



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# YMCA CAMP CARSON



## OUTDOOR EDUCATION CURRICULUM GUIDE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

YMCA Camp Carson's Outdoor Education Program is designed to provide a safe, fun, and unique education experience for students. Each school has the opportunity to customize their day(s) at Camp Carson with facilitated activities that focus on Teambuilding, Outdoor Education, and Recreation.



**YMCA Camp Carson**

[campcarson.org](https://campcarson.org)

812-385-3597

[carsonoffice@ymcacampcarson.org](mailto:carsonoffice@ymcacampcarson.org)





# OUTDOOR EDUCATION LESSON OPTIONS

For more information about how these lessons match Indiana state standards, please reference our Outdoor Education Standards Guide



## CLOUD STUDY

ELEMENTARY

With the aid of a personally created “weather window”, students will learn to identify different types of cloud, and make a prediction about the forecast for the next day.

## PREDATOR-PREY PLAY

ELEMENTARY

Students will learn about the importance of the relationships between predators and prey in this series of highly active tag-based simulations.

## ENCHANTED FOREST

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will explore the forest and learn to appreciate nature using their senses of sight, smell, touch, and hearing.

## MICROHIKE

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will utilize a magnifying glass to explore the incredible microscopic world all around them.



## INVADERS!

UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will learn about several species of wildlife that are invasive to Indiana and participate in a full-body movement game that simulates how invasive species compete with native species for habitat and resources.

## TREE IDENTIFICATION

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will use their sight, touch, and smell to identify the trees at Camp and will work to create a system to help distinguish each type of tree.





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## MAP CHALLENGE

UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will learn how to read several styles of map in order to find tokens hidden around camp.

## AMAZING RACE

UPPER ELEMENTARY TO HIGH SCHOOL

Students will race to complete a series of physical and academic challenges in order to be declared the winner of this camp-wide "escape room" style challenge.

## CREEK HIKES

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will have the opportunity to explore Camp Carson's creek and will identify different environmental factors that can influence the health of a body of water. (requires 2 activity blocks).



## OIL SPILL

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will learn about oil spill and their subsequent cleanup methods in this Design Process Thinking lesson.

## CAMP CARSON SURVIVOR

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will work together to build a fire, purify water, and build a shelter in this hands-on survival simulation.

## CSI CAMP CARSON

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Students will study the skulls and bones of common Indiana Wildlife and discuss how the different structures have adapted overtime to allow the organism to survive in its habitat.





# RECREATION OPTIONS

## CLIMBING WALL

Students will enjoy climbing our 35-foot portable climbing wall.



## CANOEING

Students will canoe around the scenic Lake Seminole.



## ARTS & CRAFTS

Students can explore art projects, create tie dye t-shirts, or will learn how to create their own working candle.



## ARCHERY

Students will have a chance to hit the mark at our portable outdoor archery range.



## WATER ZIPLINE

Students will be harnessed to a cable 30 feet high and released down a 500 foot zipline that splashes into Lake Seminole.





# RECREATION OPTIONS



## ALPINE TOWER

Students will enjoy this 50 foot climbing tower that can be used to develop a sense of trust, accomplishment, communication, and/or for recreation. (recommended 6th grade and up)



## POTTERY HANDBUILDING

Students will create works of art with air dry clay.



## BLACK HOLE

Students will sled down our 80 foot tunnels.



## WOOD SHOP

Students will learn wood shop safety as they complete beautiful artisan projects with our scroll saws and wood burning pens (6th grade & up)



# TEAMBUILDING & TEAM BONDING

A customizable program, working with a YMCA Camp Carson staff member to develop appropriate activities specific to the needs of your students. These activities can be facilitated with groups as large 200+ people, or as small as 10.



## Team Building vs. Team Bonding

Different groups seek different outcomes from their experience at Camp Carson, and our program allows you to customize your activities to reach the desired outcome. Our Team Bonding activities provide an experience for the group to work together to overcome challenges, whereas Team Building is more focused on activities that really challenge group dynamics.

## Low Ropes vs. Initiatives

Low ropes are a series of more traditional camp team-building opportunities, more close quarters & physical than other challenges or Initiatives. Low Ropes are designed to encourage groups to plan ahead and think creatively as they work together to solve these more physical challenges. Initiatives are designed to give the whole group a platform with which to demonstrate and grow their strategy, effective communication, and problem solving abilities. Both can be used to facilitate conversations about group dynamics and communication.

You may sign up for as many Team building or Team bonding blocks as you would like. Speak with a Camp Carson representative to develop a schedule



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# EVENING PROGRAMS (EPs)

## ORGANIZED MASS CHAOS

Each player attempts to complete as many tasks as possible, but they may be interrupted to help other players complete their tasks during the game.

## NIGHT HIKE

Explore the night, learn some tricks, and hear a great story.



## HOOTENANNY

Your students take center stage as they perform some classic camp skits.

## S'MORES FIRE

Enjoy a relaxing evening around the campfire while enjoying a camp favorite treat.



# PRICING & SCHEDULE

Program	Price per Student	# of Activities	w/ Meals	# of Meals
Day Program (9 AM - 2 PM)	\$ 16.00	3 activities	\$ 26.00	1
Extended Day Program	\$ 20.00	5 activities	\$ 45.00	2
2 Day/1 Night	\$ 32.00	6 activities, 1 EP	\$ 78.00	4
3 Day/2 Night	\$ 48.00	10 activities, 2 EPs	\$ 128.00	7

\*Prices valid for group sizes of at least 25 students

Schools select number of activities based on the program chosen above. These activities can be any combination of Outdoor Education, Recreation, and Team Building/Bonding

## Sample Schedule for 2 Day, 1 Night program

Day 1	
9:00 AM	Arrival/UnPack
9:30 AM	Welcome to Camp & Tour
10:30 AM	<b>Activity 1</b>
11:45 AM	Transition
12:00 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM	Open Rec Time
2:00 PM	Transition
2:15 PM	<b>Activity 2</b>
3:30 PM	Transition
3:45 PM	<b>Activity 3</b>
5:00 PM	Get Ready for Dinner
5:30 PM	Dinner
6:15 AM	Open Rec Time
7:00 PM	<b>Evening Program</b>
8:00 PM	Showers
9:00 PM	Cabin Time
10:00 PM	Lights Out

Day 2	
7:00 AM	Wake Up & Pack
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	<b>Activity 4</b>
10:15 AM	Transition
10:30 AM	<b>Activity 5</b>
11:45 AM	Transition
12:00 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM	<b>Activity 6</b>
2:00 PM	Closing
2:15 PM	Depart Camp



To learn more about this unique experience, or to schedule a program for your school or organization, please contact Ryan Meeks:

[rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org](mailto:rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org) or 812-385-3597