE

The health and safety of our campers & staff is our number one priority. The Health Lodge is overseen by our camp physician, and is staffed with a registered nurse 24 hours a day. We also have our Health Lodge Coordinator (HLO) who is the liaison between the Health Lodge and Program side of camp.

Parents/guardians will be notified if the following occur: emergency situations, hospital visits, illness requiring the camper to go home. Parents will not be called for routine visits to the Health Lodge.

Our Health Lodge is stocked with a number of over-the-counter medications. All medicines, prescription or otherwise, are distributed by the nurses and **must be kept in the Health Lodge. THIS IS A STATE LAW.**

In the event that campers need to see a doctor, and parents are not available, we will take them to one of the following three places depending on the urgency of the situation and appointment availability - Sharon Hospital (Sharon, CT), Northwest Hills Pediatrics (Sharon, CT), Hartford Healthcare Urgent Care (Torrington, CT).

HEALTH & WELLNESS

We are very lucky to have such a robust and qualified team of health care professionals on camp, and we also train all staff on how to monitor the personal hygiene and cleanliness of our campers each day.

Staff remind campers to wash their hands frequently, and we have hand sanitizer at specific entrances to buildings.

Campers will also be consistently reminded to reapply sunscreen and drink lots of water.

If campers are feeling unwell, they can talk to their counselor and visit the nurse.

If your camper get a small injury (e.g. cut/scrape) during the day, you will be informed at pick-up.

TICKS & LYME DISEASE

Many of our program areas are wooded and we expect that campers will come in contact with ticks. Campers will shower daily, and are reminded to use this time to check themselves for any ticks that may have embedded. For privacy reasons, counselors do not check campers for ticks anywhere a bathing suit covers, but can help to check places such as behind ears and knees. If a camper does find a tick they will go to the nurse, who will remove it safely and contact that camper's parent/guardian. We will then keep an eye out for a circular rash, fever or flu-like symptoms, which are all signs of Lyme Disease.

MEDICAL FORMS

All medical forms must be submitted to camp BEFORE your arrival! We ask this as it makes your check in process as simple and easy as possible for everyone. **American Camping Association and Connecticut law state that incomplete and/or unsigned forms are unacceptable and will prevent your child from staying at camp.**

To locate your medical forms, please log into your CampInTouch account. Scroll down to the "Forms and Documents" section. See PAGE 7 for more info on forms.

MEDICATIONS: **If your child will take ANY medication (prescription or non-prescription) while at camp – you MUST fill out the Medication Authorization form, and have the doctor sign it.** The form must be printed out and handed in to the camp nurse upon arrival, along with the medication in its original prescription container. **This form is required by the state of Connecticut.**

Once all your forms are filled out, please upload them back into your camper account via the 'Forms & Documents' section. If you need help uploading your forms, please call our office at 860-435-2557.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- **ALL medications (prescription & OTC)** must be authorized by a physician and the Medication Authorization Form must be filled in and signed by your doctor. **This includes medications such as daily vitamins or melatonin.**
- For your child to receive non-prescription medications such as Tylenol or Benadryl, you must complete the page of the health history form authorizing the nursing staff to do so.
- All medications with the exception of an inhaler or epi-pen will be kept in the health lodge. Medications must be in the original prescription container. Medications must be claimed at the end of each session and by law, they cannot be mailed home.
- The parent/guardian is responsible for all Doctor's charges, dental issues, medication charges and hospital fees incurred while their child is at camp. These fees will be charged immediately to a credit card on file or to your insurance company.
- In the event that your camper cannot participate in camp activities for longer than 24 hour period, you will be contacted by our staff. At that time, a decision will be discussed as to whether your camper is fit to remain at camp. Our camp physician shall have the ultimate judgment in this matter.
- If a child is found to have head lice, parents will be contacted. Please regularly check your child 2-3 weeks before camp to help avoid this problem.
- Effective January 1, 2016, each operator of an organized youth athletic activity, involving participants age 7 to 19, must make available upon registration a written or electronic statement regarding concussions to each youth athlete and a parent or guardian of each youth athlete participating in the youth athletic activity. Such statement shall be consistent with the most recent information provided by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding concussions.

CODE OF CONDUCT & CAMPER AGREEMENT

PLEASE REVIEW WITH YOUR CHILD BEFORE CAMP.
YOU AND YOUR CAMPER ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE CAMPER AGREEMENT ON PAGE 15 & UPLOAD IT TO YOUR CAMPER ACCOUNT

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

"OTHERS" is our motto, and disrespectful or inappropriate behavior towards peers or staff is unacceptable. We have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to the following:

- Harm to any individual, physical or verbal, fighting or abuse of any kind toward other campers or staff. This includes any language or remarks that are in any way hateful, racist, or queerphobic.
- The possession or use of cigarettes (including electronic cigarettes), alcohol, marijuana or other drugs.
- The possession of weapons of any kind including, but not limited to, guns, scissors and knives (including Swiss Army and Boy Scout).
- Any behavior of any kind or scale that the camp director qualifies as a prank or vandalism.
- Any behavior that involves changing, deforming, damaging, moving or removing property belonging to Camp Sloane YMCA or any individual at camp.

In the case that a camper chooses not to adhere to the expectations of conduct at camp, the parents/guardians will be contacted by the Camp Director and it may be grounds for an immediate dismissal from camp without a refund of fees. Campers and parents are required to read and sign the Code of Conduct form on your CampInTouch account.

CAMP SLOANE'S INTERNET POLICY

Camp Sloane YMCA discourages staff contact with campers outside of camp via social networks. We also encourage parents to be aware of their child's online behavior, and monitor contact they have with fellow campers and staff via the internet.

We want to encourage you and your campers to follow Camp Sloane on social media. However, Camp Sloane YMCA assumes no responsibility for any content your camper may post on the internet, including the content of emails, instant messages, text messages, photographs, personal websites, social networking websites, web logs, or any other electronic medium. In addition, Camp Sloane reserves the right to remove or deny admittance to any camper found to be responsible for obscene, vulgar, derogatory, threatening, or inappropriate content in any of the above listed mediums. The Camp Sloane YMCA name and logos are the sole property of Camp Sloane YMCA, Inc., and may not be used without express written permission. This policy has been applied equally to the staff at Camp Sloane YMCA.

CAMP SLOANE YMCA
CAMPER AGREEMENT

CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will follow the direction of the adults and staff at camp. I will be respectful towards the camp staff.
- I will not bring any tech devices to camp with me (including phones), nor weapons of any kind.
- I will not bring or consume any alcohol, nicotine, drugs (including cannabis) or vapes to camp. I will not use any of these items that another camper has brought with them.
- I will not harm myself, or others, physically or verbally.
- I will not touch any camper or staff member in a way that makes them feel unsafe or crosses their personal boundaries.
- I will treat camp property with respect. I understand that grafitti is not allowed and that my family will be financially responsible for any damage that I intentionally cause at camp.
- I will not walk away from the camp property or wander away from my group without notifying a staff member.
- I will not touch or use other people's belongings without their permission.

ANTI-BULLYING PLEDGE

By signing this pledge, I agree to:

- Treat others respectfully.
- Include those who are left out.
- Contribute to the inclusive Sloane Community by being respectful towards the race, religion, gender identity and sexual orientation of others.
- Never bully or tease anyone.
- Not participate in gossip.
- Be an upstander. Never watch, laugh or join in when somone is being bullied.
- Tell a counselor when I suspect or witness bullying.
- Help those who are being bullied by having the courage to being an ally.

FOR CAMPERS

I understand and accept all of the Code of Conduct and Anti-Bullying Pledge items. I want to have fun at camp and I want others to have fun too. If I don't follow this agreement I understand that I can be asked to leave camp for the summer.

CAMPER SIGNATURE: _____

FOR PARENTS

We are committed to providing a safe camp community where campers can develop self-esteem, independence and a sense of comfort to express themselves. Sometimes, though, we reach the limit of our ability to do that when a child's mode of expression crosses a certain threshold. If your camper demonstrates self-harming behaviors, the Camp Director will assess whether your child can remain at camp. Similarly, for campers who experience repeated and extreme instances of anxiety and panic attacks, and are unable to self-regulate, we will consult with you about whether they should remain at camp.

I have read the Camper Agreement, including behavior expectations and anti-bullying pledge with my child. My child understands that Camp Sloane YMCA is a no-bullying, tech free and substance free program. They agree to abide by these rules and understand that if they break these rules and/or display innapropriate behavior, the resulting consequences may lead to dismissal from camp. The director will make the final decision on this and the decision will not be negotiable.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

GENDER INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

Making Sloane a safe space for all is important to us, to our campers and to our families. We aim to provide an inclusive and welcoming community to all campers and staff. Here's some considerations that you need to know about our gender inclusive practices:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

While we understand that for some families, topics of gender or sexuality may be uncomfortable or difficult, we believe that through learning from each other's experiences and stories we ultimately create a more empathetic and welcoming world. We understand that you may have questions regarding our policies, and we are happy to talk to you about them. We will, however, not compromise on striving to create a safe space for all.

GENDER IDENTITY & PRONOUNS

Will you be asking campers and staff to share their pronouns during introductions?
Respecting people's identities and referring to them correctly, makes spaces like camp more inclusive. Some staff may choose to share their own pronouns. This will set the tone that shows others that pronoun-sharing is normal and is respected. Out of consideration for those who might be questioning or discovering the gender identity, it is up to the individual if they would like to share their pronouns.

Parents should discuss, with their child, the importance of recognizing and using everyone's preferred pronouns during any conversations at camp. Similarly, parents of children who are not using binary pronouns should have the discussion with their child that as people continue to learn about the use of pronouns, there may be times where mis-gendering may happen while they are at camp.

If a camper asks to use a different name or set of pronouns will that info be shared with home?
The safety of each child is always at the center of all decisions we make. We will always keep you informed if we are concerned about your child's well-being, however this may happen without disclosing exactly what your child has shared with us.

History has shown that 1 in 8 children have been evicted from their homes when they have shared their identity with their family. Therefore, it is important for us to have a consistent policy to protect all children. With that in mind, we will only share this type of information with a parent/guardian if the child gives us express permission to do so.

We will, of course, encourage them to share this new development with a trusted adult outside of camp, let those at home know that their child could benefit from a mental or physical health care provider (without telling the exact reason) or, if necessary, contact the proper authorities if we are concerned that they are in danger of harm.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ON PROTECTING CHILDREN

We realize that covering this topic can be uncomfortable. However, being open about our commitment to protecting youth from child sexual abuse is critical. The information contained in this section isn't only specific to camp as we believe that it will help strengthen parent's understanding and response to child sexual abuse.

We have worked with a child protection agency, Praesidium, www.praesidiuminc.com for nearly a decade. Praesidium have a partnership with the YMCA of the USA to help every YMCA in the country to assess their risk factors and to better protect children. As part of our work with Praesidium, we know that sharing information about sexual abuse prevention with parents is an important step in our organizational policy.

At camp, we recognize two potential scenarios where a child could experience sexual abuse: from an adult, or from another child. In both situations we have extensive policies in place to help protect kids.

READ THIS SECTION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- What is child sexual abuse and how can we prepare kids to protect themselves?
- What kind of training we do with our staff.
- Supervision and interaction policies for staff.
- What to do if you suspect your child has been abused.

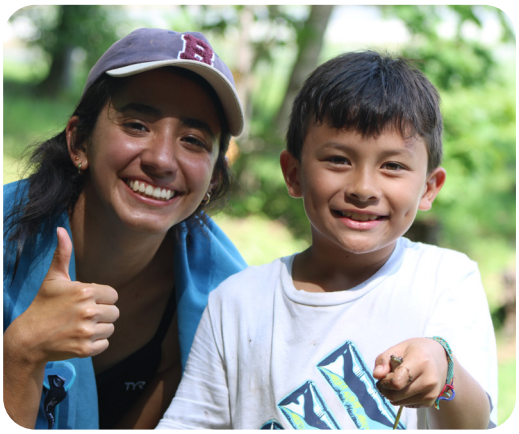
WHAT TO TEACH YOUR CHILD

Even young children can learn skills to help keep themselves safe from sexual abuse, but it is often up to parents/guardians to help them learn what they need to know. Here are some important things that you can teach your child to stay safe.

TEACH YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR BODY

Name of all parts of their bodies: Talk to your child about proper names for body parts, and use the proper name for private parts in that discussion. This will give your child the correct words to use when they need to tell you anything about their body, like an injury or rash or other problem in that area.

Rules about appropriate physical touch: Children understand the idea of rules. They know there are rules about hitting and biting, and rules about playing nicely with others, and rules about being safe – like wearing a seat belt. So as you teach these rules, also add rules about appropriate physical touch. Say things like, "Never let other people touch private parts, or make you touch their private parts"



IF THE RULES ARE BROKEN

What to do if someone tries to break the rules: Your children needs to know what to do when someone breaks the rules about touching them. They need to know:

- **WHAT TO SAY** to someone who breaks the rules about touching
- **TO MOVE AWAY** from someone who is breaking the rules about touching, and
- **TO TELL YOU** or another trusted adult, like a teacher or a camp counselor, if someone breaks the rules about touching. Teach them to keep telling someone until they respond and does something about it.
- **TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SAY** "No!" or "No! Don't touch my private parts." Or "My body is private you can't touch me there." Or "Leave me alone" or simply "Don't do that." Teach your kids to say this to other children as well as to adults
- **TEACH YOUR CHILD TO MOVE AWAY** from anyone who is breaking the rules about touching. Tell your child that it is ok to pull away from a hug or to get out of a lap even if an adult tells or asks you to sit on their lap or to hug them

What to do at Camp: Talk to your child about boundaries at camp and if they are feeling unsafe about another campers behavior, or any interactions that they are having with a staff member, and who they can go to for help. We tell the kids on the first day of the session the EVERY staff member is here to help, but it's also a great idea to reinforce this before their camp session.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT

Now, let's talk about what you can do if someone is breaking rules about touching your child. This information isn't camp specific and applies to both adults and other children. No one knows your child better than you.

As parents/guardians, watch for warning signs, listen for warning signs, and follow up when something doesn't seem right. If something is wrong, you may see a sudden change in your child's behavior, or you may hear unusual comments. If you see or hear these things, follow up. Find a relaxed time to talk one-on-one with your child.

WHAT DO WE TEACH OUR STAFF?

We talk about preventing child sexual abuse openly and candidly with our staff. Even during their initial interview, we ask questions about what a staff members role is in preventing child abuse at camp. Our goal is to help them realize immediately that Camp Sloane YMCA is vigilant and takes the protection of kids seriously.

Background Checks: Prior to employment commencing, all staff need to have an annual background check performed. This check is done in their home state (or country) and includes a check of the National Sex Offenders Registry website.

Pre-Camp Training: All staff are required to complete at least 3 hours of Child Abuse Prevention training prior to campers arriving. This training is a blend of Praesidium and Camp Sloane YMCA Training. The training covers everything from how to identify child sexual abuse, what our policies are to prevent child sexual abuse, how to properly supervise campers and what to do if abuse is suspected or has occurred.

SUPERVISION & INTERACTION POLICIES

To protect Camp Sloane YMCA staff, volunteers and program participants, at no time during any of the camp day may a staff person be alone with a single child where he or she cannot be observed by others. As staff supervise children, they should space themselves in such a way that other staff can see them.

Bathroom and Shower supervision: staff will stand at the doorway of the bathroom or showerhouse and supervise by listening to camper interactions. This allows privacy for campers and protection for staff (not being alone with a child). If staff are assisting younger children, doors to the facility must remain open and another staff member needs to be present.

Rule-of-3: At all moments of the day, campers must follow the rule-of-3 when it comes to supervision. Camp is inherently a place where children may walk between activities without a staff member. A prevention technique for peer-to-peer child sexual abuse is to ensure that campers and staff must always travel in a group of 3. When a staff member is moving from one place to another with a camper or is in any building or structure with a camper, there must be another child or another staff member present.

Changing & bathing suits: Campers are required to change their clothing in a bathroom or specifically designed changing area (such as at the waterfront). Campers may not change their clothing in a tent as it is not a designated changing area. If a younger child needs any assistance with a bathing suit, at least 2 staff members must be present in order to help.

Beds and living space: Staff and campers are not permitted to lie on anyone's else's bunk bed, nor are they permitted to be in anyone's else's sleeping bag. Campers are allowed to be in their own villages and are not permitted to be in another village without the supervision of staff members.

SUPERVISION & INTERACTION POLICIES CONT'D

Staff use of bathrooms and showers: Wherever possible, the staff member should ensure that no campers are using the bathroom before entering. If a camper enters the bathroom while a staff member is using the facility, the staff member should request that they wait until the building is not in use by a staff member (where practical). Staff have designated showering times when the shower house is not being used by campers.

Staff interactions with campers: Camp Sloane staff and volunteers must adhere to best practices of appropriate verbal interactions with all campers. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of profanity, inappropriate jokes, sharing intimate details of their private life or any type of harassment.

Campers are not allowed to be given piggy back rides, sit in a staff member's lap or receive extended hugs from a staff member. We recognize that a child may sometimes initiate a hug with a staff member when they are in need of comfort and our staff are trained never to initiate the hug or allow it to cross personal boundaries (for example a teen girl hugging a male staff member).

Staff are required to understand that there is a clear power difference between themselves and campers and are not to take advantage of this difference. Even when there is a close age difference (particularly with Counselors-in-Training and LEADs) staff may not have any physically intimate or emotionally inappropriate relationship with campers, including LEADs.

Staff will not have secrets with children, stare at or comment on children's' bodies, or give campers any gifts. Staff are not permitted to babysit, attend birthday parties (or similar) or be employed as a program provider (i.e lifeguard) for camper families. This includes between camp seasons.

HOW TO RESPOND IF YOUR CHILD TELLS YOU ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE

STEP 1: LISTEN Do your best to remain calm and let your child talk. Don't pry but you can ask a few questions that will help you understand what happened

STEP 2: REASSURE You can reassure them with a few simple comments like: "I know that this is hard to talk about" or "This isn't your fault, you have done nothing wrong".

STEP 3: PROTECT Make sure the child is safe and do not let the accused person have any further contact

STEP 4: REPORT Write down as quickly as you can everything the child shared with you in as much detail as possible, using the child's actual words, not your own interpretation. To report suspected abuse, call your local police department.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

If what you learn from your child, or if what you have observed or overheard sounds like abuse, it should immediately be referred to local law enforcement as well as Child Protective Services. If the abuse is camp specific you can also notify the Executive Director or Camp Director so that appropriate measures can be taken.

If what you learn from your child, or if what you have observed or overheard sounds like and boundary violation, suspicious or inappropriate behavior, but is not actual abuse, then share your concerns with a person in a position of authority at the organization. If the behavior is camp specific please notify the Executive Director or Camp Director immediately.

WHAT WILL CAMP SLOANE YMCA DO?

Our first step is to make sure that all of our campers are safe. We will believe the child first and remove the adult or peer from any further contact with children.

- If there is an accusation against an adult, we will remove them from their duties, cooperate with any law enforcement or Child Protective Services investigation and if needed terminate their employment.
- If there is an accusation against another camper, we will report ourselves to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families for neglecting our duty of care for supervision. DCF will advise us about whether law enforcement should be included in any investigation. The camper that is accused of a boundary violation may, situational dependent, be dismissed from camp.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

We know that sending your child to camp is a BIG DEAL and you will likely have questions that perhaps are not answered in this handbook.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us via email (info@campsloane.org), phone (860-425-2557), or message us on social media (@campsloaneymca).

FAQs (Find the answers to more FAQs on our website.)

My camper is having the time of their life. Can they add more sessions of camp?

Yes, as long as we have the space! Our sessions fill up very quickly and we can't guarantee that we will still have space during the summer. If you think that your camper wants to stay for more than one session, we recommend registering early.

Do you have vegetarian/vegan options for lunch?

Yes! We have a wide variety of options at every meal and can cater to the majority of dietary restrictions. Please let us know ahead of time if your child has a special requirement - you can do this on the Health History form in your 'CampInTouch' account.

My camper wants to buy something from the camp store. How do I add money to their account?

Your camper will have the opportunity to visit our Camp Store during the week. Items sold include t-shirts, sweatshirts, water bottles etc. Adding money to your camper's Store Account is easy! Log into your CampInTouch account, scroll down to the 'View Camp Store Account' tab. Here you can fund their account. You can also simply give us a call and we can add money for you.

To obtain a copy of your account statement, please notify camp via email. Balances must be $5.00 and over to obtain a refund at the end of the summer. All unclaimed camp store money will be donated to our annual campaign to help kids attend camp. Refunds are paid out at the end of Sept.

How do I ensure my camper is in the same group as their friend/s?

At the time of registration there is a space to add 'bunk requests'. You can also email us at a later date (info@campsloane.org) with any friend requests your child has. We can only guarantee ONE reciprocal request (i.e. child A requests child B, and child B requests child A) and both children must be in the same day camp group (see page 3) in order to accommodate your request.

REFUNDS, CANCELLATIONS & BALANCES

- **Final balances are due by March 1st** and all outstanding balances at that time will be charged to cards on file. If paying by check, it is the family's responsibility to make sure it is received prior to March 1st. If balance is not paid, your camper will not be able to attend camp.
- **Deposits are non-refundable after March 1st.** All cancellations need to be made by email and confirmed by the Business Manager. Refunds on the balance of a session or optional programs such as horseback riding lessons will not be granted after March 1st. Refunds less the deposit may be given for physician documented medical cases. Every effort will be made to make up a horseback riding lesson interrupted by inclement weather.
- Camp Sloane YMCA, Inc. reserves the right to refuse or dismiss a camper at any time for just and reasonable cause. Refunds will not be given for withdrawal or dismissal from camp, after the registered session has begun. Optional programs such as water ski or horseback riding lessons will not be refunded due to the camper's failure to attend, lack of interest or inclement weather. Refunds less the deposit may be given for documented medical cases by your physician.
- The parent/guardian acknowledges that, even after every reasonable precaution is taken, some activities such as, but not limited to swimming, hiking, horse riding and boating may involve inherent risks for which Camp Sloane YMCA cannot be held responsible.
- The potential of contracting Lyme Disease increases in rural settings such as Camp Sloane. All participants should check themselves regularly for ticks and become educated, in advance of attending camp, on the signs and symptoms of Lyme Disease, and other tick and mosquito borne illnesses which may occur days or months after an encounter with a tick or mosquito.
- Camp fees do not include health and accident insurance, parents/guardians are responsible for all charges incurred for their child's medical attention.
- No refunds will be given for COVID related cancellations or early departures from camp.

STORE ACCOUNT

If, at the end of your child's session/s, you have a credit balance in your Camp Store Account you will have 2 options:

- Donate the leftover funds to our Annual Campaign and help more children experience Sloane!
- Request a refund by emailing info@campsloane.org by September 30th.

Refunds will only be given for credits greater than $5.00. All outstanding store balances will be donated to our Annual Campaign if not claimed by the deadline of September 30th.

MEET OUR TEAM

OUR PROFESSIONAL TEAM

CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Luke Dooley
luke@campsloane.org

CAMP DIRECTOR
Rhino Merrick
rhino@campsloane.org

BUSINESS MANAGER/REGISTRAR
Heidi Reineke
heidi@campsloane.org

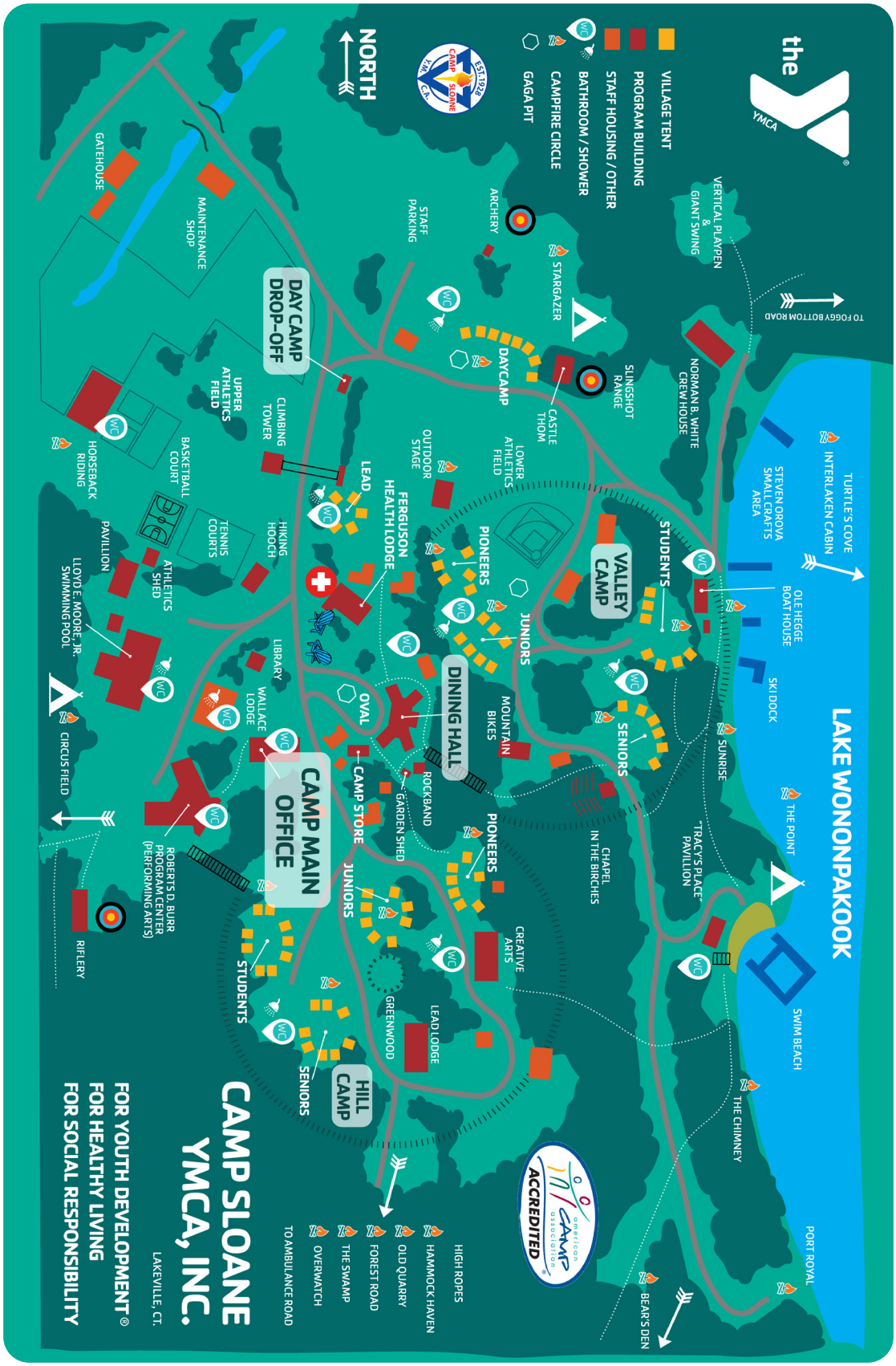
ASSISTANT CAMP DIRECTOR
Ru Foster
ru@campsloane.org

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE
Dave Wright
dwright@campsloane.org

CARETAKER
Will Steere
will@campsloane.org

CAMP SLOANE SUMMER STAFF

Our staff is the key ingredient that makes Camp Sloane YMCA such a special place. They are caring, dedicated, mature and enthusiastic men and women selected from current students and recent grads of colleges and universities nationwide and worldwide. Staff will participate in a 10-day intensive training involving safety, counseling, teaching and camp procedures prior to the start of camp. In total, we hire about 100 summer staff members to strengthen our team.

All our staff are First Aid & CPR-certified. A trained lifeguard is always on duty during swimming times. In addition, we employ full time, licensed nurses to attend to your child's medical needs while at camp.

MAP OF CAMP SLOANE